



Objection 87

Trent Wilson

5 pages

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Victorian Redistribution objections uploaded from the AEC website.

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Additional information: I have attached the PDF of my objection and alternative proposal supporting previous suggestions. It relates to Macnamara, Higgins & Goldstein.

Objection to AEC Draft Proposal for Victorian Redistribution: Macnamara, Higgins & Goldstein

This objection relates to only moving Windsor into Macnamara rather than exchanging the whole Windsor, Prahran & South Yarra area for Caulfield North & Caulfield East. I also believe a small expansion of Goldstein is needed to not only improve the stability of quota projections beyond 2019, but also strengthen the communities of interest in Elsternwick & Caulfield South.

Communities of interest

Activity Centres

I agree with item #367 (Macnamara) that Windsor is well connected to the south of Dandenong Road and should be transferred to Macnamara, as it has more in common with the St Kilda area than most of Higgins. However, I object to splitting Windsor from Prahran (west of Williams) and South Yarra which it has the most in common with, and strongly believe the whole Chapel Street precinct should be united with St Kilda.

I also object to *Comment on Suggestion CS54* which argues that Caulfield has stronger ties to the bayside suburbs than Prahran, South Yarra & Windsor. I grew up in the suburbs of Murrumbeena & Carnegie, both now in Higgins, and have lived in St Kilda for the past 12 years on both sides of St Kilda Rd. There is a strong connection between Murrumbeena, Carnegie, Glen Huntly and Caulfield which are all in the same city council, share similar physical features, demographics and commercial centres such as the Caulfield Station area, Chadstone Shopping Centre and Koornang Road. Whereas there is very little bond between Caulfield and the rest of Macnamara, with the exception of a few places of worship for the area's Jewish community, which while significant does not represent a majority. However, St Kilda residents most often frequent the nearby Chapel Street Precinct in Windsor, Prahran & South Yarra as the primary centre of activity outside their own suburb. For many St Kilda residents, Chapel Street is frequented more than St Kilda's Acland & Fitzroy Streets and Windsor is the closest train station for St Kilda residents north of Inkerman Street.

For this reason I propose that the suggestions to move all of Caulfield North and Caulfield East into Higgins in exchange for the remainder of South Yarra and the half of Prahran west of Williams Road, should be more seriously considered.

Related to this, item #282 of the AEC Draft Proposal states that 11 submissions recommended no change to the boundaries of Goldstein, and while I agree that minimal change is required I object to keeping Glenhuntly Road as the border of Goldstein. It is a centre of activity that unites the communities on either side, rather than a boundary that separates them. Glen Eira Rd is a better boundary because it is more of a thoroughfare than a centre of activity, and residents north of Glen Eira Rd are more likely to frequent the commercial precincts in Carlisle St (in Macnamara) or Caulfield East (in Higgins) while residents south of Glen Eira Rd are more likely to centre their activity around Glenhuntly Rd along with those in the rest of Elsternwick and Caulfield South already in Goldstein.

For this reason I propose to move the border of Goldstein north from Glenhuntly Road to Glen Eira Road, uniting not only both sides of the Glenhuntly Rd shopping strip into the same electorate, but also uniting the entire suburbs of Elsternwick, Caulfield and Caulfield South together in Goldstein.

Demographics, Housing & Density

The draft proposal mentions in items #294 and #365 that there is merit in moving the more suburban wing of Macnamara into Higgins, with which I agree, but implies there is not enough merit to outweigh the physical boundary of Dandenong Rd with which I disagree. Most of Higgins and all of Goldstein have a suburban nature and are affluent with more families and a high percentage of home owners. By contrast, while Macnamara is also affluent, its demographics are more diverse with a younger population, fewer families, a much higher percentage of renters, more public housing, and an inner city atmosphere with higher density living dominated by flats and apartment buildings.

The community interests & priorities of the whole Caulfield area clearly align more to the suburbs in Higgins & Goldstein far more than Macnamara; while South Yarra, Windsor and the western half of Prahran have community interests and priorities that clearly align with the existing suburbs in Macnamara far more than those in Higgins.

Prahran East

While I strongly object to separating Windsor from the Chapel Street area of Prahran & South Yarra, I believe that dividing Prahran in half at Williams Road makes sense. There is a clear distinction between the west & east portions of Prahran, and Stonnington council even considers them separate localities for planning purposes. West of Williams Road, Prahran is higher density with more renters, more apartments including all of Prahran's public housing, a bohemian inner city atmosphere, and its main centre of activity is Chapel Street which unites it with South Yarra, Windsor & St Kilda and fits the profile of Macnamara far more than Higgins for the same reasons outlined in the section above.

By comparison, east of Williams Road the character of Prahran becomes more suburban, more affluent, its closest trains station are Toorak and Armadale and it borders both of those suburbs which makes it well connected to Higgins, and its main commercial centre is the Prahran East Village on High Street which has a stronger bond to the Armadale end of High Street than it does to the Chapel Street precinct in Prahran's west.

The clear distinction between the east & west sections of Prahran, in addition to separating inner city South Yarra & Windsor from leafy Toorak & Armadale makes Williams Road a perfect boundary between high density Macnamara and leafy inner suburban Higgins.

Means of Travel & Physical Features

I object to items #294 and #365 of the AEC Draft Proposal regarding Dandenong Road and Caulfield Racecourse being physical barriers that outweigh the community interests. The Dandenong train lines run through Toorak, Armadale, Malvern, Caulfield, Carnegie, Murrumbeena & Hughesdale. Caulfield Station, located right next to the racecourse, is the only one of those stations *not* currently in Higgins yet it is the most prominent station on the line and a major transportation hub that connects all of those suburbs by train, tram & bus. Conversely, Caulfield Station has no direct rail links to any other suburb in Macnamara, making it better connected to Higgins.

If Caulfield North & East were to move into Higgins and the west of Williams Rd joined Macnamara, then the Dandenong line would connect 7 suburbs (plus the eastern half of Prahran which is closer to Toorak & Armadale Stations) that would all be within Higgins, while the Sandringham Line would run entirely through Macnamara between South Yarra and Ripponlea connecting 6 suburbs in Macnamara. This would result in more suburbs in the same electorates being better connected.

I also disagree with CS54's claim that Dandenong is a "natural boundary" with few community, social or economic links between the north and south.

Firstly, Dandenong Road already runs right through the middle of much of Higgins (east of Grange Road) plus all of Hotham and Bruce. The Macnamara/Higgins border is actually the only place it forms a boundary. There are also great bus connections crossing Dandenong Rd up Orrong & Kooyong Roads between Caulfield North & Armadale, buses between Caulfield & Chadstone, and the #3 tram connects Caulfield to East Malvern while the #16 tram connects Caulfield to the Glenferrie Road shopping precinct through Malvern & Toorak. Meanwhile in Macnamara, the #78 tram runs from South Yarra to Balaclava via Prahran, Windsor & St Kilda and the aforementioned Sandringham train line connects South Yarra, Prahran & Windsor to Balaclava & Ripponlea.

Secondly, in regards to the social & economic links, I (and other submissions prior to the draft proposal) have already outlined how Caulfield has far stronger social & economic links to Malvern, Armadale & Toorak north of Dandenong Road than it does to the bayside suburbs in Macnamara.

Quota Projections

When the growth rates are taken into account, I object to the fact that the slowest growing electorate in question (Goldstein) has the least population and fastest growing (Macnamara) has the most. This increases the likelihood of these seats being under or over quota before redistributions are due again.

Figures for the AEC Draft Proposal are below, including a 2022 projection based on the same growth rate used for the 2019 projection:

Electorate	2019 Projection	Growth Rate	2022 Estimate
Higgins	111855	3.04%	122369
Macnamara	113562	3.21%	124853
Goldstein	108916	2.22%	116332

My alternative for a Higgins/Macnamara swap and expansion of Goldstein results in the lowest numbers being in the fastest growing electorate (Macnamara), and using the same growth rates the three electorates' projections actually become closer by 2022 rather than further apart. This reduces the chance of further redistributions being required earlier.

Figures for my proposed boundaries are below, including a 2022 projection based on the same growth rate used for the 2019 projection:

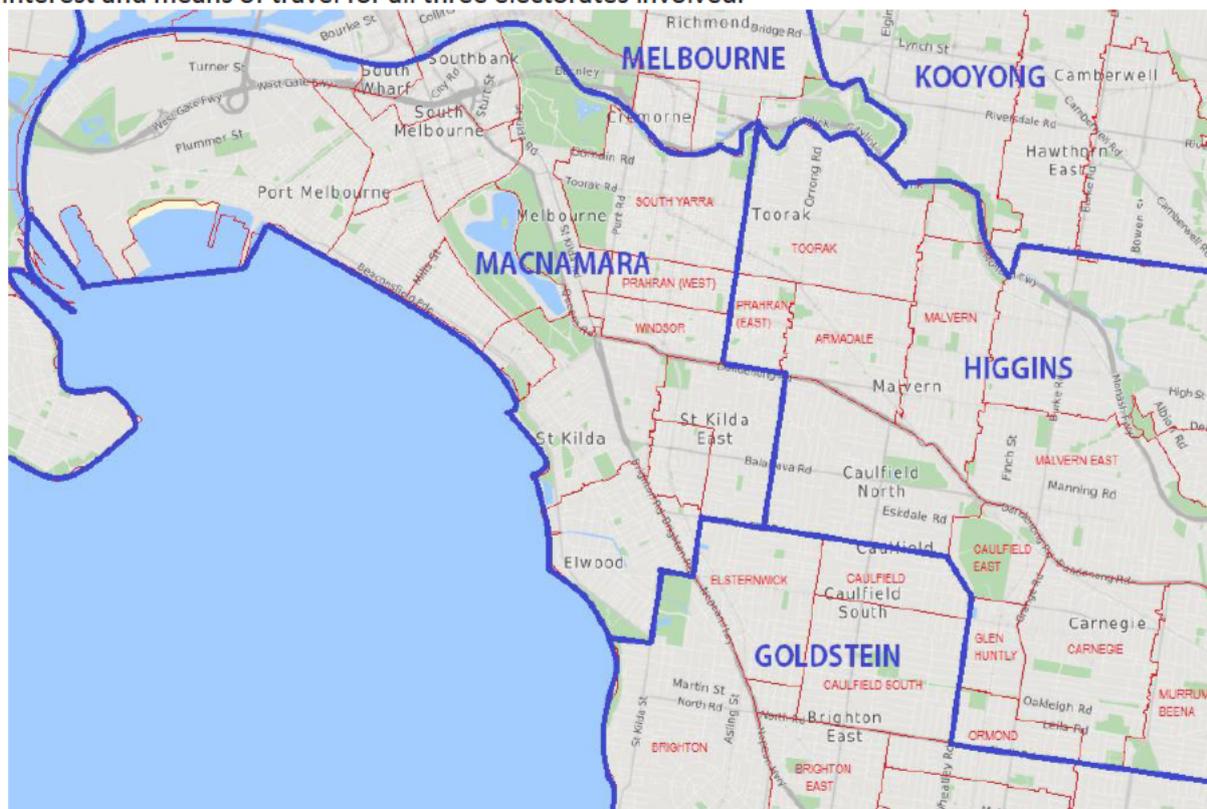
Electorate	2019 Projection	Growth Rate	2022 Estimate
Higgins	111606	3.04%	122097
Macnamara	110509	3.21%	121496
Goldstein	112218	2.22%	119859

I don't believe this proposal should have any knock-on effects to surrounding electorates such as Hotham, from which Higgins should still accept the transfer of Murrumbeena and Hughesdale.

It's also worth mentioning that the physical shape of the electorates would become more compact.

Summary of Proposal

I have provided below a map of the boundaries I believe would make the swap of Prahran/South Yarra for Caulfield work best, while improving the projected quotas and strengthening the communities of interest and means of travel for all three electorates involved.



A summary of the changes is as follows:

- Macnamara to gain the remainder South Yarra (east of Punt Road) and the section of Prahran west of Williams Road from Higgins, which would retain Prahran East
- Higgins to gain Caulfield North, Caulfield East and the small section of Glen Huntly (north of Glenhuntly Road) from Macnamara
- Goldstein to gain Caulfield & the remainder of Elsternwick (north of Glenhuntly Road) from Macnamara, uniting them with Caulfield South and the remainder of Elsternwick
- Higgins to gain Glen Huntly (south of Glenhuntly Rd) and the section of Ormond north of North Rd and west of Grange Road from Goldstein

Summary of population transfers using the boundaries defined above:

	Macnamara	Higgins	Goldstein
AEC Draft	113,562	111,855	108,916
South Yarra/Prahran (west) from Higgins to Macnamara	+19,709	-19,709	-
Caulfield Nth/East & Glen Huntly from Macnamara to Higgins	-15,731	+15,731	-
Elsternwick & Caulfield from Macnamara to Goldstein	-7,031	-	+7,031
Glen Huntly & Ormond transfer from Goldstein to Higgins	-	+3,729	-3,729
Alternative Boundaries	110,509	111,606	112,218

Yours sincerely,

Trent Wilson