



Objection 180

Timothy Knapp

1 page

To whom it may concern,

I write in order to make an objection to the recent report, 'Proposed Redistribution of Federal Electoral Divisions in Australia'.

In particular, I object to the proposed re-naming of the electoral division of Melbourne Ports to Macnamara.

I note the Redistribution Committee's reasoning behind the re-naming, as detailed on pages 36-7 of the report. The committee recognised that the name 'Melbourne Ports':

- *is that of an original federation electoral division, and*
- *is a geographical feature, although this geographical feature no longer retains a connection to the proposed electoral division.*

*"The Redistribution Committee therefore formed the view it would be appropriate to rename the electoral division."*¹

I applaud the new name chosen, in that it goes some way toward redressing the lack of electoral divisions named for women. Dame Annie Jean Macnamara ought to have her name honoured in the name of a future electoral division.

However my objections remain that:

1. In the 'Guidelines for naming divisions'² accessible through the AEC website, it is written that, *"Every effort should be made to retain the names of original federation divisions,"* such as Melbourne Ports. I contend that needlessly choosing to rename an electoral division with its original federation name is **not** making *"every effort"* to retain the same name. Were the boundaries of the electoral division significantly changing, or were it being divided among other electoral divisions, a case may be made to change the name (of it or the merged electoral divisions) but this is emphatically **not** the case. The legacy of the federation electoral divisions ought to be preserved where at all possible.
2. The electoral division **does** indeed retain a strong connection to the geographical feature after which it is named: the entirety of the suburb of Port Melbourne is within the electoral division of Melbourne Ports. This is a clear geographical link. Melbourne Ports also has a lengthy coastline along Port Phillip. Finally it is an integral part of metropolitan Melbourne, and directly adjacent to the existing electoral division of Melbourne

In light of these objections and what I believe to be a decision made against the 'Guidelines for naming divisions', I would ask the Redistribution Committee to reconsider its decision and leave the existing name as Melbourne Ports.

Best regards,
Timothy Knapp

¹Pp 36-7 Proposed Redistribution of Federal Electoral Divisions in Australia, 2018
<https://www.aec.gov.au/Electorates/Redistributions/2017/vic/proposed-report/files/vic-proposed-redistribution-april-2018.pdf>

² <https://www.aec.gov.au/Electorates/Redistributions/guidelines.htm>