



Objection 403

Dr M E Calwell

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The Federal Electorate of Melbourne, Redistribution 2018

The Federal Electorate of Melbourne has existed since the establishment of the First Federal Parliament and was held by the Australian Labor Party by Dr. W. R. Maloney from 1904 to 1940, by Arthur A. Calwell from 1940 to 1972, Ted Innes, from 1972 to 1983, Gerry Hand from 1983 to 1993 and Lindsay Tanner from 1993 to 2010.

It has played a major role in our history and my father, Arthur A. Calwell had the biggest majority in the 1946 Election. It has withstood many vicissitudes. Its ALP Members maintained its identity and loyally supported the Party through major events since 1904 and have made major contributions to our society in war and in peace and in implementing social justice.

Travancore, Flemington, Kensington, Newmarket, North and West Melbourne are contiguous, have always been an integral part of this seat with a strong community of interest and identity within these suburbs and were also an integral part of the City of Melbourne until the re-organisation under Premier Jeff Kennett. It is most inappropriate to propose that Travancore and Flemington be removed from this Electorate.

Ascot Vale has come in and out of the Electorate and for many years was part of Maribyrnong and always part of Essendon City Council, now expanded and called Moonee Valley City Council. The northern boundary of the Melbourne Federal Electorate was between Baroda Street and Mascoma Street and the area between there and Ormond Road was known as Ascot Vale East. When Moonee Valley Council was established it included parts of these areas, re-established the name Travancore and it extended the area of Ascot Vale East into Travancore so its boundary is now Ormond Road. Other suburbs such as West Brunswick and Richmond came into Melbourne much later. Our local ALP Branch is the Flemington Kensington Branch.

There has been a significant increase in population at the South end of the Electorate and these residents would have a stronger community of interest with those of Melbourne Ports that needs additional electors to fulfil the requirements for the redistribution.

The Federal Electorate of Melbourne has a proud history that supported the ALP in good and challenging times, including a Federal Leader, Arthur Calwell in his battles against conscription, the transformation of Australia through the Post-War Immigration Scheme, opposing our political enemies and the Vietnam War. It has reflected fundamental ALP values and the authentic identity of the ALP. The Federal Electorate of Melbourne has been and should be an ALP seat that should not be jeopardised by removing an integral part of the Electorate that was intimately involved with the first three ALP Federal Members and returned ALP Members to our Commonwealth Parliament for 106 years.

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