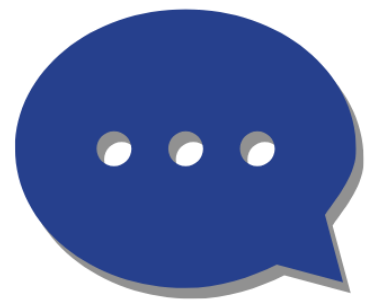




# Comment on objections 55

Liberal Party of Australia (Victorian Division)

21 pages



# **COMMENTS ON OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSED REDISTRIBUTION FOR VICTORIA**



**LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA**  
(VICTORIAN DIVISION)

JULY 2024

## **Introduction**

The Liberal Party of Australia - Victorian Division (the Liberal Party) welcomes the opportunity to make comments on the objections to the AEC's proposed boundaries as part of the redistribution of federal divisions in Victoria.

With 508 objections submitted to the AEC, there has been considerable assessment required in a short amount of time.

The Liberal Party has taken the view that - notwithstanding our concern about the proposed abolition of the Division of Higgins – the final drawing of the division boundaries should not radically redraw the map of Victoria compared to the proposed boundaries; to make fundamental changes without an opportunity for further community consultation and debate would be especially problematic given the data error which effectively invalidated all initial submissions to this process.

Accordingly, the Liberal Party put forth in its objection submission (Objection 398) small, sensible, and self-contained suggested modifications to the proposed boundaries which are genuinely felt to be in the interest of the community.

The Liberal Party is pleased that many objections support the small and sensible proposed changes in our objection submission.

In this comment on objections the Liberal Party will focus on highlighting where other members of the community have also independently reached the same conclusions.

This comment will also highlight concerns with considerably more radical changes proposed at this late stage of the process.

## **Division Name Changes**

Several objections made suggestions regarding changing the names of divisions.

The Liberal Party strongly believes that the time for the AEC to propose new names for federal divisions was at the proposed boundaries stage of the redistribution process. This would allow for a public debate, via objections, and comments on objections.

Given the AEC elected to make no proposed name changes at that time, the Liberal Party suggests that changes should not be further entertained during at this stage of the redistribution process. The implementation of a name change without the opportunity for objection and comment would be considerably problematic.

Accordingly, the Liberal Party disagrees with all suggested name changes in the objections.

## **Comments on Objections Relating to Specific Divisions**

### **Division of Higgins**

The Liberal Party notes that 329 objections were received relating to the Division of Higgins, which overwhelmingly support the Liberal Party's position that the abolition of this division should be reconsidered.

The Liberal Party wishes to comment on the following specific objections in relation to the Division of Higgins:

- Objection 280 (City of Stonnington) contains a detailed breakdown of the adverse consequences of the abolition of Higgins on the City of Stonnington community, which the Liberal Party supports.
- Objection 281 (Suzette Miller) contains a detailed analysis of demographic communities of interest in Higgins which would be adversely divided by the proposed abolition, and suggests the Division of Hotham as a more logical candidate for abolition. The Liberal Party supports both propositions.
- Objection 311 (Cr Mike Scott) contains a detailed description of the Higgins community, including historical, symbolic, and cultural concerns not previously addressed; the Liberal Party considers these points to have merit.
- Objection 345 (Natalie Webster) draws attention to the changing building trends in the City of Stonnington, and suggests that population growth projections in Higgins may not reflect the changing reality on the ground. The Liberal Party considers these points to have merit.
- Objection 463 (Matthew Lucas) provides a detailed analysis of the history of the Division of Higgins, as well as outlining the important local services which function in the Division of Higgins. The Liberal Party commends this analysis.

However, as was the case with the Liberal Party's objection submission, it is acknowledged that the substantive debate on the commission's proposed boundaries must assume the proposed abolition of Higgins.

## **Division of Menzies**

The Liberal Party retains the concern raised in its objection submission that the Division of Menzies has been untethered from its traditional connection with the Manningham LGA, and from its long-standing east-west alignment.

Multiple objections submitted also raise these concerns, in one form or another.

Multiple objections submitted also note the importance of the “green wedge” to the Menzies community.

The Liberal Party encourages the commission to give significant weight to these objections.

### Balwyn North & Box Hill South

In order to support this long-standing east-west alignment of the Division of Menzies, the Liberal Party’s objection submission proposed that Menzies should take in the remainder of the suburb of Balwyn North, and lose the areas south of Canterbury Road to the Division of Chisholm.

The Liberal Party wishes to comment on several objections which support this suggested adjustment to the proposed boundaries:

- Objection 10 (James Longford) notes that including areas south of Whitehorse Road in a Manningham LGA based electorate is not suitable for communities of interest. The Liberal Party supports this comment, whilst noting that for mathematical reasons our objection suggested a Canterbury Road boundary.
- Objection 94 (Therese Mulholland) supports the transfer of Balwyn North into Menzies. The Liberal Party agrees.
- Objection 95 (Lana Lyons) states: *“the western boundary of Menzies requires refinement, favouring major roads like Burke Road, Whitehorse Road or Mont Albert Road as boundaries, incorporating Balwyn North and Balwyn.”* The Liberal Party agrees with the intent of this objection, to the extent population maths permits.
- Objection 155 (Chinese Senior Citizens Club of Manningham Inc) talks in detail about the Chinese community in Balwyn/Balwyn North, and the Chinese community of interest in these suburbs connected to the Manningham LGA. The objection also discusses the transport and community links in this Chinese community. Objection 155 also confirms the differences between the northern Manningham LGA based Chinese community, and the Glen Waverley/Box Hill community, and suggests they can be in different electorates, noting Whitehorse Rd as a potential boundary. The Liberal Party support these comments, whilst noting that for mathematical reasons our objection suggested a Canterbury Road boundary.

- Objection 157 (Dot Haines OAM) notes “*the fundamental issue with the current proposal is that it disrupts the East-West orientation of Deakin and Menzies*” and makes suggestions including the inclusion of Balwyn North in Menzies. The Liberal Party supports these principles in relation to the Division of Menzies.
- Objection 235 (Jeff Waddell) notes “*Menzies should extend its boundary along Whitehorse Rd westwards to the Boroondara LGA boundary. Acquiring the suburbs of Mont Albert (part), Mont Albert North, and parts of Balwyn North*”. The Liberal Party agrees that Balwyn North is better placed in Menzies.
- Objection 282 (Veneto Club) notes the importance of the Italian community in the Manningham LGA, and the neighbouring Balwyn and Balwyn North suburbs, and supports this Italian community being united in the Division of Menzies. The Italian community is one of the key community groups in Menzies, and the Liberal Party advocates appropriate weight be given to this objection.
- Objection 283 (John Kostoulis) outlines the connection between the Greek community of Balwyn North, and the Greek community of the Manningham LGA, and recommends that they be combined in the Division of Menzies. The Greek community is one of the key community groups in Menzies, and the Liberal Party advocates appropriate weight be given to this objection.
- Objection 288 (Darren McSweeney) notes that the proposed boundaries of Menzies on the west are “*terrible*” and proposes the “*transfer of Balwyn, Balwyn North and Kew into Menzies*”. The Liberal Party notes the sentiment of including this community in Menzies, particularly Balwyn North, however, acknowledges that transferring a greater area from Kooyong to Menzies would be a significant change to the proposed boundaries.
- Objection 372 (North Eastern Jewish Centre) notes “*this presents for us an opportunity to finally have our membership and our community reunited in our home seat of Menzies. The undersigned believes that the AEC should use this opportunity to attempt to unite Balwyn and Balwyn North with Doncaster in the seat of Menzies.*” The Liberal Party considers the Jewish community to be a very important community of interest, and supports uniting the north-eastern Jewish community to the greatest extent possible in the Division of Menzies.
- Objection 312 (Vincent Liu) [Chairman of the Chinese Community Society of Victoria] breaks down the eastern Melbourne Chinese communities, noting the two distinct communities (north and south), either side of Whitehorse Road. The Liberal Party agrees with this assessment.
- Objection 411 (Joel A McAlister) states with regard to the southern Box Hill area being added into Menzies, “*the substantial demographical, geographic and economic differences between the transferred areas and the former regions of the electorate of Menzies*” and further objects to the inclusion of southern Box Hill areas in Menzies, stating “*this is due to the large differences between electors present in Box Hill and its surrounds to those already in Menzies.*” The Liberal Party agrees with these important community differences, and does not support the Division of Menzies moving south.

- Objection 504 (Anonymous 25) supports the transfer of Balwyn North into Menzies.

Collectively, these objections support the Liberal Party’s proposal that the Division of Menzies should take in the remainder of Balwyn North, and lose southern areas to Chisholm.

There are very clear communities of interest – not least multicultural groups – which are better aligned under the Liberal Party’s proposal.

The commission’s proposed boundaries already have a portion of Balwyn North in Menzies; the Liberal Party only seeks to unite that suburb.

The Liberal Party also seeks to unite more of the Whitehorse LGA in Chisholm.

#### General objections relating to Menzies

There were also several other objections of note relating to Menzies.

Objection 465 (City of Manningham) makes the clear point that the draft boundaries *“ignored the clear direction of travel with the existing (Menzies) electorate, particularly as it relates to public transportation (east-west), and disregarded Manningham’s key physical features which define the municipal boundaries (the Yarra River and the Eastern Freeway).”*

The Liberal Party contends that this alignment is the most important factor in reviewing the boundaries of Menzies.

Objection 469 (Clark McKenzie) carefully considers the proposed boundaries between the Divisions of Deakin and Menzies, and argues for no further changes. The Liberal Party agrees that no additional part of Manningham LGA should be moved out of Menzies.

Objection 479 (John Rashed) also writes in support of the proposed boundary between the Divisions of Deakin and Menzies. The Liberal Party agrees that no additional part of Manningham LGA should be moved out of Menzies.

Objection 416 (Phillip Drake) proposes completely realigning the Division of Menzies as a north-south seat. This would be a massive change in the character of the division, and further divide communities in the Manningham and Whitehorse LGAs. The Liberal Party does not support this fundamental change to the Division of Menzies, or the consequential changes to the Division of Deakin.

#### Specific objections relating to Blackburn and Donvale

The Liberal Party supports the proposed boundary between Menzies and Deakin, with the modest changes around Balwyn North and Box Hill South proposed in our objection submission. Other objections seeking further allocation of Blackburn to Menzies and Donvale to Deakin should be rejected because such proposals are contrary to the east-west alignment of Menzies.

Further and specifically, the current proposed draft boundary between Menzies and Deakin at Blackburn Road and Surrey Road is a fit for purpose electorate boundary, contrary to

suggestions in Objections 174 (Dr Mark Mulcair), 365 (Mr William Ma), and 469 (Clark McKenzie). Reasons for this include the size and traffic level of Blackburn Road, which is sufficient to warrant the designation of the road as a state route (13), as well the fact that Blackburn Road/Surrey Road acts as a VEC boundary for the state electorate of Box Hill, and for Whitehorse City Council’s Cootamundra and Eley Wards.

The Liberal party strongly rejects assertions by Objections 365 (Mr William Ma) and 469 (Clark McKenzie) that Springvale Road would be a more appropriate border between Menzies and Deakin in Whitehorse (south of the Eastern Freeway). This road follows no administrative borders, would cut the suburbs of Nunawading and Forrest Hill in half, and would disrupt the Blackburn-Ringwood axis of continuous retail and industrial area along Whitehorse Road.



## **Division of Deakin**

Aside from the previously suggested removal of a part of Burwood East (from the proposed Division of Deakin back to the Division of Chisholm), the Liberal Party maintains its position that no further changes to the Division of Deakin are required at this stage of the redistribution process.

As stated consistently, the Liberal Party believes that the Division of Deakin should remain a clearly outer-eastern suburbs division, centred to the greatest extent possible on the Maroondah LGA.

This principle is well articulated in Objection 376 (Maroondah City Council), which states: *“Council believes that the City of Maroondah should remain in the Deakin division to the greatest extent possible, taking population considerations into account. This will ensure that the electoral division maintains contiguous communities of interest, aligns with natural dividing features, and enables effective representation for local communities at the Federal level.”*

This principle is also endorsed in Objection 137 (Maroondah Business Group), and reflected in several other objections including Objection 53 (Crew Charlie), Objection 399 (Liam Mogridge), Objection 453 (Henry Ress), and Objection 469 (Clark McKenzie). The draft boundaries for Deakin have also been accepted by the Australian Greens Victoria in Objection 481, also being consistent with their original proposal.

Overall, there is a broad consensus of support across the objections for the principles of the draft Deakin boundaries as presented by the Commission, consistent with the Liberal Party’s own position on the draft boundaries for Deakin.

There are, however, a handful of exceptions.

The most notable is Objection 487 (Victorian Labor) which proposes a radical redrawing of boundaries throughout the outer-east of Melbourne. This proposal stretches Aston significantly further north into the Maroondah LGA than is necessary to deliver the extra numbers required to bring Aston up to quota, and accordingly is also proposing to add suburbs into the Division of Aston less connected to the Knox LGA which forms the basis of that seat.

There is the further impact in drawing a long, thin, east-west Deakin, stretching from Surrey Hills to Croydon, which attempts to combine many disparate suburbs and communities, while at the same time unnecessarily splitting numerous business, community, ethnic and sporting groups.

Victorian Labor’s proposal would destroy the principle outlined above of Deakin being based on the Maroondah LGA, instead carving Maroondah up between three divisions with boundaries through the centre of the communities of Ringwood and Croydon.

Similarly disruptive Objections are Objection 157 (Dot Haines OAM) and Objection 411 (Joel A McAlsiter) which the Liberal Party rejects for the above reasons.

It is also simply incorrect for Victorian Labor to suggest that its proposal would not impact any divisions other than Deakin and Menzies. It is clear their proposal would require

potentially significant cascading impacts on the Divisions of Aston, Casey, Chisholm, and Bruce at the very least.

Noting that the Division of Aston requires additional electors, the commission has proposed the elegant solution of moving Aston's northern boundary from Dandenong Creek to Canterbury Road. This ensures that suburbs contiguous with the Knox LGA - and the existing Division of Aston - are moved into the seat, and utilises the clear and logical Canterbury Road boundary for the entire northern end of the electorate. This is a simple and clear change, which the Liberal Party endorses.

More broadly, Objection 487 seeks to create a Division of Deakin untethered from any obvious community, and unlike any division ever before seen in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne.

The proposal attempts to unite in Deakin a string of suburbs along a considerable distance.

The proposal makes no reference to local multicultural communities, who would be arbitrarily divided under this proposal.

The proposal makes no reference to local sporting communities, which would be arbitrarily divided under this proposal.

The proposal makes no reference to local commercial interests and shopping precincts, which would be arbitrarily divided under this proposal.

The Liberal Party cannot understand the rationale for this complete redrawing of these electorates, and strongly objects to them.

Several objections also raise the suburb of Heathmont. The Liberal Party has sympathy with the intent of these submissions, however, recognises that the proposed boundary along Canterbury Road is the best way to provide the required numbers to Aston, with the least disruption to Deakin. There do not appear to be any better alternatives proposed in any of the objections.

The Liberal Party suggests that there is a strong community of interest alignment in the proposed boundaries for the Division of Deakin, and accordingly there is no requirement to further change the boundaries of the Division of Deakin, outside of the minor Burwood East suggestion.

## **Division of Casey**

Objection 328 (Brad Sanders) notes the importance of the Yarra Ranges LGA and the Yarra Valley areas being the basis for the Division of Casey. The Liberal Party agrees with these comments.

Objection 449 (Yarra Valley Business) also supports the proposed boundaries for the Division of Casey being based on the Yarra Valley area. The Liberal Party agrees with these comments.

Objection 445 (Toby Millman, Ash Rankin, Anthony Simmons and Shaun Goodwin) [representing several sporting clubs in the area] notes the importance of the Division of Casey being based on the Yarra Ranges LGA. The Liberal Party agrees with these comments.

Objection 493 (Charles Richardson) proposed some changes to the Casey boundary, with consequential changes to other divisions including McEwen and La Trobe. Mr Richardson himself notes that his suggestion requires “*unpicking more of the Committee's work than my other objections*”. The Liberal Party suggests there is no basis for this “unpicking” and that the proposed boundaries of these divisions remain unchanged.

## **Divisions of Kooyong & Chisholm**

The Liberal Party’s objection submission made three suggestions related to the Division of Kooyong:

1. The inclusion of the remainder of Balwyn North in the Division of Menzies (discussed in “Division of Menzies”);
2. That Prahran be united in the Division of Macnamara (discussed in “Divisions of Melbourne & Macnamara”); and
3. That the Tooronga Road boundary between Kooyong and Chisholm be moved entirely to Burke Road, and that the suburb of Camberwell be united in Kooyong.

Following the proposed abolition of Higgins, there has been considerable comment on the proposed boundaries for Kooyong. Generally speaking, objections agreed with the principles of the Liberal Party’s submission, that more of the areas around Camberwell and Glen Iris should be included in Kooyong to the greatest extent possible.

Some examples of these comments include:

- Objection 37 (Howard Elton) notes that the Boroondara LGA should be in the Division of Kooyong. The Liberal Party agrees, whilst accepting that the population maths makes that difficult to achieve completely.
- Objection 79 (Adrian Elton) suggests that Glen Iris is better represented in the Division of Kooyong. The Liberal Party agrees, to the extent this is possible.
- Objection 156 (Arthur David Brous) states “*the proposed south eastern boundary of the proposed seat of Kooyong Tooronga Road. In reality, Burke Road is the more significant geographical boundary, being a major arterial road that effectively separates the Malvern areas of Stonnington*”. The Liberal Party agrees with this comment.
- Objection 416 (Phillip Drake) agrees that the Camberwell area should be included in the Division of Kooyong. The Liberal Party supports this.
- Objection 493 (Charles Richardson) supports the transfer of Prahran into Macnamara, with Kooyong taking more of Boroondara in the south-east of the division. This aligns with the principles of the Liberal Party’s submission.

## **Divisions of Melbourne & Macnamara**

One of the most frequent objections received by the AEC relates to the boundaries of Macnamara.

The Liberal Party’s objection submission proposed that the Yarra River was better crossed at the Melbourne CBD, with Melbourne’s southern boundary following the Melbourne LGA boundary, and including the areas north of the West Gate Freeway. In exchange, to the greatest extent possible given the population maths, the suburbs of South Yarra and Prahran be moved into Macnamara.

The Liberal Party further submitted that the Prahran/Windsor area be united in Macnamara.

The following objections made similar points:

- Objection 3 (Fab Scalia) notes *“the Chapel Street suburbs of South Yarra, Prahran and Windsor are a cohesive community of interest and share the same social and cultural characteristics and I urge you to not divide them between the two electorates. I urge you to place them in MacNamara.”*(sic)
- Objection 10 (James Longford) notes *“I do not support Melbourne gaining areas south of the Yarra River”*. The Liberal Party agrees that this should be limited as much as the population maths allows, with the areas south of the Yarra around Southbank et al being better suited for inclusion in the Division of Melbourne.
- Objection 28 (Denzil Griffiths) also raises concerns on the Division of Melbourne moving into Prahran, noting *“this area has no connection with West Melbourne”*. The Liberal Party agrees, noting Prahran is better placed in Macnamara.
- Objection 53 (Crew Charleigh) states: *“the inclusion of Prahran in Melbourne is odd. Southbank should be the locality where Melbourne crosses the Yarra. The Melbourne/Macnamara boundary should be the Citylink and Kings Way/Toorak Road where possible and if numbers don’t allow, South Yarra west of Punt Road and north of Toorak Road can be moved into Macnamara.”* This supports the principles of the Liberal Party’s suggestions.
- Objection 86 (Nimalan Sivakumar) states *“rather than following St Kilda Road to take parts of South Yarra/Prahran, it would be more effective to have a crossing of the Yarra River and for Melbourne to take Southbank/Fisherman Bend Urban Renewal Area.”* The Liberal Party supports this principle.
- Objection 88 (Neil Pharaoh) states *“there is absolutely no community connection service provision, or any other boundary geographic or social which would support cutting the suburb of Prahran between Kooyong and Melbourne”* and *“Residents of South Yarra and Prahran have more to do with St Kilda, Albert Park, and Malvern than they do Melbourne.”*

Mr Pharaoh states in his objection that he twice ran for office in this area (as a candidate for the Australian Labor Party). The Liberal Party agrees with this principle of Mr Pharaoh’s objection, that these areas are best united in one Division – Macnamara – to the greatest extent possible. Where the Liberal Party and the ALP agree on the interests of a community it is contended there must be some community

value in this position.

- Objection 94 (Therese Mulholland) states “*Melbourne should cross at Southbank rather than at South Yarra and extending all the way to Prahran. Prahran East also shouldn't be in Kooyong but rather Macnamara.*” The Liberal Party agrees with this comment.
- Objection 95 (Lana Lyons) states: “*for instance, the division between Melbourne and South Yarra should be reconsidered to include Southbank*” and “*Prahran East should belong to Macnamara, not Kooyong.*” The Liberal Party agrees with this.
- Objection 152 (Ben Mullins) notes that the Division of Melbourne should cross the Yarra River at Southbank. The Liberal Party agrees.
- Objection 174 (Dr Mark Mulcair) has detailed objections to the proposed boundaries for these divisions, stating:  
“*I disagree strongly with the Committee's proposal to transfer South Yarra and Prahran into the Division of Melbourne:*
  - *South Yarra and Prahran would seem to me to have a stronger connection to St Kilda and surrounding areas (in Macnamara), than north across the river into Richmond.*
  - *The proposal would split Prahran (proposed to be placed in Melbourne) from Windsor (proposed to be placed in Macnamara). These two suburbs have a strong community of interest, and there has been considerable objection in the past when they have been separated into different seats.*
  - *The Southbank, Docklands, and Fisherman's Bend areas are more suited to being placed in a CBD-based Division such as Melbourne.*”

The Liberal Party agrees with all these objections.

- Objection 227 (Anonymous 15) notes the importance of the Jewish community in South Yarra remaining connected with the broader Jewish community, which is contained in Macnamara. The Liberal Party strongly endorses this consideration.
- Objection 288 (Darren McSweeney) also supports the principle that the Division of Melbourne should cross the Yarra at the CBD with areas around Southbank moved into Melbourne, and as much as possible the South Yarra/Prahran/Windsor area being united in Macnamara.
- Objection 416 (Phillip Drake) states: “*I agree that Melbourne should be the seat that crosses the Yarra. I argued for this in my suggestion and I'm happy the AEC has done it. However, having Melbourne extend all the way south to Prahran is not ideal. It'd be far better if Melbourne gained from the parts of Macnamara that are in the City of Melbourne. These areas are already connected through local government, the high amount of river crossings, being part of the CBD and a similar community living in high rise apartments.*”  
Mr Drake proposes an alternate boundary between Melbourne and Macnamara (and Kooyong) along similar lines to those proposed by the Liberal Party.
- Objection 459 (George Black) notes: “*...however, I think that Prahran and South Yarra have more in common with other parts of the Division of Macnamara, and there are other parts of Macnamara which are more suitable for inclusion in the Division of*

*Melbourne.*” The Liberal Party agrees with this objection, and notes Mr Black’s proposed solution is very similar to what the Liberal Party submitted.

- Objection 462 (Michael Ritchie) notes: “*Southbank and Port Melbourne have no community of interest with Caulfield. I would propose that the sections of the city of Stonnington and City of Melbourne south of the Yarra be added to McNamara. In return McNamara should shed Southbank and Port Melbourne.*” The Liberal Party agrees with this comment.
- Objection 482 (Julian McCrann) also proposes that the Melbourne LGA areas from Southbank to Fishermen’s Bend be moved into the Division of Melbourne, with as much of the South Yarra/Prahran area as possible included in Macnamara. The Liberal Party agrees with this comment.
- Objection 492 (Charles Richardson) also contends that South Yarra is a poor choice of where division boundaries should cross the Yarra River, and suggests “*a straight swap of territory between the two divisions, with South Yarra and Prahran going to Macnamara and Melbourne taking instead the four SA2s of Docklands, Port Melbourne, Port Melbourne Industrial and Southbank (West)–South Wharf, plus that part of Southbank (East) that lies north of Grant Street. Map 2 below illustrates the suggestion.*” This reflects the principles of the Liberal Party’s recommendation.
- Objection 499 (Will Douglas) also suggests that the Division of Melbourne should cross the Yarra River at Southbank rather than South Yarra.

There has been considerable commonality on the objections relating to the boundaries between the Divisions of Melbourne and Macnamara, as demonstrated by the above objections.

The Liberal Party’s objection submission modelled a workable solution to this concern, and commends those changes to the commission.

## **Division of Goldstein**

The Liberal Party wishes to comment on the number of objections which agreed that the Kingston LGA (specifically the suburbs of Moorabbin and Highett) should not be included in the Division of Goldstein. These objections include:

- Objection 1 (Benjamin Close) proposes removing this Kingston LGA area from Goldstein.
- Objection 108 (Leon Shinkai) proposes removing this area Kingston LGA area from Goldstein.
- Objection 174 (Dr Mark Mulcair) advocates for the Kingston LGA areas of Moorabbin and Highett to be in the Division of Isaacs, with Goldstein taking more of Bentleigh East. Whilst the Liberal Party supports this, Dr Mulcair’s further suggestion to move the south boundary between Isaacs and Goldstein is not supported. The Liberal Party believes that the additional voters required in Goldstein should be found in the Glen Eira LGA.
- Objection 295 (Heather Louis) makes a strong case for Highett and Moorabbin better aligning with Isaacs and the Kingston LGA rather than Goldstein.
- Objection 416 (Phillip Drake) supports the removal of the Kingston LGA areas from Goldstein and uniting them with other parts of Kingston LGA in Isaacs, with Goldstein instead taking more areas in Bentleigh East.

There is considerable evidence across the objections that the Kingston LGA better aligns with the Division of Isaacs, rather than the Division of Goldstein.

The Liberal Party supports this position, and again proposes that additional electors for Goldstein be found in the Glen Eira LGA.



## **Division of Dunkley**

Objections to the Division of Dunkley’s proposed boundaries raised concern at Mt Eliza being moved from Dunkley to the Division of Flinders.

These objections included:

- Objection 53 (Crew Charleigh) says “*Mount Eliza should be transferred back to Dunkley where it has a significantly better community of interest than the faraway communities of the Mornington Peninsula.*” The Liberal Party agrees with this statement.
- Objection 462 (Michael Ritchie) notes that Mt Eliza should remain in the Division of Dunkley, with the Patterson River returned to Isaacs. The Liberal Party agrees with this principle.
- Objection 504 (Anonymous 25) does not support the transfer of Mt Eliza out of the Division of Dunkley.

## **Division of McEwen**

There have been several objections relating to the Division of McEwen, including:

- Objection 35 (Anonymous 9);
- Objection 174 (Dr Mark Mulcair);
- Objection 288 (Darren McSweeney);
- Objection 366 (D.G. Clarke);
- Objection 416 (Phillip Drake); and
- Objection 458 (Jarrod).

Each of these proposed minor changes to the Division of McEwen.

The Liberal Party suggests that the Division of McEwen is well drawn on the proposed boundaries, and should not be change.

Objection 487 (Victorian Labor) suggests changes to McEwen which are only consequential to their submission’s proposed changes to the Divisions of Calwell, Scullin, and Jagajaga. The Liberal Party again suggests that the Division of McEwen is well drawn, and should not be changed, and especially should not be changed because of other unrelated issues in suburban Melbourne.

## **Division of Wannon**

The Liberal Party wishes to make comment on two objections relating to Wannon:

Objection 85 (Matt) has submitted an objection noting that rural areas should be a part of the Division of Wannon, and areas associated with the City of Geelong should be in the Division of Corio.

The Liberal Party agrees with the principle of this objection, however, does not agree with the specifics proposed.

Objection 416 (Phillip Drake) states that “*the localities of Bellbrae and Freshwater Creek to be united in Corangamite.*”

Again, the Liberal Party agrees with the principle of this objection, however, does not agree with the specifics proposed.

The Liberal Party has consistently contended that there should be changes to the proposed Division of Wannon to ensure rural areas are retained in that division, and Geelong aligned areas in divisions with similar Geelong aligned suburbs. Objections received support this principle.

The Liberal Party maintains the suggestion made in its objection that Wannon’s community of interest is better served by finding the additional electors required in the township of Stawell, and not in non-rural areas connected with Geelong.

## **Divisions of Bruce and Hotham**

A number of objections, led by Objection 418 (Julian Hill MP), propose amending the boundaries of the Division of Bruce such that its border with the Division of Hotham moves from Jackson’s Road to Eastlink.

The Liberal Party considers that the Commission’s proposed boundary between Hotham and Bruce along Jackson’s Road makes excellent use of a major road as a clear boundary, and there are insufficient community of interest considerations to justify disrupting this boundary.

The Liberal Party contends that the objections proposing to change these boundaries focus too narrowly on balancing the numerical impacts of this change in the Divisions of Bruce, Hotham, and Isaacs, but fail to take into account the consequential impact these changes would have on other proposals to improve boundaries between Bruce, Hotham, Isaacs and other neighbouring divisions including Holt, Goldstein, Dunkley and Chisholm.

The Liberal Party believes that the minor issues this proposal seeks to resolve are dwarfed by the impact of consequential changes across Melbourne, and would cause even greater issues in the south-east of Melbourne.

Similarly, Objection 418 proposes reversing the transfer of part of Berwick from the Division of La Trobe to Bruce, such that Berwick is returned to La Trobe. To accommodate this change, the objection proposes moving the Division of Casey into Emerald-Gembrook.

The Liberal Party contends the proposed changes are not backed up with any arguments relating to communities of interest, and would result in unnecessary changes to the Division of Casey.

Accordingly, the Liberal Party does not support these proposed changes.

## **Divisions of Hawke & Gorton**

Objection 174 (Dr Mark Mulcair) notes “*those parts of Keilor lying north of the Calder Freeway can be returned back to Gorton. This area is completely cut off from the rest of Hawke by the airport, and looks south to Gorton for its community of interest (in Keilor, Taylors Lakes or Sydenham).*” The Liberal Party agrees with this objection.

Objection 492 (Charles Richardson) makes a similar point relating to the boundaries between these divisions.

Objection 499 (Will Douglas) also makes a similar point relating to the boundaries between these divisions.

The Liberal Party supports a “tidying” of this proposed boundary to better reflect the local community.

### **Individual Objections**

A number of objections made multiple, broader points, which the Liberal Party feels are best addressed specifically.

#### **Objection 135 (Jeff Waddell)**

The Liberal Party respects the positive contribution Mr Waddell has made to community conversations on electoral and redistribution matters over many years.

The Liberal Party also shares the frustration Mr Waddell has that initial submissions to this redistribution were made without correct data.

It is clear that Mr Waddell has put considerable thought into responding to the draft boundaries, however, rather than objections to specifics, Mr Waddell has suggested a whole new redistribution design.

The Liberal Party submits that many of the changes proposed by Mr Waddell have considerable consequences for local communities, and accordingly should not be implemented at this late stage in the process.

For example, Mr Waddell's proposed changes would remove contiguous suburbs around Bayswater North from the proposed Division of Aston, and add into the seat non-contiguous suburbs in the mountains, around Belgrave.

The Liberal Party does not support these changes. The Division of Aston has consistently been a suburban division, based on the Knox LGA. Crossing the Dandenong Ranges would add areas completely different to those in the Knox LGA, and with limited transport links.

Mr Waddell also proposes significant changes to the Division of Deakin, which requires significant consequential changes to other divisions. The Liberal Party believes these changes are far too significant to be made at this late stage in the process, and that the proposed changes would be detrimental to keeping like-suburbs and areas in divisions including Deakin, Menzies, Casey, and Aston.

As another example, significant changes are proposed on the Mornington Peninsula.

Rather than list every example scattered through this document, the Liberal Party feels it best to note that it does not support statewide changes of this complexity at this state of the process.

### **Objection 418 (Julian Hill MP) & Dandenong**

The Liberal Party notes that the ALP Member for Bruce has made a submission which proposes including all the suburb of Dandenong in the Division of Bruce.

The Liberal Party made the same recommendation for Bruce in its objection submission and agrees that uniting the Dandenong community in one division – Bruce – is the best outcome.

Objection 418 also notes that *"the sitting Member for Isaacs concurs with this view."*

The Liberal Party commends Mr Hill for putting the community above party in this instance, and suggests that if both the Liberal Party and two ALP members are making the same proposal there is considerable community interest involved.

### **Objection 481 (Australian Greens Victoria)**

The Australian Greens Victoria objection submission notes:

1. *"...we suggest the suburb of Prahran be moved into Macnamara" and "to compensate for the electors lost from Kooyong we suggest Camberwell be reunited into Kooyong."*
2. *"The move of Moorabbin, Cheltenham and Highett into Goldstein is less than ideal"* and goes on to propose that the Highett/Moorabbin part of the Kingston LGA proposed to be placed in Goldstein be moved back to Isaacs.
3. That the suburb of Dandenong be united in the Division of Bruce.

The Liberal Party contends that these three points are all sensible, minor changes which best reflect the local communities, and suggests that the fact the Liberal Party and the Greens have reached the same conclusions indicates this community interest.

The Australian Greens Victoria propose changes to the Division of McEwen, with consequential flow on changes to the Divisions of Casey and La Trobe.

The Liberal Party believes that these changes are not required, and would require considerable changes to the proposed boundaries across a large area of Victoria, and accordingly does not support these proposed changes.

## **Conclusion**

The Liberal Party in its objection submission focused on small, sensible, and self-contained changes to the commission's proposed boundaries, making suggested changes only where there was a clear community argument to be made.

That so many other objections lodged raised the same issues suggests considerable merit to those issues.

The Liberal Party commends these suggestions to the commission for consideration in the drawing of the final boundaries.