



Comment on objections 58

David G Clarke

2 pages

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the objections.

As previously stated in my comments, my focus is on addressing longstanding issues within the electorate of McEwen to ensure fair and representative electoral division which has been missing since 2019, when the division was stretched in an east/west orientation.

A key concern is uniting communities of interest along major transport corridors that run North/South rather than East/West. It is crucial to keep communities of interest together and keeping Statistical Area2's together as much as possible.

Therefore, I believe it is important to keep Mernda and Wollert whole, which is entirely achievable and would significantly benefit communities, it would also benefit Scullin by giving the seat access to growing areas such as Wollert and McEwen access to the more stable Mernda. I believe that at Local Government and State level this is the case.

My concern isn't so much which towns are where more so they should be represented in one electoral division.

I support those objections that unite the suburb of Mernda into McEwen, the suburb of Wollert into Scullin and make the subsequent required numerical adjustments in areas such as Panton Hill and St Andrews.

I therefore support these objections:

OB152 – to the extent that it supports the movement of parts of the Nillumbik Shire from McEwen into the division of Casey.

OB174 – to the extent that it recommends moving the parts of Wollert from McEwen into the division of Scullin.

OB416 – which fully supports my view that Mernda be untied in McEwen and Wollert in the division of Scullin.

OB437 – only to the extent that it recommends uniting Wollert in the division of Scullin.

OB458 – to the extent that it recommends uniting Mernda in the division of McEwen.

OB487 – which, like OB416, fully supports my view that Mernda be untied in McEwen and Wollert in the division of Scullin.

OB493 – to the extent that it recommends transferring Panton Hill and St Andrews from McEwen to the division of Casey.

OB503 – to the extent that it supports the movement of the northern part of Wollert to the division of Scullin.

OB504 – to the extent that it recommends transferring the northern part of Wollert from McEwen to the division of Scullin and parts of the Nillumbik Shire to the division of Casey.

NB, I do not support its consequential changes.

For clarity, I do not support these objections:

OB35 – which gives no consideration to the quota imperatives required under the Act.

OB108 – which unnecessarily extends the division of McEwen across the Yarra and gives no consideration to the lack of transport links in the east of the division that the objection proposes.

OB235 – which proposes a similar solution to OB108 in the east of the division of McEwen.

OB398 – which proposes retaining the spit in the divisional boundaries for Mernda and

Wollert.

OB411 – which proposes the same as OB398.

OB481 – which, like OB 108, unnecessarily extends the division of McEwen across the Yarra and gives no consideration to the lack of transport links in the east of the division that the objection proposes.

My reading of the objections is that the preponderance of submissions relevant to the boundaries of the division of McEwen support, either fully or to some great extent, the proposal to unite Mernda in McEwen and Wollert into Scullin. I commend these objections to the committee.

I thank the committee taking into consideration my suggestions, objection and comments throughout this process and look forward to a positive outcome.

David G Clarke