



Comment on suggestions 44

Warren and Karen Maloney

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Postal Address: [REDACTED]
Actual Address: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Home: [REDACTED]
Mobile: (Warren) [REDACTED]
Mobile: (Karen) [REDACTED]
Skype: [REDACTED]
Skype: [REDACTED]
Email: (warren) [REDACTED]
Email: (Karen) [REDACTED]

Friday, 8 December 2023

To Whom it may concern,
Australian Electoral Commission

We write to comment on the suggested changes made to the AEC that impact on the Ballarat electorate, in particular with the Hepburn Shire Council.

The Shire of Hepburn, and the towns that make it up, have always been closely linked with Ballarat.

Our communities know each other, we play football against each other, and we travel between towns for shopping, work, hospitality, and education.

The way we see it, the AEC has the regional electorates about right as it is. Bendigo includes the city of Bendigo and the smaller towns most closely related to it in Mount Alexander Shire, whilst Ballarat includes the City of Ballarat and the smaller towns most closely related to it in Hepburn Shire. This effectively meets the AEC's goals of maintain geographic cohesiveness of electorates while maintaining communities of interest.

Reflecting that the divide chosen is the correct one is the fact that it has remained largely the same at least since I can remember. To change it now would be a major change undoing decades of settled history and connections.

As such, we strongly support Daylesford and the entire Shire of Hepburn remaining within the electorate of Ballarat.

Regards,

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