



# Comment on suggestions 72

Australian Greens Victoria

29 pages

## **Comment on Greens suggestion**

Due to some technical difficulties we were unable to submit maps with our original suggestion. This comment includes maps interspersed with our original suggestion (there is no substantive change to the boundaries proposed).

## **Redistribution Submission By Australian Greens Victoria**

In starting this redistribution the Greens' first consideration, as we imagine for most others, is whether to abolish an electorate north or south of the Yarra. In either case it then becomes necessary to move many electors into seats primarily based on the other side of the river.

At first sight we considered it more logical to abolish a seat on the southern side, since the discrepancies are slightly greater there, and fewer voters would need to be shifted into cross-river electorates.

However, the only areas south of the river that are easy to move into northern seats without creating a great deal of disruption have small populations. These include Southbank, Warrandyte and some areas like Healesville that are technically north of the river, but are currently included in a south-of-river electorate. These areas do not include nearly enough people to balance up the two sides. We are therefore concerned that the abolition of a south-side electorate will force the moving of large chunks of territory south of the river into electorates in which they are a poor fit on almost all criteria.

On the other hand, it is possible to move Nillumbik (except for Doreen) into Menzies and Casey with much less disruption. Both Menzies and Casey already cross the river, albeit in a very small way for Menzies, and areas like Eltham have much more in common historically and socio-demographically with Warrandyte than most other places on the river have with the suburbs on the opposite bank. From 1969 to 1984 the electorate of Diamond Valley spanned the river in this area.

Doreen is closer in distance and demographics to population centres we propose to put in Scullin than it is to the places we propose to include in Menzies or Casey and without it Nillumbik does not have as large an enrolment as would be ideal to create balance between the two sides, but it goes much closer than what we consider the best opportunities for river-crossing on the south side. Moreover, if the part of Eltham North that was (somewhat strangely) placed in the City of Banyule is also included in Menzies, along with parts of Greensborough, the balance is even better.

When selecting a north-side seat for abolition we consider McEwen the stand-out candidate. McEwen is a long-standing electorate, but its main population centres have more in common with neighbouring electorates than they do with each other. We suspect that the average voter in Woodend would be surprised to learn they are in the same electorate as Hurstbridge or Kilmore. They probably feel much more connected to Kyneton, in the electorate of Bendigo. Certainly, this has been the feedback we have received over the years from Greens members, particularly those newly arriving in the electorate who are surprised to learn it seems to be made up of pieces that geographically and demographically feel like cast-offs from their neighbours.

If this decision is accepted the process becomes effectively two separate redistributions, each much easier to do than one for the whole state as they have far fewer degrees of freedom.

We note that forward enrolment projections are always difficult to get right, and after the disruptions of the pandemic this is particularly so. Certainly, changes based on the last three years are a poor guide for what to expect in future. Consequently, where other factors allow, we have tried to keep electorates close to the projected quota, rather than using every bit of the 3.5 percent tolerance.

## Summary of proposal

Abolish McEwen

Leave unchanged:

Corangamite, Corio\*, Fraser, Gellibrand, Gippsland, Gorton, Lalor, Macnamara, Monash.

Electorate	Areas in	Areas Out
Aston	Endeavor Hills North (9096)	None
Ballarat	Newstead and Gilford (1687), Ballan and surrounds, using the Werribee River as the boundary (3159)	None
Bendigo	Macedon and Woodend (9277)	Newstead and Gilford (1687)
Bruce	Noble Park North (1820) Parts of Mulgrave (4847) South Dandenong north of the bypass (1950)	Endeavor Hills North (9096) Area west of The Hallam Main Drain and Cranbourne Road and south of Shrives Road (658)
Calwell	Wallan (17,393) and Romsey (8730)	West Meadows and Greenvale-Bulla (24487)
Casey	Panton Hill and Hurstbridge (7089)	Shire of Cardinia (1228)
Chisholm	Menzies south of the freeway and west of Springvale road (21,844), and Deakin west of Springvale road (9,111)	Burwood west of the university (2305) Area south of the Monash freeway (6657) Wheeler's Hill (15311)
Cooper	Clifton Hill (5416)	None
Deakin	Menzies south of the freeway and east of Springvale road (7656) Part of Park Orchards (3761)	All its territory west of Springvale road (9111)
Dunkley	Carrum-Patterson Lakes south of the Patterson River (8265)	Mount Eliza southwest of Jesse White Creek and Boxmoor Reserve (2834)
Flinders	Mount Eliza southwest of Jesse White Creek and Boxmoor Reserve (2834)	None
Goldstein	Bentleigh East west of east boundary road, and north of Center Rd (3479)	None
Hawke	Gisborne (11138) and Riddells Creek (3650)	Ballan and surrounds, using the Werribee River as the boundary (3159)
Higgins	Hughesdale north of the railway line (1968) Glen Iris/Ashburton that is now in Kooyong (3240)	None
Holt	Area west of Troupes Creek and south of Shrives Road (658)	None

Hotham	Area of Chisholm south of the Monash freeway (6657) Wheeler's Hill (15311)	Keysborough North (8815)+Springvale South (8742) Noble Park North (1820) Hughesdale north of the railway line (1968) Mulgrave (1950) Bentleigh East west of east boundary road, and north of Center Rd (3479)
Indi	Euroa surrounds (774), Yea surrounds (32) Benalla surrounds (43)	None
Isaacs	Keysborough North (8815)+ Springvale South (8742)	Carrum-Patterson Lakes south of the Patterson River (8265) Dandenong north of the bypass (1950)
Jagajaga	Mill Park and Bundoora (32325)	Eltham (18324) Part Greensborough (3564) Research North Warrandyte (3084)
Kooyong	Burwood west of the university (2305)	Glen Iris/Ashburton that is now in Kooyong (3240)
Latrobe	Shire of Cardinia (1228)	None
Mallee		Avoca (2245)
Maribyrnong	West Meadows and Greenvale-Bulla (24487)	Flemington and Kensington (15164)
Melbourne	Flemington and Kensington (15164)	Clifton Hill (5416) Brunswick East (3696) and Fitzroy North north of Park Street (3261)
Menzies	Eltham (18324) Part Greensborough (3564) Research-North Warrandyte (3084)	Area south of the Freeway (29500) plus Part of Park Orchards (3761)
Nicholls	Kilmore (8052)	Euroa surrounds (774), Yea surrounds (32) Benalla surrounds (43)
Scullin	Whittlesea (9216), Wollert (3661), Mernda (10869) Doreen (18587)	Mill Park and Bundoora (32325)
Wannon	Avoca (2245)	None
Wills	Brunswick East (3696) and Fitzroy North north of Park Street (3261)	None

In a few cases this proposal splits SA1s, so the numbers are not exact.

## North of the River and Western Victoria

In keeping with our argument that McEwen is the preferred electorate to abolish, it is obvious where most of its territory should go if this does occur, with only the Romsey SA2 harder to allocate. As is always the case for electorates that border on the one that is abolished, this pushes most of the neighbours outside the allowed 2028 population projections, but there are generally opportunities for balancing transfers from these neighbours that do not damage communities of interest, and in some cases enhance them.

As previously noted, Woodend (6373 electors projected in the SA2 for 2028) has a strong community of interest with towns in the Bendigo electorate, and the same goes for Macedon (2854). Moving the SA2s that fall within McEwen into **Bendigo** unites areas that always really belonged together.

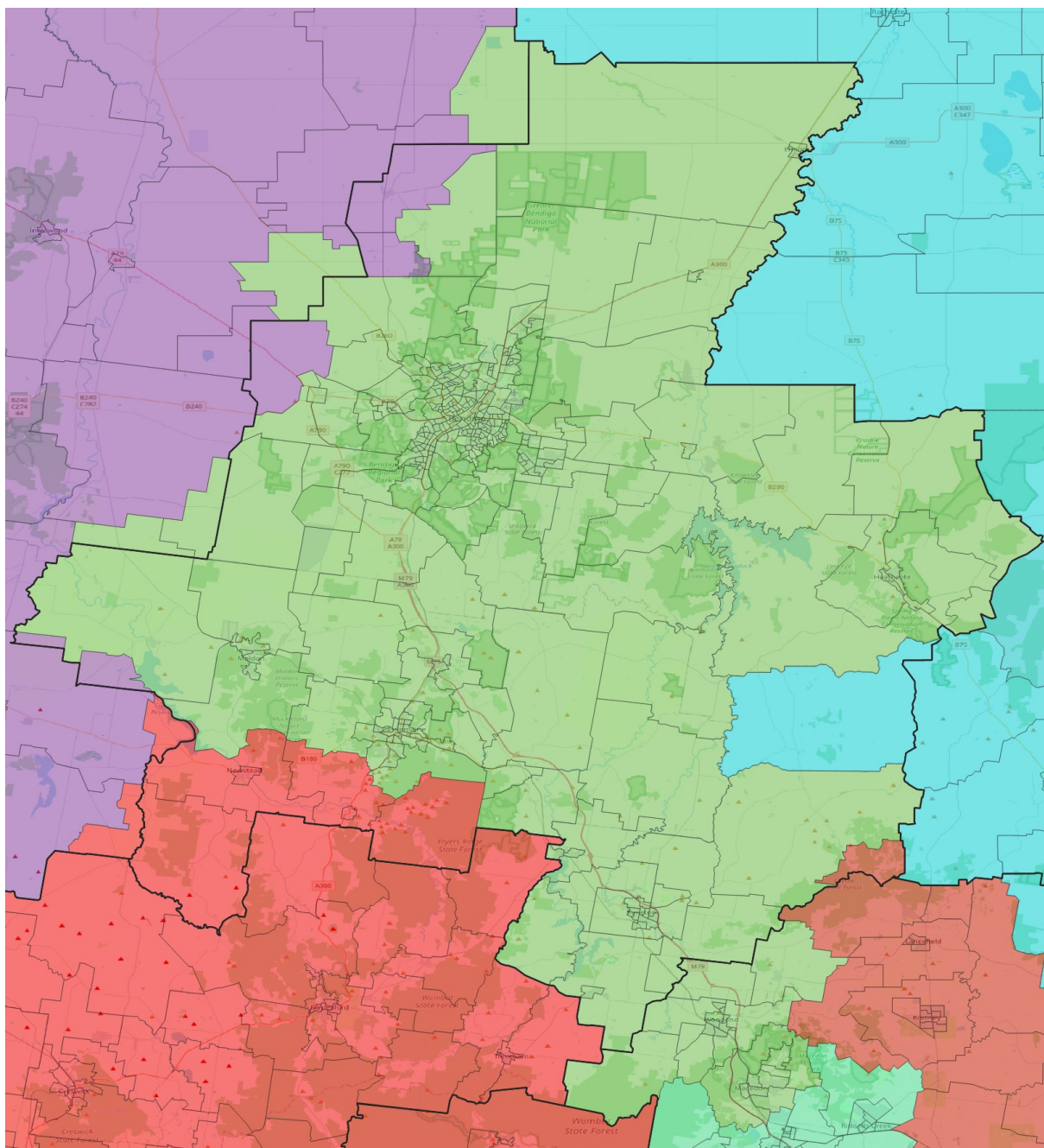


Figure 1: Bendigo

McEwen aside, **Hawke** is probably the existing electorate most lacking a clear identity. Adding Gisborne (11138) and Riddells Creek (3650) does not resolve this, but we submit that it still represents an improvement, and certainly does not make things worse.

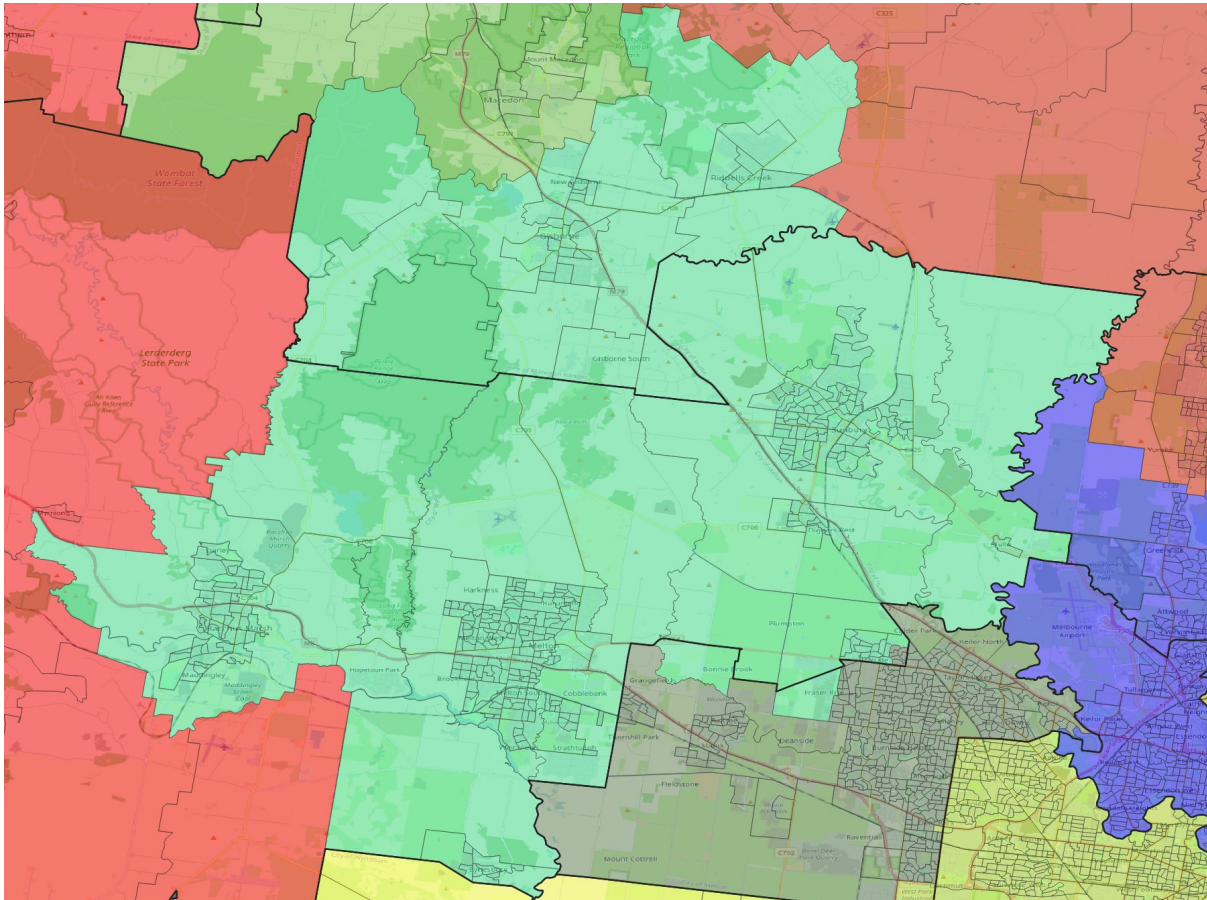
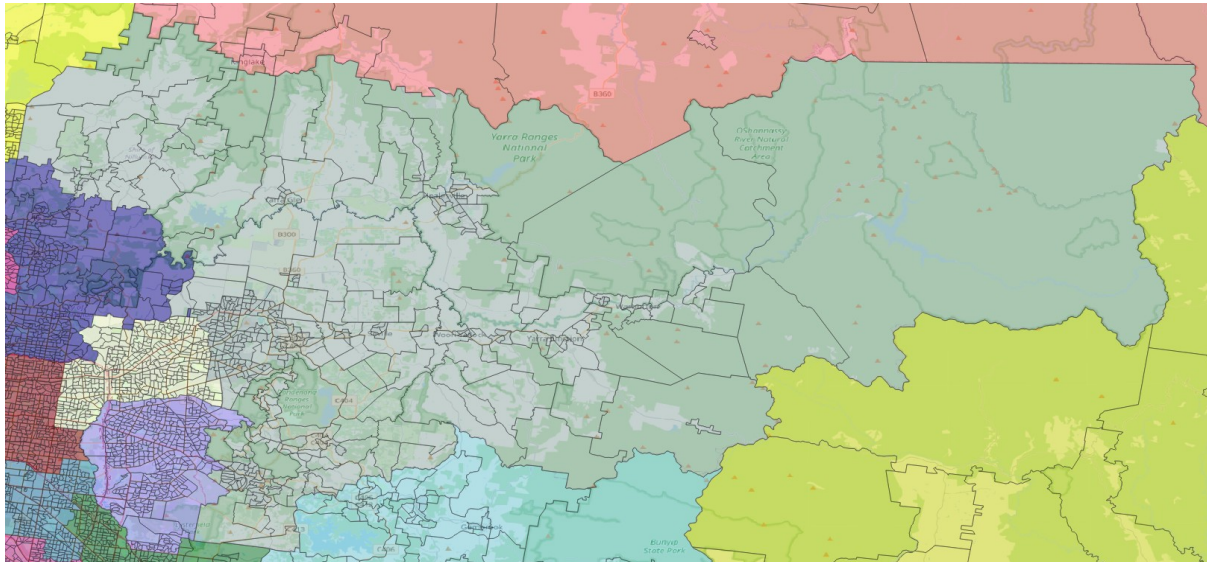


Figure 2: Hawke

We suggest that Hurstbridge (2757) and Panton Hill-St Andrews (4332) should go to **Casey**, rather than to Menzies. The fact the Greens' vote and membership is so high in these areas and in parts of Casey such as Healesville and Belgrave is not in itself relevant to the Committee's decision making. However, it is reflective of a demographic, often referred to as “treechangers” that these areas share with parts of Casey such as Healesville and Warburton. The presence of so many people who have moved to an area for its scenic beauty, but often then found themselves threatened by bushfires and other natural disasters, is a strong basis for a community of interest.



*Figure 3: Casey*



Whittlesea (9216), Wollert (3661) and Mernda (10869) SA2s from Whittlesea LGA could hardly be more different from places like Pantom Hill, and have much more in common with **Scullin**. We propose they be moved there, along with Doreen (18687)

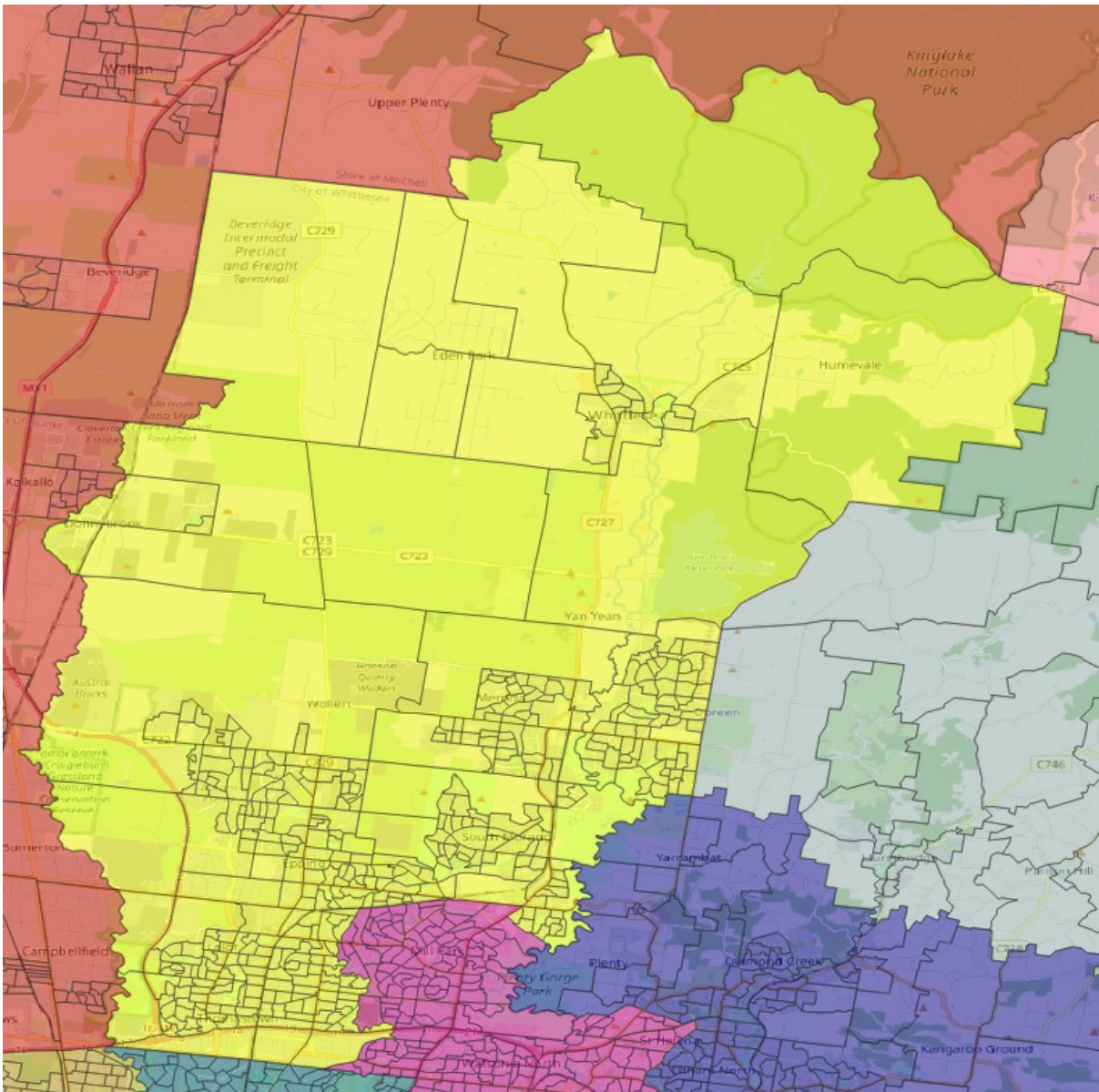


Figure 4: Scullin

Wallan (17,393) is a strong fit with **Calwell**. Romsey (8730) is the part of McEwen we find hardest to place, but the numbers work out best if it is also goes to Calwell.

The Kilmore-Broadford SA2 is currently split between McEwen and **Nicholls**. Moving Kilmore into Nicholls brings these areas with so much in common the ABS combined them into the same statistical area into one electorate, although some compensatory moves need to be made to bring Nicholls within the allowed projected range.

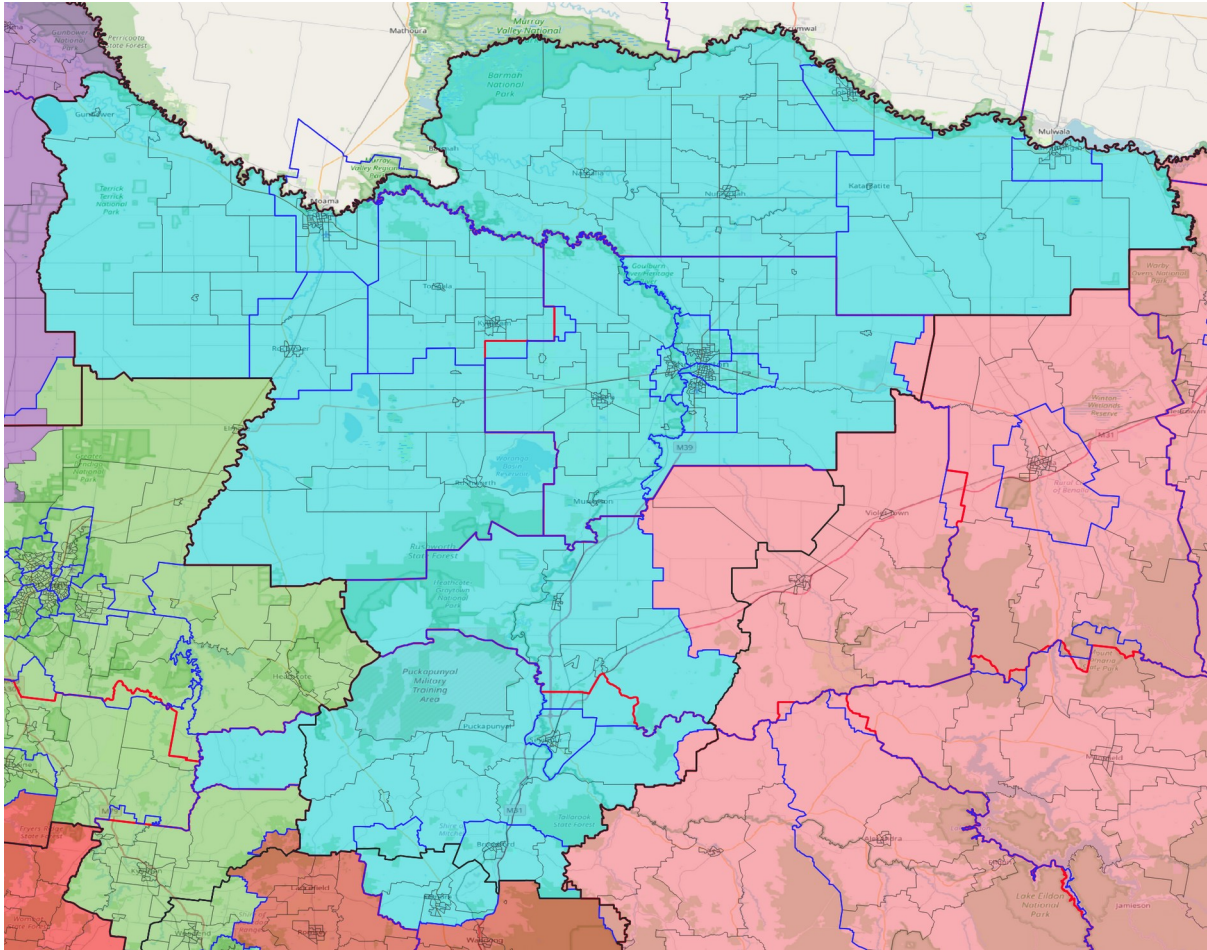


Figure 5: Nicholls

As noted, we believe Wattle Glen-Diamond Creek (11059) and Plenty-Yarrambat (3512) have more in common with **Menzies** than other areas that border the river do with their counterparts on the opposite bank. Adding Eltham (18324), part of Greensborough east of St Helena Road and Research-North Warrandyte (3084) from Jagajaga strengthens this community of interest further.

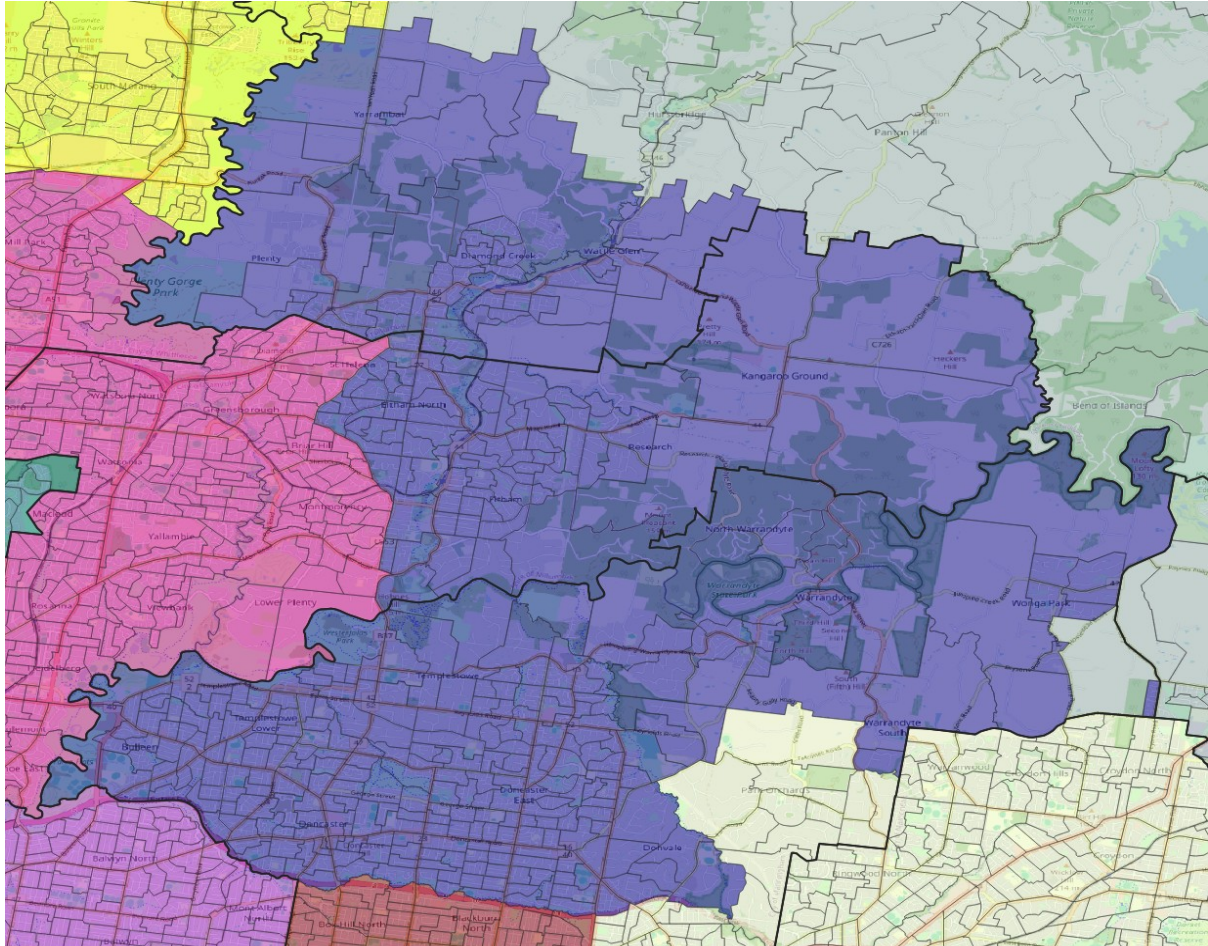


Figure 6: Menzies

As noted, these transfers put the initial ring of electorates that currently surround McEwen above the maximum number of projected electors, so some of their existing areas must be moved out.

If Guilford and Newstead (combined projected enrolment for them and their surrounds 1687) are shifted from Bendigo to **Ballarat** along with the Ballan area from Hawke (3159) all three electorates become comfortably within the allowable projected range. The Werribee River represents a relatively strong boundary for much of the way between Ballarat and Hawke.

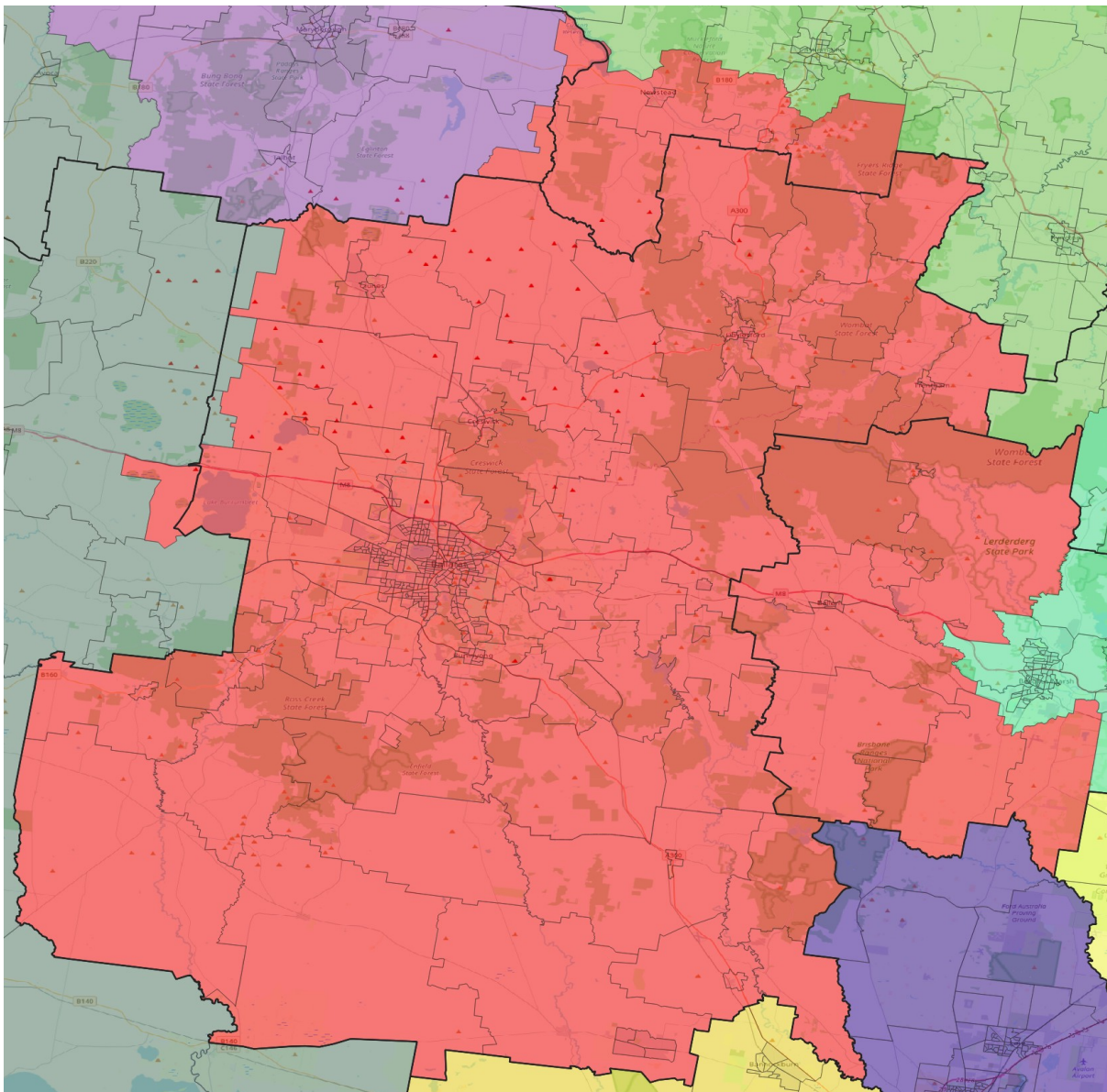
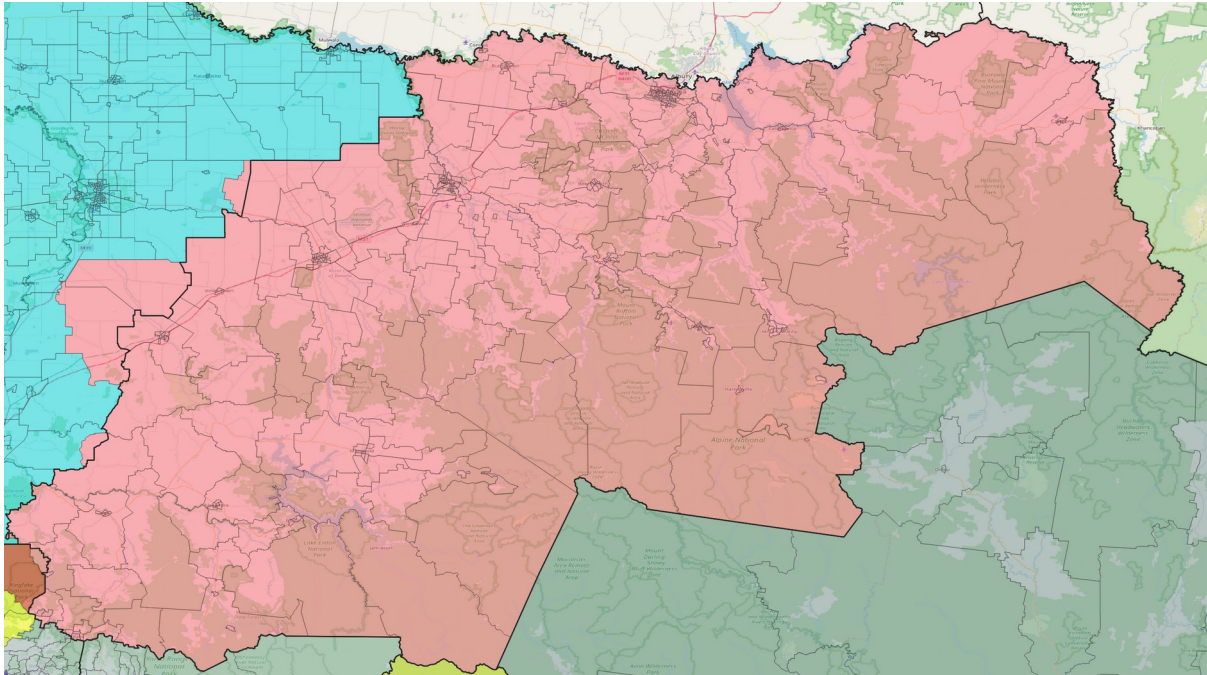


Figure 7: Ballarat

If the small sections of the Euroa (774) Yea (32) and Benalla surrounds (43) SA2s are moved from Nicholls to **Indi** both are within the allowable range for projected voters. On the assumption that SA2s have generally been chosen by the ABS to reflect long-standing communities of interest, uniting these SA2s in the electorate of Indi is desirable even were it not necessary to bring Nicholls' population within tolerance. Moving Avenal as well would provide greater tolerance against the projections proving inaccurate. We have not proposed this because we consider Avenal to have closer communities of interest with Nicholls and Indi, but a strong argument could be made either way, and such a change would not disrupt any other electorates.



*Figure 8: Indi*

Neither **Mallee** nor **Wannon** need to change their existing boundaries. However, currently the projections put the one towards the high end of the allowable population range and the other is somewhat on the low side. Consequently, making a small adjustment would act as a safeguard against population growth not proving consistent with projections. Moving Avoca (2245) to Wannon not only addresses this, but unites a currently split LGA, which is almost always a desirable goal on community of interest grounds, particularly for such a small council.

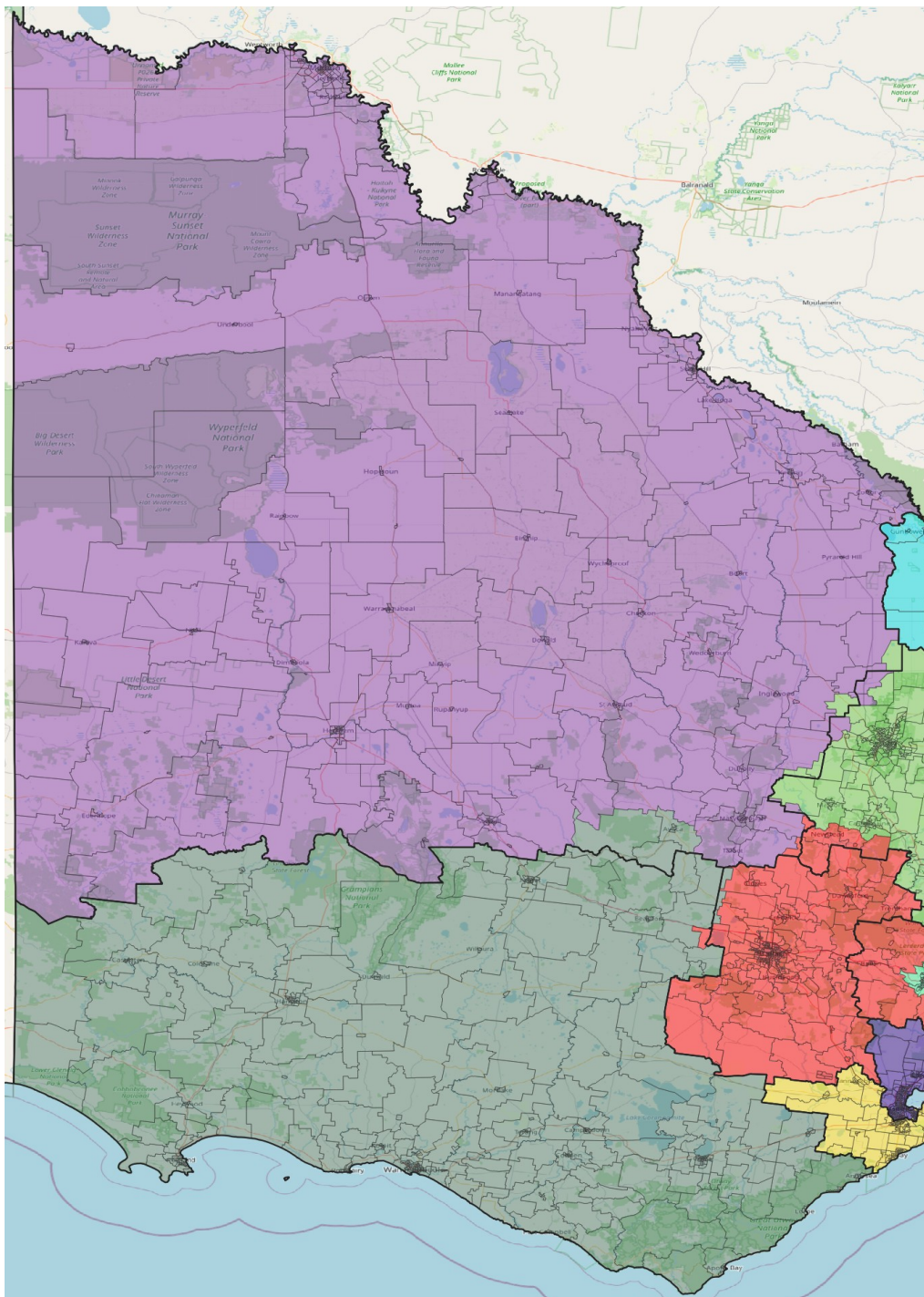
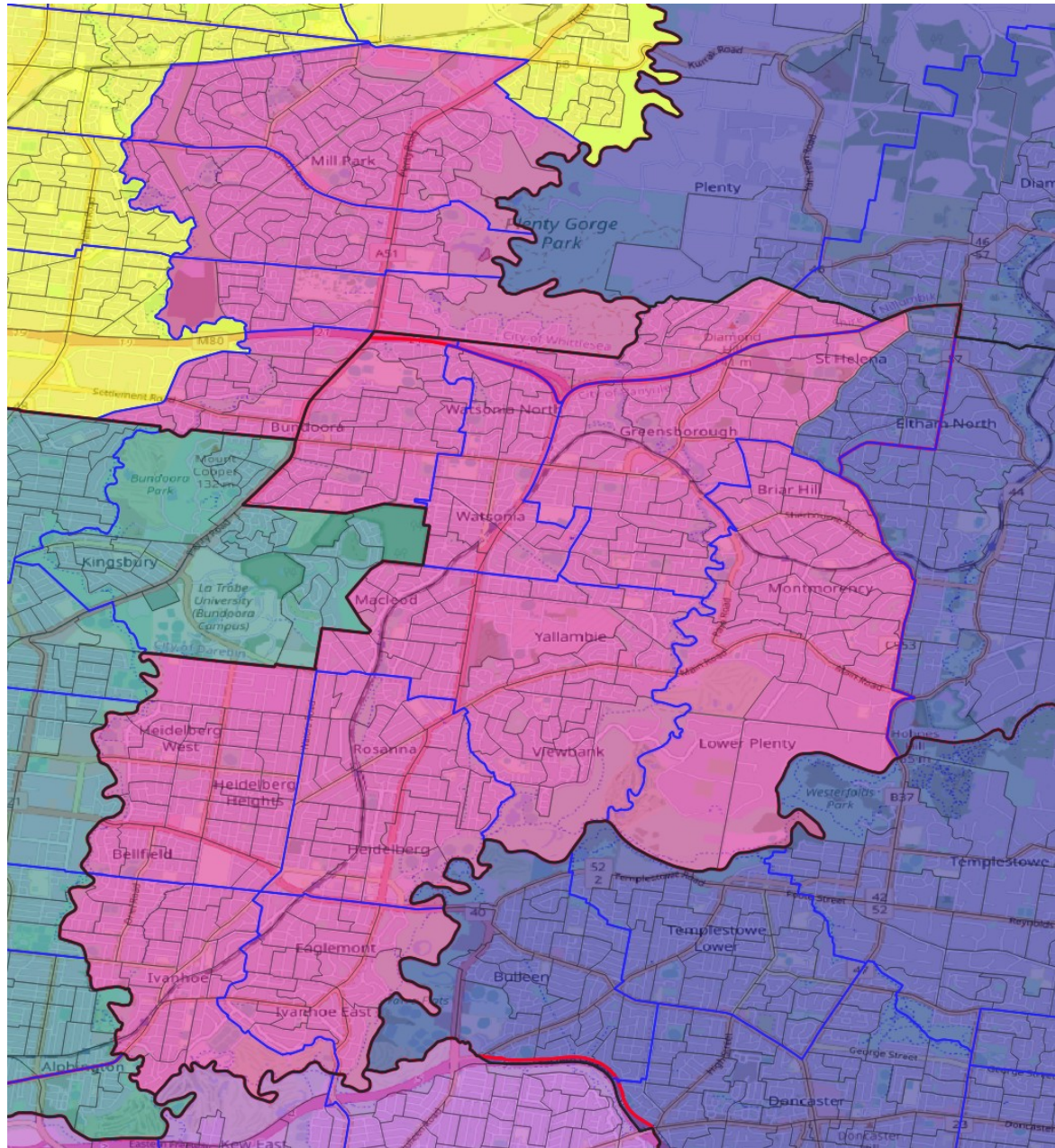


Figure 9: Mallee and Wannon

Having lost its eastern end to Menzies, **Jagajaga** requires a substantial compensating increase, and this can come in the form of the parts of Bundoora that are currently in Scullin, and Mill Park. This creates a radically different electorate from the existing one – probably the largest change we are proposing in the character of an electorate, but the fact that Bundoora east of Plenty Road is currently included in Jagajaga indicates the seed of the electorate we are proposing already lies in Jagajaga.

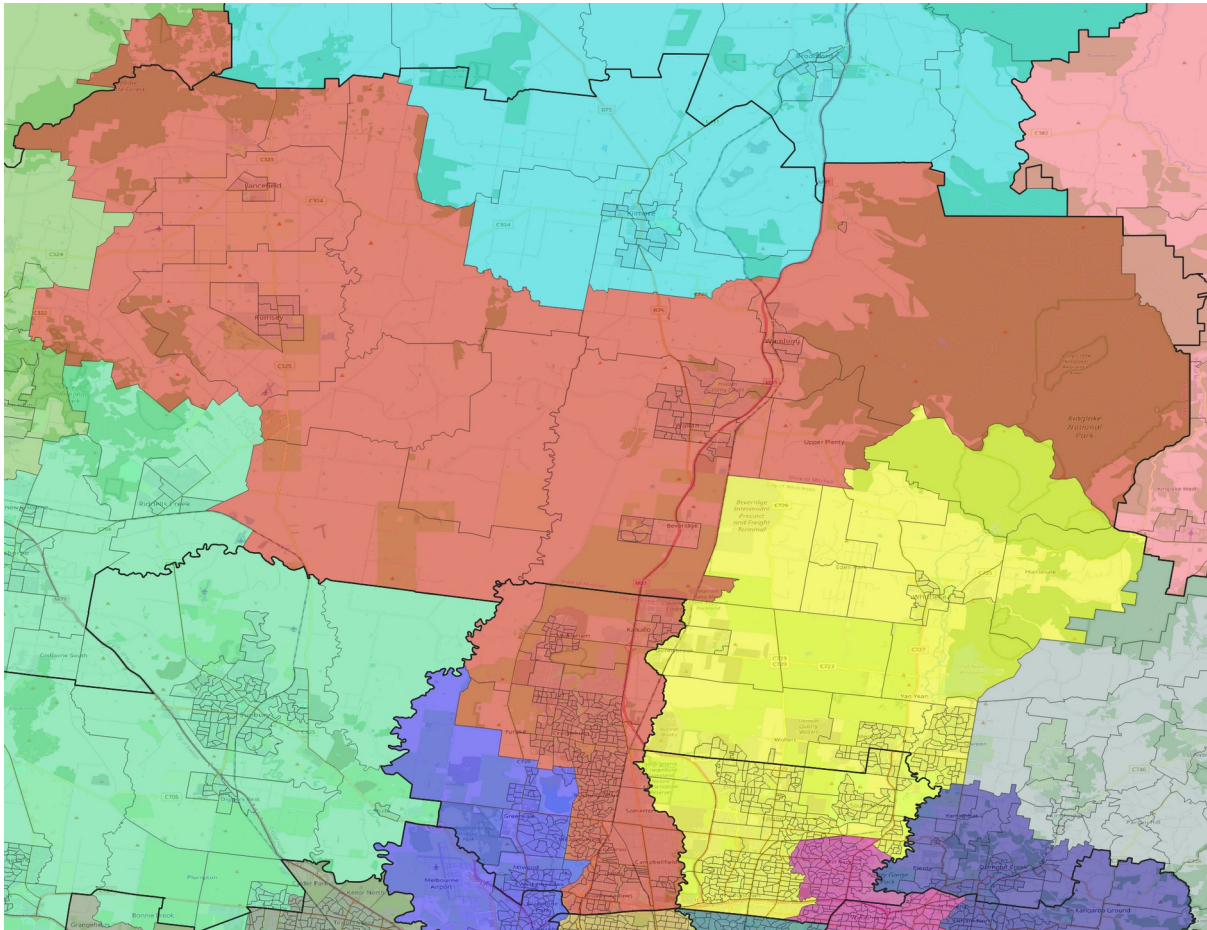


*Figure 10: Jagajaga*

The suburb boundaries where Jagajaga and Menzies meet are quite jagged and using them leads to a section of Plenty-Yarrambat being placed in Menzies, while almost entirely surrounded by Jagajaga. Therefore, we propose an eastern boundary for Jagajaga that follows the Plenty River, then the Dry River branch until it reaches the Maroondah Aqueduct Reserve. Once the Maroondah Aqueduct Reserve reaches St Helena Road, our proposed boundary follows it until Karingal Drive, after which the Eltham/Montmorency boundary can be used. This involves

the movement of 3564 projected voters in Greensborough to Menzies. While much more difficult to describe in text than using suburb boundaries, the benefits are obvious when mapped, while maintaining numbers within the allowed thresholds.

**Calwell** also needs to lose many of its existing voters to compensate for gaining such large areas. With the Gladstone Park-West Meadows SA2 already predominately in **Maribyrnong**, it makes sense to unite this area moving 7839 projected voters. If Greenvale-Bulla (16648) is moved along with it the numbers for Calwell becomes quite close to the quota, and certainly well within tolerance.



*Figure 11: Calwell*

Having gained around 24487 from Calwell on this proposal Maribyrnong will need to lose a substantial number of its existing voters. The Maribyrnong River is one of the strongest boundaries in the state, having LGA (and state electorate) boundaries following its length in addition to its status as a geographical division, so we consider it undesirable to move areas to Gorton or Fraser, which moreover are not in need of changing their existing boundaries. The Moonee Ponds Creek is also a very strong boundary, particularly for most of its way where it is followed closely by City-Link. Concern that the building of the freeway/tollway would form a barrier between communities was one of the reasons the Greens opposed the building of this road from the start, and this has proven the case. Creeks can sometimes create a sense of community between areas on either side if surrounded by attractive parkland. The noise barriers surrounding motorways never do the same.





large populations of housing commission high rise residents, like Melbourne's existing suburbs North Melbourne, Richmond, Collingwood and Fitzroy. The Greens have argued in the past that these high-rise housing commission towers share one of the most powerful communities of interest with each other, and should be, as far as possible, united into one electorate. The experience of the pandemic, when some of these towers were forced suddenly into a lockdown far more strict than any other residents of the country, emphasises this point. Restoring these suburbs to Melbourne would make it easier to advocate on their behalf.

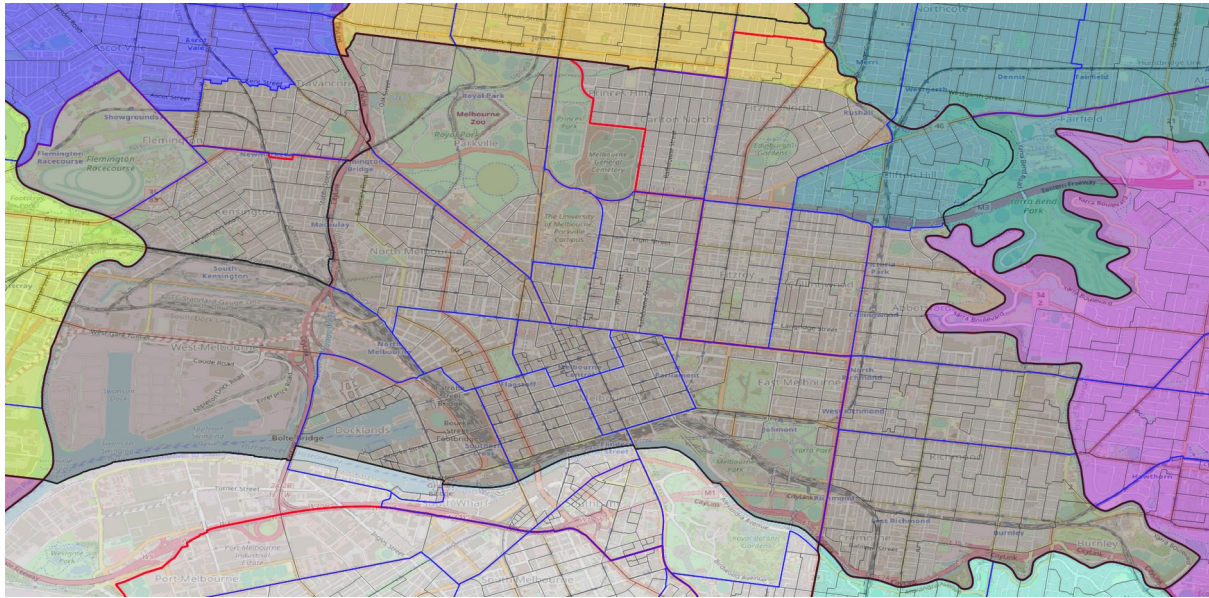
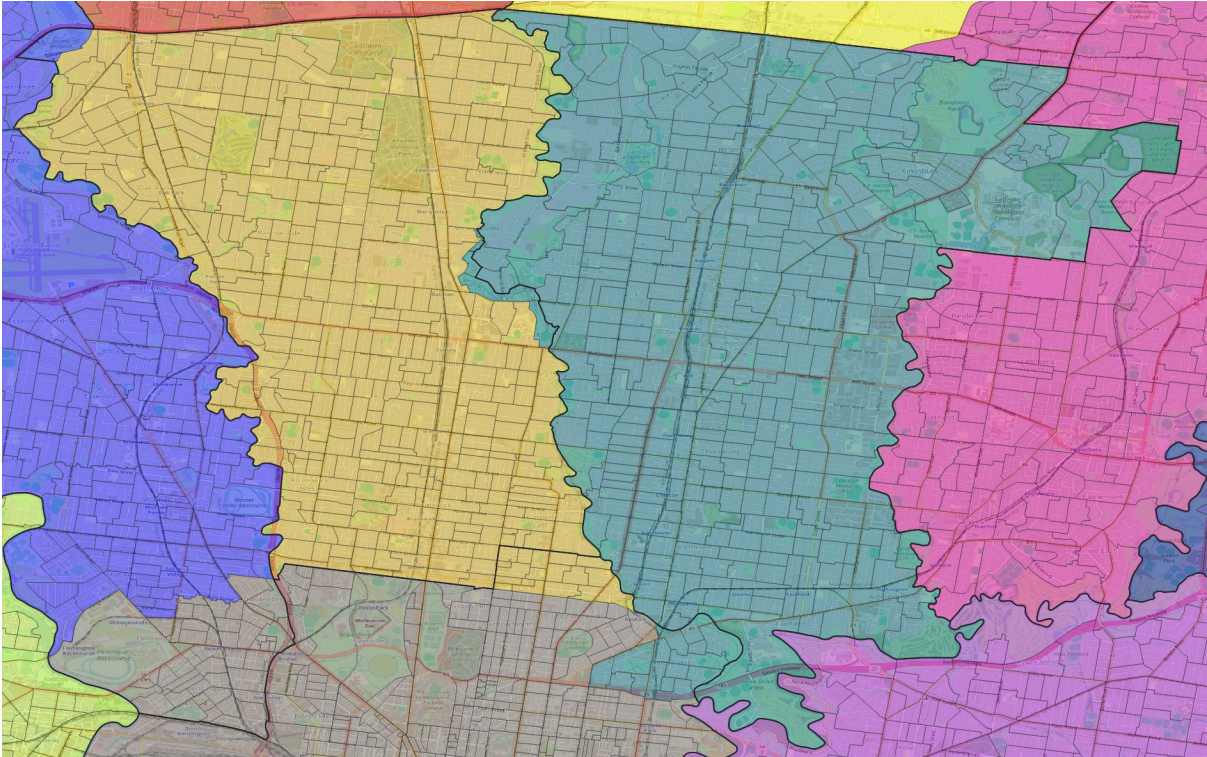


Figure 13: Melbourne

Such an addition requires compensatory movements out of Melbourne and there is an obvious candidate in Clifton Hill (5416), which has been part of **Cooper** before and brings it very close to the projected quota. Although Clifton Hill has some housing commission houses, it does not have any of the high rise that we submit have particularly distinctive needs.

Clifton Hill alone is insufficient to balance Kensington and Flemington, but if Brunswick East (3696) and Fitzroy North north of Park Street (3261) are moved into **Wills** both Melbourne and Wills have projections close to the quota. This provides a particularly good example of creating stronger communities of interest than the existing boundaries. It goes without saying that the small part of Brunswick East currently in Melbourne has more in common with the majority of Brunswick than it does with most of Melbourne. Splitting Fitzroy North sounds less desirable when written, but a look at the map makes clear that this area is strongly connected to the suburb that borders it on two sides. We can testify from personal experience that this area feels so much like Brunswick that many people new to the area assume it is. Park Street, with its bike path and linear park is often thought to be the boundary between Brunswick and Fitzroy North. Consequently, putting this section of Fitzroy North into Wills makes more sense than having the small part of Brunswick East in Melbourne ever did.

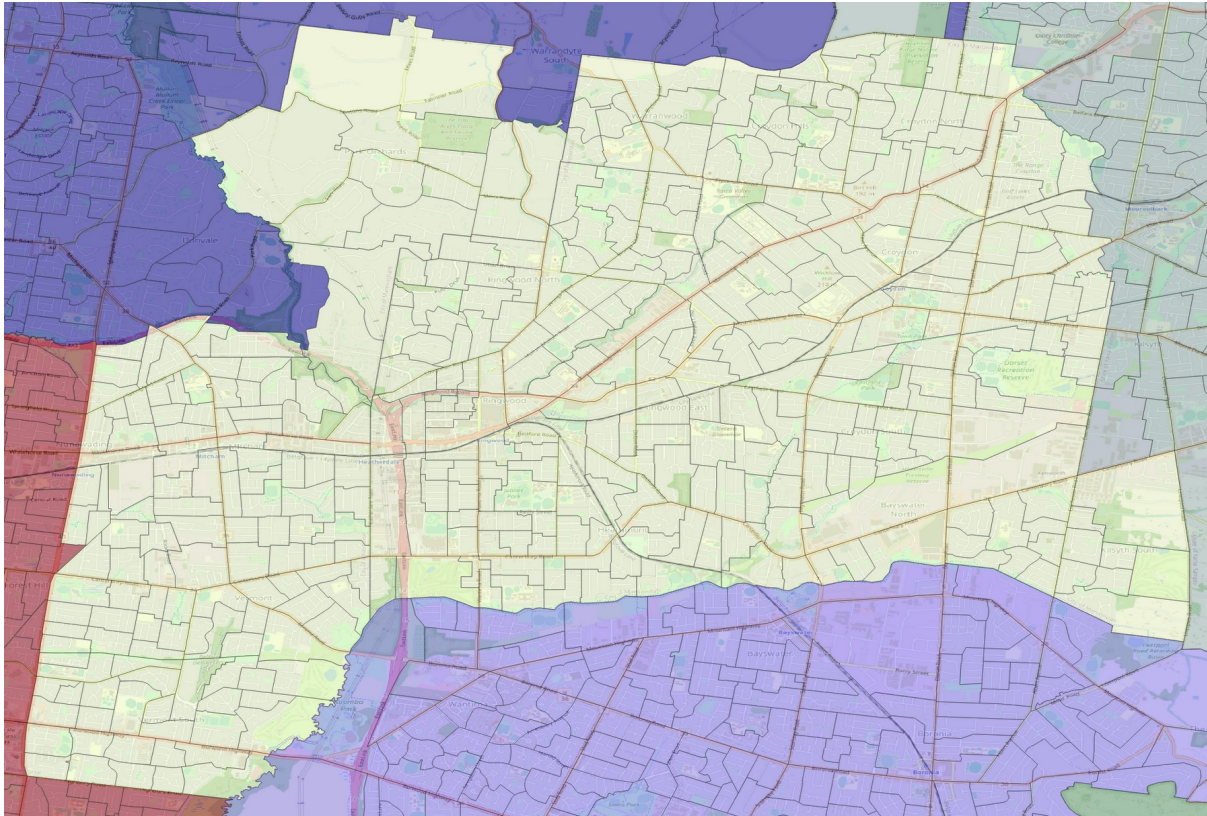


*Figure 14: Wills and Cooper*

**Corangamite, Corio, Fraser, Gellibrand, Gorton** and **Lalor** are all projected to fall within the allowable enrolments and we do not propose to change them. For five of these we see no reason to do so. Corio's projected enrolment is close enough to the minimum to create some concern, and we would prefer to move some small areas in. However, the existing boundaries are so strong we suggest that on balance it is best to leave them as is.

## South of the River and Gippsland

The movement of parts of Nillumbik and Banyule into **Menzies** provides the opportunity to use the Eastern Freeway as Menzies' southern boundary. We have argued above motorways have a tendency to divide communities more thoroughly than most natural formations. Consequently areas like Box Hill and Mitcham are a much better fit for **Chisholm** and **Deakin** than for Menzies. This moves a projected enrolment of 7656 from Menzies to Deakin and 21,844 to Chisholm.

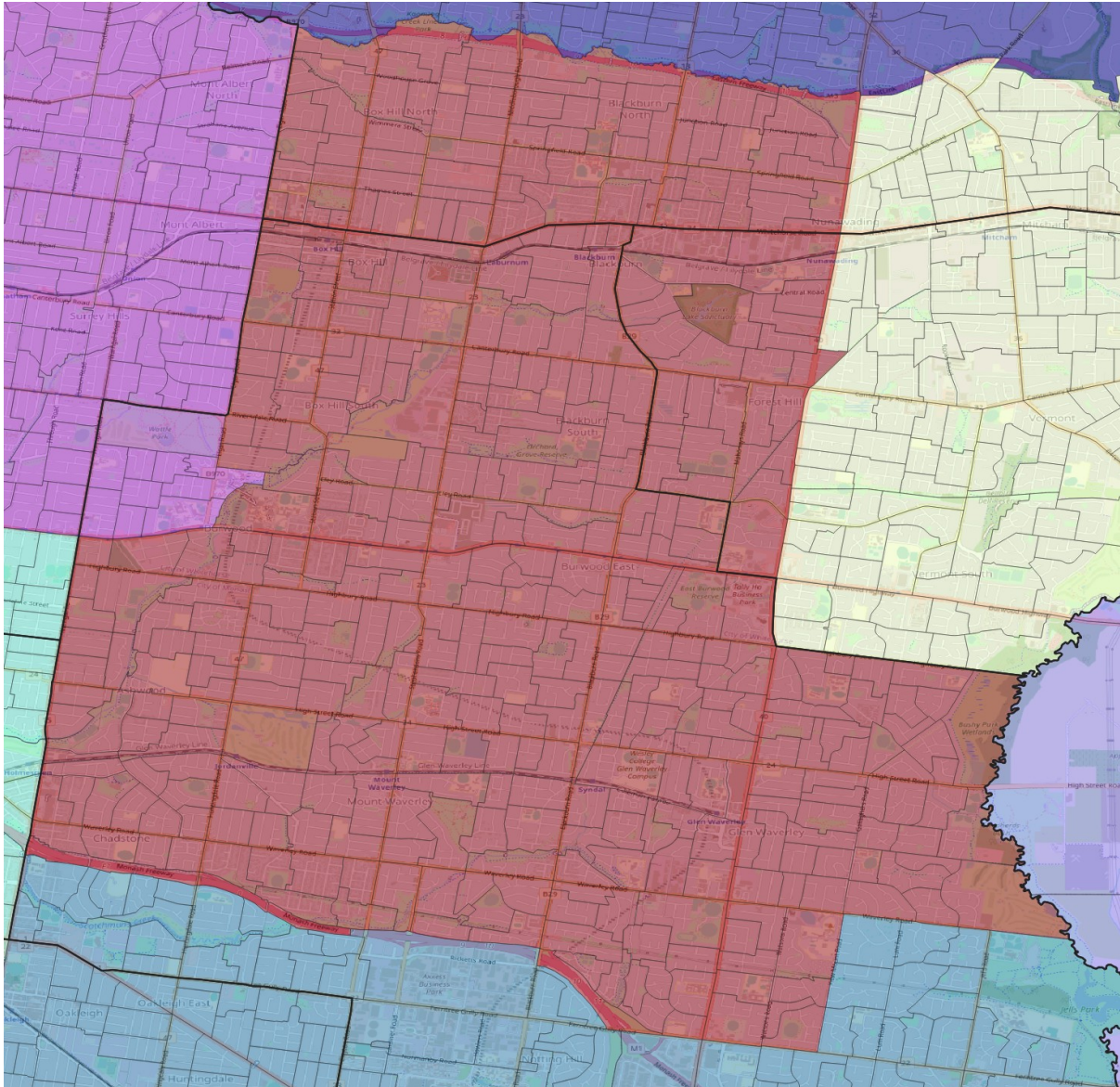


*Figure 15: Deakin*

In order to make Deakin's projected enrolment appropriate, while using the strongest option for a boundary between Deakin and Chisholm, it is necessary to move some additional areas from Menzies to Deakin. We submit this can be done with minimal disruption along the south-eastern part of the boundary between the two, bringing Park Orchards (projected enrolment 3761), which is geographically more connected to Ringwood North than it is to Donvale, into Deakin.

If this is done areas can be allocated between Chisholm and Deakin so that Springvale Road can become the boundary between Highbury Road and the Freeway. This moves 9111 projected voters from Deakin to Chisholm.

Although it does not split communities the way the freeway does, Springvale Road is still one of the most notable landmarks in the area, providing a clear border between the two electorates.



*Figure 16: Chisholm*

Having added so many people at its northern end, Chisholm needs to lose voters elsewhere. Its border with Aston is very strong and should be maintained if possible, and it is only appropriate to move a small area into Kooyong to compensate for a movement we suggest to Higgins. Once again there is an opportunity to recognise the extent to which motorways act as dividers by making the Monash Freeway Chisholm's southern boundary for most of its way, uniting the currently divided Oakleigh, Clayton and Notting Hill, as well as Mulgrave south-west of the Monash Freeway in **Hotham**. This moves 6672 projected electors. If Wheeler's Hill (15311) is also moved Chisholm becomes very close to quota.

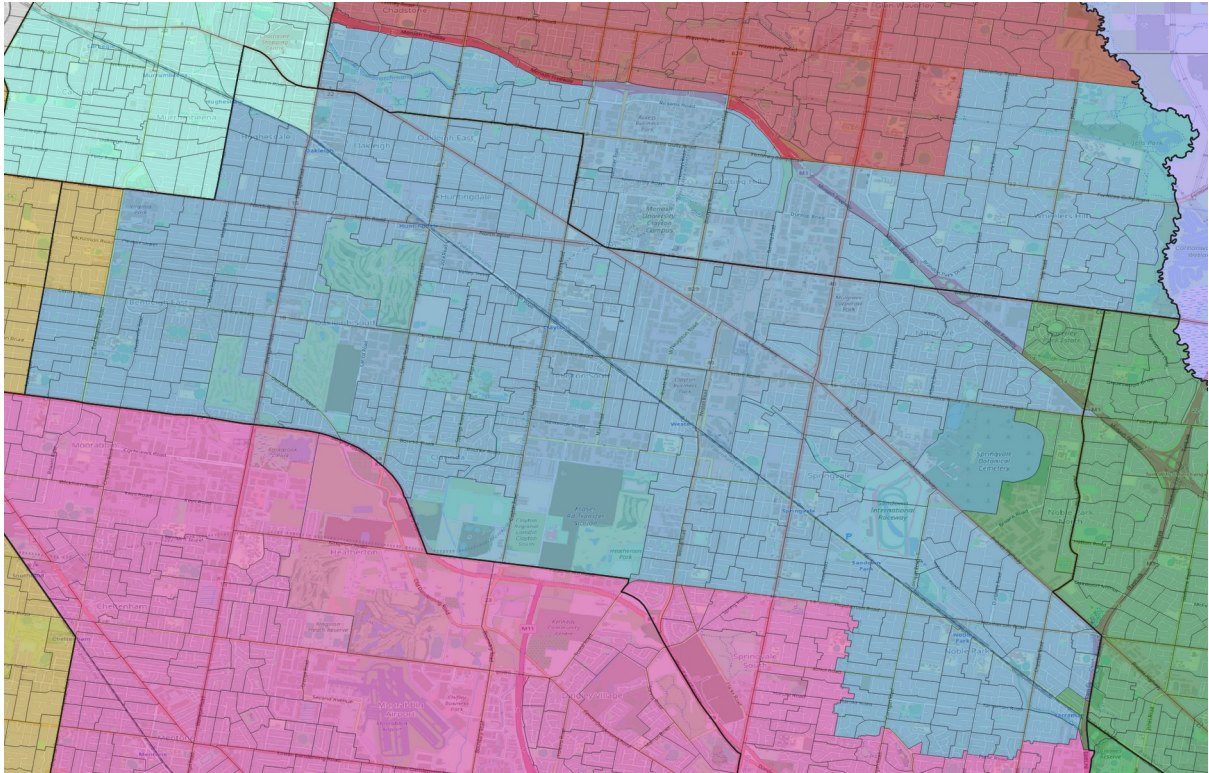


Figure 17: Hotham

If **Kooyong's** excellent boundaries on three sides are maintained, only modest alterations are possible. Therefore, we propose the only changes be uniting Glen Iris in Higgins (shifting 3240 projected voters) and moving the part of Burwood north of the Burwood highway and west of Deakin University (2305) from Chisholm to Kooyong. This makes Kooyong even more compact than it already is.

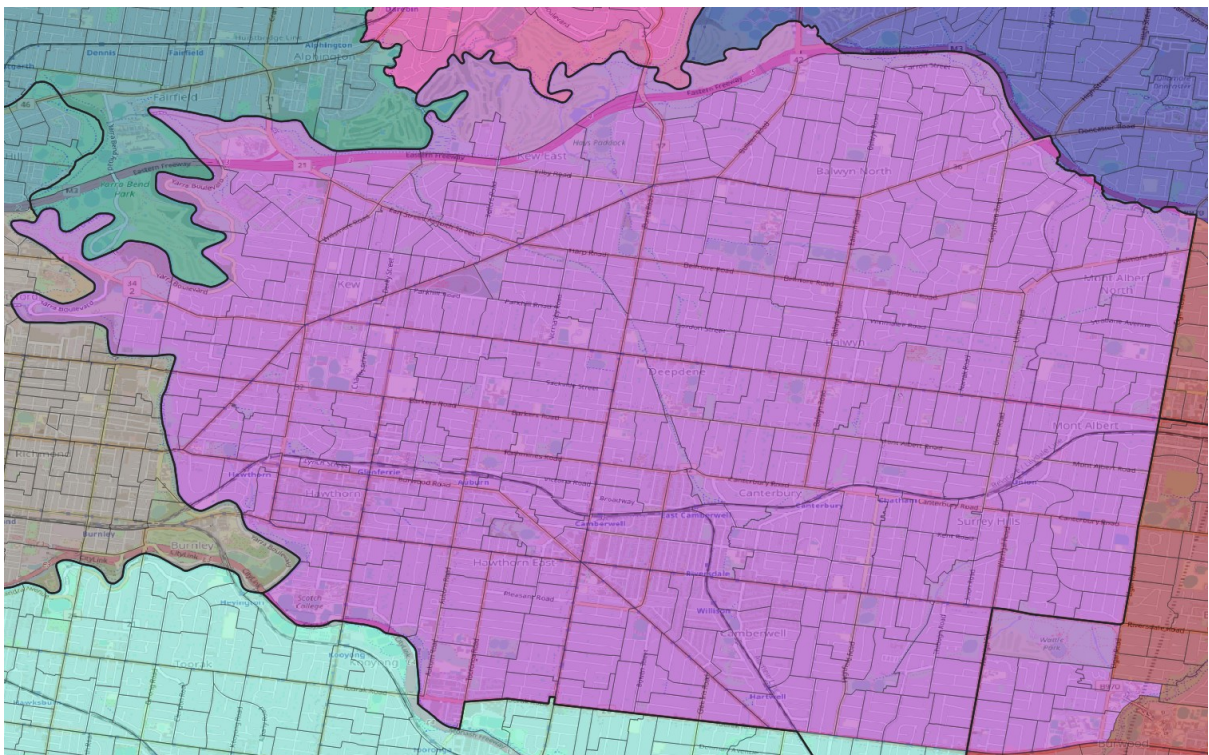


Figure 18: Kooyong

In addition to uniting Glen Iris, we propose addressing **Higgins'** low projected enrolment by adding Hughesdale north of the railway line (1968). The boundary splitting Hughesdale down the train line has historic precedent being the boundary of Higgins from the 2001 Federal election until the 2016 Federal election. This boundary has merit beyond the historical, as the Hughesdale community north of the train line is demographically much younger with lower rates of home ownership, much more cohesive with the nearby demographics in Murrumbeena and Carnegie than the Southern part of Hughesdale.

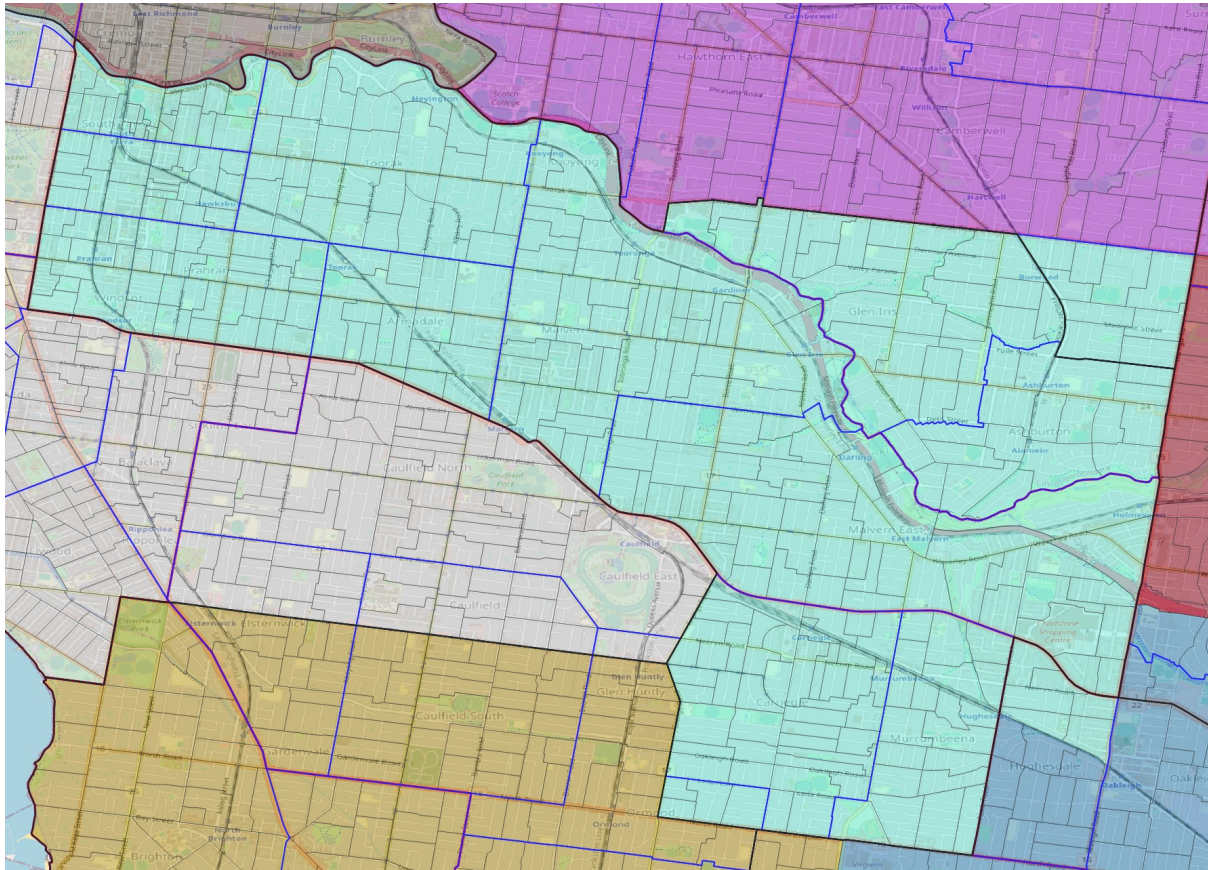
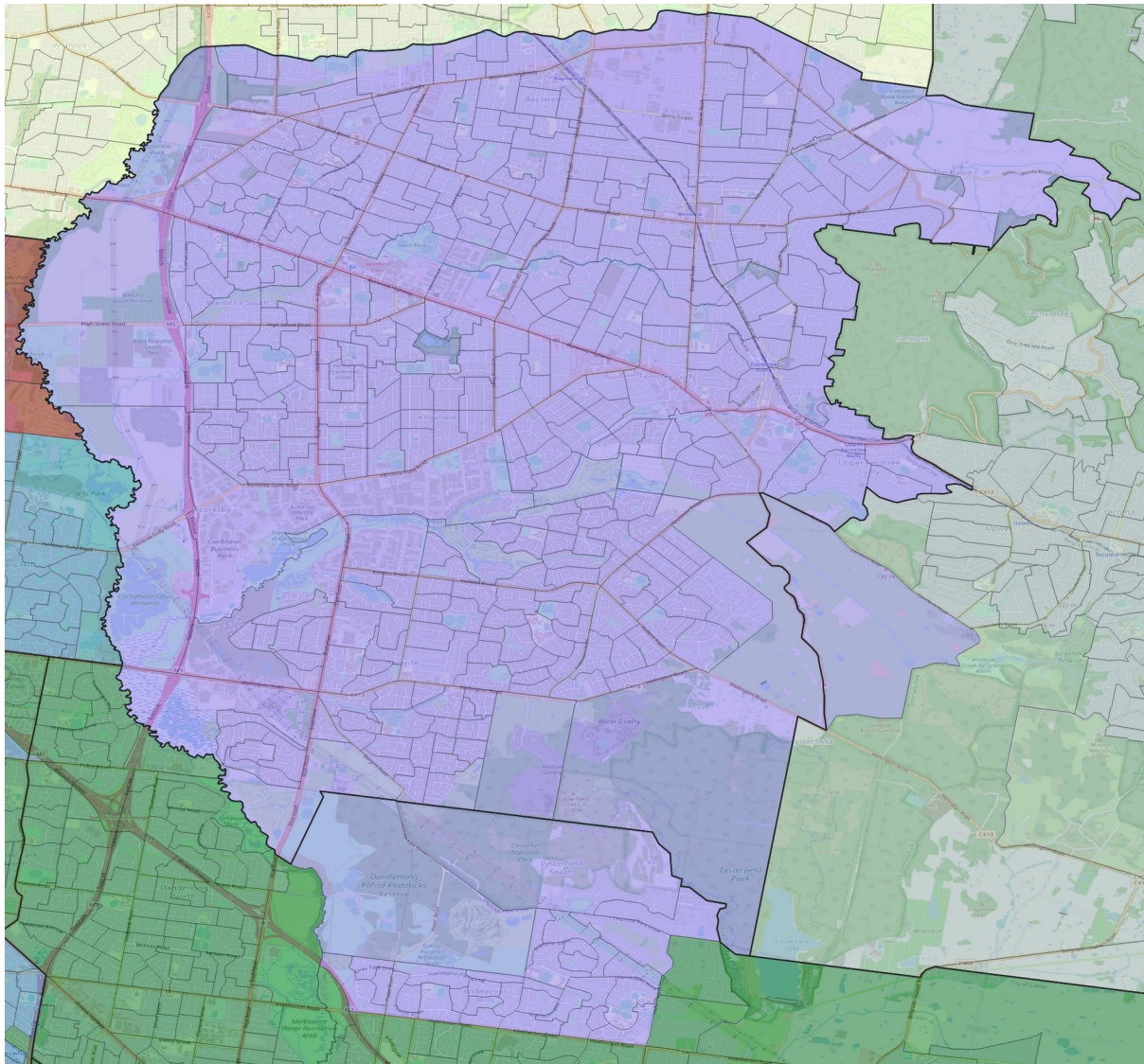


Figure 19: Higgins

**Aston** currently has among the best boundaries of any electorate, perfectly matching the Knox LGA. It is unfortunate this cannot be maintained, but slow projected population growth will not allow it. The strength of its western and to a lesser extent its northern border are obvious on a map. As well as following the boundary between LGAs, the eastern border is also largely maps along cultural lines, with suburbia separated from treechange territory and the different issues these two face.



*Figure 20: Aston*

Consequently, we propose adding Endeavour Hills North (9096), with Heatherton Road as the boundary between Aston and Bruce.

Adding Panton Hill and Hurstbridge to Casey allows it to lose the parts of the small areas of the shire of Cardinia that are currently in it so that the local government boundary can also form the boundary between Casey and **La Trobe**. This has the additional benefit of bringing La Trobe up from the very bottom of the allowed range.



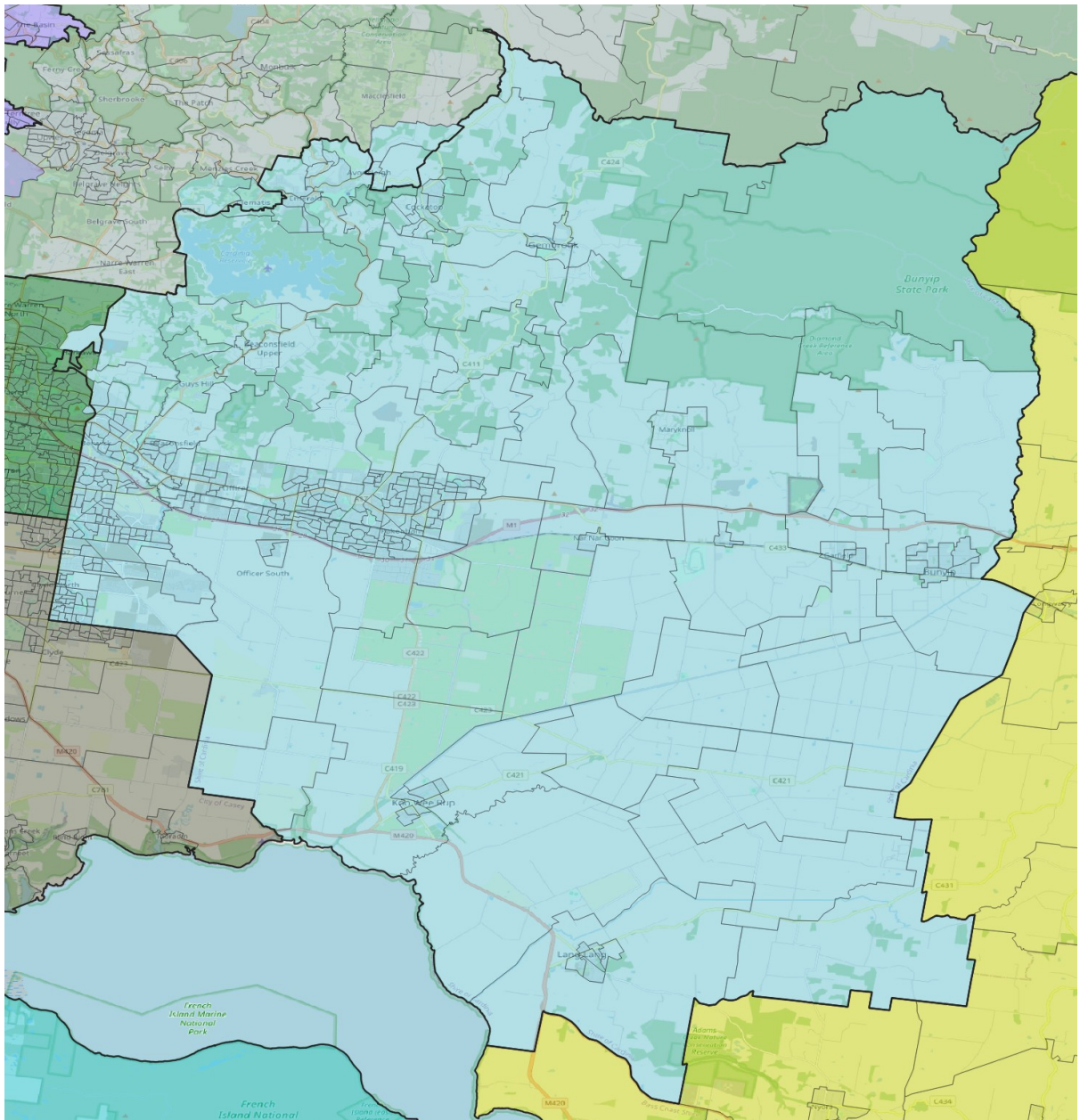


Figure 21: La Trobe

**Holt's** enrolment is projected to be too low, and there are limited options to address this. It can't gain from La Trobe without causing knock-on problems. On the other hand, its boundaries with Isaacs, Flinders and Dunkley follow major roads that are also local government boundaries. Therefore, we submit the best solution is to take an area from Bruce. There are several candidates, all with advantages and disadvantages. The area west of The Hallam Main Drain and Cranbourne Road and south of Shrives Road is probably the most isolated from the rest of Bruce. With only (658) projected enrolment by 2028 it only brings Holt marginally within tolerance, so there is a case to include a larger, but less isolated, area. However, with Bruce also naturally ending up towards the lower end of the allowable range, transferring a more populated area creates problems of its own.

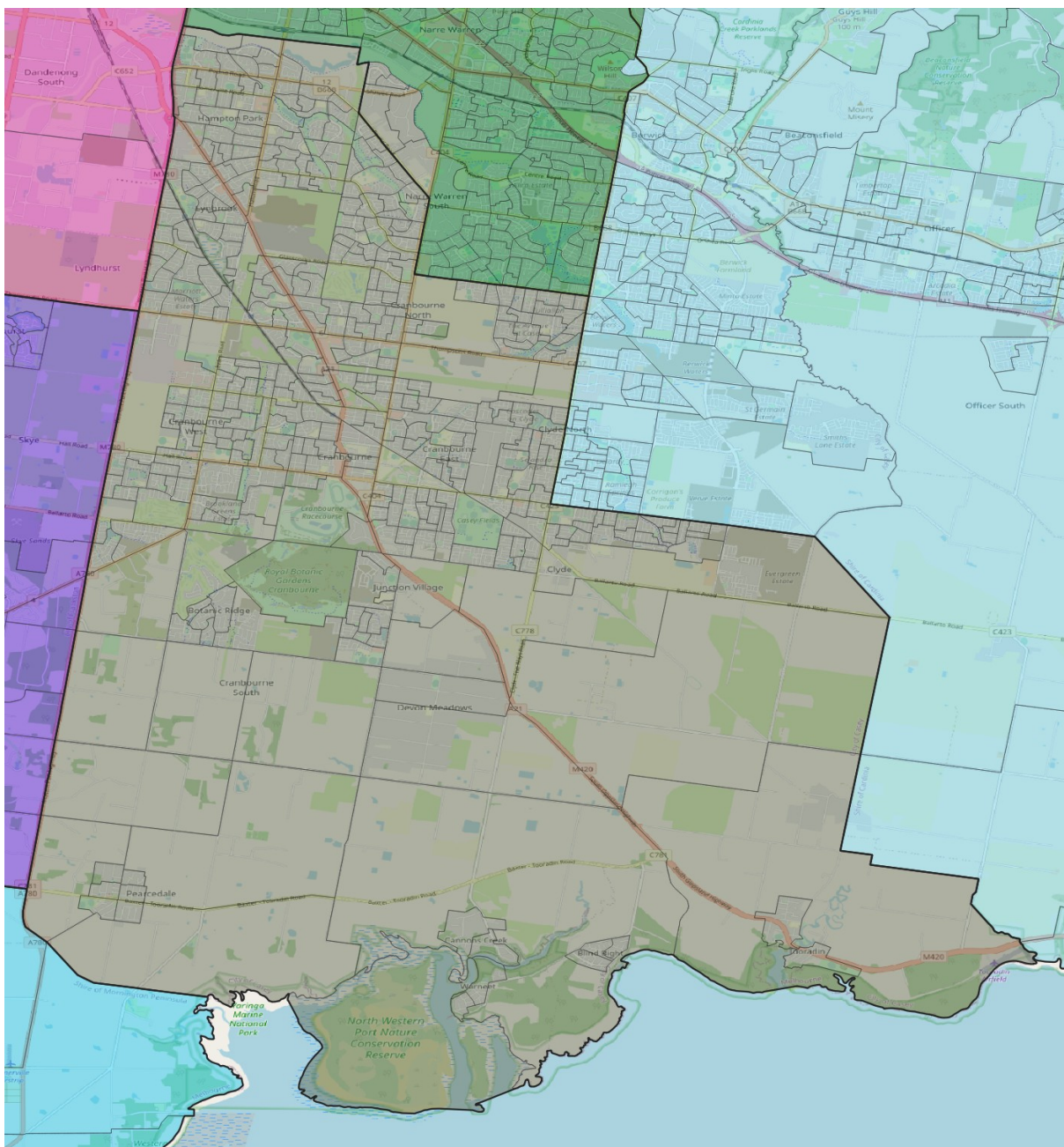
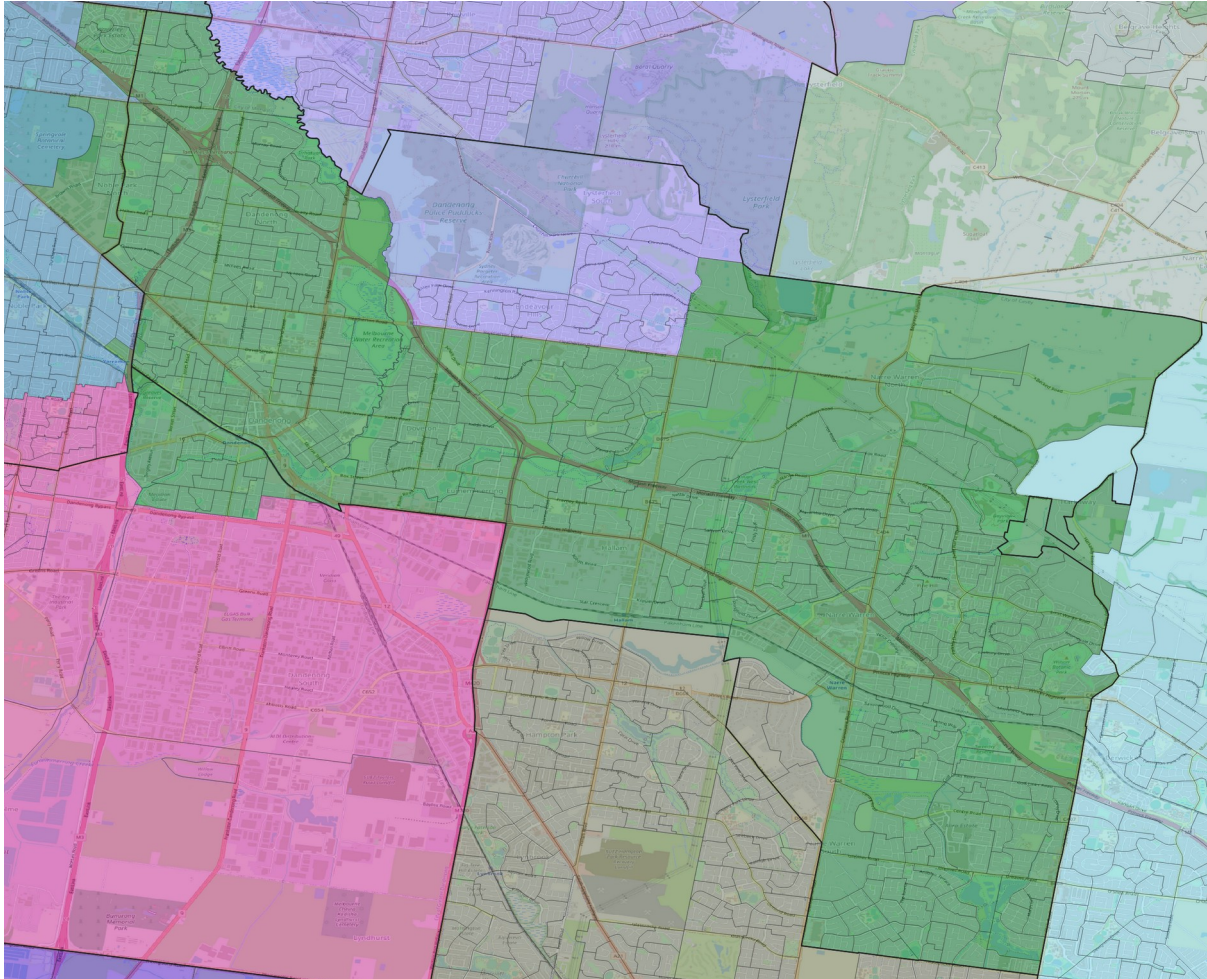


Figure 22: Holt

In compensation for the above losses to Aston and Holt we propose that **Bruce** gain the parts of Noble Park North (1820) it does not already contain, and South Dandenong north of the bypass (4847) from Isaacs. In addition, we propose transferring the former Waverly Park area of Mulgrave between Wellington Road, Jackson's Road and the Freeway (1950) from Hotham. The freeway, bypass and Eastlink represent strong dividers for this part of the boundary.



*Figure 23: Bruce*

To compensate for losing South Dandenong north of the bypass (1950) to Bruce, and Carrum-Patterson lakes south of the Patterson River, (8265) **Isaacs** can gain Keysborough North (8815) and Springvale South (8742) from Hotham.

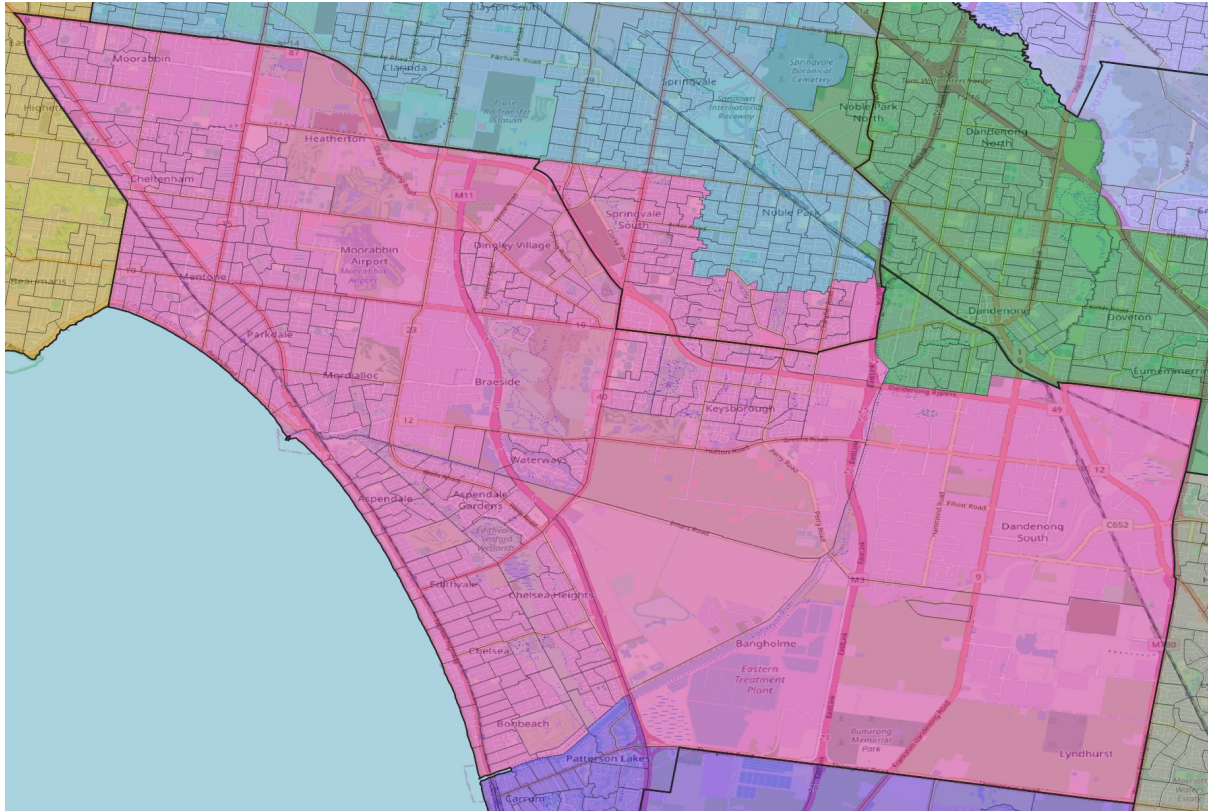


Figure 24: Isaacs

Although **Flinders** does not need to grow, having it take part of Mount Eliza allows **Dunkley** to absorb Carrum-Patterson Lakes south of the Patterson River and west of the Mornington Peninsula Freeway (8265), offering a strong boundary to the north-west, while also bringing Flinders more comfortably within the projected voter tolerance. Although we are unable to see an ideal way to split Mount Eliza, using Jesse White Creek and Boxmoor Reserve (which makes the projected move 2834 voters) allows for a boundary stronger than minor roads.

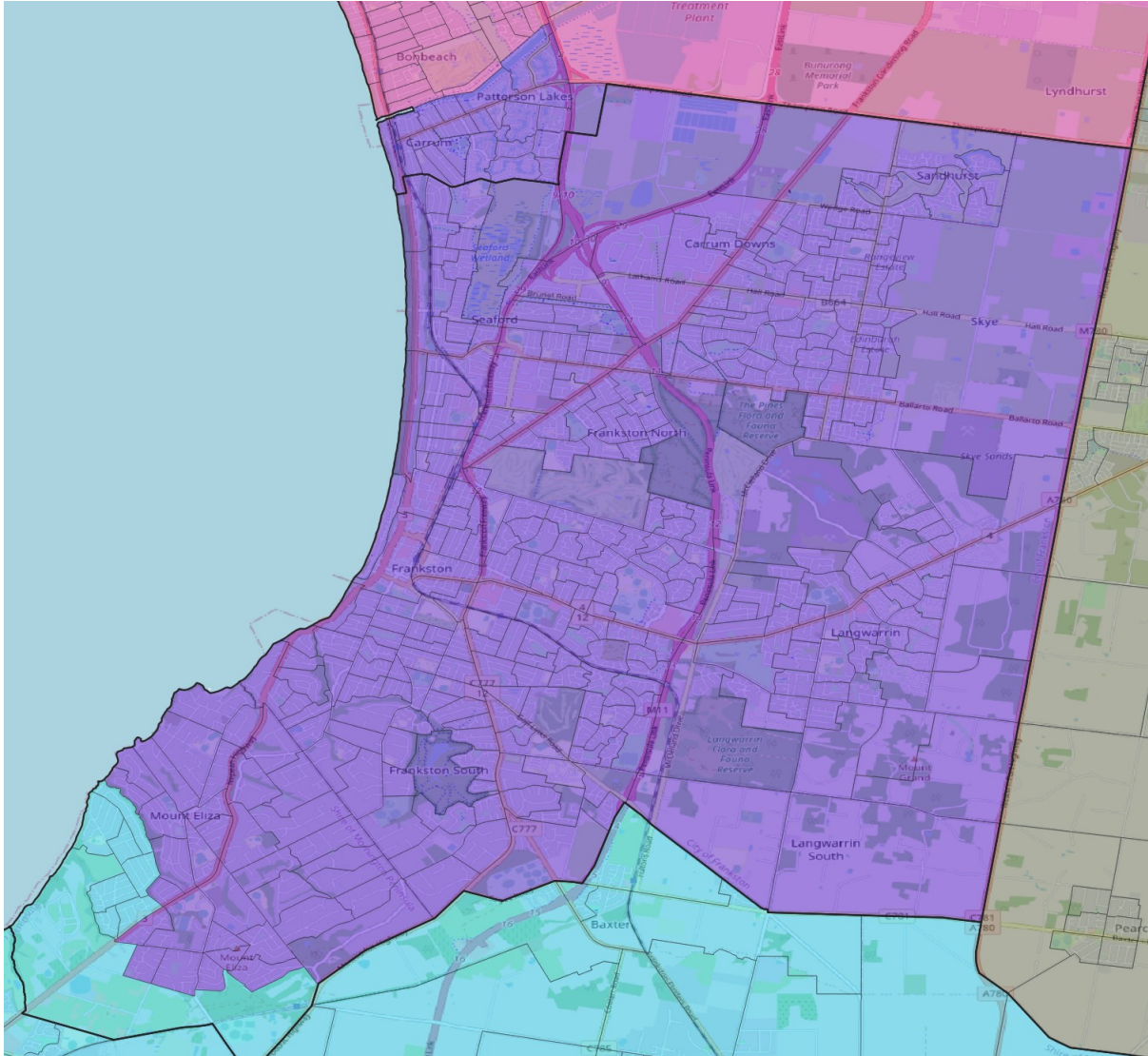


Figure 25: Dunkley

**Goldstein** needs to grow, and can't do so towards the Bay. It's north-west and south-east boundaries are also local government boundaries, so it is better to include an additional area of Glen Eira. Hotham is more easily able to give up territory than Higgins, so we propose adding part of the area west of the appropriately named East Boundary Road. This whole stretch would move so many people as to create a problem for Hotham, so we suggest transferring only the area between Centre and North Roads (3479). The more affluent and less culturally diverse community in Bentleigh East is far more cohesive with the rest of Goldstein than communities in Hotham such as Springvale and Noble Park. Additionally, most of Victoria's Jewish community is contained within Macnamara, Goldstein and Higgins. However, Bentleigh East contains a sizeable Jewish community, so inclusion in Goldstein helps further unify this community into these electorates.

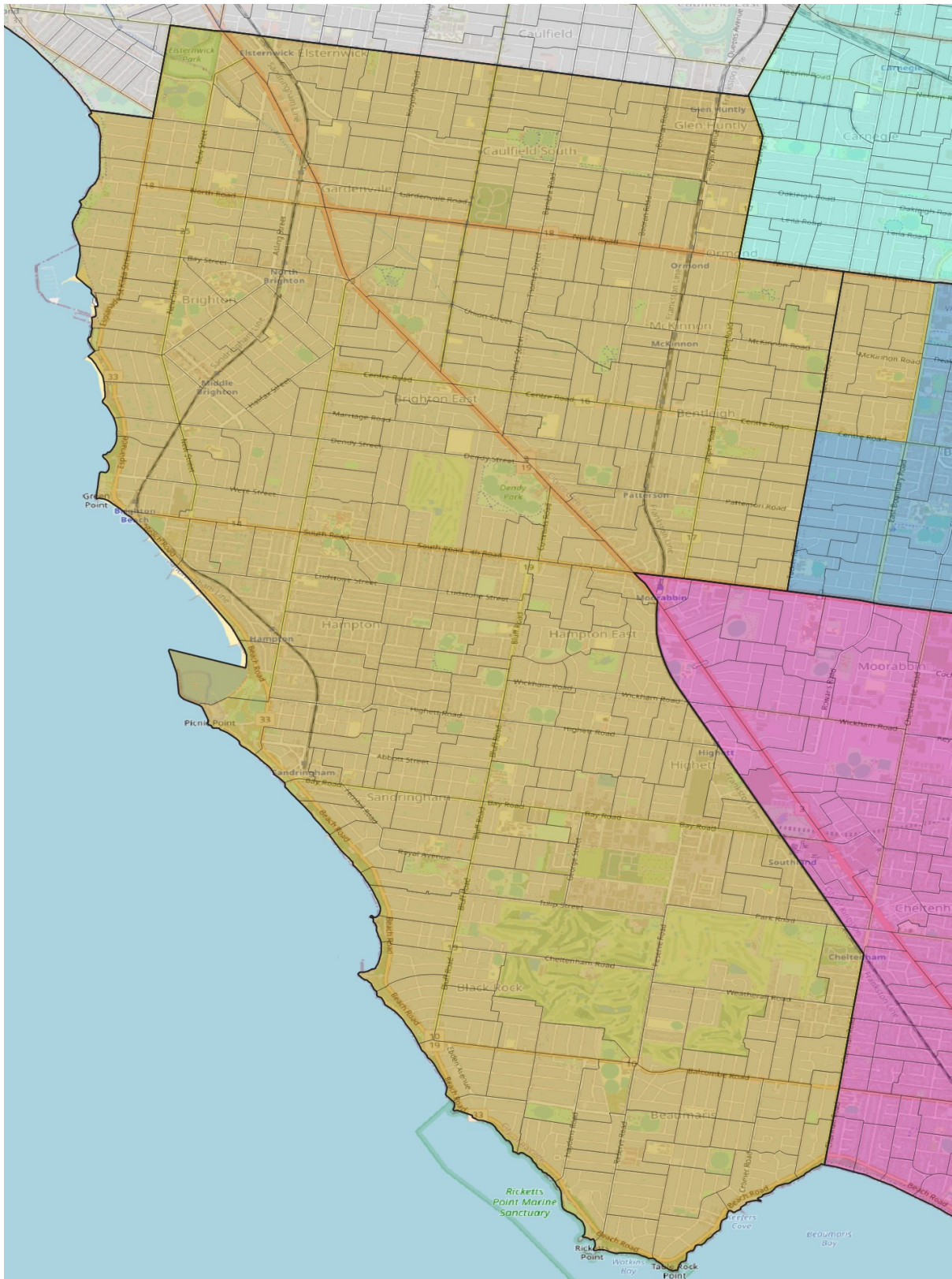


Figure 26: Goldstein

We propose making no change to **Macnamara**, **Monash** and **Gippsland**, all of which are projected to be within the allowable limits.