



Objection 10

James Longford

2 pages

Dear AEC,

I am writing to object to a number of the draft boundaries you have established in Victoria for the ongoing federal redistribution.

My Suggestions:

- *Lalor, Corio, Corangamite*

These boundaries have been drawn in a very confusing way which could have been done a lot easier. Lalor has a very jagged western boundary. I strongly disagree with the boundary, and believe it should retain the Little River as a strong geopolitical boundary between Corio (the Geelong area) and Lalor (the Wyndham area)

What I believe could help Corio reach quota is to not push past the Little River, but instead gain some of the growth areas and suburbs south of the Barwon River from Corangamite, including Ceres, Marshall and part of Grovedale. I do support the Commission's recommendation to put parts of the Golden Plains Shire into Corio.

Finally, I would suggest a new name for Corangamite. Connewarre, after Lake Connewarre within the middle of Corangamite would match the name type that Corangamite has, though Corangamite is a federation electoral division name, and it is understandable if the commission doesn't utilise this suggestion.

- *Higgins & Surrounding Seats*

To put it plainly, I do not believe Higgins should be abolished. While it is understandable Higgins will be under-quota due to a lack of sufficient population growth, Higgins should be a seat retained in the redistribution. I instead argue that Hotham should be abolished.

Higgins maintains strong connections to the Stonnington LGA, which makes up the core and bulk of Higgins. The proposed boundaries by the AEC for the neighbouring seats of Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara and Melbourne, all include parts of the Stonnington LGA. 5 divisions! Stonnington shouldn't be split five ways, it should remain as the core of one electorate.

I suggest that in a contrasting way to Higgins, it should be an electorate with pieces of 4 different LGA's, that should be abolished. This electorate is Hotham.

Hotham should be abolished for 2 different reasons:

1. The Name – Hotham is named after Sir Charles Hotham, the first Governor of Victoria from May to November 1855. While Sir Hotham has made significant contributions to the foundation of the state of Victoria, he himself was not Australian, he was rather, born in England. Furthermore, the name of an electorate being that of a colonial governor is in this day and age, maybe a bit of poor taste.
2. The Boundaries – As I have already mentioned, Hotham is made up of parts from 4 different LGAs: Glen Eira (Bentleigh East and parts of Ormond, McKinnon and Bentleigh), Greater Dandenong (Noble Park, Noble Park North, Springvale, Springvale South and parts of Keysborough), Kingston (Clayton South and Clarinda), and Monash (Hughesdale, Oakleigh East, Huntingdale and parts of Oakleigh, Clayton and Mulgrave). This feels like it lacks a community of interest, and instead is a jumble of bits and pieces from other electorates which they cannot logically fit in.

I strongly recommend the commission either retire the name Hotham or abolish Hotham regardless. There are a number of clear reasons which I believe justifies this decision.

- *Melbourne*

Melbourne was over-quota going into the redistribution, and given the significant nature where Wills has gained some inner-city suburbs off of Melbourne, it has left Melbourne in an untenable situation. I do not support Melbourne gaining areas south of the Yarra River, and instead propose that Melbourne should regain the suburbs of Clifton Hill from the proposed Cooper, and Princes Hill and Carlton North from the proposed Wills.

- **Cooper**

Cooper is probably the electorate with the least change in the Melbourne area in this draft, having only gained Clifton Hill from Melbourne. I believe this change should be reversed, and rather, Cooper should push north of the Darebin LGA boundary into parts of Bundoora and Thomastown, using the Metropolitan Ring Road as a boundary. This would also bring back the boundaries of Cooper's predecessor, Batman, which used the same boundary.

- **Calwell, Gorton, Maribyrnong, Scullin, Wills**

These are electorates which have lost geographical boundaries to the use of man-made boundaries: Wills and Maribyrnong have lost the Moonee Ponds Creek as the dividing boundary, in favour of Pascoe Vale Road and the CityLink; Calwell and Scullin have lost the Merri Creek as the dividing boundary in favour of Hume Freeway; Gorton has lost its north-eastern boundary of the Jackson Creek and Maribyrnong River in favour of the Calder Freeway.

I do not support the use of man-made boundaries, especially main roads, as a dividing boundary between electorates. Many of these geographical locations are also used as LGA boundaries, and as such, I believe the commission should not proceed with the use of road as boundaries in the aforementioned electorates.

- **Chisholm, Deakin, Menzies**

The boundary of Menzies could certainly be improved. The removal of areas from the Manningham LGA, which Menzies has been based on for years, and the extension into Whitehorse LGA, does create a conflict between 2 communities of interest: the Doncaster/Warrandyte area in Manningham LGA which has been what Menzies is traditionally comprised on, and Box Hill in Whitehorse LGA, which has in recent years changed electorates.

I feel that Chisholm should push south into Hotham's electors around Mulgrave and Noble Park. Deakin would then push into Glen Waverley. Menzies as a result should gain parts of Forest Hill and Vermont, which both have similar demographics to areas like Doncaster, which are currently in Menzies.

Overall, those are my objections for the proposed redistribution. I thank the AEC for the opportunity to give my own personal say on the proposed redistribution, and I look forward to the commission viewing my objections and hopefully taking them to the final redistribution. I also thank the AEC for their tireless work in ensuring electoral fairness and stability in Australia.

Regards,

James Longford

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