



Objection 88

Neil Pharaoh

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From: Neil Pharaoh [REDACTED]
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To: FedRedistribution - VIC
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Categories: [REDACTED]

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Dear AEC Redistribution Committee Victoria,

As background to my objection:

- I was the twice former candidate for the State seat of Prahran, this seat covers the LGA's of Stonnington and Port Phillip, and the Federal Districts of Macnamara and Higgins. Throughout this time and on both occasions, coming very close to representing the seat, I believe I have a very strong understanding of the nature, demographic and communities contained within this seat.
- For probity and disclosure, I am a member of the Australian Labor Party, however this submission has not been provided to the party, nor any other members, and represents only my views based on experience in these communities.
- It is in both these capacities I wish to lodge objections to the proposed redistribution in a personal capacity.

Objection to the Metropolitan redistribution:

- The district I twice ran for is now proposed to be split across no less than 3 districts – Windsor and St Kilda Road become Macnamara, Prahran (part) become part of Kooyong, and South Yarra & Prahran (parts of) become part of Melbourne. You now have a small, inner-city community of split across two local governments and three Federal seats.
- Communities of interest - 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. Health service, local government and any other service is not cut up this way, in what would be a totally arbitrary and enforce split of communities.
 - o Residents of South Yarra and Prahran have more to do with St Kilda, Albert Park, and Malvern than they do Melbourne.
 - o Likewise dividing another suburb (Malvern East) half into Hotham and half into Chisholm removes them from the rest of their council area/LGA, as well as halves the suburb. In addition, there would be next to know demographic or social connection between Wheelers Hill and Malvern, almost 14km apart or other parts of Malvern and Glen Waverley also 14km away.
- Physical features – The proposed redistribution is proposing linking electorates on either side of a river and highway.
 - o The river alone forms a natural, logical, and wide delineation between electoral boundaries, given in most places it is between 50 and 200m wide, plus parkland on either side.
 - o In fact despite the proposed redistribution ignoring the natural river boundary there is only 4 physical crossing points by road, footpath or cycling between South Yarra on the south and Cremorne on the North – no other Federal electorate in Australia except for Islands, has such a limited connection between electorates, and no metropolitan electorate has such great physical limits as is being proposed by the extension of Melbourne into what is now Higgins. In other metro areas, the boundaries commission has respected large rivers as a reason to draw boundaries accordingly.
 - o Even ignoring that there is only four actual roads or links above, AND the presence of a river which in some locations is hundreds of metres wide, arterial roads further carve the two areas apart. An entire freeway cuts the northern and southern parts of the proposed district of Melbourne. How can the boundaries commission use the Highway (Citylink) as a reason to align boundaries between

Wills and Maribyrnong, or Gellibrand and Fraser – yet ignore both a river and a highway for the area in South Yarra and Prahran?

- In short, the boundaries proposed straddle a major freeway, a river, and has only four access routes between – yet it is meant to become one electorate?
- The geographic anomaly of ignoring a major highway continues with the carve up of parts of Higgins into Chisholm.
- Means of communication and travel – As mentioned above, but worth reiterating boundary there is only 4 physical crossing points by road, footpath or cycling between South Yarra on the south and Cremorne on the North – no other Federal electorate in Australia except for Islands, has such a limited connection between electorates, and no metropolitan electorate has such great physical limits as is being proposed by the extension of Melbourne into what is now Higgins. In other metro areas, the boundaries commission has respected large rivers as a reason to draw boundaries accordingly.
 - There is no other metro electorate I can find anywhere in Australia which has literally four crossing points between one part of the electorate and another.
- Boundaries of other divisions – as highlighted by the proposed boundary changes on both LGA and State electorates, you have a complete nightmare of understanding in this area. Notwithstanding that within a 500 m radius in Glen Huntly you could be part of any one of four different Federal districts, leading to intense confusion and potentially disenfranchising voters.

Proposal for Metropolitan changes

- I have no strong preference for which electorates should be removed, revised, or changed, my comments are entirely in relation to the communities of interest, geographical limitations and means of travel between these electorates, however I would strongly suggest that the Boundaries commission return to redraft this area with some of the following concepts in mind, all of which are considered in the Act:
 - Do not split electorates across both sides of one of the most prominent rivers in Victoria. (Melbourne should be north of the Yarra, other districts to the South)
 - Do not split electorates across both sides of a major 10 lane freeway, especially when they align to watercourses also (Kooyong and current Higgins)
 - Do not cause four electorates to come together in an area of a few hundred metres
 - Do not divide multiple long standing, 100 plus year old suburbs in half (South Yarra, Prahran, Malvern, Malvern East) if noting else move the lines such that entire suburbs are within one boundary or the other.

Regards

Neil Pharaoh, 