



Objection 137

Maroondah Business Group

2 pages



Maroondah
Business Group

Thank you for the opportunity to submit an Objection to the proposed redistribution report.

At an earlier stage of the redistribution process, our organisation argued that this redistribution should follow two clear principles when it comes to the electorate of Deakin.

One was for voters to have a clear understanding of who has responsibility for the representation of the outer east of Melbourne in the Federal Parliament, and therefore we argued that Deakin should remain as close as possible to its current boundaries.

The second was that we strongly agreed with the City of Maroondah that the whole of the Maroondah municipality, which forms the core of the outer east, should remain wholly within the Deakin electorate. This was something which the AEC had thankfully worked towards at recent redistributions and achieved at the most recent previous redistribution.

Thus, it is disappointing that, under the proposed boundaries, a section of the Maroondah LGA is moved out of Deakin. We understand that, at this redistribution, Aston had to take some territory from another LGA, rather than just remain contiguous with the City of Knox, and therefore we acknowledge that this is an understandable decision in the circumstances.

However, we would request that at any future redistribution, if the numbers allow, this area be returned to where it rightfully belongs, in Deakin, reunited with the rest of the Maroondah LGA rather than in Aston.

Obviously, Deakin also needs to gain territory, particularly given the loss of voters to Aston. We are generally supportive of the additional areas added to Deakin under the draft boundaries. We argued in our earlier comment, as did many other submissions, that Wonga Park would have been a good fit with Deakin and, while this has not been accepted, we are pleased that the suggestion of Maroondah Business Group and others that Park Orchards be considered as having strong community of interest with the rest of Deakin has been accepted. This also equally applies to the neighbouring areas of Warrandyte South and Donvale which are moved to Deakin under the draft boundaries.

In many respects, the strong community of interest arguments that we have made in relation to Park Orchards almost identically extend to Donvale and South Warrandyte as well. For that reason, we congratulate the Redistribution Committee on the inclusion of these areas in Deakin, all being areas which are closely connected to Ringwood and the Maroondah area.

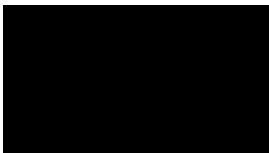
We also accept that to make up the required numbers Deakin had to take some voters from Blackburn North and Blackburn. While we believe Springvale Rd offers the optimal western boundary for Deakin, we accept that for numerical purposes Surrey Road and Blackburn Road must be the western most point of the electorate at this time.

However, both now and at future redistributions, if the principle we outlined in our earlier comment is to be maintained, which is that Deakin's constituents should be defined as those people whose main regional shopping centre is Eastland, we contend Springvale Rd is the most appropriate western boundary in the long run.

Therefore, subject to our comments on uniting the Maroondah LGA at the next possible opportunity, we commend the Redistribution Committee on the draft boundaries as they relate to the Maroondah area and Deakin electorate.

We hope this Objection is useful in your deliberations.

Yours sincerely



Kind Regards

Jenny Newman

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Chair



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