



Objection 365

Mr William Ma

2 pages

21/06/2024

Dear Sir/Madam

Objection to proposed redistribution report – Box Hill

I welcome the opportunity to provide a further submission to the 2024 Federal Redistribution for Victorian electoral boundaries.

As previously stated in my suggestion, I have long standing ties to the Box Hill area including having operated businesses in the area for over 30 years and have served in various positions for the Asian Business Association of Whitehorse including as Vice President.

My previous submission focused on amending the boundaries between the divisions of Kooyong, Deakin, Menzies and Chisholm, with particular concern given to reuniting Box Hill into a single electorate, and addressing several issues raised by the 2021 Redistribution in the eastern suburbs.

I am very satisfied to see that my concerns were addressed by the redistribution committee, who clearly are aware of the necessity of uniting Box Hill, as a Metropolitan Activity Centre, into a single division.

In my submission, I provided two options that I considered the most reasonable for uniting Box Hill. I am pleased the Redistribution Committee has accepted one of these options.

In particular, I commend the acknowledgment from the Redistribution Committee that the communities in and around Box Hill (and most of the eastern suburbs) cluster around major centres in a North / South manner.

Accordingly, the Redistribution Committee draft proposal which acknowledges the close connection between Doncaster and Box Hill, is something I strongly support.

Minor possible amendments

Following the abolition of Higgins, Menzies moving south, chasing Chisholm into the electorate vacuum is the most natural option. I entirely support the Division of Menzies encompassing the remainder of Box Hill.

The proposal put forward by the AEC does differ in 3 major regards from my suggestion however, most notably going much further South than I suggested (no doubt due to the abolition of Higgins as a nearby division).

My suggestion outlined the use of Canterbury Road as a southern boundary for the new Division of Menzies, whereas the AEC suggests Menzies encompassing greater parts of Box Hill South and Blackburn South.

As Box Hill South and Blackburn South absolutely orientate towards Box Hill as their primary activity centre I can support this decision on principle, however the use of the Eley Road, Station Street, Riversdale Road boundary may perhaps be afforded some cleaning up and simplifying in later versions of this redistribution or perhaps in future redistributions.

Next, I am disappointed to see that not only has Blackburn remained separate from Box Hill, but further parts of Blackburn North have been moved into another Division. This means that now Blackburn South, Blackburn and Blackburn North are all divided suburbs. I would have

hoped that the redistribution committee would have seen the opportunity to use Springvale Road as a boundary for Menzies from the Division of Deakin for its entire border, as you have clearly recognised its appropriate use in dividing Menzies from Deakin in Donvale. Blackburn South, Blackburn and Blackburn North all orientate towards Box Hill, so I hope that in future redistributions that this be afforded consideration.

Lastly, Mont Albert North, Mont Albert and parts of Surrey Hills have all been added to Menzies. I feel that this is a very good addition. Each of these suburbs orientate towards Box Hill through major roads, rail, and in terms of major hospitals and shopping. Additionally, this decision makes it obvious that Box Hill is clearly centred in Menzies, pushing the border of the Division of Kooyong back to Union Road. As I expressed concern that too many divisions were too close to Box Hill – I completely support this decision.

Conclusion

Ultimately, I am very supportive of the direction that the AEC is taking Box Hill, uniting it in a single electorate.

Yours Sincerely

Mr William Ma