



Comment on suggestions 13

Ben

6 pages

Introduction

I welcome the opportunity to comment on other submissions made for the redistribution. I congratulate the quality and effort of a number of other submissions made.

I have avoided commenting too much on suggestions made by other submitters that already matched my own and simply reiterating points I've made previously.

There are a number of other quality submissions which produced results different from mine. I respect these, and have avoided commenting specifically as not to disparage or quibble minor details. Most differences ultimately stem from the decision of where to cross the Yarra, and by how far. I have already laid out the basis for this to be done with Melbourne electorate in my own suggestion. My hesitation with accepting an upstream Yarra crossing some others have proposed, is that while these communities may be demographically similar, there is going to be comparatively little movement of electors between either side of the river, when compared to the numerous bridges and tram lines that naturally serve to connect the residents in areas around South Melbourne to the CBD for employment, commerce and entertainment.

In each of these suggestions, and my own, there are inevitably consequent electorate configurations that are less-than-ideal, and the decision on which communities should get a more cohesive electoral grouping will be subjective.

Comments on others' suggestions are detailed below. I have grouped similar themes together to assist the Committee.

Specific Boundaries

Suggestion made by	Suggestion/topic	Comment
S2, S14, S15, S18, S19, S21, S23, S33, S43	Remove Mulgrave from the Bruce electorate	This is a minor change that can be easily accommodated through virtually any iteration of boundaries proposed by myself or others. The presumably local community campaign to resolve this should be acceded to
S41	Boundary of Melbourne electorate up to Victoria Parade/Street	<p>This suggestion is similar to mine in that it sees a large share of the City of Yarra transferred out of Melbourne electorate, which moves south to Albert Park.</p> <p>The suggestion however maintains Richmond and Cremorne within the Melbourne electorate, separate from the rest of Yarra LGA</p> <p>I think either approach is valid, but S41's obtains a more compact shape over LGA wholeness. This boundary may also be favoured the Committee if it decides to minimise changes further north through either the Wills or Cooper corridor</p>
S27	Drawing an electorate boundary along City Rd/West Gate/Kings Way	This suggestion proposes to cross the Yarra with the Melbourne ('Birrarung') electorate in a less substantive way than mine. This may be a suitable alternative to my own if the Committee prefers a smaller incursion into Port Phillip LGA

Suggestion made by	Suggestion/topic	Comment
S57	Gorton/Hawke alignment	<p data-bbox="770 271 1358 371">This suggestion tracks similar to mine in aligning either electorate along the freeway and rail links out through the satellite cities.</p> <p data-bbox="770 416 1358 551">I would add that this is the kind of change that is not strictly required for the sake of numerical balance, and the commission may be tempted to leave this as it is.</p> <p data-bbox="770 595 1382 835">I would advise against inertia however, as failing to improve the boundary in this redistribution may lead to compounding issues in future. I fear that being too complacent in boundaries as they happen to exist now leads to issues such as the current electorate of McEwen, with poor configurations that persist across cycles.</p> <p data-bbox="770 880 1382 976">The minor issue of transferring more electors than strictly necessary is greatly offset by obtaining a more cohesive electorate community.</p>

Electorate names

Suggestion made by	Suggestion/topic	Comment
S12, S13, S17, S29, S31, S54	Rename Casey 'Barak'	Barak would be an appropriate name for adoption, and Casey is a suitable name to retire.
S27	Adopt the name 'Mora' for an electorate	<p>I appreciated the effort of this submission and agree that Mora would be an appropriate name.</p> <p>I would also add that this would be the first electorate to be named for a post-war migrant to Australia. Given the positive impact and diversity from non-British immigration that commenced after the War, making Australia its modern self, I feel this would be an important milestone to reflect a demographic not yet represented in our electorate names.</p> <p>I was not hugely familiar with Mora prior to S27, however further reading indicates she and her husband indeed had a profound impact on the art scene, and are very much connected to Melbourne.</p> <p>I favour the adoption of more non-civic names for electorates. There are many Australians who achieve and serve in ways outside of parliament. And I appreciate learning about such people where I'd otherwise have not known of their legacy (such as Aston)</p> <p>My only hesitation would be audible similarity with the Division of Moore in Western Australia. This wouldn't be of any confusion to electors given difference of states, but may be an annoyance in parliamentary proceedings. Though I would note that depending on one's clarity of enunciation, there are already potential clashes between 'Lyne' and 'Lyons,' 'Moore' and 'Moreton' and maybe even 'Cooper' and 'Cowper.' To my knowledge, none of these have ever been an issue in practice. And Moore's colonial origins (though seemingly less problematic than his contemporaries) may slate it as a name to eventually retire anyway.</p> <p>I also considered any potential clash with Moira Shire in Northern Victoria, however the difference in spelling/pronunciation and geography avoid any conceivable confusion I can think of.</p>
S11	Rename La Trobe 'Flack'	I appreciated the effort in this submission and believe that Flack would also be an appropriate

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		<p>name, especially with the local connection to the Berwick area. And while I'm not normally enthusiastic about naming after sporting achievements, naming just one electorate for the very first Olympian would suffice as enough recognition of Australia's participation in international sport.</p> <p>As with Mora, I would favour the adoption of more non-civic individuals for electorate names</p> <p>I agree with this submission that La Trobe should be retired</p>
S51	Rename Maribyrnong due to voter confusion with the suburb and neighbouring LGA	<p>I failed to address this clash within my own submission. While I believe the clash of LGA names La Trobe, Casey and Monash should eventually be resolved, the potential for confusion is unlikely to be that common due to geographical separation.</p> <p>The example outlined by S51 presents a strong case that one could quite easily imagine being repeated. For this reason, I agree it should be changed as a priority, especially if the suburb of Maribyrnong remains outside of the electorate's boundaries when drafted.</p>
S25, S57	Adopt the name 'Tucker' for an electorate	<p>I agree that Tucker would be a suitable name for an electorate</p> <p>I agree with S57 that the process from the last distribution which attempted to use the name Tucker to replace Corangamite was the wrong approach. Instead, it would be appropriate to use it in replacement any of the other names favouring retirement (possibly Maribyrnong, to maintain the indigenous representation)</p>
S25, S49	Adopt the name 'Child' for an electorate	<p>I agree that Child would be a suitable name for an electorate.</p> <p>I would favour the use of other names suggested ahead of Child if it were to become an either-or proposition</p>
All of those submission mentioned above	Number of electorates to be re-named	<p>I understand the redistribution approach favours leaving names and boundaries with minimal change where possible. And even though a substantial majority of submissions would support or accede to each of these name changes, I suspect inertia will prevent wholesale changes in this single redistribution.</p>

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		<p>If the Committee resolves to limit how many names are changed, I would recommend the following order of priority for consideration (alongside the proportion of elector change too):</p> <p>To be retired:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Maribyrnong 2) La Trobe 3) Casey 4) Gellibrand (per S57) 5) Monash <p>To be adopted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Tucker 2) Mora 3) Barak 4) Flack 5) Child
S51	Naming guidelines	<p>I would support 'Action 2' suggested by this submission</p> <p>I was not present to make a submission for the last redistribution, but there should be no future repeat of using existing LGA names etc. such as Monash.</p> <p>Per the Labor Party submission, this would have been a perfect opportunity to use the name Tucker instead of attempting to use it on a less contentious name such as Corangamite.</p>

General

Suggestion made by	Suggestion/topic	Comment
S32, S57, S58, S60, S63	Elector population projections	<p>Each of these submissions raise valid concerns about the integrity of population figures supplied for</p> <p>I agree with these concerns and believe the AEC should follow-up on this matter accordingly.</p> <p>Possible steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Investigate the source of these apparent projection errors and ensure they aren't repeated in future

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Committee should investigate any possibility of starting the redistribution afresh with corrected figures. However, the I suspect the timeline of this may be prohibitive, as the Committee should absolutely not run the risk of a redistribution being incomplete by the time of the next election and facing a forced merger of the lowest-quota seats. - If the redistribution must be proceeded with on these figures, I would advise against 'estimating' likely error and attempting to compensate for this. This leaves the process too open for interpretation if the Committee were to then start pushing boundaries as close to $\pm 3.5\%$ based on general 'feel' as to which areas are/aren't growing fast. - The AEC should then investigate possibility of a special redistribution subsequent to the next election to resolve numerical issues stemming from the use of these figures.
The Liberal Party of Australia	Non-submission	<p>I note the Liberal Party of Australia drafted a submission and made it available via a media release, but appears not to have submitted it to the Committee – atypically of the major parties.</p> <p>Unless there's a technological error to explain this; as it was not submitted through the proper channel that every other suggestion follows (and which their Coalition partners managed to navigate without issue,) it should not be considered by the Committee.</p>