



Comment on objections 121

Anonymous 22

6 pages

To The Augmented Electoral Commission for Victoria,

INTRODUCTION

My first submission was rather lengthy, so I'll keep these comments as brief as possible.

There are two main areas of community objection to the Committee's proposal:

1. The proposed split of **Wills** and the City of Merri-bek
2. The proposed split of **Higgins** and the City of Stonnington

The Commission should seek to address both of these areas of objection, and it is possible to do so with some minor adjustments to neighbouring divisions.

Mine is just one of many well-researched independent submissions, but I would like to reiterate my proposal (OB504) as I feel it addresses many of the objections raised:

- It resolves the unnecessary split of Glenroy and Oak Park by having **Maribyrnong** gain electors from **Calwell** and **Gorton** instead
- It transfers the surplus of electors in **Melbourne** largely via **Cooper** instead of **Wills**
- It addresses the split of City of Stonnington by uniting the majority of this council area in **Kooyong**, with Balwyn sensibly included in **Menzies** to compensate
- It results in clearer boundaries for **Chisholm**, **Deakin** and **Menzies**

WILLS SHOULD UNDERGO MINIMAL CHANGE

The proposed split of Glenroy and Oak Park between **Maribyrnong** and **Wills** is clearly objectionable to the City of Merri-bek community and should be reverted in favour of other options.

Rather than gain electors from **Wills** and City of Merri-bek, **Maribyrnong** can gain electors from:

- **Calwell**, in the locality of Westmeadows, but only as far as Moonee Ponds Creek
- **Fraser**, in the locality of Maribyrnong, particularly the segment that already acts as a conduit between Ascot Vale and Avondale Heights
- **Gorton**, particularly Keilor

Thus, it's entirely possible for **Wills** to be brought within quota by simply gaining the balance of Brunswick East from **Melbourne**, retaining its strong and recognisable boundaries along Moonee Ponds Creek, Merri Creek and Park Street.

Since **Cooper** already has a basis in the City of Yarra, it alone can take the bulk of **Melbourne's** received surplus, and by doing so can resolve the current split of Bundoora by transferring it to **Jagajaga**.

EASTERN MELBOURNE

Regarding Eastern Melbourne, some general themes have surfaced:

- The Chapel Street corridor, including South Yarra and Prahran is more aligned southwards to **Macnmara** or eastwards to **Higgins** than it is to **Melbourne**, especially while Southbank is a more obvious inclusion in **Melbourne**
- City of Stonnington shouldn't be split across more than 2 or 3 divisions
- Balwyn North and Balwyn would be suitable inclusions in **Menzies**
- **Chisholm** shouldn't extend too far west of Warrigal Road
- The use of stepped boundaries for **Menzies** and **Chisholm** can be confusing

HOTHAM SHOULD BE ABOLISHED INSTEAD OF HIGGINS

It's quite clear that the residents of **Higgins** and of City of Stonnington see themselves as a distinct community, particularly from areas in **Melbourne**, **Chisholm** and **Hotham**.

Given that **Higgins** has long served as a division for this local government area, the Commission should endeavour to retain it. However, if this is not deemed possible, the Commission should ensure that as much of City of Stonnington remains united as possible, by an effective merger of **Higgins** and **Kooyong** rather than the proposed 5-way carve-up. The transfer of Prahran and South Yarra to **Macnamara** would be the reasonable exception to this.

I suggest that the Commission reconsider the abolition of **Higgins**, because it's clear that any arguments that could be made for the abolition of this division would also apply more strongly to **Hotham**.

Higgins does contain several discrete communities, but it is distinctly based upon the City of Stonnington and centred on Malvern. On the other hand, **Hotham** has no core community of interest. Each of its peripheral areas associates more strongly with areas in neighbouring divisions.

Even if the division of **Higgins** must be abolished, given the outstanding contribution of Henry Bournes Higgins to Australian society, the Commission should retain this name for either **Kooyong**, a location name, or **Hotham**, a short-tenured colonial governor.

At the end of this document, I have attached 3 maps, showing 3 ways in which the Commission could better improve the boundaries of Eastern Melbourne.

NORTHERN CARDINIA SHIRE WOULD BE A BETTER FIT IN CASEY

A common theme across some of the general submissions is that outcomes for **Bruce**, **Casey** and **La Trobe** would be better served if the northern Cardinia Shire townships of Emerald, Cockatoo and Gembrook were transferred from **La Trobe** to **Casey**. I encourage the Commission to give deep consideration to this option.

ADDRESSING THE SHORTFALL OF ELECTORS IN FLINDERS

There has not been any significant amount of objection to the transfer of part of Mount Eliza to **Flinders**, which makes sense as it is not a bad decision taken individually. However, I would like to underscore the point I made in OB504, that this transfer results in poorer outcomes elsewhere:

- **Dunkley** must cross the Patterson River which would have been a clear boundary
- **Bruce** must expand into Cranbourne North which should be retained in **Holt**
- The proposed split of Dandenong between **Bruce** and **Isaacs** has been raised as an issue and this should be avoided

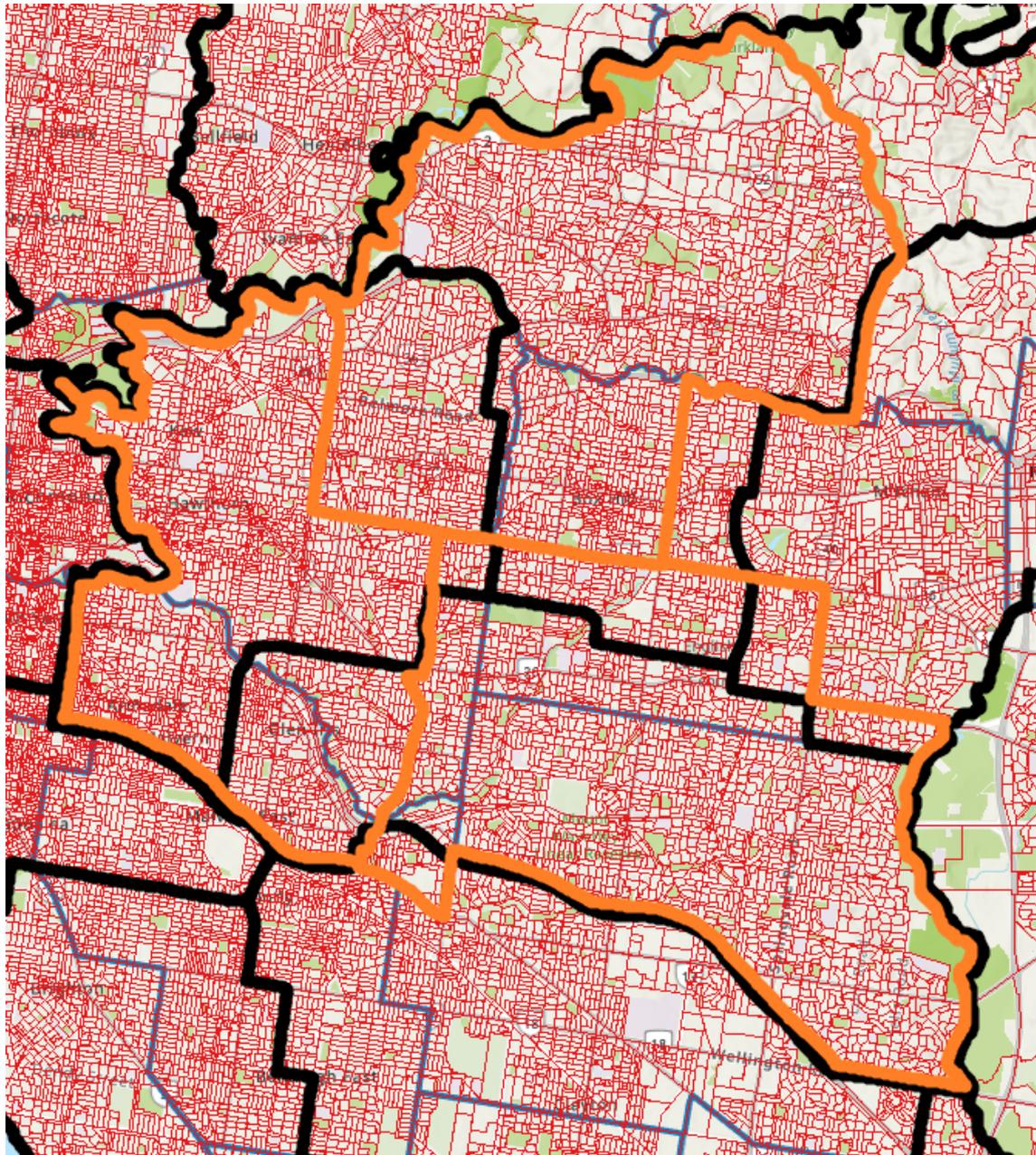
With these considerations in mind, it is better to transfer Pearcedale and Tooradin to **Flinders** at this point in time. This area has an equally strong claim to be included in this division.

OTHER COMMENTS

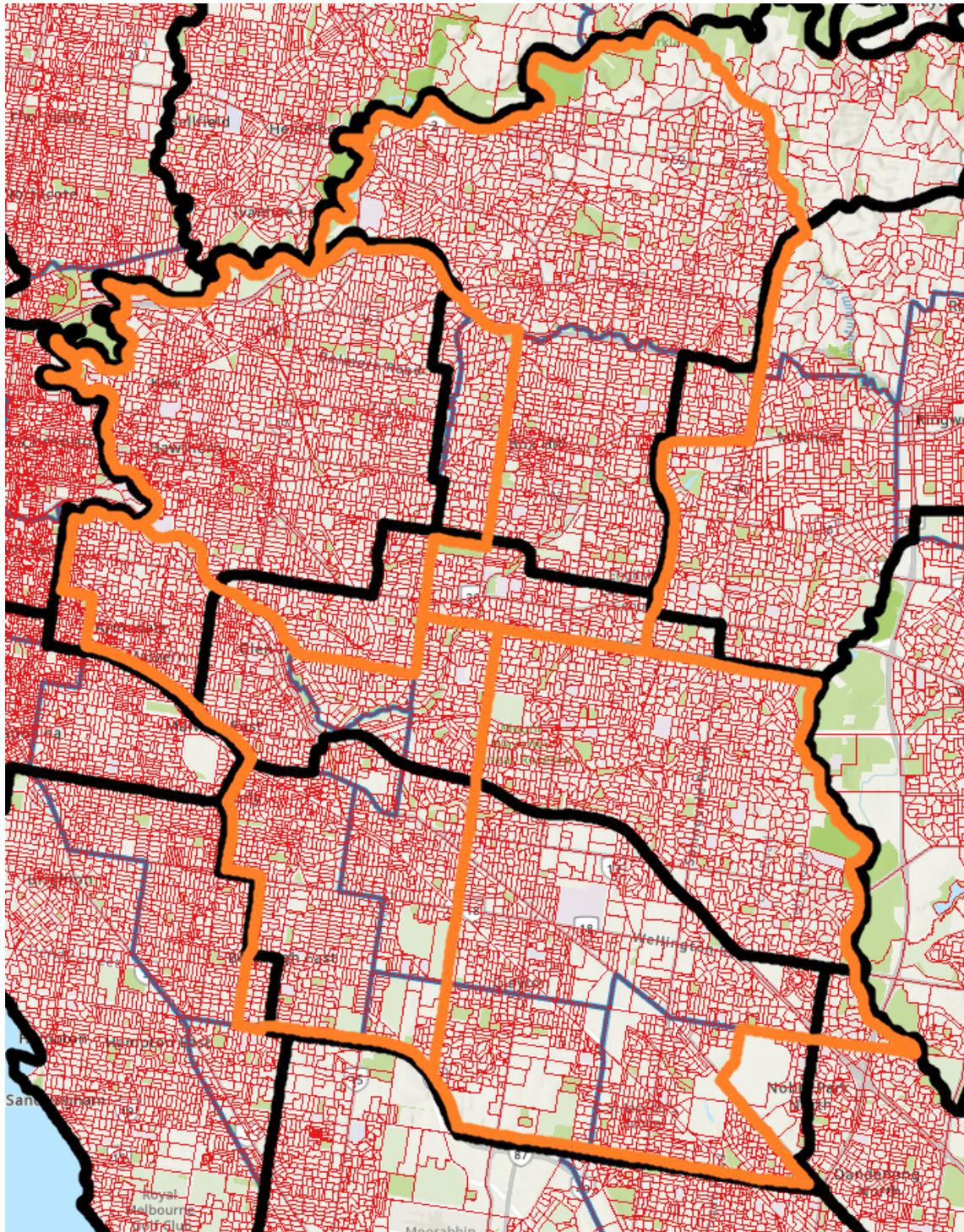
Outside of the large body of template submissions relating to **Higgins** and **Wills**, a number of independent submissions which have consistently noted several areas which need improvement:

- The split of City of Wyndham between **Corio**, **Hawke** and **Lalor**, which can be resolved by one of several amendments to the boundary between **Gellibrand** and **Lalor**
- The split of Hepburn Shire between **Ballarat** and **Bendigo** which can be resolved by transferring Woodend from **McEwen** to **Bendigo**
- The split of Campbellfield between **Calwell** and **Scullin**, which can be resolved by transferring Westmeadows south of Moonee Ponds Creek to **Maribyrnong** or Mickleham north of Donnybrook Road to **McEwen**
- The splits of Wollert and Mernda, which can be resolved by a swap between **McEwen** and **Scullin**

MAP 1: AMENDMENTS AS PROPOSED IN OB504



MAP 2: RETAIN HIGGINS BY EXPANDING INTO CITY OF MONASH



MAP 3: RETAIN HIGGINS BY EXPANDING INTO CAULFIELD

