



Objection 288

Darren McSweeney
37 pages

Objection Redistribution of Commonwealth Electoral Divisions

Darren McSweeney



Victoria 2023

This Public Objection was lodged 26 June 2024 by

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an Australian Citizen, resident of Victoria, and member of the Australian Public Service.



I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which I live and write, the Bunurong people of the Kulin nation. I pay my respects to their Elders, past and present.

Every effort has been made to ensure data and calculations in this submission are accurate, however unintended errors or omissions of data or calculations still may occur. The author has not attempted to mislead readers by way of errors or omissions in the data presented herein.

References and data sources

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Division spatial data are derived from the digital datasets provided by the Australian Electoral Commission. Original data files in .shp format were edited for mapping in <u>OGIS</u> and converted to .kml format within <u>Google Earth</u> and .GeoJSON format for presentation in maps.

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I hold no interest in, and do not stand to receive any benefit or advantage resulting from the outcome of this redistribution. I have written this submission as a private citizen taking a personal interest in psephology and the electoral redistribution process. I am not now, nor at any time in the past been a member of any political party or similar associated organisation.

This submission is lodged claiming political neutrality. No political bias or partiality is implied within this submission and none should be inferred. This submission is lodged in accordance with <u>guidelines</u> <u>for making public submissions to a redistribution</u>. The political implications – if any – of the recommendations have not formed part of the recommendation and should not be inferred.

Division names – including any suggested new names– comply with <u>guidelines for naming federal</u> <u>electoral divisions</u>. Suggested names are based on the individual's merit and contribution to Australian society, and do not imply any political bias towards the eponymous persons. Proposals to abolish or rename a division – if any – do not reflect the performance or character of the current member of Parliament representing that division or the eponymous person, unless specified.

Criticism of submissions or decisions taken as part of this redistribution is based solely on the merit of the arguments and recommendations presented therein and serves solely to improve electoral representation for the people of Victoria. It is not in any way a reflection upon the character or abilities of any individual, government or community group or organisation participating in this process, nor any member of a Redistribution Committee, augmented Electoral Commission, any other member of the APS, the Australian Electoral Commission, any other Australian Government entity, agency, department or any current or past member of Parliament.

Contents

r	ntroduction	3
4	nalysis of proposed divisions	5
	Methodology	5
	Aston	6
	Ballarat	6
	Bendigo	6
	Bruce	7
	Calwell	7
	Casey	8
	Chisholm	8
	Cooper	9
	Corangamite	9
	Corio	10
	Deakin	10
	Dunkley	11
	Flinders	11
	Fraser	11
	Gellibrand	12
	Gippsland	12
	Goldstein	12
	Gorton	13
	Hawke	13
	Higgins	14
	Holt	14
	Hotham	14
	Indi	15
	Isaacs	15
	Jagajaga	15

Kooyong16
Lalor
La Trobe17
Macnamara17
Mallee
Maribyrnong18
McEwen
Melbourne
Menzies
Monash20
Nicholls
Scullin21
Wannon21
Wills22
Suggested changes to proposed division boundaries23

Introduction

My initial reactions to the proposed redistribution was a sense of feeling underwhelmed. The Committee seems to value minimal approaches, and emphasises the fact that a small number of electors are transferred. Justification for this seems to be minimising disruption or confusion for electors. However, this results in several divisions that retain character of their existing division, but at the cost of community of interest grounds. I believe the goal to keep as many electors in their existing divisions as possible is not nearly as important as achieving satisfactory outcomes for communities of interests. This is even more so when the existing division already compromised on the community of interests to meet the numerical threshold at a previous redistribution.

The fact there is little justification for making certain decisions means that it can be difficult to follow the reasoning of the committee. This means the decisions to include certain communities in proposed divisions are speculative and can be somewhat confusing. At times, the community of interests criteria seem to be ignored to such an extent that it seems that the Committee simply looked at a map and drew lines on it.

Some of the decisions seem to be purely an exercise to make the numbers work, particularly when such a small area is moved, such as the outskirts of Wyndham LGA being included in **HAWKE** and **CORIO**. This leads to small communities being isolated from their neighbours. Furthermore, such a small unattached community is at risk of being overlooked, or ignored by the member.

It is disappointing that the original projection data was incorrect. Furthermore, as this was not rectified until after the period for suggestions was closed, all suggestions and comments on suggestions based on these figures were rendered useless. While this was also an issue in Western Australia, the changes to the figures seem to be greater in Victoria, and most of the suggestions need considerable changes to bring them into the numerical thresholds. The apparent outcome from this is that the Committee had no working suggestion as a basis. This seems to result in several divisions whose community of interests is less than ideal. This includes the proposed Macnamara, Melbourne, Kooyong, Menzies, Calwell, Scullin, McEwen, Corio, Hawke, Lalor, Bruce, La Trobe, Holt and Isaacs.

I support abolition of **Higgins**. There was a real need for a division to be abolished in the eastern or south eastern suburbs. However, I feel the Committee missed an opportunity to distribute the electors of **Higgins** in a meaningful way. The obvious issue being the retention of the awkward configuration of **Macnamara** along Dandenong Road, instead transferring electors from **Higgins** to **Melbourne**. Furthermore, I acknowledge that Manningham LGA contains too few electors to contain **Menzies** in its entirety, so excess electors need to be found. While breaching the long established Koonung Creek boundary is reasonable, I feel the Committee has erred in the configuration they've come up with. The previous redistribution along Whitehorse Road was problematic, and I think the proposal has done little to address this. Box Hill and Doncaster do share some community of interests grounds, so they could be combined in the same division. In this case though, the numbers and boundaries make most solutions less than adequate.

However, I feel that a better solution can be found, relatively easily. With the abolition of **Higgins**, **Kooyong** has the opportunity to move southward, and then **Menzies** can expand naturally along Doncaster Road, taking in Balwyn and Kew.

The outer south east seems to be a real shambles, mainly with **Bruce** being so awkward. I understand part of the reason for this is trying to balance the high growth areas in Clyde and Berwick, but I think some improvement could have been found in the area. Perhaps it is time that the entire south east is given a makeover and the divisions are redrawn. This was part of the reason for my suggestion abolishing **HOTHAM** as this led to a greater realignment in the south east.

I will provide an analysis and assessment of each proposed division, rating the proposed divisions on how well they adhere to the criteria specified in section 66(3)(b) of the Electoral Act. Following my analysis, I will present my own suggested changes to the proposed divisions.

Page 4 Darren McSweeney

Analysis of proposed divisions

Methodology

I have assessed each proposed division, and subjectively scored against the criteria outlined in the Electoral Act:

- i. community of interests within the proposed electoral division, including economic, social and regional interests,
- ii. means of communication and travel within the proposed electoral division,
- iv. the physical features and area of the proposed electoral division, and
- v. the boundaries of existing electoral divisions in Victoria, with this factor being subordinate to the consideration of i, ii and iv.

When assessing the proposed division against the criteria, I am specifically looking for the following:

Criterion i: I am looking at whether the proposed division includes like suburbs and neighbourhoods, whether there are isolated parts of suburbs excluded from the division, or a section of a suburb is included and isolated from the remaining of the suburb in another division.

Criterion ii: whether there is sufficient means of effective travel and lines that make sense and allows both the elected member and electors to travel to other communities within the division. In large rural divisions, electors may be widely dispersed, however they should be able to travel along corridors to reach other communities.

Criterion iv: Assessment includes if the proposed division follows natural contours and barriers – such as rivers and mountains – as well as man-made barriers such as freeways, railways or major highways. In addition, assessment includes whether some parts of the division are physically excluded or isolated by natural features. In cases where a community is physically isolated from all other communities, this is not considered as important.

Criterion v: In many cases, the existing boundaries are useful indicators of community. Long established and unchanged boundaries could be indicators of a clear divide in communities. However, the time can come where certain boundaries need to be breached. A reliance on the existing boundaries to the detriment of, or at the expense of, the other criteria will be scored lower.

Furthermore, an additional criterion is assessed based on the general appearance, compactness and cohesiveness of the division. Divisions that are overly elongated, contorted, twisted, or those that stretch across wide areas of unused land to connect communities can lead to lower communities of interest and lines of communication can be impacted.

Additionally, an overly elongated or twisted division is more likely to be subject to accusations of gerrymandering and perceptions that the division may be drawn in such a manner as to gain political advantage by including or excluding certain communities.

Aston

Overall assessment	19
General appearance and cohesiveness	4
Reliance on existing boundaries	3
Physical features	4
Means of communication	4
Community of interests	4

The existing **Aston** perfectly aligns with Knox LGA and this demonstrates the problems that we encounter when attempting this. Previously the population for Knox was too great to fit all the LGA within **Aston**, so part of the LGA had to be isolated in another division. The efforts were finally realised in the last redistribution, and the division matched entirely. However, this perfect alignment was short-lived, and now the population of Knox is not enough for a single division, so **Aston** needs to be supplemented from Maroondah LGA. I think this solution is reasonable given the aims to minimise disruptions and keep existing division boundaries similar, however I wonder if it would be better to change the approach and split the LGA to get a more stable division.

Ballarat

Community of interests	4
Means of communication	5
Physical features	5
Reliance on existing boundaries	4
General appearance and cohesiveness	5
Overall assessment	23

I'd prefer that the areas in Hepburn LGA were remained, but **Bendigo** needs the few extra electors this area provides. The overall division is very close to the bottom of the numerical threshold, but overall, I don't have any issues with the proposed **Ballarat**.

Bendigo

Community of interests	4
Means of communication	5
Physical features	5
Reliance on existing boundaries	4
General appearance and cohesiveness	5
Overall assessment	23

The proposed **Bendigo** picking up minor areas in Hepburn and Mitchell LGAs at least connected to **Bendigo** by the Midland and Northern Highways so they have some connection to the city of Bendigo. This does, however, break the LGA building block idea in regional areas. It's probably not as important with **Bendigo**, as all of **Ballarat**, **Hawke** and **McEwen** have some fluidity in their make up so could easily accommodate the changes. I'd probably say instead of gaining some 800 electors from **Ballarat**, it may have been a better approach to move south into Macedon Ranges. Moving this direction may have helped make **McEwen** more coherent. I'd probably suggest if we are breaking LGA boundaries that the area around Elmore could be removed and placed better with **Nicholls**.

Page 6 Darren McSweeney

Bruce

Community of interests	2
Means of communication	2
Physical features	4
Reliance on existing boundaries	3
General appearance and cohesiveness	2
Overall assessment	13

Spanning from Mulgrave to ugly extensions into Cranbourne North and Beaconsfield, the proposed **Bruce** is an awkward mess. I'm not against the boundary aligning with the Casey LGA boundary along Cardinia Creek, but the small extension across into Cardinia LGA to pick up a small number of electors means they'll be isolated from the rest of the community. The motive for expanding south to Cranbourne North seems to be capturing some high growth areas to allow both **HOLT** and **LA TROBE** some breathing room, but this leads to an unruly appearance. The problems with this division seem to start from splitting Dandenong and taking the north eastern part of Greater Dandenong LGA and even some of Monash LGA. I admit to trying several configurations to improve **BRUCE**, **HOLT** and **LA TROBE** without redrawing the entire region. However as it may seem the Committee discovered the rapid growth in this area leads to a lot of dead ends. As such I have made the unfortunate decision to not make any further suggestions here.

Calwell

Community of interests	3
Means of communication	5
Physical features	4
Reliance on existing boundaries	3
General appearance and cohesiveness	3
Overall assessment	18

I cannot approve of using Sydney Road as a division boundary. It leaves communities split, especially in the south, where the areas east of Sydney Road are transferred into **Scullin**. This area has little connection to the rest of **Scullin**, and few lines of communication. Electors in this region would need to cross not only Merri Creek, but also the Hume Freeway and either the Merri Creek parklands, or open grassland to reach the remaining of their division. The Craigieburn areas are more suitable, as there is more connection with **McEwen** stretching both to the north and east. Instead, I would propose switching these areas back into **Calwell** in exchange for all of Mickleham and Kalkallo north of Donnybrook Road. The boundary could then follow Mickleham Road and either Kinnear Road or Bardwell Drive to Deep Creek.

Casey

Overall assessment	
General appearance and cohesiveness	4
Reliance on existing boundaries	3
Physical features	4
Means of communication	4
Community of interests	3

Another example of attempting to align a division with a single LGA. While the existing **Casey** aligns (almost) perfectly with Yarra Ranges LGA, the issue arises now that additional electors are required. Therefore, a small number of electors in both Manningham and Nillumbik LGA could be overlooked if a member focussed solely on the population centres in Yarra Ranges. I'm not sure that splitting St Andrews and Panton Hill is optimal, especially as Kangaroo Ground is also now included as a split suburb. Personally, I'd think it would be better to split the southern ranges parts around Belgrave and Lysterfield from the Yarra Valley. Particularly as these areas have good connections to parts of the division of **La Trobe** around Emerald and Cockatoo. Also, I'm not sure why the division boundary with **Monash** deviates from the LGA boundary. This causes little inconvenience to electors, as the area is sparsely populated, it however seems weird that the LGA boundary would be used for most of the time, but deviates for a number of short sections.

Chisholm

Overall assessment	
General appearance and cohesiveness	3
Reliance on existing boundaries	2
Physical features	4
Means of communication	4
Community of interests	3

The entire inner east has been made into what I can only describe as a dog's breakfast. In reality, the whole **Chisholm**, **Deakin**, **Kooyong**, **Macnamara** and **Menzies** region needs to be reworked. While on its own, the proposed **Chisholm** is not too bad, it can be tidied up, and made much more coherent. This is important in the context of the abolition of **Higgins** and the adjustments made to the surrounding divisions. I propose an anti-clockwise rotation of these divisions, with an escape of some electors into **Macnamara** to better accommodate the numerical thresholds and align the divisions with real communities of interests in the area. For **Chisholm** I'd restore the boundary along Warrigal Road, then pick up everything in the proposed **Deakin** and **Menzies** south of Canterbury Road. This creates a strong continuous boundary in the area, extending to the proposed boundary between **Deakin** and **Aston**. To make the numbers work, we add the section of Surrey Hills bound by Union Road, Whitehorse Road and Elgar Road. This area probably has better ties to any of **Deakin**, **Kooyong** or **Menzies**, over **Chisholm**, but is needed to bring **Chisholm** off the very bottom of the threshold, while maintaining strong community of interest boundaries for the rest of the entire region.

Page 8 Darren McSweeney

Cooper

Overall assessment	19
General appearance and cohesiveness	4
Reliance on existing boundaries	3
Physical features	5
Means of communication	3
Community of interests	4

COOPER is one of the divisions that aims to align itself with a single LGA, in this case Darebin LGA. However the physical features in the area somewhat differ, and this can lead to conflicts. The Darebin LGA boundaries follow both Merri and Darebin creeks quite faithfully for the most part. However major diversions in Coburg and Macleod and Bundoora make this forming this division messier. This is amplified with the awkward LGA boundary with Yarra LGA along Heidelberg Road, isolating part of Alphington and Fairfield. The inclusion of Clifton Hill adds further to this mess with the area west of the railway line not having a clear line of communication to the rest of the division, without having to travel outside the division. I wonder if a better solution would be to reorient both **COOPER** and **WILLS** to an east-west alignment, thereby removing the need to adhere to the restrictive creek alignments or the LGA boundaries. I suspect this may also further enhance **Maribyrnong** by allowing it to expand naturally across Moonee Ponds Creek and the Tullamarine Freeway.

Corangamite

Community of interests	5
Means of communication	4
Physical features	4
Reliance on existing boundaries	5
General appearance and cohesiveness	5
Overall assessment	23

CORANGAMITE continues to moves even further away from its eponymous lake making the situation here almost reach Werriwa levels of absurdity. I would suggest that the Committee look at renaming this division next time as the name now bears absolutely no connection to the name. The division itself is coherent, and I think the changes are logical. There is a small issue with communication channels between the Surf Coast and Bellarine Peninsula, but overall, I think the region is coherent. I'm not sure what the reasoning is for splitting the single SA1 in Bellbrae (20303105333) into **Wannon**. I feel the boundary would be more clearly defined if it followed the Bellbrae locality boundary, and as it seems both **Wannon** and **Corangamite** can accommodate the change, I suggest the Augmented Committee look at making this change.

Corio

Overall assessment	23
General appearance and cohesiveness	4
Reliance on existing boundaries	5
Physical features	5
Means of communication	5
Community of interests	4

This is generally a well-considered division. Expanding **Corio** into Golden Plains LGA is logical and makes sense. These areas rely on Greater Geelong LGA for services and the lines of communication are strong within the division. I'm not a fan of the division crossing the urban divide into Wyndham LGA, although it does unite the locality of Little River. This is a strong and long established boundary and probably should not be crossed. Placing these communities back into **Lalor** leaves **Corio** within the numerical threshold, so I suggest that they be returned to **Lalor**, with other minor transfers ensuring **Lalor** also remains within the threshold.

Deakin

Overall assessment	16
General appearance and cohesiveness	4
Reliance on existing boundaries	3
Physical features	3
Means of communication	3
Community of interests	3

Again, like **Chisholm**, the proposed **Deakin** is not too bad. The border along Blackburn Road needs serious reconsideration. While parts of Blackburn Road act as a major boundary, this only occurs south of Canterbury Road. From Canterbury Road through to Whitehorse Road, Blackburn Road is less busy, more local, and is a central core of the Blackburn shopping centre. Splitting this area was a mistake last time, and keeping it this way would exacerbate the situation. The Blackburn community should be united, and if a boundary is needed in this area, either Middleborough or Springvale Road would function much more suitably as a boundary. There are limited communication channels through the Park Orchards section that is transferred. Preferably, a larger areas of Park Orchards and Warrandyte would be transferred in exchange for areas to the west. However the cascading effects of abolishing **Higgins** means **Deakin** needs to move the other way to help **Menzies** become more coherent. My proposal readopts Koonung Creek, and moves **Deakin** back into the northern section of Whitehorse LGA, as far as Union Road and Belmore Road. This allows **Menzies** to expand into Kew and Balwyn, and **Kooyong** to more gracefully expand into the areas formerly in **Higgins**.

Page 10 Darren McSweeney

Dunkley

Overall assessment	23
General appearance and cohesiveness	5
Reliance on existing boundaries	5
Physical features	4
Means of communication	5
Community of interests	4

Overall the changes are logical for **Dunkley**. Not really a fan of Chelsea and Chelsea Heights being split, but at least it's along a major road in Thames Promenade, and it's probably better than splitting Chelsea from Bonbeach. The whole Aspendale to Bonbeach area is problematic for divisions as it always almost leads to this area being separated from the rest of whatever division it ends up in.

Flinders

Overall assessment	24
General appearance and cohesiveness	5
Reliance on existing boundaries	5
Physical features	5
Means of communication	5
Community of interests	4

Not a lot that else that could have been done to keep **FLINDERS** within the numerical threshold. I think this is the best solution. Mount Eliza fits better with **FLINDERS** than with **DUNKLEY** anyway, and is preferable to expand **FLINDERS** into Mount Eliza rather than parts of Casey LGA.

Fraser

Community of interests	4
Means of communication	5
Physical features	3
Reliance on existing boundaries	5
General appearance and cohesiveness	5
Overall assessment	22

The proposed **Fraser** is entirely sensible. There is little that needs to be changed, if anything, I am unsure why the boundary was extended south into Spotswood and instead routed along the West Gate Freeway for the whole length. I would propose that this be changed back using the strong and imposing freeway as the entire southern boundary. This reversal can be accommodated without either **Fraser** or **Gellibrand** falling outside the numeric threshold.

Gellibrand

Overall assessment	21
General appearance and cohesiveness	5
Reliance on existing boundaries	5
Physical features	3
Means of communication	4
Community of interests	4

This division as proposed is sensible, except it would be made stronger by utilising the West Gate Freeway for its entire length between Geelong Road and the Yarra River. I am glad to see the boundary now incorporate all of Point Cook using the Princes Freeway and Sneydes Road. I have suggested a small extension including part of Werribee South using the Princes Highway, Wattle Avenue, the Princes Freeway, Duncans Road, Robbs Road, and Crawfords Road would allow other changes to **Corio**, **Hawke** and **Lalor**, to be accommodated that make the entire region more coherent.

Gippsland

Overall assessment	24
General appearance and cohesiveness	5
Reliance on existing boundaries	5
Physical features	5
Means of communication	5
Community of interests	4

The most stable division in Australia, **GIPPSLAND** remains unchanged again. Some obvious community of interest issues around splitting Latrobe LGA, but, unlike the state district, the boundary separates towns, rather than splitting down the middle. No changes required, and none really needed.

Goldstein

Overall assessment	21
General appearance and cohesiveness	5
Reliance on existing boundaries	3
Physical features	5
Means of communication	5
Community of interests	3

The changes to **Goldstein** are immensely logical and adequately include united communities of interest. While Cheltenham is split along Chesterville and Charman Roads, there is a distinct change in character and demographics either side of this pre-existing divide. East Boundary Road by its own name, is a defined boundary. The issues with **Goldstein** however are based around what has not changed. Retaining Glen Huntly Road as a northern boundary splits a very tight knit community around Caulfield and Elsternwick. With the changes to abolish **Higgins**, **Goldstein** could have moved north to unite some of these communities. This feels like a lost opportunity.

Page 12 Darren McSweeney

Gorton

Overall assessment	24
General appearance and cohesiveness	5
Reliance on existing boundaries	5
Physical features	4
Means of communication	5
Community of interests	5

Only a minor change to Gorton, and the exclusion of Keilor North east of the Calder Freeway makes sense. The existing boundaries are already strong, clear and sensibly divide communities. The metropolitan areas of Melton being included here make logical sense. The only issues I would say is that it would probably be ideal to have found room for Hillside, as the areas is connected. The only other minor quibble is that putting Keilor North into **Hawke**, there is little line of communication across the Maribyrnong River in this place – in fact the river in this area is a very imposing barrier.

Hawke

Overall assessment	18
General appearance and cohesiveness	4
Reliance on existing boundaries	4
Physical features	4
Means of communication	3
Community of interests	3

I'd still like to see **Hawke** move in to Macedon Ranges LGA, a bit more instead of that area being disconnected from the rest of **McEwen**. Overall, this isn't a bad proposal. I don't mind Melbourne Airport being included here, but the area to the south in Keilor and Keilor North is slightly disconnected from the rest of the division. It is similar in nature however, being more rural than the urban development to the immediate south, so I can accept that area. The part that I cannot accept is the section in Wyndham LGA. It seems that when **Lalor** was created, it was just barely over the numerical threshold, so a portion with a tiny population was sliced off and given to **Hawke**, and then, having found no decent boundary in the area, the arbitrary line of the SA1 boundary was used. The good news is this can be reversed with minor changes. Therefore, these dozen or so electors can be returned to **Lalor**, the division they belong to.

Higgins

Overall assessment	N/A
General appearance and cohesiveness	
Reliance on existing boundaries	
Physical features	
Means of communication	
Community of interests	

I understand why **Higgins** was the division abolished, being the division with the lowest enrolment in the state. **Higgins** being abolished could have led to a reworking of divisions throughout the region, but it seems it was just chopped up and added to the nearby divisions without consideration for how these communities interact. I believe there was opportunity with abolishing **Higgins** to create divisions that reflected community in the south and south east quite well. Unfortunately, I feel the Committee has missed the boat with a tinker around the edges approach. This has resulted in divisions with little cohesion, disjointed communities and appears as though it was designed solely by referring to lines on maps and with no consideration about the actual way these communities interact.

Holt

Overall assessment	22
General appearance and cohesiveness	5
Reliance on existing boundaries	4
Physical features	4
Means of communication	5
Community of interests	4

In isolation, the proposed **HOLT** is satisfactory. It would be better for community of interests here if Cranbourne North and Clyde North could be accommodated in exchange for Hampton Park, Lynbrook and Narre Warren South, but I can acknowledge the Committee's intention to balance the high growth areas between the divisions and keep within the numerical threshold.

Hotham

Community of interests	4
Means of communication	5
Physical features	5
Reliance on existing boundaries	4
General appearance and cohesiveness	5
Overall assessment	23

The proposed **Hotham** is actually quite a decent division. Reliance on the Pakenham railway line and Dandenong Road, leads to strong communication channels. Some may suggest that Malvern East and Noble Park do not belong in the same division, however, the area of Malvern East in **Hotham** are connected to Oakleigh, and Murrumbeena. The Oakleigh area is then itself connected through Clayton to the Springvale area, including Noble Park. The changes to the west with **Goldstein** make strong boundaries and this division is quite cohesive.

Page 14 Darren McSweeney

Indi

Overall assessment	24
General appearance and cohesiveness	5
Reliance on existing boundaries	5
Physical features	5
Means of communication	4
Community of interests	5

No changes to INDI, but it probably doesn't need any. The division is really two separate parts with Murrindindi and Mansfield really separate from the more northern sections, but in reality, there are channels of communication using the Midland and Maroondah Highways. I think the division of Strathbogie LGA is logical with the western part of the division focussed more toward Shepparton, so there is not a lot wrong with this division.

Isaacs

Overall assessment	11
General appearance and cohesiveness	3
Reliance on existing boundaries	2
Physical features	2
Means of communication	2
Community of interests	2

The proposed Isaacs continues to be two separate areas joined with a large and uninterrupted green wedge. To the west the suburbs along the Nepean Highway from Moorabbin to Chelsea. To the east, the southern portion of Greater Dandenong LGA including Parts of Noble Park, Dandenong and Keysborough. Separated by the green wedge spanning Heatherton, through Moorabbin Airport, Braeside and out to Bangholme. I think a reliance on existing division boundaries leaves this as almost a bits and pieces division. I am now wondering if it may be better to realign all the divisions in the outer south east to a north-south configuration. Perhaps Hotham taking the Nepean Highway and Kingston, Isaacs focussed on Greater Dandenong LGA and leaving Bruce to move fully into the northern part of Casey LGA. I don't believe this what should happen now, but it may be something to keep in mind in the future.

Jagajaga

Community of interests	4
Means of communication	4
Physical features	5
Reliance on existing boundaries	4
General appearance and cohesiveness	5
Overall assessment	22

A decent outcome for **Jagajaga**. Regaining North Warrandyte, and reusing the Yarra River as a boundary is ideal. The small area of Bundoora gained from **Scullin** is disconnected from the rest of the division, but at least it still part of the same suburb.

Kooyong

Overall assessment	8
General appearance and cohesiveness	2
Reliance on existing boundaries	2
Physical features	1
Means of communication	2
Community of interests	2

When **Higgins** was selected as the division to be abolished, the logical effect would have been to split the division, allocating parts to all the surrounding divisions. Except, that is clearly not what happened. The fact that **Macnamara** did not gain any part of the old **Higgins** is telling. It seems like leaving **Macnamara** alone was pre-determined, the Committee apparently being too exhausted to try to tackle that particular problem again. The result is **Kooyong** getting lumped with the high-end demographics of **Higgins**. The problem however, is there is no cohesiveness. It seems Toorak and Malvern were merely added to **Kooyong**, and then to make sure **Kooyong** fit the numbers, the eastern portion was sliced off. The result is two separate sections, joined only along Gardiner's Creek, with limited connections between either side. If we are serious about abolishing **Higgins**, then **Kooyong** needs to move south to accommodate that. Glen Iris and Malvern East need to be included, and Balwyn, Balwyn North and parts of Kew should be excised. The fact that **Menzies** has to expand beyond the coterminous border of Manningham LGA, it is entirely sensible for the northern part of Boroondara LGA to make up the excess in **Menzies**. This then leaves Whitehorse LGA to continue to be represented by **Deakin** and **Chisholm**.

Lalor

Overall assessment	17
General appearance and cohesiveness	3
Reliance on existing boundaries	4
Physical features	2
Means of communication	4
Community of interests	4

While the areas excised from **Lalor** have few electors, the land areas make up a clearly defined part of the division. Having both **Corio** and **Hawke** breach the Wyndham LGA appears to be tinkering at the edges to gain electors, without regard to the areas that are being affected. The residents in these areas have main focus toward Werribee in every day activities and would not rely on Geelong or Melton. For these reasons, I feel it's best to return them to **Lalor**, and find some other means to reach the threshold. I think the areas of Werribee South are similar enough to, and have geographically proximity to Point Cook for them to be include in **Gellibrand**. This balances the threshold in all divisions, and ensures the boundaries of **Lalor** are consistent with the strong and long established Wyndham LGA boundaries and the urban divide.

Page 16 Darren McSweeney

La Trobe

Overall assessment	17
General appearance and cohesiveness	4
Reliance on existing boundaries	3
Physical features	4
Means of communication	2
Community of interests	4

The only real issue with the proposed **La Trobe** is the continued inclusion of high growth Clyde Noth and parts of Berwick South. The only reason for this, is they are physically disconnected from the rest of the division. This was already mostly the case, with only the Princes Highway Link/O'Shae Road connecting the areas in Casey LGA. This has now been compounded by using this very road as the boundary, meaning there is no longer a link within the division. I was surprised to notice the division boundary ever so slightly diverting from the Cardinia LGA boundary in several locations throughout the sparsely populated areas around Cockatoo and Nangana, however I don't think these diversion make much difference to overall cohesion of the division.

Macnamara

Overall assessment	9
General appearance and cohesiveness	2
Reliance on existing boundaries	1
Physical features	2
Means of communication	2
Community of interests	2

The worst division in terms of layout could have been drastically improved with neighbouring **Higgins** being abolished. This was the perfect opportunity to improve communities of interest, lines of communication and general cohesiveness. This division has been taken over by the apparent need to group Jewish communities in and around Caufield and St Kilda East together. This is all very well, but the existing arrangements actually split the Jewish communities in Elsternwick. Having abolished **Higgins**, the Jewish communities could have ben united in a division east of Punt Road, without needing to include unrelated areas such as Albert Park, Port Melbourne and Southbank. The areas in the south and west of the division fit far better with South Yarra, Prahran and Windsor, which are jammed into other divisions – in this case now **Melbourne**. Furthermore, the idea of **Melbourne** crossing the Yarra River has merits, but in this case it has been achieved by crossing the Yarra at the wrong place. The obvious and logical solution here would be to place Southbank and parts of South Melbourne into the division of **Melbourne**. There are far more crossings, both vehicular and pedestrian, in that area rather than in Cremorne and South Yarra which are really more distinct and separate communities.

Mallee

Overall assessment	22
General appearance and cohesiveness	5
Reliance on existing boundaries	4
Physical features	5
Means of communication	4
Community of interests	4

No changes to **Mallee** is probably the best option in this case. It is unfortunate that Central Goldfields LGA is included in here rather than with **Bendigo**, however this is a case of meeting the numerical threshold and as the northern part of Pyrenees LGA is also included, at least there is some semblance of community.

Maribyrnong

Overall assessment	14
General appearance and cohesiveness	3
Reliance on existing boundaries	4
Physical features	2
Means of communication	2
Community of interests	3

MARIBYRNONG continues to get squeezed between FRASER and Gorton expanding to the west, and a static Wills to the east. This leads to the undesirable outcome of Maribyrnong crossing Moonee Ponds Creek, splitting Glenroy and Oak Park. I'm unsure if following the Tullamarine Freeway is a better boundary than Moonee Ponds Creek, with limited knowledge of the local character, and which barrier residents in this area consider stronger. However, I think crossing Moonee Ponds Creek in the north, where Essendon Airport poses a considerable barrier, while retaining Gladstone Park to be suboptimal. Maybe Maribyrnong should have expanded northward into Westmeadows or Attwood. On the other hand, maybe it's time for Maribyrnong, Wills and Cooper to realign themselves in an east-west configuration, using major roads as corridors rather than relying on the creeks to form their restrictive borders.

Page 18 Darren McSweeney

McEwen

Overall assessment	10
General appearance and cohesiveness	2
Reliance on existing boundaries	2
Physical features	2
Means of communication	2
Community of interests	2

The division with the reputation of being leftover bits and pieces continues. There was a good opportunity to consolidate **McEwen**, but alas, it was left as disjointed. The flow on effects from abruptly cutting **Calwell** are felt here in **McEwen**, with no real effort seemingly to give this division some identity. Macedon Ranges LGA has no real connection to any part of the rest of **McEwen**, and would better placed in something like **Bendigo** or **Hawke**. In fact, the only real connection, between Lancefield and Kilmore has just been severed by transferring Kimore into **Nicholls**. I think the changes in the east, splitting St Andrews and Panton Hill and making use of arbitrary SA1 boundaries, do not help and lead to confusing boundaries in that area. I do agree with adding more of Mernda into **Scullin**, the same could have been achieved with Wollert - either using the entire suburb boundary, or making use of Summerhill Road, and combined with bringing in the northern part of Mickleham and Kalkallo from **Calwell**, we could have at least somewhat more of a logical division.

Melbourne

Overall assessment	16
General appearance and cohesiveness	3
Reliance on existing boundaries	3
Physical features	3
Means of communication	4
Community of interests	3

The changes to the north are sensible, logical and use strong boundaries. Crossing the Yarra River, while a big step, was inevitable, and **Melbourne** is a logical place to do so, allowing the Yarra to be used as a strong boundary further upstream. However the means this was done here is completely illogical and contrary to any sense of community. The first choice for areas to combine with **Melbourne** would be Southbank. The area is well connected, similar in demographics, and most residents in Southbank would work, shop and spend leisure time in the city. Transferring South Yarra on the other hand, seems to be a matter of convenience. It appears the Committee decided to abolish **Higgins** and then thought where can we stick the leftover parts. While there is connections between South Yarra and Richmond or Cremorne, there is little similarity in social demographics, communication or focus. Residents in Richmond and Cremorne tend to focus northward to the city, Abbotsford or even somewhat toward Hawthorn. Residents in South Yarra, focus on the south. While true that the area around St Kilda Road is part of the suburb of Melbourne, and both this area and part of South Yarra are within the City of Melbourne, these are anachronistic lines on maps and have no real world connection. Instead I would suggest all of South Yarra and Prahran move to Macnamara, while Southbank, part of South Melbourne, go into Melbourne. I would divide this along the Melbourne -Port Phillip LGA boundary, Williamstown Road, Normanby Road, Johnston Street, the West Gate Freeway, Kingsway, Toorak Road and the Punt Road back to the River.

Menzies

Community of interests	3
Means of communication	5
Physical features	3
Reliance on existing boundaries	2
General appearance and cohesiveness	3
Overall assessment	15

Manningham LGA has too low a population to align with **Menzies** as a goal. That means either a small disconnected section of another LGA be included in **Menzies**, or we split the divisions so they don't resemble the LGA boundaries. This second option was what should have occurred at the last redistribution, but the first option was the one taken. The approach taken, combining parts of Box Hill with Doncaster is logical and makes sense. I suggested that same arrangement in my original suggestion. However, the flow on effects from the **Higgins** abolition mean the proposed **Menzies** spreading south into Whitehorse LGA is disjointed and messy. The boundary through Blackburn is terrible, and zig-zagging through Balwyn and Box Hill creates poor boundaries. I suggest, having **Kooyong** take up parts of **Higgins**, transfer Balwyn, Balwyn North and Kew into **Menzies**, which then retreats to Koonung Creek and the Manningham LGA boundary east of Elgar Road.

Monash

Community of interests	5
Means of communication	4
Physical features	4
Reliance on existing boundaries	5
General appearance and cohesiveness	5
Overall assessment	23

No changes to **Monash** is probably a good outcome. The western boundary gives a good split between the more urban Cardinia and the rural communities in Baw Baw and Bass Coast LGAs. Lines of communication are difficult between South Gippsland and Baw Baw LGAs, with electors having to cross the Strzelecki Ranges, but this configuration has been established for a number of election cycles.

Nicholls

Community of interests	4
Means of communication	4
Physical features	5
Reliance on existing boundaries	4
General appearance and cohesiveness	5
Overall assessment	22

The exchange of Kilmore for Pyalong and Tooborac probably makes sense, even though Kilmore is probably more focussed to Melbourne or along the Northern Highway rather than the Hume. I feel like **Nicholls** could pick up some of the areas to the north of **Bendigo**, but the LGA configuration in this area makes it seem less logical than it could be. Elmore probably fits in this division as much as being in **Bendigo**, and could help balance numbers further afield. However, it's probably not necessary at this stage so I think this is an acceptable arrangement.

Page 20 Darren McSweeney

Scullin

Overall assessment	16
General appearance and cohesiveness	4
Reliance on existing boundaries	3
Physical features	3
Means of communication	3
Community of interests	3

Overall, the proposed **Scullin** is not terrible. The only issue I have is that I do not support the extension across Merri Creek to pick up the numbers from Campbellfield, Somerton and Craigieburn in **Calwell**. This issue can be addressed by reversing this transfer, **McEwen**, which instead picks up **Calwell's** excess electors, can then afford to lose its part of Wollert, which unites with the parts already in **Scullin**. To then comply with the numeric threshold, **Scullin** transfers Bundoora and the industrial areas of Thomastown to **Cooper**, which can easily accommodate the excess. The Metropolitan Ring Road then becomes a strong boundary for **Scullin**, and continues the existing alignment between **Calwell** and **Wills**.

Wannon

Overall assessment	23
General appearance and cohesiveness	5
Reliance on existing boundaries	5
Physical features	5
Means of communication	4
Community of interests	4

Wannon probably relies on the formation of the surrounding divisions and then takes up the rest of the south west of the state. For this reason it now moves quite close to Geelong, perhaps a little too close. However, having said that, the configuration of both **Corio** and **Corangamite** don't really lend themselves to either taking up the portion of Golden Plains or Surf Coast LGAs that have been added to **Wannon**. If anything, taking more of Golden Plains from **Ballarat** may have been an option, but it would have cascading effects across the rest of the state.

Wills

Overall assessment	18
General appearance and cohesiveness	5
Reliance on existing boundaries	4
Physical features	4
Means of communication	2
Community of interests	3

I have a couple of concerns with **Wills**. Firstly, I think the entire Carlton and Fitzroy areas fit well with **Wills** and I think the boundaries in this area are acceptable. The obvious issue is using Pascoe Vale Road to split Glenroy and Oak Park, but transferring the areas west into **Maribyrnong**. There are few lines of communication through this area, and Pascoe Vale Road is the base of the Glenroy shopping centre. There is no road crossing of Moonee Ponds Creek between Pascoe Vale Road and the Railway viaduct. There may be a couple of pedestrian bridges, but they lead only to small residential areas. This is probably the worst place to use to cross the river. Further south, the creek boundary makes way for the Tullamarine Freeway. I am in two minds about this. The freeway certainly is an imposing barrier in the area and using this makes sense. The fact that only small portions of the suburbs west of the freeway are transferred may leave them isolated. I am, however, not familiar enough with the area to gauge whether residents in this area identify more with connections to the rest of Brunswick and Pascoe Vale, and therefore **Wills**, or to Essendon and **Maribyrnong**.

Page 22 Darren McSweeney

Suggested changes to proposed division boundaries

I feel that it is pointless and unhelpful to object without providing an alternative solution, so I feel compelled to contribute some specific suggestions to change the proposed redistribution.

The areas in the north can be vastly improved by just a simple rotation clockwise. It does end up with an excess of electors in **Scullin**, but we can transfer them south, to **Cooper**, which can easily accommodate them. This also has the benefit of using the Ring Road for the entire length between Moonee Ponds Creek and Plenty Road.

I propose that 0 actual and projected electors from the portion of SA2

Craigieburn – Central, proposed to be transferred to McEWEN, remain in

CALWELL

I propose that 37 actual and 36 projected electors from the portion of SA2 Craigieburn – North, proposed to be transferred to **McEwen**, remain in **CALWELL**

I propose that 2481 actual and 2433 projected electors from the portion of SA2 Campbellfield – Coolaroo, proposed to be transferred to **Scullin**, remain in **CALWELL**

I propose that 8 actual and projected electors from the portion of SA2 Craigieburn – South, proposed to be transferred to **Scullin**, remain in **CALWELL**

I propose that 2 actual and 3 projected electors from the portion of SA2

Roxburgh Park (South) – Somerton, proposed to be transferred to **Scullin**,

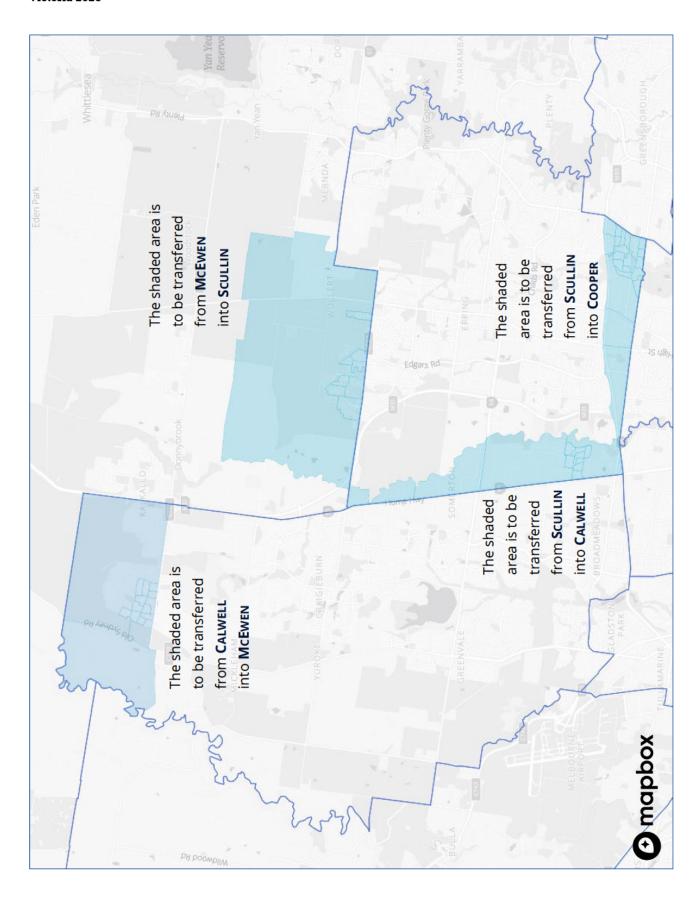
remain in **CALWELL**

I propose that 4191 actual and 4586 projected electors in SA2 Bundoora – West, proposed to remain in **Scullin**, be transferred to **Cooper**

I propose that 59 actual and 78 projected electors from the portion of SA2 Thomastown, proposed to remain in **Scullin**, be transferred to **Cooper**

I propose that 3573 actual and 7885 projected electors from the portion of SA2 Mickleham – Yuroke, proposed to remain in **CALWELL**, be transferred to **McEWEN**

I propose that 3345 actual and 7648 projected electors from the portion of SA2 Wollert, proposed to remain in **McEwen**, be transferred to **Scullin**



Next, we can better align the division of **Melbourne** by replacing South Yarra and Prahran – Windsor with Southbank and Docklands. I also add a part of South Melbourne and Albert Park to continue the alignment along Kingsway to Toorak Road.

I propose that 4628 actual and 4802 projected electors in the portion of Prahran- Windsor, proposed to be transferred to **Melbourne**, be transferred to **Macnamara**.

I propose that 1656 actual and 1840 projected electors in the portion of South Yarra – West, proposed to be transferred to **MELBOURNE** to be retained in **MACNAMARA**.

I propose 6921 actual and 7720 projected electors in the portion of South Yarra – North, proposed to be transferred to **Melbourne**, be transferred to **Macnamara**.

I propose that 7023 actual and 7205 projected electors in the portion of South Yarra – South, proposed to be transferred to **Melbourne**, be transferred to **Macnamara**.

I propose that 778 actual and 834 electors in the portion of Albert Park, proposed to remain in **MACNAMARA** be transferred to **MELBOURNE**.

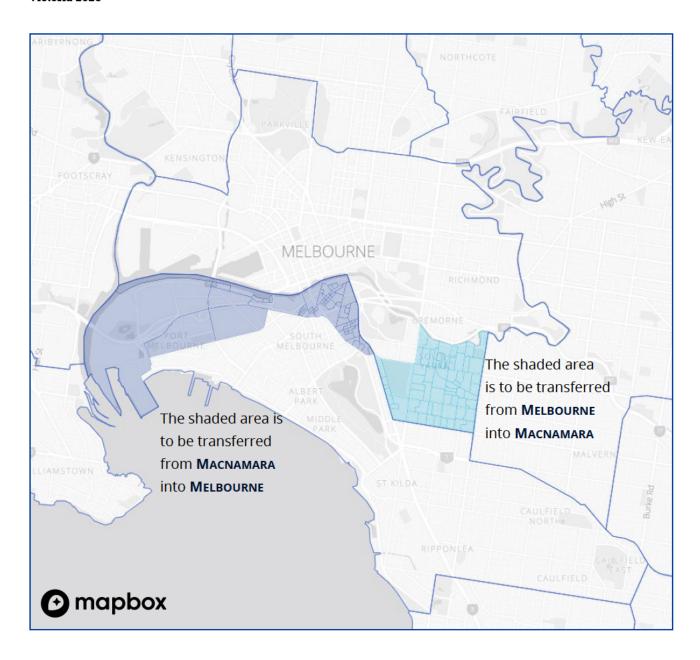
I propose that 1683 actual and 2066 projected electors in the portion of Docklands, proposed to remain in MACNAMARA be transferred to MELBOURNE.

I propose that 752 actual and 1645 projected electors in the portion of Port Melbourne Industrial, proposed to remain in **MACNAMARA** be transferred to **MELBOURNE**.

I propose that 1994 actual and 2018 projected electors in the portion of South Melbourne, proposed to remain in **Macnamara** be transferred to **Melbourne**.

I propose that 7266 actual and 7885 projected electors in SA2 Southbank – East proposed to remain in **Macnamara** be transferred to **Melbourne**.

I propose that 3234 actual and 3582 projected electors in SA2 Southbank (West) – South Wharf proposed to remain in **Macnamara** be transferred to **Melbourne**.



The next suggestion is to better represent communities of interests in the eastern suburbs. All of Menzies, Kooyong, Chisholm and Deakin make several changes. This is quite a widespread change, however, I feel it is worth the changes to achieve much better outcomes. There is a less than ideal arrangement where part of Surrey Hills and Mont Albert are transferred into Chisholm, where they'd probably be more suited going into any of Kooyong, Deakin or Menzies. However, this was necessary to maintain the numerical threshold, and I feel this less optimal situation is still far better than any other arrangement. As the divisions in this area still contain excess electors, the portion of Prahran-Windsor proposed to be in Kooyong is united with the rest of the area in Macnamara.

I propose that 1386 actual and 1548 projected electors from SA2 Burwood East, proposed to be transferred to **DEAKIN**, remain in **CHISHOLM**

I propose that 962 actual and 964 projected electors from SA2 Blackburn South proposed to remain in **DEAKIN**, be transferred to **CHISHOLM**

I propose that 5121 actual and 5286 projected electors from SA2 Forest Hill, proposed to remain in **DEAKIN**, be transferred to **CHISHOLM**

I propose that 5201 actual and 5330 projected electors from SA2 Vermont, proposed to remain in **DEAKIN**, be transferred to **CHISHOLM**

I propose that 7862 actual and 8409 projected electors from SA2 Vermont South, proposed to remain in **DEAKIN**, be transferred to **CHISHOLM**

I propose that 6039 actual and 6105 projected electors from SA2 Blackburn South, proposed to be transferred to **Menzies**, remain in **CHISHOLM**

I propose that 4220 actual and 4485 projected electors from SA2 Box Hill, proposed to be transferred to **Menzies**, remain in **Chisholm**

I propose that 5929 actual and 6397 projected electors from SA2 Surrey
Hills (East) – Mont Albert, proposed to be transferred to **Menzies**, instead be
transferred to **CHISHOLM**

I propose that 473 actual and 509 projected electors from SA2 Surrey Hills
(West) – Canterbury, proposed to be transferred to **MENZIES**, instead be
transferred to **CHISHOLM**

- I propose that 4038 actual and 4296 projected electors from SA2 Blackburn, proposed to be transferred to **MENZIES**, instead be transferred to **DEAKIN**
 - I propose that 4215 actual and 4657 projected electors from SA2 Box Hill North, proposed to be transferred to **MENZIES**, instead be transferred to **DEAKIN**
 - I propose that 559 actual and 586 projected electors from SA2 Balwyn, proposed to be transferred to **MENZIES**, instead be transferred to **DEAKIN**
 - I propose that 2683 actual and 2906 projected electors from SA2 Box Hill North, proposed to be transferred to **MENZIES**, instead be transferred to **DEAKIN**
- I propose that 5533 actual and 5867 projected electors from SA2 Blackburn, proposed to remain in **MENZIES**, be transferred to **DEAKIN**
 - I propose that 1792 actual and 2207 projected electors from SA2 Box Hill, proposed to remain in **MENZIES**, be transferred to **DEAKIN**
 - I propose that 7129 actual and 7772 projected electors from SA2 Box Hill North, proposed to remain in **MENZIES**, be transferred to **DEAKIN**
- I propose that 3982 actual and 4162 projected electors from SA2 Camberwell, proposed to be transferred to **Chisholm**, remain in **Kooyong**
- I propose that 2972 actual and 3085 projected electors from SA2 Glen Iris East, proposed to be transferred to **CHISHOLM**, remain in Kooyong
 - I propose that 0 actual and projected electors from SA2 Hawthorn East, proposed to be transferred to **Chisholm**, remain in **Kooyong**
- I propose that 5466 actual and 5679 projected electors from SA2 Ashburton (Vic.), propose to be transferred to **CHISHOLM**, instead be transferred to **KOOYONG**
- I propose that 8901 actual and 8955 projected electors from SA2 Glen Iris East, proposed to be transferred to **CHISHOLM**, instead be transferred to **KOOYONG**
- I propose that 6797 actual and 7437 projected electors from SA2 Malvern Glen Iris, proposed to be transferred to **CHISHOLM**, instead be transferred to **KOOYONG**
- I propose that 11541 actual and 12711 projected electors from SA2 Malvern East, proposed to be transferred to **CHISHOLM**, instead be transferred to **KOOYONG**

Page 28 Darren McSweeney

I propose that 7,089 actual and 7,411 projected electors in SA2 Donvale – Park Orchards, proposed to be transferred to **Deakin**, remain in **Menzies**

I propose that 970 actual and 1081 projected electors in SA2 Forest Hill, proposed to remain in **DEAKIN**, be transferred to **MENZIES**

I propose that 7408 actual and 7855 projected electors in SA2 Balwyn, proposed to remain in **KOOYONG**, be transferred to **MENZIES**

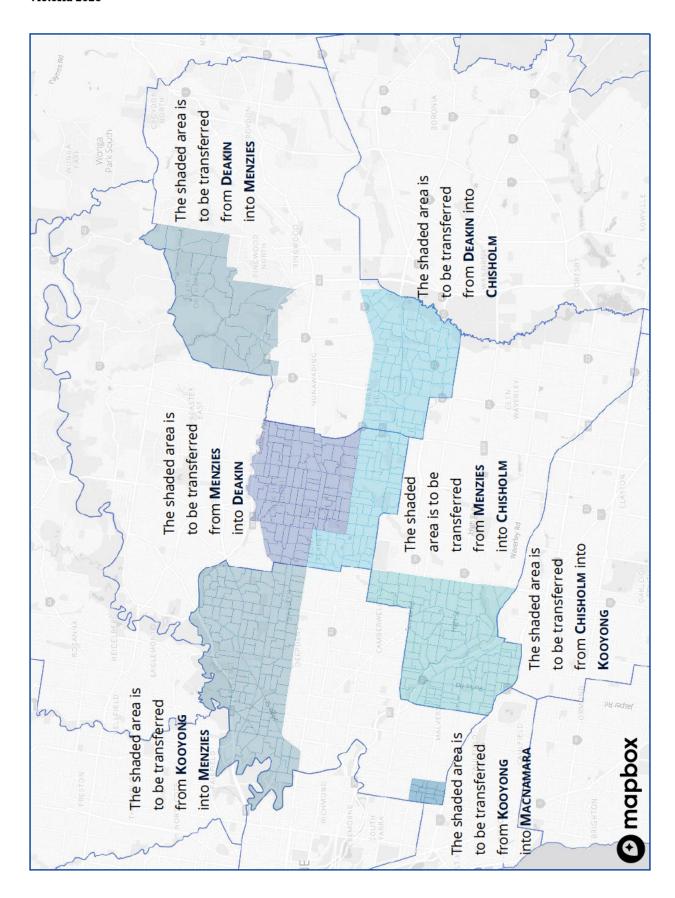
I propose that 12,182 actual and 12,774 projected electors in SA2 Balwyn North, proposed to remain in **KOOYONG**, be transferred to **MENZIES**

I propose that 3695 actual and 3895 projected electors in SA2 Kew – South, proposed to remain in **KOOYONG**, be transferred to **MENZIES**

I propose that 9,131 actual and 9,852 projected electors in SA2 Kew – West, proposed to remain in **KOOYONG**, be transferred to **MENZIES**

I propose that 4,680 actual and 5124 projected electors in SA2 Kew East, proposed to remain in **KOOYONG**, be transferred to **MENZIES**

I propose that 4488 actual and 4624 projected electors in SA2 Prahran – Windsor, proposed to be transferred to **KOOYONG**, instead be transferred to **MACNAMARA**



The last area of change is in the west. I propose restoring the Little River and Wyndham LGA boundaries for **Lalor**. This takes **Lalor** over the threshold – which I'm assuming is the reason the Committee sought to transfer these electors in the first place. However, I suggest that a better community of interests is maintained by transferring the areas around Point Cook and Werribee South into **Gellibrand**, rather than breaching the long established lines of Wyndham LGA.

Also in the area, we make an independent change between **Fraser** and **Gellibrand**, bringing the area of Spotswood back into **Gellibrand**.

Finally, a small change to reunite Bellbrae in **Corangamite**, rather than splitting the suburb as is done in the proposed division.

I propose that 0 actual and projected electors in the portion of Werribee – South, proposed to be transferred to **Corio** be retained in **LALOR**.

I propose that 640 actual and 758 projected electors in the portion of Werribee – West, proposed to be transferred to **Corio** be retained in **LALOR**.

I propose that 3 actual and 4 projected electors in the portion of Manor Lakes – Quandong, proposed to be transferred to **HAWKE** be retained in **LALOR**.

I propose that 5 actual and 10 projected electors in the portion of Wyndham Vale – North, proposed to be transferred to **HAWKE** be retained in **LALOR**.

I propose that 569 actual and 671 projected electors in the portion of Werribee – South, be transferred from **LALOR** to **GELLIBRAND**.

I propose that 1928 actual and 2016 projected electors in the portion of Newport, proposed to be transferred to **FRASER** remain in **GELLIBRAND**.

I propose that 496 actual and 552 projected electors in the portion of Torquay, proposed to be transferred to **Wannon**, be retained in **CORANGAMITE**.

