



Suggestion 34

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5 pages



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Independent Federal Member for Goldstein

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Redistribution Committee for Victoria
Australian Electoral Commission
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Canberra ACT 2601

Email: FedRedistribution-VIC@aec.gov.au

Dear Committee,

Redistribution of Victorian electoral boundaries (Division of Goldstein)

Relating to the redistribution of the Victorian electoral boundaries, I have prepared the following submission relating to my electorate, the Division of Goldstein.

Before the next election, Victoria's federal representation will reduce from 39 seats to 38. The electorate that I represent, the Division of Goldstein, is projected to be 4.6% below the statewide average quota, outside the 3.5% tolerance will be outside the -3.5% margin and will need to be expanded to be compliant.

It is my view that the Division of Goldstein should not see a reduction in any current boundaries, and that as much effort as possible should be made not to disrupt existing communities of interest outside or inside of the current boundaries. Instead, modest changes to the boundaries could be made in order to meet the required number of electors.

The Division of Goldstein is drawn around the City of Bayside, parts of the City of Glen Eira, as well as major roads and train lines. Because of this interconnection of services, the Division of Goldstein represents a clear community of interest, especially in the Bayside local government area. Additionally, it is only 1,419 electors short of fitting into the lower end of the Australian Electoral Commission target. With a rapid rate of mid and high-density development in the Cities of Bayside and Glen Eira, it is reasonable to assume that a significant redrawing of the electoral map could be quickly outdated, with conservative estimates from Bayside Council's 2016 projection estimating that just the Bayside portion of the electorate's population will grow to at least 128,114 by 2050. Given this, it would seem prudent for this electoral division to be subject to minimal geographic growth.

It is my view that the easiest boundary change would be along Glen Huntly Road, where an extension to the west to encompass the southern end of Elwood would unify a community of interest. This would effectively square off the electorate and create a neater electoral boundary. It would guarantee that Glen Huntly Road remains a hard border between the Division of Goldstein and the Division of Macnamara.

Elwood is demographically similar to North Brighton, with North Brighton in particular providing a number of amenities to the Elwood community. Most significantly, this includes several schools. Star of the Sea College and St. James Catholic Parish Primary School fall on the southern side of Glen Huntly Road, and Elsternwick Primary School, which is within the Division of Goldstein. This would unite the Elwood portion of North Brighton with the remainder of its community of interest. It makes sense that the families who live in this section of Elwood would be able to reside in the electorate that provides their education.

This section of Elwood is also already captured by the state Electoral District of Brighton. Ensuring that residents of Elwood from the southern side of Glen Huntly Road are captured by the same electoral boundaries would provide them with greater representative continuity and ensure that the highest possible portion of the state and federal seats overlap.

Additionally, it is my view that the residents of Hampton East, Highett, and Cheltenham who live between the train lines that currently make up the electoral boundary and the Nepean Highway associate strongly with the Division of Goldstein and the community of Bayside, in spite of technically living in the City of Kingston, and consideration should be given to bringing them into the electorate. During the 2022 Federal Election campaign, I was approached consistently by residents of this area these suburbs who expressed to me that they were surprised to find themselves in the neighbouring Division of Isaacs, and that they identified more strongly with the suburbs that comprise the Division of Goldstein. This was due to the connection of retail strips across the train lines and access to services. Given the interconnectedness of these suburbs from one side of the train line to another, and the harder border created by the Nepean Highway, these residents feel that they are not appropriately electorally distributed.

An ongoing issue for these residents is also the division of local government areas, which is arbitrarily used as a boundary between the Divisions of Goldstein and Isaacs. The trainline separates the City of Kingston from the City of Bayside, which has divided a community of interest who rely on each end of streets like Highett Road for amenities, shops, and other retail. It seems to me that it would make greater sense to give these residents as much continuity in representation across their suburbs as possible. Therefore, reunifying the strip along the trainline would increase their connectivity from one side of the suburb to the other. Traffic for these residents already flows far more freely to the west and into the Division of Goldstein, whereas the Nepean Highway presents commuters with a series of traffic lights, presenting an obvious obstacle in getting from one side of the Division of Isaacs to the other. As the traffic flows far more freely from one side of the suburb to the other, it seems far more appropriate for ease of movement to be borne out along electoral boundary lines.

As well as shopping and retail strips stretching from one side of the trainline to the other, a number of community amenities and organisations exist across the boundary. These notably include the Highett RSL, Highmoor Tennis Club, Highett Neighbourhood Community House, Highett Youth Club, Livingston Kindergarten, Highett Maternal Child Health Centre, among others. This high concentration of community organisations, which clearly serve a contiguous group of residents either side of the train line, form an obvious community of interest.

As with an extension of the northern boundary of the Division of Goldstein into Elwood, extending the eastern boundary to reunite these suburbs would additionally bring the federal electoral boundaries into line with the state Electoral District of Sandringham. This will provide greater continuity in representation for the people living along these suburbs on the trainline.



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Furthermore, the state government's removal of level crossings will increase accessibility between these sections of the suburbs, where cars, cyclists and pedestrians will be able to walk freely from one boundary to another. Walking across the existing boundary of the Divisions of Goldstein and Isaacs will become easy and common, especially through shopping districts. This is in sharp contrast to the Nepean Highway, which acts as a significant boundary to foot and cycling traffic. It is also worth noting that whilst these works are completed, there will be increased disruption to what is, by and large, a single, contiguous community. With this in mind, it is my view that more than ever it is important for these areas to have consistency in representation so that they can be brought closer together through advocacy.

It is fundamentally my aspiration that the Division of Goldstein will see minimal disruption, and that growth will not cut into communities of interest, and that the areas that are being included in this submission are a unification of natural communities of interest. Rather, any expansion should bring those who access amenities and services in my electorate into its parameters. I hope that any redistribution will enhance the contiguous nature of our communities and complement those around us. These two modest expansions will provide minimal disruption for the residents of the Division of Goldstein, while ensuring that communities of interest maintain the closest level of connectivity.

Current figures:

Area	Population	Cumulative population	% from state average
Current Goldstein Boundaries	111083	111083	-4.97%
Elwood south of Glen Huntly Rd SA1: 20605112902, 20605112903, 20605112904, 20605112905, 20605112906, 20605112907, 20605112908, 20605112909, 20605112910, 20605112911, 20605112912	3728	114811	-1.78%
Between the railway line and Nepean Hwy down to Charman Rd SA1: 20803118849, 20803118852, 20803118854, 20803118856, 20803118862, 20803118863, 20803119106	2000	116811	-0.07%

Projected 5 year population trend

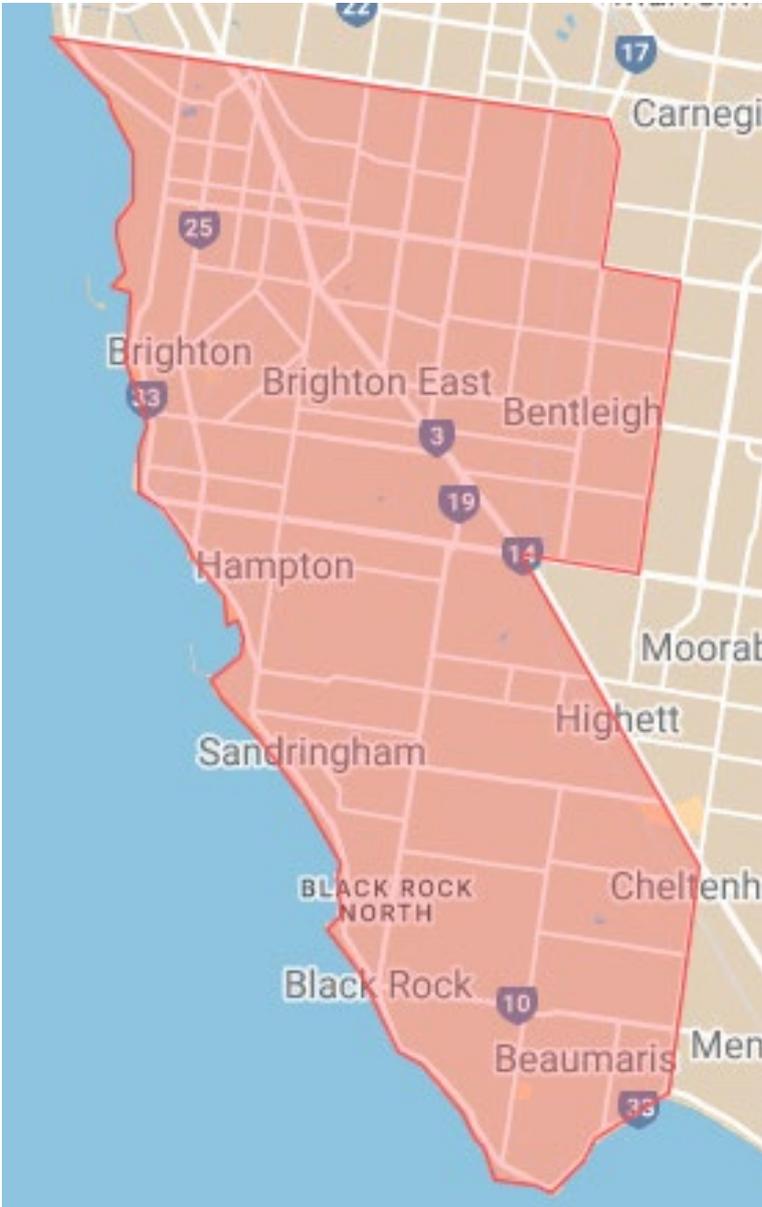
Area	Population	Cumulative population	% from state average
Current Goldstein Boundaries	121366	121366	-4.61%
Elwood south of Glen Huntly Rd SA1: 20605112902, 20605112903, 20605112904, 20605112905, 20605112906, 20605112907, 20605112908, 20605112909, 20605112910, 20605112911, 20605112912	4086	125452	-1.40%
Between the railway line and Nepean Hwy down to Charman Rd SA1: 20803118849, 20803118852, 20803118854, 20803118856, 20803118862, 20803118863, 20803119106	2195	127647	+0.32%

Draft map of proposed electoral boundaries:



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Sincerely,



Zoe Daniel MP
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