



Suggestion 45

Zoe Cook

3 pages

To the committee,

I propose that in order to meet the entitlement of Victoria to only 38 electorates, the current electorate of McEwen be absorbed into the electoral boundaries of the surrounding divisions.

McEwen is a large electorate that stretches from Woodend and Gisborne in the west to Hurstbridge and St Andrews in the east. This span covers the four LGAs of Macedon Ranges, Mitchell, Whittlesea, and Nillumbik, which all have different geopolitical landscapes. The most pronounced of these differences is the inclusion of outer Melbourne suburbs on the Metro rail lines such as Diamond Creek and Mernda, whilst also including regional outposts like Lancefield and Woodend.

In holding such a wide-ranging division, McEwen is thus positioned between the boundaries of ten other electorates. This positioning favours the removal of McEwen, as it would be much more easily divided between its neighbours than a rural or suburban electorate would be.

The map below shows a rough estimate of how the electorate could be split up, with the ten neighbouring electorates impacted as follows:

- Bendigo – The Kyneton border would be extended so that Woodend and surrounds would be included in the Bendigo electorate. This could further extend down to Macedon if population allowed. This brings communities that live on the Bendigo train line together, and gives Bendigo a greater reach into the Macedon Ranges Shire.
- Ballarat – This electorate would not actually take any physical area of McEwen's, but instead have its boundaries shifted to include more of the Hawke electorate, in order for Hawke to swallow a greater population of McEwen.
- Hawke – With a boundary brought east by the extension of Ballarat, Hawke would expand north to cover Gisborne and Romsey, and if population allows, Lancefield in the north. This would bring most of the remaining population of Macedon Ranges shire into the one electorate, and Gisborne and New Gisborne especially would be benefitted by being in the same electorate as Sunbury and other outer western suburbs, as Greater Melbourne's expanse brings Gisborne ever closer into its city boundary.
- Calwell – This electorate would be extended north to include Wallan and Wallan East, which whilst not in the Hume Council are still situated on the Hume Freeway. If population numbers allowed this could even be extended to include Heathcote Junction, it also being a Hume Freeway town.
- Scullin – This electorate is currently solely based in half the LGA of Whittlesea, and I propose its extension into more of this council area up to Upper Plenty, and across to Whittlesea. As these areas are already covered by the same government at a local level, the only hindrance in reuniting them at a federal level is population.
- Jagajaga – This electorate would lose Kangaroo Ground & surrounds to Menzies in order to gain Diamond Creek and Hurstbridge, both of which share a train line with many of the suburbs located in Jagajaga.
- Menzies – This electorate would extend west and take up Kangaroo Ground, and then north to include Pantom Hill and the Sugarloaf Reservoir.
- Casey – To cover the semi regional area above Jagajaga and Menzies, Casey would extend across to the newly extended Scullin border. This would envelope St Andrews and surrounds into Casey, which in covering the area due east of St Andrews, would have much geopolitical similarities with the new area.

- Indi – Given the population of Indi does not have much give for incorporating more before the quota is exceeded, Indi would only extend to include Kinglake National Park, cutting into the east of both Mitchell and Whittlesea LGAs.
- Nicholls – This electorate would extend south and cover the remaining northern area of McEwen, taking in Kilmore and Heathcote Junction, reuniting them with most of the rest of the Mitchell Shire.

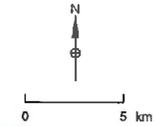
Overall, a lot of the communities located in McEwen would move more into line with the boundaries of their LGAs if McEwen were abolished, which would have an overall positive impact on the representation they have at a Federal Government level being more in line with their priorities and politics.



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**MAP OF THE COMMONWEALTH
 ELECTORAL DIVISION OF
 McEWEN**

Name and Boundary of
 Electoral Division
 Names and Boundaries of
 adjoining Electoral Divisions
 Names and Boundaries of
 Local Government Areas (2021)

McEWEN
INDI
MITCHELL



SOURCES
 This map has been compiled by CartDeco from data supplied by the Australian Electoral Commission, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Geoscape and Geoscience Australia.
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