



Suggestion 48

Mr William Ma

4 pages

23/11/2023

Dear Sir/Madam

Submission on Federal electorate boundaries – Box Hill

I welcome the opportunity to provide a submission to the 2024 Federal Redistribution for Victorian electoral boundaries.

I have long standing ties to the Box Hill area including having operated businesses in the area for over 27 years and have served in various positions for the Asian Business Association of Whitehorse including as Vice President.

Introduction

This submission focuses on amending the boundaries between the divisions of Kooyong, Deakin, Menzies and Chisholm, with particular concern given to reuniting Box Hill into a single electorate, and addressing several issues raised by the 2021 Redistribution in the Eastern suburbs.

Box Hill is arguably the most significant Metropolitan Activity Centre in Victoria given its highly developed commercial sector, fast growing centralised population, Box Hill Hospital and major transport links.

Currently there are 4 Divisions within 3 kilometres of the Box Hill Activity Centre, including a boundary running through the middle of the suburb.

Prior to the 2021 Redistribution Box Hill was united in a single Federal Division, however, following the creation of the new Division of Hawke, the Division of Menzies moved south to Whitehorse Road dividing the suburb of Box Hill in two.

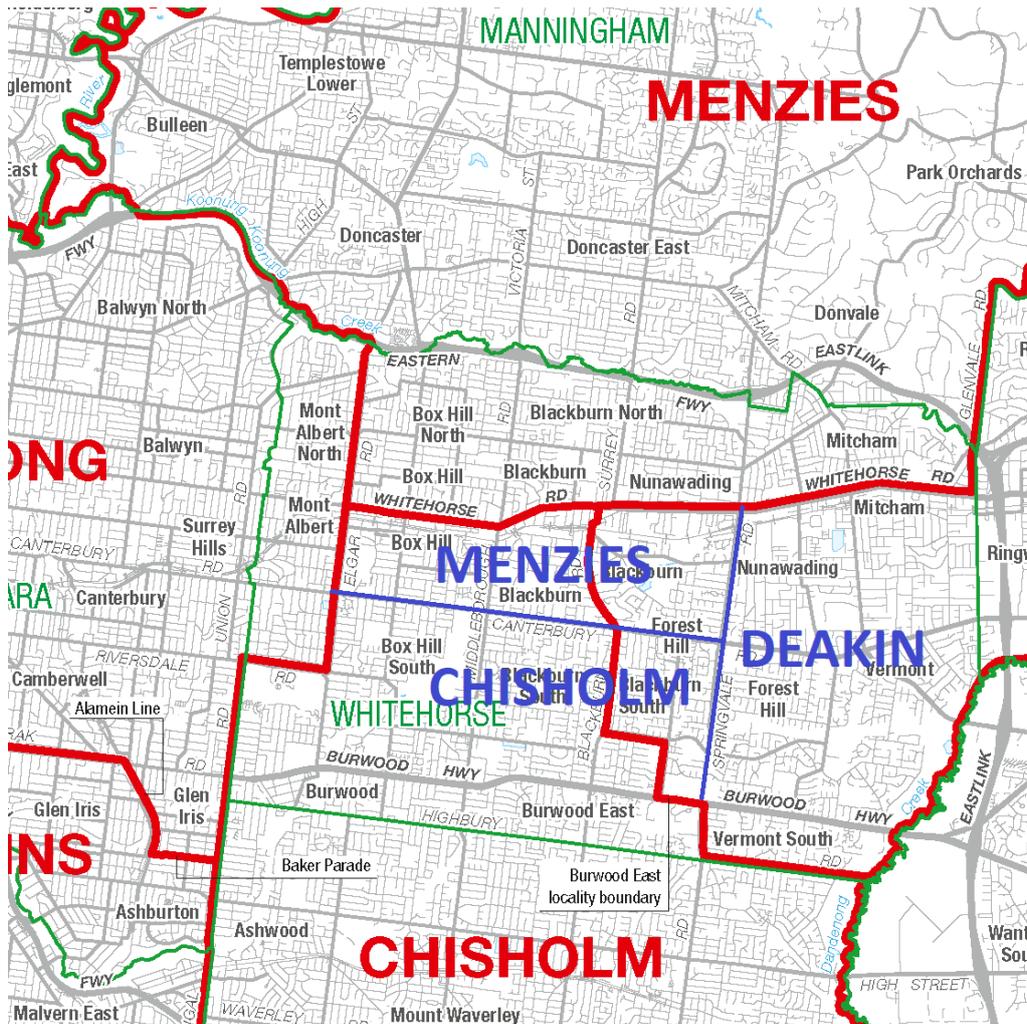
Given that a division is now to be dissolved due to diminished population projections, we would argue that Box Hill be afforded the opportunity to be reunited within a singular boundary.

As it is not guaranteed or particularly likely that the newest division of Hawke would be the dissolved and the 2018 boundaries reinstated, this submission encourages a number of minor changes to unite communities of interest in the Whitehorse City Council area.

The desire to unite Box Hill into a single division is well known to the AEC, with a number of submissions seeking this in 2021.

Submission 1: Menzies moves South

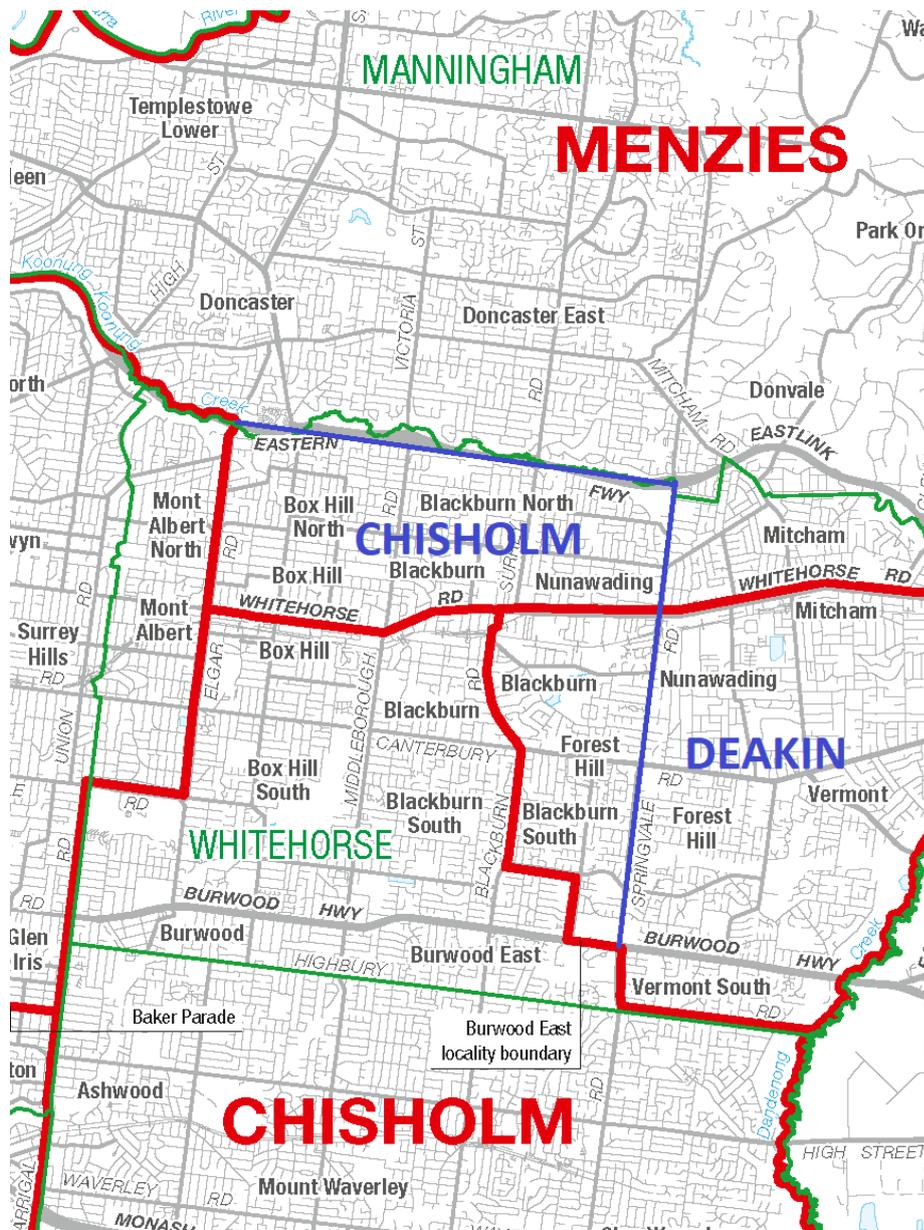
In the event of an electorate in Southeastern Melbourne be abolished, this option proposes that the Division of Menzies continue moving southward to fully encompass the remainder of Box Hill and remaining parts of Blackburn, with a new southern boundary moving from Whitehorse Road to Canterbury Road.



Blackburn is intrinsically linked to Box Hill both as the major commercial district for the area, through all major East-West transport links, and through local sporting leagues, and should too be fully united into a single electorate rather than divided across 3 Divisions. This would ensure a clear vision could be provided by a single Member of Parliament working with Whitehorse City Council, to ensure that Box Hill continues to develop in a cohesive manner.

This would also only be a minor change for the Division of Deakin, which would return to its 2018 western boundary.

Submission 2: Chisholm moves North



In the event of an electorate in Northwestern Melbourne being abolished, this option proposes that the boundary of Chisholm move north (either to the Eastern Freeway or Koonung Creek), with the eastern boundary moving to Springvale Road.

This would then serve the purpose of uniting Box Hill, Box Hill North, Box Hill South, Blackburn, Blackburn North and Blackburn South into a single electorate, being Chisholm.

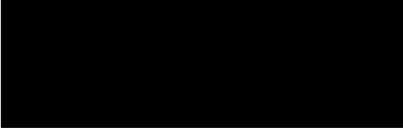
Conclusion

Both of these suggestions seek to account for the two most likely possibilities for the abolition of a division in Victoria and would remove the sub-optimal boundaries in the middle of Box Hill.

Obviously, both of these proposals would see significant population shift, but I leave further boundary changes to the Redistribution Committee, as the scope of this submission focuses on Box Hill and surrounds.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission.

Yours Sincerely



Mr William Ma