



# Suggestion 58

Peter Mitchell

7 pages

## Victorian federal redistribution submission

### Submission

Pursuant to section 60(1) of the Electoral Act, the Australian Electoral Commission has appointed a Redistribution Committee for Victoria.

I wish to make the following submission to provide the Redistribution Committee with suggestions that I hope may assist them as they undertake the difficult task of reducing the number of Electoral Divisions within Victoria.

I was looking forward to providing a submission to cover all of Victoria, but upon reviewing the data provided by the ABS to the Redistribution Committee, I do not feel in all good conscience that I am able to do so as I believe the proposed figures for April 2028 to be misleading.

As a result, my submission will touch on a number of seats including, Mallee, Indi, Nicholls, Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Corangamite, Wannon, McEwan and Melbourne

### Growth Since the last redistribution

		July 2021 Figures	9 Aug 23 Figures	Actual growth
1	ASTON	110700	110,768	68
2	BALLARAT	108967	112,865	3,898
3	BENDIGO	111097	113,381	2,284
4	BRUCE	112902	114,307	1,405
5	CALWELL	103902	115,327	11,425
6	CASEY	114633	115,636	1,003
7	CHISHOLM	109068	110,672	1,604
8	COOPER	108238	110,943	2,705
9	CORANGAMITE	107703	116,531	8,828
10	CORIO	111853	113,985	2,132
11	DEAKIN	113281	113,985	704
12	DUNKLEY	111603	112,715	1,112
13	FLINDERS	113861	114,469	608
14	FRASER	110599	113,089	2,490
15	GELLIBRAND	107524	112,851	5,327
16	GIPPSLAND	113281	116,666	3,385
17	GOLDSTEIN	109408	111,083	1,675
18	GORTON	108417	118,708	10,291
19	HAWKE	105054	111,225	6,171
20	HIGGINS	107464	109,335	1,871
21	HOLT	104749	113,159	8,410
22	HOTHAM	115555	117,704	2,149
23	INDI	115447	118,876	3,429
24	ISAACS	110688	113,084	2,396
25	JAGAJAGA	113831	114,336	505
26	KOORYONG	112818	113,586	768
27	LALOR	104191	116,506	12,315
28	LA TROBE	102718	113,306	10,588
29	MCEWEN	104939	114,082	9,143

30	MACNAMARA	109505	112,881	3,376
31	MALLEE	120084	121,563	1,479
32	MARIBYRNONG	109500	110,438	938
33	MELBOURNE	109274	115,139	5,865
34	MENZIES	112923	112,994	71
35	MONASH	107922	113,398	5,476
36	NICHOLLS	113476	114,691	1,215
37	SCULLIN	108069	111,244	3,175
38	WANNON	114890	116,485	1,595
39	WILLS	108306	110,228	1,922

Since the last election the growth in electors has ranged from 68 electors to 12,315 electors over a 25-month period. A variance of 12,227 Electors

However, the projections for the next period of 9 August 2023 to April 2028 are for a much smaller variance between seats.

		9 Aug 23 Figures	Forecast April 28	Forecast Growth
1	ASTON	110,768	120,615	9,847
2	BALLARAT	112,865	121,873	9,008
3	BENDIGO	113,381	122,771	9,390
4	BRUCE	114,307	124,753	10,446
5	CALWELL	115,327	125,369	10,042
6	CASEY	115,636	124,041	8,405
7	CHISHOLM	110,672	121,345	10,673
8	COOPER	110,943	121,431	10,488
9	CORANGAMITE	116,531	127,763	11,232
10	CORIO	113,985	123,102	9,117
11	DEAKIN	113,985	123,966	9,981
12	DUNKLEY	112,715	122,613	9,898
13	FLINDERS	114,469	124,658	10,189
14	FRASER	113,089	123,858	10,769
15	GELLIBRAND	112,851	123,999	11,148
16	GIPPSLAND	116,666	126,776	10,110
17	GOLDSTEIN	111,083	121,366	10,283
18	GORTON	118,708	129,116	10,408
19	HAWKE	111,225	119,315	8,090
20	HIGGINS	109,335	119,660	10,325
21	HOLT	113,159	122,766	9,607
22	HOTHAM	117,704	128,957	11,253
23	INDI	118,876	128,444	9,568
24	ISAACS	113,084	123,385	10,301
25	JAGAJAGA	114,336	124,073	9,737
26	KOOYONG	113,586	124,455	10,869
27	LALOR	116,506	127,852	11,346
28	LA TROBE	113,306	122,917	9,611

29	MCEWEN	114,082	122,185	8,103
30	MACNAMARA	112,881	124,756	11,875
31	MALLEE	121,563	131,342	9,779
32	MARIBYRNONG	110,438	120,461	10,023
33	MELBOURNE	115,139	126,170	11,031
34	MENZIES	112,994	123,466	10,472
35	MONASH	113,398	123,796	10,398
36	NICHOLLS	114,691	124,233	9,542
37	SCULLIN	111,244	121,016	9,772
38	WANNON	116,485	125,633	9,148
39	WILLS	110,228	120,751	10,523

The forecast growth ranges from 8090 electors to 11,875 electors over a the next 56-month period. A variance of 3,785 electors.

Of particular concern is the prediction that some seats with an historical small growth in numbers are in the next 56 months going to outgrow seats that are recognisably in growth corridors.

An example of this is Mallee, which according to these projections is going to have more electors join it than either McEwan, Holt, or Hawke. The same growth is expected in Menzies.

For years the seats north of the Yarra River have grown at a quicker rate than those south of the Yarra. These projections show a sudden swing where this trend totally turns around.

The AEC figures of September 30, 2023, for Victoria, highlight the disconnect between the reality of actual enrolments compared to projected.

	9 Aug 23 Enrolments	30 Sep 23 Enrolments	Increase	Percentage towards April 28 figures
ASTON	110,768	111481	713	7.24%
BALLARAT	112,865	113607	742	8.24%
BENDIGO	113,381	114022	641	6.83%
BRUCE	114,307	114746	439	4.20%
CALWELL	115,327	116812	1,485	14.79%
CASEY	115,636	116079	443	5.27%
CHISHOLM	110,672	111047	375	3.51%
COOPER	110,943	111937	994	9.48%
CORANGAMITE	116,531	117625	1,094	9.74%
CORIO	113,985	114435	450	4.94%
DEAKIN	113,985	114232	247	2.47%
DUNKLEY	112,715	113284	569	5.75%
FLINDERS	114,469	115202	733	7.19%
FRASER	113,089	113615	526	4.88%
GELLIBRAND	112,851	113883	1,032	9.26%
GIPPSLAND	116,666	117104	438	4.33%
GOLDSTEIN	111,083	111890	807	7.85%
GORTON	118,708	120132	1,424	13.68%
HAWKE	111,225	112145	920	11.37%

HIGGINS	109,335	110089	754	7.30%
HOLT	113,159	114477	1,318	13.72%
HOTHAM	117,704	118065	361	3.21%
INDI	118,876	119491	615	6.43%
ISAACS	113,084	113766	682	6.62%
JAGAJAGA	114,336	114836	500	5.14%
KOOYONG	113,586	114157	571	5.25%
LA TROBE	113,306	114902	1,596	16.61%
LALOR	116,506	117843	1,337	11.78%
MACNAMARA	112,881	113680	799	6.73%
MALLEE	121,563	121770	207	2.12%
MARIBYRNONG	110,438	111265	827	8.25%
MCEWEN	114,082	115415	1,333	16.45%
MELBOURNE	115,139	116287	1,148	10.41%
MENZIES	112,994	113216	222	2.12%
MONASH	113,398	114052	654	6.29%
NICHOLLS	114,691	115430	739	7.74%
SCULLIN	111,244	111859	615	6.29%
WANNON	116,485	116899	414	4.53%
WILLS	110,228	111252	1,024	9.73%

If we take the growth from August 9, 2023, figures to September 30, 2023, being the rough equivalent of 3.57% of the April 2028 projections the following seats have underperformed and have only reached the following % growth of the April 2028 redistribution projections.

#### **North of the Yarra**

Mallee 2.12%

#### **South of the Yarra**

Menzies 2.12%

Deakin 2.47%

Hotham 3.21%

Chisholm 3.51%

On the other hand, the following seats have overperformed and have now reached the following % growth of the April 2028 redistribution projections.

#### **North of the Yarra**

McEwan 16.45%

Calwell 14.79%

Gorton 13.68%

Lalor 11.78%

Hawke 11.37%

Melbourne 10.41%

## **South of the Yarra**

Latrobe 16.61%

Holt 13.72%

McEwan is now the closest seat to reaching its April 28 project still needing 6,770 electors to reach this target. If the current trends hold true it could get there by June 2024.

The result of the disconnect is that the future boundaries drawn could lead to a malapportioned result in 2028 with seats varying significantly from each other.

The consequences for constituents in the larger seats of not having an equal chance to see their Member of Parliament or their staff (as party MP's get the same number of staff) could lead to disastrous result for constituent's issues or staff mental health.

Another consequence is that the new figures compared to a projection based on enrolments from the last 25 months could see a seat unnecessary crossing the Yarra when there is potentially no need.

Specific seats

### **Mallee**

	9 Aug 23 Figures	Forecast April 28	Forecast Growth	2028 Min	2028 Max
<b>MALLEE</b>	<b>121,563</b>	<b>131,342</b>	<b>9,779</b>	122,785	131,691

As mentioned previously I don't believe this seat will grow by this amount but based on the last 25 months' worth of growth I believe it will be above the 17 April 2028 minimum, so I therefore believe that there is no need to change this seat's boundaries.

### **Indi**

	9 Aug 23 Figures	Forecast April 28	Forecast Growth	2028 Min	2028 Max
<b>INDI</b>	<b>118,876</b>	<b>128,444</b>	<b>9,568</b>	122,785	131,691

As mentioned previously I don't believe this seat will grow by this amount but based on the last 25 months' worth of growth I believe it will be above the 17 April 2028 minimum, so I therefore believe that there is no need to change these seats boundaries.

### **Wannon**

	9 Aug 23 Figures	Forecast April 28	Forecast Growth	2028 Min	2028 Max
<b>WANNON</b>	<b>116,485</b>	<b>125,633</b>	<b>9,148</b>	122,785	131,691

As mentioned previously I don't believe this seat will grow by this amount but based on the last 25 months' worth of growth I believe it should include the areas of Gherang & Inverleigh from Corangamite to ensure that it reaches the minimum number needed in April 2028.

### Nicholls

	9 Aug 23 Figures	Forecast April 28	Forecast Growth	2028 Min	2028 Max
<b>NICHOLLS</b>	114,691	124,233	9,542	122,785	131,691

As mentioned previously I don't believe this seat will grow by this amount but based on the last 25 months' worth of growth I believe it should include the areas of Lancefield and Kilmore from McEwan.

### Ballarat

	9 Aug 23 Figures	Forecast April 28	Forecast Growth	2028 Min	2028 Max
<b>BALLARAT</b>	<b>112,865</b>	<b>121,873</b>	<b>9,008</b>	122,785	131,691

Ballarat is projected to fall short of the 2028 minimum. I believe it should include the areas of Central Woodlands and West Moorabool wards of the Moorabool Council from Hawke, on top of its current boundaries to at least reach the minimum needed for April 2028.

### Bendigo

	9 Aug 23 Figures	Forecast April 28	Forecast Growth	2028 Min	2028 Max
<b>BENDIGO</b>	<b>113,381</b>	<b>122,771</b>	<b>9,390</b>	122,785	131,691

Bendigo is projected to fall short of the 2028 minimum. I believe it should include the Woodend from McEwan, on top of its current boundaries to at least reach the minimum needed for April 2028.

### Corio and Corangamite

	9 Aug 23 Figures	Forecast April 28	Forecast Growth	2028 Min	2028 Max
<b>CORIO</b>	<b>113,985</b>	<b>123,102</b>	<b>9,117</b>	122,785	131,691

	9 Aug 23 Figures	Forecast April 28	Forecast Growth	2028 Min	2028 Max
<b>CORANGAMITE</b>	<b>116,531</b>	<b>127,763</b>	<b>11,232</b>	122,785	131,691

The twin Geelong seats of Corio and Corangamite have been consistent in their different Growth rates over the last several years. Corio has grown by 2,132 since the last redistribution whereas Corangamite has grown by 8,828. For this reason,

I believe the proposed growth figures underestimate the growth in Corangamite and overestimate in Corio. As a result I believe Corio should have a higher starting enrolment coming from Corangamite. I believe Corio should be expanded by taking areas along the midland highway from Corangamite including Bannockburn.

As mentioned previously Corangamite should lose a small amount of territory to Wannon.

### **Melbourne**

	9 Aug 23 Figures	Forecast April 28	Forecast Growth	2028 Min	2028 Max
MELBOURNE	115,139	126,170	11,031	122,785	131,691

Melbourne is projected to be around the midpoint for the 2028 figures and over the past few years has tracked along within the target range. I see no need to change these boundaries particularly as the expected Growth in North Melbourne does not seem to be factored in.