



# Suggestion 6

Martin Gordon

2 pages

The Electoral Redistribution Committee for Victoria

Dear Commissioners,

### **Proposals for Redistribution of Victoria**

I wish to make a submission to the committee for the state of Victoria. It will be largely narrative in nature. As in the past with various states and territories I make this in a personal capacity. I have relied upon AEC elector projections and have found some of the suggestions of various contributors on various websites such as Poll Bludger and Tally Room to be quite helpful.

The basis of my proposals follows the following logic:

- The number of Victorian Divisions is to decrease by one to 38 (from 39);
- I have relied heavily on the projected elector numbers;
- I have worked from fixed boundaries, such as the ocean, state boundaries and worked inland with the following logic, the Divisions near the state extremities at over, at or very close to quota (such as Wannon, Mallee, Indi, Gippsland) and do not need to be substantially changed;
- A number of Divisions are near quota or close enough and may not need any changes or only minor ones such as Lalor, Flinders, Monash, La Trobe, Gorton, Kooyong. Because of their location and closeness to quota making little or no changes to them is a reasonable approach;
- The Yarra River has tended to be a barrier which is rarely crossed. I think this a mistake and the barrier is in our mind. Whilst many Divisions have tended to be located on one side or the other there is a record of Divisions crossing the Yarra, such as Melbourne Ports including parts of Richmond. At the state level Burnley used to be included in Hawthorn. At the local government level the City of Melbourne includes the Southbank (ie south of the Yarra). In the long distant past Melbourne Ports used to include Williamstown! My reasoning is that based on the projections to 2028 the 13 Divisions outside of Melbourne are 28,601 voters short, the 13 Divisions east of the Yarra in Melbourne are 52,706 voters short, and the 13 Divisions north and west of the Yarra are 45,927 voters short. Given that to bring the 13 extra-Melbourne Divisions up or at least near quota it will increase the shortfall in north and west Melbourne in particular as the numbers to remedy the deficiency will come from Gorton, Hawke, Calwell, Scullin and Jaga Jaga, to boost numbers in McEwen, Ballarat (as conduits for deficiencies elsewhere). The problems in eastern Melbourne are less pressing as fewer Divisions east of Melbourne are significantly under average 2028 quota. Rather than abolishing a seat like Hotham on the eastern near extremity of Melbourne a Division closer to the centre of the city and which could be used to supplement elector numbers both north/west and east of the Yarra makes more sense. The greatest concentration of very under-quota Divisions is near the core of Melbourne, not the periphery;

- The ten most under quota Divisions that are most central are Goldstein (-5872), Higgins (-7578), Cooper (-5807), Maribyrnong (-6777), Scullin (-6222), Wills (-6487), Jaga Jaga (-3165), Kooyong (-2783), Melbourne (-1068), Mcnamara (-2482). The shortfalls of these Divisions are some 48,241 electors;
- Then there is another ring of thirteen Divisions like Gellibrand (-3239), Fraser (-3380), Calwell (-1869), Hawke (-7923), Menzies (-3772), Deakin (-3272), Chisholm (-5893), Casey (-3197), Aston (-6623), Bruce (-2485), Holt (-4472), Isaacs (-3853), Dunkley (-4625). The shortfalls of these Divisions are some 54,603 electors. The only Divisions over quota are Lalor (614), Gorton (1878), Hotham (1719) and they are on the periphery. I would add that Divisions on the northern and western periphery of Melbourne will shed some electors to Divisions like Ballarat and McEwen to bolster their numbers;
- I would recommend that the Division to be abolished be Mcnamara which would because of its central location be able to fill shortfalls of electors across the metropolitan area. The Division of Melbourne would span the Yarra River and the southern portions of Mcnamara would first be applied to Higgins and Goldstein, both of which it borders and flow to Divisions across eastern Melbourne. Whilst parts of the Melbourne Division would be placed in Cooper, Wills, Maribyrnong, all of which it borders, and would feed through to western and northern outer Divisions;
- Names of Divisions has a particular prominence, such as federation names, prime ministers names, aboriginal names and number of women's names should be sought to be maintained. As it happens Melbourne Ports was disestablished and its replacement of Mcnamara has only briefly existed anyway. Co-naming should also be encouraged if necessary to ensure adequate honouring; and
- In the background is apparent plans to enlarge the Senate and House of Representatives, which might mean the new boundaries might be shortly revisited.

## Conclusion

I wish the Commissioners all the best in their deliberations.

Martin Gordon

31/10/2023

Mr Martin Gordon

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