



# Suggestion 61

Australian Greens Victoria

8 pages

## **Redistribution Submission By Australian Greens Victoria (Draft)**

In starting this redistribution the Greens' first consideration, as we imagine for most others, is whether to abolish an electorate north or south of the Yarra. In either case it then becomes necessary to move a large number of electors into seats primarily based on the other side of the river.

At first sight we considered it more logical to abolish a seat on the southern side, since the discrepancies are slightly greater on that side, and fewer voters would need to be shifted into cross-river electorates.

However, the only areas south of the river that are easy to move into northern seats without creating a great deal of disruption have small populations. These include Southbank, Warrandyte and some areas like Healesville that are technically north of the river, but are currently included in a south of river electorate. These areas do not include nearly enough people to balance up the two sides. We are therefore concerned that the abolition of a south-side electorate will force the moving of large chunks of territory south of the river into electorates in which they are a poor fit on almost all criteria.

On the other hand, it is possible to move Nillumbik (except for Doreen) into Menzies and Casey with much less disruption. Both Menzies and Casey already cross the river, albeit in a very small way for Menzies, and areas like Eltham have much more in common with Warrandyte than most other places on the river have with the suburbs on the opposite bank. From 1969 to 1984 the electorate of Diamond Valley spanned the river in this area. Doreen is closer in distance and demographics to population centers we propose to put in Scullin than it is to the places we propose to include in Menzies or Casey and without it Nillumbik does not have quite as large an enrollment as would be ideal to create balance between the two sides, but it goes much closer than what we consider the best opportunities for river-crossing on the south side. Moreover, if the part of Eltham North that was (somewhat strangely) placed in the City of Banyule is also included in Menzies, the balance is even better.

When selecting a north-side seat for abolition we consider McEwen the stand-out candidate. McEwen is a long-standing electorate, but its main population centers have more in common with neighboring electorates than they do with each other. We suspect that the average voter in Woodend would be surprised to learn they are in the same electorate as Hurstbridge or Kilmore. They probably feel much more connected to Kyneton, in the electorate of Bendigo. Certainly this has been the feedback we have received over the years from Greens members, particularly those newly arriving in the electorate who are surprised to learn it seems to be made up of pieces that geographically and demographically feel like cast-offs from their neighbors.

If this decision is accepted the process becomes effectively two separate redistributions, each much easier to do than one for the whole state as they have far fewer degrees of freedom.

We note that forward enrollment projections are always difficult to get right, and after the disruptions of the pandemic this is particularly so. Certainly changes based on the last three years are a poor guide for what to expect in future. Consequently, where possible, we have tried to keep electorates close to the projected quota, rather than using every bit of the 3.5 percent tolerance.

## Summary of proposal

Abolish McEwen

Leave unchanged:

Corangamite, Corio\*, Fraser, Gellibrand, Gippsland, Gorton, Lalor, Macnamara, Monash.

Asterisks indicate electorates I'm a bit less happy with, but haven't found a way to improve.

Suggestions welcome for any, but particularly these.

Electorate	Areas in	Areas Out
Aston	Endeavor Hills North (9096)	None
Ballarat*	Newstead and Gilford (1687), Ballan and surrounds, using the Werribee River as the boundary (3159)	None
Bendigo	Macedon and Woodend (9277)	Newstead and Gilford (1687)
Bruce *	Noble Park North (1820) Parts of Mulgrave (4847) South Dandenong north of the bypass (1950)	Endeavor Hills North (9096) Area west of The Hallam Main Drain and Cranbourne Road and south of Shrives Road (658)
Calwell	Wallan (17,393) and Romsey (8730)	West Meadows and Greenvale-Bulla (24487)
Casey	Panton Hill and Hurstbridge (7089)	Shire of Cardinia (1228)
Chisholm	Menzies south of the freeway and west of Springvale road (21,844), and Deakin west of Springvale road (9,111)	Burwood west of the university (2305) Area south of the Monash freeway (6657) Wheeler's Hill (15311)
Cooper	Clifton Hill (5416)	None
Deakin	Menzies south of the freeway and east of Springvale road (7656) Part of Park Orchards (3761)	All its territory west of Springvale road (9111)
Dunkley	Carrum-Patterson Lakes south of the Patterson River (8265)	Mount Eliza southwest of Jesse White Creek and Boxmoor Reserve (2834)
Flinders	Mount Eliza southwest of Jesse White Creek and Boxmoor Reserve (2834)	None
Goldstein	Bentleigh East west of east boundary road, and north of Center Rd (3479)	None
Hawke *	Gisborne (11138) and Riddells Creek (3650)	Ballan and surrounds, using the Werribee River as the boundary (3159)
Higgins	Hughesdale north of the railway line (1968) Glen Iris/Ashburton that is now in Kooyong (3240)	None
Holt*	Area west of Troupes Creek and south of Shrives Road (658)	None
Hotham	Area of Chisholm south of the Monash freeway (6657) Wheeler's Hill (15311)	Keysborough North (8815)+Springvale South (8742) Noble Park North (1820)

		Hughesdale north of the railway line (1968) Mulgrave (1950) Bentleigh East west of east boundary road, and north of Center Rd (3479)
Indi	Euroa surrounds (774), Yea surrounds (32) Benalla surrounds (43)	None
Isaacs	Keysborough North (8815)+ Springvale South (8742)	Carrum-Patterson Lakes south of the Patterson River (8265) Dandenong north of the bypass (1950)
JagaJaga	Mill Park and Bundoora (32325)	Eltham (18324) Plenty-Yarrambat (4083) Research North Warrandyte (3084)
Kooyong	Burwood west of the university (2305)	Glen Iris/Ashburton that is now in Kooyong (3240)
Latrobe	Shire of Cardinia (1228)	None
Mallee		Avoca (2245)
Maribyrnong	West Meadows and Greenvale-Bulla (24487)	Flemington and Kensington (15164)
Melbourne	Flemington and Kensington (15164)	Clifton Hill (5416) Brunswick East (3696) and Fitzroy North north of Park Street (3261)
Menzies	Eltham (18324) Plenty-Yarrambat (4083) Research North Warrandyte (3084)	Area south of the Freeway (29500) plus Part of Park Orchards (3761)
Nicholls*	Kilmore (8052)	Euroa surrounds (774), Yea surrounds (32) Benalla surrounds (43)
Scullin	Whittlesea (9216), Wollert (3661), Mernda (10869) Doreen (18587)	Mill Park and Bundoora (32325)
Wannon	Avoca (2245)	None
Wills	Brunswick East (3696) and Fitzroy North north of Park Street (3261)	None

In a few cases this proposal splits SA1s, so the numbers are not exact.

**The most crucial point for consideration from the political point of view is that Wills would gain more benefit electorally from moving North Carlton in instead of the northern bit of North Fitzroy. However, I believe this proposal is much more saleable to a neutral committee**

## North of the River and Western Victoria

In keeping with our argument that McEwen is the preferred electorate to abolish, it is obvious where most of its territory should go if this does occur, with only a few areas harder to allocate. As is always the case for electorates that border on the one that is abolished, this pushes most of the neighbours outside the allowed 2028 population projections, but there are generally opportunities for transfers from these neighbours that do not damage communities of interest, and in some cases enhance them.

As previously noted Woodend (6373 electors projected in the SA2 for 2028) has a strong community of interest with towns in the Bendigo electorate, and the same goes for Macedon (2854). Moving the SA2s that fall within McEwen into **Bendigo** unites areas that always really belonged together.

McEwen aside, **Hawke** is probably the existing electorate most lacking a clear identity. Adding Gisborne (11138) and Riddells Creek (3650) does not resolve this, but we submit that it still represents an improvement, and certainly does not make things worse

We suggest that Hurstbridge (2757) and Panton Hill-St Andrews (4332) should go to **Casey**, rather than to Menzies. The fact the Greens' vote and membership is so high in these areas and in parts of Casey such as Healseville and Belgave is not in itself relevant to the Committee's decision making. However it is reflective of a demographic, often referred to as "treechangers" that these areas share with parts of Casey such as Healesville and Warburton. The presence of so many people who have moved to an area for its scenic beauty, but often then found themselves threatened by bushfires and other natural disasters is a strong basis for a community of interest.

Whittlesea (9216), Wollert (3661) and Mernda (10869) SA2s from Whittlesea LGA could hardly be more different from places like Panton Hill, and have much more in common with **Scullin**. We propose they be moved there, along with Doreen (18687).

Wallan (17,393) is a strong fit with **Calwell**. Romsey (8730) is the part of McEwen we find hardest to place, but the numbers work out best if it is also goes to Calwell.

The Kilmore-Broadford SA2 is currently split between McEwen and **Nicholls**. Moving Kilmore into Nicholls brings these areas with so much in common the ABS combined them into the same statistical area into one electorate, although some compensatory moves need to be made to bring Nicholls within the allowed projected range.

As noted, we believe Wattle Glen-Diamond Creek (11059) and Plenty-Yarrambat (3512) have more in common with **Menzies** than other areas that border the river do with their counterparts on the opposite bank. Adding Eltham (18324), the rest of Plenty Yarrambat (4083) and Research-North Warrandyte (3084) from JagaJaga strengthens this community of interest further.

As noted, these transfers put the initial ring of electorates that currently surround McEwen above the maximum number of projected electors. To bring them back to appropriate levels, and often address shortages in projected enrollment in electorates further away we propose

If Guilford and Newstead (combined projected enrollment for them and their surrounds 1687) are shifted from Bendigo to **Ballarat** along with the Ballan area from Hawke (3159) all three electorates are now comfortably within the allowable projected range. The Werribee river represents a relatively strong boundary for much of the way between Ballarat and Hawke.

If the small sections of the Euroa (774) Yea (32) and Benalla surrounds (43) SA2s are moved from Nicholls to **Indi** both are within the allowable range for projected voters. On the assumption that SA2s have generally been chosen by the ABS to reflect long-standing communities of interest, uniting these SA2s in the electorate of Indi is desirable even were it not necessary to bring Nicholls' population within tolerance. Moving Avenal as well would provide greater tolerance against the projections proving inaccurate. We have not proposed this because we consider it to have closer communities of interest with Nicholls and Indi, but a strong argument could be made either way, and such a change would not disrupt any other electorates.

Neither **Mallee** nor **Wannon** need to change their existing boundaries. However, currently the projections put the one towards the high end of the allowable population range and the other is somewhat on the low side. Consequently, making a small adjustment would act as a safeguard against population growth not proving consistent with projections. Moving Avoca (2245) to Wannon not only addresses this, but unites a currently split LGA, which is almost always a desirable goal on community of interest grounds, particularly for such a small council.

Having lost its eastern end to Menzies **JagaJaga** requires a substantial compensating move in, and this can come in the form of the parts of Bundoora that are currently in Scullin, and Mill Park. This creates a radically different electorate from the existing one – probably the largest change we are proposing in the character of an electorate, but the fact that ?? Bundoora ?? indicates the seed of the electorate we are proposing already lies in JagaJaga.

**Calwell** also needs to lose many of its existing voters to compensate for gaining such larger areas. With the Gladstone Park-West Meadows SA2 already predominately in **Maribyrnong** it makes sense to unite this area moving 7839 projected voters. If Greenvale-Bulla (16648) is moved along with it the numbers for Calwell falls quite close to the quota.

Having gained around 24487 from Calwell on this proposal Maribyrnong will need to lose a substantial number of its existing voters. The Maribyrnong River is one of the strongest boundaries in the state, being not only a geographical divide by having LGA (and state electorate) boundaries following its length, so we consider it undesirable to move areas to Gorton or Fraser, which moreover are not in need of changing their existing boundaries. The Moonee Ponds Creek is also a very strong boundary, particularly for most of its way where it is followed closely by City-Link. Concern about how the building of the freeway/tollway would form a barrier between communities was one of the reasons the Greens opposed the building of this road from the start, and this has proven the case – Creeks can sometimes create a sense of community between areas on either side if surrounded by attractive parkland. The noise barriers of motorways never do.

Consequently, the best way to bring Maribyrnong into the required range is to move areas to **Melbourne**. Not only were Kensington (8407) and Flemington (6757) part of the electorate of Melbourne for decades, but they have large populations of housing commission high rise residents, like other suburbs already in Melbourne, including North Melbourne, Richmond, Collingwood and Fitzroy. The Greens have argued in the past that these high rise housing commission towers share one of the most powerful communities of interest with each other, and should be, as far as possible, united into one electorate. The experience of the pandemic when some of these towers were forced suddenly into a lockdown far more strict than any other residents of the country emphasizes this point. Restoring these suburbs to Melbourne would make it easier to advocate on their behalf.

Such an addition requires compensatory movements out of Melbourne and there is an obvious candidates in Clifton Hill (5416), which has been part of **Cooper** before and brings it very close to the

projected quota. Although Clifton Hill has some housing commission houses, it does not have any of the high rise that we consider to have particularly distinctive needs.

Clifton Hill alone is insufficient to balance Kensington and Flemington, but if Brunswick East (3696) and Fitzroy North north of Park Street (3261) are moved into **Wills** both Melbourne and Wills have projections close to the quota. This provides a particularly good example of creating stronger communities of interest than the existing boundaries. It goes without saying that the small part of Brunswick East currently in Melbourne has more in common with the majority of Brunswick than it does with most of Melbourne. Splitting Fitzroy North sounds less desirable when written, but a look at the map makes clear that this area is strongly connected to the suburb that borders it on two sides. We can testify from personal experience that this area feels so much like Brunswick that many people new to the area assume it is, and that that Park Street, with its bike path and linear park is the boundary between Brunswick and Fitzroy North. Consequently, putting this section of Fitzroy North into Wills makes more sense than having the small part of Brunswick East in Melbourne ever did.

**Corangamite, Corio, Fraser, Gellibrand, Gorton and Lalor** are all projected to fall within the allowable enrollments and we do not propose to change them. For five of these we see no reason to do so. Corio's projected enrollment is close enough to the minimum to create some concern, and we would prefer to move some small areas in. However, the existing boundaries are so strong we suggest that on balance it is best to leave them as is.

### **South of the River and Gippsland**

The movement of parts of Nillumbik and Banyule into **Menzies** provides the opportunity to use the Eastern Freeway as Menzies' southern boundary. As we noted above, motorways have a capacity to divide communities greater than most natural formations, and areas like Box Hill and Mitcham are a much better fit for **Chisholm** and **Deakin** than for Menzies. This moves a projected enrollment of 7656 from Menzies to Deakin and 21,844 to Chisholm.

In order to make Deakin's projected enrollment appropriate, while using the strongest option for a boundary between Deakin and Chisholm it is necessary to move some additional areas from Menzies to Deakin. We submit this can be done with minimal disruption along the south-eastern part of the boundary between the two, bringing Park Orchards (projected enrollment 3761), which is geographically more connected to Ringwood North than it is to Donvale, into Deakin.

If this is done areas can be allocated between Chisholm and Deakin so that Springvale Road can become the boundary between Highbury road and the Freeway. This moves 9111 projected voters from Deakin to Chisholm.

Although it does not split communities the way the freeway does, Springvale Road is still one of the most notable landmarks in the area, providing a clear border between the two electorates.

Having added so many people at its northern end, Chisholm needs to lose voters elsewhere. It's border with Aston is very strong and should be maintained if possible, and it is only appropriate to move a small area into Kooyong to compensate for a movement we suggest to Higgins. Once again there is an opportunity to recognize the extent to which motorways act as dividers by making the Monash Freeway Chisholm's southern boundary for most of its way, uniting the currently divided Oakleigh, Clayton and Notting Hill, as well as Mulgrave south-west of the Monash Freeway in

Hotham. This moves 6672 projected electors. If Wheeler's Hill is also moved Chisholm becomes very close to quota.

If **Kooyong's** excellent boundaries on three sides are maintained only modest changes are possible. Therefore we propose the only changes be uniting Glen Iris in Higgins (shifting 3240 projected voters) and moving the part of Burwood north of the Burwood highway and west of Deakin University (2305) from Chisholm to Kooyong. This makes Kooyong even more compact than it already is.

In addition to uniting Glen Iris, we propose addressing **Higgins'** low projected enrollment by adding Hughesdale north of the railway line (1968).

**Aston** currently has among the best boundaries of any electorate, perfectly matching the Knock LGA. It is unfortunate this cannot be maintained, but slow projected population growth will not allow it. The strength of its western and to a lesser extent its northern border are obvious on a map. As well as following the boundary between LGAs, the eastern border is also largely follows cultural lines, with suburbia separated from treechange territory and the different issues these two face.

Consequently we propose adding Endeavour Hills North (9096), with Heatherton Road as the boundary between Aston and Bruce.

Adding Panton Hill and Hurstbridge to Casey allows it to lose the parts of the small areas of the shire of Cardinia that are currently in it so that the local government boundary can also form the boundary between Casey and **La Trobe**. This has the additional benefit of bringing La Trobe up from the very bottom of the allowed range.

**Holt** is projected to be too low, and has limited options to address this. It can't gain from La Trobe without causing knock on problems. On the other hand, its boundaries with Isaacs, Flinders and Dunkley follow major roads that are also local government boundaries. Therefore we submit that the best solution is to take an area from Bruce. There are several candidates all with advantages and disadvantages. The area west of The Hallam Main Drain and Cranbourne Road and south of Shrives Road is probably the most isolated from the rest of Bruce. With only (658) projected enrollment by 2028 it only brings Holt marginally within tolerance, so there is a case to include a larger but less isolated area. However, with Bruce also naturally ending up towards the lower end of the allowable range, adding a more populated area creates problems of its own.

In compensation for the above losses to Aston and Holt we propose that **Bruce** gain the parts of Noble Park North (1820) it does not already contain and the parts of Mulgrave (1950) ?? from Hotham. Bruce should also gain South Dandenong north of the bypass (4847) from Isaacs. The bypass and Eastlink represent strong dividers for this part of the boundary.

To compensate for losing South Dandenong north of the bypass (1950) to Bruce, and Carrum-Patterson lakes south of the Patterson River, (8265) **Isaacs** can gain Keysborough North (8815) and Springvale South (8742) from Hotham.

Although **Flinders** does not need to grow, having it take part of Mount Eliza allows **Dunkley** to absorb Carrum-Patterson Lakes to the Patterson River and west of the Mornington Peninsula Freeway (8265), offering a strong boundary to the north-west, while also bringing Flinders more comfortably within the projected voter tolerance. Although we are unable to see an ideal way to split Mount Eliza, using Jesse White Creek and Boxmoor Reserve (which makes the projected move (2834) allows for a boundary stronger than minor roads.

**Goldstein** needs to grow, and can't do so towards the Bay. It's north-west and south-east boundaries are also local government boundaries, so it is better to include an additional area of Glen Eira. Hotham is more easily able to give up territory than Higgins, so we propose adding part of the area west of the appropriately named East Boundary Road. This whole stretch would move so many people as to create a problem for Hotham, so we suggest transferring only the area between Center and North Roads. (3479)

We propose making no change to **Macnamara**, **Monash** and **Gippsland**, all of which are projected to be within the allowable limits.

#### **Appendix: Maps**