



Objection Number 55

Tony Nutt, State Director, Liberal Party Victoria

9 pages

The Liberal Party of Australia
Victorian Division



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Redistribution Committee for Victoria
C/- Australian Electoral Commission
Level 22
Casselden Place
2 Lonsdale Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Sirs,

Please find attached objections from the Liberal Party of Australia (Victorian Division) in relation to the redistribution of Federal Electorate Boundaries in Victoria.

If you require any further information relating to our suggestions, comments and objections, please don't hesitate to contact me on (03) 9654 2255

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tony Nutt".

Tony Nutt
State Director

Liberal Party of Australia (Victorian Division)

Objections to the Proposed Redistribution of Victoria

The following are the formal objections put forward by the Liberal Party of Australia (Victoria Division) in relation to the ongoing redistribution of Victorian Federal Divisions and are in direct response to the draft boundaries released by the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) on Friday, 30 July 2010.

The Liberal Party welcomes the opportunity to make objections to the proposed boundaries for Victoria and recognises that these objections play an important role in ensuring the people of Victoria are properly represented with electoral boundaries which are fair and equitable.

The Liberal Party acknowledges it is unlikely that the Augmented Commission would drastically alter the Committee's proposals, but makes a number of recommendations, comments and observations to assist the Augmented Commission in their deliberations.

When the redistribution process commenced in the early part of 2010, the AEC was tasked with redrawing the boundaries to accommodate 37 divisions, this was to be done in line with the relevant legislation as outlined in the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918. The Act outlines the conditions for a Federal Redistribution in Section 66(3) as:

3) In making the proposed redistribution, the Redistribution Committee:

(a) shall, as far as practicable, endeavour to ensure that, if the State or Territory were redistributed in accordance with the proposed redistribution, the number of electors enrolled in each Electoral Division in the State or Territory would not, at the projection time determined under section 63A, be less than 96.5% or more than 103.5% of the average divisional enrolment of that State or Territory at that time; and

(b) subject to paragraph (a), shall give due consideration, in relation to each proposed Electoral Division, to:

- i. community of interests within the proposed Electoral Division, including economic, social and regional interests;*
- ii. means of communication and travel within the proposed Electoral Division;*
- iv. the physical features and area of the proposed Electoral Division; and*
- v. the boundaries of existing Divisions in the State or Territory;*

and subject thereto the quota of electors for the State or Territory shall be the basis for the proposed redistribution, and the Redistribution Committee may adopt a margin of allowance, to be used whenever necessary, but in no case shall the quota be departed from to a greater extent than one-tenth more or one-tenth less.

The Liberal Party believes that the Committee has broadly presented proposed boundaries that meet the requirements of the act, with all proposed divisions meeting the dual population tolerances (+/- 10 per cent now and +/- 3.5 per cent in 2014). This being said, there are instances where the Liberal Party submits that the draft boundaries should be questioned as they are inconsistent with other aspects of the Electoral Act.

Murray

The Division of Murray was first proclaimed in 1948 and was first contested in 1949, with former Prime Minister John McEwen winning the seat for the Country Party. The seat was held by John McEwen for more than 20 years, during which he played a significant part in Australia's post-war time development, including gaining major advancements for farming communities in Victoria and around Australia.

In recent times the communities in Murray have continued to make a valuable contribution to the Australian economy. The local sheep, wheat, dairy and fruit production industries employ a large number of electors in Murray and have helped to create and strengthen a sense of community across the electorate.

It is therefore disappointing that the draft boundaries propose the abolition of Murray as a Federal Division. This would not only see the end of an electorate with immense history in the development of Australia, but would also split communities into three existing electorates with their own distinct communities of interest.

The Liberal Party concedes that population growth in regional areas of Victoria is not as rapid as that recorded in metropolitan Melbourne. Should the draft boundaries be adopted by the Augmented Commission, the new divisions of Mallee, Indi and McEwen would be left as the only electorates with a truly rural demographic north of the Great Dividing Range. The unfortunate outcome of these draft boundaries is that rural communities in Murray are being disadvantaged. We request that the commission further examine alternatives and visit Murray for public hearings to further gather information on the impact of the abolition of this electorate.

As the Liberal Party has previously stated in our Comments on Public Suggestions, Murray is an important electorate in northern Victoria and while

growth in rural areas is relatively low we cannot see the obvious justification in making such a major change to boundaries at this redistribution.

Aston

In its report on the draft boundaries for this redistribution, the Committee has acknowledged that local government (LGA) boundaries were used extensively as indicators of community of interest. The Committee also stated later that LGA boundaries were less significant within the greater Melbourne area because of the diversity of interests and relative accessibility of economic and social services.

The Liberal Party suggests a number of changes to Aston, which we believe would make the electorate easier to service. The proposed changes are confined to the three electorates of Aston, Bruce and Holt and comply with the requirements of the dual quotas.

Attachment 1 is a map showing the proposed changes between Aston, Bruce and Holt. The CCD's that have been moved are shown in Attachment 2 and the detailed movement of electors and the deviation from quota in each electorate is set out in detail in Attachment 3.

It is accepted that Aston will move beyond the Knox LGA and this happened under the 2010 Proposed Redistribution of Victoria into Electoral Divisions where the proposed Aston incorporated part of the Casey LGA.

The Liberal Party's suggested change now takes in part of the Monash LGA. The Liberal Party believes these changes better meet the community of interest criterion and make road access from the proposed additional area considerably easier. It is noted in the Proposed Redistribution that there is a significant area of the Churchill National Park and parts of the Lysterfield Park that have traversed to access the new southern part of Aston. In previous redistributions in Victoria (Chisholm, Higgins, Bruce and Gorton) and Parramatta in New South Wales, the electoral boundaries have crossed major arterial roads in order to meet quota criterion.

There are three Primary State Arterial roads (High Street Road, Ferntree Gully Road and Wellington Road) connecting the proposed new area to the main body of Aston, whereas in the draft proposal there are only two Major Roads (Local Council) (Bergins Road/Churchill Park Road and Power Road) connecting the main body of Aston with the area in the Casey LGA. The road definitions are taken from the description of roads in the Melway Street Directory for Greater Melbourne.

Melbourne/Melbourne Ports

The crossing of the Yarra River which brings the Docklands precinct into Melbourne Ports is another interesting point to come out of the redistribution process. The Liberal Party can understand the Committee's dilemma in that Melbourne electorate is over populated and Melbourne Ports needs voters when the eastern end is taken out. With Docklands seen to be an extension of the existing Melbourne CBD, our hope is that a genuine community of interest hasn't been compromised due to this river crossing.

Burke

The Committee's decision to abolish the division of Murray in order to create a new seat to the north-west of Melbourne is regrettable. This being said the selection of the name Burke is a welcome suggestion and reinstates a famous name in Australian history. It is also timely, with 2010 being the 150th anniversary of the expedition of Burke and Wills. As outlined in the Committee's report, the area covered by the proposed division includes historic campsites used by Robert O'Hara Burke.

The new division of Burke covers the Macedon Ranges LGA and much of Hume LGA; it also includes part of Whittlesea LGA. The Liberal Party notes that while a small portion of Whittlesea LGA has been included as part of Burke, the rest has been placed in the McEwen division.

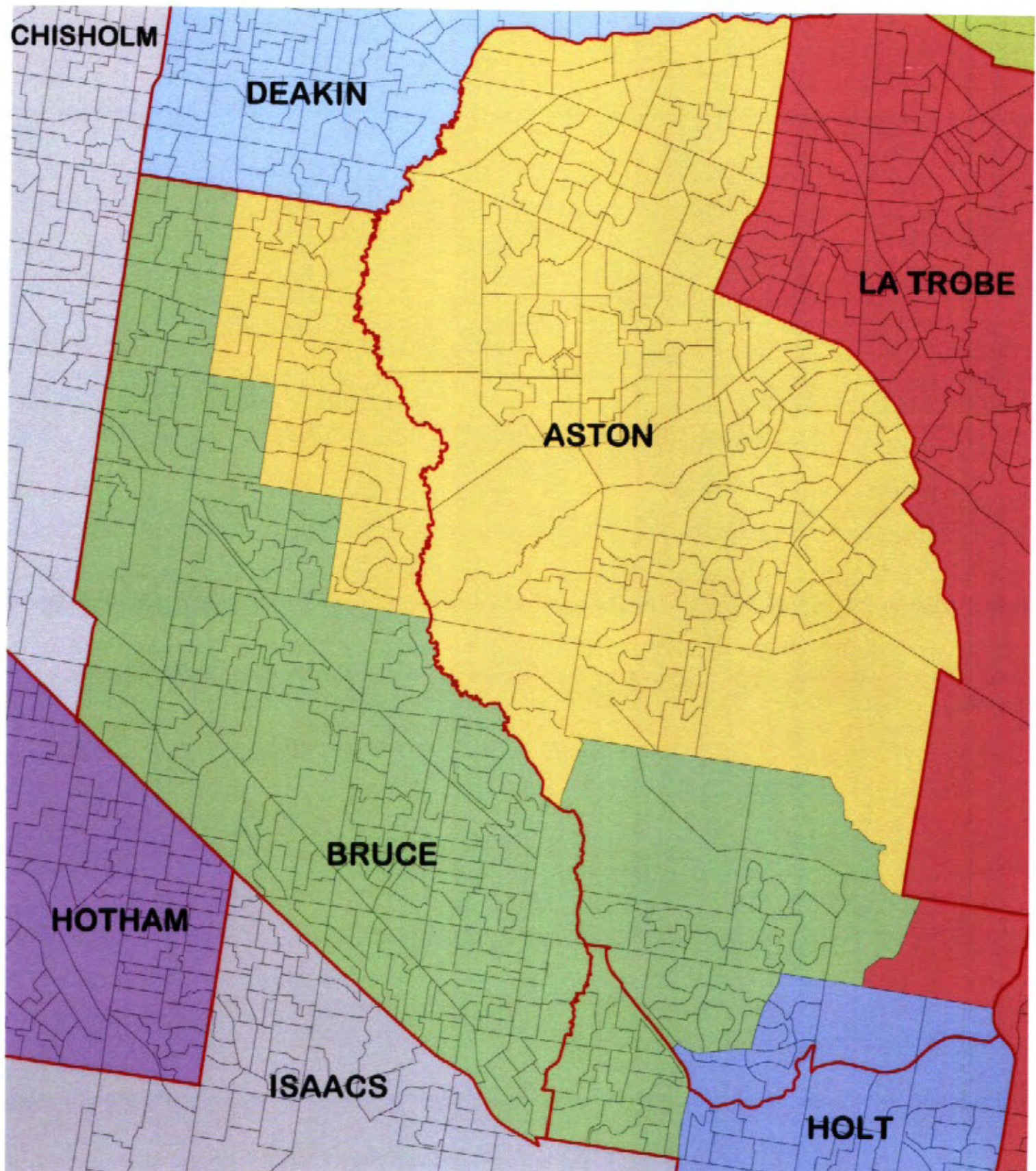
Conclusion

In conclusion, the Liberal Party believes the proposals of the Committee largely meets the stated objectives of this redistribution, namely the redrawing of boundaries in Victoria that delivers 37 Federal divisions within the dual tolerances. However, the Liberal Party believes that further examination of the proposed Aston merits consideration by the Augmented Commission.

While the Committee has achieved its objective, following many of the criteria in the process, the Liberal Party is disappointed at the suggestion to abolish the division of Murray, an important electorate in Victoria's north and one with much history.

We again thank the Committee for the opportunity to comment on the proposed boundaries and to provide these objections, and we ask that these suggestions be considered as this redistribution process continues.

ATTACHMENT 1



ATTACHMENT 2

Movements	CCD ID	Electors 2010	Electors 2014
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From Bruce into Aston

2250405		509	521
2250501		475	486
2250502		589	590
2250503		678	679
2250504		394	412
2250505		331	359
2250506		621	637
2250507		617	639
2250508		278	278
2250601		621	650
2250602		475	502
2250603		401	406
2250604		634	644
2250605		836	828
2250606		236	234
2250607		642	638
2250608		741	736
2250609		583	582
2250703		483	501
2250704		627	659
2250705		609	632
2250706		559	558
2251304		360	363
2251305		596	595
2251306		832	833
2251307		485	481
2251308		435	429
2251309		605	616
2251401		593	598
2251402		580	579
2251403		479	477
2251406		615	665
2251407		682	730
2251408		531	530
2251409		361	355
2251410		856	882
2251411		701	728
2251412		536	533
2251413		0	0
		21,186	21,565

From Aston into Bruce

2340701		141	143
2340702		624	628
2340703		595	587
2340704		533	515
2340705		374	379
2340706		514	509
2340707		603	607
2340708		726	713
2340709		573	567
2340710		499	490

Movements	CCD ID	Electors 2010	Electors 2014
	2340711	575	555
	2340712	359	365
	2340713	0	0
	2340714	0	0
	2340808	711	842
	2340810	388	405
	2340812	627	665
	2341001	620	725
	2341002	388	386
	2341003	516	519
	2341004	637	659
	2341005	412	402
	2341006	439	479
	2341007	385	448
	2341010	886	1006
	2341013	555	576
	2341014	384	391
	2342201	625	636
		13,689	14,197

From Holt into Bruce

	2340901	477	463
	2340902	380	413
	2340905	239	235
	2340906	280	277
	2340907	477	486
	2340908	96	112
	2340909	423	427
	2340910	235	225
	2342202	547	544
	2342203	387	381
	2342204	496	524
	2342205	365	361
	2342206	424	422
	2342207	356	352
	2342208	256	256
	2342209	206	204
	2342210	292	299
		5,936	5,981

From Aston into Holt

	2340803	468	464
	2340804	594	589
	2340805	409	416
	2340806	726	746
	2340807	463	484
	2340809	384	384
	2340811	699	746
	2340813	554	593
	2341008	631	704
	2341018	510	555
		5,438	5,681

ATTACHMENT 3

ASTON

		Electors 2010	Electors 2014		10% Deviation	3.5% Deviation
Retains		76,740	82,172			
Loses To	Bruce	13,689	14,197			
	Holt	5,438	5,681			
Gains From	Bruce	21,186	21,565			
Total Electors		97,926	103,737		4.13%	2.48%

BRUCE

		Electors 2010	Electors 2014		10% Deviation	3.5% Deviation
Retains		74,285	78,338			
Loses To	Aston	21,186	21,565			
Gains From	Aston	13,689	14,197			
	Holt	5,936	5,981			
Total Electors		93,910	98,516		-0.14%	-2.67%

HOLT

		Electors 2010	Electors 2014		10% Deviation	3.5% Deviation
Retains		80,178	96,011			
Loses To	Bruce	5,936	5,981			
Gains From	Aston	5,438	5,681			
Total Electors		85,616	101,692		-8.96%	0.46%