

Victorian Electoral Boundaries Redistribution

July 2013

On 27 June 2013, the Victorian Electoral Boundaries Commission (EBC) released its proposed electoral boundaries for the State's Legislative Council (Upper House) and Legislative Assembly (Lower House), in accordance with the [Electoral Boundaries Commission Act 1982](#), ahead of the 2014 Victorian State Election to be held on 29 November 2014.

The final boundaries will be released in October 2013, with suggestions and objections to be submitted by 29 July 2013, and public hearings to take place (if required) in August 2013.

Full details on the proposed electoral boundaries can be accessed [here](#).

The EBC is required to conduct a review of Victoria's electoral districts when any one of the following criteria is met:

- Enrolments for more than 30% of the state's districts or regions have been more than 10% outside the average for two months;
- Enrolments for more than 25% of the districts or regions have been outside the 10% tolerance and more than 5% of the districts or regions have been more than 20% outside the average for two months;
- There have been two general elections since the previous redistribution; or
- The number of districts or regions has changed.

In this instance, the review has taken place as a consequence of the passing of two general elections since the previous redistribution.

The purpose of the redistribution is to ensure that all electorates and electoral regions in the state contain enrolment levels that do not vary by greater than 10% from the state's average level, currently 41,473 for districts and 456,207 for regions. Additionally, the EBC must consider the following factors when proposing any changes:

- The area and physical features of the terrain;
- The means of travel, traffic arteries and communication, and any special difficulties;
- The community or diversity of interests; and
- The likelihood of changes in numbers of electors.

Proposed Changes

All electoral districts in the state have been altered to some degree by the latest EBC review. Of these changes, some are minor and do not significantly transform the nature of the political landscape in the relevant electorate. Other proposed changes would have a greater impact on the outcome of the 2014 Victoria State Election, should they be implemented.

Abolished Seats

District of Benalla:

- Currently held by National Party MP Bill Sykes by a margin of 23.1% after preferences.
- The district has been divided amongst the existing (but redrawn) District of Seymour and the new districts of Eildon and Ovens Valley.
- *The abolition of this seat does not represent a net loss for the National Party or Liberal Party after the redistribution as the National Party would gain the existing District of Seymour from the Liberal Party and the Liberal Party would gain the new District of Eildon.*

District of Doncaster:

- Currently held by Liberal Party MP, and Minister for Women's Affairs and Community Services, Mary Wooldridge by a margin of 17.6% after preferences.
- The district has been divided amongst the existing districts of Bulleen and Warrandyte.
- *The abolition of this seat would represent a net loss of one seat for the Liberal Party after the redistribution.*

District of Rodney:

- Currently held by National Party MP Paul Weller by a margin of 26.2% after preferences.
- *The district has been abolished and would represent a net loss of one seat for the National Party.*

New Seats

District of Eildon:

- Takes in parts of the existing districts of Seymour, Gembrook, Benambra and Yan Yean, and the abolished District of Benalla.
- Notionally a Liberal Party held seat by an estimated margin of 7.7%.

District of Sunbury:

- Takes in parts of the existing districts of Macedon and Yuroke.
- Notionally a Labor Party held seat by an estimated margin of 6.5%.

District of Werribee:

- Takes in parts of the existing districts of Lara and Tarneit.
- Notionally a Labor Party held seat by an estimated margin of 11.4%.

Renamed Seats: Notionally Held by Different Party

District of Ballarat:

- Replaces existing District of Ballarat West.
- Currently held by Labor Party MP Sharon Knight by a margin of 1.1% after preferences.
- Some area lost to the new District of Buninyong meaning the district would become a notionally Liberal Party held seat by an estimated margin of 0.1%.

Existing Seats: Notionally Held by Different Party

District of Monbulk:

- Currently held by Labor Party MP James Merlino by a margin of 1.9% after preferences.
- Would become a notionally Liberal Party held seat after the redistribution by an estimated margin of 1.0%.

District of Ripon:

- Currently held by Labor Party MP Joe Helper by a margin of 2.7% after preferences.
- Would become a notionally Liberal Party held seat after the redistribution by an estimated margin of 1.7%.

District of Yan Yean:

- Currently held by Labor Party MP Danielle Green by a margin of 4.1% after preferences.
- Would become a notionally Liberal Party held seat after the redistribution by an estimated margin of 0.1%.

Renamed Seats: Notionally Held by Same Party

District of Buninyong:

- Replaces the existing District of Ballarat East.

District of Clarinda:

- Replaces the existing District of Clayton.

District of St Albans:

- Replaces the existing District of Derrimut.

District of Sydneham:

- Replaces the existing District of Keilor.

District of Croydon:

- Replaces the existing District of Kilsyth.

District of Keysborough:

- Replaces the existing District of Lyndhurst.

District of Ringwood:

- Primarily replaces the existing District of Mitcham and some of the existing District of Box Hill.

District of Ovens Valley:

- Primarily formed from the existing District of Murray Valley.

Conclusion

Taking existing voting patterns into account from the 2010 Victorian State Election, the EBC's proposed electoral boundary changes would result in an increase of three seats for the Liberal Party and a reduction of one and two seats respectively for the National Party and



Labor Party. While this would notionally increase the number of seats required by the Labor Party to form government at the next election to four, it would however, reduce the uniform swing against the government required from 1.2% to 0.4%.