

Details of your comment

Please provide additional information and supporting documentation as attachments.

I wish to make comment on the submission by the Nationals regarding redistribution of electoral boundaries, particularly the Murray and Barwon Districts.

The Nationals state that they want to "ensure that residents in the most remote parts of the state have reasonable access to their local Member of Parliament" yet they want to more than double the size of Murray from 107362 km² to 244632 km² which will isolate all the communities in the far reaches of this vast area.

The Nationals claim that they recognise that under the current Covid 19 conditions that "voter disruption should be kept to a minimum" yet they are happy to disrupt the voters of rural and remote areas that they claim to represent.

The Nationals claim that "where a group of electors identify themselves as part of an existing 'community', every effort should be made to avoid dividing them". Under Helen Dalton our current MP, Murray has flourished into a more connected and more politically engaged community because our member of parliament is more interested in fighting for the things that are important to our district rather than towing party lines. The community has also rallied to find new solutions to the current poor water distribution system set up under the current government with some small progress towards a fairer system. Redistribution of Murray into such a huge area would destroy this community spirit.

The Nationals claim that electorates should be "connected by major transport corridors" yet they don't exist in the proposed Murray-Darling district. In fact there is no obvious nexus to use as a base for the new electorate office apart from Broken Hill in the far west. Broken Hill is about 600 km from the heart of the Murray district so people living here would all be significantly disadvantaged and this certainly doesn't provide the "reasonable access to their local Member of Parliament" that the Nationals hold to be important.

The Nationals make a good point that the Barwon District is too large an area but the solution is not to pass that disadvantage on to another electorate that it is already huge. It should be redistributed with other, much smaller nearby districts if; and this is important, that is what the voters in these areas want.

The abolition of Murray is simply an underhanded attempt to remove Helen Dalton from Office because she has been bringing the Nationals to account for some of the poorer decisions they have made and exposing some of the corruption in their decision making processes. The people of Murray should not have to suffer neglect and isolation during these trying times simply because a few politicians are unhappy with their behavior being exposed or that they are hoping that the redistribution improves their chances of reelection.