

# Electoral redistribution in Victoria

A redistribution of federal electoral boundaries is under way in Victoria. It has been seven years since Victoria's last redistribution.

Under the Commonwealth Electoral Act, a redistribution is required when:

- there is a change to the number of parliamentary representatives to which a state or territory is entitled;
- the number of electors in more than one third of electorates in a state (or in one of the ACT's two electorates) deviates from the average enrolment by over 10% in three consecutive months; or
- seven years has elapsed since the previous redistribution.

There are currently 37 federal electorates in Victoria. The redistribution will not change the number of seats, but it will involve a redrawing of the boundaries.

The redistribution is being conducted by a committee consisting of the Electoral Commissioner, the Australian Electoral Officer for Victoria and two senior state government officials. To help determine the boundaries, the committee will use a quota calculated by dividing the number of electors in Victoria by the number of members Victoria is entitled to elect to the House of Representatives. The number of people enrolled in each electorate cannot vary from the quota by more than 10%.

Other factors considered by the committee include the projected number of enrolments three and a half years after the redistribution; economic, social and regional interests; means of communication and travel; physical features and area (including roads or natural boundaries such as rivers); as well as the existing boundaries.

Public suggestions are sought as part of the redistribution. People can make objections to the proposed boundaries and comment on any objections lodged. Objections are considered by the four members of the redistribution committee plus two part-time members of the electoral commission. Federal parliament does not have the power to amend or reject the final decision of the electoral commission.

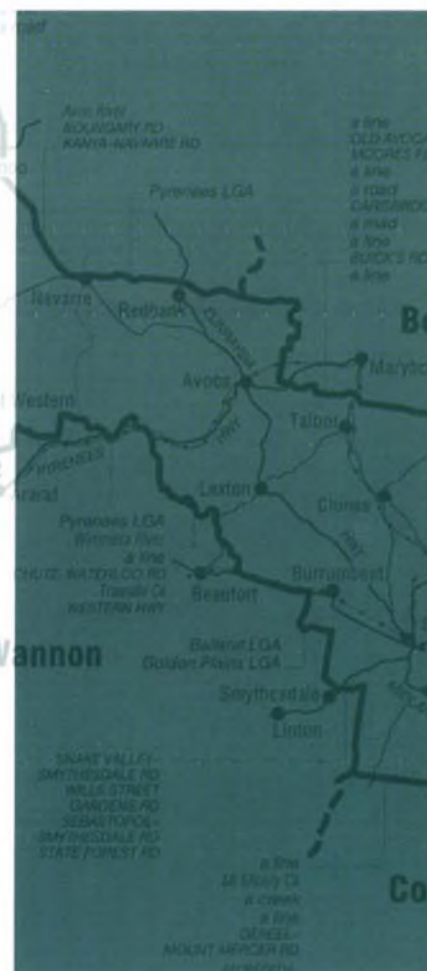
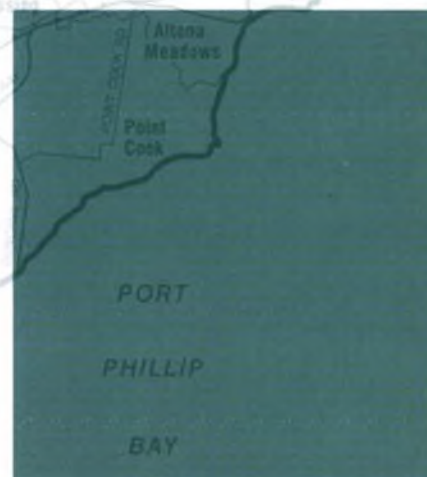
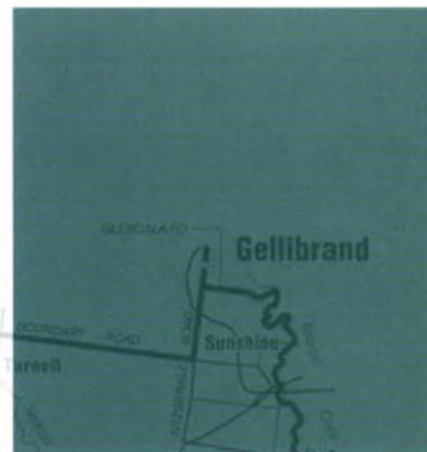
**For more information on the Victorian redistribution, contact the redistribution secretariat on (03) 9285 7134 or (02) 6271 4468.**

*The information in this article was obtained from the Australian Electoral Commission web site at: [www.aec.gov.au](http://www.aec.gov.au)*

## When's your next scheduled redistribution of federal seats?

State/Territory	Most recent redistribution	Next scheduled redistribution
Australian Capital Territory	10 December 1997	January 2005
Queensland	10 December 1997	January 2005
South Australia	20 August 1999	September 2006
New South Wales	11 February 2000	March 2007
Tasmania	11 February 2000	March 2007
Western Australia	20 November 2000	December 2007
Northern Territory	21 December 2000	January 2008

Table: Parliamentary Library



Electoral maps: Australian Electoral Commission