

To: Enquiries <enquiries@remunerationtribunal.vic.gov.au>

Subject: Liberal Nationals Submission: Communications budget use following electoral boundary changes

Dear Remuneration Tribunal,

On behalf of the Liberal Nationals members, I write to make a further submission with regards to the upcoming redistribution of electoral boundaries, as announced recently by the Electoral Boundaries Commission.

We believe section 15 (3) (page 19) of the Draft Guidelines (paragraph below) should be altered, as it will prevent MP's from communicating with prospective new constituents, including being able to inform them of the electoral boundary changes.

(3) For the avoidance of doubt, a Member's electorate is defined by the electoral boundary set by the Electoral Boundaries Commission in effect at the time the Member distributes the communication material.

Note: Communication materials cannot be distributed to prospective constituents before a redivision of electoral boundaries takes effect at the beginning of the next general election in accordance with the commencement provisions in the Electoral Boundaries Commission Act 1982 (Vic).

We note that MPs will be impacted to a greater or lesser extent, depending on the number of constituents that will shift as a result of the boundary change, which is entirely outside the Member's control.

We are concerned that not allowing such communication with constituents on the new boundaries will create inequity between seats and potentially bias the outcome of the upcoming State election.

The current rules also risk disenfranchising a large number of constituents whose present MP may cease communication with them after the redistribution while their prospective new MP is prohibited from communicating with them. This could potentially affect thousands of Victorian voters.

We note that in the 2013 redistribution, the rules were clarified by Parliament's Presiding Officers, so that this communication with constituents living under the new boundaries could occur.

I attach the relevant email below for your reference.

Should you wish to contact me to discuss this further, please find my contact details below.

I appreciate your consideration of our submission and look forward to your response.

Regards,

Kim

**Office of KIM WELLS MP
State Member for Rowville
Shadow Special Minister of State
Shadow Minister for Counter-Terrorism
Manager of Opposition Business**