

Submission to the Electoral Matters Committee

Inquiry into Functions and Administration of Voting Centres

From

Danielle Green MP, Member for Yan Yean

I make the following submission to the current inquiry which pertains solely to the committee's reference to joint voting centres.

The State Electorate of Yan Yean contains more split postcodes and localities than any other electoral district in Victoria which I believe means that joint voting centres are an essential part of the electoral process.

However it does need to be taken into account that this requires a number of different how to vote (htv) cards across the Yan Yean district and that errors in production and distribution of htv cards by parties and candidates can lead to a higher rate of informal voting.

At the 2006 State election the Yan Yean electorate required 5 different htv cards due to the number of joint voting centres. The ALP's joint Yan Yean and Seymour htv card was rejected by the VEC due to a simple numbering error. I believe that this occurred due to the sheer volume of joint voting centres across the State which then increases the likelihood of an error occurring.

I believe that joint voting centre should have clearly designated and well signed voting areas for each district at the joint voting centre and where possible separate rooms for each district to ensure ease of voting, counting and to decrease the likelihood of informal voting or the wrong ballot papers being issued.

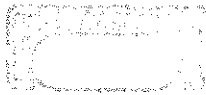
I make the following comments in relation to the submission made by the Victorian Electoral Commission to the committee which lists draft polling places for Yan Yean for the 2010 State Election.

I support the proposed Yan Yean joint voting centres as follows given their longstanding operation as joint polling places and their locations immediately on boundaries with neighbouring electoral districts:

Apollo Parkways - Eltham
Epping- Mill Park
Epping East- Mill Park
Glen Katherine - Eltham
Meadowglen - Mill Park
Research PS- Eltham
St Andrews PS- Seymour

I do not support the joint voting centres as follows due to them not being longstanding and well understand by the local community but also as they are located some distance from the electorate of Yan Yean:

Morang South- Mill Park



The Morang South joint voting centre is located in the Mill Park electoral district and the Scullin Federal electorate and is approximately 2.6km from the nearest Yan Yean boundary to the west, 3.5km from the northern boundary and 2km from the eastern boundary.

Only 470 votes from Yan Yean were cast at this joint centre in 2006. I believe that this shared centre formed a useful function at the 2006 election as the Mill Park Lakes booth had been relocated from the previous community centre, to the yet to be opened Lakes school. As The Lakes School did not take students until 2007 many in the community were not aware that this was in fact the nearest polling place to them. Also many internal roads in new housing estates in South Morang were not yet connected, this created barriers to voters easily accessing or knowing where their nearest polling place was. The Lakes Boulevard, The Great Eastern Way, Ferres Boulevard and Gordons rd have all had works completed on them which will make it easier for South Morang residents to access their nearest Yan Yean voting centre in future.

It is my understanding that the Morang South polling place was not a joint voting centre at the 2007 Federal Election and will not be a joint voting centre for Scullin and McEwen voters for the forthcoming Federal Election which will almost certainly be held prior to the 2010 State Election.

I believe that these factors will mean a significant decline in the numbers of Yan Yean voters likely to vote at Morang South thereby negating the necessity for a joint polling centre at this location.

Warrandyte- Warrandyte.

The Warrandyte joint voting centre is located in the Warrandyte electoral district and the Menzies Federal electorate and is approximately 1.6km from the Yan Yean boundary Only 132 votes from Yan Yean were cast at this joint centre in 2006.

I speculate that this joint voting centre may have been proposed in 2006 following confusion at the 2002 election when the very longstanding North Warrandyte voting centre had to be moved to the fire station due to the North Warrandyte voting centre having been destroyed by fire during 2002. It is my understanding that this relocation caused confusion for many voters as the fire station is located off the main road and is not easy to find.

The North Warrandyte voting centre is very centrally located. North Warrandyte residents also have the option of voting at the nearby Research joint voting centre and also the Kangaroo Ground voting centre.

It is my understanding that the Warrandyte polling place will not be a joint voting centre for Menzies and Jagajaga voters at the Federal Election which will almost certainly be held prior to the 2010 State Election.

I believe these factors will mean a significant decline in the numbers of Yan Yean voters likely to vote at Warrandyte thereby negating the necessity for a joint polling centre at this location.

I want to thank the committee for initiating this enquiry. I would be happy to appear in person to discuss my submission with the committee.

Yours faithfully

Danielle Green MP
Member for Yan Yean

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