

Report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission

The Electoral Boundaries Commission (EBC) is constituted under the *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act 1982* (the Act) to divide Victoria into State parliamentary electorates. The EBC must establish and maintain electorates of approximately equal enrolment (that is, not varying by more than 10% from the average for each House of Parliament) for the conduct of parliamentary elections.

The members of the Electoral Boundaries Commission during 2006-07 were:

- His Honour Chief Judge Michael Rozenes QC, Chief Judge of the County Court (Chairman);
- Mr Steve Tully, Electoral Commissioner; and
- Mr John Tulloch, Surveyor-General.

Dr Paul Thornton-Smith is the secretary to the EBC.

The VEC provides administrative and technical support to the EBC.

The EBC met on 2 March 2007 to consider whether a redivision of electoral boundaries would be required before the 2010 State election. Legislation now provides clear triggers for a redivision. Broadly, the EBC must conduct a redivision if there have been two general elections since the previous redivision, or if the enrolments for a certain number of electorates have fallen outside a 10% tolerance in the period 18 to 24 months before the next scheduled State election.

The last redivision of both Houses of Parliament was in 2000-01, and there have been two State elections since then (in 2002 and 2006). However, the 2006 State election was the only general election (defined in the Act as an election at which all the members of both Houses are elected). Therefore, the EBC determined that the “two general election” triggers for a redivision did not apply.

The EBC also considered enrolment trends. The Act requires a redivision if, in the first half of 2009, the enrolments for at least 27 electoral districts or three electoral regions are more than 10% outside the average, or if the enrolments for at least 23 districts or three regions are more than 10% outside the average and the enrolments for at least five of those districts or one of those regions are more than 20% outside the average. Enrolment projections indicate that in the first half of 2009, 16 districts will be more than 10% outside the average and two districts will be more than 20% outside. On these projections, the “numbers” triggers will not apply.

The EBC concluded that, on current information, a redivision would not be required before the 2010 State election, and issued a public notice and media release to this effect.

The EBC will continue to monitor enrolment and demographic changes.