



The Federal Redistribution 2010
Victoria



Objection Number 28

**Cr Dr. Srechko Kontelj OAM, Councillor for Kildare Ward, City of
Greater Geelong**

2 pages

From: Stretch Kontelj [stretchk@au.specsavers.com]
Sent: Thursday, 26 August 2010 12:06 PM
To: VIC Redistribution
Attachments: OBJECTION TO PROPOSED REDISTRIBUTION.doc

Find attached submission in relation to the proposed redistribution of the seats of Corio, Coragamite and Lalor.
Regards

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**OBJECTION TO PROPOSED VICTORIAN REDISTRIBUTION 2010
AUSTRALIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION**

From: Cr Dr. Srechko Kontelj OAM, Councillor for Kildare Ward, City of Greater Geelong

I wish to lodge an objection to the proposed changes to the Corangamite, Lalor and Corio electorate boundaries.

The proposed redistribution would amalgamate communities of disparate interest and would result in disharmony rather than enhanced unity. The greater Geelong region is a self contained geographic area. To amalgamate areas the likes of Lara, Anakie, Lovely Banks in with Lalor is not supported when one takes into account the communities of interests within each of proposed electorates.

The residents of Lara, Anakie, Lovely Banks have more in common with other City of Greater Geelong residents than with residents of Wyndham City Council. At present, the greater Geelong region is quite neatly contained within two federal seats of parliament and 5 lower House State seats. To carve off areas of what is considered Geelong and 'tack' them onto the federal seat of Lalor will disadvantage the greater Geelong region and in particular the residents of the affected areas of Lara, Lovely Banks and Anakie.

I believe the unique physical separation of Geelong from Werribee and the like further supports the submission that areas of Geelong not be redistributed into Lalor which is a Melbourne centric seat.

Politicians from Lalor would have little interest in issues in Geelong and hence parts of Geelong would not be properly represented in the House of Representatives. Lalor issues are not of great concern to Geelong residents and likewise Geelong issues are of little interest to Lalor residents.

The proposed redistribution would result in the City of Greater Geelong going from being within two electorates, namely Corangamite and Corio, to being within three electorates, namely Corangamite, Corio and Lalor. Such a proposal would result in significant resident confusion, increased cost to the City of Greater Geelong and greater inconvenience to sitting politicians.

Werribee is geographically and 'psychologically' aligned and identified with Metropolitan Melbourne rather than with Geelong. It would be illogical to combine areas of Geelong with Melbourne via the seat of Lalor. How would residents of greater Geelong be serviced by a local member whose office is in Werribee or would there be a further sub office opened in say Lara at further cost to taxpayers.

The City of Greater Geelong is a member of Regional Cities Victoria, and is included in the State Government's regional planning. It should be noted also that the City of Greater Geelong is a member of G21, an alliance of Councils and other organizations between the City and Borough of Queenscliffe, SurfCoast Shire, Colac-Otway Shire and Golden Plains.

The proposed change to the Lalor boundary to take in Avalon Airport is particularly untenable. Avalon is the regional airport for Geelong, serving as the air gateway for the Western District for freight and passengers. More importantly it is an employment hub for the Northern Suburbs of Geelong. It is of little or no importance to those in the Lalor electorate.

The proposed changes to the Corio electorate boundary, further divide the Bellarine Peninsula community, in particular, Ocean Grove and Barwon Heads. Again these are communities of interest with much in common.

I would argue that the whole Bellarine Peninsula is a community of interest, and any electorate boundary changes should take this into account.
