



Objection 13

James Doyle

1 page

To the Australian Electoral Commission,

Thank you for the hard work you have put into developing the proposed redistribution of the Victoria's federal electoral divisions.

First, I would like to applaud the very considerable efforts that the AEC has made in this redistribution to name electorates after women who have made great contributions to the welfare of the nation. I also urge the Commission to continue to look at other opportunities to honour women in the naming of federal electoral divisions. The proposals made by the AEC are ones I fully support, with the exception of the renaming of Corangamite after May Cox.

While Cox absolutely deserves honour and recognition for her work in surf lifesaving, I cannot support the abolition of the name Corangamite. The abolition should not take place because not only is it an original federation name, but also because it is one of only 20 electoral divisions with a name of Aboriginal origin. Given the AEC has not proposed to replace Corangamite with another name of Aboriginal origin, the name should be preserved for posterity. Aboriginal Australians are already poorly represented in our national parliament, and as a small symbol of recognition and reconciliation, such names should be retained and expanded upon.

I am sympathetic to the argument put forward by the AEC that the proposed changes to the division of Corangamite lead to the situation where the new electorate bears little or no geographic relationship to the name. However I would urge the Commission to note that the division of Werriwa in NSW retained its name despite having borne no residual relationship to Lake George (Werriwa being the Aboriginal name for that lake) for many decades.

Given the strong historic and linguistic reasons for it continuing to exist, I strongly urge the commission to look upon the name Corangamite as a legacy name, just as with Werriwa, that plays a role in respecting our history, as well as playing a small symbolic part in providing representation for Aboriginal history and language. Consequently, I propose that the name Corangamite be preserved in this and all future redistributions.

Respectfully,

James Doyle