



Objection 184

Marie James

3 pages

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Victorian Redistribution objections uploaded from the AEC website.

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Additional information: Electoral boundary and name change for the electorate of Cox

Electoral boundary and name change for the electorate of Cox

I am a long term constituent of the proposed Cox electorate having resided in Ocean Grove for nearly 60 years. I totally support the AEC proposal to move Colac and sections of the Colac Otway and Golden Plains Shires into the Wannon electorate. I also fully endorse the inclusion of the entire Bellarine Peninsula in the Cox electorate. Strong, enduring social and economic ties exist among the communities of the Bellarine.

This proposal is the most viable way to ensure that both the Cox and Wannon electorates meet the numerical requirements of the redistribution while meeting the 'community of interest' consideration. Population growth within the Cox electorate is accelerating and it is rapidly becoming an urban/coastal electorate, not a rural one.

The western rural areas of the Corangamite electorate, including Colac share obvious social, economic and regional interests with the Wannon electorate. Coastal areas of the Colac Otway Shire and the expanding urban centres of Bannockburn, Inverleigh and Lethbridge have a clear community of interest with Cox.

I am aware of an alternate proposal from Colac Otway to relocate the entire Golden Plains Shire, as well as Moolap and Newcomb into Wannon so that the entire Colac Otway Shire can remain in Cox because of its strong "community of interest" ties with Geelong.

Ignoring the possible political motivation behind this proposal as well as the overt self-interest, it is strange that the obvious geographic proximity of the Golden Plains towns to Geelong facilitates much stronger social, economic and cultural ties than that of Colac.

Unfounded and somewhat ludicrous allegations regarding political disadvantage and fears that the boundary changes will somehow jeopardize access to educational and medical services, and business opportunities etc. in Geelong, should be discredited by community leaders and never fostered for political gain. Impacts on political parties, sitting members and marginal seats are irrelevant to the redistribution process.

Finally, May Cox was a highly respected Queenscliff resident whose significant contribution to the health and safety of generations of Victorian children through the Learn to Swim program, fully deserves to be recognized and celebrated. It is most appropriate that a coastal electorate be named after her. I have been saddened and appalled by the vulgar language, innuendo, ridicule and disrespect shown by some, especially those who should know better, in wanting to reject this name change.

Marie James

