



# Objection 197

Ian Smith

2 pages

## **To Augmented Electoral Commission Objection re re-distribution Corangamite**

I wish to lodge an objection to the proposed Federal Election Divisions for Victoria as advertised AEC in the Age April, 7 2018. In particular my objection relates to the changes to the Corangamite boundary and the renaming to Cox.

I am not objecting because of any political views. I am objecting on the basis that being a ratepayer and resident of Colac and cannot see any positive improvement by undertaking the proposed changes. In fact I consider the changes to be negative for Colac.

In particular the reasons for my objections are:

**Dislocation of Shire into two electorates** – this makes it harder for the Shire to plan for growth and align its program across two electorates. It also draws a distinction between residents of the Shire and reduces the voice of the Colac Otway community to engage with one voice.

**Alignment away for natural growth areas** – Colac has a natural geographic and demographic alignment with the Geelong Region in particular commerce, tourism, health, entertainment roads and public transport connections. It is counterproductive to shift the electoral boundary away from these factors into an electoral region where there is far less alignment. The future for Colac is strongly aligned to areas of the east of the town not to the west.

*For example: the Colac community wants to lobby for increased train service from Colac to Geelong through Federal Government initiatives. Are we better off lobbying a member in the Geelong/Colac area or a Federal member in far western Victoria? Of course it is more advantageous to work with a Member who relates to Geelong/Colac area. Simple – why change it and make life harder for us in Colac. The same questions could be applied to Health and a range of other programs.*

### **Re-naming**

I like the name Corangamite as it also relates to the biogeographic landscape. It is important that we retain links to our landscapes where possible and also to our Aboriginal connection. The name Cox may be interesting and the reasons for recognition worthy but not in this context - no way should Corangamite be replaced.

### **Quotas**

I note the proposed changes are in response to the number of electors enrolled in each federal electoral division as at Monday 4 September 2017 must be between minus 10 per cent and plus 10 per cent of the current enrolment quota of 106,954. Given there is a massive population increase in Melbourne and regional Victoria may I suggest the quota should be revised upwards which would take account of growth without needing to change boundaries.

I challenge the presumption there is no alternative to increasing quotas across the board. Why should we be held ransom to an obviously out-dated quota figure and suffer being shoved into an electorate where we don't fit.

Alternative solutions to the proposed Corangamite redistribution would be to:

Amend Sub-section 59(2) of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 to increase quotas.

Create a new electorate which recognises the links between Colac and Geelong Region rather than an administrative resolution moving Colac into Wannon where there are reduced benefits for us.

Thank you for accepting my objection and I trust some sense will prevail by dropping the changes to the Corangamite boundary and name as proposed.

1-05-2018

Ian Smith

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