



Objection 6

Cameron Peel

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To whom it may concern,

My submission relates to the proposed redistribution of the Division of Ballarat. I write to object to the movement of the township of Inverleigh from the Division of Corangamite (Tucker) to the Division of Ballarat. It is my belief that moving Inverleigh and its surrounds from Corangamite (Tucker) to Ballarat will lead to a worse outcome for the electors of Inverleigh.

Given its location on the south east boundary of the Golden Plains Shire, only 15 minutes from Bannockburn and 25 minutes from Geelong, Inverleigh has much broader and stronger links (community/economic/transport) with the Geelong and Surf Coast regions when compared to Ballarat. These links include (but are not limited to):

- A large number of residents who commute to Geelong/Bannockburn and the Surf Coast on a daily basis for work.
- Children who attend public high school within Bannockburn or various private/catholic schools within Geelong/Surf Coast
- A direct, all be it limited, transport connection to Geelong via a Vline Bus.
- Residents attending community groups, sporting groups and other activities within the Geelong and Surf Coast region.

While there may be residents within the Inverleigh area who do have stronger links to Ballarat, this would be a significant minority when compared with those with links to Geelong and the Surf Coast. As a 25 year old who has lived in Inverleigh my entire life I can attest to the much stronger links to the Geelong and Surf Coast community when compared to Ballarat.

My belief that the inclusion of Inverleigh within the Division of Ballarat will limit the access to strong local representation that provides benefits to the residents of Inverleigh. My concern would be that the focus for the representative for the Division of Ballarat would be on Ballarat and its direct surroundings and Inverleigh and its surrounds would be ignored. As mentioned above due to the limited links to Ballarat any representation on behalf of the Ballarat area does not necessarily benefit Inverleigh, whereas, representation within the Division of Corangamite (Tucker) will often directly or indirectly benefit the residents of Inverleigh.

Furthermore, I note the following quote on page 45 of the "Proposed Redistribution of Victoria March 2021" report. It is obvious that the same consideration that led to no change to Bannockburn and its surrounds should apply to Inverleigh and its surrounds as well.

The Redistribution Committee considered Bannockburn and surrounds a more suitable fit with areas in the Geelong hinterland, considering the community and transport links to the Geelong area.

It is for these reasons that I object to the proposed boundaries of the Division of Ballarat and would suggest that the localities of Inverleigh, Shelford and Teesdale be maintained within the Division of Corangamite (Tucker).

Kind Regards,

Cameron Peel – Inverleigh Resident