



The Federal Redistribution 2010
Victoria



**Comment Number 6
on Public Suggestions**

Stephen Hart

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From: Stephen Hart
Sent: Thursday, 22 April 2010 10:34 PM
To: VIC Redistribution
Subject: Response to submissions Federal election boundaries in Victoria

22/4/10

Dear Sir/Madam

I have the following comments regarding the various submissions to the Federal electorate boundary review:

The concept of "community of interest" needs to be defined broadly in relation to Federal electorates as the electorates in regional and rural areas are inevitably large in area.

1. A number of submissions suggest that the Bellarine Peninsula should be in the Corio electorate. I believe that the Bellarine Peninsula should all be in the one electorate and that should be Corangamite. Coastal areas such as St Leonards, Ocean Grove, Barwon Heads, Torquay, Apollo Bay and all the towns in between have a similar community of interest. The issues of climate change, sea level rise, coastal inundation and acid sulphate soils may apply in any town in the south west coast whether at Ocean Grove or Apollo Bay. These towns are currently in the Corangamite electorate. The Corio electorate has virtually no such smaller towns although it does have a large regional city on the bay. If the Bellarine is transferred into the Corio electorate this will split towns with a similar community of interest of Ocean Grove and Barwon Heads from Apollo Bay and will effectively create an additional community of interest in Corio that basically doesn't exist at the moment- that is, small coastal towns at risk from climate change.

2. A number of submissions suggest that Colac Otway Shire should be within the Wannon electorate. Currently, most of Colac Otway Shire is within the Corangamite electorate. I believe that all of Colac Otway Shire currently within Corangamite should remain in Corangamite. Colac Otway Shire Council has closer links to towns to the east, including Geelong, compared to towns to the west. For example, Colac Otway Shire is a member of G21, an organisation that promotes and advocates for the interests of municipalities including Geelong, Queenscliffe, Surf Coast and Colac Otway. Colac Otway Shire is a member of the Barwon Regional Waste Management Group along with Geelong, Queenscliffe and Surf Coast. Colac Otway Shire is also a member of Geelong Otway Tourism, a Board promoting tourism, along with Geelong, Queenscliffe and Surf Coast. These regional partnerships demonstrate that Colac Otway Shire Council has close links to the east and, for that reason, should remain in the Corangamite Federal electorate along with Surf Coast and Queenscliffe.

yours sincerely
Stephen Hart
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