



Comment on objections 81

Colac Otway Shire

2 pages

18 May 2018

Redistribution Secretariat for Victoria,
Australian Electoral Commission,
Level 1 Urban Workshop,
50 Lonsdale Street,
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Email: FedRedistribution-VIC@aec.gov.au

Dear Commission Members,

Proposed Redistribution of Federal Electoral Divisions in Victoria

The Colac Otway Shire Council observes the interest generated by the proposed redistribution of Federal Electoral Boundaries in Victoria. In particular, the Council notes the significant number of submissions objecting to the proposed changes to the Federal Division of Corangamite. This evidences the strongly held community of interest both within the locations currently within Corangamite and also with the regional centre of Geelong.

The Council has encouraged the community to express their views on the proposed redistribution and is appreciative of the opportunity to make further submission for the deliberation of Commission Members.

The Council particularly notes the submission from the Golden Plains Shire opposing the proposal put forward in the Council's submission that the whole of the Golden Plains Shire be included within the Electoral Division of Wannon.

Fundamental to the submission put forward by the Colac Otway Shire Council was the proposition that Colac and Colac District should continue to be located within the Electoral Division of Corangamite. The Council argued the strong and deepening history of cultural, educational, recreational and commercial relationships of communities within the Colac Otway Shire Council area and between the Council area and the regional centre of Geelong. There appears to the Council to be no compelling reason to fragment these relationships as the determination of voter numbers can be satisfactorily achieved by implementing alternative options.



The Council notes that the proposed western boundary of the proposed Division of Cox at Geelong has been indicated by the Redistribution Committee as at Coppards Road. This effectively excises a large area of electors who live as a suburb of Geelong and relate in every sense socially and economically with Geelong from the Division of Corio common to their community of interest and into the proposed Division of Cox.

It would appear to the Council that if Commission Members were of a mind to give effect to the submission from the Golden Plains Council to retain within Corangamite those areas of Golden Plains north of the Hamilton Highway that Colac Otway Council sought in its submission to be transferred to Wannon, this could be achieved by retaining within the Division of Corio those areas of Newcomb, Moolap, Leopold and such areas east which would enable elector numbers for this to occur.

This would have the effect of meeting the fundamental premise of the Council's submission to retain Colac and Colac District as common within the Division of Corangamite, whilst also achieving the desire of Golden Plains to retain their southern communities of Bannockburn, Teesdale, Inverleigh and Batesford within Corangamite and reflecting the relationship with Geelong.

The Council strongly encourages the Commission to review the proposed redistribution taking into consideration the Council's submissions.

Yours sincerely



Cr Joe McCracken

Mayor