



Comment on objections 91

Marie James

2 pages

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Subject: [VIC REDISTRIBUTION COMMENT ON OBJECTIONS] Marie James *WWW* [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
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Victorian Redistribution comments on objections uploaded from the AEC website.

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Additional information: I wish to comment on objection no. 329 from the Colac Otway Shire regarding the proposed boundary between the electorates of Wannon and Cox.

I wish to comment on objection no. 329 from the Colac Otway Shire regarding the proposed boundary between the electorates of Wannon and Cox.

In order to retain the entire shire within the Cox electorate the Colac Otway Shire has presented an alternative proposal to that of the Redistribution Committee. This involves the transfer of the localities of Bannockburn and Golden Plains-South of Golden Plains Shire into Wannon, and the removal of Newcomb and Moolap back into Corio.

It was in response to Public Meeting convened by the Mayor on Thursday 19 April, and attended by Council and Shire representatives, less than fifty constituents and the Federal Member for Corangamite, Sarah Henderson MP. The meeting supported the alternative proposal.

Obviously there could be no possible political bias for this objection and alternative proposal, however it does imply some strange assumptions as follows:

- that Colac has a stronger claim to the AEC “community of interest” criteria than the localities of Bannockburn and Shire of Golden Plains-south because Colac has stronger links and a closer affinity to Geelong.
- that the voters in Bannockburn and Golden Plains, as well as the Golden Plains Shire Council agree with this proposal.

The obvious geographic proximity of the rapidly growing urban areas within Golden Plains-south, such as Bannockburn, to Geelong creates much stronger economic, social, cultural and educational ties. This area would have little to no community of interest with the electorate of Wannon and in fact borders the highly urbanised electorate of Corio.

The Golden Plains Shire is in fact adamant in its opposition to this self-serving and somewhat presumptuous proposal from Colac Otway Shire, correctly claiming a much closer and more direct relationship with Geelong. No doubt many voters in Golden Plains-south, Moolap and Newcomb will also be disappointed and possibly offended by this alternative proposal.

Marie James