



Objection 167

M.L. Courtney & E.P. Courtney

1 page

AEC VIC SO 30 APR 2018

[REDACTED]
26th. April 2018

Australian Electoral Commission

Even though we had been warned that Central Goldfields Shire could be put into the Mallee Electorate, we are in utter disbelief that this has been proposed in the draft report. **This is in breach of Sec. 66 (3 X b) of the federal electoral Act. Bendigo and Ballarat fit the act admirably.** We find it difficult to accept that that in a society, that our votes cast in one of the safest National Party seats – 70% – In Australia, with our member over 400 kilometres away.

Being on the fringe of such a large electorate with an overwhelming majority and such different needs, surely this would put Central Goldfields Shire at a disadvantage when it came to the allocating of funding for projects this community deems to be important. Couple this with the fact that the Central Goldfields Shire is currently without any elected councillors, its residents are left without any elected official to appeal on their behalf.

Notwithstanding the necessity for adjustments to the electorate boundaries to be adjusted to meet the requirements for every seat to have approximately the same number of voters, we believe the Central Goldfields Shire has been dealt a severe blow.

In a democratic society all voters should have the expectation that their vote could make a difference. In the case of the Mallee Electorate, there is not a chance of this being the case.

If we are wrong regarding our interpretation of the Act, we would like to know why.

Stamped address envelope enclosed for reply.

M.L. Courtney
[REDACTED]
26-4-18

E.P. Courtney
[REDACTED]
26-4-18