



Objection 265

Spence Construction

2 pages

3rd May 2018

Redistribution Secretariat for Victoria,
Australian Electoral Commission,
GPO Box 768 Melbourne VIC 3001

Electoral Redistribution Objection – Movement of The Corangamite Electorate into The Electorate of Wannon

Dear Sir or Madam,

We wish to lodge an objection to the proposed Federal Election Divisions for Victoria, in particular with relation to the Corangamite boundary proposed changes and the renaming of the electorate to Cox.

The electorate of Corangamite in South West Victoria, the name having aboriginal origins, was one of the 65 original divisions created in 1901 almost 120 years ago. The history of Corangamite Electorate and our Shire is significant and the proposal to split our shire into 2 separate electorates (Cox and Wannon) would see the end of this relationship and the work that has been completed for our region by the generations before us. We believe that this would be a significant loss of our regions history and what makes us who we are today as a shire and electorate.

Our major concerns are as follows;

1. Social, Regional and Business Interests

As owners of a major business in Colac that also includes an office in Geelong with 75 employees of which one third are based in the Greater Geelong Region, we spend a lot of time commuting between Colac and Geelong and communicating and forming relationships with subcontractors, suppliers and customers of which the “greater percentage” are all a part of the Corangamite Electorate or further to the east into the Greater Melbourne region. These relationships help provide a common understanding of the issues that are of concern within our region, being either of an economic, social or sporting nature and in so many cases require an understanding of the way decisions affect all 3 of these very important aspects of our communities. To split this region and in particular our shire will leave what we believe to be a gap in both the understanding and ability to help positively change issues when required and potentially lead to differences in the way our communities live, work and play together.

2. G21 Region

In recent times we have seen from a business, sporting and social perspective, most initiatives, existing and future projects have an influence in Colac Otway and the Geelong Regions. An example of long developed Alliances is the Geelong Region Alliance (G21) which is the formal alliance of government, business and community organisations working together to improve the lives of people within the Geelong region across five municipalities – Colac Otway, Golden Plains, Greater Geelong, Queenscliff and Surf Coast.

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G21 works as a forum to discuss regional issues across interest groups and municipalities resulting in better coordinated research, consultation and planning.

G21 supports the delivery of projects that benefit the region across municipal boundaries and is a platform for the region to speak with one voice to all levels of government.

We would not like to see the dissolving of the many positive outcomes that our shire has been a part of as a part of the G21 Alliance.

3. Splitting of the Shire

The proposed splitting of our Shire into 2 under the electorate changes could have our community in the situation of having 2 members (Wannon and Cox). This will almost certainly lead to another layer of deliberation regardless of who holds the seats which will have a severe impact on the ability for decision making that “best serves” the requirements of the Colac Otway Shire and its rate payers. This position would be one that we have major concerns around for our business and wider community.

4. Relationship to the Great Ocean Road & Otway’s

The Great Ocean Road and the townships and communities that are a part of it are integral to the relationship of both our shire and the Greater Colac Community. This region including the Otway National Park has many different challenges regarding its Geographical location and the physical features of the area which will differ significantly to that of the challenges that face the greater Hamilton region and Wannon Electorate.

5. Our Desired Outcomes

- a. That Colac remains within the electorate of the Greater Geelong, Surfcoast and Otway regions
- b. Our identities in Business, Culture and Sport remain in ties with our eastern neighbours in Greater Geelong and further beyond that we have forged alliances and relationships with over the many years of being within the same electorate.
- c. Keep the Colac Otway Shire in the one electorate which would be that of the Geelong region of whom we share the most with which would allow us to be represented by one member.
- d. That the decisions around electorates are decided by the relationship to Shire, Economics, Culture and Sport, not pure population numbers.

Glenn McVilly
Director

Matt Gibson
Director

Shane Theodore
Director

