



Objection 291

Jo Wade

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From: Jo Wade
To: [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)
Subject: Objection to proposed boundary change for the electorate of Corangamite
Date: Thursday, 3 May 2018 10:10:42 PM

I would like to submit an objection to the proposed changes to the Corangamite electorate and the proposed new boundary which means the Colac Otway Shire will be split across two electorates, Wannon and the newly named electorate of Cox.

The Colac Otway Shire is one of Victoria's most socially disadvantaged shire's in Victoria. Splitting the shire into two electorates would only exacerbate the problem, and the ability to gain funding for anything the shire wanted to achieve for the community.

My submission will demonstrate how remaining in the same electorate as Geelong is vitally important for Colac, and how it aligns with the AEC definition of *a community of interest within the proposed electoral division, including economic, social and regional interests.*

The Colac and Geelong communities work in partnership across the health, education, transport and industry services, and many more areas. They have long-standing, mutually-beneficial relationships and work together to improve the economic opportunities for their respective communities. These relationships would take years to duplicate with other towns and would disadvantage the Colac community in the meantime.

Health - Through Barwon Health Colac share many health services and lobby as part of Barwon Health for programs and funding that can operate in Colac and Geelong. These electoral boundary changes threaten this relationship and its potential for improving the lives of our community members. The changes would require health services executives to lobby two politicians adding to the complexity of established or new health program opportunities and funding.

Education - Colac's education opportunities are closely aligned with education institutions in Geelong. The Gordon TAFE College has campuses in Colac and in Geelong and work together to improve the education opportunities for the young people in the Colac. Also, many of the Colac community attend Deakin University in Geelong. And this will increase when the dual highway will improve access and reduce travel times.

Local Government and industry - Through Colac Otway Shire and Colac industry representation on the G21 Geelong Regional Alliance (G21) 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, Queenscliffe and Surf Coast. With Colac being part of this committee, it can lobby as part of a larger group for support for road, transport and industry initiatives etc. to improve the lives of community members across south west Victoria. Moving Colac into Wannon and with the shire spread across two electorates would require establishing or duplicating regional relationships for projects, community improvements and lobbying members of parliament again adding another layer of complexity for new projects and initiatives for community benefit.

Access to federal representation – The proposed electoral changes and moving Colac into Wannon will mean people in Colac will have to travel to Hamilton, more than two hours' drive to meet with their member of parliament. This is

unsatisfactory. Currently people in Colac can visit their local member of parliament in Colac where there's an office open on a part-time basis. Or they can travel one hour by train or car to Geelong where there is a full-time electoral office. There is no public transport option to reach a Hamilton office if Colac were to become part of Wannon and that difficulty of access compounds community disadvantage.

I object to the proposed boundary change for the seat of Corangamite and do not agree with the proposal of splitting the Colac Otway Shire across the seat of Wannon and the newly named seat of Cox. Colac's links and relationships are closely aligned with Geelong to the east, not with the towns in Wannon to the west. I think the proposed changes do nothing to improve the Colac community's progress. And Colac would be better served if it remained as part of the Corangamite electorate or whatever its name ends up being.

Jo Wade

