



# Objection 349

Golden Plains Shire Council

2 pages



**P:** (03) 5220 7111  
**F:** (03) 5220 7100  
**Local call:** 1300 363 036  
**E:** enquiries@goldenplains.vic.gov.au

**Golden Plains Shire Council**  
2 Pope Street, PO Box 111  
Bannockburn, Victoria, 3331  
**W:** www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au

4 May 2018

GPS Ref: OUT18/705F55B3  
GPS File: 30-03-005  
Your Ref: OBAEC\_01

Australian Electoral Commission  
GPO Box 768  
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Dear Commissioner

### **Objection – Victorian federal redistribution**

On behalf of Golden Plains Shire Council and its community, I am bringing to the attention of the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC), Council's concerns regarding the proposed changes to the Federal Electoral boundaries, particularly the electorates of Corangamite, Ballarat and Wannon.

Council appreciates the framework in which the AEC must work, in trying to balance the conflicting growth pressure affecting the Regional Cities of Ballarat and Geelong alongside population decline across the Mallee and Southwestern Victoria. Golden Plains Shire however is in a unique position, as it directly abuts two regional cities, is one of the fast growing rural shires in Victoria and has one of the fastest growing towns in Victoria; Bannockburn.

Up until now, our community has been well served split between an electorate based out of Ballarat and the other out of Geelong (Corangamite). Council's involvement and membership of G21 and Central Highlands groups, relationships with Visit Ballarat and Tourism Greater Geelong and the Bellarine as well as connections with both Deakin and Federation Universities are testament to Golden Plains Shire's connection and involvement in these two abutting regions.

Golden Plains has two distinct communities of interest; reflective of our population distribution. The Northern community, which includes Smythesdale, Haddon, Ross Creek, Napoleons and Smythes Creek, is reliant and dependent upon health services, education, employment and sporting communities within Ballarat. This relationship has been further strengthened due to significant growth in Delacombe and the establishment of its major retailing precinct which is less than 5km from our northern residents. Similarly, the southern communities of Bannockburn, Teesdale, Inverleigh and Batesford, enjoy this same direct relationship with Geelong given the CBD is only 11km from the Shire boundary.

Council fully understands and appreciates that the AEC must ensure the electoral divisions have an equal distribution by sheer numbers. Equally however, we understand, due deliberation is to be given to communities of interest (including the economic, social and regional interest) as well as the ability for the community to interact with the elected official and their office.

The Golden Plains community has enjoyed close relationships with its elected representation to date, so the proposal to see half of the Shire move into an electorate that is based out of Warrnambool, nearly 200km away, is a significant dilution of what the community currently enjoys and expects.

Golden Plains Council Submission:

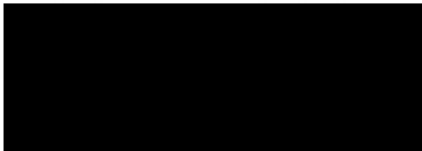
1. Including Golden Plains Shire, or parts of it, in the Wannon electorate would not cater for the Shire's increasing peri-urbanisation which sees a more complex mix between

rural and urban and more solid links to its neighbouring regional cities of Ballarat and Geelong.

2. That Golden Plains Shire is adamantly opposed to the proposition being put by the Colac Otway Shire that the whole of Golden Plains be included in the Wannon electorate, when in fact our Shire has a more direct relationship with Geelong, than does Colac, a community which is as close to Warrambool as it is to Geelong. If the AEC was to consider the whole of a Shire being included in Wannon, it would make far more sense for that to be Colac Otways Shire, not Golden Plains.
3. That the existing electoral boundaries be retained, as the community of interest of the Shire is indisputably split between Ballarat and Geelong (Corangamite/Cox).
4. That if the above is not able to be achieved that the whole of Golden Plains remain within the Corangamite/Cox electorate.

Council strongly encourages the AEC to review the proposed electoral boundaries in light of the above concerns and comments and amend the boundaries to better reflect the relationship of Golden Plains Shire residents with their communities of interest.

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

**Cr Helena Kirby**  
**Mayor**