



Objection 377

Warrion Recreation Reserve

2 pages

Australian Electoral Commission
Redistribution Committee

Re: Warrion Recreation Reserve objection to the proposed redistribution of the Federal electorate of Corangamite.

As a local community group that administers the Warrion Recreation Reserve, we have close ties to the Warrion Cricket Club and we have several concerns with the proposed redistribution of current federal electorate Corangamite.

1. Access to our local member

Ease of communication with the local member of parliament is very important. Our current member has an office in Colac and at worst has an office an hour away in Geelong.

Under the proposed boundary redistribution our local member would have their office in Hamilton which is over two hours away. This would drastically limit access to our local member. We would, in most cases, have to discuss issues with two representatives which would mean additional time and resources and invariably lead to time delays in decision making.

As a very small regional community (Warrion) it is very difficult to achieve representation at the best of times due to our isolated location and low population. If we became part of Wannon, which covers a massive physical geographic presence (37,000 square miles), we would become irrelevant.

2. Links to the east

Our “community of interest” is to our East, not to our West, with deep seated connection to Corangamite, Birreguarra, Apollo Bay, Geelong.

We have strong links with affiliated organisations to our east. Geelong hosts a number of regional head offices for sporting and community organisations. The proposed boundary realignment would see result in organisations and teams in local leagues being split between two electorates. This could impact funding and support for such bodies. It is hard enough for a community organisation to make submissions to one person let alone having to do it twice.

3. Colac Otway Shire

The Colac Otway Shire is currently contained within the Corangamite electorate. Under the proposed redistribution the shire would be split between the expanded Wannon electorate and the proposed Cox electorate. The community has strong links with Geelong, the Surf Coast and the Otways, hence its name. These links should not be broken.

Regardless of which party may hold the seats it would require the shire dealing with two members. As it is likely that from time to time electorates could be held by different parties there are likely to be different policies or priorities that could impact the shire. This could lead to prolonged deliberations before decisions are made. Such delays could seriously impact the operations of business and community organisation.

4. The name “Cox”

We strongly object to this name, it has no relevance to our area. The Corangamite name as both an indigenous word and the title of our seat since Federation, and the name of one of our largest

natural features, needs to remain. The slang connotations of "Cox" should also rule this name out.

In summary we believe that Colac should not be isolated from its close ties to its east with communities in and around Geelong, the Surf Coast and the Otways. Timely access to our local member is important and is highly valued.

We trust that you will give these concerns due consideration.