



Objection 387

South Barwon Football and Netball Club

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SOUTH BARWON FOOTBALL & NETBALL CLUB INC.

Inc. No. A. 0021794H

P.O. Box 266 Belmont "McDonalds Reserve" Reynolds Rd Belmont

2006 and 2010 VCFL Club of the Year,

May 4 2018

The South Barwon Football Netball Club (SBFNC) strongly oppose the proposed electoral boundary changes of Corangamite as put forward by the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) on the following grounds:

- Under the changes, Corangamite will be renamed to Cox and its borders will change significantly – the electorate will lose the city of Colac and the northern part of the Colac Otway Shire as well as the Geelong suburbs of Highton and Belmont where our Club currently resides.
- The proposed changes do not meet the AEC's own criteria with regard to the 'community interest' in that we have little or no affinity with the communities to our north as we currently do to our west, in particular Colac which are exceptionally strong.
- We are concerned about this proposal because it will sever many established and strong communities of interest. The Geelong suburbs south of the Barwon are very inter-linked socially, economically and culturally including through our football and netball clubs and we think the AEC's proposal will have a detrimental impact.
- Colac's sporting, social and economic interests are inextricably linked with Geelong and the Surf Coast. Almost all of Colac's strategic and collaborative partnerships are to our east, including the G21 network of councils.
- We further request that the SBFNC seeks the retention of the name **Corangamite** for the Division as a Federation Seat which reflects a greater affinity to the nature of the Electoral Division than the name of **Cox**. The new name of Cox has already prompted some ridicule on social media and among our football and netball circles. Which is already controversial given its history as a federation seat and its connection with our indigenous heritage.

Roger Blacksell
President
South Barwon Football and Netball Club