



Comment on objections 98

Anne Egan

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I wish to comment on objections regarding the proposed boundary between the electorates of Wannon and Cox, based on the splitting of the Colac Otway Shire between two Federal electorates and the fear that the resulting size of the Wannon electorate will isolate Colac and impede timely access to the sitting MP.

A close perusal of the AEC's proposed Victorian Federal Redistribution clearly shows that prior to the redistribution, the vast majority of Victorian Shires were already split between Federal electorates and will continue to be split after the redistribution. Some Shires are even split among three to four Federal seats.

This has always been a consequence of redistributions. These Shire Councils have, and will no doubt continue to operate effectively and efficiently while having to negotiate successfully with multiple Federal MPs, often from different political parties.

Wannon electorate is not the largest Federal electorate in Victoria and certainly not in Australia. To assume that the Colac will be isolated without ready access to the sitting member is also to assume that the current sitting member will be unable to make the necessary administrative and travel adjustments to continue to effectively deal with an expanded electorate.

The current member for Wannon obviously manages to effectively represent his vast electorate, evidenced by his strong margin of support and his important ministerial position. No doubt he will deal constructively with an expanded constituency.

Anne Egan