



Objection 187

Anne Doran

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Redistribution Secretariat for Victoria

Australian Electoral Commission

GPO Box 768

MELBOURNE Vic 3001.

25th April 2018

Sir,

I was quite shocked to read that redistributions are proposed to take place in Victoria.

It was back in 1997, when the former Shire of Bet Bet (and others) were amalgamated with Maryborough City Council. I stepped down as councillor of the Shire of Bet Bet then, and predicted that being part of an urban council would not work, and we would become the fringe of an already declining City Council.

This is exactly what has happened to all rural townships that are now known as Central Goldfields Shire. The name "Goldfields" I suggested for the new amalgamated Shire back in 1997, and was some way we could hold on to our mining heritage identity and other history.

If we are to amalgamate into Mallee, as proposed, this would erode our existence even further. In fact, we would cease to exist.

I would like to put forward my suggestion for consideration.

Looking at the map of Central Goldfields Shire, we have 5 surrounding Shires with whom we already share many services –

Loddon Shire – Mount Alexander Shire – Hepburn Shire – Pyrenees Shire – Northern Grampians.

These 5 Shires, together with Central Goldfields could form a sizable district. There could be 2 representatives (1 rural – 1 urban) from each of these 6 Shires to form a governing body, as well as sharing resources, administration, insurance, machinery etc.

The term "Shire Council" would have to change, as it would be called, the district of "....."

The representatives of this new district would have to have the necessary qualifications and practical experience know how to undertake this new role to be able to represent their rate payers.

As for the name of the proposed new district, I would like to propose the "Central Victorian Goldfields district", to reflect our world famous "Welcome Stranger" gold nugget, which was discovered on 5th February 1869 at Moliagul. It is the largest single nugget ever found in the world. It will be 150 years next year 2019, when we commemorate this icon, and all our other goldmining history. It is our proud heritage/history and what Victoria was built on. Many of our neighbouring townships were all built on goldmining. We share a common interest with them.

To propose we are to be included into Mallee would be a grave backward move.

Other amalgamated Shires could be formed within an axis of 5 or 6 shires to become a district. By having the huge areas of Mallee and Wannon, is to diminish perceptiveness, efficiencies and delivery of services to local smaller townships.

Back in 1901, Victoria was made up of districts and were mainly inhabited by sheep. Now in 2018, some 117 years later, Victoria is mainly populated by people. A lot has changed during this time. We have developed Victoria by history, hard work and the way we think today.

It is my humble opinion that we should refer back to the term "districts" as compared to "divisions".

As our local history of our "district" was built on gold, to term our district as the "Central Victorian Goldfields district", would be something to consider. Bendigo and Ballarat already have been identified as districts, and we would do well in our own right as we share similar interests within our 6 local shire districts.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. Anne Doran

