



# Objection 338

Gillian Davenport

1 page

The boundaries of the Division of Cox as outlined in the *Proposed redistribution of Victoria into electoral divisions April 2018* are to be supported and implemented as they are consistent with the provision regarding communities of interest in the *Commonwealth Electoral Act* 1918 (the communities of interest provision of sub-paragraph 66(3)(a)(i) of the Act).

Colac, which under the proposed boundaries is to go into the Division of Wannon, is massively different in its communities of interest from Apollo Bay, which is to be in the Division of Cox. Colac is an inland regional centre with strong agricultural and community links to the southwest region, Ballarat and Warrnambool. Apollo Bay has greater communities of interest links with the similar coastal towns such as Lorne, Anglesea and Torquay than with the inland town of Colac. The proposed boundaries of Cox also strengthen communities of interest by transferring the Bellarine Peninsula from the Division of Corio to the Division of Cox. This then unites and improves the strong and existing coastal communities of the Bellarine Peninsula and the Surf Coast.

The primary consideration in subsection 66(3) of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act* is projected enrolment and the proposed boundaries of the Division of Cox as outlined in the *Proposed redistribution of Victoria into electoral divisions April 2018* are to be supported as they strongly satisfy this criterion.

The projected enrolments of the proposed Division of Cox suggest the areas included within the proposed Division boundary are forecast to grow quickly, and more quickly than Colac or the Division of Wannon. To include Colac in the proposed division of Cox makes the projected enrolment numbers not fall within the limits set set out by the Commission.

Moving Colac and surrounding area from the proposed division of Wannon into the proposed Division of Cox results in a projected enrolment of just over 100,000, well below the minimum projected enrolment quota of 106,509. Without these areas, the proposed Division of Wannon would have to gain between 5,793 and 13,519 additional population from another division to meet the projected enrolment quota. The only other adjacent regional towns that might supply those numbers are Ballarat, and Horsham. Using Horsham would mean the Division of Mallee would be under the minimum projected quota by 6,834. Removing Colac from Wannon would likely require a substantial redistribution of Mallee, which would then be problematic with the lack of significant population areas in northwest Victoria.

The proposed boundary of the Division of Cox as outlined in the *Proposed redistribution of Victoria into electoral divisions April 2018* are to be supported as it uses the strong and readily identifiable feature of the coast as a physical feature in the new Division of Cox and strengthens the strong social and economic community of interest by putting large parts of urban Geelong into the Division of Corio, making the Division of Corio cover more of urban and industrial Geelong.