



# Objection 388

Fennell West

2 pages

Australian Electoral Commission  
Redistribution Committee

Re: Objection to the proposed redistribution of the Federal electorate of Corangamite by Fennell West.

As a local business 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.

### **2. Links to the east**

We have strong business links to the east of Colac in Geelong and beyond where our major customers and suppliers are based. We share common interests and concerns regarding trade, employment and transport to name a few. Predominantly being in the same electorate we can bring these to the attention of one member of parliament. Under the proposed changes we would have to talk to two parties.

### **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. Colac is a successful and growing regional Community**

Colac is a success story in regional Australia, with strong employment and growth prospects. This is based around many factors, such as our strong employment, strong community spirit and location relative to a large city.

As a growing regional location, we believe that the AEC should not be doing anything to jeopardise this story. Our connection to the East is one of the foundations of Colac's success. There is no gain for Colac to become part of Wannon and we only face risk and uncertainty.

## 5. 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. As an association we recognise the "traditional owners of the land", and we believe not enough is done in regional Victoria to support our indigenous communities. Removing the same Corangamite, is further erosion.

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.

Regards,

Ryan Fennell  
Director  
Fennell West