



Objection 398

Helen Broad
Bob Henderson
Geoff Lovett
Chris Meddows-Taylor
Gerard Murphy
Paula Nixon

2 pages

From: Chris Meddows-Taylor
To: [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)
Subject: 2018 Federal redistribution - Victoria.
Date: Friday, 4 May 2018 5:04:03 PM

We would like to submit an objection to the proposal which have been developed to include Central Goldfields Shire into the Mallee Division based on Community of Interest considerations. Our communities of interest are clearly with Ballarat and Bendigo and there is a case for inclusion in either Division. We have absolutely no common community of interest with municipalities like Buloke, Gannawarra, Mildura, West Wimmera and Hindmarsh. Section 66(3)(b) of the Federal Electoral Act requires that redistributions give consideration to communities of interest including economic, social and regional interests; means of communication and travel and the physical features of the area.

Our economic drivers and social activities are closely linked to Ballarat and Bendigo with well-developed communication routes connecting us to both cities including the developing passenger rail service through the Ballarat –Maryborough growth corridor. We are connected to both cities and our surrounding locations through our unique Goldfields physical and built heritage and tourism opportunity.

Central Goldfields is one of the most disadvantaged municipalities and the links to the economic hubs and developments and transport connections with Ballarat and Bendigo are critical.

The review panel state that the redistribution will result in benefits which include “keeping together or improve existing communities of interest.” There is absolutely no way this can be applied to the Central Goldfields Shire proposed move.

What is particularly disturbing is the comments in part 169 of the report -*“The Redistribution Committee noted the community of interest between the regions but ultimately found that moving Central Goldfields Shire into the Division of Bendigo would result in undesirable outcomes elsewhere in the State.”*

Put another way, this acknowledges that our interest would be served by being placed into the Bendigo electorate but that would create difficulties for others so it would be preferable for Central Goldfields Shire residents to carry this burden. We find this concerning.

We recognise the challenges the AEC faces in terms of population clustering. Nevertheless we feel consideration should be given to placing Central Goldfields Shire either in Ballarat or Bendigo Divisions.

Possible options to do this would be for a Ballarat inclusion, consider the South Eastern part of the Ballarat Division around Bacchus Marsh being included into Gorton or possibly Lalor as Community of Interest considerations here more closely align with the growth corridor extending from Melbourne than Ballarat. If a Bendigo Division placement is being considered we would make a similar proposal for Woodend and possibly Kyneton for inclusion into the McEwan Division.

If both these moves are impossible we feel remaining within Wannon is preferable to a move to the Mallee in terms of Community of Interest considerations. This could be accommodated possibly by placing Stawell and Northern Grampians Shire in Mallee which we feel would be a closer fit than Central Goldfields.

We would appreciate your consideration of our suggestions.

Helen Broad

Bob Henderson

Geoff Lovett

Chris Meddows-Taylor

Gerard Murphy

Paula Nixon
Former Central Goldfields Shire Councillors