



Objection 272

Anne Egan

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Electoral boundary changes for Corangamite to form the new seat of Cox

I have been a resident of the Corangamite electorate for over 30 years and will soon be relocating to Colac. I fully support the proposed AEC electoral boundary changes for the Corangamite electorate and the formation of the new seat of Cox.

The AEC proposal to move Colac and part of both the Colac Otway and Golden Plains Shires, into the electorate of Wannon is the most logical and obvious way to meet the required enrolment quotas and projected numbers of electors for both the Wannon and Cox electorates. The proposed boundary changes also clearly satisfy the community of interests consideration.

These western towns and regions, of what was the Corangamite electorate, all share mutual rural and farming interests with the Wannon electorate. However, the rapidly growing urban towns of Bannockburn, Inverleigh and Lethbridge have very little in common with Wannon and should logically remain in Cox. The subsequent division of both Shires, as a consequence of the electoral redistribution, is neither unique nor a threat to the social, cultural or economic cohesion within each Shire.

Given the rapid and ongoing population growth of Cox, it is inevitable that the western boundary will continue to move towards the Bellarine Peninsula and the coast. A united Bellarine Peninsula within Cox, with Moolap and Newcomb to the west extending to Portarlinton in the east, is also a very sound and welcome proposal. The townships of the Bellarine share very strong social, economic and cultural interests.

Electoral redistributions are not influenced by, or concerned with political considerations or issues. Objections to the current proposed changes to the Cox electorate boundaries, based on perceived political unfairness or loss of marginal seat benefits are therefore, pointless. Also, misguided fears that new lines on a map somehow limit or threaten access to medical, educational, cultural, social, sporting or business services and opportunities in Geelong, should never be supported or exploited for political gain.

The creation of a new electoral division into Victoria has, by necessity, required boundary changes throughout the state but has successfully resulted in all electorates meeting the numerical requirements. Any further changes to the Cox electorate boundaries would impact on surrounding electorates and possibly create an unnecessary flow on effect throughout the state.

Anne Egan