



Comment on objections 8

Benjamin Middleton

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Dear Sir/Madam

I write, as a resident in the Division of Corangamite, to comment on the Australian Electoral Commission's recent redistribution and subsequent name change.

Change of name of Corangamite

I object to the proposal to rename the Division of Corangamite to the Division of Cox. I note that while the AEC may have good intention in promoting the achievements of women, the rename fails on all accounts of decency.

Firstly, Ms Cox was a public servant doing her job and there is very little evidence (and a complete lack of diversity of sources) to suggest that she went above or beyond what was what required in that role. I find it hard to reconcile where someone who is merely doing what they are paid to do, why they should be bestowed such an honour. That is not to dismiss her achievements but question why a public servant is somewhat more relevant than a volunteer. There seems to be a recent trend of promoting paid public servants rather than those who volunteer their time to good causes. I note that life saving is an area, which in this particular state, is dominated by volunteers so it is almost disrespectful to these volunteers to name an electorate after a paid public servant.

Secondly, Ms Cox has basically no significance to the electorate of Corangamite. It is actually somewhat offensive to the achievements of other women who have far stronger connections to the electorate. Ms Cox would not be in the top 100 relevant women who have served this electorate. There seems to be a real lack of relevance except some vague link to Queenscliff. A link that if the AEC didn't find it, there would be no one who would actually know of it. No historical sources from the region suggest any relevance to this reason.

Thirdly, the AEC's own guidelines require them to consider that Corangamite is a federation electorate. It seems that there has been little real consideration to the fact.

Fourthly, the AEC's own guidelines require them to consider that Corangamite is an aboriginal word. While the shift in the electorate may need to see the name changed, it would have been nice to see the AEC consider an aboriginal name. There are plenty of aboriginal names within the region that would be suitable. For example, the Gulidjan people inhabited part of this electorate and the name is not particularly well represented in the region. I believe that if a name change does have to occur "Gulidjan" would be an acceptable name.

Change of electoral boundaries

Fifthly, the electorate should never need renaming. It is clear that the AEC does not understand or has not considered the cultural connection between the peoples of Colac, Geelong and the areas in between. These people are generally united in motive and idea. You just need to look at the G21 regional alliance of the local councils to advocate for the region as an example of where the people of the region culturally align. There is a large and unwavering cultural connection between these areas and it is upsetting that the AEC does not consider the strength of the cultural and historical connection.

If Corangamite is to reduce people, the best alternative might be to redistribute Corio's northern boundaries which likely will happen in the medium term as population growth in the western suburbs of Melbourne continues strongly and population growth within Geelong also continues strongly. It would seem that in the medium term there will likely be another electoral in Melbourne's western suburbs and one of the western Melbourne electorates will push towards Geelong. It might be worth considering moving people of Johanna, Yuulong etc to Wannon to further control population as another partial alternative.

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