

Transcript of proceedings

Public inquiry of the augmented Electoral Commission for Victoria

Conducted in Winchelsea, Tuesday 5 June 2018

Before:

Mr Tom Rogers

(Electoral Commissioner, Australian Electoral Commission)

Mr David Kalisch

(Australian Statistician and member of the Australian Electoral Commission)

Mr Steve Kennedy

(Australian Electoral Officer for Victoria)

Mr Craig Sandy

(Surveyor-General of Victoria)

Mr Andrew Greaves

(Auditor-General for Victoria)

(Recorded and transcribed by Legal Transcripts)

1 MR ROGERS: Well welcome to the first of two hearings of the
2 augmented Electoral Commission for Victoria. The second
3 hearing will take place in Melbourne tomorrow. I'd like
4 to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of
5 the Land on which we meet today and pay my respects to
6 their Elders past and present.

7 My name is Tom Rogers. I am the Australian
8 Electoral Commissioner and I'm chairing this inquiry
9 today. The other member of the Australian
10 Electoral Commission present today is Mr David Kalisch,
11 on my right, who is the Australian Statistician. The
12 other members who make up the augmented Electoral
13 Commission are Mr Andrew Greaves the Auditor-General for
14 Victoria on my left. To my far right is Mr Steve
15 Kennedy, Australian Electoral Officer for Victoria. And
16 to my far left is Mr Craig Sandy, the Surveyor-General of
17 Victoria.

18 Part 4 of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* sets
19 out the requirements to be followed in conducted
20 redistributions. The redistribution of Victoria is required
21 because Victoria's entitlement to seats in the House of
22 Representatives has increased from 37 to 38.

23 In accordance with section 66 of the Electoral Act,
24 the Redistribution Committee for Victoria has prepared a
25 proposal for the redistribution of Victoria into 38
26 federal electoral divisions. The proposal, together with
27 written reasons for the proposal required by section 67
28 of the Electoral Act, was released by the Redistribution
29 Committee on Friday 6 April this year. In accordance
30 with section 68 of the Electoral Act, interested
31 individuals and organisations were invited to make

1 written objections to this proposed redistribution and to
2 provide written comments on those objections. A total of
3 413 objections and 100 comments on objections were
4 received within the required timeframes.

5 The augmented Electoral Commission is required
6 under sub-section 72(1) of the Electoral Act to consider
7 all objections lodged in relation to the redistribution
8 proposal and all comments on objections. The inquiry
9 here today provides the opportunity for members of the
10 public to make submissions about those objections.

11 The Electoral Act specifies how the redistribution
12 process is conducted and which factors it can take into
13 account. Sub-section 73(4) of the Electoral Act states
14 that the primary consideration for the augmented
15 Electoral Committee is that each electoral division meets
16 certain numerical requirements in the form of the current
17 enrolment quota and the projected enrolment quota and
18 acceptable tolerances around those two quotas.

19 Subject to an electoral division satisfying those
20 numbers, sub-section 73(4) also requires that we have
21 regard to communities of interest within electoral
22 divisions, that's economic, social and regional
23 interests. We have to have regard to means of
24 communication and travel within electoral divisions, and
25 the physical features and areas of electoral divisions.
26 The boundaries of existing electoral divisions are also
27 considered although that is of lessor importance.
28 Boundaries may change, often there has to be compensating
29 adjustments to make sure the electoral divisions are
30 within those numerical tolerances.

31 Now the inquiry today will be recorded, and

1 transcripts of proceedings will be made available as part
2 of the augmented Electoral Commission's report, and
3 therefore will be on the Australian Electoral Commission
4 website once the report has been tabled in Parliament.

5 I'd also like to draw your attention to the fact that
6 we may have members of the media present today. I'd like
7 them to observe similar rules to what would occur at a
8 parliamentary hearings to ensure that the reason why we
9 are all here, that is to focus on the opportunity for
10 speakers to have their say and for proceedings to run
11 smoothly. Should media have questions I ask that they
12 speak to Nicole over there, and take questions outside
13 the hearing room not inside the hearing room.

14 So when we start, I ask people to as, I call your
15 name, to come to the table in front, sit in front of one
16 of those two microphones there to help us with the
17 transcript and then say your name very clearly and then
18 make your presentation.

19 With such a high level of interest in participating
20 in this inquiry, with the number of people we have, I ask
21 you to keep your remarks to no more than five minutes and
22 the way we will do that is at the four minute mark Nicole
23 will provide a warning or (indistinct) will provide a
24 four minute warning and at the five minute mark we'll
25 remind you to wrap up your statement. That's not
26 designed to restrict what you are saying but rather to
27 ensure that everybody has the chance to talk. If we get
28 to the end of the inquiry today and there is time spare
29 and other people wish to talk or to say more, we might be
30 able to use any excess time we have then.

31 After the inquiry we will deliberate and then we

1 will endeavour to make a public announcement as soon as
2 practical. The other thing I'm going to ask is when you
3 sit at the table I'm going to hand this microphone over,
4 so that people in the back of the room will be able to
5 hear what you are saying at the same time.

6 So ladies and gentlemen we might commence. Unless
7 I am wrong I think the first person is Gavin Ryan.

8 MR RYAN: Good morning everyone.

9 MR ROGERS: So just say your name for the purpose of the
10 recording.

11 MR RYAN: Gavin Ryan. So there are three things that I'd like
12 to cover off today in addition to my submissions. The
13 first being the name of the proposed Division of Cox.
14 Now there has been some discussion I note at the
15 objections to - a number of objections to the proposed
16 name. Now I have a suggestion for an alternative name
17 being Henrietta Dugdale or the name of Dugdale. It was
18 Henrietta Dugdale nee Worrell, she was a pioneering
19 Australian woman who was advocating for the rights for
20 other Australian women, who initiated the first female
21 suffrage society in Australia.

22 Now she was a critical first wave Australian
23 feminist. She was nationally recognised for her work in
24 the fight to have Australian - and Victorian women gain
25 the right to stand and vote. Now this was a long
26 struggle and after many decades of work Australian women
27 were first granted the right to stand and vote federally
28 in 1902. I think Victorian women were granted this right
29 in 1908. Now she lived in the proposed seat in
30 Queenscliff for many years raising a family there before
31 - - -

1 MR ROGERS: Gavin could you just use that microphone as
2 well, we've just got a couple of people that can't hear.

3 MR RYAN: You can all hear me now. (Indistinct) the whole town
4 will hear me. Now she lived in the proposed seat of
5 Queenscliff, she raised a family there before she
6 separated and moved to Melbourne. She then returned in a
7 later part of her life living at Point Lonsdale until her
8 death. Now I can't think of a - she's an excellent
9 choice for the fact that she was a pioneering advocate
10 for Australian women's ability to participate equally in
11 a democratic process and that would be an excellent
12 choice for the naming of this new division given that
13 it's integral and it was a long and hard struggle in
14 someone who fought vociferously for many decades.

15 Now my second point is that the Commission ought to
16 give consideration to avoiding a split in the four local
17 government authorities and this has been covered quite
18 extensively in various submissions. There is I think a
19 quite elegant solution which is to exclude entirely the
20 Colac Otway Shire from the new Division of the Cox and
21 then include of the Golden Plains Shire.

22 Now on the figures provided in the original report,
23 this would only lead to a difference of 2,999 more people
24 being in the proposed Division of Cox on the current
25 views. So obviously these would move out big proposed
26 Division of Wannon. In the projected figures this would
27 mean only a growth of 3,065 people as of the 2019
28 figures. Now this is a small adjustment that actually
29 gives great benefit to the current proposal and it keeps
30 with the outline strength in the proposed Division of Cox
31 with communities of interest and the consolidation of

1 urban and industrial Geelong.

2 The third point that I would like to make is the
3 campaign run - and I say in the words of the campaigners,
4 to keep Colac in Corangamite. You would have seen the
5 Colac Otway Shire's submission there were a number of
6 press clippings attached run by the *Colac Herald* which is
7 a campaign which I think, as I said in their words to
8 keep Colac in Corangamite. This is driven - even though
9 it's not an extremely large number of submissions, it's
10 driven a large number of simplistic submissions into this
11 process with little supporting evidence that actually
12 corresponds with the criteria set down the Commonwealth
13 Electoral Act that was referred to earlier by Mr Rogers
14 in the opening remarks.

15 This campaign was also run alongside a campaign by
16 the sitting MP, Sarah Henderson, for Corangamite, which
17 again spread the line of keeping Colac in Corangamite,
18 sending emails out with direct links to the submission
19 process. Now - I thought you were going to answer your
20 phone. Now if we allow the squeaky wheel to be the one
21 that only gets the grease in this process I think that
22 that would be greatly unfair to the process that we've
23 set down on to the Electoral Act.

24 Obviously we can't have it that this process can be
25 lobbied per se. It can't be that the campaign -
26 simplistic campaigns to get one particular outcome - can
27 be seen to be given more weight than the very things we
28 need to consider under the Electoral Act. Such blatant
29 lobbying is, I think, runs counter to the fact that we
30 need to be considering arguments, as we need to under the
31 Electoral Act, and per the guidelines set down in the

1 Electoral Act. You can see by the number of submissions,
2 I've read through quite a number and were - a number of
3 them which simplistically said we need to keep Colac in
4 Corangamite because we - there was a number of arguments
5 which were covered by the guidelines or didn't fall under
6 the guidelines as discussed. So hence about Federal
7 funding, about being a marginal seat and about being an
8 important part of the region. So you know that's my
9 remarks.

10 MR ROGERS: Thank you very much Mr Ryan. I should have said at
11 the start as well once your remarks are made we're here
12 today to listen not to question. So we won't be asking
13 any questions unless the Commission doesn't understand
14 something or wish to drill into something so we can
15 understand it and nor are we here to answer questions
16 today. I should have said that as well. We're just here
17 to listen to what's going on so thank you very for that.

18 MR RYAN: Yes, great, excellent. Thank you.

19 MR ROGERS: I've got the next person being Garry Spry. Good
20 morning.

21 MR SPRY: Good morning and thank you very for this opportunity
22 Tom. Garry Spry of the - President of the Queenscliff
23 Historical Museum.

24 MR ROGERS: One second sorry.

25 MR SPRY: Just a couple of comments. My main comments about
26 the name but I would just also like to comment on
27 boundaries. You mentioned earlier one of your criteria
28 was to ensure that a community of interest was maintained
29 but I think that you're proposing in exercising Colac
30 from the electorate of Corangamite is counter to that aim
31 to maintain a community of interest. I must say that

1 where I live in Queenscliff, we're very happy to share a
2 sort of semi-rural community of interest with people in
3 this area of the electorate.

4 Having said that, I would like to concentrate on
5 the name May Cox. As I mentioned earlier I'm the
6 President of the Queenscliff Historical Museum and we do
7 a lot of research into people and places. May Cox, to be
8 perfectly honest with you, is a fairly obscure name
9 despite the fact that it was mentioned in the press that
10 it was one of the reasons for changing Corangamite to
11 another name entirely. I've got some papers here, we've
12 researched the name quite extensively, and I'm sure May
13 Cox's family would be very proud of her achievements in
14 the swimming and lifesaving fields. But she is, we
15 consider, at best a provincial figure rather than a
16 national figure.

17 If you are thinking of changing the name of a
18 federal electorate surely you would be looking for
19 someone with national recognitions rather than at best
20 provincial recognition. Can I table the detail documents
21 that I've got for your consideration about the history of
22 May Cox what she has achieved and where she came from?
23 She did admittedly make one or two appearances at
24 Queenscliff in her swimming coaching career and she made
25 a great contribution to surf lifesaving in Victoria and
26 probably beyond. But I repeat again, that she's hardly a
27 national figure.

28 I don't think there's - if you go - I'm not going
29 to read out the details of what I have here unless you'd
30 like me to, I don't think that's necessary, it's all
31 contained in a document that you can read at your

1 leisure. I, just in passing would remark that Henrietta
2 Dugdale is probably a more appropriate figure in terms of
3 her national recognition, but from my part and most of my
4 colleague's part we would prefer to retain the name of
5 Corangamite for this particular electorate. Bearing in
6 mind Mr Chairman your acknowledgment of the, in your
7 opening remarks, of the Elders, of this particular
8 committee.

9 Corangamite as you know is a derivation of an
10 Aboriginal name for the lake here. The Lake Corangamite
11 which is the translation roughly is bitter or salty. Not
12 that the electorate is bitter or salty, I think we're a
13 very happy electorate as we stand. I don't want to see a
14 change. So with those few remarks I've completed my
15 submission. Thank you.

16 MR ROGERS: Thank you. The next name I have I'm not sure
17 whether he wishes to speak but Michael Tucker.

18 VOICE: No (indistinct words).

19 MR ROGERS: Okay, right. Lorelle Sunderland. Good morning.

20 MS SUNDERLAND: Did I hear you say Sutherland? It's sun as in
21 sunshine.

22 MR ROGERS: Sunderland yes, and if I could ask you to speak
23 into the microphone as well.

24 MS SUNDERLAND: Good morning members of the Electoral
25 Commission and other. I advocated in my submission that
26 my preferred name for the electorate of Corangamite is
27 federal Division of Barrabool. The name Barrabool has
28 some indigenous origins. According to my former school
29 teacher at the Barrabool state school, who wrote this
30 very book at the celebration of the Shire of Barrabool
31 centenary which was 1865 to 1965, we were taught that it

1 meant oyster when we were at school. But since then it
2 has become known as rounded mountain according to the
3 tribe that roamed the distinctive hill, sloped to the
4 water and I endorse those definitions of the Barrabool
5 Hills. But I actually had been - my family has been a
6 resident of the Barrabool Hill for over a 170 years and I
7 don't think that there'll be anyone sitting here who
8 could boast that but that's our association with the
9 Barrabool Hills.

10 Our great-grandfather James Anderson and
11 grandmother, speaking of adventurous females, travelled
12 on the ship Tasman in 1848 to Australia. They arrived at
13 Point Henry on a little ship in 1848. They married the
14 following year and established farms, church and
15 community in the Barrabool Hills. Our own land hasn't
16 changed title since then. Five years after their
17 arrival, in 1853, Barrabool was proclaimed a district.
18 Then the Barrabool Roads Board was established in 1863
19 and as I travelled to Winchelsea today I thought of my
20 father driving behind a bull bringing it to Winchelsea to
21 his brother's farm. He was riding a horse of course. He
22 was 14 years of age.

23 Barrabool Shire was proclaimed in 1865. It was
24 entirely contained within the current electorate of
25 (indistinct). In 1897 my grandfather William Anderson,
26 eldest son of James, was elected to Council representing
27 the series riding and he was president in 1910. He died
28 in 1928 and my father William Douglas Anderson took his
29 place on the Barrabool Shire Council representing the
30 series riding. He was President five times and during
31 that time, or at the time of the centenary, the President

1 had an allowance of £200 and there were nine councillors
2 and they did a remarkable job. The roads - I can
3 remember the roads were their pride and joy.

4 My father resigned after 40 years - 45 years in
5 1973 and I was relieved but as a child I had to use all
6 council minutes, the paper to write on because we didn't
7 have pads in those days although, I had a very good
8 education. So the council minutes weren't very
9 interesting to me I would have preferred a pad. But I
10 wrote on the back of them. But anyway, Max Anderson took
11 over after him. He was awarded the Order of Australia
12 for his work. My son Adrian Schonfelder, who is present
13 today, was the youngest councillor on the Shire of
14 Barrabool in 1992 and he was the youngest councillor in
15 Victoria's history.

16 An amalgamation with Winchelsea parts and south
17 Barrabool became the Surf Coast Shire and since then
18 Barrabool hinterland has lost its identity as far as I'm
19 concerned because I lived there, cart water et cetera
20 et cetera. I won't get political but we aren't
21 represented as well as we were when we had ridings.
22 Currently there's a shared community interest with the
23 Surf Coast and Bellarine Peninsula, so I support the
24 inclusion of both within the electorate.

25 Members of the Electoral Commission I therefore
26 recommend that you consider renaming the electorate the
27 federal Division of Barrabool. Thank you.

28 MR ROGERS: Lucian Green. Good morning.

29 MR GREEN: Good morning, thank you Mr Rogers and the panel. My
30 name is Lucian Green and I am from South Yarra and the
31 Melbourne Ports electorate. I note that my own

1 electorate does not have an Aboriginal name like
2 Corangamite. From written submissions there is strong
3 support to retain an Aboriginal name for this electorate.
4 Most submissions supported Barrabool as the new name to
5 replace Corangamite. I believe in excess of 12
6 submissions advocated Barrabool. There was a Shire of
7 Barrabool and the name was lost after amalgamation and I
8 can see (indistinct) which has a state electorate named
9 after it.

10 The Shire of Corangamite was created so that the
11 name Corangamite lives on and (indistinct words), the new
12 name to be Barrabool given the changes in the population
13 my support proposed boundaries. Thank you.

14 MR ROGERS: The next person, forgive my pronunciation for the
15 last name, but it's Adrian Schonfelder. Just for
16 everybody else I really appreciate everyone being here
17 today and thank you very much for making your
18 presentations. The important point is that the events
19 today are transcribed so that everyone that's not here
20 can read it. We have issues with the two microphones
21 picking up the transcription. If I could ask you to hold
22 the mic a little way away from your face that will
23 prevent the interference with the transcription. So
24 let's see how go from there. Good morning.

25 MR SCHONFEDLER: Guten tag. My name is Adrian Schonfelder
26 similar to Michael Schumacher and in German the c is
27 silent and I believe there's lots of German people in
28 Australia. I forgive you Mr Rogers. You did you a very
29 job nonetheless. I'd like to acknowledge the first
30 Australians and the Barrabool tribe that existed in this
31 electorate. Once again I am Adrian Schonfelder and I'm

1 President of the Barwon Park Promoters, Barwon Park being
2 a National Trust mansion about 5 kilometers from where we
3 are at the moment.

4 I advocate that the electorate keep an Aboriginal
5 name and change its name from Corangamite to Barrabool.
6 It is offensive to me personally to lose an Aboriginal
7 name to a non-Aboriginal name. The objective of the
8 Australian Electoral Commission to name more electorates
9 after women is commendable but not at the expense of
10 losing an Aboriginal name. Elizabeth Austin is a much
11 more notable woman than the current suggestion of May
12 Cox, who few people including myself were aware of.

13 Given there was a Shire of Barrabool prior to the
14 council amalgamations this name change is an opportunity
15 to recognise the Barrabool tribe and the Barrabool name.
16 It is a name that is easy to pronounce. In the spirit of
17 reconciliation of the first peoples of Australia, and
18 given the tribe was wiped out, naming the federal
19 electorate is the very least that we can actually do.

20 I invite panel members who will be departing
21 Winchelsea today to actually drive along Barrabool Road
22 which is where the Cadel Evans Race takes place. And as
23 you're driving east along the Princes Highway you can
24 drive along Hendy Main Road and that connects you to
25 Barrabool Road.

26 It is important to note that Barrabool Sandstone
27 Quarry from the series and Barrabool area was used for
28 many significant buildings in Victoria including, the
29 Supreme Court, Werribee Park Mansion, the Gothic Bank on
30 the corner of Queen and Collins Street and also many
31 other buildings including, those of the University of

1 Melbourne. A number of books have been written about
2 Barrabool and I'd like to show you if I may, one called,
3 *Barrabool - Beautiful Sandstone* written by Jennifer
4 Bantow OAM. I'm not sure if any Collingwood supporters
5 are members of the panel but Barrabool, land of the
6 magpie, is a meaning - one Aboriginal meaning as well.

7 I note the geographic changes and the fact that de-
8 population has actually occurred in Western Victoria so
9 therefore I support the proposed boundaries. I also note
10 that the Bellarine Peninsula and the Surf Coast in
11 particular have a very strong committees of interest, due
12 to the fact that the seaside and satellite towns and the
13 rural aspect of that as well Mr Rogers. Thank you for
14 allowing me to speak.

15 MR ROGERS: Thank you very much. The name I have Geraldine
16 Gartland. Does Geraldine wish to speak? Yes? Please.
17 Good morning

18 MS GARTLAND: My name is Geraldine Gartland. Thank you for the
19 opportunity to speak today and I also acknowledge the
20 Traditional Owners of this land. I'm commenting for the
21 first time on the proposed electoral boundary change
22 after reading some of the submissions and objections
23 against moving Colac into the one election - electorate.
24 I'm concerned that the council has become involved, the
25 Colac Otway Shire Council, and that the concerns are that
26 the Colac Shire has more in common with Geelong as its
27 primary community of interest.

28 How can this be argued when the fastest growing
29 business areas are to the west of Colac? The most recent
30 being an agricultural machinery business covering over
31 three hectares and acknowledging its investment in the

1 future - in investment and future in both this region and
2 agriculture. Colac Otway Shire's homepage lists the
3 shire's principal activities as dairy, beef, sheep,
4 crops, specified pastures, horticulture, organic farming
5 and timber. Manufacturing, construction, retail and
6 wholesale.

7 The major manufacturing industries AKD Timber, ALC
8 (The Lamb Company) and Bulla are all dependent on primary
9 produce, much sourced from the west of Colac. The Colac
10 regional sale yards is one of the most significant
11 selling centres in the western district of Victoria.
12 These have far more in common with Wannon's rural and
13 farming interests than to Geelong which is fundamentally
14 a city area with coastal tourist areas. This is the
15 community of interest criteria.

16 The recently appointed Chief Executive Officer of
17 the Colac Otway Shire acknowledges the Shire as a great
18 part of Western Victoria. Also noted that the Shire is
19 highly regarded for its primary industries. This may be
20 a side issue but how can the fact be ignored that the
21 state electoral Division of Polwarth District includes
22 the towns of Cobden, Terang, Camperdown, Mortlake and
23 Skipton again to the west of Colac. These areas are now
24 being told that they have little in common with Colac.
25 It makes no sense.

26 Red Rock to the west of Colac Otway Shire is part
27 of the volcanic lakes and plains tourist trail that
28 extends from Red Rock and loops through Camperdown,
29 Timboon, Lake Bookaar, Mount Leura, Elephant and Noorat
30 and many of the small towns in the western district.

31 Again these tourism areas have more in common with Wannon

1 than Geelong coastal areas.

2 The Shire will still be part of the Geelong
3 regional lines and G21. Colac will still play football
4 and netball in the Geelong football league. In fact, no
5 sport will be impacted, no business will be impacted and
6 no individual will be denied a medical visit or shopping
7 trip to Geelong by a federal electoral boundary change,
8 the subject of many previous submissions. It's a
9 nonsense to suggest that our economy will be impacted by
10 the change of federal electoral boundary. (Indistinct
11 words) are normally driven by regional alliances, so
12 Colac Otway Shire would align with either G21 or Great
13 South Coast Councils depending on the issue. The federal
14 electoral boundaries are immaterial in these matters.

15 Colac Otway Shire has alignment with the south-west
16 councils through the Corangamite Regional Library
17 Corporation. Advocacy for highway improvements and the
18 management of The Great Ocean Road. The only
19 impact - - -

20 MR ROGERS: It's 4 minutes by the way.

21 MS GARTLAND: Thank you. The only impact will be our political
22 representation because our Shire will be covered by two
23 MPs. It could be argued this is a positive for our area.
24 Many people have expressed a concern re the split shire
25 issue. In fact, many shires are split by federal
26 electoral boundaries. Some shires are split over several
27 boundaries. Historically this is inevitable and a fact
28 of life for most shires across the state. Electoral
29 boundaries exist to give a fair and equal vote to those
30 who live within those electoral boundaries not to any
31 serving sitting federal MP or state or local

1 representative. Thank you.

2 MR ROGERS: Thank you very much. Anne Egan. Good morning.

3 MS EGAN: Good morning and my name is Anne Egan, is that okay?

4 I'm currently a resident of the Colac electorate. I'm
5 addressing this inquiry in relation to the boundary of
6 the proposed Division of Cox. Focusing very briefly on
7 two issues, firstly - one's positive and one's negative.
8 Firstly, the reunification of the entire Bellarine
9 Peninsula within the proposed Division of Cox is a very
10 logical move which effectively supports the numerical
11 requirements of the redistribution as well as the
12 community interest criteria.

13 The proposed eastern boundary of Cox closely aligns
14 with the original rural city of Bellarine which existed
15 from 1853 to 1993 and included communities north of the
16 Bellarine Highway namely, Moolap, Newcomb, Leopold,
17 Drysdale, Clifton Springs, St Leonards, Indented Head and
18 Portarlinton and even the area actually called
19 Bellarine. The proposed boundary change re-establishes
20 these communities as integral areas of the peninsula.

21 Having being raised and spent a charmed youth
22 enjoying the relaxed environment and freedoms of the
23 Bellarine, and retaining close family and social and
24 business ties there, I have first-hand experience of its
25 unique unified community of mutual social, cultural and
26 economic interests. Beaches, wetlands, wineries,
27 restaurants, tourist galleries all create a thriving
28 (indistinct) tourist industry across a clearly defined
29 geographical feature.

30 Uniting the entire Bellarine Peninsula with the
31 Surf Coast and Great Ocean Road communities also creates

1 a progressive coastal focused electorate with shared
2 attitudes and concerns in relation to the management of
3 rapid population growth, related infrastructure needs,
4 environmental consciousness sustainability and climate
5 change impacts. It also creates a vital and prosperous
6 shared economy based on tourism with the music festivals,
7 adventure parks, eco-tourist adventures, resorts, cycling
8 events, taste trials et cetera. The proposed Cox
9 electorate would give a vibrant cohesive mix of young
10 families, workers, retirees, entrepreneurs, artists,
11 tourists, weekenders and innovative businesses.

12 My second point relates the disturbing fears and
13 concerns expressed by some people in submissions. They
14 suggest that electoral boundaries will leave them
15 isolated on the edge of nowhere or having to deal with
16 towns described by one as alien. They're concerned that
17 their current access to healthcare, specialist
18 appointments, hospitals and employment opportunities will
19 somehow be compromised. These unsubstantiated,
20 groundless fears, worries and concerns should be
21 dispelled and certainly never encouraged.

22 Electoral boundaries and boundary changes, federal,
23 state or local, do not determine where a person can see a
24 doctor, attend a university, be employed, shop or go to
25 social events. They are not borders. They do not
26 threaten or destroy existing links and relationships but
27 rather, may open up new possibilities. Such rhetoric
28 also detracts from the primary purpose of redistributions
29 as a non-political process required by law to ensure that
30 all constituents have equal representation in federal
31 parliament, by maintaining as close as possible equal

1 (indistinct) enrolments in all electorates.

2 To achieve this, electoral boundaries must continue
3 to change as populations change. Thank you.

4 MR ROGERS: Thank you. Phil Edge.

5 MR EDGE: Good morning Mr Chairman and members of the panel.

6 My name is Phil Edge a resident of Colac. My main focus
7 this morning, having already submitted a written
8 submission, is to focus on the difficulties involved in
9 accessing the Member for Wannon as against the Member for
10 Corangamite if moved into the Wannon electorate. I speak
11 as a Colac resident in terms of travelling. The Member
12 for Wannon's Hamilton office is his main office and with
13 regard to Colac residents, travel from Colac to Hamilton
14 by car is at least a four hour round trip.

15 The shortest public transport option involves taking a
16 90 minute train journey from Colac to Warrnambool, then
17 another 90 minutes by coach journey to Hamilton. I point
18 out that this option is only available once a day
19 departing Colac at 3.15 pm and arriving in Hamilton at
20 6.30 pm which is of course outside office hours. So it
21 would involve an overnight stay to see the member in his
22 Hamilton office the next day. At other times of the day
23 you would need to allow ,where there is no immediate
24 connection with the bus by train travel, you would have
25 to allow over 6 hours travel one way. To return from
26 Hamilton to Colac using public transport you would need
27 to stay overnight and then catch the 10.00 am bus to
28 Warrnambool and the train back to Colac arriving at
29 1.20pm. This is the shortest option only available at
30 that specific time.

31 The next quickest is a five and a half hour trip

1 involving two buses, and one train journey. Therefore, I
2 submit that the in comparison to the Member for
3 Corangamite's main office being in Waurin Ponds which is
4 less than one hour's drive from Colac and approximately
5 one hour by train to Waurin Ponds, and the Member for
6 Corangamite now has a secondary office in Colac making of
7 course, all the Colac residents much more accessible for
8 - to speak to the Member of Corangamite rather than the
9 Member for Wannon.

10 It also of course involves the proposed boundary
11 changes as they stand - as they are proposed it would
12 require the Colac Otway Shire to be negotiating with two
13 separate federal members in terms of funding and other
14 matters that they need to deal with - they need to deal
15 with the Federal Government.

16 In regard to the communities of interest, I respect
17 what other previous speakers have said but certainly our
18 communities of interest are definitely to the east. We
19 have little or no community of interest with - to the
20 west. All the health and in particularly in the area of
21 health and education is all directed Geelong. I realise
22 that that will still take place regardless but we have
23 little or none - or little or no community of interest to
24 our west with places like Horsham, Halls Gap, Stawell, we
25 really have no connection with them at all from Colac.

26 With regard to the renaming to Cox, I believe that
27 the - Corangamite should be retained mainly because it
28 dates back to Federation and is as such, is a part of
29 Australia's heritage. I personally (indistinct) very
30 interested in this particular issue. Have spoken with a
31 large number of Colac residents and by far the majority

1 of the residents there in Colac want to keep Colac and
2 Corangamite and they also wish to retain the name
3 Corangamite. Thank you.

4 MR ROGERS: Thank you. Craig Keating.

5 MR KEATING: Good morning members. My name is Craig Keating.

6 I'm Chairman - volunteer chairman of the AFL Barwon. We
7 represent 45 senior football clubs and netball clubs
8 throughout our region that stretches from Geelong through
9 to just west of Colac. Our concerns with regards to the
10 electoral boundaries redistribution centres around the
11 ability of our member clubs to be able to function,
12 bearing in mind that these clubs are run by volunteers
13 and the prime concern some of our clubs have is that, it
14 removes them from the community of interest that they
15 share with those 45 clubs.

16 It introduces a third electorate so a third layer
17 of people with whom they need to engage. Our volunteers
18 find it sometimes difficult to find the time and the
19 place to engage with the people that make key decisions
20 that affect our sports of football and netball. In
21 particular, on the eastern side of the redistribution we
22 have a number of clubs that will basically be straddling
23 two different electorates. Those clubs will find it
24 difficult to be able to engage with and have their
25 membership engage with the political processes and impact
26 on the way we develop our game.

27 Our region has some 20 thousand participants in
28 football and netball, that's actually people who play the
29 games, and at 45 clubs you're probably looking at
30 somewhere around a hundred thousand people who are
31 members or people who engage with those clubs. So it is

1 a significant role and we have a group of hard working
2 people in our office who run the operations as paid jobs
3 to assist our clubs. We are acutely aware of the
4 difficulties our clubs face in engaging with and making
5 an impact on the people who make decisions that affect
6 our communities.

7 I just want to stress that our communities are
8 greatly enhanced by the hard work of these volunteer
9 people, that do at our football and netball clubs across
10 the whole of our region, which currently straddles Corio
11 and Corangamite. Obviously Wannon will become a third
12 area of interest for some of our clubs and those clubs
13 may well feel a little marginalised where the community
14 football - the football community sees itself as needing
15 to grow our games to enhance the youth - the people being
16 able to access our sports. We have fears that that might
17 be impacted by the change in the community of interest
18 that's the actual boundaries may as a consequence
19 provide.

20 So our absolute concern is for the workload and the
21 ability of our volunteer clubs - volunteer members of our
22 clubs to be able to engage with the process with the
23 change to boundaries given that the direction that we
24 take is to enhance the game to make - to have more
25 participants and to have our stakeholders enjoy the
26 sports that we all love of football and netball. Thank
27 you.

28 MR ROGERS: Thank you. Jenny Blake.

29 MS BLAKE: Good morning, how are you?

30 MR ROGERS: Very well.

31 MS BLAKE: That's good. Nice and breezy and cold here in

1 Winchelsea. Look we really welcome you to - here to
2 Winchelsea to our town and to hear our submissions
3 because it cannot be understated the absolute importance
4 of you getting out and listening to us, because you can't
5 know the tiny little differences that will make a huge
6 impact on local people's lives. So I'm presenting on
7 behalf of myself and my husband Kevin. We've both being
8 involved, being fairly noisy people over the years, in
9 doing a great deal of advocating and on behalf of our
10 communities on subjects such as health, education, roads,
11 CFA, the (indistinct).

12 I am sorry but lines on maps make a huge
13 difference. Back in the years 2008-2010 I was the Mayor
14 of Golden Plains. That was one of the biggest fights and
15 (indistinct) I've ever had in my life because of lines of
16 maps. Many of our famers were being denied drought
17 funding simply because we didn't fit in the right little
18 bit of someone's mind. The fact our dams were empty made
19 no difference. It was a huge issue and that's why we
20 have to get these electorate boundaries absolutely
21 correct.

22 Why I say it's so important you come to have a
23 look, I'm (indistinct) bought some maps. They're not
24 quite detailed enough but you have would have no idea
25 that in Golden Plains in the old soldiers settlement
26 areas and I've just highlighted it a little bit there,
27 there's a tiny sort of bit called Barunah Park. Now
28 Barunah Park is a locality and the geographical name,
29 place name things, and it's ended up under your proposal
30 in Wannon. Nothing would be more disastrous.

31 In the old soldiers settlement areas right there,

1 the school buses determined where we went for our
2 business and our work. So there is literally a road
3 called Bells Road and a couple of stone walls to
4 determine that the kids went either to Ballarat to
5 school, to Geelong to school. Barunah Park children went
6 to Geelong to school historically. So the Barunah Park
7 people do all of their business in Geelong. They would
8 rarely go - they might go to Warrnambool for a day trip
9 once every five years. They've got no affiliation and
10 only since the saleyards in Geelong closed, most of us
11 now have to sell our sheep in Ballarat. We don't sell
12 them in Colac, we don't sell them in Mortlake, we sell
13 them in Ballarat.

14 But the rest of our business is done in Geelong.
15 That is why it is absolutely critical that we end up in
16 an electorate that relates to Geelong. I couldn't give a
17 hoot what it's called. Call it after me if you like,
18 I've been noisy enough. But you know - we need to relate
19 to Geelong. It doesn't matter whether it relates to the
20 whole of Geelong but somehow you've got to juggle those
21 boundaries because if we end up in Wannon I might as well
22 not vote. If I want to stand (indistinct) it would be
23 totally useless because no one would know who I was.
24 Because I relate to Geelong. We relate to Geelong and
25 that's the really most important part of this whole
26 process. If you're going to look at the requirements of
27 the Act, paragraph 66(3)(b), you need to look at that.

28 Not too worried the name. One of the other things
29 that I would suggest is that we are really concerned
30 about the fact that anyone in Golden Plains you know
31 works - Golden Plains has worked so hard to become a

1 cohesive workable community. We've worked with members
2 from both parties. It's been an effective way of working
3 but there are areas at the northern end of Golden Plains
4 literally within five seconds of Ballarat.

5 So again the previous (indistinct) it very, very
6 simple trying to work with a Member in Wannon is not an
7 option. You know we're 5 minutes, away some of us. Some
8 of us are three-quarters of an hour away. But to work
9 with a Member in Wannon is just going to be an
10 impossibility. The other thing I would say very briefly
11 is that the issues around locality - you know all of our
12 services come from Geelong. Electricity, we're in region
13 seven. Our major roads are serviced from Geelong. So I
14 just think that - I'm sure you with your technicality can
15 work it so that we don't become totally disenfranchised
16 and that we have our community of interest served well.

17 MR ROGERS: Thank you very much.

18 MS BLAKE: That's all right. Glad you wanted to hear from
19 Geraldine. So I'm also speaking on behalf on Geraldine
20 Frantz who was a Mayor of Golden Plains Shire and served
21 through those years with me. We worked together very
22 hard so we really - we know this stuff well.
23 Unfortunately, she couldn't come today.

24 *I speak to you today as long term resident of*
25 *Napoleons and former Mayor of Golden Plains Shire*
26 *which has allowed me a deep knowledge and*
27 *understanding of the local and surrounding of the*
28 *northern part of the Golden Plain Shire. I have a*
29 *great deal of concern and objection in regard to the*
30 *proposed new boundaries redistribution which Golden*
31 *Plains has been divided.*

1 I believe the decision to simply use
2 administrative boundaries as a method of
3 redistribution is one of convenience and not
4 practicality. Napoleons, and indeed a number of our
5 small neighbouring communities in the north of the
6 Shire, including Enfield, Cambrian Hill, are situated
7 very close to Ballarat. Some properties in Cambrian
8 Hill and (indistinct) Napoleons either border the City
9 of Ballarat or divided across both municipalities.

10 I'm concerned that the current proposals said
11 the northern part Golden Plains (indistinct words)
12 communities of interest are the current federal
13 electoral boundary as it's represented by the federal
14 Member of Ballarat. This has proven most successful
15 over the years and has allowed a great deal of easily
16 accessed representation and acknowledged by the member
17 of the needs of our communities.

18 The proposal to move the former electorate of
19 Ballarat (indistinct) Wannon will totally remove all
20 those electors from their communities of interest.
21 Localities such as Cambrian Hill, Haddon, Napoleons,
22 Smythes, (indistinct), Enfield and Dereel and those
23 communities within those areas clearly relate to
24 Ballarat as a source of employment utilising health
25 and education, business services in that city. Many
26 of the local sporting affiliations are centred in and
27 around Ballarat.

28 These people do not have community of interest
29 with Wannon electorate. There are currently no
30 secondary schools servicing students in the northern
31 part of Golden Plain Shire and all students attend

1 schools in Ballarat. It is possible that the office
2 of the federal electorate could be in Warrnambool.
3 This would serve a severe disadvantage to the resident
4 of the northern part of Golden Plain Shire. What is
5 now a 10 minute drive to see the consultation with our
6 federal member would end to being three hours if we
7 move to the electorate of Wannon.

8 It is difficult to imagine that someone in
9 Warrnambool would have any knowledge or interest in
10 what is needed to support the residents of the small
11 towns in the Golden Plains Shire. Whilst I understand
12 and respect that the numbers of people (indistinct)
13 that form the boundaries of electorates, I'm of the
14 strong opinion that people in this regard are not just
15 numbers. I think that's a really important - we're
16 not numbers we are people and we deserve to be treated
17 as people.

18 Consideration must be given to the outcomes of
19 such decisions and what advantage or indeed potential
20 disadvantage will be caused to these people. I urge
21 you to consider the decisions (indistinct) Golden
22 Plains in any way as being proposed and look at
23 aligning the boundaries more geographically and in the
24 best interest of the general electors. Thank you,
25 Geraldine Frantz.

26 I think that point she makes that we are people and we
27 have communities and some of us are very passionate our
28 communities. I know you'll try and do your best. If you
29 can just do a bit of fiddling it will be very useful
30 because this is a long term decision that you will be
31 making it will be in place probably for another 20 years

1 and we need to get it right. At the minute I'm sorry it
2 ain't. Thank you very much for your time.

3 MR ROGERS: Thank you. Ladies and gentlemen I'm just going to
4 call a very quick five minute break if we may. If people
5 need to use facilities. So five minutes and we'll
6 reconvene.

7 PROCEEDING TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED

8 PROCEEDING RESUMES

9 MR ROGERS: Ladies and gentlemen I think the next name I have
10 is Robert Dobrzynski.

11 MR DOBRZYNSKI: Good morning, thank you for the opportunity to
12 present today. Attending to the proposed electoral
13 division name change - - -

14 MR ROGERS: Just get you to say your name.

15 MR DOBRZYNSKI: Robert Dobrzynski - - -

16 MR ROGERS: Thank you very much.

17 MR DOBRZYNSKI: - - - Colac Otway Shire. Attending to the
18 proposed electoral division name change, the Colac Otway
19 Shire would submit the change's being proposed to honour
20 May Cox rather than due to any inadequacy - inaccuracy or
21 other perceived failings of the Federation name
22 Corangamite. We would suggest that the historical
23 significance of an electoral division name which has
24 prevailed since Federation demands that a change in name
25 only be contemplated based on compelling reasons of
26 substantiation.

27 No such compelling argument exists to our mind.
28 Further to the federal division name change proposed, the
29 second major contention of the Colac Otway submission is
30 the inappropriateness of transferring 12,041 electors
31 within the Colac and Colac region from the existing

1 Division of Corangamite to the Division of Wannon.

2 Whilst it is accepted that the legislative basis
3 for the redistribution of federal electoral divisions
4 revolves around projected enrolled elector numbers and a
5 3.5 per cent plus or minus deviation, related to a quota
6 enrolment. The Colac Otway Shire would contend that
7 there are other options available to the Committee which
8 would satisfy these prescriptions, whilst reflecting the
9 overwhelming community of interest between Colac and its
10 region with Corangamite and towards Geelong.

11 There appears no self-evident science apparent in
12 the proposed location of the boundary between the
13 divisions of Corio and proposed Cox at Coppards Road on
14 the Bellarine Peninsula. There can no argument
15 reasonably sustained that proposes Moolap and Leopold
16 have a greater community of interest with the Bellarine,
17 rather Geelong. Equally there can be no viable
18 suggestion that Colac and Colac region has a great
19 community of interest with communities of Wannon than
20 with communities - their communities in Corangamite. A
21 number of which are contained within the Colac Otway
22 Shire area.

23 The argument contained within the Committee's
24 proposed then must logically be seen solely as based on
25 achieving the required projected enrolment voter numbers.
26 Retaining Leopold, Newcomb and Moolap within Corio
27 involves projected 11,399 voters. Retaining Colac and
28 Colac region within Corangamite involves projected 12,041
29 voters. Numerically this alternative needs the
30 prescription of projected enrolled voters within both
31 Corio and Corangamite.

1 The Colac Otway Shire recognises the challenges
2 faced by the Committee in meeting the required number of
3 projected enrolment voters in the Divisions of Wannon and
4 also (indistinct) with the declining populations being
5 experienced in a number of smaller rural communities in
6 these divisions. The point we would like to make arising
7 from the council's initial submissions, its submission
8 made in response to the objections, and this presentation
9 to the public hearing, is that there are options that the
10 communities may wish to consider further which provide
11 more equity and greater representation of common interest
12 than the Committee's proposal.

13 As a further example, we would take Grovedale, with
14 18,948 projected voters, out of Corangamite and
15 transferred into Corio. This would appear to have merit
16 in reflecting Grovedale as very much a suburb of Geelong.
17 Furthermore, it would enable the committee to retain its
18 Coppards Road boundary between Corio and Corangamite and
19 also achieve the outcome of retaining Colac and Colac
20 region within Corangamite.

21 There would, however, be consequential requirements
22 to transfer to Wannon from Corangamite, Bannockburn 4,826
23 projected voters, Golden Plains South 4,219 projected
24 voters and Highton 1,084 projected voters. Additionally,
25 there would be a case to transfer from Corio to Wannon
26 the locality of Lara, which provides a great deal of
27 flexibility particularly in regard to Wannon with its
28 13,033 projected voters.

29 The benefits of this alternative example will be to
30 enable adjustment of the projected number of enrolled
31 voters in Wannon at the upper limit of the voter numbers.

1 This would provide a buffer against predicted falls in
2 projected enrolled voters as populations diminish in
3 other localities within Wannon. Thank you.

4 MR ROGERS: Thank you very much. Andy McClusky. Good morning.

5 MR McCLUSKY: Good morning. My name is Andy McClusky from
6 Lorne Otway region. Dear Tom, augmented Commission panel
7 members and the people of Australia. Firstly I would like
8 to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this land,
9 our Elders past and present of the Gulidjan, Girai
10 Wurrung, Wathaurong, Gunditjmara, the Eastern Maar nation
11 and the Gadubanud people. All of the Great Ocean Road,
12 Colac Otway Hinterlands, Golden Plains and the Bellarine
13 Peninsula region. All within the federal seat of
14 Corangamite.

15 I'm going to forward the name Gadubanud for the new
16 federal seat of Corangamite. Out of respect for one of
17 our first Australian tribes in the region. The name is
18 not about an individual it's about a culture. A way of
19 life where indigenous communities traded, migrated with
20 in the Colac Otway and Surf Coast region. For thousands
21 of years, well before European settlement. I have three
22 research papers, being archaeological reports containing
23 maps and references in support of my proposed name change
24 of the seat of Corangamite to Gadubanud.

25 The documents: 1. *A Predictive Model of Aboriginal*
26 *Archaeological Site Distribution in the Otway Ranges*
27 *provided by Aboriginal Affairs Victoria.* 2. *Brown's Creek*
28 *Archaeological Project Excavation Surveys from Heritage*
29 *Management of Victoria.* 3. *Gadubanud Society in Otway*
30 *Ranges Victoria: An Environmental History* by Lawrence
31 *Niewojt.* I have also attached the Aboriginal Language

1 maps and the tribal overlay boundaries of the region.
2 Please consider my proposal as a way to acknowledge and
3 honour one of our first Australian tribes of our region
4 through the name Gadubanud to honour the king parrot
5 people. Thank you Commission and the people of
6 Australia.

7 MR ROGERS: Thank you. Lee Hartman.

8 MR HARTMAN: Good morning, how are you? Very well. Thank you
9 for the opportunity to speak. My name is Lee Hartman,
10 General Manager of AFL Barwon, operating football and
11 netball in the region. Today I'd just like to speak on
12 the proposed boundaries. There are a couple of issues
13 from my point of view. The first one being the proposed
14 in mind around the Highton Belmont area. Currently of
15 our 20 thousand participants that were tabled earlier by
16 our chairman, we have some nine and a half thousand
17 footballers in the Corangamite electorate and another
18 3,500 netballers. There is around 13,000 participants in
19 the Corangamite electorate alone.

20 The division or - sorry the movement of that
21 boundary around the Belmont and Highton area means that
22 four or five of our clubs will have - going forward
23 dealing with both Corio and Corangamite. With their
24 participants and volunteers and their members being split
25 between the two electorates current all sitting in the
26 one electorate. Dealing with two federal seats going
27 forward, we see that as being an issue.

28 The other one is around the Colac exclusion from
29 Corangamite as it now sits into Cox. As was tabled
30 earlier, with Colac they do play all their football and
31 netball in the Geelong region in the Corangamite

1 electorate and the Corio electorate. Their school sport,
2 their school football, is also played down in Geelong.
3 The growth in the Corangamite region only enhance their
4 opportunities for development of both those sports,
5 football and netball. So we see it imperative that they
6 be given that opportunity to play at the level required
7 for that community and that is the Corangamite Geelong
8 region.

9 Apart from that, the name et cetera we're not too
10 worried about that but it's more just around the
11 opportunity for those participants. I can't I suppose
12 reiterate enough around the clubs and the division that
13 it will cause between dealing with the federal seats
14 going forward. That's all from me, thank you.

15 MR ROGERS: Thank you very much. Elizabeth Ryan.

16 MS RYAN: Good morning my name is Elizabeth Ryan and I'd like
17 to speak around the names of women being chosen for
18 different seats in the electorates. I'm very concerned
19 about the name of May Cox and if anything was actually to
20 be named Cox it should be the Melbourne Sports and
21 Aquatics Centre which I think would be more relevant and
22 we could use May and it would be really simple.

23 With the names that would be - I'm very supportive
24 of Corangamite retaining the name of Corangamite for all
25 historical reasons as well. Another alternative female
26 name if you need to go down that line would be Marjorie
27 Lawrence who's - people would know from this area and I
28 think that's quite well documented. Another - I agree
29 with the Austin name but then we could all thank the
30 rabbits and everybody with (indistinct) everywhere for
31 that.

1 We also have to acknowledge that the Ramsar
2 lakes are with Corangamite and - nationally known
3 association with that. The other name I would like to
4 propose for the Fraser seat which is a very big concern
5 to me, is that it could be actually called the Heather
6 Mitchell seat. Heather Mitchell was a farmer and a
7 community leader, a nurse and I did actually meet her
8 once and I think - I bought her biography along that I've
9 got from the Museum of Victoria collection. I think she
10 is a worthy contender if we need women's names for these
11 electorates. The Pick my Project that the states'
12 government's currently running in Victoria actually
13 acknowledges the Colac Otway Shire is part of this area.
14 I would encourage that that remains so.

15 The other alternative that is it should be,
16 basically for me, should be a place name not person name.
17 Thank you.

18 MR ROGERS: Thank you very much. Roger Blacksell. Good
19 morning.

20 MR BLACKSELL: G'day. Roger Blacksell, President South Barwon
21 Football and Netball Club. My concerns for the South
22 Barwon Football and Netball Club, our Auskick partner and
23 also the Highton Cricket Club. The boundary runs
24 straight through the member and volunteer base. So it
25 could split the residents vote quite and so it could be
26 very awful for us to manage. At our club we probably got
27 up to three, including the cricket club, we could be
28 about 2,500 members and volunteers and sponsors. So just
29 as that it can be very hard for us to manage as a
30 volunteer based organisation.

31 The other problem that I can see that also

1 separates Colac Football and Netball Clubs from the other
2 11 Geelong football league clubs which might not be ideal
3 for all of us just to manage as communities either. Just
4 don't forget there's so many volunteers around these
5 organisations that have a fairly big say and I think
6 we're fairly important people. We're community based
7 programs and we're a community asset and I don't think we
8 sort of get enough voice. Change sort of just happens and
9 I sometimes think change can happen for the sake of
10 change. I think, you know, sometimes it needs to be the
11 way it is. Thanks for hearing me out.

12 MR ROGERS: Thank you. Debra Chant. Good morning.

13 MS CHANT: Hello. A bit nervous.

14 MR ROGERS: No problems.

15 MS CHANT: My name is Debra Chant. I'm speaking re the change
16 of name to Cox. Teenage boys don't have a monopoly over
17 sexual innuendo. But why would you want to encourage it?
18 During an election campaign promotional billiards would
19 be an invitation to be graffitied: Jane Doe member for
20 Cox. The words, "Member for" would be sprayed and
21 replaced with the letters S-U-X and possibility
22 accompanied with a graphic of a penis and hairy balls.

23 Sexual innuendo would not only occur deliberately
24 but also inadvertently. On election night, over the
25 airways the election analyst may also declare during a
26 vote update that, "It is unclear at this stage whether
27 Jane Doe will hold Cox". We also have an Aboriginal word
28 that is still pronounced the same phonetically as it was
29 in 1840 so why change? Thank you.

30 MR ROGERS: Thank you. Megan Stoyles. Good morning.

31 MS STOYLS: My name is Megan Stoyles. I'm from Aireys Inlet.

1 I put in a very brief submission and I'm glad that I did
2 in that it gave the responsibility to go through all the
3 other submissions so I could speak today. I can see why
4 on just checking the list of those that you did have the
5 meeting here because about 70 or 80 per cent of them are
6 about Cox and Corangamite, various issues both the
7 boundaries and the names.

8 On the question of overall responsibility and the
9 fear that I have heard from many people and read in many
10 submissions, that the world will change if the boundaries
11 do. I'd just like to remind people and commend you,
12 because you really are the people of authority here not
13 us. You are an independent statutory body set up to
14 ensure the integrity of electoral rolls, electoral
15 boundaries and oversee elections to ensure equal
16 representation for electors. Federal, state and local
17 electoral boundaries only impact to people's lives when
18 it comes to voting for their representative in each of
19 the areas.

20 I don't think that the members of all the football
21 and netball clubs and - well the parents of those members
22 and clubs really are concerned about what boundary
23 they're in. They might be concerned and irritated if
24 they turn up on election day and discover that they've
25 been moved but you being an efficient organisation will
26 have enough absentee ballot papers there for them to fill
27 in so they don't have to vote somewhere else.

28 But what I have heard this morning, and reading in
29 many of the submissions, is the fear of the new, the fear
30 of change and that you can't split things because the
31 world will change. It's almost as if they're saying or

1 fearing that, you know there's really being nothing
2 better than the horse and buggy. Cars should not have
3 been invented and as for the NBN and emails well, we
4 could have letters and personal representations.

5 I think that communications and transport enable
6 us, and voters who have concerns and wish to contact
7 their federal members, that they can do so easily. Those
8 federal members, however marginal the seat, will ensure
9 that they properly represent their electors however far
10 away they may be from their electoral office.

11 I think on the question of the name of the
12 electorate I share the concern of many in the room that
13 Cox is inappropriate. Corangamite, as many have said, is
14 a historic name that can still be seen by the electorate.
15 Although I do see merit in the name of Barrabool as well.
16 I think we should be acknowledging the traditional owners
17 and historical original owners and inhabitants of the
18 land and we could do so in a more contemporary way by
19 perhaps considering Barrabool or by the name of some
20 traditional resident - historical resident.

21 I suggested Nicholls myself after Pastor Sir Doug
22 Nicholls but I do concede that I think people in the
23 electorate would be perhaps more concerned and supportive
24 of a regional geographic name, like Barrabool to be more
25 appropriate. I think that - in my submission I did
26 support the changes that you have made on the grounds of
27 community of interest and I just urge the people who do
28 live in Colac to be brave, get with the 21st century and
29 know that with communications, technology and transport
30 that they can adequately - be adequately represented by
31 whoever does that representation and they - that the

1 electoral boundaries aren't barriers. Thank you very
2 much

3 MR ROGERS: Thank you. Serena O'Meley. Good morning.

4 MS O'MELEY: My name is Serena O'Meley and I am a resident in
5 the federal Division of Batman and will be speaking about
6 the importance of change in the name of the division.
7 I'd like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the
8 land on which we meet and pay my respects to their Elders
9 past and present.

10 Working to change the federal Division of Batman
11 becomes an argument between history, myth and legend.
12 Far from being a serving recipient of public honest, for
13 many of us who have looked closer at the public record,
14 John Batman is a symbol of what is wrong with how
15 Australia was invaded and colonised. We cannot hide from
16 the fact that Batman was a bounty-hunter of Palawa people
17 in Van Diemen's Land and a con-artist who stole land from
18 the Kulin peoples and or the crown under the guise of a
19 treaty.

20 Mis-legends however are often impervious to facts
21 because they've generated collective action, emotion, the
22 interplay of memory and forgetting and the justifications
23 that are embedded in founding stories. This can be seen
24 by the way in which Batman was memorialised less than
25 half a century after his death. Batman's grave was
26 originally in a cemetery where the current Queen Victoria
27 Market stands. There is some doubt about whether the
28 original grave was ever located however, a grave
29 purporting to be that of Batman's was marked with a
30 bluestone obelisk that was erected in 1881 with money
31 that was raised by public subscriptions. Thousands

1 attended the opening ceremony.

2 The cemetery became derelict and was overtaken by
3 the needs of the growing market. Members of the public
4 campaigned for several years to relocate many of the old
5 graves and in particular Batman's grave. They were
6 successful and in 1922 a new granite obelisk was erected
7 over his remains in Fawkner cemetery or purported
8 remains. The obelisk which stands in the middle of a
9 long avenue of roses in the old pioneer section of the
10 cemetery became a focal point for annual memorials which
11 helped to keep Batman's legend alive.

12 In 1929, a Mr A.E Staples delivered the following
13 panegyric at one of these memorials.

14 *We gather here today to pay homage to the memory*
15 *of one of Australia's most noble sons, John Batman.*
16 *Since the day he founded Melbourne a great city has*
17 *grown and prospered. Batman laid the foundation by*
18 *almost silent penetration, honourable purchase and*
19 *peaceful understanding. His achievements were the*
20 *outcome of courage honesty and initiative. Fewer*
21 *of ever realised the probations he suffered, the*
22 *strenuous life he led and the responsibilities he*
23 *had to carry. Sacrifices great and small were made*
24 *by the pioneer during his daily life. His name*
25 *must be kept for evergreen.*

26 This is published in *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*
27 Friday 19 April 1929.

28 No one could deliver such a speech today. John
29 Batman's name is forever tarnished by his true legacy as
30 someone who, without conscience, led and participated in
31 genocidal acts against Aboriginal peoples. His

1 contemporaries saw him as a land speculator. A drunkard
2 with a violent temper who died early at the age of 39 due
3 to contracting syphilis from his dissolute ways. Such a
4 person cannot be considered to have rendered outstanding
5 service to his country, which is the main criteria which
6 the Australian Electoral Commission uses when naming a
7 seat. Batman's time has passed.

8 The legend of his founding of Melbourne was
9 cultivated by settlers after his death, perhaps to
10 (indistinct) their guilt at the dispersion of the Kulin
11 peoples and to perpetuate the idea that the colony was
12 settled peaceably. It is not even clear that the
13 location mentioned in Batman's journal is where the
14 colony was established. A mature Australia needs to tell
15 itself the truth about its racist foundations and address
16 in every possible way the intergenerational damage which
17 continues for original peoples to this day. Thank you.

18 MR ROGERS: Thank you. So, Shane Vicary.

19 MR VICARY: Good morning. My name is Shane Vicary. I'm the
20 CEO of AKD Softwoods. We're a privately owned company in
21 Colac. We're a sawmilling company. We employ currently
22 around about 622 employees and operate on around 11
23 sites. Our genus is 1955 and the shareholders are four
24 family groups and they date back to the 1870's.

25 Our contention is that our community of interest is
26 to the east and not to the west. Effectively our
27 employees, our customers, our business of interest and
28 our community of interest is all to the east and that's
29 represented by movement of goods is all to the east and
30 when we look at the town of Colac, the town of Colac is a
31 fantastic story. You've got three or four large

1 employers and a really robust rural town.

2 It's a story of regional prosperity and in
3 Australia regional prosperity is difficult. When you
4 look at Colac it's my understanding it's got the lowest
5 unemployment rate in just about all of regional
6 Australia. It's got the highest employment of
7 manufacturing or private employment as distinct from
8 government jobs. It is a success story.

9 It is a success story because of its connections to
10 the east. When you look at a business of AKD we're
11 members of the Geelong Manufacturing Council, as an
12 example for us as a business, yesterday we were meeting
13 with Barwon Water and we were talking about a regional
14 BioWeb for renewable resources where all four parties are
15 able to, in conjunction with Barwon Water, are able to
16 talk to one federal member. Under the realignment we
17 would have to try and get representation across two
18 electoral members.

19 One of those electoral members would have a
20 regional location and an electoral office, sorry, up to
21 two to two and a half hours away and that person would be
22 representing a significantly large area as compared to
23 when you look at Colac today, being part of the
24 Corangamite electorate. So from an AKD point of view
25 that's our single point of issue, is we made a submission
26 and our submission is really about the fact that our
27 business interests and our community interests are to the
28 east and not to the west.

29 MR ROGERS: Great, thank you. Mick Baker.

30 MR BAKER: Good morning. Thanks for the opportunity. My name
31 is Mick Baker. I'm representing the South Colac Sports

1 Club which is a club based in Elliminyt in Colac. So our
2 home is the Elliminyt recreation reserve in Colac. We
3 are a proud club with an exciting future. We have over
4 600 members and our reserve is also home to a number of
5 other user groups, namely, the Colac Cycling Club, Colac
6 Cricket Club, Colac Tennis and our reserve is also used
7 by Elliminyt Primary School and high use from the general
8 local community.

9 So we are a very important sporting and community
10 hub for Elliminyt and also Colac. So look, our main
11 concern with the proposed boundary changes is to do with
12 our competition and our connections to the east.
13 Basically within our competition we have sides from
14 Birregurra, Apollo Bay and Lorne and we have a strong
15 connection to the Geelong Football League as well through
16 Colac Tigers.

17 So basically the proposed boundary will rip our
18 competition sort of in half and I think a critical aspect
19 is the pathways for juniors in our local district league
20 for them to improve their football is to progress to the
21 Colac Tigers which is part of the Geelong Football
22 League. So there is a natural progression from our
23 league to the east, to the Geelong league. So it's
24 important to support that junior success.

25 As I mentioned earlier, the reserve is an important
26 community hub for Colac. We're currently going through a
27 master planning process to improve our facilities to
28 support the growth of sports and recreation in Colac and
29 also the region. We are sitting in one of the fastest
30 growing growth corridors in Colac. We're projected to
31 increase by 6,000 people by 2050 which is documented in

1 the Colac 2050 plan.

2 So there is an extremely high demand for improved
3 community and sporting infrastructure in the town so -
4 and we have concern that we have a readily available
5 elected member to help support sort of case and our
6 vision. There's currently offices in Colac and Geelong.
7 Again, the proposed boundary changes will drastically
8 sort of reduce our accessibility and support in that
9 area.

10 So as I mentioned, look, as a club we have an
11 exciting future and vision to support the growth of
12 Elliminyt and Colac and the proposed boundary changes
13 just brings a high level of uncertainty to that and to
14 the future success of our football club and other user
15 groups. Thank you.

16 MR ROGERS: Nick Hay. Shane Vicary. Hello again.

17 MR VICARY: Yes. I shouldn't have taken my top off. Yes, I'm
18 Shane Vicary. I'm the president of the Warrion Cricket
19 Club. Warrion is a cricket club that is part of the
20 Colac and District Cricket Association in Colac. We're a
21 small club and a very, very small regional centre, not
22 even a town, on the north side of the lake at Colac.

23 Our primary concern is again based around our
24 access to an electoral member and the distance that that
25 person would have to cover. So at the moment we have a
26 competition that covers down to Lorne, Birregurra, Deans
27 Marsh, Apollo Bay, (indistinct). Our competition would
28 be split in half so we'd have two electorate members
29 trying to talk, trying to communicate with two electorate
30 members about the facilities

31 The thing about cricket facilities, whether they be

1 cricket or footy or any other sort of community assets,
2 they're integral into successful regional locations. Our
3 fear is that we would be of the very edge of Wannon and
4 being a massive area we would find it difficult to get
5 support for our cricket facilities, so that's our
6 presentation.

7 MR ROGERS: Thank you very much. Matt Gibson. Good morning.

8 MR GIBSON: Good morning. My name is Matt Gibson and I'm
9 representing, well, currently the President of the Colac
10 Football Club, Netball Club, affiliated with the Geelong
11 Football League. I suppose today was just really to re-
12 affirm our submission based around the importance of
13 sport, not only in Colac but Australian culture and the
14 benefits that that provides for the youth.

15 Our club particularly is looking forward to
16 providing the future for the youth and that's essentially
17 our role as a committee, is to govern our club to make
18 sure that we're sustainable in the future. We have in
19 excess of 300 plus young men and women that play football
20 and netball. Many of these young people now with
21 university and so forth are based in either Geelong or
22 Melbourne but continually return back to the club given
23 our affiliation with the Geelong Football League and the
24 travel associated with that.

25 Obviously the opportunity to play in the Geelong
26 Football League is critical for us as a district, as a
27 community. As the representative for South Colac
28 highlighted, the pathway now to play in the GFL which is
29 arguably the best country football league in Victoria,
30 has an intangible benefit for our youth to be able to,
31 (a), maintain their presence in our community, but also

1 provide them the opportunity to play at the highest level
2 in country football and netball.

3 I have read the submissions that have been
4 presented and even though some say that the boundary re-
5 division won't affect the sport in town, I think first
6 hand we experienced this back in 2000 when we made the
7 move from the Hampton Football League which was
8 associated with Warrnambool to the Geelong Football
9 League. The basis of that reason was we were losing
10 young men and women who didn't want to return to our club
11 because of the travel distances having to go west.

12 Essentially that drove our decision to join the AFL
13 Geelong Football League at the time and again what's been
14 pivotal to the success of our club today to make sure we
15 continue to grow. Our home ground has obviously recently
16 been redeveloped and most recently in March held the AFL
17 JLT game between Geelong and Essendon. Again, an event
18 that you cannot put a dollar amount on the positive
19 impact that has on the whole community.

20 We recognise the balancing of the numbers as a part
21 of the re-division but we certainly look at the strategy
22 as being paramount in that the relationships that are
23 formed with local governments in the, and I'll use the
24 G21 for an example, to be able to provide more efficient
25 outcomes for the government and off the back of that,
26 being able to make sure that we're a sustainable club and
27 opportunity for young people obviously has a positive
28 impact on employment in retaining young people, the
29 brightest and best to be able to support the AKDs the
30 Bullas, ALCs and the many other businesses in Colac.

31 Thank you.

1 MR ROGERS: Great, thank you very much. Sorry, ladies and
2 gentlemen. Could we have, again pardon the
3 pronunciation, I think it's Nick Demiris and Adam
4 Wojtonis if that's possible. Good morning.

5 MR DERMIRIS: Good morning, Commissioner, members of the
6 augmented Commission, Nick Demiris, I'm the State
7 Director of the Liberal Party of Australia and to my
8 right is my colleague Adam Wojtonis. This morning we
9 would like to reflect on three principal areas. Firstly,
10 the proposed renaming of the Division of Corangamite to
11 Cox. Secondly, the potential destruction of communities
12 of interest in the western part of the electorate,
13 particularly in the northern part of the Colac Otway
14 Shire and finally, the eastern part of the electorate
15 with respect to the South Geelong area.

16 I might just also reflect on the fact that a
17 submission earlier today reflected on the current federal
18 member for Corangamite and the person who made that
19 submission in my view might have been better served if
20 they had advised the augmented Commission members that
21 they were a former endorsed candidate of another party in
22 a previous election.

23 But that aside, if I could turn my attention to the
24 renaming of the electorate of Corangamite to Cox. There
25 are few issues that the Liberal Party has made
26 submissions to the Committee on in this respect. The
27 first is that it is our strong view that principal
28 consideration should take place with respect to the
29 preservation of both Aboriginal names or indigenous names
30 of electorates, but secondly, also to the preservation of
31 names of federation seats.

1 My colleague Adam Wojtonis will speak to the other
2 two matters and we'll round out.

3 MR WOJTONIS: Thank you. Thank you for the opportunity to
4 speak today as well in relation to the redistribution.
5 I'd like to start by just noting that there's been some
6 commentary about the Liberal Party's objections with
7 regards to the Geelong end of the proposed Division of
8 Cox, primarily around the sort of fragmenting of the
9 southern suburbs of Geelong.

10 I understand that some submissions have made
11 reference to the fact that if our submission was to hold
12 there would be no potential for a seat of Geelong or the
13 suburbs of Geelong to be contained within one seat.
14 There is a strong trajectory of growth within the Geelong
15 area that actually will necessitate two divisions to
16 actually cover the area over the coming years and this is
17 best sort of - the communities of interest are best
18 served by actually having the urban areas of Geelong sort
19 of split between those two areas but southern Geelong as
20 it currently stands remain with the Division of
21 Corangamite or the proposed Division of Cox with the
22 northern parts in within the Division of Corio.

23 Where this sort of applies, this causes issues
24 around the Bellarine Peninsula and things like that but
25 in the past the Commission has recognised the clear
26 delineation between the northern parts of the Bellarine
27 Peninsula with regards to communities of interest from
28 the southern end around Barwon Heads and Queenscliff and
29 this would actually create - this sort of delineation has
30 been recognised in the past.

31 It's a very good way of sort of the northern part

1 actually orientates towards Geelong more than it does to
2 the remainder of Corangamite and whereas the southern
3 parts orient more towards to sort of the Torquay end and
4 sort of the coastal areas of Corangamite. The other area
5 that I want to sort of touch on is the objections
6 relating to Golden Plains.

7 We recognise that Golden Plains is a very difficult
8 local government area for the Commission to sort of
9 divide or place within different electoral boundaries.
10 It is an interface local government area between
11 Ballarat, Geelong and other areas as well. It will
12 inevitably lead to it being either split or have to be
13 contained within one electorate. As we have proposed in
14 our objections, it probably would better orient the whole
15 of Golden Plains local government area towards Ballarat.

16 I understand that might cause problems with the
17 numerical requirements but our proposal has shown that
18 the different realignments that are necessary to make it
19 work are possible and we sort of note that the northern
20 parts of Geelong and the southern parts of Golden Plains
21 ideally in the future (indistinct) would probably ideally
22 fall within one electorate around, sort of centred around
23 Corio as it currently stands.

24 I also wanted to touch upon the question of
25 Maryborough in where it sort of falls, whether in Mallee
26 or in Wannon. It sort of flows with the sort of the
27 whole proposition of what the Commission is trying to do
28 and what we've sort of tried to do in our submissions
29 previously is to try and create cohesive electorates
30 across the board.

31 So Maryborough within Wannon is a bit disjointed

1 from the remainder. It sort of orients either towards
2 the northern part of (indistinct) State of Victoria or to
3 Bendigo. That would require that Wannon actually extend
4 north to Horsham, Stawell and Ararat. That sort of
5 alignment as we've sort of proposed in our objections
6 aligns communities of interest along the Western Highway.

7 While that's sort of like an interface between
8 those electorates, it means that electorate of Wannon
9 expands a great deal. That's always going to be an
10 inevitable population growth in those areas. I thank you
11 for the opportunity to speak today.

12 MR ROGERS: No problem. Thank you very much.

13 MR DERMIRIS: Thank you, Commissioner.

14 MR ROGERS: Sarah Henderson. Good morning.

15 MS HENDERSON: Good morning. Thank you very much for the
16 opportunity to address the augmented Electoral Commission
17 today in this public inquiry. As the federal Member for
18 Corangamite I very much appreciate the complex task
19 before you in the redistribution of the Victorian federal
20 boundaries. This is an incredibly important part of our
21 democratic process and I particularly wish to thank you
22 for convening this public hearing today in Winchelsea
23 which enables our community, including the people I
24 represent in the Australian parliament to have their say.

25 I wish to reiterate my support for the Liberal
26 Party's submission and any submissions you received
27 objecting to the new boundaries or the proposed
28 boundaries which sever Colac and district from the
29 proposed new division and which effectively leaves the
30 vast majority of urban Geelong with representation by one
31 federal seat only being the federal Division of Corio.

1 This is very much at odds with Geelong's trajectory of
2 growth.

3 I particularly wish to reiterate my concern for the
4 proposal to sever Colac and district which breaks many
5 very entrenched communities of interest socially and
6 economically between Colac and Geelong. Members, I
7 understand you've heard some criticism of me today in
8 relation to keep Colac in Corangamite and I wish to place
9 on record that while I have spoken about the importance
10 of the democratic process and invited everyone of course
11 with the opportunity to have their say in this important
12 process.

13 This was a campaign started by the *Colac Herald*
14 with its branded logo and of course has been continued by
15 the *Colac Herald*. But more importantly, this underlines
16 a strong and passionate view in the community that
17 severing Colac from Corangamite would be extremely
18 detrimental at a time when this wonderful town is getting
19 back on its feet economically and socially and I would
20 have to say in part because of the representation it has
21 received in the Australia parliament.

22 The duplication of the Princes Highway of \$550m
23 project and the upgrade of the rail line between Colac
24 and Geelong to which nearly \$300m has been committed
25 recently are primarily from the commonwealth, are
26 projects which are dependent on the strong communities of
27 interest which exist between Colac and Geelong.
28 Similarly, the success of the campaign to duplicate the
29 rail through southern Geelong depended on the very strong
30 social and economic communities of interest which exist
31 between Highton, Belmont, Waurin Ponds, Wandana Heights,

1 Grovedale and Marshall.

2 As you've heard, there is also a deep concern about
3 the proposed change of the name and the loss of so much
4 of our heritage as a federation seat, including our
5 indigenous like Werriwa which is the Aboriginal name for
6 Lake George and which is now located in the Division of
7 Eden-Monaro, there is strong precedent for maintaining
8 Corangamite even if the boundaries were to move.

9 Today I also want to address to the augmented
10 Commission a particular issue in relation to the proposed
11 name of Cox. I have to start by saying that while May
12 Cox obviously made an important contribution, she is not
13 a well know national historical figure. In fact, I had
14 never heard of her prior to the name being proposed and
15 many have expressed that same view so there is deep
16 concern about that. But one of the things that I wanted
17 to reiterate today is that the Liberal Party in its
18 submission has spoken about the importance of maintaining
19 the dignity of members of Parliament and the greatest of
20 respect to the augmented Commission, there is some
21 unintended consequences in adopting this name.

22 The word Cox per se as a name is not particularly
23 offensive, but I put to you that the title, the member
24 for Cox and the manner in which it is utilised in the
25 parliament and in the electorate brings with it offensive
26 connotations, particularly when you consider that the
27 word member is also slang for male genitalia. I say this
28 not on some hypothetical basis but as someone who has
29 been subjected to ongoing ridicule, taunts and laughter
30 since this proposed name was made public and I also say
31 this as a female member of parliament and might I say,

1 gentlemen, that holding one's own as a female member of
2 Parliament is enough of a challenge without providing
3 others either in the parliament, my opponents or in the
4 community with the excuse to have a laugh at my own
5 expense if I was to become a member for Cox.

6 As just one example, two weeks ago I attended a
7 dinner with parliamentary colleagues, stakeholders and
8 journalists and the main topic of conversation and all of
9 the connotations which flow from that was the fact that I
10 could become the member for Cox. It was unpleasant. It
11 was inappropriate and no member, regardless of the party
12 to whom they belong, or whoever they are, whether it be
13 me or any other member and particularly a female should
14 be subjected to that type of ridicule.

15 Mr Rogers, to you in particular I say this is a
16 really live issue and it's not just a hypothetical issue
17 because for the last couple of months it has been very
18 uncomfortable and all of us as members of parliament, we
19 really do battle. We battle a derision, we battle a lot
20 of criticism. I battle it every single day in social
21 media, on Facebook, on Twitter, in the parliament. But
22 this is an added burden that I do not believe that the
23 Commission should impose on any member of parliament.
24 Thank you very much for the opportunity to make the
25 submission to you today.

26 MR ROGERS: Thank you. Shane Easson. Good afternoon, just.

27 MR EASSON: Thank you. I'm Shane Easson, appearing on behalf
28 of the ALP. Firstly, let's talk names. The Labor Party
29 supports the Commission's decision to rename Murray,
30 Nicholls. We support the renaming of McMillan, Monash.
31 We're aware of Sutcliffe being raised as an alternative.

1 We don't support that. We also don't agree that a seat
2 should be anywhere near the Monash Council because you're
3 going to have splits in that Council today and tomorrow.
4 Right.

5 I have left out Cox, let's talk about the first
6 redistribution for which I wrote a submission for the
7 Labor Party. It was in 1984, the most difficult year
8 ever for the AEC. 25 new seats, redistributions in all
9 states followed by an election. In that year the
10 Commissioners proposed a seat based on Shellharbour and
11 Wollongong and they proposed that it be called Mort in
12 honour of Thomas Mort who had invented the refrigeration
13 process to enable Australia to transport meat to the UK
14 and other places.

15 There was quite a lot of number of objections,
16 connotations made to Mort and so on and after
17 consideration the augmented Commission changed the name.
18 We've had some frivolous complaints about the proposed
19 name of Cox. Firstly, we agree that it's a good thing
20 and we commend the Redistribution Committee to naming
21 more seats after women.

22 However, sometimes perception is reality so you do
23 have a couple of alternatives to Cox. I note that I
24 think on page 130 you had mentioned names under
25 consideration, Henrietta Dugdale, who also had a
26 connection with this division. She raised her kids in
27 Queenscliff. She was a notable suffrage campaigner from
28 the 1860's. She lived long. She died in 1918 at the age
29 of 91.

30 So we would commend that seat. We also note that
31 notwithstanding Marjorie after whom this hall is named,

1 that Melba is one of the most famous Victorians and we do
2 have Moncrieff in Queensland named after a woman and
3 Melba is a much more famous name. So that is another
4 name that you may wish to consider and that would respond
5 adopting a female name to some of the complaints that
6 have been made concerning the proposed name of Cox.

7 The next thing I want to refer is splits. In
8 paragraph 134 of the report, in the third point the
9 committee says that it accepts that splitting local
10 government areas or localities may be appropriate where
11 doing so provides for strong physical boundaries and/or a
12 clearer community of interest. In my experience both in
13 Victoria and in other states Commissioners have over the
14 years said that they would prefer particularly in rural
15 areas, in regional areas to keep LGAs together.

16 Let's look at the difference between the current
17 boundary and the proposed boundary for Wannon, currently
18 there are no local government areas left in the Division
19 of Wannon. But under the committee's proposal there are
20 four local government areas split. They being Pyrenees
21 Council, Northern Grampians and of course Colac Otway and
22 Golden Plains. So we've got four splits where hitherto
23 we had none and we have a different sort of rationale
24 expressed on this occasion about the splitting of local
25 government areas compared to what has happened in the
26 past.

27 That's important when we look at the ALP objections
28 and the other objections that have been made. If we look
29 at the seat of Cox, we've got two different types of
30 objection. One concerning the eastern end and the
31 Bellarine Peninsula. We should remember that the

1 Bellarine - - -

2 MR ROGERS: We're just over time so I'm going to ask you to
3 come - - -

4 MR EASSON: Pardon?

5 MR ROGERS: We're just over time now so I'm just going to ask
6 you to come - - -

7 MR EASSON: All right, I'll be as fast as I can. The Bellarine
8 Peninsula is already split. The Commissioners have
9 united it in one (indistinct). That's a good thing.
10 They have consolidated more of the urban area in Corio.
11 If we look at the proposed seat of Cox and you add up
12 that part of Geelong Council, Queenscliff and Surf Coast
13 which no-one objects to, you've got 88 per cent of a
14 division in the seat of Cox.

15 The then question is what do you do to bring it up
16 to quota. You've got three choices. You either unite
17 Colac Otway or you unite Golden Plains or you do what
18 you've done. As I've said, the ALP opposes splits. We
19 believe that previous arrangements work best, that is,
20 uniting local government areas and the answer to my
21 question in my opinion was given by King Solomon 3,000
22 years ago and I remind you of the difference between his
23 proposal when we're talking about that baby and his final
24 determination when it comes to a local government area.

25 The last point I want to make regarding Cox is
26 you're dealing with a seat where the local government
27 areas are all next door to Geelong Council. Colac Otway
28 is two local government areas away. If you're looking at
29 Apollo Bay it's 150 kilometres from Geelong. If you're
30 looking at the furthest place in Golden Plains Council,
31 Smythesdale, you're dealing with under 100 kilometres and

1 a suburb right next door, Bannockburn, part of Golden
2 Plains Council.

3 I'd like five more minutes but if the time is up, it's
4 up.

5 MR ROGERS: Correctly I think we have to do it that way, so
6 thank you very much. We also have some evidence today to
7 be read in that people have given us that one of the
8 staff will now read in and we'll read out the names of
9 the individuals doing so.

10 MISS TAYLOR: I'm Nicole Taylor, National Redistributions
11 Manager.

12 The first submission I will read in is from Malcom
13 Mackerras AO.

14 *As I explained in our telephone conversation*
15 *today, I would love to go either to Melbourne or to*
16 *Winchelsea for this inquiry. However, due to*
17 *uncertainty about whether I can re-arrange my current*
18 *commitments in Canberra, I asked you to schedule me*
19 *for both hearings but asked you not to think me rude*
20 *if I did not turn up.*

21 *The more I think about the proposal to scrap the*
22 *name Corangamite from the map the more angry I become.*
23 *To do so would be the most blatant disobedience to the*
24 *guidelines ever perpetuated by Electoral*
25 *Commissioners. That the Commissioners have the power*
26 *to do so cuts no ice with me. That would be an abuse*
27 *of power.*

28 *I hope you will not think me too disrespectful*
29 *about this but experience tells me that I know what*
30 *you are like. The removal of Lake Corangamite is*
31 *quite likely to be seen as an excuse to get rid of the*

1 name of the division. Then in three years time Lake
2 Corangamite is restored but the name Cox is retained.
3 It would not surprise me if that is what happened. I
4 wish now to protest at the prospect of such being
5 done.

6 Victoria is growing in population so rapidly it
7 is quite likely this map will apply at one election
8 only, that expected in May 2019. Furthermore, an
9 increase of six or seven seats for Victoria is quite
10 likely in the reasonably near future, consequent upon
11 a discussion advocated by me in a forthcoming book.
12 My proposal is that the number of senators for each
13 state be increased from 12 to 14, thus increasing the
14 size of the House of Representatives from 151 to 175
15 (or thereabouts). The restoration of the name
16 Corangamite would then be totally logical in every
17 respect but I would not expect its restoration. The
18 dropping of the name Corangamite in 2019 would be used
19 as an excuse to keep the name Cox, permanently.
20 Disgraceful, but as I say, I know from experience what
21 you are like.

22 I do not know the geography of the area
23 particularly well but I am told that it would be quite
24 easy, consistent with the statutory requirements, to
25 restore Lake Corangamite to the division. That would
26 be the ideal solution. If that cannot be done, then
27 keep the name Corangamite for the same reason as
28 Kooyong is kept. Kooyong long ago lost the suburb of
29 Kooyong after which it is named but the name of the
30 division is retained.

31 The historical arguments retaining Corangamite

1 are just as strong as apply to Kooyong. That is what
2 I argue in my five page objection and I wish to re-
3 state those arguments as forcefully as I can.

4 The next objection I'll read in is from Don Jewell.

5 MR ROGERS: I'm sorry?

6 MISS TAYLOR: Don Jewell.

7 We are extremely disappointed that your letter
8 of 25 May detailing 'objections and comments' did not
9 mention our proposed alteration to the boundaries of
10 Flinders and Holt.

11 This is a relatively minor alteration compared
12 with the large area down the eastern side of Western
13 Port Bay which is being deleted from Flinders. As we
14 have pointed out, it is mainly an agricultural area,
15 covered by the Western Port Green Wedge, and includes
16 some significant areas of environmental significance
17 which have a strong community of interest with the
18 Western Shore of Western Port Bay.

19 As this was submitted on behalf of a number of
20 community groups, particularly the 'Coastal Villages'
21 of Tooradin, Blind Bight, Warneet and Cannons Creek,
22 we believe that it should have been included in your
23 'list of matters' raised and be given serious
24 consideration by the augmented Electoral Commission.

25 Because of the restrictions applied by the Green
26 Wedge Policy of this and previous State Governments,
27 the population is not liable to be increased
28 substantially for many years.

29 This rural area has little community of interest
30 with the mainly urban electorate of Holt. Yours
31 sincerely, J.H. Jewell, Vice President Cannons Creek

1 *Resident Associate, Chairman Cannons Creek Foreshore*
2 *Committee of Management.*

3 The next submission I will read is from Milton
4 Pearson.

5 *I have lived in this electorate for over 20*
6 *years and object as an individual to change the*
7 *boundaries of Dunkley.*

8 *Whilst our forefathers set up our electoral*
9 *system for equal representation based on population*
10 *growth, Australia has/is undergoing too many changes*
11 *that affect daily lives.*

12 *Dunkley now has a huge elderly population (per*
13 *retirement) villages and we see a conflict between who*
14 *represents us/political system itself not aligned.*

15 *To witness hard working MPs returning to their*
16 *electorates and in a state of flux over what is best*
17 *for constituents.*

18 *What about a moratorium for five years on this*
19 *proposed change which may give rise to a major growth*
20 *spurt in areas like Hastings with reference to*
21 *proposed port, railing, third airport allocation that*
22 *has cheap land and major employer.*

23 *At five years end this area of Australia may*
24 *well have a need for boundary change.*

25 *Give the Electoral Commission itself some*
26 *breathing room given they are still updating records*
27 *post the next federal election.*

28 *Thank you. Milton Carl William Pearson.*

29 *P.S. My 13 years in Legacy helping older*
30 *Australians and how confused they become to change*
31 *also gives me further insight into proposed boundary*

1 *change.*

2 The next submission I'll read is from Mark Mulcair.

3 *Thank you for your invitation.*

4 *Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the*
5 *inquiry. With respect to the issues proposed for*
6 *discussion, I would simply reiterate my previous*
7 *comments.*

8 *Provided the Mornington locals agree, I would*
9 *support the proposal of Jeff Waddell rotating all of*
10 *Dunkley, Flinders, Holt, Latrobe, Bruce, Hotham and*
11 *Isaacs slightly anti clockwise.*

12 *I reiterate my 'compromise' proposal for Corio,*
13 *Cox and Wannon. I admit that it is a compromise, and*
14 *does not allow Colac to be returned to Corangamite,*
15 *but it helps address most of the issues raised.*

16 *I strongly believe Craigieburn should be united*
17 *in Calwell, and Sunbury should be with Macedon and*
18 *Gisborne in McEwen.*

19 *I have no issue with Flemington being re-united*
20 *with Kensington in Melbourne.*

21 *I believe strongly that both major parties*
22 *objections are driven entirely by partisan politics,*
23 *and would specifically reject almost all of their*
24 *proposals as failing the community of interests test.*

25 *I look forward to your final decisions.*

26 The next submission I will read is from James D.

27 Wilson.

28 *Dear Secretary, thank you for your letter dated*
29 *25 May 2018 inviting me to attend meetings on 5 June*
30 *at Winchelsea and Melbourne on 6 June.*

31 *I wish to make an apology for non-attendance, as*

1 *I am restricted by using a wheelchair and have a*
2 *longstanding medical appointment on that date.*

3 *The additional point that I had wished to raise*
4 *in favour of retaining the Corangamite name was that*
5 *Mrs Cox is said to be living in Melbourne and not even*
6 *Queenscliff. If need be, reference could be made to*
7 *my lengthy original submission.*

8 The next submission I will read is from Gail Nielson.

9 *AEC, I hope you will reconsider the proposed*
10 *name change of Corangamite to something more suitable*
11 *and appropriate than Cox. If we cannot retain*
12 *Corangamite surely something like Arthur Streeton,*
13 *born at Mount Duneed, memorial cairn at nearby at*
14 *Mount Moriac, lived also at Queenscliff and Lorne and*
15 *decorated World War I official war artist.*

16 *I have not found anyone who has heard of Mrs*
17 *Cox. If she taught swimming at Queenscliff, maybe*
18 *name a local pool after her, not our electorate.*
19 *Please reconsider your most unsuitable decision.*

20 The next submission I'll read is from Michael Stewart.

21 *Dear ladies and gentlemen, firstly my apologies*
22 *for my absence due to a medical procedure today in*
23 *Geelong.*

24 *I am the managing director and fourth generation*
25 *of our family business, established in Colac in 1917:*
26 *operating as real estate and livestock agents and*
27 *auctioneers.*

28 *We employ some 70 people and have six offices*
29 *throughout Western Victoria.*

30 *I wish to strongly voice my opinion, and that of*
31 *many of our employees and a number our clients who*

1 work inside in the Corangamite Shire, at the ludicrous
2 proposed changes to our electorate.

3 Colac's three largest employers, namely AKD, ALC
4 and Bulla, draw their employees and raw materials from
5 the Corangamite Shire, and heavily rely on the Geelong
6 region to draw business connections, sales and
7 employees.

8 Colac has the highest percentage of people in
9 the workforce who have jobs derived from the private
10 sector out of any town in Victoria, which is a
11 magnificent success story. Why change the electoral
12 boundary and jeopardise such a wonderful and thriving
13 community?

14 The Geelong region is critical to the rest of
15 the current Corangamite electorate through not only
16 business/economics but medical, tourism, sporting,
17 personal/family connections and education to name but
18 a few.

19 Currently our electorate is a marginal seat,
20 which gives its residents the advantage of not being
21 overlooked in some potential instances for Government
22 funding projects. Changing our boundary will make us
23 far less marginal and ensure we miss out in the
24 future.

25 There is an old saying, 'if it is not broken,
26 don't fix it'! Plain common sense. Unfortunately,
27 common sense is not that common these days. I implore
28 you to leave the boundaries of the Corangamite
29 electorate and its name unchanged. Thank you for your
30 time.

31 The next submission I'll read is from Andriy

1 Kogut.

2 *To whom it may concern. My name is Andriy Kogut*
3 *and I am the owner of two local businesses, Blue Bay*
4 *Cheese Mornington and Blue Bay Deli Frankston. This*
5 *email also written on behalf of my mother Iryna Kogut*
6 *and my father, Roman Kogut, who are local Mornington*
7 *residents.*

8 *Unfortunately, due to workload and other*
9 *commitments, we will not be able to attend the public*
10 *inquiry on 6 May.*

11 I think he means June there.

12 *I would like to make a brief statement about our*
13 *view on boundary between the proposed Divisions of*
14 *Dunkley and Flinders.*

15 *As mentioned in my objection, we run a local*
16 *business which has main production in Mornington and*
17 *retail division/deli shop in Frankston.*

18 *We hope you consider our concerns as it makes no*
19 *sense to separate our coastal communities.*

20 *Mornington contributes to the rural land areas*
21 *and Green Wedge within Dunkley electorate and should*
22 *be retained within Dunkley. To shift the City of*
23 *Frankston away from coastal Mornington means a big*
24 *loss for visitors and local residents. It should not*
25 *be all about housing and suburban living. Keeping*
26 *these coastal communities together means having*
27 *stronger tourism, staying connected with jobs,*
28 *services, et cetera. It means developing a stronger*
29 *economy within those towns.*

30 *As a business we are incredibly disappointed to*
31 *hear about Mornington to be taken away and*

1 *disconnected.*

2 *Also, having to deal with two members of*
3 *Parliament would be a disadvantage to our business as*
4 *we have ongoing migration matters and many other*
5 *matters to deal with.*

6 *We believe that Mornington should be in Dunkley*
7 *electorate.*

8 The next submission I'll read is from the Victorian
9 Women's Trust.

10 *Dear Chair, thank you for the opportunity to*
11 *submit a comment to the inquiry on the proposed*
12 *redistribution of federal electoral divisions in*
13 *Victoria.*

14 *Over the years the Victorian Women's Trust (VWT)*
15 *has worked towards attaining a full gender equality.*
16 *As an organisation, we recognise the fundamental*
17 *aspect of achieving this goal is ensuring that women*
18 *are represented equally within our public*
19 *institutions, our cultural spaces and recognised on*
20 *the public record.*

21 *This electoral redistribution provides an*
22 *important platform to address the unequal*
23 *acknowledgement of women's achievements within the*
24 *public sphere. As federal electorates are named in*
25 *honour of Australians who have made significant*
26 *community contributions, striving for equal*
27 *representation in in electorate naming is an important*
28 *step in shaping a future that equally values the*
29 *achievements of Victorian women.*

30 *Currently, there is a large disparity between*
31 *the representation of men and women within the naming*

1 of federal electorates, and the proposed changes have
2 a limited impact in reducing this gap.

3 This disparity has become further entrenched
4 through naming traditions that preference the use of
5 Prime Ministers as inaugural electorate names.
6 Historically, women have faced numerous cultural and
7 structural barriers to political participation, many
8 of which were not overcome until 2010 when our first,
9 and to this day only, female Prime Minister, Julia
10 Gillard, took office. As men have primarily been the
11 ones to occupy the prime minister's office, this
12 tradition has reinforced opportunities to recognise
13 men, while marginalising the myriad of diverse and
14 significant ways women have contributed to our
15 community.

16 As a community, we have become increasingly
17 aware of the historic under-representation of women
18 within the public record. Public sentiment is
19 shifting towards seeking a more equal society, and we
20 hope to see that these interests are being adequately
21 reflected within public processes.

22 Overall, we do not believe that the proposed
23 naming changes sufficiently recognise the
24 contributions made by women within Victoria. In their
25 current form, the proposed changes have overlooked a
26 real opportunity to address the unequal representation
27 of women on Australia's public record.

28 We encourage the Electoral Commission to embrace
29 this opportunity to foster a culture of gender
30 equality within this public process, and we hope that
31 the Electoral Commission recognises the value of

1 *addressing electoral naming inequalities as a step*
2 *towards achieving broader equality.*

3 *Thank you. Megan Rosato and Casimira Melican.*

4 The final submission I have to read is from Jeff
5 Waddell.

6 *Comment to be presented at Victorian*
7 *Redistribution Inquiry.*

8 *To the augmented Electoral Commission for*
9 *Victoria, those also involved in the redistribution*
10 *process and my fellow contributors (if any are*
11 *present).*

12 *First of all, I am more than disappointed that*
13 *work commitments have prevented me attending this*
14 *inquiry. I would have loved nothing more than to be*
15 *able to present my analysis and conclusions and*
16 *address any questions the augmented Electoral*
17 *Commission may have had in relation to my proposed*
18 *alterations to the draft boundaries proposed by the*
19 *Redistribution Committee.*

20 *This document will address each of the 11 bullet*
21 *points identified for consideration by the inquiry and*
22 *I hope my thoughts and conclusions can assist the*
23 *augmented Electoral Commission in determining*
24 *electoral boundaries that best comply with sections*
25 *73(4) and (4A) of the Commonwealth Electoral Act.*

26 *The boundary between the proposed divisions of*
27 *Dunkley and Flinders: I ask the augmented Electoral*
28 *Commission to consider the solution provided in my*
29 *objection (OB92) pages 5 through 10. This goes some*
30 *way to reversing the transfer of the locality of*
31 *Mornington from Dunkley to Flinders (which, I believe,*

1 *shouldn't have been proposed by the Redistribution*
2 *Committee in the first place) and involves flow-on*
3 *changes and reversals to the Divisions of Holt, La*
4 *Trobe, Bruce, Hotham, Isaacs and Monash. As I stated*
5 *in my objection, I believe that the changes and*
6 *reversals I propose for all eight Divisions provide*
7 *the best possible solution to communities of interest,*
8 *means of communication and travel and area and*
9 *physical features for all eight divisions; given that*
10 *numerical absolutes that need to be complied with.*

11 *In a perfect world it would have been ideal to*
12 *return all of Mornington to the Division of Dunkley,*
13 *but to do so would have compromised some of the other*
14 *boundary changes proposed in my solution.*

15 *My solution proposes to return as much of*
16 *Mornington as possible (approximately 76.75 per cent*
17 *of current electors and 76.7 per cent of projected*
18 *electors) to the Division of Dunkley. This solution*
19 *is also supported by another regular contributor to*
20 *electoral redistributions at both commonwealth and*
21 *state/territory levels, Dr Mark Mulcair.*

22 *The boundary of the proposed Division of Cox,*
23 *the electoral divisions in which Colac Otway Shire is*
24 *located and the electoral divisions in which Golden*
25 *Plains Shire is located: All three points can be*
26 *addressed in a single response. I have provided my*
27 *analysis on pages 2 and 3 of my comments on objections*
28 *(COB39) under the section: Boundary Changes to*
29 *Proposed Cox and Current Corangamite.*

30 *To reiterate the key consideration of that*
31 *analysis: the numerical situation is that the current*

1 *Division of Corangamite is over quota and needs to*
2 *lose electors. The current Division of Wannon is*
3 *under quota and needs to gain electors. None of the*
4 *objections seem to offer any alternative solution to*
5 *this situation.*

6 *Further, I believe that any alterations to the*
7 *Division of Ballarat's boundaries would only*
8 *compromise the very strong boundaries proposed for*
9 *Ballarat by the Redistribution Committee.*

10 *Just as I did for the Division of Flinders in my*
11 *objection (OB92), I would also ask the augmented*
12 *Electoral Commission to consider the electoral*
13 *boundaries of the state electoral Division of*
14 *Polwarth. Link below. As can be seen, the District*
15 *of Polwarth contains electors from the Greater*
16 *Geelong, Surf Coast, Golden Pains and Colac Otway*
17 *LGAs, in addition to electors from the Corangamite and*
18 *Moyne LGAs. Both the Colac Otway and Corangamite*
19 *Shires are wholly contained within the District of*
20 *Polwarth.*

21 *Therefore, an electoral community of interest*
22 *already exists between Colac and localities further*
23 *west such as Camperdown, Cobden and Terang to name but*
24 *a few.*

25 *In my conclusion on page 3 of my comments on*
26 *objections I made the following statement: in short,*
27 *part or all of Colac Otway Shire must move to Wannon*
28 *to make the numbers work for both Divisions. Whilst*
29 *the augmented Electoral Commission may decide to*
30 *tinker with the final boundaries, the general change*
31 *should not, cannot, be reversed.*

1 *Nothing I have read in any of the objections or*
2 *comments on objections has changed that conclusion.*
3 *Therefore, I encourage the augmented Electoral*
4 *Commission to stick with what has been proposed by the*
5 *Redistribution Committee in this instance.*

6 *The electoral divisions in which Craigieburn is*
7 *located: I was surprised to read a number of*
8 *objections to the unification of Craigieburn into the*
9 *Division of Calwell. In many aspects, Craigieburn is*
10 *a bit like Pakenham, once a small community outside*
11 *the urban sprawl, it's now in the middle of a*
12 *population explosion and its community of interest*
13 *lies south the suburbs, not north to the hills.*

14 *To ensure I wasn't doing the people of*
15 *Craigieburn a disservice, I decided to check*
16 *Craigieburn's senior football team's website to see*
17 *what clubs it played again. When I checked, they were*
18 *all suburban clubs like Airport West, Tullamarine,*
19 *Taylors Lakes, Hillside, Westmeadows, et cetera. No*
20 *Kilmore or Whittlesea or anything further north. To*
21 *me, this supports arguments that Craigieburn's*
22 *communities of interests lie to the south.*

23 *The unification of Craigieburn in Calwell was*
24 *also something I originally proposed so my opinion is*
25 *that this change proceed as proposed by the*
26 *Redistribution Committee.*

27 *To attempt to return part of Craigieburn to*
28 *McEwen would have flow-on effects to Calwell - the*
29 *version of which has been proposed by the*
30 *Redistribution Committee is also significantly*
31 *improved from the current version.*

1 The electoral divisions in which Flemington,
2 Kensington and Travancore are located: I have already
3 analysed this issue in my comments on objections
4 (COB39). To briefly reiterate, Flemington and
5 Kensington are already divided at both municipal and
6 state electoral district level. The boundary proposed
7 by the Redistribution Committee is one that is logical
8 and should be left as proposed.

9 The electoral divisions in which Maryborough and
10 Central Goldfield Shire are located: I support the
11 objections to the Redistribution Committee's proposal
12 of placing Central Goldfields Shire in Mallee.

13 As I stated in my original submission (S17),
14 Central Goldfields Shire should be in the Division of
15 Bendigo, not Wannon and definitely not Mallee.

16 Pages 4 through 7 of my comments on objection
17 (COB39) provide the augmented Electoral Commission a
18 solution on how to successfully address the objections
19 to the Central Goldfields Shire being located in the
20 Division of Mallee and instead add Central Goldfields
21 Shire to the Division of Bendigo.

22 Whilst this solution has flow on effects to
23 Wannon, Nicholls, McEwen and Scullin, I believe the
24 overall outcome is a significant improvement from what
25 has been proposed by the Redistribution Committee.

26 The name of the proposed Division of Batman: I
27 have made my thoughts known on this issue on page 4 of
28 my comments on objections submission.

29 The only other comments I would like to add in
30 relation to this matter is that many of the objections
31 to the retention of the name Batman did not provide

1 any alternative divisional name that complied with the
2 guidelines on naming electoral divisions. Therefore,
3 that aspect of their objection should be rejected by
4 the augmented Electoral Commission. It should be noted
5 that eight of the current 37 Victorian divisions have
6 an Aboriginal basis for their naming. The renaming of
7 Murray to Nicholls would bring that to nine out of 38
8 (assuming Corangamite is reinstated) or 23.7 per cent
9 of Victoria Divisions named in honour of Aboriginal
10 people or words.

11 The above paragraph is equally valid in relation
12 to the naming of the Division of Monash.

13 Should the augmented Electoral Commission still
14 decide to rename Batman, then - as in my original
15 submission (S17) - I propose the reinstatement of the
16 divisional name of Burke in honour of Robert O'Hara
17 Burke. Not only would this address the current
18 anomaly of having a Division named after Wills but not
19 Burke, would also place the Divisions of Burke and
20 Wills alongside each other.

21 To me, this seems an opportunity too good to
22 miss.

23 The name of proposed Division of Cox: I believe
24 the case I made on page 2 of my comments on objections
25 (COB39) submission summarises the reasoning supplied
26 by many contributors. These should be sufficient
27 grounds for the augmented Electoral Commission to
28 abandon the name change to Cox and reinstate
29 Corangamite.

30 There are just too many negatives to propose
31 renaming this (or any other) Division; Cox.

1 *The name of the proposed Division of Macnamara:*
2 *This seems to have overwhelming support amongst the*
3 *objections received so the augmented Electoral*
4 *Commission should proceed with renaming the Division*
5 *of Melbourne Ports to Macnamara.*

6 *The name of the proposed Division of Monash: As*
7 *one of the many original submissions advocating for*
8 *the creation of a Division named Monash, I am opposed*
9 *to those who object to having a Division named in*
10 *honour of General Sir John Monash.*

11 *However, the position I have taken since the*
12 *start of the redistribution process and as stated in*
13 *my original submission (S17) is that Monash should be*
14 *the name given to the new Division in Melbourne's west*
15 *which is currently proposed to be named Fraser.*

16 *Fraser would be a more appropriate name for the*
17 *Division proposed by the Redistribution Committee to*
18 *be renamed Monash.*

19 *Summary: The changes identified in my objection*
20 *(OB92) and comments on objections (COB39) would cause*
21 *boundary changes in 16 Divisions compared to what has*
22 *been proposed by the Redistribution Committee. It*
23 *would also swap the divisional names of Fraser and*
24 *Monash, reinstate Corangamite, and if I had a choice*
25 *between the divisional names of Batman and Burke I*
26 *would go with Burke - though not for the reasons*
27 *advocated by so many of the objections and comments on*
28 *objections received.*

29 *Those changes from what has been proposed by the*
30 *Redistribution Committee are as follows:*

- 31
 - *Batman - renamed to Burke*

- 1 • *Bendigo - gains Central Goldfields Shire from*
2 *Mallee, transfers its part of Mitchell Shire to*
3 *Nicholls, transfers its part of Macedon Ranges*
4 *Shire to McEwen*
- 5 • *Bruce - eastern boundary contracts westwards to*
6 *Hallam North Road from Narre Warren North Road.*
7 *Southern boundary moves from Cheltenham and Kirkham*
8 *Roads to Dandenong Bypass. Western boundary and*
9 *western part of northern boundary aligns with*
10 *Greater Dandenong LGA boundary from Springvale Road*
11 *clockwise to Police Road.*
- 12 • *Corangamite/Cox - divisional name of Corangamite is*
13 *reinstated.*
- 14 • *Dunkley - regains most of Mornington from Flinders,*
15 *transfers Langwarrin South to Flinders, transfers*
16 *Seaford and a part of Carrum Downs west of*
17 *Dandenong-Frankston Road to Isaacs.*
- 18 • *Flinders - transfers most of Mornington back to*
19 *Dunkley, regains all of Casey LGA territory from*
20 *Holt, plus balance of locality of Clyde that east*
21 *of Clyde - Five Ways Road and south of Pattersons*
22 *Road from Holt, gains Langwarrin South from*
23 *Dunkley.*
- 24 • *Fraser - divisional name should be allocated to the*
25 *proposed Division of Monash, current Division of*
26 *McMillan.*
- 27 • *Gellibrand - gains the balance of the locality of*
28 *Williams Landing from Lalor.*
- 29 • *Holt - returns to Flinders all of Casey LGA*
30 *territory south of Ballarto Road in addition to the*
31 *balance of locality of Clyde east of Clyde - Five*

1 *Ways Road and south of Pattersons Road. Northern*
2 *boundary moves to Princes Highway and Monash*
3 *Freeway (M1). Gains parts of Berwick, Narre Warren*
4 *and Narre Warren South which is south of Princes*
5 *Highway and Monash Freeway from La Trobe.*

6 • *Hotham - transfers all its Greater Dandenong LGA*
7 *boundary to Bruce, gains localities of Moorabbin*
8 *and Heatherton from Isaacs. Southern boundary*
9 *continues along the Central Dandenong Road and then*
10 *north east on Tootal Road to re-align with Kingston*
11 *- Greater Dandenong LGA boundary.*

12 • *Isaacs - transfers localities of Moorabbin and*
13 *Heatherton plus part of Dingley Village, gains*
14 *Seaford of Carrum Downs west of Dandenong-Frankston*
15 *Road from Dunkley.*

16 • *Lalor - transfers the balance of the locality of*
17 *Williams Landing to Gellibrand.*

18 • *La Trobe - transfers parts of Berwick, Narre Warren*
19 *and Narre Warren South which is south of Princes*
20 *Highway and Monash Highway and Monash to Holt,*
21 *gains parts of Hallam, Narre Warren North but in*
22 *North Princes Highway in east of Belgrave - Hallam*
23 *and Hallam North Roads from Bruce, returns*
24 *localities of Maryknoll, Tynong North, Garfield*
25 *North, Tonimbuk and Bunyip to McMillan/Monash*
26 *(Fraser?)*

27 • *Mallee - retains balance of Northern Grampians*
28 *Shire from Wannon - sorry, regains balance of*
29 *Northern Grampians Shire from Wannon, transfers all*
30 *of Central Goldfields Shire to Bendigo.*

31 • *McEwen - gains balance of Macedon Ranges Shire from*

1 *Bendigo, transfers localities of Willowmavin,*
2 *Moranding and Kilmore East to Nicholls and*
3 *transfers that part of the locality of Doreen,*
4 *Whittlesea LGA component, that is south of Bridge*
5 *Inn Road to Scullin.*

6 • *McMillan/Monash - regains localities of Maryknoll,*
7 *Tynong North, Garfield North, Tonimbuk and Bunyip*
8 *North from La Trobe, renamed Fraser.*

9 VOICE: How much more?

10 MR ROGERS: Just to explain, ladies and gentlemen, because it's
11 a public submission it needs to be read in, so it has to
12 actually be read in. I apologise for the time taken.
13 What we're going to do when this is finished is we're
14 going to have a break for lunch. We'll come back at
15 about one. If anyone feels they haven't been heard or
16 they want another couple of minutes, we can do it then
17 for equity sake, but we've got to read it in. We don't
18 have an option so I'm sorry about that.

19 FEMALE VOICE: Why couldn't that wait until afterwards though?

20 MR ROGERS: It has to be done publicly.

21 FEMALE VOICE: Does that mean that if we want to put in a
22 submission that lasts longer than four minutes we're much
23 better to write something in?

24 MR ROGERS: You're welcome - - -

25 FEMALE VOICE: (Indistinct).

26 MR ROGERS: You're welcome to come up at the end of lunch. We
27 have got time in the afternoon, you can make a longer
28 submission if you like, as I said at the start. No, as I
29 said at the start if you would like to make another
30 submission you can do that if we have time available. So
31 that's what we're doing at the moment.

1 MISS TAYLOR:

- 2 • *Murray/Nicholls - gains balance of Mitchell Shire*
3 *from Bendigo plus localities of Willowmavin,*
4 *Moranding and Kilmore East from McEwen.*
- 5 • *Scullin, northern boundary continues further east*
6 *along Bridge Inn Road all the way to the Whittlesea*
7 *LGA boundary on Yan Yean Road gaining that part of*
8 *Doreen south of Bridge Inn Road for McEwen.*
- 9 • *Wannon, returns balance of Northern Grampian Shire*
10 *to Mallee.*

11 *On review, the changes I propose from the draft*
12 *presented by the Redistribution Committee are*
13 *significant, however it needs to be kept in mind that*
14 *many charges are reversals of what was proposed to be*
15 *changed by the Redistribution Committee's draft*
16 *boundaries.*

17 *Even if the augmented Electoral Commission do*
18 *nothing else with the changes I have proposed, I would*
19 *ask that they at least model all the alterations I*
20 *propose and compare those divisional boundaries and*
21 *divisional names to both the Redistribution*
22 *Committee's draft boundaries and the existing current*
23 *boundaries and making objective call on which*
24 *boundaries and divisional name changes provide better*
25 *compliance overall with section 73(4) and (4A) of the*
26 *Commonwealth Electoral Act.*

27 *I also appreciate that adopting all changes*
28 *proposed is probably sufficient grounds for another*
29 *round of objections and comments on objections to be*
30 *required and that there is also the potential that*
31 *these boundaries will only be valid for the next*

1 federal election which should occur early next year.

2 In closing: The changes I have proposed from the
3 draft boundaries proposed by the Redistribution
4 Committee have not been made lightly. I'm sure the
5 augmented Electoral Commission can appreciate the
6 hours of time and consideration involved in proposing
7 the number of changes, as well as the number of
8 changes, as well as the logical to support such
9 changes being proposed.

10 Of course I believe that if all my proposed
11 changes are adopted by the augment Electoral
12 Commission in their final boundaries, it will present
13 a set of final boundaries and names that are as good
14 as it gets given the numerical considerations that
15 need to be applied.

16 I thank the augmented Electoral Commission for
17 their time and wish them well in their deliberations.

18 My contact details have been provided to the AEC
19 so I'm happy to be contacted should there be any
20 clarification sought in relation to all my submissions
21 to this redistribution.

22 MR ROGERS: All right. Look, ladies and gentlemen, it's about
23 20 to one or thereabouts. We're going to reconvene at
24 one. If people are in the room that have not yet been
25 heard we'll give priority to them and if others feel that
26 they weren't given an ample opportunity to speak, you're
27 welcome to do so and we'll see how we go from there. So
28 for those that have to leave, thank you very much for
29 attending today. The committee appreciates you attending
30 and very much appreciates the submissions that have been
31 made. Thank you.

1 PROCEEDING TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED

2 PROCEEDING RESUMES

3 MR ROGERS: All right. Look, ladies and gentlemen, we said
4 that there would be a bit of time in the end if people
5 wanted to say some more. I know the parties have
6 finished talking about anybody like to?

7 MS BLAKE: Thank you again. You're very tolerant you lot. I
8 just wanted to bring to your attention because I don't
9 know whether you're aware or not.

10 MR ROGERS: Sorry, if you could say name.

11 MS BLAKE: Jenny Blake for K&J Blake. So I've listened to the
12 submissions today and I've noted the sentiment about fair
13 representation and having been involved at the highest
14 level of lobbying for funding for our municipality in the
15 region, I know how important it is to have strong
16 community of interest and to be able to inform the
17 relevant local member and work with the local member.
18 It's really important.

19 It doesn't mean you work as one. You can work as a
20 number, but having that strong community of interest no
21 matter what the political issues are, is extraordinarily
22 important. Now, understanding the need for population
23 tolerances to be fair and equitable, electorates also
24 need to reflect the need for relevance. So what's
25 occurred to me during today is that we haven't really
26 looked at the number of new subdivisions that are already
27 being prepared in this region.

28 So we've Armstrong Creek which is really well
29 developed and has I don't know how many more houses to
30 come, but at Teesdale there is something and I don't know
31 the exact numbers, but there is one subdivision that will

1 be something like 500 homes and there's a second one
2 which is also a lot of homes and then I have noticed, I
3 don't have any other information other than the verbal
4 site, that there is a huge subdivision being developed at
5 Fyansford.

6 So these subdivisions and at the rate of knots that
7 they get them up and running, they could have people in
8 them by the election and I don't know whether that's been
9 taken into account. You may have already done that, but
10 it should be - because if you're going to make a new
11 electorate I reckon that you need to sort of build in a
12 bit of tolerance to ensure that you don't have to do it
13 again. Get people in the right electorate and let them
14 settle.

15 Also, when you converse the areas up on the outskirts
16 of Ballarat and the top of Northern Golden Plains there
17 are masses of houses going in there, just masses of
18 houses, in around the old Delacombe and Smythes Creek.
19 In that area I'm sure there'll be numbers that you could
20 access, but I was surprised at just how much development
21 is happening there in a visit just recently.

22 So the other thing and look, all I ask the Commission
23 to do is to step back and have another look, because
24 preserving that community of interest for those people
25 who live in electorate means their vote matters. If I
26 end up in Wannon, do I really need to go vote to that,
27 because my vote won't matter. But I can tell you now, in
28 the population of the state, the six or seven of us that
29 live at Barunah Park, we just want to go to something
30 that relates to Geelong, not Wannon and not to Ballarat.

31 So I also listened to the Labor Party's submission

1 that outlined the importance where possible of preserving
2 municipal boundaries within an electorate and I really
3 agree with that if it can be managed. In the case of
4 Golden Plains you might, you might look at the split and
5 I will send you the map of where the bus routes go, of
6 one end going up to Ballarat. But I know that's probably
7 problematical, probably better to keep it in one
8 electorate.

9 Looking at keeping it in one electorate means that the
10 residents have the benefit of one member of Parliament
11 and hopefully consistency of representation. That's what
12 we've had. We've had two different political parties
13 representing us in the last 20 odd years and we've had
14 consistency of representation. We've known who to go to,
15 we've known who to lobby.

16 My best wishes to you for sorting it out and thank you
17 for the opportunity just to finish up. So thank you.

18 MR ROGERS: Thank you very much. Did you want to - - -

19 MS RYAN: Yes, please.

20 MR ROGERS: And then we'll go to the back of the room. If you
21 would just say your name again as well, please.

22 MS RYAN: Elizabeth Ryan and I'm from Birregurra which is
23 actually on the Fringes of your western boundary proposed
24 Cox boundary change, so Cape Otway Road is - yes, so
25 Birregurra, so with that. We're dairy farmers and it's
26 really interesting to hear that we have no affiliation
27 with Geelong. I supply milk to Warrnambool Cheese and
28 Butter but unfortunately our milk gets deployed to
29 Melbourne. It gets deployed to other factories.

30 There's no loyalty for us as dairy farmers from the
31 factories point of view. The export all goes to

1 Melbourne for domestic market and it comes back through
2 Melbourne. So transport is a major, major issue. I'm
3 regularly complaining to VicRoads and our local members
4 about the state of our roads and our need for funding and
5 safe roads.

6 Cape Otway Road is a major tourist road and the
7 traffic on that is unbelievable, even though the
8 duplication of the Princes Highway has occurred five k's
9 basically north of us. It's horrible actually. The
10 reality of what affects us, we actually read and depend
11 on the Colac Herald which people have actually had doubt,
12 but it actually is the local paper.

13 We read the *Geelong Advertiser* because those issues
14 affect us. The *Warrnambool Standard* we buy
15 intermittently. The *Weekly Times* as a regular
16 agricultural paper is always on the table. The issues
17 that affect Warrnambool that I just read in the local
18 *Warrnambool Standard*, I have no idea about Warrnambool
19 Hospital, I've never been there. Geelong Hospital, yes.
20 So it's so many things that become our issues.

21 We send our meat straight through Midfield. We don't
22 use the local saleyards because that's now a health issue
23 for us personally, but on the same token they get
24 processed and they're the most efficient slaughter
25 abattoir in the state from our point of view and we have
26 had a longstanding relationship with the Kenna family.

27 We want our cattle basically sorted rather
28 (indistinct) cull cattle, they're not for on selling.
29 The issue educationwise, we have very limited education.
30 It doesn't matter which way we travel, east or west,
31 north, wherever. I've got regular connections with the

1 G21 agribusiness alliance and with medical, all our
2 specialists are Melbourne/Geelong based, so I really
3 encourage that we stay, personally for me in the Cox
4 electorate which hopefully is kept just Corangamite.

5 Thank you.

6 MR ROGERS: If you could just say your name again, that would
7 be great.

8 MR McCLUSKY: Thank you, Commission. I'm Andy McClusky from
9 Lorne Otway region. Being of European background, I
10 would like to, in respect of the first Australian natives
11 of our region, of their tongue that I put forward for the
12 federal seat of our region. The name I would like to say
13 in respect of their tongue, being European I hope I'm
14 pretty close, is 'Gadubanud' instead of 'Katabanut' as I
15 pronounce it through my European tongue for the new
16 proposed seat of our region. Thank you, Commissioner,
17 and thank you people of Australia. Thank you.

18 MR ROGERS: Anybody else, ladies and gentlemen? All right,
19 that being the case, thank you very much for your
20 attendance today and I hereby call this meeting to a
21 close. Thank you

22 END OF PROCEEDINGS