



Objection 111

Golden Plains Rural Woman's Network

3 pages

From: Felicity Bolitho
To: [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Electoral Boundaries submission
Date: Tuesday, 24 April 2018 1:43:07 PM
Attachments: [GPRWN_AEC_boundaries_submission_April2018.pdf](#)
[ATT00001.htm](#)

Dear Secretariat,

Please find attached the Golden Plains Rural Women's Network Inc. submission to the proposed electoral boundary changes.

Best regards, Felicity
Chair
Golden Plains Rural Women's Network

Redistribution Secretariat for Victoria
Australian Electoral Commission
GPO Box 768
Melbourne VIC 3001

Felicity Bolitho, Chair
Golden Plains Rural Women's Network

24 April, 2018

Dear Secretariat,

Electoral Boundaries Submission from Golden Plains Rural Women's Network Inc.

We write to you with the greatest respect but with the experience working with rural women across the Golden Plains Shire in relation to the proposed changes to the Federal Electorate boundaries.

We are concerned that the current proposal will see Golden Plains split from our communities of interest. The previous interaction with most of the municipality being placed in the electorate of Corangamite with a small portion in the electorate of Ballarat has been somewhat acceptable if not truly reflecting the communities of interest for all. Currently the proposal to move a great portion of the former electorate of Corangamite into the electorate of Wannon will totally remove all of those electors from their communities of interest which at the northern end are mostly based in Ballarat and from the middle and south to Geelong.

The Golden Plains Rural Women's' Network Inc has no allegiance to any political party and as a not for profit organisation works to ensure women and families in our municipality are well represented when consideration of issues of importance such as drought, floods and electoral distribution threaten the health and wellbeing of Golden Plains residents.

When the Golden Plains Shire proposed changes to the locality boundaries some years ago, our members actively contributed to the discussions to ensure that appropriate localities that reflected the community of interest of residents were determined. Understanding that Golden Plains residents tend to relate to two major cities those of Ballarat and Geelong and that simple determinates such as old school bus routes can determine community of interest for residents was important in these consultations.

The Victorian register of geographic names provides an excellent map that clearly denoted community of interest if utilised well. Localities such as Cambrian Hill, Haddon, Napoleons, Smythesdale, Scarsdale, Rokewood and Dereel and those communities within those areas clearly relate to Ballarat as a source of employment, utilising health, educational and business services in that city. Many of the local sporting associations have strong affiliations with those centred on and around Ballarat. These people do not have a community of interest with the Wannon electorate. There are currently no secondary schools servicing students in that part of Golden Plains, most students attend secondary schools in Ballarat.

In regard to travel, the small townships and communities such as Napoleons, Cambrian Hill and Smythes Creek are within fifteen minutes of Ballarat and yet is could happen that their electorate is headquartered in Warrnambool – we believe this is totally unacceptable.

Whilst this year a secondary school has been established in Bannockburn a large proportion of secondary students from Barunah Park and Wingeel, through to the remainder of the municipality

including Inverleigh, Hesse Maude, Murgheboluc, Shelford, Stonehaven, Sutherlands Creek, and Teesdale attend Geelong schools and as a result most residents living in these areas will attend Geelong major hospitals and health services, work in Geelong, play sport with Geelong based associations and utilise business commitments. These people do not have a regular community of interest with the proposed electorate of Wannon major business centres of Hamilton or Warrnambool and would rarely visit these areas other than for a social visit.

The Golden Plains Rural Women's Network understands the numeric imperative in determining electoral boundaries but humbly suggest that all possible action be undertaken to ensure a more acceptable outcome is achieved that will provide a logical community of interest in electorates servicing Golden Plains residents.

Golden Plains Residents by in large have absolutely nothing in common with Wannon other than it would create a large rural electorate.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Felicity Bolitho.

Felicity Bolitho

Chair, Golden Plains Rural Women's Network