



# Objection 128

Dr Sean Slavin

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)  
**Subject:** [VIC REDISTRIBUTION OBJECTIONS] Sean Slavin \*WWW\* [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Date:** Thursday, 26 April 2018 4:09:03 PM  
**Attachments:** [vic-Sean Slavin-.pdf](#)

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Victorian Redistribution objections uploaded from the AEC website.

Name: Sean Slavin

Organisation:

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone number: [REDACTED]

Additional information: Objection to renaming the Division of Corangamite.

I have several objections to renaming the Division of Corangamite, "Cox".

Relying on the Australian Electoral Commission's own criteria for naming divisions, Corangamite should be retained because it is: 1) an Aboriginal word, 2) the name of an original Federation division, and 3) there is an absence of strong reasons for change. Furthermore, the proposed name of Cox has the potential to invite ridicule.

The AEC argues that the name Corangamite is associated with Lake Corangamite, which is located outside the Division and a geographic name, which the AEC wishes to avoid. Instead, the AEC believes that Cox is an appropriate name because Ms May Cox had an association with swimming and surf lifesaving and there are beaches within the division. This link is tenuous given Ms Cox's role at the Victorian Department of Education had a state wide remit with no specific focus on the Surf Coast region, and she lived in Melbourne.

If the AEC wishes to highlight the maritime aspect of the region, this can be achieved by retaining the name Corangamite, which is an adjective meaning salty. Indeed, the sea is not the only salty feature of the area, as demonstrated by the many ribald jokes and puns on the name of Cox which have circulated since the announcement. Does the AEC really wish to burden our local representative, who is likely to be a woman for the foreseeable future, with the moniker, "The Member for Cox"?

Perhaps the strongest objection must be made on the grounds of removing an Aboriginal name for the division. While it is laudable that the AEC should name divisions after notable Australian women, it is deplorable that this should come at the expense of the use of an Aboriginal word. The application of personal European names to places that have been under Aboriginal custodianship for millennia, is an act of ongoing colonisation. Recognising Aboriginal heritage costs nothing but is a valuable symbolic gesture aiding reconciliation.

Retaining the name Corangamite shows respect for the Aboriginal heritage of the region, respect to the democratic traditions established at Federation and respect for the dignity of the elected representative. The arguments for change are weak in comparison.

Yours sincerely

Dr Sean Slavin