



# Objection 169

Neil Longmore

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**Subject:** [VIC REDISTRIBUTION OBJECTIONS] Neil Longmore \*WWW\* [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
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Victorian Redistribution objections uploaded from the AEC website.

Name: Neil Longmore

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Additional information: I support the redistribution as planned. Population change demands that boundaries change to give voters value in the electoral process. Population decline in Wannon means its boundaries must be enlarged while population growth around Geelong means that the time has come to re-examine what community of interest now means. Colac is more related to Wannon than it is to Torquay. Cox is an OK name.

**NEIL L. LONGMORE**

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**30 April 2018**

**Dear Electoral Commissioners**

**Re: Redistribution Affecting Corangamite Electorate – New Seat of Cox**

I support the way the Electoral Commission has re-drawn the electoral boundaries to make elector numbers more equitable in Victoria. As the whole intent of democratic elections is to give each person's vote an equal value, electoral boundaries must be regularly altered to cater for demographic changes.

Rural electorates such as Wannon continue to lose population while areas around Geelong grow rapidly. This means inevitably that the Wannon electorate needs to expand. Although it is clear that Colac people may feel disgruntled that the boundary of Wannon has shifted eastward to bring Wannon up to the required number of electors, the portion of Corangamite that is now included in Wannon does in fact share many characteristics with Wannon, probably more than it does with the coastal areas in the planned seat of Cox.

Colac is an agricultural area with volcanic plains and lakes as is much of Wannon, it is socially conservative with a Scottish/Irish occupation history linked to squatters and settlers and it is still struggling to acknowledge massacres and dispossession of the indigenous population by local dignitaries, as with the seat of Macmillan in Gippsland.

The planned seat of Cox, on the other hand, is composed of coastal settlements from the Bellarine Peninsula, Surf Coast and the Otways. It has denser population and nothing like the reliance on broad acre farming of Wannon. The Otways are a distinct physical entity with communities that share economic and more progressive social characteristics. One of the criticisms of the local government areas of Colac Otway and Corangamite is that there is a disconnect between the conservative inland farming and timber towns that dominate local politics and the coastal settlements with their tourism and conservation economies that feel they are continually being used as cash cows. Treating the Otways as a political unit linked to the Bellarine Peninsula makes a lot of sense, given that the Surf Coast Shire population is growing so fast.

It is hard to avoid observing that a lot of the complaint about the altered boundary of Wannon is coming from people in Colac who, while remaining socially conservative, have enjoyed the benefits that have flowed to Colac from its current inclusion in a marginal electorate. This has, perhaps quite wrongly, brought economic benefits to Colac such as the highway duplication that were otherwise not deserved on demographic or utilitarian principles. It is undeniable that, by most criteria, Colac resembles Camperdown, Terang, Hamilton, Portland and Warrnambool much more than it resembles Geelong. For those who wish to be represented in a seat based on traditional Western District values that resembles the old Corangamite electorate, Wannon is a much better fit.

I do not object to the new seat being named Cox. The association with swimming and women's' achievements is appropriate for the times

Yours faithfully,

Neil Longmore

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