



Objection 228

G21 - Geelong Region Alliance

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SUBMISSION TO AEC ELECTORAL BOUNDARY REVIEW RE PROPOSED SEAT OF COX

I am pleased to present this submission on behalf of the G21 - Geelong Region Alliance (G21) into the Electoral Boundary Review by the Australian Electoral Commission pertaining to the proposed federal electorate of Cox.

The G21 - Geelong Region Alliance was established in 2002 by five municipalities (Geelong, Queenscliff, Surf Coast, Golden Plains and Colac Otway) with support of the Victorian Government and a wide range of local organisations. Membership now spans all three levels of government, non-government organisations, businesses and community groups.

Under the G21 - Geelong Region Alliance, we have brought together our region's leaders to develop a regional plan, determine regional priority projects and advocate for their implementation. We represent the voice of the G21 region and have a formal role as the Regional Strategic Planning Committee, in advising the State and Federal Governments on regional issues and priorities.

Since the establishment of G21 sixteen years ago, Colac Otway Shire has been a highly valued foundation member of our regional alliance. All of G21's five councils have historically been in part located in the seat of Corangamite.

We therefore strongly oppose the exclusion of the township of Colac, the economic driver of the Colac Otway Shire, from the proposed seat of Cox.

Situated eighty-one kilometres west of Geelong, the township of Colac's population was recorded as 12,411 at the 2016 Census.

The Colac community orientates to Geelong and its surrounds for employment and the majority of services.

These include for the provision of acute health services and higher education.

Indeed our region's four major hospitals, Deakin University and the Gordon TAFE College are all located in Geelong.

Colac is home to some of our nation's major producers and manufacturers including the Australian Lamb Company, AKD Softwood and Bulla Dairy.

Colac producers transport their goods via the Princes Highway into the Port of Geelong, Avalon Airport and also on to Melbourne.

The Princes Highway, as the main connector route between Geelong and Colac, is currently being duplicated to allow for the already existing large domestic vehicle and heavy haulage traffic movements between these two centres.

Barwon Water, our regional water corporation, covers the entirety of each of the five G21 municipalities in its catchment, including the township of Colac.

For the above reasons, G21 therefore argues that there is a very strong community of interest between Geelong and its surrounds and calls on the AEC to ensure this is not compromised by the exclusion of Colac from the proposed seat of Cox.

Yours sincerely,


Elaine Carbines
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

2nd May 2018