



# Objection 373

Craig Wilson

3 pages

**From:** Craig Wilson  
**To:** [FedRedistribution - VIC; Alex Stoneman](#)  
**Subject:** submission  
**Date:** Friday, 4 May 2018 3:36:40 PM  
**Attachments:** [Letter redistribution AEC.docx](#)

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Please find attached my suggestions regarding the 2018 draft (Victorian) boundaries for Mallee, Wannon and Bendigo.

Regards,

Craig Wilson.



Craig Wilson



Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2018.

Redistribution Secretariat for Victoria,  
Australian Electoral Commission,  
Via email FedRedistribution-VIC@aec.gov.au

**2018 Federal redistribution – Victoria.**

I would like to lodge a suggestion regarding the 2018 redistribution of Federal boundaries.

My suggestion is based around “community of interest” which I do not believe will serve the northern part of Pyrenees Shire or Central Goldfields Shire particularly well under your proposed changes. Your proposal would put these areas into the Mallee electorate.

I fully appreciate that your task is trying to manage sprawling country electorates while ensuring seats in growing parts of the metropolitan area keep pace with population change.

I am of the belief that splitting Pyrenees Shire between the Wannon and Mallee electorates does not represent the best interests of the Pyrenees Shire and its ratepayers.

Our Shire is one of the poorest statistically in Victoria, and I believe we need to be wholly included within one Federal electorate, where the local member knows and understands the concerns and aspirations of our community.

To base Pyrenees Shire in the Mallee electorate – with the sitting member based over 400 kilometres away - will mean very limited representation for this area, not through any fault of the sitting member, but because of the vastness of the seat.

Section 66 of the Electoral Act states that the Redistribution Committee give due consideration to:

- (i) community of interests within the proposed Electoral Division, including economic, social and regional interests;**
- (ii) means of communication and travel within the proposed Electoral Division;**

The proposed boundaries do not meet any of the abovementioned criteria for the Pyrenees and Central Goldfields Shires.

There are very few links between the Pyrenees and Central Goldfields Shires and other towns in Mallee, except for a highway which most locals use to go in the opposite direction -- away from Mildura.

Our communities gravitate towards Ballarat, Ararat and Melbourne, not Swan Hill and Mildura.

Our communities don't have much in common with other communities in Mallee. We are in a different media catchment, play in different football, netball and cricket competitions, our councils are in different regional groupings and we shop hundreds of kilometres apart.

In addition, travelling to the office of the local member would be near impossible.

By car, it would be a five hour trip and by bus it is even worse.

To get to Mildura, I would need to catch a bus in Maryborough at midnight, arriving in Mildura at 6.49am. A trip of 6 hours and 49 minutes by bus!

Getting home wouldn't be a whole lot better with a bus departing Mildura at 9.40pm, arriving in Maryborough at 4.10am.

Appreciating that you have to ensure a similar number of votes are dispersed across the 38 electorates, I put forward the following:

That the northern part of Pyrenees Shire and its voters be returned to the Wannon electorate, and that the voters from the Northern Grampians Shire destined for Wannon, be returned to Mallee electorate.

This change is within the margin allowable under the act.

This proposal will ensure the entire Pyrenees Shire remains in Wannon and that all of Northern Grampians Shire remains in the Mallee electorate.

In the case of the Central Goldfields Shire, I believe it should be a part of the Bendigo electorate, which could be possible if all of Macedon Ranges Shire was moved into the seat of McEwan.

If, as the act says "community of interest" is taken into account, the Central Goldfields Shire is regionally aligned to Bendigo, whereas the Macedon Ranges Shire, being an interface council, is not so much.

In closing, I don't envy the job you have trying to make this giant jigsaw fit together.

But our communities are not a footballs and being in an electorate with other towns of a similar interest is important.

I urge you to reconsider moving the northern end of Pyrenees Shire and Central Goldfields Shire into the Mallee electorate and I urge you to look at other alternatives.

Craig Wilson.