



Suggestion 8

The Wurundjeri Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage
Council Aboriginal Corporation, Yarra City Council and
Darebin City Council

19 pages

From: Mandy Bathgate
To: [FedRedistribution - VIC; "FedRedistribution_VIC@aec.gov.au"](#)
Subject: FW: Darebin City Council Submission to the Australian Electoral Commission f... (A4304425)
Date: Tuesday, 24 October 2017 6:12:26 PM
Attachments: [Darebin City Council Submission to the Australian Electoral Commission f....pdf](#)

Redistribution Committee for Victoria
Australian Electoral Commission
Via email: FedResistribution-VIC@aec.gov.au
25 October 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

Formal joint submission to the Australian Electoral Commission

Please find attached formal joint submission from Darebin City Council on behalf of The Wurundjeri Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Council Aboriginal Corporation, Yarra City Council and Darebin City Council.

The submission requests the renaming of the Federal Electorate of Batman to the Federal Electorate of Simon Wonga.

We look forward to receiving confirmation of receipt in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Mandy Bathgate
Coordinator Equity and Diversity | Families Diversity and Community



PO Box 91, Preston VIC 3072

Contact Council darebin.vic.gov.au/contactus

Darebin City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri people as the traditional owners and custodians of this land and pays respect to their Elders past and present.

Mandy Bathgate has sent you a copy of "Darebin City Council Submission to the Australian Electoral Commission f..." (A4304425) v0.1 from Objective.

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A submission from

Darebin City Council

on behalf of

The Wurundjeri Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Council
Aboriginal Corporation

Yarra City Council

and

Darebin City Council

To

The Australian Electoral Commission Redistribution Committee

Requesting

The renaming of the Federal Electorate of Batman to the Federal
Electorate of Simon Wonga

1. Introduction

This joint submission represents the formal request to change the name of the Federal Electorate of **Batman** to **Simon Wonga**. The name Simon Wonga has been chosen by and formally endorsed by the Wurundjeri Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Council Aboriginal Corporation (Wurundjeri Council).

The name change has formal endorsement from the following local government authorities:

1. Yarra City Council
2. Darebin City Council

The joint submitters believe that the timing for the Australian Electoral Commission's 2017 redistribution process provides an outstanding opportunity to trigger a community discussion about the importance of expanding Aboriginal cultural heritage as a means towards reconciliation.

3. Division of Batman

The Division of Batman is an Australian Electoral Division in the state of Victoria. The division was created in 1906, replacing the Division of Northern Melbourne. It is named after John Batman, one of the founders of the city of Melbourne.

The division is located in Melbourne's northern suburbs of Alphington, Clifton Hill, Fairfield, Kingsbury, Northcote, Preston, Reservoir and Thornbury, and parts of Bundoora, Coburg North, Macleod and Thomastown.

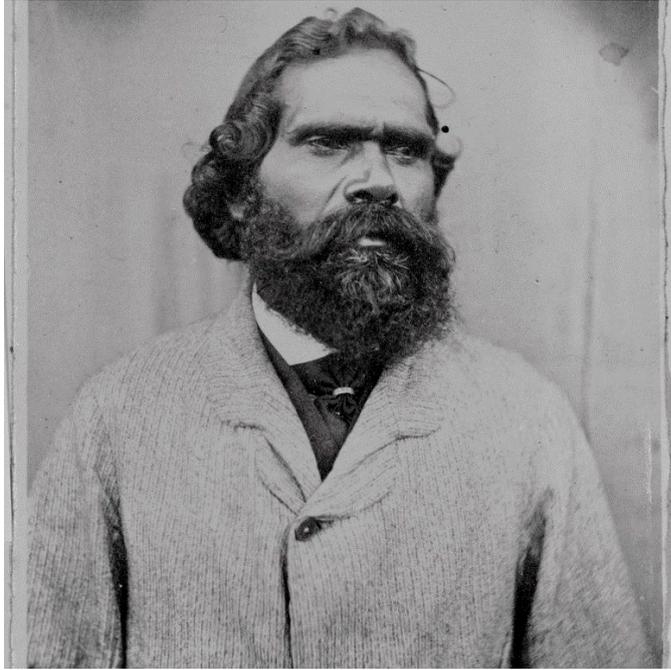
Batman covers an area of approximately 66 square kilometres from Thomastown/Bundoora in the north to Clifton Hill in the south, with Merri Creek providing the vast majority of the western boundary and the eastern boundary provided by Darebin Creek, parts of Macleod and Plenty Road in Bundoora.

The division incorporates three local government authorities: Darebin City Council, Whittlesea City Council and Yarra City Council.

4. Name proposed by the Wurundjeri Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Council Aboriginal Corporation

The name Simon Wonga has been put forth and endorsed by the Wurundjeri Council's Board of Directors (formerly Committee of Management) as the proposed new name for the Division of Batman. The Wurundjeri Council believe that this important Wurundjeri leader deserves greater public recognition and acknowledgement.

Simon Wonga's significant contribution and legacy was recognised by his induction onto the Victorian Aboriginal Honour Roll in 2014.



5. The significance of Simon Wonga¹

A leader with a vision for his people

Simon Wonga (1821-1874) was an important Aboriginal leader who became *ngurungaeta*, or 'head man', of the Wurundjeri people in the mid-19th century, at a time when their future was uncertain. He helped his people negotiate the disruption to their traditional way of life and, despite much adversity, achieved his vision for an Aboriginal settlement at Coranderrk.

Born near Healesville on the Upper Yarra River c. 1824, Simon Wonga was the son of Billibellary, another highly respected *ngurungaeta*. The qualities Simon Wonga displayed as a child saw him identified early on as a future leader. However, his traditional upbringing was disrupted by non-Indigenous settlement in 1835, shortly after his initiation ceremony. He was approximately 11 years-old when his father and seven other Wurundjeri Elders met with John Batman. At this meeting, Simon Wonga and his cousin, William Barak, another future Wurundjeri leader, may have witnessed the signing of an historically contentious 'treaty' by the Elders and Batman, which heralded the establishment of a permanent British colony in Port Phillip, current day Victoria.

In 1839, in his mid-teenage years, Simon Wonga seriously injured his foot while hunting in the Dandenong Ranges. He was taken to the Melbourne Aboriginal Encampment by William Thomas, the Assistant Aboriginal Protector appointed by the British Colonial Office to oversee the care of the region's diminishing population of Aboriginal people. It took two months for Simon Wonga's foot to recover, during which time he had daily contact with Thomas.

The pair formed a close relationship from which they both benefited through cross-cultural exchange - Wonga gained useful insights into European society. It was Thomas who noted

¹ Source: <http://www.vic.gov.au/aboriginalvictoria/community-engagement/leadership-programs/aboriginal-honour-roll/2014-victorian-aboriginal-honour-roll/simon-wonga.html>

two of Simon Wonga's unique gifts: his talent for mimicking animal calls, and his ability to communicate with horses.

Simon Wonga officially became ngurungaeta

After his father's death in 1846, Billibellary's brother Berberry temporarily held the title of ngurungaeta. However by 1851 Simon Wonga was chosen to be the next rightful *ngurungaeta of the Wurundjeri willam*.

During the era of Berberry's leadership, Wonga worked in jobs that would teach him about colonial life. One employer was so impressed by Wonga's skill at mustering cattle that he renamed his station Wonga Park – today a locality within greater Melbourne.

Simon Wonga also negotiated contracts with settlers to cut timber, employing other Aboriginal men to assist him. He did not allow himself to be exploited, as one publican learned, when his attempt to short-change Simon Wonga resulted in the threat of legal action from William Thomas, to whom Simon Wonga had complained. By 1851, Simon Wonga understood that his Country had been permanently altered by non-Indigenous colonisation, and that Aboriginal people would have to adapt to survive.

In 1852 Aboriginal people were removed from the Pound Bend area in Warrandyte. Simon Wonga brought together the people of the Kulin and other nations for one final corroboree at Pound Bend. It was a huge two-week celebration of traditional culture, including music, ceremony and traditional games such as *marngrook*, a version of football, which attracted many curious non-Aboriginal spectators.

Mohican Station

Wonga understood that Aboriginal people had no future without an economic base i.e., access to land of their own. He believed they could live self-sufficiently alongside the settlers, if allowed to farm. Simon Wonga was one of the first Indigenous leaders to try and regain land the settlers had taken. For the next decade over the 1850's he fought to bring his plan to fruition, ably assisted by William Barak.

It was not easy. Influential local squatters opposed Wonga's preferred site for a settlement by the Acheron River. Instead, Mohican Station was established north west of Cathedral Mountain. It was cold, unsuitable for agriculture, and unpopular with the Aboriginal people who were relocated there. Despite the setbacks, Simon Wonga found an ally in John Green, a reverend appointed to supervise Mohican Station, who became a key supporter of his cause.

Simon Wonga's achievements were far reaching. In 1859, he and a deputation of Taungurong men from the Goulburn River met the Commissioner of the Land and Survey Office and secured a portion of land for the Taungurong. A precedent had been set. In 1860, Simon Wonga then returned to William Thomas to ask for a piece of land for his own Wurundjeri people.

Coranderrk

In early 1863, Mohican Station was abandoned. Simon Wonga and William Barak led approximately 30 Kulin people through the Dandenong Ranges, following a traditional route

through the Black Spur country. They settled at a traditional camping spot on Badger Creek near Healesville.

In a politically savvy move, Simon Wonga formed a deputation to travel to Melbourne and delivered a heartfelt address to the Governor of Victoria, Henry Barkly. He did so in Woiwurrung language at a public levee where people were celebrating the marriage of the Prince of Wales (Edward VII) and Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra of Denmark.

The delegation brought marriage gifts of traditional weapons for Prince Albert, and birthday gifts including hand-woven baskets for Queen Victoria. Following the address, in June 1863 Governor Barkly successfully pressured the government to gazette 2300 acres for use as a reserve at Healesville.

The new reserve was named Coranderrk, after the plant Christmas Bush which grew in the area, and John Green was appointed manager. By 1865, Coranderrk's population had grown to 105 people, making it Victoria's largest Aboriginal reserve at the time. Within four years, the residents had cleared a large area of land and built a thriving farming community, complete with a bakery, butcher and school. Coranderrk at the time was the most economically successful Aboriginal mission station in Australia. John Green also ensured it was one of the most autonomous, and Simon Wonga contributed to its management until he passed away in 1874.

Coranderrk's importance and attachment as a permanent home and refuge for its residents cannot be overestimated. It became a symbol of hope for Victoria's Aboriginal people and their non-Indigenous supporters.

Simon Wonga fought to improve conditions for the Wurundjeri people. Without him, his people may never have regained a place for themselves in the Country that was taken from them.

His story is a story of leadership, vision and courage in the face of adversity.

Simon Wonga as an ambassador for a civilised nation and symbol of optimism

Although land rights were important, Simon Wonga was also recognised for his capacity to unite the different Aboriginal clans and new settlers in a spirit of goodwill, cooperation, common purpose and shared humanity.

“Simon Wonga had amazing leadership and diplomacy skills. He was a tenacious and determined man, the sort of fella people looked to when things were tough, a person people could count on and someone they would listen to and follow. He also knew the power of knowledge, of listening and learning. It was these skills that allowed him to adapt. He knew that if he and his people were to survive in this new world, they needed to adapt, learn to live in the white man's world. His charisma and diplomacy skills were outstanding, as was his ability to bring people together.” – *Uncle Colin Hunter, Senior Wurundjeri Elder, September 2017.*

6. Cultural Rights and Human Rights

This submission is underpinned by the principles and objects of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006, particularly in regard to its commitment to respect and promote the rights of Aboriginal people.

In seeking a change of name for the Federal Electoral Division of Batman to Simon Wonga, we are seeking to incrementally and respectfully restore Aboriginal culture and heritage.

One of the four founding principles of the Charter is:

“Human rights have a special importance for Aboriginal people of Victoria, as descendants of Australia’s first people with diverse social, cultural, and economic relationship with their traditional lands and waters.”

One of the substantive rights listed in the Charter, under cultural rights, is that Aboriginal people of Victoria must not be denied the right, with other members of their community, to:

- (a) enjoy their identity and culture
- (b) maintain and use their language
- (c) maintain their kinship ties; and
- (d) maintain their distinctive spiritual, material and economic relationship with the land and water and other resources with which they have a connection under traditional lores and customs.

It is the strong view of the submitters that the role played by past Federal and State Government policies in the social, cultural and territorial dispossession of Aboriginal people has caused the current disadvantages faced by many Aboriginal people. Having an awareness of this disadvantage and taking steps towards mending it is the shared responsibility of all residents in the Batman electorate and a significant step towards recognition and reconciliation.

7. Support from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community

The name change to Simon Wonga has received universal support from:

- the Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee and Yarra Aboriginal Advisory Group
- the 18 Aboriginal-controlled organisations based in Darebin
- the Member for Batman, the Hon. David Feeney, who has given support to the Wurundjeri Council for the name change

8. Support of local government

The two local government authorities of Darebin and Yarra have formally endorsed the name change to Simon Wonga (see Attachments One and Two: Extracts from various Council Minutes). Support has also been provided at the local government level by the Council representative bodies being the Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee and the Yarra Aboriginal Advisory Group.

While the City of Whittlesea has not formally endorsed this proposal opportunity will be made to provide feedback independently of this submission and/or endorse it at a later stage in the process.

9. Community appetite for change

Darebin Council has also undertaken community conversations which indicated a widespread and consistent appetite for change among its residents and visitors.

When Darebin Council sought community feedback about changing the name of Batman Park in Northcote, between July and September 2016, the AEC had also announced its intention to redistribute Victorian federal electoral boundaries as part of the regular seven-year redistribution process.

Darebin Council took this opportunity to also gauge community attitudes to changing the name of the Federal Seat of Batman.

Following the consultation, a group of residents formed an independent community coalition with the purpose of building on the strength of community resolve to change the name of the Division of Batman in anticipation of the AEC redistribution process. (A copy of the report can be viewed on the Darebin Council website www.darebin.vic.gov.au/batmanconversations).

This community mandate reflected a strong desire to see greater recognition and respect for Traditional Owners, as well as acknowledgment of history, relationship, standing and contribution as First Nations.

Snapshot of Findings from Community Consultations – Batman Park Renaming

A total of 354 surveys were completed from 16 July - 2 September 2016.

292 (83%) of all respondents live in the Darebin municipality.

Just over half (54%) of all respondents live in close proximity to Batman Park (postcodes 3070, 3071, 3072).

Of the 354 surveys completed:

- 292 respondents (83%) supported a name change
- 15 respondents (4%) had no particular preference for the name
- 47 respondents (13%) wanted the name to remain.

10. Elevating the cultural and historical legacy of Traditional Owners

Renaming a Victorian electorate after an Aboriginal Elder would be seen to acknowledge and elevate the cultural and historical significance of the traditional owners beyond the current use of generic Aboriginal language.

Of the 37 electoral divisions in Victoria, only nine have any connection to the traditional owners. (See Attachment Three).

Eight divisions are named in an Aboriginal language. These are mainly geographical or generic words: Ballarat, Corangamite, Corio, Indi, Kooyong, Mallee, Maribyrnong, and Wannon.

Only one makes any reference to Aboriginal people. The division of Jagajaga is named after the collective of three principle Aboriginal Elders who signed the 'Treaty' with John Batman in 1835 (see Attachment Three: Victorian Electoral Divisions with Aboriginal names).

11. The legacy of John Batman

It is the view of the submitters that the renaming of Batman Park gives visibility to the history and damaging legacy that Batman's actions had on Aboriginal people, which continues to be felt today. There is well-documented evidence of his involvement in the massacres both ordered and committed on Aboriginal people in Tasmania.

In Batman's own words, the Aborigines:

"Were in the act of running away into the thick scrub, when I ordered the men to fire upon them, which was done, and a rush by the party immediately followed, we only captured that Night one woman and a male child about two years old, the party was in search of them the remainder of the Night, but without success, the next morning we found one man very badly wounded in his ankle and knee, shortly after we found another 10 buckshot had entered his Body, he was alive but very bad, there was a great number of traces of blood in various directions and learned from those we took that 10 men were wounded in the Body which they gave us to understand were dead or would die, and two women in the same state had crawled away, besides a number that was shot in the legs... on Friday morning we left the place for my Farm with the two men, woman and child, but found it quite impossible that the two former could walk, and after trying them by every means in my power, for some time, found I could not get them on. I was obliged therefore to shoot them." (Source: Nicholas Clements, Honorary Research Associate, the University of Tasmania 13/5/2011 *The Conversation* <https://theconversation.com/the-truth-about-john-batman-melbournes-founder-and-murderer-of-the-blacks-1025>)

Here are two character references from public figures at the time:

George Augustus Robinson, (Chief Protector of Aborigines in Port Phillip District from 1839 to 1849), thought Batman "a bad and dangerous character", while the prominent artist John Glover referred to him as "a rouge, cheat, thief, liar, a murderer of blacks and the vilest man I have ever known". (Source: Nicholas Clements, Honorary Research Associate, the University of Tasmania 13/5/2011 *The Conversation* <https://theconversation.com/the-truth-about-john-batman-melbournes-founder-and-murderer-of-the-blacks-1025>)

Batman lead Roving Parties in Tasmania which systematically hunted Aboriginal groups with the intent to execute, such as the documented killing of 15 Aboriginal people at Benlomond (Ben Lomond) in 1829 and reported in the Colonial Times (Source: Campbell, Alastair H. (1987 p.32), *John Batman and the Aborigines* Malmsbury, Australia).

Historians Henry Reynolds and Lyndall Ryan have published extensively on this period of colonial/Aboriginal relations including the Black Line - an act of martial law ordered by Governor George Arthur. This was a 'human chain' that moved systematically across the southern and eastern settled districts of Tasmania with the goal of trapping Aboriginal people on the Tasman Peninsula and relocating them to the Aboriginal reserve on Flinders Island. This period also saw the rape of Aboriginal women. It is commonly understood that Batman was involved in the "Black lines."

Given the legacy of John Batman and the clear injustices meted out on Aboriginal people, there is a very strong a case to argue that Batman's name should in fact not be so honoured publically in contemporary Australian culture.

It may be useful to draw a link to the similar case of Angus MacMillan having an electorate named after him despite his well-documented murders of Aboriginal people in Gippsland.

12. Correcting history and balancing the narrative

It is the view of the submitters that changing the name of the electorate helps acknowledge this history and balance the narrative.

Renaming the electorate would not diminish John Batman's legacy in Melbourne.

Based on the community consultation undertaken by Darebin City Council, there is a high level of community acceptance for embracing and understanding multiple historical narratives without diminishing any party.

Further, the legacy of John Batman has a high public profile and is well commemorated and strongly integrated into the Victorian mainstream.

In Victoria, there are currently 23 places named after John Batman and four commemorative historical markers (see Attachment Four: Public Legacy of John Batman).

13. Why the name Simon Wonga and not just a generic Aboriginal name?

In consultation with the Traditional Owners, Aboriginal-controlled organisations, the Aboriginal community and the general community, it is believed the name Simon Wonga will:

- promote a sense of belonging to a greater polity for Aboriginal people
- help Aboriginal people who don't feel they belong to a greater polity
- create a sense of aspiration and hope
- generate a greater meaning behind the name; and
- create a positive effect over time as the name becomes part of the mainstream.

The renaming could contribute to a new chapter in Australian society that acknowledges the diversity and complexity of building a shared Australian identity shaped by respect and recognition of Traditional Owners.

14. Conclusion

Changing the name of the Division of Batman to Simon Wonga is an important contribution and logical next step on a journey towards reconciliation.

It recognises the distinct place of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia's history and its future as a cohesive, inclusive and respectful society.

Significantly, the name change advances the journey of healing by paying rightful respect to a significant community leader, clarifying history to truly reflect the past and enable all people, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, to stand together with shared understanding and hope.

We urge the Australian Electoral Commission to support this name change for the benefit of all community and future generations.

ATTACHMENT ONE

DAREBIN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 13 FEBRUARY 2017 (EXTRACT)

RENAMING THE FEDERAL ELECTORAL DIVISION OF BATMAN

Author: Coordinator Equity and Diversity

Reviewed By: Director Community Development

Report Background

This report follows from the Council resolution on 12 December 2016 and provides an update on the Renaming of the Federal Electoral Division of Batman project that includes the Wurundjeri Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Council (Wurundjeri Council) endorsed name for the Division.

Previous Council Resolution

At its meeting held on 12 December 2016, Council resolved:

“That Council:

- (1) Reaffirms its commitment to working with the Wurundjeri Land Council and other Aboriginal leaders, to change the name of the federal electoral division of Batman.
- (2) Endorses in principle that Darebin Council work in partnership with Yarra City Council and Whittlesea City Council to support Wurundjeri Land Council and other Aboriginal leaders, to change the name of the federal electoral division of Batman.
- (3) Delegate Council officers to gauge the interest and preparedness of the Wurundjeri Council and other Aboriginal leaders to make a submission to the Electoral Commissioner and to suggest an alternative name for the federal electorate of Batman.
- (4) Receive a further report in early 2017 regarding the decision of the Wurundjeri Land Council and other Aboriginal leaders and to consider a proposed plan to progress this matter. This could include the consideration of a Council-led submission.”

Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Acknowledge Wurundjeri Council's recommendation of *Simon Wonga* for renaming the federal electoral division of Batman.
- (2) Lodge a submission to the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) to rename the current federal electoral division of Batman to *Simon Wonga* as supported by the Wurundjeri Council and in consultation with the Yarra City Council and Whittlesea City Council.
- (3) Undertake the communication and community engagement necessary in the preparation for this submission.

Council Resolution MINUTE NO. 17-070

MOVED: Cr. G Greco

SECONDED: Cr. T McCarthy

That Council:

- (1) Acknowledge Wurundjeri Councils recommendation of *Simon Wonga* for renaming the federal electoral division of Batman.
- (2) Lodge a submission to the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) to rename the current federal electoral division of Batman to *Simon Wonga* as supported by the Wurundjeri Council and in consultation with the Yarra City Council and Whittlesea

City Council.

(3) Undertake the communication and community engagement necessary in the preparation for this submission.

(4) Write to the Federal Member for Electoral Division of Batman, the Hon. David Feeney MP, seeking his support for Council's submission to the Australian Electoral Commission to change the name of the current federal electoral division of Batman to *Simon Wonga*, as supported by the Wurundjeri Council.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ATTACHMENT TWO

YARRA COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 15 AUGUST 2017 (EXTRACT)

Renaming the Federal Electoral Division of Batman

Trim Record Number: D17/94951

Responsible Officer: Group Manager - People, Culture and Community

RECOMMENDATION

1. That:

(a) Council note Darebin City Council's commitment in working with the Wurundjeri Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Council and other Aboriginal leaders to change the name of the Federal Electoral Division of Batman; and

(b) Council endorse working in partnership with Darebin and Whittlesea City Councils with Darebin City Council as the lead, supported by the Wurundjeri Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Council Aboriginal Corporation and other Aboriginal leaders for the purpose of seeking a name change of the Federal Electoral Division of Batman to Simon Wonga.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Jolly **Seconded:** Councillor McEvoy

1. That:

(a) Council note Darebin City Council's commitment in working with the Wurundjeri Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Council and other Aboriginal leaders to change the name of the Federal Electoral Division of Batman; and

(b) Council endorse working in partnership with Darebin and Whittlesea City Councils with Darebin City Council as the lead, supported by the Wurundjeri Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Council Aboriginal Corporation and other Aboriginal leaders for the purpose of seeking a name change of the Federal Electoral Division of Batman to Simon Wonga.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Darebin Council's consultation and engagement

2. Darebin Council's comprehensive community engagement process during 2016 on the renaming of Batman Park in Northcote also identified a high degree of active community support for and interest in the potential renaming of the federal electoral division of Batman.
3. All major stakeholders have been advised that Darebin Council will be lodging a submission to the AEC and will be kept informed and updated as required. These stakeholders have included:
 - (a) All Aboriginal controlled community agencies
 - (b) All relevant Federal and State Members of Parliament within the Batman Electoral Division
 - (c) All relevant Federal and State Ministers who have a direct portfolio in this matter
 - (d) Yarra and Whittlesea Councils; and
 - (e) A local community action group convened to support the renaming of the Batman electoral division.

4. Darebin's communication and community engagement plan also outlines the next steps once the submission has been lodged. This will include a range of options, including endorsement of Council's submission, lodging a separate submission or supporting a community campaign.
5. The proposal for the renaming of the federal seat of Batman was presented to Yarra's Aboriginal Advisory Group on 2 February 2017 and the following motion was unanimously passed:

"The Aboriginal Advisory Group requests Council to support the move of the City of Darebin Council to change the name of the Federal Seat of Batman to a name agreed to in discussions with the Wurundjeri Council."

ATTACHMENT THREE

Victorian Electoral Divisions with Aboriginal names

Name of Electoral Division	Aboriginal derivation of name
Ballarat	Resting or camping place
Corangamite	After Lake Corangamite. Aboriginal word for bitter, describing salt content of the lake
Corio	Derived from 'coraiyo', a small marsupial or sandy cliffs
Indi	Aboriginal name for the Murray River
Jagajaga	3 principle Aboriginal Elders who signed a document in 1835 that was understood by John Batman as an agreement for the transfer of land in exchange for material goods.
Kooyong	Resting place
Mallee	Type of dwarf eucalypt
Maribyrnong	Named after the river. Aboriginal word for yam or edible root
Wannon	Named after the Wannon River by Major Mitchell in 1836

Source: Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) Electoral Division Profiles

ATTACHMENT FOUR

The public legacy of John Batman

Places named after John Batman

- [Division of Batman](#) (Victorian electoral division)
- [Batman Park](#) (Melbourne CBD)
- A John Batman Legacy will be incorporated into the newly named Gumbri Park (formerly Batman Park) in Northcote
- [Batman's Hill](#) (Melbourne CBD)
- [Batman railway station, Melbourne](#) (Coburg North, Victoria)
- Batman Avenue, Melbourne
- Batman Avenue, [Keilor Park](#)
- Batman Avenue, [Sunbury](#)
- Batman Avenue, [Hurstbridge](#)
- Batman Avenue, [Shepparton](#)
- Batman Crescent, [Bendigo](#)
- Batman Lane, [Surry Hills, New South Wales](#)
- Batman Road, [Toolamba](#)
- Batman Street, Burnside Heights
- Batman Street, [Footscray](#)
- Batman Street, [Altona Meadows](#)
- Batman Street, [Aberfeldie](#)
- Batman Street, [Fitzroy North](#)
- Batman Street, [Portarlington](#)
- Batman Street, [Thornton, New South Wales](#)
- Batman Walk, [Parramatta](#)
- John Batman Drive, [Melton West](#)
- John Batman Gardens, [Sandringham](#)

Historical markers in honour of John Batman

1. The historical monument marking where Batman landed at Indented Heads in 1835. John Batman landed at Indented Head and made that his base camp while he returned to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) for more supplies and his family. An historic marker stands where he landed.
2. A bluestone obelisk was constructed in 1922 which was later moved to Batman Avenue before being returned to the Queen Victoria Market site in 1992. The obelisk is inscribed with the Latin word *circumspice*, meaning “look around”, the entire city of Melbourne being his legacy. The obelisk also states that Melbourne was “unoccupied” prior to John Batman's arrival in 1835.^[27]
3. A historical marker is located in the railway yards on the spot where Batman built one of the first houses in Melbourne atop Pleasant Hill, which was subsequently flattened to make way for Spencer Street Station.
4. Plaque: John & Eliza Batman's House
This plaque located below the Spencer Street Bridge, near the corner of Flinders Street and

Spencer Street, commemorates the house that John and his wife Eliza built on Pleasant Hill (later named Batman's Hill).

5. John Batman Board Room

Located on the mezzanine level of Quality Hotel Batman's Hill on Collins, the John Batman Board Room is named in tribute to Melbourne's pioneer and a framed print of Batman's Melbourne Deed on the wall recalls his legacy.

6. Statue of John Batman at former National Mutual Plaza off Collins St in Melbourne, unveiled 26 January 1979

7. Obelisk at the Old Melbourne Cemetery, Melbourne – a monument to John Batman.

End

Contact:

Mandy Bathgate, Coordinator Equity and Diversity Unit

Darebin City Council

