



Comment on objections 13

Borough of
Queenscliffe

2 pages



Borough of Queenscliffe

Queenscliff & Point Lonsdale, Victoria, Australia

27 April 2021

Australian Electoral Commission
Tom Rogers
Electoral Commissioner

Dear Commissioner

RE: Victorian Federal distribution - Renaming of the Division of Corangamite

I am writing on behalf of the Borough of Queenscliffe (Borough) to lodge our objection to the proposal to rename the Division of Corangamite.

The Borough has no objection to the proposed boundary changes resulting from the redistribution.

The Borough acknowledges the remarkable work of Margaret Elizabeth Tucker MBE and agrees that she is an indigenous woman worthy of honour and recognition. The Borough would respectfully suggest, however, that the acknowledgement would have deeper meaning if the division named in her honour was part of Yorta Yorta country.

The Borough has spoken with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation who, we understand, were not consulted by the Australian Electoral Commission prior to the selection of Tucker as the name proposed to replace Corangamite. The Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation have now been put in a difficult position, and the Borough's objection, in part, has been written to highlight the concern we have about the lack of respect shown to the Wadawurrung Traditional Land Owners through the selection process.

In addition the Borough has a number of other concerns with the proposed change of name for the Division of Corangamite.

Selection of the name - Tucker

The Borough notes that Table 1 on page 37 of the proposed redistribution of Victoria into electoral divisions – Report of the Redistribution Committee for Victoria March 2021 (Report), does not include Tucker as one of the numerous alternative names advocated for the Division of Corangamite.

The names included in Table 1 do not support the commentary at clause 96 in the Report drafted as a reason for selecting Tucker which states:

a strong theme running through those ideas offered for the new electoral division was that the new name should be that of an Indigenous person, a woman or an Indigenous woman

The is no strong theme in Table 1, but there is a surprising mix of indigenous animal names from a number of different traditional owner languages, a former Prime Minister, a British born suffragist who lived in Queenscliff for seven years and the Wadawurrung.

It is not clear from the report why the authors of the Report ignored the names that were advocated and selected Tucker, or why there was no research undertaken to identify a Wadawurrung woman in the context of the themes identified in the Report.

It is also not clear in the Report that there are strong reasons to change the name of the Division of Corangamite.

Retaining the name - Corangamite

Clause 94 of the Report includes the following statement:

The augmented Electoral Commission for Victoria in 2018 commented in their report that the meaning of 'Corangamite' as 'bitter' and relating to the saltiness of Lake Corangamite, was equally appropriate to a coastally focused electoral division

The Borough agrees with the conclusion of the augmented Electoral Commission. The new electoral Division is coastally focussed, surrounded by 'bitter/salty water'. The major settlements and the projected population growth that drive the current redistribution sit on the coast. The coast is the reason for this growth and the growing success of the region.

Conclusion

The Borough of Queenscliffe does not support the proposal to rename the electoral division of Corangamite.

If the Commission is determined to change the name, the Borough of Queenscliffe objects to the use of the name Tucker and would welcome the opportunity to meet with the Commission to present that argument.

Cr Ross Ebbels



MAYOR

Borough of Queenscliffe