



Comment on objections 43

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To: [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)
Subject: Renaming McMillan Division
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SUBMISSION TO AEC RENAMING THE McMILLAN DIVISION

I am currently enrolled in the Division of Flinders but, if the Commission's boundary changes go ahead, I will be a voter in the as yet-to be confirmed Division of Monash.

As a new voter in this Division, I am writing to urge the Commission to re-consider the proposal to rename the McMillan Division as Monash.

Around fifty of the objections in the last round related to this proposal and the vast majority were against renaming the Division as Monash. Many argued that the Monash name would be better applied to the current Hotham Division, to avoid confusion. This was strongly supported by the City of Monash Council and others. If it is too late to remove the name of Hotham in this round, then I would respectfully suggest that the name of Monash be kept in reserve for the next round of re-distributions so that it can then be used to re-name the current Hotham Division.

The majority of objectors to using the name of Monash argued that an indigenous name should be used, with many supporting the name Bunjileene-Purrine. This was proposed by the special naming committee convened by representatives of the Gunnaikurnai and Bunurong peoples, who live within the new Division boundaries. As part of the Commission's criteria for finding new names was a desire to consider indigenous names, some objectors could not understand why the original proposal had been ignored. The chief executive of the Gunnaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation, Roger Fenwick, argues,

'I think there's a strong feeling that it's time, and if it is going to be changed then it should be changed to reflect significant ancestors of the Aboriginal people in Gippsland and not a European name'.

Some objectors were unclear as to the reasons why the Commission had rejected that name in favour of Monash and so were unable to address any reservations. In the absence of this information, a number suggested that the Commission refer back to the special naming committee, which could be re-convened in order to address any concerns the Commission may have and to find a name which would be mutually acceptable.

In summary:

There is almost no support for the proposed change of name from McMillan to Monash.

There is strong support for the name of Monash to be applied to the current Division of Hotham from both the McMillan and Hotham Divisions.

There is very strong support for the use of an indigenous name, with many supporting the name proposed by the indigenous community of Bunjileene-Purrine.

If that name does not comply with the regulations governing the re-naming process, the Commission is requested to connect with the indigenous groups involved to find a name which complies with the regulations and is acceptable to all parties.

I implore the Commission to listen to these objections from the community in a spirit of reconciliation and to reconsider its proposal to use the name of Monash. Change is overdue. If not now, when? It's time!

Anne Heath Mennell

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