



Comment on suggestion 32

Warrnambool ALP Branch

5 pages

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)
Subject: [VIC REDISTRIBUTION SUGGESTIONS] Lynn Lyles *WWW* [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Thursday, 30 November 2017 7:25:11 PM
Attachments: [vic-Lynn Lyles-.docx](#)

Victorian Redistribution comment on suggestions uploaded from the AEC website.

Name: Lynn Lyles

Organisation: Warrnambool ALP Branch

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone number: [REDACTED]

Additional information: The Warrnambool ALP Branch wishes to comment on S25, page 5 of 41, Naming as submitted by Dr Mark Mulcair, in which he advocates the seat of Wannon be re-named Fraser. We object to any suggestion of a name change, on the grounds that it is a Federation seat, and also that it is an aboriginal name, using the language of the local indigenous people.

WARRNAMBOOL BRANCH

Tel: [REDACTED]
Mob [REDACTED]
Secretary: Lynn Lyles



**AUSTRALIAN
LABOR
PARTY**

Redistribution Committee
Australian Electoral Commission

November 30th 2017

To Members of the AEC Redistribution Committee

The Warrnambool ALP Branch would like to comment upon Suggestion 25, Dr Mark Mulcair. The Federal Redistribution, page 5 of 41, AEC website. In particular his suggestion that:-

“ With the death of former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser, I recommend that a seat be renamed in his honour. I personally would recommend that the Division of Wannon be renamed ‘Fraser’, as it is the seat that Malcolm Fraser represented for three decades. While Wannon is a federation seat, it is named for a geographical feature that is significant in only part of the Division.”

We object to any renaming of Wannon and refer to the main guidelines on the AEC website:

Federation Divisional Names.

The AEC website states that: “Every effort should be made to retain the names of original federation divisions.”

Wannon was named at Federation in 1901.

Please refer to the Australian Electoral Commission Web site which says: “First Proclaimed/Election: 1900/1901 ... Name Derivation: Named after the Wannon River which was named by Major Mitchel in 1836.” (Australian_Electoral_Commission 2016). Wannon is a historically significant name, with aboriginal language links, and is not just the name of a geographical feature as suggested by Dr Mulcair.

Aboriginal Names

The AEC website states: “Aboriginal names should be used where appropriate and as far as possible existing Aboriginal divisional names should be retained.”

Wannon is an existing aboriginal divisional name and therefore should be retained. Our research demonstrates the indigenous connection with reference to Major Mitchell’s Journals:

Major Mitchell's Journals say that Wannon was a 'native' name:

A considerable branch of the Glenelg, named by the natives "Wannon" has its source in the eastern and southern rivulets...(Mitchell 1838: 260)

We have attached other references to this submission as an appendix to add strength to the argument of the aboriginal link to the name.

We support the comments made in Suggestion 65, Australian Labor Party, Victorian Branch, page 15, Divisional Names.

"There is no tradition at all of renamed Divisions matching the seat represented by a former PM. Wannon itself is a Federation name and should be retained."

We hope our comments on the suggestion by Dr Mulcair are considered by the Redistribution Committee. We are happy to add further to this submission if requested.

Yours sincerely,

Lynn Lyles
Secretary,
Warrnambool ALP Branch

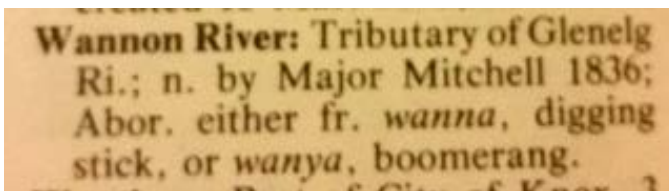
The Aboriginal origin of the name WANNON:

Extract from Major Mitchell's Journal:

summits are bare and rocky. The chief source of the Glenelg, is between the Victoria range and the most northern, whence it soon sinks into a deep glen or ravine, receiving numberless tributaries from other dells, intersecting the adjacent country. A considerable branch of the Glenelg, named by the natives the "Wannon," has its sources in the eastern and southern rivulets from these mountains. The

(Mitchell 1838: 260)

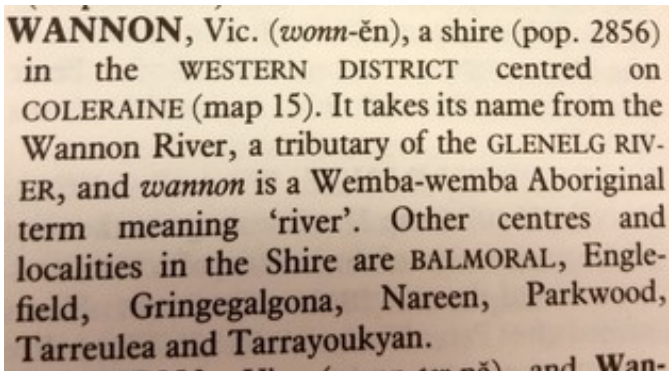
Extract from Leslie Blake' *Place names of Victoria*:



Wannon River: Tributary of Glenelg Ri.; n. by Major Mitchell 1836; Abor. either fr. *wanna*, digging stick, or *wanya*, boomerang.

(Blake 1977)

Extract from *The Cambridge dictionary of Australian places*:



WANNON, Vic. (*wonn-ĕn*), a shire (pop. 2856) in the WESTERN DISTRICT centred on COLERAINE (map 15). It takes its name from the Wannon River, a tributary of the GLENELG RIVER, and *wannon* is a Wemba-wemba Aboriginal term meaning 'river'. Other centres and localities in the Shire are BALMORAL, Englefield, Gringegalgona, Nareen, Parkwood, Tarreulea and Tarrayoukyan.

(Appleton and Appleton 1992)

Extract from Hamilton Spectator:

As he proceeded to the sea Mitchell encountered a substantial tributary of the Glenelg. It was, Mitchell declared in his account of the journey, a considerable branch of the Glenelg, named by the natives the Wannon. He recorded its name as the Wannon River. In doing this he apparently maintained the indigenous name for this part of the river. The name is said to have come from a local indigenous word *wanya* – boomerang or *wanna* – digging stick. This was probably a description of the shape of the river at this point. (Wallace 2017: 5)

References

- Appleton, Richard and Appleton, Barbara (1992), *The Cambridge dictionary of Australian places* (Cambridge, UK ; New York: Cambridge University Press) xii, 356 p.
- Australian_Electoral_Commission (2017), 'Profile of the electoral division of Wannon (Vic)', <<http://www.aec.gov.au/profiles/vic/wannon.htm>>, accessed 19 September.
- Blake, Leslie (1977), *Place names of Victoria* (Adelaide: Rigby Ltd).
- Johnson, Sian (2016), 'A new name for Wannon?', *The Standard*, 19 September, p. 1.

Mitchell, Thomas (1838), *Three expeditions into the interior of eastern Australia : with descriptions of the recently explored region of Australia Felix, and of the present colony of New South Wales*, 2 vols. (London: T. & W. Boone).

Wallace, Bernard (2017), 'The word on the Wannon', *Hamilton Spectator*, 4 July 2017.