



Comment on suggestion 46

Bass Coast Shire Council

5 pages

From: Chris Wightman
To: [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Bass Coast Shire Council - Redistribution of Federal Electoral divisions in Victoria. Division Names - McMillan
Date: Friday, 1 December 2017 2:03:43 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[Council Minutes 20_07_16 Renaming McMillan.docx](#)

Dear Sir/Madam,

We write in relation to the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) process for Redistribution of Federal Election divisions in Victoria, and in particular the naming of the McMillan division.

We note a range of submissions in support of a name change for the McMillan division based on the controversial history of its namesake, Mr Angus McMillan. Bass Coast Shire Council considered this matter at its Ordinary Meeting on 20 July 2016 and resolved as follows:

"That the Council provides a letter of support to South Gippsland Shire Council and the Gippsland Local Government Network's advocacy campaign for the renaming of the federal seat of McMillan."

A copy of the minutes of the meeting including a report considered by Council in relation to this matter is attached for your information. This report provides a useful context for Council's consideration of this matter.

In accordance with the above resolution, Bass Coast Shire Council supports those submissions made to the AEC advocating for a change to the naming of the McMillan division and respectfully requests that this submission be given due consideration as part of the Redistribution of Federal Election divisions in Victoria process.

We would be grateful for written confirmation of receipt of this submission and would be happy to discuss this matter further, if required.

Regards

Chris

Chris Wightman

acting coordinator social and community planning



[REDACTED]

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H.7 Support to Rename Federal Seat of McMillan

File No:	CMI 6/528
Department:	Governance and Organisation Development
Council Plan Strategic Objective:	Effective Governance

Our leadership will be achieved through good governance, community engagement and excellence in service delivery.

Declaration

The author has no direct or indirect interests in relation to this report.

Summary

South Gippsland Shire Council and the Gippsland Local Government Network is advocating for the renaming of the Federal Government seat of McMillan and is calling on Bass Coast Shire Council to strengthen the renaming campaign.

A Notice of Motion was presented at the Ordinary Meeting of Council at South Gippsland Shire Council on 27 April 2016. The purpose of their Notice of Motion proposed that Council support the renaming of the Federal seat of McMillan when the Australian Electoral Commission next undertakes a redistribution of the seat. The name McMillan is not suitable due to the controversial history of its namesake, Mr Angus McMillan. A new name would support and be a practical step towards reconciliation with the traditional owners of the land.

This report recommends that Bass Coast Shire Council support the advocacy campaign to change the Federal seat of McMillan.

Background

Last week the sitting member of McMillan, Russell Broadbent, announced he had written to the Australian Electoral Commission with the suggestion his electorate be renamed Monash. In a statement to the media, he cited a well-documented history of Angus McMillan, whose name has been connected with the mass murder of Gippsland's indigenous people.

The AEC is scheduled to conduct a redistribution process next year which could consider recommendation from the electorate for a name change to the federal seat of McMillan.

Strategic Basis

This report supports the Council Objective of Effective Governance with a strategy to advocate for the best outcomes for our current and future generations. It also helps achieve the Council Plan Principle of:

- Transparent evidence-based and inclusive decision making.

Finances

This advocacy initiative can be conducted within existing budgets using internal resources to prepare letters of support.

Stakeholders

Councillors, Council staff, residents and ratepayers are all impacted by the outcome of this report.

Statutory Requirements/Codes/Standards/Policies

The Australian Electoral Commission is the responsible authority to conduct a review of its Federal electoral boundaries. This review is scheduled for next year and could consider name changes to the federal seat of McMillan as part of this process.

Other Options

Council could decide not to support the advocating campaign to rename the federal seat of McMillan. To not support this campaign would impact on our commitment to our indigenous community in supporting reconciliation.

Officer's Conclusion and Recommendation

It is recommended that Bass Coast Shire Council support the advocacy campaign to support the name change to the federal seat of McMillan. The history of Angus McMillan, who the seat is named after, has documented evidence that connects him to the mass murder of Gippsland's indigenous people.

To support this campaign shows Council's commitment to reconciliation with our indigenous community.

Recommendation

That the Council provides a letter of support to South Gippsland Shire Council and the Gippsland Local Government Network's advocacy campaign for the renaming of the federal seat of McMillan.

Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

Council Decision

Moved: Cr. Neil Rankine / Seconded: Cr. Kimberley Brown

That the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

