



Objection 362

Anne Heath Mennell

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From: Anne
To: [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)
Subject: Renaming of former McMILLAN Division
Date: Friday, 4 May 2018 2:42:14 PM

SUBMISSION RE THE PROPOSED DIVISION OF MONASH

I made a submission in the first round, requesting the Commission to remove the name of McMillan from the current Division. I am grateful to the Commission for listening to the community, at least in part. However, I am writing now to request that the Commission reconsider its proposal to name the new Division, Monash. In doing so, I mean no disrespect or dishonour to Sir John himself, his achievements or his reputation. He justly deserves the many honours he has already received and that his name is revered throughout Australia.

I request the Commission to reconsider its proposal for the following reasons:

Apart from his role in developing the coal industry in the La Trobe Valley, which is a very small part of the new Division, and establishing the SEC, I am not aware that Sir John had any other strong connections with the area included in the new Division.

In a letter to the Age of 27 April, 2018, Geoff Lake, a Councillor and former mayor of the City of Monash, put a cogent case for the current seat of Hotham to be renamed Monash. He argued for the removal of the name Hotham for several reasons, including the fact that Hotham was not even Australian. Councillor Lake argued strongly that the Monash name should be used for the Division which has the City of Monash at its heart. If Sir John is to be honoured by putting his name to an electoral Division, I would agree with Councillor Lake that the current Hotham division should bear the Monash name and request the Commission to re-consider its proposal for Monash to replace McMillan.

I note with pleasure that the Commission has proposed to change the names of three Divisions to Cox, Macnamara and Nicholls, in honour of three women who made significant contributions to our society. This acknowledgement is welcome and I hope that more women will be honoured in similar ways in each redistribution process in the future.

However, I regret that the Commission did not accept the proposal from several submissions in the first round to use an aboriginal name for the McMillan Division if that name was removed. Extensive, collaborative and representative consultations with local Aboriginal people over a long period of time produced the proposal of Bunjileene-Purrine. This proposal is seen as an act of reconciliation and represents an opportunity to recognise and honour our indigenous peoples. If the Commission insists on the name of Monash in this round, it is unlikely ever to be changed as no one will have any reasons to argue for his name to be removed. Names matter and are highly symbolic. We have an opportunity here which may not come again and I hope the Commission will take the opportunity to acknowledge our first Australians.

In that vein, I would also support the moves to replace the name of Batman from the current Division, for similar reasons to those put forward by submissions in the first round, supporting the removal of McMillan's name. Some expanded arguments are included in a submission in this round from Councillor Geoff Ellis so I will not repeat them here but express the hope that the Commission will find in favour of community sentiment regarding the removal of Batman's name.

Finally, I therefore request that the Commission reconsider its proposal to name the new Division after Sir John Monash. I request that the name Monash be applied to the current Hotham Division and that the Commission accept the proposals for a new name approved by local indigenous people after a thorough process of consultation and listening.

I thank the Commission for this opportunity to contribute to the process of redistribution and hope that it will give my comments due consideration.

Anne Heath Mennell



3 May 2018