



Suggestion 71

Frederik Wubbeling

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My name is Frederik Wubbeling, born in the Netherlands in 1944 and immigrated to Australia with my family in 1952. I am not of indigenous Australian blood. I have lived for the past 45 years in Mooroolbark which is presently in the Federal Electoral Division of Casey.

I hereby apply to have the name of the **Federal Electoral Division of Casey** changed to the **Federal Electoral Division of Barak** on the following grounds:

1. The name Barak is taken from William Barak who is, consistent with the AEC naming guidelines, a deceased noteworthy Australian who has made a significant contribution to public life.
2. William Barak, a renowned and influential indigenous elder of the Wurundjeri tribe, who lived and died for most of his 79 years from 1824 to 1903 in the locality now encompassed by the Casey electorate.
3. As an elder of the Wurundjeri people he was a tireless, prominent and successful negotiator on behalf of his people leading to improved living and working conditions as well as social justice. He was highly respected by both indigenous and European citizens of the day.
4. In his later life he also made a significant cultural contribution to Victorian life through his artwork, now highly prized nationally and internationally.
5. William Barak lived at the time when terra nullius was the prevailing legal view of Australian citizenry and he nor any of his people had access to formal political recognition, and suffrage took more than another half century to be achieved for aboriginal people, it would be a fitting and just recognition of his legacy to name the Federal electorate in which he lived after him.
6. The current name of Casey does cause public confusion given that it is also the name of the city of Casey based on Berwick. Certainly, former Governor General Baron Casey, after whose name the electorate is derive, has no direct connection to the geographic location of the electorate or its electors.
7. Changing the name of the electorate after a prominent local indigenous figure represents an appropriate contemporary move consistent with a growing public view that much more needs to be done in promoting aboriginal history alongside current historical studies in school education. This is a perspective derived from my past employment experience which includes 20 years as a Government secondary school principal.
8. My understanding is that another application for this name change is being submitted by the the Victorian branch of the Australian Labor Party supported by Wurrundjeri elders.

I respectfully urge the decisionmakers to approve this application.

Frederik Wubbeling