



Objection 147

Meg Renfrey

2 pages

From: Meg Renfrey
To: [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)
Subject: Objection to the proposed name "Monash" for the electorate formerly known as "McMillan"
Date: Sunday, 29 April 2018 11:59:31 AM
Attachments: [Objection to the AEC Vic Redistribution Naming Ctee. final.docx](#)

Dear Victorian Redistribution Naming Committee

Kindly find attached a brief objection as per the subject of this email.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our views.

Yours sincerely,
Meg Renfrey.

Submission to the Australian Electoral Commission

An individual objection to the proposed name of “Monash” for the Electorate formerly known as “McMillan”. April 2018

The AEC Victorian Redistribution Committee is to be congratulated on expunging the name of McMillan, whose involvement in massacres of Aboriginal people in Gippsland is well known.

The currently proposed replacement name of Monash is a vast moral improvement. However, Sir John Monash has been well-represented in the naming of many other places, such as streets, a Local Government Area, a freeway, a University, in Victoria alone. Statues and commemorations of his name abound, not only in Victoria but in other States as well. This name is already well acknowledged.

I would urge the employment of an Aboriginal name for this electorate. The name of Bunjileene-Purrine has been chosen by GunnaiKurnai and Bunurong People, through the proper processes via the Gippsland Land and Water Aboriginal Council (GLAWAC).

Bearing in mind the reminder of trauma and sorrow that has already been caused to Aboriginal People in Gippsland by use of this electorate’s former name, some restitution is in order.

If the hyphenated name seems an issue, I submit that we should simply get used to it. As in New Zealand, and as a tilt towards reconciliation, we need many more Aboriginal place names in this country.

State boundaries, electoral boundaries, Local Government areas, suburbs and regional areas, have all been superimposed upon the territories of our First Nations – the only people who hold a true moral sovereignty in Australia. Some small acknowledgement of this could be represented in Aboriginal-chosen names for our electoral boundaries.

Yours faithfully,

Ms Meg Renfrey.



(Affiliated with the Bass Coast & South Gippsland Reconciliation Group)