



# Comment on suggestions 51

W-Class Tram Political Action Committee

1 pages

# W-Class Tram Political Action Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the suggestions to Redistribution Committee (the Committee) with respect to the Victorian federal redistribution.

The submission by the **W-Class Tram Political Action Committee** (this submission) makes comment on suggestions that have considered adjusting the name of one or more of Victoria's electoral divisions.

Names proposed to the Committee have included Pharlapp (**Suggestion 1**), Flack (**Suggestion 11**), Barack (**Suggestions 12, 13, 17 29 and 31**), Peacock (**Liberal Party of Australia**), and Tucker (**Suggestion 57**). This submission notes these proposed names, and thanks their respective contributors.

In particular, this submission highlights the succinct **Suggestion 1** as one that should be considered in close detail. **Suggestion 1** powerfully highlights the contemporary evolving legal concept of personhood, which has been recognised to exist for natural rivers and trees across Commonwealth countries, such as Canada and New Zealand. The suggestion to honour Phar Lap, Australia's greatest racehorse as a person, invites a wider discussion as to the forms of persons that the Committee should consider honouring with the name of an electoral division.

In light of **Suggestion 1's** reasoned case, this submission puts to the Committee that they should consider the name '**W-Class**' as the name of any new electoral division in the state of Victoria, in honour of Melbourne's iconic **W-Class Tram**.

The **W-Class Tram**, constructed by the Melbourne & Metropolitan Tramways Board from 1923 to 1956, is the face of Melbourne. 752 shining beacons of Victorian engineering ingenuity have traversed Melbourne's city streets and laneways over the past century, bringing immeasurable joy to the city's residents, and underpinning the city's unique cosmopolitan identity. They are the symbol of the largest tram network in the world, which finds its home right here in Melbourne.



**Pictured: An iconic W-Class Tram on a leisurely stroll**

2023 marks the 100 year anniversary of the **W-Class Tram**, which continues to politely gallivant across the city of Melbourne, as the City Circle Tram (Route 35). It is manifestly evident that this lifetime of rendering outstanding service to the city of Melbourne deserves the strongest of recognition – the kind that can only be offered by the naming of an electoral division in its honour.

The Committee can rest assured that after extensive investigation, there does not appear to be any current state or territory district that shares a name with the proposed electoral division of **W-Class**, that could cause material confusion for electors.

It is noted that the Committee has a strong disposition to recognise the service of former Prime Ministers of Australia with an electoral division. This is in honour of their ability to carry their political party into government, and service the nation as a whole.

This submission puts forward the case that, with an official capacity of 93, the W380 (Melbourne's first **W-Class** Tram) exceeds the carrying capacity of all former Prime Ministers, matched only by John Howard, who at the 1996 federal election successfully carried 93 Coalition Members of the House of Representatives into Government. With reference to the **W-Class's** outstanding service to the country, the Committee need only refer to the first-hand testimony of daily tram passengers who are guided around the city on Route 35.

Sincere thanks is once again extended to the Committee for their consideration.