



# Comment on suggestions 6

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2 pages

The Redistribution Committee for Victoria,  
Australian Electoral Commission  
Canberra

To Whom It May Concern

RE: Name change for the Casey electorate

I wish to add my support to the campaign to change the name of the electorate in which I live and work to 'Barak'. The reasons for this are outlined in the seven points below:

- The federal electorate of Casey should be named Barak in honour of William Barak, renowned and influential Indigenous Elder of the Wurundjeri and last Chief of the Yarra Yarra tribe. William Barak is recognised in the Victorian Indigenous Honour Roll.
- William Barak has tribal, birth, geographic and historically significant ties to the electorate, having lived most of his 79 years from 1824 to 1903 at Coranderrk, the Aboriginal settlement established near Healesville in 1863, located in the Casey electorate. He campaigned for its creation, contributed to its early success as a thriving, self-sufficient community and was its indefatigable defender until the end of his life. Barak was both a diplomat and an ambassador, with Coranderrk a way for the Kulin people to maintain a physical connection to their country; a connection he played a key role in educating non-Aboriginal people about.
- William Barak's leadership included two significant 'walks' for land rights and recognition from Healesville to Parliament House in Melbourne, events that continue to inspire advocacy by First Nations peoples in Australia.
- The name Barak is consistent with the AEC naming guidelines to recognise a deceased noteworthy Australian who has made a significant contribution to public life.
- Changing the name of the electorate to a prominent local Indigenous person is aligned with local community sentiment that more needs to be done in promoting local Aboriginal history.
- The AEC practice of giving Electorates names that are already used for LGAs is a source of real confusion for voters and should cease. A new name is a priority to be selected for the electorate of Casey. The current name of Casey causes public confusion given that it is also the name of the City of Casey, a Local Government Area (LGA) located in a geographically different part of outer eastern Melbourne in Narre Warren and Berwick. The Casey electorate is confusingly close to yet has no geographic overlap with the corresponding Casey LGA, causing significant voter confusion. Not just a hypothetical: name sharing causes real problems with votes not sure which electorate they should vote in.

- The former politician and Governor-General Lord Richard Casey MP, after whose name the electorate is derived, has no direct nor geographic connection to the electorate or its electors. He was not born in Casey, nor did he serve as an MP there. Renaming the electorate of Casey will not diminish recognition of Lord Richard Casey as he continues to be recognised with the City of Casey named after him. The City of Casey is situated in the Federal seat of Latrobe where Lord Casey served as an MP.

I am happy to be contacted by the Committee or the AEC at anytime regarding this issue on [REDACTED].

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Caroline Evans.