



Objection 247

Phil Piper

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From: Phil Piper
To: [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)
Subject: McMillan name change.
Date: Thursday, 3 May 2018 7:55:31 AM

Dear Committee

I am a little confused about the issue of the re naming of the electorate of McMillan. I am not confused about the ideals behind the decision. I feel that the original decision to choose the name of a mass murderer of our early indigenous peoples for this electorate was an insult to these people and the name change will go a long way towards rectifying this situation. A step towards reconciliation.

Part of your criteria for the new name was a desire to consider an aboriginal name. Representatives of the Gunnaikurnai and the Bunurong peoples, whose traditional areas are covered by this electorate, in a spirit of reconciliation formed a special naming committee . After extensive research came up with the hyphenated name 'Bunjileene-Purrine' after two of the region's significant ancestors.

Bearing this in mind you have chosen the name of Monash, without any consultation with special indigenous naming committee and without any reasons for this decision.

Monash is clearly not an aboriginal name. One of my concerns is that our federal member Russell Broadbent has long canvassed the name of Monash. I sincerely hope that you haven't been influenced by him with your decision.

I find that this situation is clearly insulting and non reconciliatory to our local aboriginal people.

As the chief executive of the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation, Roger Fenwick, said "it should not be named after another European" and "I think there's a strong feeling that it is time, and if it is going to be changed then it should be changed to reflect significant ancestors of the Aboriginal people in Gippsland and not a European name"

I feel that this is a wonderful opportunity to redress some of past wrongs perpetrated against our indigenous peoples and what would be a genuine gesture of reconciliation is for the AEC to ask that the Gunnaikurnai-Bunurong Naming Committee be reconvened and negotiate an Aboriginal name that will meet their criteria, and select that name for the electorate.

Yours in reconciliation

Phil Piper.