



Objection 277

Bron Dahlstrom

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From: Bron Dahlstrom
To: [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)
Subject: Change of electoral name from McMillan to Monash
Date: Thursday, 3 May 2018 3:52:04 PM

Whilst I would like to thank you for deciding to remove the name of the murderous Mc Millan from my electorate, (presently McMillan) I am most disappointed that the name of Monash has been chosen instead.

Firstly, I feel that Aboriginal people were brought together to collaborate on the Uluru Statement. After a great deal of work, this was produced. It was then rejected. Now this has happened again, although, of course, not on the same scale.

It was written in the guidelines for changing electoral names, that Aboriginal names are encouraged. On the basis of this, Aboriginal leaders from the Gunnaikurnai and Bunurong People, the Aboriginal groups of the present McMillan electorate, met and agreed on an Aboriginal name for the electorate, after a great deal of discussion. This name was overlooked by the AEC in favour of Monash. Whilst Monash is man worthy of respect, he was not Aboriginal. Aboriginal people have had to live with the shameful name of McMillan for a long time. They were very hopeful that it would be changed, and I'm sure that they are relieved that this will happen; however, I am also sure that they are very disappointed that their choice has been rejected. I find it to be very disrespectful. I do not blame Aboriginal people if they say, 'Why try? We are never listened to; it is all a waste of time.' At a time when we are encouraging Aboriginal people to join wider Australia in education and work, the implication that they do not matter does not give them much encouragement to do this. We say that we want to 'Close the Gap' yet we are not prepared to include Aboriginal people in what we do. The name change is part of this making Aboriginal people feel that they are never included.

Secondly, the city of Monash, Monash University and The Monash freeway are in the proposed new Hotham Electorate. It would be more appropriate to change the name of that electorate to Monash so as not to cause confusion, especially as Sir Charles Hotham was not Australian and was considered incompetent and one of the causes of the Eureka rebellion.

Please reconsider naming the now electorate of McMillan, Monash, and instead, please use an Aboriginal name chosen by Aboriginal people who have met and agreed on a name. If the name that they chose is not considered suitable for some reason, please get them to choose a different name, bearing in mind the reason that the original name was rejected. I hope that you could tell them the reason before they decide on a different name, so that they do not again choose a name that you reject.)

Kind regards

Bron Dahlstrom