



Objection 316

Leon Zembekis

4 pages

From: Leon Zembekis
To: [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)
Subject: Electorate of Treaty
Date: Friday, 4 May 2018 10:51:30 AM
Attachments: [Dear AEC Committee.docx](#)

Dear AEC Committee,

Please accept my thoughts and wishes on electoral name changes.

Leon Zembekis

Dear AEC Committee,

4 May 2018

I am lodging my objection to your decision to keep the electoral division name of Batman, the adoption of Fraser and Monash and exclusion of Cooper.

As a Batman serf I participated in the City of Darebin's initiatives to reconsider a various Batman name changes including the federal electorate.

The Batman electorate has one of the highest populations of indigenous communities. Darebin's community voted Lidia Thorpe as Victorian's first indigenous lower house MPs for the seat of Northcote.

In November 2017 Darebin City Council, together with the Wurundjeri Tribe Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Council and Yarra City Council lodged a joint submission calling for the renaming of the Federal Electorate of Batman to the federal electorate of Simon Wonga¹.

I was curious to discover reasons why the AEC redistribution committee decided to reject the active communities wishes to change the name Batman. I am perplexed in the absence of any published reasons in your 192-page document for rejecting a name change other than it included the Christian name – Simon Wonga.

I am sure I live in one of the most anti colonial, imperialist sentiment communities in Victoria. Many of my neighbours are historically aware of the Terra Nullius, White Australia Policy and Real Estate outcomes affecting our community, in particularly indigenous community members.

I have recent memories discussing Batman name change with indigenous neighbours, who expressed their resentment of the Batman name because of it's a constant reminder of his killing of their relatives and taking away their way of life with a bunch of beads, blankets and flour.

Only of March 2018 at Ruthven train station were I met an indigenous man and he mentioned I was the stranger in his land not he. We parted in good terms and I still have the gift he gave me.

The AEC committee rightly chose to accept submitters wishes to rename McMillan to Monash, because McMillan was a proud killer of indigenous people in his efforts to steal peoples' land. Batman also wrote in his diaries of his killings of indigenous people. Yet the committee appears to have weighted Batman's killings differently, possibly

because McMillan killed for his own real estate gain whilst Batman killed for King and country?

Treaty is another electoral name that can replace Batman.

At present many indigenous leaders such as Northcote's state MP, Lidia Thorpe are campaigning for a clans based Treaty to be agreed and signed with the State and Federal governments - as a balanced starting point for Constitutional Recognition which the Uluru Statement attempted to achieve and was rejected by the Malcolm Turnbull federal government.

I would like the AEC committee to reconsider its decision and accept either Treaty, Wonga or Cooper as the replacement names for Batman.

I support Abe Schwarz's submission in recognising indigenous activist William Cooper's protest against Nazism's oppression of the Jews of Krystallnacht in 1938 at a time when most of the international community was indifferent.

Cooper's protest was grounded in solidarity from his experiences of Australian racism in solidarity with German Jews, at a time when many leaders such as Menzies and Churchill believed certain violence was acceptable because that's what strong leadership does to get economies going.

I would also like the committee to reconsider the names Fraser and Monash to be replaced by either Cooper or Wonga.

I agree with Tim Colebatch's submission that ex politicians are put forth by their political mates and should not be considered. Although I got to like Fraser in his later years when he quit the Liberal Party because of its mean spirit towards refugees. Fraser overwhelmingly defended the ruling class of Australia which helped develop today's growing inequality of Australia's working-class and political divide on refugees.

John Monash was a military man who chose to fight for empire not freedom, as the First World War is constantly falsely sold to us by politicians.

I recommend you read Paul Ham's, 1914: the Year the World Ended, Prof Paul Stanley's, Die in Battle, Do not Despair, the Indians on Gallipoli, or Vladimir Lenin's, State and Revolution.

Much of today's middle eastern problems are direct consequences of empires redrawing global boundaries which Sir Monash had no issue with.

I would also like to support Sarah Henderson MP's view to keep Carrangamite as the continuing electoral name.

As Australians and global citizens, our electoral boundaries can best serve our community when we recognise the efforts of those who worked and fought to create equality and justice for all not the few and that we belong to the land and not land as our property acquisition.

I would welcome the opportunity to speak to the committee on my suggestions.

1 <http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/Your-Say/Have-Your-Say/Your-Say#Batman-Conversations>

Sincerely,

Leon Zembekis

