



Objection 343

Reconciliation Victoria - 1

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Subject: [VIC REDISTRIBUTION OBJECTIONS] Damian O'Keefe *WWW* [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
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Victorian Redistribution objections uploaded from the AEC website.

Name: Damian O'Keefe

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Additional information: Reconciliation Victoria is the statewide body promoting reconciliation across Victoria. This means that we promote deeper understanding, respect and justice for and with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Reconciliation Victoria has championed the recognition of Aboriginal Victorians as the first Victorians, and the special place they have in our community.



A submission from Reconciliation Victoria to The Australian Electoral Commission Redistribution Committee

Objection to the renaming of the Federal Electorate of McMillan to Monash

Reconciliation Victoria would like to commend the AEC Redistribution Committee for recommending a name-change to the former Federal Electorate of McMillan, given Angus McMillan's demonstrated connection with massacres of Aboriginal community members in the Gippsland area.

However, we are disappointed that the Committee failed to support the recommended replacement name - *Bunjileene-Purrine* - chosen by the Aboriginal Communities who carry the legacy of the atrocities committed by McMillan and those whose land the electorate occupies, the Gunnaikurnai and the Bunurong People.

Reconciliation Victoria believes that the AEC redistribution process provides an outstanding opportunity to promote a better understanding of our true history as well as a community discussion about the importance of expanding Aboriginal cultural heritage as a means towards reconciliation.

To achieve reconciliation in Victoria, Reconciliation Victoria champions the recognition of Aboriginal Victorians as the first peoples of the region and the special place they have in our community. We believe that respect for culture, land and heritage is something all Victorians must develop further.

We believe that governments and government institutions at all levels have a vital role to play in promoting and celebrating local histories, and in the process of truth-telling.

Victoria has a rich and diverse Aboriginal history going back thousands of years, and which continues today. It is important that Aboriginal people see the long history of their connection to the land and particular places is reflected appropriately in place naming.

Many Aboriginal people have played a significant role in the development of local areas post-settlement. Recognition of the active involvement of Aboriginal people in the community is a positive step and supports a culture of respect in the broader community.

We believe it is paramount that governments work with Traditional Owners to provide appropriate naming and interpretation for the general community to recognise the connection of Aboriginal people to places prior to European settlement.

It is disappointing that the Committee has recommended the name of Monash, though a figure worthy of historical recognition, but nevertheless one who has already received significant recognition through having named after him a local government area, a major university, a freeway, etc.

Of the 37 electoral divisions in Victoria, only nine have any connection to the Traditional Owners.

Reconciliation Victoria supports the view of the local Aboriginal community that the adoption of the name *Bunjileene-Purrine* will help generate a greater meaning behind the name and create a positive effect over time as the name becomes part of the mainstream.

The renaming could contribute to a new chapter in Australian society that acknowledges the diversity and complexity of building a shared Australian identity shaped by respect and recognition of Traditional Owners.

Ends

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