



THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Comment on objections 13

Hon Mia Davies MLA

2 pages

From: Davies, Mia [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 12 July 2024 2:19 PM
To: FedRedistribution - WA
Subject: Naming of Electorate: Bullwinkel

The Australian Electoral Commission
Attn: WA Redistribution Secretariat
Locked Bag 4007
Canberra ACT 2601

To whom it may concern

NAMING OF ELECTORATE: BULLWINKEL

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed name of Bullwinkel for the newly created Federal electorate in Western Australia.

First, I put on record that the contribution and life of Lieutenant Colonel Vivan Bullwinkel MBE AO (both in the theatre of war and after) are worthy of this honour. Having survived the horrific massacre on Bangka Island, LTC Bullwinkel spent three and half years in captivity as a prisoner of war. When she retired from the army in 1947, she went on to become Director of Nursing at Melbourne's Fairfield Hospital and devoted herself to the nursing profession and to honouring those killed on Banka Island.

However, I have received a number of contacts into my office as the State Member for Central Wheatbelt advocating for the name of the new electorate to honour a person local to the region, from Western Australia. All who have written emphasise that their desire to see a local person selected is not intended to diminish the contribution or worthiness of LTC Bullwinkel.

Representation has been made for Alma Beard, born on 14 Jan 1913 in Toodyay, in Western Australia (a town in the proposed new Division) to be considered. The Beards were one of the earliest families to settle in the area and she was the third generation born on the family farm. She spent her entire life in Perth and its immediate surrounds until posted overseas in World War II as a nurse (aside from some time spent in Sydney nursing). Alma May Beard was just 29 years old when she was shot by Japanese soldiers on Radji Beach, on Bangka Island near Sumatra on February 16, 1942.

Three other nurses from Western Australia were killed on that fateful day on Bangka Island – Minnie Ivy Hodgson from Wickiepin, and Peggy Everett Farmaner and Bessie Wilmott, both from Perth. I have also received representation from Ms Hodgson's family.

I ask the Committee to consider the requests of these local families and community members who feel very strongly that the name of a newly created West Australian Federal electorate should be reflective of a West Australian local to the area and worthy of recognition.

Yours sincerely



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

HON MIA DAVIES MLA

Member for Central Wheatbelt
Opposition Whip in the Legislative Assembly;
Shadow Minister for Mines & Petroleum; Aboriginal Affairs;
Electoral Affairs; Women's Interests

Northam Office

Ph: 08 9622 2871

Northam Boulevard, Fitzgerald St, Northam

PO Box 92, Northam WA 6401

Merredin Office

Ph: 08 9041 1702

Old Town Hall, Mitchell Street, Merredin WA 6415