



# Comment on suggestion 35

History Council of Victoria Inc

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Redistribution Committee for Victoria  
**Australian Electoral Commission**

## **RE: NAMES OF ELECTORAL DIVISIONS**

The History Council of Victoria (HCV) is the peak body for history in Victoria. Our vision is to connect Victorians with history and to inspire engagement with the past, their identity and the world today. We champion the work of historians and the value of history – about any place and any period.

The HCV was formed in 2001. Our Board comprises representatives from cultural and educational institutions and heritage bodies; history teachers and curriculum advisors; academic and professional historians; and local, Indigenous, community and specialist history organisations.

Among our roles are advocacy and representation to government and the wider community, networking with allied interest groups, and community education.

We note:

- That Victoria's entitlement to seats in the House of Representatives has risen from 38 to 39, and this will require most of the state's federal divisions to be altered to some degree;
- That you have received many worthy suggestions, proposing the names of notable people who have contributed to Victoria's and Australia's history;
- The low number of Indigenous people recognised in the current naming of electoral divisions of the House of Representatives; and
- The lack of gender balance in the current naming of electoral divisions of the House of Representatives.

We therefore urge you to use the opportunity afforded by the creation of Victoria's 39th electorate to recognise one or more Victorian women and one or more Victorian Indigenous persons when naming the new division and when re-naming any existing, re-defined divisions.

Yours faithfully,

**(Emeritus Professor) Peter McPhee AM FAHA FASSA**  
Chair, History Council of Victoria

30 October 2020