



THE FEDERAL
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VICTORIA

Objection 41

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From: [REDACTED]
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I hereby object to the electorate of Corangamite being renamed Tucker. I provide the following reasons for my objection:

- Corangamite is named after Lake Corangamite, one of the most important environmental assets in Victoria. It is Australia's largest permanent saline lake.
- The removal of Corangamite effectively downgrades Lake Corangamite's outstanding environmental values which are of a world-class standard as demonstrated by its RAMSAR listing.
- Corangamite's name reflects the indigenous name of the lake 'Kronimite'. There is a very well-documented association between traditional owners and water in the Barwon Region. These geo-cultural connections by traditional owners (Wadawurrung, Gulidjan and Gadubanud nations) date back at least 30,000 years. As Corrina Eccles wrote, "Waterways connect us to our stories, it was our cultural way of travel and connection to other tribes. The diverse waters on country and ocean all provide us with food sources and nourish the wellbeing of all life." (refer <https://watersource.awa.asn.au/community/engagement/progressing-reconciliation-through-indigenous-partnerships-within-australian-water-utilities/>). In this context, surely the policy approach should be to replace anglicized names when the appropriate opportunity arises, not just swap one indigenous name for another.
- Corangamite is one of the oldest electorates dating back to Federation. There are only 10 original electorate names remaining in the list of 38 Victorian divisions. Given such increasingly rare heritage, it is important to maintain the history of Corangamite as it enables social trends (for example electoral outcomes, voting patterns and party influences), since Federation to be researched.
- While Margaret Tucker is certainly a worthy person after whom an electorate should be named, it would be more appropriate to allocate her name to another electorate which is named after someone without a sound Victorian connection (e.g. Gellibrand – a lawyer who drew up the disgraceful Batman treaty) or Flinders (an English naval officer who never lived in Victoria and only briefly explored the coast in 1802).

Please contact me if you wish to discuss further.

Andrew Sutherland

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