

**Electoral structure review - Mornington Peninsula Shire Council - Response Submission  
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council - Rosebud - 15 November 2023, 04:18 pm**

Please find attached submission made by Mr David Taylor Manager - Legal and Governance on behalf of the Mornington Peninsula Shire.

# Mornington Peninsula Shire

## Submission – 2023 Electoral Structure Review

Objective ID: A12694655



### Overview

The Mornington Peninsula Shire (Shire) would like to make a submission in response to the Local council electoral structure review – Preliminary Report.

Through our Council endorsed Place Naming policy, the Shire is committed to ensuring the use of First People's language is prioritised and names from the Bunurong language are to be considered when opportunities arise for new names. The Shire recognises the past and ongoing custodianship of land in the municipality by the Bunurong People and seeks to provide a strong connection to Aboriginal Heritage and Culture.

Our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), endorsed by Reconciliation Australia on 1 April 2020, affirms the Shire plays an important role in promoting and celebrating Aboriginal cultural heritage as part of the core identity and value of the Mornington Peninsula. Action 15 of the RAP in particular 'Acknowledge and celebrate Bunurong/Boon Wurrung history and cultural heritage' provides for the investigation and use of language names.

The Panel's recommendation to amend the electoral structure from six wards to 11 presents a perfect opportunity to use Traditional Owner language that will support the Shire's Place Naming Policy and RAP.

The Shire has consulted and worked with the Bunurong Land Council as the Registered Aboriginal Party for the Mornington Peninsula, to determine a list of names that are appropriate to the proposed individual Wards.

It is acknowledged that the process for naming wards does not sit with Geographic Names Victoria (GNV) as does naming for roads, features and localities, therefore the usual process is not being undertaken in this instance. The *Geographic Place Names Act 1998* (the Act) does not apply to the naming of electoral wards, it is explicit in the Act.

### Ward naming

The Electoral Representation Advisory Panel (ERAP) has provided suggested names for the new Wards with a mix of existing ward names, Traditional Owner names and other names mainly based on existing localities within the Mornington Peninsula.

The Shire has worked with the Bunurong Land Council to identify alternative names for each of the proposed wards where appropriate. The Bunurong Land Council fully supports and encourages the Traditional Language names that have been identified as relevant to each Ward, as outlined in their letter dated 13 November (Attachment 1).

A Traditional Owner name has been suggested for each ward that does not have an existing or proposed traditional name. For instance, Tootgarook has been suggested as an alternative for Truemans or Rosebud as it is already a locality in the Ward and is a registered name.

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Attachments 2-4 outline the Shire's alternate preference for names in these instances. For each model, the Shire has provided one or two preferences, depending on the identified Traditional Language name within the Ward and confirmation on whether the proposed name is registered. The meaning and history to support the names and reason for recommending is also included to provide context.

Where there is more than one name relevant to an area, a second preference has been suggested. In some cases the first preference is not a registered name, for example Wonga. This is a well-known name with a popular trail on the landform of Arthurs Seat named after it. If the ERAP considers this does not meet the requirements, an alternative of Benbenjie has been proposed which is registered as Benbenjie Reserve.

Similarly, Monmar is a well-documented and well-known name for the area known as Point Nepean. This is an area of enormous cultural significance for the Bunurong People and is one of the most sacred places on the Mornington Peninsula.

In addition to consultation with the Bunurong Land Council, advice has been sought from the ERAP and Local Government Victoria on the process to be followed to ensure the names proposed by the Shire meet the panel's approach to naming wards. The approach has been articulated in the preliminary report as follows:

*'As such, the panel may put forward new ward names using Aboriginal language if:*

- it is the name of a place within a ward*
- it is currently in common use; and*
- the name is registered under the Geographic Place Names Act 1998.*

*Unregistered names using Aboriginal language have not been put forward by the panel as new ward names. While the panel supports the adoption of names based on Aboriginal language, this requires appropriate consultation.'*

### **General feedback on the preliminary report**

The Shire refers to its areas as townships not suburbs. It would be appreciated if all future documentation could refer to townships within the Mornington Peninsula.

### **Summary of Submission**

The Mornington Peninsula Shire has undertaken meaningful consultation with the Bunurong Land Council who is the Registered Aboriginal Party for the Mornington Peninsula.

Alternate names have been proposed by the Shire for all three models proposed in the Local Council Electoral Structure Review Preliminary Report as outlined in attachments 2-4.

The Shire considers the proposed names meet the requirements of the process for naming wards as outlined in the Preliminary Report and reinforce our commitment to promoting and celebrating the use of Traditional Owner language as supported by our Council endorsed Place Naming Policy and RAP.

# Mornington Peninsula Shire

## Submission – 2023 Electoral Structure Review

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Submission made by David Taylor, Manager – Legal and Governance at the Mornington Peninsula Shire

Mobile: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]



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13 November 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

**RE: MPS Ward names proposal**

Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (BLCAC) being a formal partner of the Mornington Peninsula Shire is excited at the potential of the Mornington Peninsula Shire using Bunurong language as part of their Council electoral structure review.

BLCAC supports MPS ward name proposals as it clearly demonstrates the commitment that Mornington Peninsula Shire are making towards a shared and celebrated positive difference for the residents of the Mornington Peninsula Shire and Australia's first nation's people.

Regards

[REDACTED]

## Attachment 2

### Mornington Peninsula Shire

#### Model 1 Proposal - Ward Names

ERAP Proposed Name	MPS Preference 1	MPS Preference 2	Registered Name	Traditional Language Name	Reason/Meaning
Briars	Tichingourke		Balcombe Creek; the Briars	Tichingourke	The Boon wurrung language name for Balcombe Creek is Tichingourke, meaning many frogs. In 1840 Captain James Reid settled here and named his run Tichingourke. By 1846 the lease was held by Alexander Balcombe who renamed it The Briars.
Moorooduc	no alternate proposed				
Mount Eliza	Balla-Balla	Kackeraboite Creek	Ballar Creek (Preference 1); Kackeraboite Creek (Preference 2)	Balla-Balla (Preference 1); Kagkeraroite	Balla-Balla is the traditional Boon wurrung language word for the creek that flows NW along Canadian Bay Road through the township of Mount Eliza and empties into Port Philip Bay. Kackeraboite creek flows NE along and then across the Nepean Hwy, and empties into Port Philip Bay
Nepean	Monmar		Point Nepean	Monmar	Monmar is the Bunurong name for Point Nepean and Portsea area. This area is of enormous cultural significance and is one of the most sacred places on the Mornington Peninsula. It is known as a place for women's business, and is the place where several Bunurong women were abducted by whalers. Five of those women, whose names were known, are the ancestors of all living Bunurong people today. The name Monmar known by locals and is well-documented in informational signage and tourism pamphlets etc. for the area.
Red Hill	Tunnahan	Coolart	Cape Schanck (Preference 1); Coolart Beach; Coolart Reserve (Preference 2)	Tunnahan; Culourt/Kullurk/Kullurt	Tunnahan is the Boon Wurrung language word for the area now known as Cape Schanck. This area is a highly significant cultural site for the Bunurong, who would meet at Wonga for ceremonies before travelling to the area for men's business. The name Coolart is derived from the Bunurong name (Kullurk/Kullurt) for the area around Sandy Point. The area had a fresh water supply and open grassland, and was an important hunting and resting place for the Bunurong, who had requested it as a reserve - a promise the governor of the time did not keep
Rosebud	Tootgarook		Tootgarook	Tootgarook	Tootgarook is a Boon wurrung language word meaning "croaking of frogs". The Tootgarook wetlands is the largest freshwater marshland in Port Philip Bay and is of high cultural significance to the Bunurong. The suburb of Tootgarook lies within the proposed Ward boundary.
Safety Beach	Brokil Creek		Brokil Creek	Brokil	Brokil creek is one of the few waterways on the Mornington Peninsula that retained its Bunurong name. The mouth of the creek and surrounding floodplains, now known as Martha Cove Marina and Safety Beach respectively, was an important fishing ground for the Bunurong.
Seawinds	Wonga	Benbenjie	Arthurs Seat (Preference 1); Benbenjie Reserve (Preference 2)	Wonga; Benbenjie	Wonga is the traditional name for Arthurs Seat, a significant landform on the Mornington Peninsula and a culturally significant site. The Bunurong would meet at Wonga for ceremonies, before the women would travel to Monmar for women's business and the men to Cape Schanck for men's business. The name Wonga is well known, and a popular trail on the landform is named for it. Benbenjie is the name of a Bunurong man who had a relationship with the McCrae family. Benbenjie taught the McCrae children traditional practices including hunting and fishing. Benbenjie Reserve was donated to the Shire in 1964 and was named in his honour. It is located centrally within the proposed Ward.
Tanti Creek	no alternate proposed				
Warringine	no alternate proposed				
Watson Creek	Tyabb	Beek Beek	Tyabb; Beek Beek Reserve	Tyaba; Biik Biik	The name Tyabb is believed to have originated from the Boon wurrung language word for the area, Tyaba. The Boon wurrung language word, biik biik, for which the Beek Beek Reserve has been named, means 'earth (many lands)'. The name was chosen by the community in consultation with the Bunurong Land Council in 2020, to replace the previously offensive name Blacks Camp Reserve.

### Attachment 3

#### Mornington Peninsula Shire

##### Model 2 Proposal - Ward Names

ERAP Proposed Name	MPS Preference 1	MPS Preference 2	Registered Name	Traditional Language Name	Reason/Meaning
Balcombe	Tichingourouke		Balcombe Creek; the Briars	Tichingourouke	The Boon wurrung language name for Balcombe Creek is Tichingourouke, meaning many frogs. In 1840 Captain James Reid settled here and named his run Tichingourouke. By 1846 the lease was held by Alexander Balcombe who renamed it The Briars.
Moorooduc	no alternate proposed				
Mount Eliza	Balla-Balla	Kackeraboite Creek	Ballar Creek (Preference 1); Kackeraboite Creek (Preference 2)	Balla-Balla (Preference 1); Kagkeraroite	Balla-Balla is the traditional Boon wurrung language word for the creek that flows NW along Canadian Bay Road through the township of Mount Eliza and empties into Port Philip Bay. Kackeraboite creek flows NE along and then across the Nepean Hwy, and empties into Port Philip Bay
Nepean	Monmar		Point Nepean	Monmar	Monmar is the Bunurong name for Point Nepean and Portsea area. This area is of enormous cultural significance and is one of the most sacred places on the Mornington Peninsula. It is known as a place for women's business, and is the place where several Bunurong women were abducted by whalers. Five of those women, whose names were known, are the ancestors of all living Bunurong people today. The name Monmar known by locals and is well-documented in informational signage and tourism pamphlets etc. for the area.
Red Hill	Tunnahan	Coolart	Cape Schanck (Preference 1); Coolart Beach; Coolart Reserve (Preference 2)	Tunnahan; Culourt/Kullurk/Kullurt	Tunnahan is the Boon Wurrung language word for the area now known as Cape Schanck. This area is a highly significant cultural site for the Bunurong, who would meet at Wonga for ceremonies before travelling to the area for men's business. The name Coolart is derived from the Bunurong name (Kullurk/Kullurt) for the area around Sandy Point. The area had a fresh water supply and open grassland, and was an important hunting and resting place for the Bunurong, who had requested it as a reserve - a promise the governor of the time did not keep
Safety Beach	Brokil Creek		Brokil Creek	Brokil	Brokil creek is one of the few waterways on the Mornington Peninsula that retained its Bunurong name. The mouth of the creek and surrounding floodplains, now known as Martha Cove Marina and Safety Beach respectively, was an important fishing ground for the Bunurong.
Seawinds	Wonga	Benbenjie	Arthurs Seat (Preference 1); Benbenjie Reserve (Preference 2)	Wonga; Benbenjie	Wonga is the traditional name for Arthurs Seat, a significant landform on the Mornington Peninsula and a culturally significant site. The Bunurong would meet at Wonga for ceremonies, before the women would travel to Monmar for women's business and the men to Cape Schanck for men's business. The name Wonga is well known, and a popular trail on the landform is named for it. Benbenjie is the name of a Bunurong man who had a relationship with the McCrae family. Benbenjie taught the McCrae children traditional practices including hunting and fishing. Benbenjie Reserve was donated to the Shire in 1964 and was named in his honour. It is located centrally within the proposed Ward.
Tanti Creek	no alternate proposed				
Truemans	Tootgarook		Tootgarook	Tootgarook	Tootgarook is a Boon wurrung language word meaning "croaking of frogs". The Tootgarook wetlands is the largest freshwater marshland in Port Philip Bay and is of high cultural significance to the Bunurong. The suburb of Tootgarook lies within the proposed Ward boundary.
Warringine	no alternate proposed				
Watson Creek	Tyabb	Beek Beek	Tyabb; Beek Beek Reserve	Tyaba; Biik Biik	The name Tyabb is believed to have originated from the Boon wurrung language word for the area, Tyaba. The Boon wurrung language word, biik biik, for which the Beek Beek Reserve has been named, means 'earth (many lands)'. The name was chosen by the community in consultation with the Bunurong Land Council in 2020, to replace the previously offensive name Blacks Camp Reserve.

## Attachment 4

### Mornington Peninsula Shire

#### Model 3 Proposal - Ward Names

ERAP Proposed Name	MPS Preference 1	MPS Preference 2	Registered Name	Traditional Language Name	Reason/Meaning
Briars	Tichingourke		Balcombe Creek; The Briars	Tichingourke	The Boon wurrung language name for Balcombe Creek is Tichingourke, meaning many frogs, or voice of frogs. In 1840 Captain James Reid settled here and named the run Tichingourke. By 1846 the lease was held by Alexander Balcombe who renamed it The Briars.
Capel Sound	Tootgarook		Tootgarook	Tootgarook	Tootgarook is a Boon wurrung language word meaning "croaking of frogs". The Tootgarook wetlands is the largest freshwater marshland in Port Phillip Bay and is of high cultural significance to the Bunurong. The suburb of Tootgarook lies within the proposed Ward boundary.
McCrae	Wonga	Benbenjie	Arthurs Seat (Preference 1); Benbenjie Reserve (Preference 2)	Wonga; Benbenjie	Wonga is the traditional name for Arthurs Seat, a significant landform on the Mornington Peninsula and a culturally significant site. The Bunurong would meet at Wonga for ceremonies, before the women would travel to Monmar for women's business and the men to Cape Schanck for men's business. The name Wonga is well known, and a popular trail on the landform is named for it. Benbenjie is the name of a Bunurong man who had a relationship with the McCrae family. Benbenjie taught the McCrae children traditional practices including hunting and fishing. Benbenjie Reserve was donated to the Shire in 1964 and was named in his honour. It is located centrally within the proposed Ward.
Moorooduc	no alternate proposed				
Mount Eliza	Balla-Balla	Kackeraboite Creek	Ballar Creek (Preference 1); Kackeraboite Creek (Preference 2)	Balla-Balla (Preference 1); Kagkeraroite (Preference 2)	Balla-Balla is the traditional Boon wurrung language word for the Ballar creek that flows NW along Canadian Bay Road through the township of Mount Eliza and empties into Port Phillip Bay. Kackeraboite creek flows NE along and then across the Nepean Hwy, and empties into Port Phillip Bay
Nepean	Monmar		Point Nepean	Monmar	Monmar is the Bunurong name for Point Nepean and Portsea area. This area is of enormous cultural significance and is one of the most sacred places on the Mornington Peninsula. It is known as a place for women's business, and is the place where several Bunurong women were abducted by whalers. Five of those women, whose names were known, are the ancestors of all living Bunurong people today. The name Monmar known by locals and is well-documented in informational signage and tourism pamphlets etc. for the area.
Red Hill	Tunnahan	Coolart	Cape Schanck (Preference 1); Coolart Beach; Coolart Reserve (Preference 2)	Tunnahan; Culourk/Kullurk/Kullurt	Tunnahan is the Boon Wurrung language word for the area now known as Cape Schanck. This area is a highly significant cultural site for the Bunurong, who would meet at Wonga for ceremonies before travelling to the area for men's business. The name Coolart is derived from the Bunurong name (Kullurk/Kullurt) for the area around Sandy Point. The area had a fresh water supply and open grassland, and was an important hunting and resting place for the Bunurong, who had requested it as a reserve - a promise the governor of the time did not keep
Seawinds	Wonga	Brokil Creek	Arthurs Seat (Preference 1); Brokil Creek (Preference 2)	Wonga; Brokil	Brokil creek is one of the few waterways on the Mornington Peninsula that retained its Bunurong name. The mouth of the creek and surrounding floodplains, now known as Martha Cove Marina and Safety Beach respectively, was an important fishing ground for the Bunurong.
Somerville	Tyabb	Beek Beek	Tyabb; Beek Beek Reserve	Tyaba; Biik Biik	The name Tyabb is believed to have originated from the Boon wurrung language word for the area, Tyaba. The Boon wurrung language word, biik biik, for which the Beek Beek Reserve has been named, means 'earth (many lands)'. The name was chosen by the community in consultation with the Bunurong Land Council in 2020, to replace the previously offensive name Blacks Camp Reserve.
Tanti Creek	no alternate proposed				
Warringine	no alternate proposed				