

South Road — between New Street and the beach — and the west side of New Street — between South Road and the beach — become clarified as Brighton and the south side of South Road between Nepean Highway service road and Hampton Street become clarified as Brighton East and further west between Hampton and New Streets as Brighton.

My objective in detailing some of the issues and processes in the naming of suburbs in my electorate is to show, in the most practical way, how the objects of the bill relate to the real world and how choices on place names enshrine our heritage, culture and present preference and ambitions.

Before I conclude I shall touch on those aspects of the bill that relate to the maintenance of the Register of Geographic Names in a digital format and refer to some possible applications of the raw data and other implications for information creation. Much of the impetus for reform was to be able to use digital geographic coordinates for emergency service dispatch services provided by ambulances, the police and fire services. But there are more subtle uses for a digital geographic data matrix that will be prepared by the Registrar of Geographic Names and its potential for the merging of compatible databases.

The quinquennial census in Australia is arguably the most comprehensive and complete set of high quality demographic data regularly assembled anywhere in the world and is the most obvious candidate for merging. I am sure all members will have examined social atlases of their electorates for political campaign purposes and decided on the basis of such maps where, for example, bilingual campaign information can be targeted.

I invite honourable members to consider how merging the Victorian public hospital inpatient management information system and home addresses of all hospital patients could assist in our understanding of disease and the pattern of distribution of medical procedures. It is now possible to map admissions to hospitals by diagnosis and to determine the diagnosis of specific catchment areas of all our public treatment facilities and a merger of those databases would also mean that at any time after patients sought treatment authorities would be able to monitor epidemics in communities, interpret the patterns and provide a response within hours.

I conclude by describing the most sophisticated scenario that will be enabled by the passage of the bill. For example, in the case of the Victorian Cancer Registry and the geographic distribution of any form of cancer not only could we map the spatial distribution of

the disease but we could also select from the census age-specific denominators and map the distribution of, say, colorectal cancer in adult males over 40 years of age. We could aggregate the statistics across the metropolitan area and using the census make predictions of the expected rate of colorectal cancer for each suburb. Authorities would then have an observed and an expected rate of colorectal cancer, and that would allow for the application of probability tests such as the Chi Square test to our suburbs. We could then map the likelihood that the levels of cancer found were abnormal, and if required seek the necessary epidemiological explanations. This would be tantamount to mapping hot spots of disease.

A golden thread runs through the proposed legislation and tightly ties together our history and our social and cultural identity and paves the way for the application of some of the most sophisticated scientific and statistical methods of information creation from raw numbers that are known to man. I commend the bill to the house.

**Hon. E. G. STONEY** (Central Highlands) — I will make a short contribution on the Geographic Place Names Bill. Over many years I have been familiar with the work of the Place Names Committee. I have observed, as has Dr Ross, that the work of the committee was a convoluted, slow and costly process. However, it did some good work in providing a very important coordinating role that assisted in avoiding confusion and provided accuracy in description of place names. The second-reading speech provides a very catching description of place names:

Place names also express tangibly the human activity of investing the landscape with meaning and memory.

That is an accurate description of the entire process of naming places and points of interest. The second-reading speech describes how names in Victoria have been derived from a wide range of sources and explains that they were influenced by the cultures and nationalities of early explorers, surveyors, administrators, as well as by Aboriginal place names.

Mr Lucas referred to some interesting place names in his electorate. I do not want this to turn into an example of the duelling banjos, but I will mention a couple of names in my electorate for which the Place Names Committee was responsible. There are many colourful names such as Hells Window, Terrible Hollow and Mount Buggery, which conjure up wild, remote and rough places. There are also poignant names such as Dogs Grave, Flour Bag Creek and Rodeo Gully, which obviously denote particular incidents. We have the Blowhole on Bluff Range, where clouds shoot

thousands of feet into the air. Along the coast are many blowholes where the ocean shoots up, and they are obviously aptly named. The reason for naming Mount King Billy has been lost in time. Many say it was a nickname for an early Aboriginal leader, while others say it was the name of a rogue bullock. Another colourful name, the Rat Camp, needs no explanation.

I make the point that most of the names were approved over the years by the Place Names Committee. I had a particular interest in the work of the committee in the 1970s when the then Mansfield Shire Council and others applied to have a mountain in the high country named after my father, who was a respected bushman, local councillor and very colourful character. After a convoluted and lengthy process, Mount Eadley Stoney, which is 1684 metres high, was named. About 20 years earlier an adjacent mountain had been named after the Lovick family following a similarly long and convoluted process. For many years there was more than friendly rivalry between the Lovicks and the Stoneys and it was with some interest I noted that on a new map which came out after a recent survey that Mount Eadley Stoney and Mount Lovick are both listed as being 1684 metres high. We will never know whether the Place Names Committee had the tact to put a few rocks on top of Mount Lovick to bring it up to the height of Mount Stoney, but it seems to me that it is an interesting coincidence that the heights are the same!

The time has come for the Place Names Committee to be upgraded. It probably does not have the same workload as in former days when parts of Victoria were being discovered, developed and named. The Place Names Committee has done its job and it is now time to move on. The government is streamlining the process. The bill gives power on place names, with checks and balances, back to local communities through their municipalities. A central advisory panel will oversee special names and places of special character in certain areas. With those few words, I commend the bill to the house.

**Motion agreed to.**

**Read second time.**

*Third reading*

**Hon. G. R. CRAIGE** (Minister for Roads and Ports) — By leave, I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

I place on record the thanks of the government to all members for their contributions.

**Motion agreed to.**

**Read third time.**

*Remaining stages*

**Passed remaining stages.**

## GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

*Address-in-reply*

**Debate resumed from 25 March; motion of Hon. P. A. KATSAMBANIS (Monash) for adoption of address-in-reply.**

**Hon. R. S. de FEGELY** (Ballarat) — I am pleased to have an opportunity to respond to the speech of the Governor, Sir James Gobbo, last month on the occasion of the opening of Parliament. I join with my colleagues in congratulating Sir James on his appointment as Governor of Victoria. Sir James is an eminent Australian who has had a distinguished career in the law and has been very much involved in community activities. He was an inspired choice for the position. I know that he and Lady Gobbo will be excellent representatives for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. We look forward to working with them over the coming years and I trust they will both have an enjoyable period in that position.

I note that in their responses many honourable members emphasised multiculturalism and the fact that Sir James comes from Italian parentage. Some members went into considerable discussion about what a good thing that is. Although I do not disagree with that, I have some argument with this matter of multiculturalism. No doubt Sir James Gobbo is a very proud Australian who has spent most of his schooldays and working life in Australia. All of us are migrants or descendants of migrants to this country, which has been in being for only 200 years.

**Hon. D. A. Nardella** — You mean the European invasion has been here for only 200 years.

**Hon. R. S. de FEGELY** — I am talking about the period since the Europeans came to this country in the late 1700s. We have the two groups. The indigenous people have been here for many thousands of years, but in this instance I am talking entirely about settlement in the early days. Even the people who came out with the First Fleet came from different backgrounds. Therefore, this has been a multicultural society right from those early days.

It disturbs me that people from some quarters push the matter and ask whether we are a multicultural society. It is a nonsense question. Of course we are a multicultural