



The Hon Dr Anthony Lynham MP
Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy

Your ref A578151
Our refs CTS 06595/20

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14 August 2020

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Cnr George and Alice Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 16 July 2020, concerning petition No. 3350-20 received by the House on 15 July 2020, regarding renaming places associated with pro-slavery politicians.

In response to the petition, I can advise that my department has in place thorough guidelines and processes for raising matters for consideration under the *Place Names Act 1994* and members of the community are welcome to make a naming suggestion.

I am aware that some place names chosen in the past might not be considered appropriate today. In recent years the department has been removing racist names that are clearly inappropriate.

During the past year, the department reinstated the names of two mountains in the Rockhampton area to the indigenous names of Baga (formerly Jim Crow Mountain) and Gai-i (formerly Mount Wheeler).

Place naming creates an important connection between people, history and place, however, for the Darumbal people—the Traditional Owners of the Rockhampton area—the now renamed Mount Wheeler and Jim Crow Mountain were a hurtful reminder of colonial history.

The department's Regional Planning and Coordination team researched the feature name history and worked closely with the Darumbal people to acknowledge the dreaming story and determine correct pronunciation and spelling of the feature names. The team consulted widely with the community to complete the place naming process.

The work highlights the opportunity indigenous place naming presents for reconciliation and recognition of indigenous history, language and culture.

It is important to remember that regardless of their origins, any placename changes need to be thoroughly considered.

To ensure my department adequately understands the concerns of the petitioners, I encourage the petitioners to consider the information available on my department's website about place naming processes. If they still wish to make a naming suggestion they should provide more information about the suggestion, as is detailed on the website.

See <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/title/place-names/naming/process>

I provide you with this response for tabling in accordance with Standing Order 125(3). Any enquiries regarding this response can be referred to Mr Simon Zanatta, Chief of Staff, Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy on telephone (07) 3719 7360.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'A' followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr Anthony Lynham MP
Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy