

## **EUREKA ELECTORATE**

**Electoral Boundary Commission -10.10 am- 18/8/21**

**5 minute presentation + 5 minute question time**

**PHILLIP MOORE**

The map of the proposed Victorian Lower House electorate “Eureka” takes in a number of Ballarat goldfield sites including in particular the Eureka Lead precinct.

It was here in 1854 where the Eureka Rebellion at the digger’s Stockade took place. This historic event and its prelude and aftermath were pivotal in helping lay the foundations in the development of Australian democracy.

For instance; the digger’s democratic actions at that time and those of others supporting their cause - included:

- 3 Monster meetings of over 10,000 people and one of over 6,000 in Melbourne
- The presentation of the Ballarat Reform League Charter at Bakery Hill
- The making and flying of the Eureka Flag
- A series of delegations and petitions to the Governor and Goldfields Commissioner who ignored their pleas and who were determined “to put down this democratic agitation”
- Then we have - The Diggers stand at the Stockade where they were prepared to lay their lives to defend their rights and liberties
- The acquittal in Melbourne of all the diggers charged with treason
- And finally, a short period after – the gaining of a range of democratic parliamentary outcomes as a result of Eureka and its Charter that influenced not only Australia but the world in terms of democratic government.

Recognition of these actions and the digger’s cause is expressed for instance:

In 2004

- **The Eureka precinct** because of its historical. cultural and archaeological significance was entered on the Australian Register of the

National Estate. ref. ID 105754. And in 2005 it was entered on the Victorian Heritage register. (No.H 1874)

This site includes the Eureka Centre Museum, Eureka Monument and Memorial and soon to be launched - the Eureka Pathway of Remembrance

- **The BRL Charter** was entered on the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Register. And on the Victorian register in 2005. This political Manifesto which contains universal democratic principles and fundamental rights is similar to the American Declaration of Independence of 1776 which is so revered in the USA

### **In 2006**

- **The Eureka Flag** was entered on the Victorian Heritage register No. 2097.

### **And Currently**

The site of Eureka and its historic events are part of a Victorian Central Goldfields 13 Council's campaign for their goldfield historic sites and events to also win inclusion on UNESCO'S World Heritage listing.

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Our Australian Democracy is one of the oldest and is considered as one of the most stable democracies in the world. We ought to be proud of it, understand it, protect it, enhance it and promote it – especially with the many challenges throughout the world that are threatening this form of government. And we must not forget those democratic efforts and accomplishments of our young diggers and their supporters at Eureka.

Consequently, the proposal to establish a Eureka electorate in Ballarat not only adds to the recognition of the importance of Eureka as a great Australian historic event but it also helps to promote and further educate our people throughout Australia of the importance of and privilege we have with our form of democratic representative government.

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Question – Do you think the Eureka electoral boundary could be wider?

The summary of my answer was – Yes I do – It could take in some other gold field sites and discoveries in the immediate area including in the Buninyong area