

**Submission ID:** O-0447  
**Date Received:** 27/3/26, 7:16 pm  
**Name:** Uma Singh  
**Submission Topic:** Electorate Names  
**Electoral District:** Springfield (New)

**Submission:**

See below

**Submission Attachments**

Email - Uma Singh - Queensland Redistribution Commission - Proposed Name for the New Electorate — Woogaroo.pdf

**From:** [Uma Singh](#)  
**To:** [QRC Submissions](#)  
**Subject:** Queensland Redistribution Commission - Proposed Name for the New Electorate — Woogaroo  
**Date:** Friday, 27 March 2026 7:15:49 PM  
**Importance:** High

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Dear QRC

I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed name for the new electorate currently referred to as *Springfield*.

In accordance with the Commission's naming principles—clarity, geographic relevance, voter recognition, and meaningful connection to place, I respectfully submit that the electorate should instead be named **Woogaroo**.

The name *Springfield* represents only a small portion of the area encompassed by the proposed electorate.

By contrast, **Woogaroo** is a geographically central, historically significant, culturally grounded, and widely recognised name that more accurately reflects the identity of the district.

### **1. Geographic Centrality and Landscape Identity**

At the physical and cultural heart of the proposed electorate lies **Woogaroo Forest**, positioned centrally between Springfield, Springfield Lakes, Brookwater, Augustine Heights, Bellbird Park, and Redbank Plains.

The forest is not a peripheral feature; it is the defining anchor of the region's landscape.

The broader Woogaroo area is characterised by:

- interconnected bushland corridors
- prominent ridgelines forming natural boundaries
- the north south spine of **Woogaroo Creek**, which has shaped both Indigenous use of Country and modern suburban development

These features are well known to residents and form part of the region's shared identity. Naming the electorate Woogaroo aligns with the Commission's emphasis on names that clearly identify the district's location and landscape.

### **2. Strong Existing Community Usage**

The name Woogaroo is already deeply embedded in community life across the proposed electorate. It is widely used by schools, sporting clubs, scouting groups, and community organisations, demonstrating strong public recognition and continuity.

Examples include:

- **Woogaroo Creek State School** (Augustine Heights)
- **Woogaroo Swimming Club**
- **The Woogaroo Field** within Richardson Park, home of the Goodna Eagles Rugby League Club
- **Woogaroo District Scout Group**, representing scouts from Goodna, Springfield, Redbank Plains, and Camira
- **The Woogaroo District Scout Badge**, worn by young people across the region

These institutions collectively demonstrate that Woogaroo is already the unifying name for the communities encompassed by the proposed electorate.

### 3. Deep Historical Significance

Woogaroo is one of the oldest recorded place names in the region, predating the establishment of Springfield by more than a century.

Key historical references include:

- The area now known as Goodna was originally called **Woogaroo**, appearing on an 1840 map by surveyor Robert Dixon.
- The **Woogaroo Lunatic Asylum** (later Goodna Asylum) operated under that name in the 1860s.
- **Woogaroo Station**, a sheep station established in 1841, carried the name.
- A quarry operated by Patrick Logan in 1826 was known as the Woogaroo quarry.
- Melbourne newspapers reporting on the **1893 floods** referenced Woogaroo Creek as a known and significant geographic feature.

This long-standing usage demonstrates that Woogaroo is not a modern invention but a foundational geographic reference point for the region.

### 4. Ecological and Scientific Heritage

The **Woogaroo Scrub** was a renowned destination for early botanists and naturalists. Historical accounts describe field trips where scientists travelled by train to Goodna specifically to explore the rainforest ecosystems along Woogaroo and Opossum Creeks.

A notable example is the **24 May 1889 botanical expedition** led by eminent botanists **F.M. Bailey** and **J.M. Simmonds**.

Many of the plant species recorded during that expedition remain present in the Woogaroo and Opossum Creek corridors today, demonstrating ecological continuity and the enduring significance of the landscape.

### 5. Indigenous Cultural Significance

The name **Woogaroo** originates from the **Yuggera language (Ugarapul dialect)**, the traditional Aboriginal Country of the region.

Its meanings include:

- “shady” or “cool”

- a reference to a waterhole or whirlpool
- a descriptive term associated with Woogaroo Creek

Using Woogaroo as the electorate name would respectfully acknowledge the deep cultural history of the area and the longstanding custodianship of Traditional Owners. It aligns with contemporary naming practices that seek to honour Indigenous place names where appropriate.

## 6. Alignment with the Commission's Naming Principles

The Commission has emphasised that electorate names should:

- clearly identify or suggest the district's location
- enhance voter recognition
- reflect meaningful geographic or cultural features
- avoid names that lack clarity or represent only a small part of the electorate

Woogaroo meets all of these criteria. It is geographically central, culturally significant, historically grounded, and widely recognised across the entire region. By contrast, *Springfield* refers only to one suburb and does not capture the broader landscape or identity of the electorate.

### In conclusion

For reasons of geographic accuracy, cultural respect, historical continuity, ecological significance, and strong community recognition, **Woogaroo** is the most appropriate and meaningful name for the new electorate.

I respectfully commend the name **Woogaroo** to the Queensland Redistribution Commission for adoption.

Uma Devi Singh

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