

# SUBMISSION REGARDING THE NAMING OF A FISHERMANS BEND PRECINCT

## PRECINCT NAME PROPOSAL: LEMAIRE

16 SEPTEMBER 2016

### INTRODUCTION

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The University of Melbourne welcomes the opportunity to submit a proposal to name one of the five new precincts located in the current site of Fishermans Bend: **Lemaire**. The University commends the commitment to community consultation demonstrated by the Fishermans Bend Taskforce as part of the planning process for this significant urban renewal enterprise.

Lemaire takes the namesake from Diane Adrienne Lemaire - the first woman to graduate in Engineering from the University of Melbourne who went on to become a pioneering figure in aeronautical engineering, spending most of her working life at Fishermans Bend working for Aeronautical Research Laboratories.

Lemaire is the appropriate name choice for the new precinct, currently named 'Employment Precinct' located at Fishermans Bend because it:

- Is strongly associated with a local historical figure, Diane Lemaire, born in Victoria, and a pioneering aerospace engineer who worked for over 40 years (until 1986) at Aeronautical Research Laboratories (later part of CSIRO), located at Fishermans Bend;
- Highlights the achievements of a leading female aeronautical engineer – work that remains as relevant to the precinct as when Lemaire work there;
- Provides an inspiration for women pursuing aerospace engineering and STEM related careers;
- Is strongly linked between the place name and the locality. Diane Lemaire spent the majority of her working life as an aerospace engineer at Fishermans Bend – Lemaire commemorates the long association between science research and the precinct;
- Has a significant connection with the University of Melbourne, which seeks to contribute to the development of the re-envisioned Fishermans Bend precinct. Lemaire bestowed a scholarship at the University. The *Diane Lemaire Scholarship* supports female students undertaking their PhD in the Melbourne School of Engineering;
- Supports the Victorian Government's commitment to encourage and increase the number of women in STEM and to establish Victoria as the Education State.

### BACKGROUND – A VISION FOR FISHERMANS BEND

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The plan for Fishermans Bend as outlined in the *Draft for Consultation* is a bold vision for Australia's largest urban regeneration projects. The University of Melbourne supports the broad vision articulated in the *Draft for Consultation* of Fishermans Bend as a thriving place that sets an example for environmental sustainability, enhanced liveability, diversity and innovation. Within this vision, the University sees significant and exciting potential for job creation, research-based innovation and technologies, specialised local industries, critically-needed residential spaces and holistic inner-city cultural renewal in the redevelopment of Fishermans Bend.

As an institution, the University is committed to working with the Victorian Government and partners to shape Fishermans Bend as a flourishing precinct that adds deep value to the future social and economic life of the city and the state.

The Lemaire precinct is home to major manufacturing and production hubs for companies including Boeing, Kraft, General Motors Holden and the Australian Defence Force. It is anticipated that the Precinct will transition over time to accommodate future technology and industrial employment and research with a strong association with the University of Melbourne and other innovation and high tech

industry that will benefit from the co-location and development of an ecosystem of complementary activity. Lemaire's lifelong science and research work is directly relevant to the activity that is core to the precinct of today and its future re-envisioning.

#### **LEMAIRE: CONSISTENT WITH VICTORIAN REGULATING ON NAMING GEOGRAPHIC FEATURES**

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The precincts at Fishermans Bend will be named in accordance with the Victorian Government's *Guidelines for Geographic Names 2010*. Any feature, locality or road (whether public or private) can be named, renamed or have its boundary changed, but this must be done in accordance with the principles contained within these guidelines. Naming one of the localities within Fishermans Bend Lemaire satisfies those guidelines.

The Proposal to name the precinct Lemaire more directly complies with the naming of localities compared to other precinct names at Fishermans Bend. For example:

- Montague is named after John Montague, the 4th Earl of Sandwich and Lord of the Admiralty from 1771 to 1782.
- Lorimer is named after Sir James Lorimer, who was President of the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce from 1868-1870, founding chairman of the Melbourne Harbour Trust, and member of the Victorian Parliament.
- Sandridge recalls the early name for Port Melbourne given by Surveyor William Darke, when he prepared maps of the shoreline of Port Phillip Bay in 1836.
- Wirraway is named in recognition of the training and general purpose military aircraft built by the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation at Fishermans Bend between 1939 and 1946.

*Lemaire on the other hand has a direct and contemporary<sup>1</sup> personal and professional association with the precinct via work that is relevant to the historical and, importantly, the future activity envisaged for the precinct.*

The most relevant criteria relevant to naming the precinct Lemaire are addressed below.

1. According to the **Guidelines (3.4)**, the creation of new localities by government departments and authorities requires either developing a name in-house or developing a name through public competition. In the instance of developing a name in-house, the Guidelines suggest that the department should **consider using the name of a local historical figure or event**, or unique attribute of an event that occurs in the area.
  - The University's submission to name the precinct Lemaire is reflective of a local historical figure. Diane Lemaire not only spent most of her working life in Fishermans Bend, but played a prominent role in shaping the history of women in aerospace engineering careers. In a predominantly male field, Lemaire established herself as a successful aerospace engineer in both Victoria, Australia and abroad, acquiring a highly internationally competitive *Amelia Earhart Fellowship* at Cornell University and working on various projects across Europe. Naming the precinct Lemaire satisfies the criteria of naming a locality based on a local historical figure.
2. **Principle 1 (G)** requires a **link between the name and the place** where the locality is based, with preference given to unofficial names used by the local community.
  - Lemaire satisfies this principle as Lemaire is closely linked to the local significance of Fishermans Bend. Lemaire was not only the first woman to graduate in Engineering from the University of Melbourne but also a pioneering figure in aeronautical engineering who worked for over 40 years at Aeronautical Research Laboratories, located at Fishermans Bend.

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<sup>1</sup> Lemaire died only recently in 2012.

→ The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Division of Aeronautics was established at Fisherman's Bend in May 1940. Its work was focused on defence research, aviation or aeronautical industries and industrial and scientific research. The Division was re-established in 1949 as the Aeronautical Research laboratory and subsequently became part of the CSIRO.

**3. Principle 1(H) provides guidelines to using commemorative names.**

→ Lemaire not only commemorates Diane Lemaire as a successful aerospace engineer with close ties to Fishermans Bend, but also commemorates her role in helping pave the way for women in aerospace engineering. Lemaire satisfies the conditions that a commemorative name should be named only by the surname of a person and someone who is no longer alive.

**4. Principle 3 (G) requires a locality name to be unique to Australia.**

→ Lemaire is unique - with no street, suburb or locality named Lemaire in Australia, despite the fact that she spent more than 40 years contributing to science and Victoria for such a long period of time.

**5. Lemaire also meets the criterion of being created as part of a State or Federal Government project.**

→ The construction and redevelopment of Fishermans Bend will see the creation of a thriving hub that will become not only a locally significant area, but an area of state-wide significance.

#### **LEMAIRE: SUPPORTING WOMEN IN STEM AND ENGINEERING**

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The State Government is committed to improving careers for women in STEM fields.<sup>2</sup> Only one in four IT graduates and fewer than one in 10 engineering graduates are women. Additionally, women occupy fewer than one in five senior researcher positions in Australian universities and research institutes, and around one quarter of the STEM workforce overall.

In a predominantly male industry, it is appropriate that aspiring female engineers have a role model and inspirational figure with whom to identify. Since Victoria's promulgation, women identities with a strong association with place and pioneering academically have been largely overlooked when it comes to honouring through place naming. A role model such as Diane Lemaire provides an inspirational story for all Victorians, not least young women aspiring to a STEM career.

Chief Scientist, Professor Alan Finkel, recently examined why Australians can easily name at least five current athletes, actors and celebrity chefs, yet Australians struggle to name five Australian scientists.<sup>3</sup> A need to educate Australians about the names and stories of Australian scientist is an important part of activating a culture of innovating research in STEM fields. Naming the precinct Lemaire will raise public awareness about one of Australia's successful scientists.

Minister for Women Fiona Richardson declared "science, engineering, technology and innovation will be the foundation of many of our future careers, yet women are frequently excluded from them. We want to find out why, and how they can better reflect the community they serve."<sup>4</sup> The opportunity to name a precinct in Fishermans Bend after a pioneering women aerospace engineer will demonstrate a commitment to Minister Richardson's and the Victorian Government's support of women in obtaining STEM degrees and pursuing careers.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/learningdev/vicstem/Pages/default.aspx>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.chiefscientist.gov.au/2016/08/media-release-take-the-five-scientist-pledge-for-national-science-week/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/startups-and-stem-to-help-form-gender-equality-strategy/>

## ATTACHMENT - BIOGRAPHY

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*Diane Adrienne Lemaire (1922-2012) was born in Melbourne, Victoria and educated at St Catherine's School in Toorak.*

*In 1942, she completed a Bachelor of Engineering (Science) degree, making her the first woman to graduate in Engineering (Science) from the University of Melbourne. Her academic abilities were recognised by the Dean of Engineering who actively encouraged her to continue her studies and complete a fourth year of study. In 1944, she graduated with a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering.*

*Following her studies, Lemaire joined Aeronautical Research Laboratories, a division of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (later CSIRO), as a technical officer in experimental stress analysis. The laboratories were located at Fishermans Bend, Victoria.*

*In the 1950s she was sent to Farnborough in England for a two year assignment in the aerodynamics department of the Royal Aircraft Establishment. During her assignment, Lemaire worked in transonic tunnel and problems of wing performance and embarked on study trips to France, Holland and Sweden.*

*In 1962, she was awarded an Amelia Earhart Fellowship to pursue a master's degree in aeronautical engineering at Cornell University, New York. Established in 1938, the Fellowship program helps talented women, pursuing advanced studies in the typically male-dominated fields of aerospace-related science.*

*Following her Fellowship, Lemaire returned to Aeronautical Research Laboratories at Fishermans Bend, where she worked as a principal research scientist on low speed wind tunnels and flow separation. She remained at Aeronautical Research Laboratories until her retirement in 1986 as Office-in-Charge of the Aerodynamic Research Group.*

*Lemaire passed away 27 October 2012, aged 89.*

*She bestowed a scholarship to the University in her name. The Diane Lemaire Scholarship supports female students undertaking their PhD in the Melbourne School of Engineering.*

