



## **Samuel Winter Cooke** (1847-1929)

**Member for Wannon (Victoria) 1901-1903**

**S**amuel Winter Cooke was born in Melbourne, Victoria, educated in England, and admitted to the Victorian Bar in 1873. In 1878 he inherited his uncle's large Hamilton property "Murndal". He was a member and President of the Portland Shire Council 1879-85. A member of the Victorian Legislative Council 1888-1901, he held various ministries and participated on numerous commissions.

Cooke, a Freetrader, was elected to represent the federal seat of Wannon in the House of Representatives at the first federal election in 1901. He resigned in 1903 to travel overseas. He later became a supporter of the Deakin Fusion Government and stood for election in 1910 but was unsuccessful.

Cooke returned to his rural and business interests and was a great supporter of the soldier settlement scheme, making his own land available to returned servicemen after the First World War.

The electorate of Wannon was named after a local geographic feature (Wannon River).