Comments received for
ISO 639-3 Change Request
2019-058

Outcome: Rejected
Effective date: January 23, 2020
Registration Authority decision on Change Request no. 2019-058: to create the code element [wnr] for Wilson River.

The request to create the code [wnr] for Wilson River by merging four existing codes (and “all or part” of a fifth and “perhaps part” of a sixth) is rejected. The Change Request offers ample evidence of discrepancies and lack of agreement within the academic literature and proposes a new synthesis as a solution. The Registrar notes that while the proposal appears to have merit, it is the proper place of the standard to reflect the consensus of academic opinion rather than to adjudicate in cases where the scholarship is unclear. Therefore, the request to identify Wilson River [wnr] is rejected.

The Registrar encourages this work on sorting out the classification and identification of Ngura languages to be pursued within peer-reviewed academic literature. If the outcome is a consensus that Wilson River should be identified as a separate language, a new request can be submitted at that time.