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Forbes, K - Redistribution TAS - Feedback on ideas

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Feedback on ideas details

Feedback on ideas: Names and Boundaries

Details: Across the submissions of ideas there is something of a consensus that Prospect Vale and surrounding suburbs be moved into Bass. They all rightly recognise that the area functions as a suburb of Launceston, regardless of the Local Government Area boundary, and make more sense as a cohesive constituency reunited with the rest of the city. With Lyons over quota and Bass under, this redistribution offers an opportunity to cohere the residents of Prospect Vale with their community and I commend this suggestion to the committee. In the south, almost all note the less than ideal, non-contiguous nature of the electorate of Franklin. Opinion is split on whether to rectify that with a radical redraw or let the problem lie and settle for an incremental shift. I would advocate for the former and create new and coherent groupings in the communities. Existing geographical community divisions exist broadly across the banks of the Derwent River, the northern and southern ends of the Southern Outlet highway (ie. Kingston/Taroona and south versus central Hobart/Sandy Bay and north) and what is referred to snobbily as 'the flannelette curtain' running along Creek Rd, the eponymous creek and Kalang Avenue. The interests of the working class communities north of this last divide are not necessarily aligned with those to its south and they have

historically felt overlooked. This makes the existing seat of Clark an electorate of two halves. To illustrate what I mean about how this affects political representation while remaining as non-partisan as possible, consider the two independents representing this seat - Andrew Wilkie federally and Kristie Johnston at the state level. Wilkie, the urbane former intelligence analyst keeps an office in gentrified central Hobart and despite long-running pleas to open a Glenorchy office, has not done so. The newer MP Johnston on the other hand is a former Glenorchy mayor who holds regular 'constituency surgeries' at Northgate Shopping Centre in Glenorchy. I would advocate considering this line in this redistribution in particular as I feel it is likely to result in better community representation in both halves of the existing electorate of Clark. S8 by Darren McSweeney almost captures this divide, but lacks the local knowledge to place it completely accurately. The idea broadly floated in the submissions of uniting the western 'half' of Franklin with what I'll in the interests of time term 'Wilkie Clark' is an option I would support. Doug Chipman in S11 informatively and with the benefit of local government experience notes the links of the Eastern Shore community, the broader southeast and the east coast. He is backed up by Scott J in S12. I also back the idea of retiring the name of the division of Franklin. I have more to add, but regrettably I've come to this rather late and run out of time. I look forward to the result of the committee's deliberations and the chance to comment further at a later date.
