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Submission FOB161

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [FedRedistribution - TAS](#)
Subject: Submission regarding my Objection to the Proposed Renaming of the Tasmanian Federal Electorate of Franklin, a Federation Seat, to Tongerlongeter.
Date: Sunday, 19 July 2026 7:57:31 PM

To: The Augmented Electoral Commission for Tasmania

My Submission regarding my Objection to the Proposed Renaming of the Tasmanian Federal Electorate of Franklin, a Federation Seat, to Tongerlongeter.

Introduction:

I am writing to formally object to the augmented Electoral Commission's proposal to rename the federal division of Franklin to Tongerlongeter.

As a resident and citizen interested in the Tasmanian electoral redistribution, I urge the Commission to reconsider this change and retain the name Franklin.

Grounds for Objection:

Tongerlongeter was a resistance warrior who led devastating campaigns during the Black War in Tasmania.

He was the main leader of the organized aboriginal resistance which was far more effective and sustained than anywhere else on the Australian frontier.

Historical records indicate that frontier warfare under his leadership involved brutal attacks that resulted in the deaths of European settlers, including women and children.

The reckoning is that Tongerlongeter and his band killed, in a manner of horrific torture and abuse, some 180 settlers and wounded as many, in a population of less than 20,000 forcing these settlers to retaliate in their justifiable standards Of The Day, and it was because of these atrocities that Governor Arthur declared martial law and organized the infamous Black Line.

Henry Reynolds & Nicholas Clements wrote a book 'Tongerlongeter'.

Professor Henry Reynolds and Nicholas Clements, in their carefully researched account, mentioned that Tongerlongeter 'often humiliated and tortured his victims'.

Pages 108, 109 & 110 of their book 'Tongerlongeter' - must be read!

It was commonplace for victims to have their arms and legs broken, cutting their heads and when they were not killed were disabled or maimed. The book states that 'there

were too many attacks to enumerate here, but will illuminate two attacks’.

1. James Stanton was murdered in a most barbarous manner – brains literally dashed out, head beaten in with waddies, nails of fingers separated from their quicks with a knife, fleshy part of his hands cut off, eyebrow cut off and bones of eyebrow beaten down to his eyes, teeth beaten out of his head and body left mangled.

Sept 1828, Pg 108

2. John Rayner of Oyster Bay, a freed convict, was speared twice, one in his chest which he pulled out, and the other in his back which he was unable to extract. He was sent to the hospital in Hobart to recuperate and when sufficiently recovered began a long walk back to Oyster Bay.

At dusk on 28th March, 1830 he was confronted again and was speared in shoulders and thigh and

was pursued and pelted with stones and waddies thrown by the assailants. He was found by Silas Gatehouse’s servants – (Silas Gatehouse is my G G Grandfather), in unimaginable agony, cruelly maimed and wounded with one eye knocked out and the other blinded, he also suffered from festering sores that were infested with maggots from the speared attacks he endured earlier – he was sent to Maria Island for medical treatment, unfortunately the surgeon could do nothing and he died soon after. 28th March, 1830, Page 109 & 110

Naming a federal electorate after a figure deeply tied to violent conflict and frontier casualties is highly decisive and inappropriate for a civic institution representing all constituents.

The Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC) has publicly stated that the AEC failed to correctly consult the local Aboriginal community before announcing this specific name change.

TAC representatives have advised that the use of an Aboriginal resistance leader’s name, in this manner, is insensitive and inappropriate, and have asked that traditional names not be co-opted by the system they Consistently Fought Against.

Both major political parties have expressed opposition and serious reservations regarding the change.

The AEC is encouraged to preserve the names of seats that have existed since Federation.

...and isn’t it a profound moral contradiction to nominate and honour Tongerlongeter whose casualties included women and children! Definitely Not a Man of Outstanding Character!

The Liberal Party has argued that retaining the name Franklin minimizes voter confusion, while the Australian Labor Party, including the sitting member for Franklin, Julie Collins, submitted that a name change lacks compelling justification given the seat’s century-long heritage.

Retaining the name Franklin ensures continuity and stability for the community whilst completely replacing the name of a long-standing electorate creates unnecessary confusion for the tens of thousands of voters being moved across boundaries in southern Tasmania.

There was no prolonged, respectful or thorough consultation with the Franklin citizens, local councils, historians and the Aboriginal community, all of whom were notified on 15 July, 2026.

I appreciate that the boundary changes themselves are necessary to meet the numerical requirements of today, but changing the historic name to a highly contested and horrific historical figure is not acceptable.

I request that the augmented Electoral Commission RETAIN the name of the Electorate of Franklin.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Blyth Burleigh

[REDACTED]

GEILSTON BAY 7015

Franklin Electorate

19th July, 2026