



Submission FOB197

Martin Luther

From: [REDACTED]
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Luther, Martin - Redistribution TAS - Submission on the proposed Tasmanian redistribution (feedback)

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Submission on the proposed Tasmanian redistribution details

Category: Names
Details: Talks of wrong name change and AEC drift to the political left.

Proposal to change the name of the Franklin Electorate

The argument presented for change is very weak and makes me suspicious on how and why this change was mooted.

For historical reasons the Franklin name should be retained.

Celebrating Tongerlongeter means celebrating the murder of settlers including women and children. This sort of behaviour would not be acceptable as the basis for an electorate name in anybody other than an Aboriginal. It is unacceptable in any context.

From the practical point of view, Tongerlongeter is a challenging name for the majority of Tasmanians to say and spell. It is important to consider that the name of an electorate is something that all people in the electorate should be familiar with and not be a challenging name to remember or pronounce.

The name is very long which will tend to increase printing and document costs. The Federal Government should not be increasing costs at a time of rising inflation!

We don't need more tokenism in recognition of Aboriginal people. We already have three flags and innumerable welcomes to country. We need to assist them with more practical things such as education and housing.

I urge you to retain the name Franklin for the electorate.

I am also concerned that this is part of a trend for the AEC to support left of centre causes. Politics is not just about party choices but also about perception. In my experience in the past couple of decades the perception of the AEC is that it is increasingly attached to left wing policies.

Some examples that lead to my perception.

1. In the "mediscare" election when Turnbull was PM. I provide AEC with photos and information on who had erected posters at polling booths with NO authorisation printed on them. The response from the AEC was patronising and rude. However later the AEC pursued a right of centre independent candidate for having authorisation in too small letters. One law for Labor and different law for the opposite political side!
2. Analysis by experts in the media after redistribution allocates which party has gained. Much too often the gain is for the political left. It is not even handed.
3. I note that your documentation all includes an aboriginal recognition statement. A leftist political habit. Something opposed by most on the political right.
4. This redistribution talks about an "augmented" commission. It is not clear what the means. Is it a sneaky way to give left of centre types a special say?

These are all small things but in terms of perception they add up. It is perhaps not surprising as the AEC is based in the Canberra bubble where both personal and work contacts will all be of the left.

The AEC needs to make stronger efforts to protect its identity as politically independent.

Martin Luther BSc, MBA

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Residence [REDACTED] in both the old and new franklin
electorates