



Submission FOB257

Edward B

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FedRedistribution - TAS](#)
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B, Edward - Redistribution TAS - Submission on the proposed Tasmanian redistribution (feedback)

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Submission on the proposed Tasmanian redistribution details

Category: Names

Details: I am writing to oppose the proposal to rename the reconfigured electorate of Franklin to Tongerlongeter.

Electorate names should provide continuity, stability and a lasting connection to Australia's history and geography. Long-established names develop public recognition over time and form part of our civic heritage. They should not be changed without a compelling and broadly supported reason and without extensive public consultation.

While recognising and honouring Aboriginal Australians is important, changing established electorate names is not the only, or necessarily the most appropriate, means of achieving it. Australia has many opportunities to recognise prominent Indigenous Australians without replacing historic electorate names that have long served their communities.

The proposed namesake is also a historically contentious figure. While Tongerlongeter is recognised as an important Aboriginal leader, he is also associated with a violent period in which colonial Tasmanians, including women and children, were killed. Whatever view one takes of those events, his legacy remains the subject of historical debate. A federal electorate name should be one that commands broad public acceptance rather than one that is likely to divide opinion and risk further inflaming "history wars" or "culture wars".

The existing electorate name has served the community well and reflects an enduring part of Tasmania's historical and geographic identity. Retaining established names also promotes continuity for voters and avoids unnecessary disruption.

For these reasons, I respectfully submit that the proposed name change should not proceed. The AEC should continue to exercise restraint in altering long-standing electorate names and reserve such changes for exceptional circumstances where there is a clear and compelling reason. Moreover, this process should be subject to extensive public consultation. In this case, the AEC has not adequately articulated why it believes the name Franklin is no longer suitable or valid. Nor has it adequately explained why it has selected Tongerlongeter and Tongerlongeter only as the proposed new name. No other names were proposed and the public consultation process has been very limited. On this basis, I would recommend that the AEC re-examines its processes.
