



Submission FOB62

Anonymous 19

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FedRedistribution - TAS](#)
Subject: [Redistribution TAS - Submission] *WWW* [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 17 July 2026 12:47:43 AM
Attachments: [\[Redistribution\]-Feedback--.docx](#)

[REDACTED]

Form submitted: 17/07/2026 12:47 AM

, - Redistribution TAS - Submission on the proposed Tasmanian redistribution (feedback)

Personal details

First name:

Surname:

Email: [REDACTED]

Submission on the proposed Tasmanian redistribution details

Category:

Names

Details:

Opposition to changing the federal electorate of Franklin to Tongerlongeter based on historical killings of civilians by the Oyster Bay war parties that occurred during the Black War.

Submission Regarding the Proposed Renaming of the Division of Franklin to Tongerlongeter

I wish to object to the proposal to rename the Division of Franklin to Tongerlongeter.

I acknowledge that Tongerlongeter was an important historical figure and that historians recognise his leadership during the Black War. However, I believe the proposal presents only one aspect of his historical legacy.

Historical evidence also shows that the war parties led by Tongerlongeter and allied Aboriginal groups carried out numerous attacks on colonial settlements during the Black War and killed civilians in their actions. Historian Nicholas Clements estimates that approximately 219 European colonists were killed during the conflict, with many of the deadliest attacks occurring during the escalation of the war between 1828 and 1830. These attacks included the deaths of European men, women and children, as well as the burning of huts and crops and the theft of livestock and supplies.

Historical reports published in *The Hobart Town Courier* and *The Tasmanian* describe attacks attributed to Oyster Bay war parties, including the deaths of Anne Geary, Mrs Gough and four-year-old Alicia Gough. The reports state that Anne Geary was killed with axe and spear wounds after seeking assistance from the Gough family. Mrs. Gough later died after being speared, while her daughter Alicia was killed after being struck with a waddy. Two other young Gough children also suffered injuries during the attack.

Contemporary newspaper reports also describe the death of the young boy John Langford, who died after receiving multiple spear wounds during an attack on his family's farm. His mother and sister were also wounded but survived. The Colonial Frontier Massacres project at the University of Newcastle identifies the attackers as an Oyster Bay war party, possibly led by Tongerlongeter.

I recognise that the Black War was a tragic and violent conflict in which both Aboriginal Tasmanians and European colonists suffered greatly. My objection is not to acknowledging Aboriginal history or the impact of colonisation. Rather, it is that the proposed name commemorates an individual whose leadership is historically associated with campaigns that resulted in the deaths of civilians, including women and children.

Public place names are intended to honour individuals whose legacy is considered appropriate for broad civic recognition. While Tongerlongeter is unquestionably an important figure in Tasmanian history, I do not believe that naming a federal electorate after him appropriately reflects the inclusive and unifying purpose of electoral divisions. In my view, the Commission should give greater weight to the full historical record, including the documented violence committed by the war parties under his leadership.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the augmented Electoral Commission reject the proposal to rename the Division of Franklin to Tongerlongeter and instead retain the existing name or consider an alternative that does not carry the same level of historical controversy.

References

Nicholas Clements, *The Black War: Fear, Sex and Resistance in Tasmania* (2014).

The Hobart Town Courier (1828), reports concerning the deaths of Anne Geary and the Gough family. <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/4220434>

The Tasmanian (1828), reports concerning the death of John Langford.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/233095851/25173660>

University of Newcastle (2024), Colonial Frontier Massacres Project, Oyster Bay war parties.
<https://c21ch.newcastle.edu.au/colonialmassacres/detail.php?r=471>