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Submission FOB66

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

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Submission on the proposed Tasmanian redistribution details

Category: Names

Details: I oppose renaming the Division of Franklin. This is one of the original electorates from federation, and one of the Commission's guidelines is that these names should be retained. This is a sensible guideline as it preserves a historical continuity with the first Parliament, and even more so in this case as Tasmania has always had five federal electorates. It's also the Commission's established policy not to change names without a very good reason. No reasons have been put forward for changing this one. In fact, there are very good reasons for retaining the name of Franklin. Governor Franklin was an important figure in Tasmanian history, who made significant contributions to the development of the colony, and was also a pioneering explorer. His wife, Lady Franklin, was a great philanthropist whose efforts helped to establish Tasmania's first museum and university. On the other hand, little is known about the man the Commission proposes to rename the electorate after. Tongerlongeter no doubt loved his land, but was he an 'Australian' who 'rendered outstanding service' to his country? He was a resistance fighter who fought against the colony that became Tasmania, which in turn became an original state at Federation. Would he have considered himself Australian? Would he be happy to lend his name to a colonial project he fiercely resisted? These are important questions, and equally important is this question: is it wise to name an electorate after a warrior who there are good reasons to suspect was involved in the killing of unarmed women and children? If Franklin must be renamed, can the Commission not find draw another more suitable name

from the long history of this island?
