



Submission FOB92

A descendant of transported Celtanglian
convict slaves

From: [REDACTED]
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Celtanglian convinct slaves, A descendant of transported - Redistribution TAS - Submission on the proposed Tasmanian redistribution (feedback)

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Submission on the proposed Tasmanian redistribution details

Category: Names
Details:

OPEN LETTER TO THE TASMANIAN REDISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

Jeff Pope APM - Australian Electoral Commissioner

Hannah Brown - Australian Electoral Officer for Tasmania

Matthew Reid - Surveyor-General of Tasmania

Scott Strong - Deputy Surveyor-General of Tasmania

Martin Thompson - Auditor-General of Tasmania

Re: Proposed renaming of the Division of Franklin

I note the committee's decision to strike down the name of Sir John Franklin, a colonial governor who represented the Crown's oppression of both the Aboriginal peoples and the Celtanglian convict slaves transported to this island.

However, I encourage the committee to go further. If you are truly committed to honouring resistance against colonial authority, rename the electorate to Brady, in honour of Matthew Brady, the true Governor of Van Diemen's Land. Unlike Tongerlongeter, Brady is a name from a living language spoken by a living community - the very Celtanglian descendants who were transported here as convict slaves and whose descendants still inhabit this island today.

While Franklin was a functionary of the British Empire, Brady was a man who declared himself Governor of this colony in 1825, capturing the town of Sorell and issuing proclamations from the magistrate's own home. For a brief period, he was the de facto ruler of the island. He was an Irish convict slave who refused to bow. He was executed for his rebellion, hanged in Hobart in 1826.

If the committee is serious about decolonisation, it should recognise the bushrangers who fought alongside Aboriginal people against a common enemy. The Crown was the enemy of both. The bush was the refuge of both. It is a sanitised and selective history that elevates one resistor while erasing another.

I also ask the committee to consider this. As reported by The Noticer in its coverage of this proposal, Tongerlongeter is celebrated for leading attacks against settlers. Those attacks included the killing of women and children and the infliction of grievous bodily injury. By today's legal definitions, this is terrorism. Under the Commonwealth Criminal Code, an act that causes serious harm to persons, is done with the intention of advancing a political or ideological cause, and is intended to intimidate the public or a segment of it, is defined as a terrorist act. Tongerlongeter's campaign fits that definition as clearly as any modern case. The committee proposes to honour him with an electoral division.

Further, each of you sits on this committee as an officer of the Crown, bound by oath to serve the Crown and its laws. You have sworn allegiance to the very institution that Tongerlongeter fought against with violence against civilians. The committee is now proposing to honour a man who waged war against the Crown and its subjects, while you yourselves are sworn servants of that same Crown. The inconsistency is not just moral. It is constitutional.

I ask each of you to imagine, for a moment, that someone clubbed, hacked, and stabbed your family to death or to the point of grievous bodily injury. Would you then support naming an electorate after that person? This is not a threat. It is a simple question of perspective. The committee is asking the descendants of those victims to accept this name as an act of reconciliation. That is not reconciliation. It is a demand to honour the man who murdered or maimed their ancestors.

I note that the committee has also proposed the name of Jessie Spink Rooke, a prominent Tasmanian suffragist, and Woureddy, an Aboriginal warrior, for other divisions. The contradiction is staggering. Jessie Spink Rooke dedicated her life to securing equality and protection for women under the law. Tongerlongeter and Woureddy both led attacks that killed women and children without discrimination. By the committee's own logic, Tongerlongeter demonstrated a brutal form of equality that the suffragists could only dream of. He did not discriminate. He killed everyone.

I also note that the name Tongerlongeter comes from a dead language. The Oyster Bay dialect of the Eastern Tasmanian language family has no living speakers. The last fluent speaker of any Tasmanian Aboriginal language died in 1905. The committee is honouring a name from a language no one speaks, chosen by a committee of bureaucrats with no genuine community consultation. This is not cultural revival. It is administrative theatre and the continued perpetration of oppression dressed up as reconciliation.

I note that the committee would likely never accept "Brady" as a name, on the grounds that Brady was a convicted criminal. But that is precisely the point: the powers that be will honour resistance only when it is safely dead, pacified, and approved by the establishment. Tongerlongeter is acceptable because he is distant and uncontroversial. Brady is unacceptable because he represents the kind of rebellion that still threatens the order.

I urge the committee to either:

1. Rename the electorate to Brady in honour of the true Governor of Van Diemen's Land, a name from a living language spoken by a living community and a man who represents the ongoing resistance of that community, or
2. Abandon the renaming entirely and leave Franklin as a reminder of the colonial oppression that both Aboriginal and Celtanglian peoples have suffered and continue to suffer, have resisted and continue to resist.

With all due contempt,



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