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Submission OB92

Voices of Tasmania



Subject: FW: ECCI0098451 - Voices of Tasmania network: Redistribution Submission – Clarke/Franklin Electorates"

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Subject: [Redacted] Voices of Tasmania network: Redistribution Submission – Clarke/Franklin Electorates" [Redacted]

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AEC Electoral redistribution:Clarke /Franklin.

V1. 4

Review of AEC proposed boundary changes to Franklin and Clarke Electorates V. 1.4

..
Voices of Tasmania Community Connections.

Submission on:
Draft Clarke/Franklin Boundary Change

We contend that the TEC proposal, whilst meeting TEC population goals, also needs.

- A) to meet balanced representational goals, and
- B) have names with relative symbolic meaning.

..
To do this we revisit the purpose of electorate design?

A) If we look at the TEC draft proposals holistically, or epistemically, as they say in philosophy, an electorate represents an ecologically situated human population of diverse systems of thinking.

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Ideally, our electorate elects Members of Parliament who actually represent them faithfully..... Which we believe is implied goal of parliamentary democracy... in practice unreliable, however that is another discussion.

..

For an electorate to best understand its perpetual needs in a complex environment, a wide range of perspectives is desirable. Parties having long failed in this task.

Each individual's view is formed by their historical and existential relationship with the country they inhabit. Views shaped by family and community culture, education, and the extent of their life relationship with it.

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This cultural richness and diversity allow the members of the electorate, through multilayered conversations.... over time, to develop a proportionally and comprehensive view of their social ecosystem; their relationship with their country, in all its ecological biodiversity and complexity; science telling us this is necessary for this social ecosystem's flourishing and resilience in the long term.

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In this perpetual view, a people and their country and land are indivisible; a social ecosystem.

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Therefore, to design an electorate for ecological sustainability, one factor is preeminent: its human ontological diversity; its diversity of perspectives on reality.

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The next most pertinent factor is the quality of the conversations that deliver this fuller ontological capability, both perpetually..... and existentially in the moment of an election.

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From this, we understand the necessity of demographic diversity and balance.

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This is significant given the tendency of urban electorates to be alienated from the countryside, by their nature of a more inward daily focus, a significant rural component is vital to sustain balance.

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The expansion of Franklin to include Clark improves this ontological balance, in its case. Moving Clarke has little practical cultural symbolic significance to its new electors. All being poorly served by previous boundaries.

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Why Franklin should remain anchored in the South East: A significant factor in naming is the historical symbolism of the people they are named after. The historical significance of the Franklin family, as environmentally engaged early governors of Tasmania, should not be lost. It's mix of wild hinterland, small rural holdings and coastal communities, shapes a strong environmental awareness.

..

The village of Franklin is a significant part of Franklin's identity, as is Franklin square and the Franklin Gallery in Lenah Valley.

B) The proposal here is that Franklin should expand to include what was Clark, and Clark should move to the Eastern Shore and South East. The ideosyncratic historical Governor John and Jane Franklin family, provide historical depth to that.

This is contrary to the TEC draft proposal, which shifts Franklin, found here:

"Tasmanian draft redistribution - The Poll

Bludger <https://share.google/YcWhRARuAXAstIJ6>"

In summary and the Voices of Tasmania Community Connections submission in favour of moving Clark to the South Eastern Shore and coast, both new boundaries provide more balanced, internally communicable, and ecologically grounded electorates. Concepts that articulate the Hare-Clark mission of improved democratic representation. (All though their voting perspective, was geographically abstracted)... which make the name shift less problematic symbolically for Clark.

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Keeping Franklin anchored honours its electorates deep and progressive culture and relationship with the environment.

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Footnotes:

Tasmanian Governor Franklin families significance to Tasmanias history, 200w

Sir John Franklin served as Lieutenant-Governor of Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) from 1837 to 1843, profoundly shaping the colony's cultural and educational landscape alongside his wife, Lady Jane Franklin [1][3]. He founded Tasmania's state primary education system, established the Tasmanian Natural History Society (later the Royal Society of Tasmania), and subsidized scientific publications like the *Tasmanian Journal of Natural History*, elevating Hobart as an intellectual hub among Australian colonies [4][5].

Lady Jane was equally influential, promoting science, literature, and exploration; she built Ancanthe—a classical temple with native gardens in Lenah Valley—and championed a museum while adopting an Aboriginal girl, Mathinna, amid colonial tensions [2][7]. In 1838, she purchased land in the Huon Valley, subdividing it into small farms for struggling settlers, fostering the settlement renamed Franklin in 1850, which became the region's oldest township and economic center for timber, apples, and boatbuilding [1][2].

Their progressive reforms faced backlash from the "Arthur Faction" and economic woes, leading to Sir John's recall in 1843, yet they left enduring legacies in education, science, and Huon Valley development—honored by monuments and place names [3][7]. (198 words)

Citations:

[1] Franklin, Tasmania https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franklin,_Tasmania

[2] Franklin, Tasmania <https://www.ourtasmania.com.au/hobart/franklin.html>

[3] Tasmania Reads: Sir John Franklin and his Expedition of 1845 (Part ... <https://libraries.tas.gov.au/slat/blog/tasmania-reads-sir-john-franklin-and-his-expedition-of-1845-part-two-the-answer-and-historical-background/>

[4] John and Lady Franklin - Australian National Botanic

Gardens <https://www.anbg.gov.au/biography/franklin-biography.html>

[5] Sir John Franklin - Australian Dictionary of

Biography <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/franklin-sir-john-2066>

[6] Sir John Franklin, Artic Explorer, Governor of Tasmania -

YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E1CFy2yR3o4>

[7] John and Jane

Franklin https://www.utas.edu.au/library/companion_to_tasmanian_history/F/John%20and%20Jane%20Franklin.htm

[8] Franklin Papers - sparcs - University of

Tasmania <https://sparcs.utas.edu.au/index.php/franklin-papers>

[9] Franklin House <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/places/franklin-house-3/>

[10] Who's who in the Franklin expedition - Wrecks of HMS Erebus and

... <https://parks.canada.ca/lhn-nhs/nu/epaveswrecks/culture/histoire-history/qui-who>"

Revised Franklin Family History

Sir John Franklin, Lieutenant-Governor of Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) from 1837 to 1843, and his wife Lady Jane Franklin left an indelible mark on the colony's intellectual and environmental fabric. John established Tasmania's first state-funded primary education system, founded the Tasmanian Natural History Society (evolving into the Royal Society of Tasmania), and supported key scientific journals, positioning Hobart as a colonial center for learning and discovery.[1][2]

Lady Jane championed botanical exploration, women's education, and cultural institutions; she commissioned Ancanthe Park in Lenah Valley—a neoclassical museum-temple showcasing native flora—and advocated for a public museum while fostering ties with Indigenous communities by adopting orphaned Palawa girl Mathinna. In 1838, she acquired Huon Valley estates, subdividing them into viable smallholdings for impoverished settlers, birthing the village of Franklin (named in 1861), now a hub for sustainable timber, orcharding, and maritime heritage reflective of their progressive land stewardship.[3][4][5]

Their environmentally attuned reforms—prioritizing science, conservation, and equitable settlement—clashed with conservative elites like the Arthur faction, prompting John's 1843 recall amid economic strife. Yet legacies endure: Franklin electorate embodies their Huon wilds-to-coast ethos, fostering eco-aware communities; sites like Franklin House, Franklin Square, and Lenah Valley's Franklin Gallery symbolize this enduring bond between people, land, and progressive governance.[6][7] (212 words)

Hare-Clark Symbolic Significance

The Hare-Clark system, Tasmania's proportional representation method using the single transferable vote (STV), honors Thomas Hare's 1857 voting reforms and Andrew Inglis Clark—Tasmanian Attorney-General (1886–1897)—who embedded it in the state's 1907 electoral act, pioneering fairer democracy worldwide.[5]

Symbolically, Hare-Clark represents ontological diversity in representation: multi-member electorates ensure broader perspectives, mirroring Tasmania's social-ecological complexity. Clark, a republican federalist and drafter of Australia's Constitution, envisioned electorates as balanced ecosystems of urban-rural views, countering urban insularity with countryside voices for resilient policy-making—

essential for environmental flourishing.[2]

In summary:

In the TEC redistribution, relocating "Clark" to the Eastern Shore/South East honors this: abstracting from geography allows fluid boundaries while retaining Hare-Clark's mission of communicable diversity.

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Conversely, anchoring Franklin celebrates the Franklins' tangible environmental legacy—Huon biodiversity stewardship—enhancing electorate identity without diluting representational balance.[3]

TEC Boundary Rationale

AEC's draft merges rural Clark fringes into expanded Franklin, achieving numeric quotas but risking symbolic dilution.[3]

by contrast

Voices of Tasmania proposes inverting: expand Franklin southward (retaining Huon core for Franklin symbolism) while shifting Clark to Eastern Shore/coastal zones, yielding ecologically grounded, conversation-rich electorates.

This honors Franklin's progressive history and Hare-Clark's diversity ethos, bridging urban existential focus with rural land ties for sustainable democracy. (248 words total expansion)

| Aspect | Current TEC Draft | Proposed Adjustment |

|-----|-----|-----|

| **Franklin** | Shifts inland, dilutes Huon eco-identity | Anchors SE/Huon; absorbs Clark rural for balance [3] |

| **Clark** | Retains abstract geography | Moves to Eastern Shore; fits Hare-Clark fluidity [5] |

| **Diversity Gain** | Moderate urban-rural mix | Enhanced ontological resilience via eco-cultural ties

Citations:

[1] John and Lady Franklin - Australian National Botanic

Gardens <https://www.anbg.gov.au/biography/franklin-biography.html>

[2] Sir John Franklin - Australian Dictionary of

Biography <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/franklin-sir-john-2066>

[3] Franklin, Tasmania https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franklin,_Tasmania

[4] Franklin, Tasmania <https://www.ourtasmania.com.au/hobart/franklin.html>

[5] John and Jane

Franklin https://www.utas.edu.au/library/companion_to_tasmanian_history/F/John%20and%20Jane%20Franklin.htm

[6] Tasmania Reads: Sir John Franklin and his Expedition of 1845 (Part

... <https://libraries.tas.gov.au/slat/blog/tasmania-reads-sir-john-franklin-and-his-expedition-of-1845-part-two-the-answer-and-historical-background/>

[7] Franklin House <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/places/franklin-house-3/>

Re Aboriginal naming of electorates: Parliamentary democracy emerged in Europe and is part of its heritage. The circumstances of its emergence must never be

forgotten, crucially the balance of power between the titular head of state and the parliament, whereby the titular leader only authorises leaders who have been elected by due process. As reserve leader of the defence force, he can ensure only those that submit to due process can request Commission to govern.

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No similar processes existed in Aboriginal lore.

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Because of the material limitations of their culture, and protection of isolation, the first people never needed to collaborate at scale materially.

..

The great strength of their culture, their existential indivisibility from birth country, gave them an extraordinary capacity to care for country. Not perfect, as the extinction of the megafauna attests (the last straw).

..

What is clear, we must deal with the world as we find it, adopting the best from all cultures, to ensure humans persist in dignity on this planet.

..

Tokenism (cultural symbols not grounded in lived experience) is as dangerous as religions not grounded in proven lived experience.

..

The guilt of our predecessors. is not ours, our duty is to seek the truth of, acknowledge their crimes; not to assume or exploit the inherited privileges of ill-gotten capital (of all sorts, natural, social or monetary); And if unwittingly inherited, to use with humility to create a better world for all our living community on earth.

..

Navigating this sensitive cultural space with grace, does need critical awareness of the many dark forces, personal and social that seek to disrupt our search for a visionary story that reconnects us with care of each other and our country.

..

Custodianship should be a privilege granted by peer and elder collaboration (as proven by Aboriginal culture, but never having to be delegated, because their scope of operations was limited by technology and needs).

..

The monetary system broke the knowledge system of country, long before people understood the ecological consequences of the way it alienated them from from understanding the needs of country.

..

However, if the electors restore parliament to representing their newly informed needs... Not the needs of an abstracted monetary system, this schism is not beyond healing.

...

Through the electors Parliament, reasserting the monetary subsystem as a tool of society, not a master. Removing its corrupting influences from Parliamentary decision making.

..

Hence the importance of a parliamentary system that can clearly see the world through the lens of Ecological Economics and enabling philosophical lenses. This is the mission of proactive electors who want a flourishing future.

..

It is also the mission: both educational, inspirational and facilitative, of the

Australian "Voices of" movement and community Independents MP supporters to assist electors to develop those well informed judgements.

[Review AEC Electoral redistribution-Clarke -](#)

