



**THE FEDERAL  
REDISTRIBUTION  
TASMANIA**

# Submission OB93

Tasmanian Labor



26 March 2026

via email: [fedredistribution-tas@aec.gov.au](mailto:fedredistribution-tas@aec.gov.au)

Dear Commissioner,

**Round 2: Feedback Ideas on the proposed redistribution by the Australian Labor Party (Tasmanian Branch) to the Redistribution Committee for Tasmania, 2025–26**

Tasmanian Labor thanks the Redistribution Committee for their work so far and is pleased to respond to the Committee's proposal for the redistribution of Tasmania.

**Summary**

We recognise and support the committee's decision to address the long-standing non-contiguity of Franklin and the Committee's proposed redistribution, and commend the committee for progressing a long-standing issue in a considered manner.

We note that any redistribution, particularly one of this kind, inevitably requires balancing competing considerations, and we are confident that the committee's process provides an appropriate framework for considering these matters.

We note that the Committee encouraged submissions on the name of the Federal Electorate of Franklin and it is Tasmanian Labor's submission that retaining the name Franklin is both appropriate and necessary because the AEC's naming guidelines create a strong presumption against renaming original federation divisions and the scale of boundary change does not justify a name change.

**The Guidelines Create a Clear Presumption Against Renaming**

The Guidelines for Naming Federal Electoral Divisions contain two provisions that are directly relevant to Franklin.

*“Every effort should be made to retain the names of original federation divisions.”<sup>1</sup>*

Franklin was created in October 1903 as one of five Tasmanian divisions. It has been continuously represented for over 120 years.

It is Tasmanian Labor’s view that in a Tasmanian context federation division should refer to the five Tasmanian divisions created before the second federal election in 1903. Therefore under this broader and widely accepted reading, Franklin qualifies as a federation electorate.

*“Names of divisions should not be changed or transferred to new areas without very strong reasons.”<sup>2</sup>*

A name change should not be pursued simply because boundaries have shifted. It should be pursued when both the case for change and the proposed replacement is strong. Neither threshold has been met here.

### **Boundary Change Does Not Compel a Name Change**

The Committee's invitation to suggest alternative names appears to rest on the scale of the boundary changes. Under the proposed redistribution, 55.5% of the new Franklin's electors come from the existing Franklin, with the remainder transferred from Lyons.

According to the Guidelines for Naming Federal Electoral Divisions:

*“When two or more divisions are partially combined, as far as possible the name of the new division should be that of the old division which had the greatest number of electors within the new boundaries.”<sup>3</sup>*

A majority of electors in the new Franklin come from the existing Franklin.

Additionally, the electorate's core population base on Hobart's Eastern Shore has consistently formed the heart of the division and remains central under the proposed boundaries. The redistribution adjusts outer areas but does not alter the fundamental community of interest that has long defined Franklin. This is not a case where a division's identity has been subsumed by transfers from another electorate; it is a case where the centre holds and the margins have been redrawn.

We note that the town of Franklin would fall within Clark, not Franklin, under the proposed boundaries. This is an anomaly but not a new one. For example the

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<sup>1</sup> Australian Electoral Commission, ‘Guidelines for naming federal electoral divisions’ Australian Electoral Commission (Guidelines, 24 February 2022)

<<https://www.aec.gov.au/electorates/redistributions/guidelines.htm>>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

locality of Cowper falls within the Electoral Division of Page in NSW not the Division of Cowper. The location of a town does not undermine the case for the electorate's name.

In conclusion, the case for renaming Franklin lacks compelling justification as it is an original federation division that despite significant boundary changes does not meet the guidelines' threshold for renaming. The Committee should retain the Electorate name Franklin.

On behalf of Tasmanian Labor, I thank the Committee for their consideration and remain available to provide any additional information or clarification the Committee may require.

Kind regards



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