



THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
TASMANIA

Submission OB82

James Pratt

Ideas on the proposed redistribution

Support for Committee's redistribution report

I write to express my support the Committee's proposal for the redistribution of Tasmanian federal electorates. While there are some issues with the proposed changes, I acknowledge that such challenges are inevitable in a state like Tasmania, given its unique population distribution.

My primary concern relates to the inclusion of Glenorchy within the Division of Lyons. In my view, Glenorchy shares limited social, economic, and geographic commonality with the broaden Lyons electorate. However, I recognise that there may be no practical alternative that would reassign Glenorchy to another Hobart-based electorate without creating further imbalances.

Naming of electorates

In terms of electorate names, I support retaining the names Braddon, Lyons, and Clark. These names honour significant figurers in Tasmanian and Australian history, a Founding Father of federation, Tasmania's sole Prime Minister, and the co-architect of the Hare-Clark electoral system.

However, I propose that, Franklin be renamed. The current name commemorates, Sir John Franklin, a colonial-era governor of Van Diemens Land whose connection to Tasmania was relatively brief, and whose broader life was largely focused elsewhere. In my view, there is an opportunity to adopt a name that more meaningfully reflects Tasmania's history and heritage.

Electoral division of Tongelongeter

I propose that the electorate of Franklin be renamed after Tongelongeter, a leader of the Oyster Bay Nation. The proposed boundaries of Franklin broadly align with the geographic extent of Oyster Bay Country, making this a particularly appropriate recognition. Naming the electorate after Tongelongeter would honour a significant Oyster Bay First Nations leader and acknowledge the history of resistance and survival during the period of colonisation in Tasmania.

There is strong precedent for naming electorates after Indigenous leaders, including the divisions of Bennelong, Nicholls, Jagajaga, Lingiari, Cooper, Canning, Bonner and Blair. Tongelongeters life and legacy are well documented including in the work *Tongerlongeter: First Nations Leader and Tasmanian War Hero* which is an extensive biography of Tongerlongeter written by historians Henry Reynolds and Nicholas Clements in 202. The book highlights Tongerlongeter's leadership and historical significance as a warrior, leader and resistance fighter.

While alternative Indigenous names for the division of Franklin such as “Paredarerme” have been suggested, I believe these may present challenges due to variations in spelling and interpretation. In contrast, naming the electorate after a clearly identified historical figure would provide greater clarity and avoid potential confusion.

With respect to the Division of Bass, I do not have a specific alternative to propose. However, I encourage the Committee to consider whether a renaming may be appropriate, particularly to recognise an individual from the post-Federation period or to incorporate an Indigenous name.

Overall, I support the redistribution and encourage the Committee to consider renaming the division of Franklin to the division of Tongerlongeter

James Pratt