



THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
TASMANIA

Submission OB86

Darren McSweeney

Objection Redistribution of Commonwealth Electoral Divisions

Darren McSweeney



Tasmania 2025

This Public Objection was lodged 27 March 2026 by
Darren McSweeney
an Australian Citizen, resident of Victoria, and member of the Australian Public Service.
<http://divs.au>

I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands throughout Australia on which these federal divisions are drawn and pay my respects to their Elders, past and present.

Every effort has been made to ensure data and calculations in this submission are accurate, however unintended errors or omissions of data or calculations still may occur. The author has not attempted to mislead readers by way of errors or omissions in the data presented herein.

References and data sources

Cover photograph for illustration may have been cropped or resized from the original image and is used under [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 2.5 Generic](#) licence.

Political disclaimer

The views, opinions, arguments and recommendations presented in this Objection to the redistribution of electoral divisions of Tasmania are my own and in no way reflect the views of my employer Services Australia, the Australian Public Service or the Australian Government.

My right to hold and express views as an Australian Citizen is [protected under Australian law](#).

Exercising this right to participate in public and political debate by lodging this public Objection in no way affects my capacity to fulfill my duties in a professional, impartial, and apolitical manner.

This submission complies with conditions of employment in the Australian Public Service (APS) in accordance with the *Public Service Act 1999*, the [APS Values, Code of Conduct and Employment Principles](#), Services Australia's [Social Media Policy for agency staff](#), and [Social media: Guidance for Australian Public Service Employees and Agencies](#)

I hold no interest in, and do not stand to receive any benefit or advantage resulting from the outcome of this redistribution. I have written this Objection as a private citizen taking a personal interest in psephology and the electoral redistribution process. I am not now, nor at any time in the past been a member of any political party or similar associated organisation.

This Objection is lodged claiming political neutrality. No political bias or partiality is implied within this submission and none should be inferred. This submission is lodged in accordance with [guidelines for making public submissions to a redistribution](#). The political implications – if any – of the recommendations have not formed part of the recommendation and should not be inferred.

Division names – including any suggested new names– comply with [guidelines for naming federal electoral divisions](#). Suggested names are based on the individual's merit and contribution to Australian society, and do not imply any political bias towards the eponymous persons. Proposals to abolish or rename a division – if any – do not reflect the performance or character of the current member of Parliament representing that division or, unless specified, the eponymous person.

Criticism of submissions or decisions taken as part of this redistribution is based solely on the merit of the arguments and recommendations presented therein and serves solely to improve electoral representation for the people of Tasmania. It is not in any way a reflection upon the character or abilities of any individual, government entity, community group, or organisation participating in this process, nor any member of a Redistribution Committee, augmented Electoral Commission, any other member of the Australian Electoral Commission, Australian Public Service, any other Australian Government entity, agency, department or any current or past member of Parliament.

Contents

Introduction..... 5

Analysis of proposed divisions 6

 Methodology..... 6

 Bass..... 7

 Braddon..... 7

 Clark..... 7

 Franklin..... 8

 Lyons..... 8

Suggested division names for Franklin..... 9

 The case for renaming Franklin 9

 List of suggested names for the division..... 10

 Proposal for the Division of Davis 17

Introduction

I went into this proposal with the expectation that we'd see a minor change in division boundaries to meet the numerical threshold, a small change here, a slight movement there, **LYONS** continuing to be division comprised of all the left over bits that didn't fit into the other divisions, and a **FRANKLIN** that continued to be split across the Derwent and Storm Bay.

Therefore, I was pleasantly surprised to see that the Committee made a real effort to accommodate genuine divisions that met the criteria in section 66 of the Electoral Act. Creating a new **FRANKLIN** entirely east of the Derwent was not something I expected, but the solution, for the most part is quite elegant and works well to serve the communities of the eastern part of the state.

The only minor concern I have is that the switch to Glenorchy LGA into **LYONS** is mostly disconnected from the remainder of the division, with all of Brighton LGA being included in **FRANKLIN**. However, looking at the enrolment data again, I couldn't find any alternative solutions that were any better. So, in that regard I am not proposing any changes to the division boundaries proposed by the Committee. I will provide an analysis and assessment of the proposed divisions, based on their adherence to section 66(3)(b) of the Electoral Act.

The main part of this objection is to lead the Augmented Committee to an acceptable name for the new **FRANKLIN** division. As the Committee noted, the arguments, mine included, to rename **FRANKLIN** were convincing. However, as the Committee were not satisfied with any of the alternative names suggested, I have pored over biographical details of potential candidates and present a list of names and a final recommendation for the Committee to consider.

Analysis of proposed divisions

Methodology

I have assessed each proposed division, and subjectively scored against the criteria outlined in the Electoral Act:

- i. community of interests within the proposed electoral division, including economic, social and regional interests,
- ii. means of communication and travel within the proposed electoral division,
- iv. the physical features of the area of the proposed electoral division, and
- v. the boundaries of the existing electoral divisions in Tasmania, with this factor being subordinate to the consideration of i, ii and iv.

When assessing the proposed division against the criteria, I am specifically looking for the following:

Criterion i: I am looking at whether the proposed division includes suburbs and neighbourhoods, whether there are isolated parts of suburbs excluded from the division, or a section of a suburb is included and isolated from the remainder of the suburb in another division.

Criterion ii: Whether there is sufficient means of effective travel and lines that make sense and allows both the elected member and electors to travel to other communities within the division. In large rural divisions, electors may be widely dispersed, however they should be able to travel along corridors to reach other communities.

Criterion iv: Assessment includes if the proposed division follows natural contours and barriers, such as rivers and mountains, as well as man-made barriers such as freeways, railways, or major highways. In addition, assessment includes whether some parts of the division are physically excluded or isolated by natural features. In cases where a community is physically isolated from any other communities (such as an island) this is not considered as important.

Criterion v: In many cases, the existing boundaries are useful indicators of community. Long established and unchanged boundaries could be indicators of a clear divide in community. However, the time can come where certain boundaries must be breached. A reliance on an existing boundary to the detriment of, or at the expense of, the other criteria will be scored lower.

Additionally, an elongated or twisted division is susceptible to accusations of gerrymandering and perceptions that the division may have been drawn in such a manner to deliberately include or exclude certain communities. I will assess this as a general aesthetic and cohesiveness criteria.

Bass

Community of interests	5
Means of communication	5
Physical features	4
Reliance on existing boundaries	4
General appearance and cohesiveness	5
Overall assessment	23

Only one minor change has been made to **BASS**, and that is gaining the remainder of the Prospect Vale area from **LYONS**. This change was straightforward and most submissions dealing with **BASS** put forward this suggestion. I recall this being also a suggestion from the 2017 redistribution.

Braddon

Community of interests	4
Means of communication	5
Physical features	5
Reliance on existing boundaries	4
General appearance and cohesiveness	5
Overall assessment	23

The only issue with **BRADDON** is that Kentish LGA probably fits better in **BRADDON** rather than in **LYONS**. But with no numerical need to change this division, and the rest of the division being cohesive, I think no changes here is the right approach.

Clark

Community of interests	4
Means of communication	5
Physical features	5
Reliance on existing boundaries	4
General appearance and cohesiveness	4
Overall assessment	22

While the proposed changes considerably expand the size of **CLARK** and add areas not traditionally part of the Hobart division, this is the right approach. Combining Huon Valley and Kingborough LGAs with Hobart, at the expense of Glenorchy turns **CLARK** from an entirely urban division into a mixed rural and urban division. However, in terms of Tasmania, this is less important, and avoids the most glaring issue within Tasmania's divisions.

Franklin

Community of interests	5
Means of communication	5
Physical features	4
Reliance on existing boundaries	5
General appearance and cohesiveness	4
Overall assessment	23

The proposed **FRANKLIN** is a significantly improvement on the currently split division. The only time in history when **FRANKLIN** was a single cohesive division was from 1977 until 1992, when it only contained the southern Huon Valley and Kingborough regions.

Otherwise, **FRANKLIN** had been bisected by a Hobart-based division, initially from 1903 until 1977 and then, since 1992. The proposed changes to extend **FRANKLIN** eastward to the coast taking in Tasman, Sorell and Glamorgan-Spring Bay LGAs also has the twofold effect of making **LYONS** more compact and cohesive.

As the Committee noted, the significant changes to this division certainly lend themselves to a rename and I shall propose changing the division name.

Lyons

Community of interests	5
Means of communication	3
Physical features	4
Reliance on existing boundaries	5
General appearance and cohesiveness	4
Overall assessment	21

The significant changes to **FRANKLIN** have assisted creating a better **LYONS** too. **LYONS** has now become less a left over remains division after carving out the other divisions and more a central Tasmanian division. I could argue that Break O'Day LGA is probably the outlier here and probably should have been included in **FRANKLIN**. It's at least served by the A4 Esk Main Road, and less so by the B42 Storys Creek and Rossarden Roads. In the south, Glenorchy and New Norfolk are effectively cut off from the rest of the division by **FRANKLIN** taking in all of Brighton LGA and the Midland Highway. At least there are road connections via the A10 Lyell Highway, B110 Hollow Tree Road, and C615 Molesworth Road. I did investigate the possibility of swapping part of Breakwater and Brighton for Break O'Day but quickly came to the realisation that the numbers are not there to make this work in any coherent or natural way. Regardless, the improved **LYONS** is still better than in the past.

I propose that:

The boundaries for **BASS, BRADDON, CLARK, FRANKLIN, and LYONS** proposed by the Redistribution Committee be adopted without any further changes.

Suggested division names for Franklin

The case for renaming Franklin

The changes to **CLARK** and **FRANKLIN** are significant and extensive. In fact, as neither the divisions of **CLARK** nor **FRANKLIN** resemble their previous configuration at all, it could be argued that both would be candidates to be renamed.

Had the division of **CLARK** still been named **DENISON**, that's exactly how I would have argued. Ideally the reconfiguration of the divisions would have occurred together with a rename of both **DENISON** and **FRANKLIN**. But as we know, **DENISON** was renamed **CLARK** in 2017 without the argued necessary community of interests changes, and no substantive change was made to **FRANKLIN**.

But I think it is vital to retain the name **CLARK**. The namesake of the division, Andrew Inglis-Clark was a prominent founding father of Australia, key author of the Constitution and made a well-deserved and significant contribution to the Australia we know today. He is exactly the type of individual who should have a division named for him.

Rear Admiral Sir John Franklin, on the other hand, less so. I had already outlined my arguments to abolish the **FRANKLIN** name, and as the Committee report stated:

*"The Redistribution Committee noted that submissions proposing to rename **FRANKLIN** were persuasive. It also noted that Sir John Franklin is commemorated in many other ways, including in Tasmania, and that retiring the name would not diminish recognition of his contribution."*

I had provided three suggestions for division names to replace **FRANKLIN**. Regarding these (among suggestions from others), the Committee noted:

"... [The Committee] was not persuaded that the names proposed or otherwise considered by the Committee to date demonstrated sufficient connection to the reconfigured electorate."

I will note this is a departure from previous stances taken that divisions are not usually required to be named for individuals with direct connections to the geographic area or towns within the division. Indeed, most divisions named after prime ministers have a connection to the state only, and have little, if any, connection to the direct areas of the division.

Furthermore, the Augmented Committee noted in the Western Australia 2024 redistribution:

- *"the primary consideration in [the naming guidelines] is the extent of a person's contribution to the country as a whole,*
- *"there is no requirement in the guidelines that a person have a connection with the area covered by the electoral division named in their honour, and*
- *"in any event, a connection between an electoral division name and the electoral division itself may change over time, as boundaries shift over the course of redistributions."*

Therefore, I would suggest that a “demonstrated sufficient connection to the reconfigured electorate” is not a mandatory requirement. However, I acknowledge the Committee's desire to help the electors feel a greater affinity with their new division. Given the significance of the changes, with the nature of Tasmanian divisions, the likeliness of the division boundaries to remain relatively stable for some time, and the scarcity of divisions being renamed, I can accept that a division named for an individual with a local connection may be more readily accepted than naming the division after an academic or politician from Hobart or Launceston.

List of suggested names for the division

To assist the Committee in determining an appropriate name, I present the following list of individuals who have made a significant contribution to Australia with connections to Tasmania, if not the local areas of the proposed division.

Division name	Named for	Prominence	Local connection
CAMPBELL	Enid Mona Campbell, AC, OBE, FASSA	Constitutional lawyer, academic	None, from Launceston
CASIMATY	Bill Casimaty	Farmer, agriculturalist	Born in Sorell, lived in Richmond
CURTIS	Winifred Mary Curtis	Botanist	None, from Hobart
DAVIS	Neil Brian Davis	Combat cameraman	Raised and lived in Sorell
DOBSON	Emily Dobson	Philanthropist	Born in Port Arthur
GATTY	Harold Charles Gatty	Aviator, navigator, circumnavigation	None, from Campbell Town
GOODWIN	Vanessa Goodwin	Criminologist, politician	Lived and represented Pembroke electorate.
GREEN	Sir Guy Stephen Montague Green, AC, KBE, CVO	Judge, governor	None, from Launceston
HUXLEY	Sir Leonard George Holden Huxley KBE, FAA	Physician, academic	None, from Hobart
LONG	Arthur Leonard Long	Aviator	Born in Forcett
MILLER	Walter Geoffrey Thomas Miller AO	Diplomat	None, from Queenstown
SMITH	Fanny Cochrane Smith	Aboriginal Elder, performer	None, from Flinders Island, lived in Cygnet
WALKER	Jean Nellie Miles Walker RRC	Army nurse	None, from Port Sorell, Latrobe

Enid Mona Campbell¹², AC, OBE, FASSA

Enid Mona Campbell AC OBE FASSA (1932–2010) was a pre-eminent constitutional scholar and the first woman to be appointed a Professor of Law and a Law Faculty Dean in Australia. After graduating from the University of Tasmania and earning a PhD from Duke University, she returned to Hobart in 1959 as the first full-time female lecturer in the University of Tasmania's Law School.

Her career was defined by her 30-year tenure as the Sir Isaac Isaacs Professor of Law at Monash University, where she became a national authority on public law. Beyond her academic role, Campbell was a highly regarded legal advisor to Australian governments, with her research and publications forming a significant part of the nation's contemporary legal framework. Her achievements represent a landmark shift in the accessibility of the Australian legal profession for women.

Bill Casimaty³⁴

Bill Casimaty AM (1935–2019) was a transformative figure in Australian agriculture, specifically within the fields of cultivated turf and irrigation infrastructure. Born and raised on his family farm in Sorell, his career was defined by his long-term management of his Richmond property. Having founded the Richmond Rural Fire Brigade, and witnessed the devastation of the 1967 bushfires, he pivoted to high-value, irrigated crops and pioneered the cultivated turf industry in Australia.

As the founder of Strathayr, Casimaty's innovations in portable tennis courts and drop-in cricket wickets gained international significance, with his systems implemented at the Melbourne Cricket Ground and Lord's in London. His national impact extended to the pharmaceutical industry; as President of the Tasmanian Poppy Growers Association, he successfully lobbied in Washington for Australian access to the US market. Locally, his leadership as the founding chair of the Coal River Products Association was instrumental in securing the South East Irrigation Scheme, a project that fundamentally altered the agricultural capacity of the region.

Winifred Mary Curtis⁵⁶

Dr Winifred Mary Curtis AM (1905–2005) was a pre-eminent botanist and educator who provided the first comprehensive scientific framework for Tasmania's unique plant life. After emigrating to Hobart in 1939, she became only the second woman appointed to the academic staff at the University of Tasmania. Her research was internationally significant; in 1944, she

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enid_Campbell

² <https://125timeline.utas.edu.au/timeline/1950/enid-mona-campbell-another-tasmanian-first/>

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_Casimaty

⁴ <https://www.nuffield.com.au/news/scholar-profile-bill-casimaty-am-1967-scholar->

⁵ <https://peopleaustralia.anu.edu.au/biography/curtis-winifred-mary-15012>

⁶ <https://www.eoas.info/biogs/P003371b.htm>

published the first record of polyploidy in an Australian native plant, a landmark discovery in botanical genetics.

Her primary contribution to Australia was the authorship of *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, a monumental work that replaced British textbooks with local scientific knowledge. She also produced the six-volume *The Endemic Flora of Tasmania*, a collaboration that remains a definitive global reference for the state's rare species. Despite retiring in 1966, she continued her research and herbarium work until age 91, receiving the Mueller Medal for her enduring impact on Australian natural science.

Neil Brian Davis⁷⁸

Neil Brian Davis (1934–1985) was a world-renowned combat cameraman and journalist whose work defined the visual history of the Vietnam War. Raised on a subsistence farm in Sorell and educated at Sorell State School, Davis began his career with the Tasmanian Government Film Unit. His early training in Hobart instilled a disciplined “edit-in-camera” technique that allowed him to capture high-stakes events with unmatched speed and precision.

Davis became globally significant for his unique, empathetic approach to war reportage. Unlike many Western journalists, he embedded primarily with South Vietnamese forces, often living off the land to capture an authentic Asian perspective of the conflict. He secured one of the most iconic images of the 20th century: a North Vietnamese tank crashing through the gates of the Presidential Palace in Saigon, marking the end of the war. His career was driven by a deep compassion for civilian victims, a trait he attributed to his humble rural Tasmanian roots. He was killed in the line of duty during a coup in Bangkok, with his camera running until the very end.

Emily Dobson⁹¹⁰

Emily Dobson (1842–1934) was a formidable philanthropist and a central figure in the development of Australia’s social welfare and women’s advocacy networks. Born at Port Arthur, she dedicated her life to public service, leveraging her social standing to address systemic issues in health, housing, and education.

Her national and international significance was cemented through her leadership of the National Council of Women, serving as federal president for fifteen years and representing Australia at the International Council of Women for over three decades. Locally, she was a tireless reformer, founding the Women’s Health Association and establishing the Girl Guides’ Association of Tasmania. Her work spanned from founding soup kitchens and kindergartens to teaching French to soldiers during World War I, efforts that earned her international recognition and the lifelong title of the “Grand Old Lady” of Tasmanian philanthropy.

⁷ <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/davis-neil-brian-12408>

⁸ <https://halloffame.melbournepressclub.com/article/neil-davis>

⁹ <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/dobson-emily-5985>

¹⁰ <https://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders/biogs/WLE0134b.htm>

Harold Charles Gatty¹¹¹²

Harold Gatty (1903–1957) was a world-renowned navigator and aviation pioneer whose technical innovations became fundamental to modern flight. Born in Campbell Town and educated in Hobart, Gatty transitioned from a career as a mariner to become a foundational figure in aeronautical navigation. He is globally significant for developing the ground-speed and drift indicator, a device that provided the technical basis for the automatic pilot systems now standard in most aircraft.

Gatty achieved international fame in 1931 as the navigator for Wiley Post’s record-breaking round-the-world flight, a feat that earned him a ticker-tape parade in New York. During World War II, he served as the Director of Air Transport for the US Army Air Corps in the South West Pacific while holding the rank of honorary Group Captain in the RAAF. His expertise saved countless lives through the publication of *The Raft Book*, a survival manual that taught downed airmen how to navigate the open ocean using Polynesian star-finding methods. His legacy as a “navigator’s navigator” is cemented by his contributions to both high-altitude technology and traditional wayfinding.

Sir Guy Stephen Montague Green¹³¹⁴, AC, KBE, CVO

Sir Guy Green AC KBE CVO (1937–2025) was one of Tasmania’s most distinguished jurists and public servants, whose career culminated in the highest-level service to the Commonwealth. After studying law at the University of Tasmania in Hobart, he became the youngest person appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Tasmania, a role he held for over two decades while modernising the state’s judicial processes.

His national significance was underscored by his tenure as the first Tasmanian-born Governor of the state and his frequent appointments as Administrator of the Commonwealth. Most notably, he served as the acting Governor-General of Australia in 2003, providing stable constitutional leadership during a period of vice-regal transition. Beyond the bench and Government House, Green was a pivotal figure in Tasmanian intellectual and cultural life, serving as Chancellor of the University of Tasmania and a dedicated advocate for the state’s strategic and scientific connections to Antarctica.

¹¹ <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/gatty-harold-charles-6288>

¹² <https://www.eoas.info/biogs/P001570b.htm>

¹³ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guy_Green_\(judge\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guy_Green_(judge))

¹⁴ <https://www.premier.tas.gov.au/latest-news/2025/july/vale-sir-guy-green>

Vanessa Goodwin¹⁵¹⁶

Dr Vanessa Goodwin (1969–2018) was a prominent criminologist, lawyer, and legislator who spearheaded transformative social and legal reforms in Tasmania. Having earned her PhD from the University of Tasmania and a Master of Philosophy from Cambridge, Goodwin's career was rooted in a deep academic and practical understanding of the justice system. Her local connection to the region was cemented by her service as the Member for Pembroke in the Legislative Council, where she was elected with a significant mandate in 2009 and 2013.

As Tasmanian Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Goodwin's national significance lies in her commitment to human rights and restorative justice. She was the architect of the *Expungement of Historical Offences Act 2017*, a landmark piece of legislation that cleared the records of individuals formerly criminalised under anti-homosexuality laws. Her work on recidivism and bullying, alongside her groundbreaking research into the root causes of incarceration, left a lasting imprint on the Australian legal landscape. Her legacy of service is continued through a dedicated law reform scholarship established in her name.

Sir Leonard George Holden Huxley¹⁷¹⁸ KBE, FAA

Sir Leonard Huxley KBE FAA (1902–1988) was a pre-eminent physicist and academic administrator whose work was foundational to Australia's scientific and radar capabilities. Although born in England, his formative years were spent in Tasmania, where he attended school in Mathinna before becoming dux of The Hutchins School in Hobart and winning the 1923 Rhodes Scholarship for the state.

Huxley's national significance is defined by his dual legacy in research and institution-building. During World War II, he played a critical role in the development of radar technology, establishing a training school that prepared thousands of personnel for the war effort. As the Vice-Chancellor of the Australian National University during the 1960s, he oversaw a period of massive expansion and successfully navigated the complex amalgamation of the university's research and teaching arms. His leadership extended to the broader Australian scientific community as a foundation fellow of the Australian Academy of Science and the inaugural president of the Australian Institute of Physics.

Arthur Leonard Long¹⁹²⁰

Arthur Leonard Long (1896–1954) was a pioneering aviator who fundamentally changed the geographic accessibility of Tasmania by completing the first aerial crossing of Bass Strait. Born at Forcett, Long served as a Lieutenant in the Australian Flying Corps during World War I before returning to Tasmania with a vision for commercial aviation.

¹⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vanessa_Goodwin

¹⁶ https://www.women.tas.gov.au/tasmanian_honour_roll_of_women/inductees/2021/dr-vanessa-goodwin

¹⁷ <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/huxley-sir-leonard-george-holden-516>

¹⁸ <https://www.eoas.info/biogs/P000513b.htm>

¹⁹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arthur_Leonard_Long

²⁰ <https://www.busybird.com.au/bookshelf/bridging-the-strait-a-salute-to-the-first-man-to-fly-across-bass-strait/>

On 17 December 1919, Long piloted a Boulton Paul P.9 biplane from Stanley to Torquay, Victoria, overcoming the extreme risks of open-cockpit flight and unpredictable maritime weather. This flight proved the viability of interstate air travel and paved the way for Tasmania's integration into the national aviation network. Beyond this record-breaking feat, Long was an early advocate for aerial postal deliveries and passenger services, frequently landing in paddocks and sports grounds to demonstrate the utility of flight to a sceptical public. His courage and technical persistence are commemorated by the Royal Historical Society of Victoria as the foundation of Tasmania's connection to the mainland.

Walter Geoffrey Thomas Miller²¹²² AO

Geoff Miller AO (1934–2025) was a pre-eminent diplomat and intelligence analyst who shaped Australian foreign policy for over four decades. A University of Tasmania graduate and the 1956 Rhodes Scholar for the state, Miller entered the Department of External Affairs during a critical era of expanding Australian engagement with Asia.

His national significance is highlighted by his tenure as Director-General of the Office of National Assessments (ONA) from 1989 to 1995. In this role, he was responsible for providing the Prime Minister and Cabinet with independent strategic analysis during the end of the Cold War, the Gulf War, and the dissolution of the Soviet Union. His diplomatic career included high-level postings across Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, and India, concluding his formal service as High Commissioner to New Zealand. In his later years, Miller remained a vital voice in the national discourse, advocating for Australian strategic autonomy and providing rigorous analysis of shifting power dynamics in the Indo-Pacific.

Fanny Cochrane Smith²³²⁴

Fanny Cochrane Smith (1834–1905) was a revered Palawa leader whose resilience and cultural preservation remain cornerstone contributions to Australian Indigenous history. Born at the Wybalenna settlement on Flinders Island, her early life was marked by the hardships of institutionalisation and domestic servitude in Hobart and Oyster Cove. Despite these systemic pressures, she maintained a powerful connection to her heritage and identity.

Her primary significance to Australia lies in her role as a cultural bridge and custodian. In 1899 and 1903, she recorded Aboriginal songs and speech on wax cylinders; these remain the only known sound recordings of an original Tasmanian Indigenous language. These recordings are a priceless linguistic and cultural resource for the nation. A prominent figure in both the Palawa and Methodist communities, she was a mother to eleven children, and many members of the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community trace their lineage through her. Her legacy is one of survival and the vital maintenance of a culture that others had prematurely declared extinct.

²¹ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geoff_Miller_\(diplomat\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geoff_Miller_(diplomat))

²² <https://johnmenadue.com/post/2026/01/vale-geoff-miller-pic/>

²³ <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/smith-fanny-cochrane-8466>

²⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fanny_Cochrane_Smith

Jean Nellie Miles Walker²⁵²⁶ RRC

Jean Nellie Miles Walker RRC (1878–1918) was one of Australia's most distinguished military nurses, serving with exceptional dedication across the major theatres of World War I. Born at Port Sorell, on the north coast of Tasmania, she was a foundational member of the Australian Army Nursing Service Reserve and became the Principal Matron of Tasmania's 6th Military District in 1909.

Her national significance is defined by her leadership during the most intense periods of the Great War. As one of the first twenty-five nurses to sail with the AIF in 1914, she managed the initial influx of Gallipoli casualties in Cairo and later served on hospital ships and in frontline casualty clearing stations in France. During the Allied retreat toward Amiens in 1918, she led a small team of twenty-four nurses in caring for 1,800 critically wounded patients under active bombing. Awarded the Royal Red Cross (1st Class) and mentioned in dispatches, she died in service just days before the Armistice and was buried with full military honours, reflecting the immense respect she commanded within the Australian Imperial Force.

²⁵ <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/walker-jean-nellie-miles-8957>

²⁶ <https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/361923>

Proposal for the Division of Davis

I wish to propose **DAVIS** as the name for the reconfigured Division of **FRANKLIN**. Neil Davis represents an ideal candidate who directly addresses the Redistribution Committee's concern regarding "sufficient connection to the reconfigured **FRANKLIN**" while honouring a Tasmanian of genuine national and international significance.

Neil Davis was born in Sorell in 1934, a town that sits at the heart of the reconfigured division. Davis attended Sorell High School and grew up in this region before embarking on a career that would make him one of the most respected combat cameramen in the world.

Davis's professional achievements extended far beyond Tasmania, giving the name appropriate national weight. Over three decades, he documented some of the most significant conflicts of the late 20th century, including the Vietnam War, the Cambodian Civil War, and various conflicts across Southeast Asia. Famously, he filed footage of the Vietnam War from behind Viet Cong lines. His footage appeared on news services worldwide, and his work was characterised by extraordinary courage and journalistic integrity. He insisted on working independently, often in situations other journalists avoided, driven by a commitment to documenting the reality of war rather than sanitised versions that suited political narratives. His peers regarded him as perhaps the finest combat cameraman of his generation.

The manner of Davis's death in 1985 cemented his legend. While filming a minor coup attempt in Bangkok, he continued recording even as the situation deteriorated around him. He was killed by tank fire while documenting the events, dying as he had lived, committed to bearing witness regardless of personal risk. This dedication to truth and documentation resonates with fundamental Australian values of courage, independence, and standing by one's principles.

Unlike political figures, Davis's legacy transcends partisan divisions. His work was journalistic and humanitarian. He documented history as it unfolded, giving voice to those caught in conflict, and creating an invaluable visual record of his era. There is no controversy attached to his name, no political baggage that might divide the electorate. He represents qualities Australians across the political spectrum can respect: bravery, professional excellence, and commitment to truth.

A division of **DAVIS** would honour a Tasmanian whose achievements earned international recognition while anchored by his upbringing as a direct connection to the reconfigured division's geography. Davis exemplifies the kind of individual, someone from a small Tasmanian town who, through talent and determination, made contributions that resonated far beyond his origins while never forgetting where he came from. His name would serve the division well.

I propose that:

The existing division named **FRANKLIN** be renamed **DAVIS** in honour of Neil Brian Davis.
