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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

O/N 4789

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES

REDISTRIBUTION TRIBUNAL

INQUIRY:

**REDISTRIBUTION OF BOUNDARIES
FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
ELECTORAL DIVISIONS**

TRIBUNAL MEMBERS:

**MR RICHARD BINGHAM, Chairperson
(also chairperson of the Tasmanian Electoral Commission)**

MS LIZ GILLAM, Member, Tasmanian Electoral Commission

MR PETER MURPHY, Surveyor-General

MS CASSANDRA SHORT, Nominated by the Australian Statistician

MR BRUCE TAYLOR, Electoral Commissioner

HENTY HOUSE, LAUNCESTON

10.01 AM, THURSDAY, 27 MARCH 2008

Continued from 26.3.08 in Hobart

THE CHAIRPERSON: Good morning. I'm formally on the record.

<THE HON KERRY FINCH MLC, CALLED

5

MR FINCH: These microphones are all here just to make me feel comfortable, are they?

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: We were accused yesterday of looking like the Spanish Inquisition, so we hoped that the sort of, the more round-table approach would be a little less intimidating, so - - -

MR FINCH: Okay.

15

THE CHAIRPERSON: - - - I hope it's not too painful for any of us. Thanks very much for making the time to, (a) make the submission, and (b) come along this morning. We appreciate that.

20 MR FINCH: That's fine.

THE CHAIRPERSON: There are a couple of things I should run through, I guess, by way of background, just to you know where we're coming from. So far as the tribunal is concerned, we are a different body from the committee, and we're not
25 here to defend the original proposal. We're conducting this as an inquiry afresh, using the committee's proposal as the starting point, so we're not feeling committed in that sense to the committee's proposal. We're obviously not a court of law and there's an informal discussion, as I say, I hope not too intimidating.

30 MR FINCH: So I can tell fibs can I? That's good, not going to be sworn in, good.

THE CHAIRPERSON: You're not going to be sworn in, but if there are any documents you want to table, the Act does require us to get them verified by oath, so just bear that in mind, I suppose, if there's any documents that you want to table.

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MR FINCH: I won't put them in now.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Also the - this is required to be a public hearing, but if there are matters that you want us to deal with in private, then you're quite free to
40 make that application. We can consider them. We are obviously recording the proceedings, and we're proposing to put the transcript on the internet, along with your original objection. I'll call it an objection, even though it's more by way of a comment or suggestion.

45 MR FINCH: Yes.

THE CHAIRPERSON: The formal terminology is objection. And what will happen is that we will listen to what you've got to say today. We'll take away those

things and publish a further proposal. We're aiming to do that by 12 April, on 12 April, but no firm commitment to that time, depending on how long it takes to work things out. And if that further proposal, if we believe it's significantly different from what has been published already by the committee, then we will invite further
5 objections and conduct another set of hearings and inquiries such as this. If we don't think it's significantly different, then we do have the power to make it a final determination and to publish it, and there's no appeal from it or anything like that. So is that all okay by way of background?

10 MR FINCH: Yes, that's fine, yes, thank you.

THE CHAIRPERSON: All right.

MR FINCH: You've got to go through that 10 or 12 times, have you? You should
15 have it recorded.

THE CHAIRPERSON: I'm starting to cross off a bit as we're going through, but - - -

20 MR FINCH: Okay.

THE CHAIRPERSON: But we're in your hands now. And if there's anything that you'd particularly like us to have regard to. Obviously we've seen the submission that you put in, but if you'd like to draw anything in particular to our attention, and
25 we'd like to have the right to question you about it as well.

MR FINCH: Okay. Look, my electorate is really synchronised, or most of the West Tamar municipality is contained in my electorate of Rosevears, except for a little bump that runs out around Frankford, which is in the Rowallan electorate. I found
30 with my dealings with people from the community, and as I head out that way, I sort of turn off at Glengarry and head in towards Winkleigh. Whereas just up the road is the location of Frankford, which I could quite easily cover in my electorate work, but I don't go there, because of our, you know, you don't want to be trespassing on your colleague's territory.

35 And you know, we're very mannered about the way that we deal with issues. In other words, if somebody from that area contacts me about something, well I will recommend that they go to the person who represents their electorate, or I'll call my colleague and say do you mind if I pursue this issue, because it might be a friend or
40 somebody that I know closely or somebody who chooses to work specifically with me.

So I found that over the years, I've been a member now for six years, and I've found that there is that situation where I know people in the Frankford area. One in
45 particular is a young weightlifter that I've been working with for now probably four or five years, in promoting her cause and supporting her as an athlete and finding her sponsors, that's just outside of my electorate work. She in fact flies out this morning. She's catching a plane to New Zealand to represent Australia at the Oceanic

championships. But she's from Frankford. You see, well, you know, in respect of an issue that developed for her, I had to be very low key on that because she was not actually in my electorate. But I made it quite clear to Greg Hall, the member for Rowallan, that I was working with her.

5

Probably another – and I'm just giving personal accounts here of people that I could have developed closer relationships with, one in particular is L. Rossiter, who does a lot of work with family care, with foster children, and there are a lot of issues there that he would like to discuss. I don't have a close relationship with him because he's not in my electorate. There is a good contact there for me in respect of electorate matters, and that's, or would be if I was able to develop her as a confidante, and her name is Debbie Morris, and her and Stuart have got the Blue Barn café at Frankford, which is a, you know, that's where, it's like the local post office.

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

MR FINCH: You know, all the information and all that goes on would be known to the people there at the Blue Barn café. Well, I don't develop that link, simply because it's in another electorate. Now, just to talk about the location, that is, Frankford is on the Frankford Highway, which is the main tourism link, or one of the main tourism links between my electorate, Exeter and the Devonport terminal of TT Line. You see, so I try, whenever I'm discussing tourism, I try to encourage people to do the triangle.

25 So they might come down the Bass Highway into Launceston, but then, you know, I'm there promoting all the time, well, come back up through the Tamar Valley and head back out Exeter way on the Frankford Highway, which the Government, I don't think they appreciate me calling it a highway, they prefer to call it the Frankford Main Road, because then they don't have to, with it not being a highway, they don't have to upgrade it to a standard, where it would be it could be used as a highway.

30 Well, ostensibly, you know, it is being used as a highway by heavy transport, by the locals, by tourists. Yet we have it at a road standard, which I've made many speeches in parliament about, and I think the Government is well aware of my concerns in that area. So - - -

THE CHAIRPERSON: It's a little outside our scope of - - -

MR FINCH: Yes, yes, no, no, no, but I just say that that is an issue for me.

40 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

MR FINCH: Because the Frankford Main Road starts in my electorate, in Exeter, and proceeds on out that way.

45 THE CHAIRPERSON: Sure.

MR FINCH: I don't know if you saw in the paper the other day, the front page, Frank Dibney, I think his name is, a landowner out there in the Rowallan Municipality, front page complaining about the accidents that he has on his section of the road, calling for upgrades. You see, well, I mean, I don't get involved in that issue because it's not in my bailiwick, although I will say that I have a meeting tomorrow night. Because of this situation I phoned Debbie Morris and told her what I was intending to do.

10 The only time she could arrange a meeting was actually tomorrow night. So it's of no use to this particular tribunal. However I'll be going out there just to let them know what I've done in respect of you know, like, campaigning or making the suggestion that they become part of my electorate, but also take the opportunity to pick up on information about that issue of the Frankford Main Road, the Frankford Highway.

15

THE CHAIRPERSON: I see.

MR FINCH: So – and I feel that I could, of those 147-odd people that are there now, I think that I could quite easily embrace that community and I could make them feel welcome to the Rosevears electorate, because I do work as I say, up to Glengarry.

20

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

MR FINCH: And people there do know that they're represented by me, but then there's that demarcation line, whereas I could quite easily develop those people and I think give them strong representation. This is no reflection on Greg Hall who is the member for Rowallan, but he has a vast electorate in comparison to mine.

25

THE CHAIRPERSON: Sure.

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MR FINCH: My travelling times are much less than he has to deal with, so I would hope that there would be a sigh of relief from the member for Rowallan if in fact the tribunal decides to give me that patch of the West Tamar Municipality. Because I think that I would, I am keen to service that area and to have it as part of my electorate of Rosevears. As I say, because the West Tamar Municipality, you know, they are dealing with the West Tamar Municipality, but a different Legislative Council member to the one that represents the rest of the West Tamar Municipality.

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THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes, I was just going to ask you about that actually. There's two priorities that we have to apply in making decisions. One of them is making sure that numbers in the – each electorate are within 10 per cent of the average enrolment for all electorates. But the second and the most important in this context is community of interest. Frankford, as you say, is part of the West Tamar council as is the remainder of the Rosevears electorate.

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45

MR FINCH: Yes.

THE CHAIRPERSON: But I would be interested in your comments about any possible community of interest there might be between Frankford and say, Birralee, and down towards Westbury, as opposed to the linkages that Frankford might have with Exeter.

5

MR FINCH: Well, I don't explore that. You know, because, simply because that's not my bailiwick. That's not my area. I don't go, I've not done, for this tribunal I've not done an investigation down there to see how they feel and what they're feeling, and how they would respond to me taking an interest in Frankford of having that as part of my area.

10

THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay.

MR FINCH: But certainly - - -

15

MS SHORT: But what about the people you mentioned to us earlier, you know, the people at the café and the weightlifter and so forth?

MR FINCH: Yes.

20

MS SHORT: Have you talked to them? Have they said, gee, I wish you were our member or you know, it's silly when we're in Rowallan when we're linked to West Tamar? Have they made those comments?

25

MR FINCH: No, I don't want to be presumptuous either. I mean I've not gone there campaigning - - -

MS SHORT: No.

30

MR FINCH: - - - for their support. I've merely made the suggestion that this is on and this is what I'm going to do. So I don't want to be, you know, politicking behind the scenes to say you know, well, come and give evidence, you know, and back me up on this. You know, it's my big grab for power. You know, so - do you know, so I haven't done investigative work to substantiate my case. I think it's fairly logical. To me the argument is fairly logical. And just in talking to a friend out there, well, yes, she seemed to think that it would be a good idea - - -

35

MS SHORT: All right, okay.

40

MR FINCH: - - - if that were the case.

THE CHAIRPERSON: All right. You appreciate from our point of view, as I say, there must be a reason as to why the Frankford area is in Rowallan at the present time - - -

45

MR FINCH: Yes.

THE CHAIRPERSON: - - - and if we try to delve into things and discover why that decision was made in the first place - - -

MR FINCH: Yes.

5

THE CHAIRPERSON: - - - it may be that the reasons are no longer applicable, and the community of interest that operates is much closer between Frankford and Exeter, as you're saying it is, then anything that ties it to the Rowallan electorate - - -

10

MR FINCH: Yes. What I intend to – but if that does become of my area, part of my electorate, well, then it's up to me, you know, even probably tomorrow night I'll be finding out a little bit more about the issues that concern the people of Frankford and those transport issues, and then I'll start to embrace the Birralea – Westbury links back in through Frankford and what that sort of means to the traffic volumes and the way people live in that area, and the issues that they have.

15

MR TAYLOR: Without you treading on any toes, though, politically, you've proposed that these groups of people move into your electorate. You must have some belief that they are associated with your electorate and perhaps have some view as to whether they're more associated with West Tamar than for example, Westbury, Deloraine, Latrobe, which are in Rowallan.

20

MR FINCH: Yes. In the location they're in though, they would probably live their lives dealing with all those centres. So they'd come in and do some business in at Exeter or into Launceston. They would go out to Deloraine if there are things there that they need. They'd go up to Devonport. Because they're in that strategic location where they can really head in every direction, so – and they're sort of isolated, to a certain extent. They're out there on their own. And I think that that's why, that to me, I mean, I think that in my own way I could make them feel a bit more connected to the West Tamar Municipality, simply because I will take an interest, and I – if this is granted, I'll certainly let everybody in Frankford know that I'm their representative, and that if they have issues of a Legislative Council nature, that I'm the person that they should contact.

25

30

35

I think, as I say, I don't want to, you know, you can't cover all the nooks and crannies of your electorate. But I certainly can do it more so than perhaps Greg, because you know, the member for Rowallan has got this huge area and he's been granted some more area to cover and explore and to find out about. So you know, he's got work cut out now to embrace the new areas that he has been given. So - - -

40

THE CHAIRPERSON: Well, he hasn't yet.

MR FINCH: No, yes, yes.

45

THE CHAIRPERSON: But he might, that he might be given.

MR FINCH: Yes. So you know, I don't want to be presumptuous, but yes, you know, as I say, I feel it's pretty logical. But I feel that I would work, I would be able to connect with those people quite easily. And I think that they could connect with me. I don't think they're – you know, they're saying, suggesting that, no, we - like
5 Greg is always here, always at the fair, you know, is able to come here and know what we're doing. I don't think that would be the case.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay.

10 MR FINCH: And I think I'd be able to focus in a lot more on the people of Frankford.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Well, just so you're clear about what is in our minds at the moment, as I said, there are two priorities that we need to consider in making our
15 further proposal. The first of them is the numbers in the electorates and the numbers that we're talking about, 147 people, are not so large as they are going to make a significant difference one way or another. So from our perspective it comes back to the issue of community of interest, and whether Frankford is more, has a greater
20 community of interest with the balance of the Rosevears electorate, or whether those ties are closer to the balance of Rowallan. So things like schools in the area, where people send their children to school.

MR FINCH: They go to Exeter.

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: They all go to Exeter?

MR FINCH: Well, not so – I don't know.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes, but the expectation - - -
30

MR FINCH: But generally I meet people from Frankford with their children at the Exeter High School presentations and the Exeter Primary School presentations.

THE CHAIRPERSON: That would be my expectation that that's where they would
35 go.

MR FINCH: Yes.

THE CHAIRPERSON: And similarly things like sporting teams, if people are
40 participating in sport they would tend to head towards the Tamar rather than towards Deloraine for that. Would that be fair comment?

MR FINCH: I don't know. I don't know specifically. I don't know, only Jenna,
45 who comes in to Launceston for her weightlifting. But you would generally go where your opportunities are, you know, as a sports person. If you're playing cricket and Exeter make an approach to you, that's where you might go. But if Devonport say, look, we're just up the road, you know, we've spotted this young bloke or young girl, you know, come up and do your sport at Devonport. That's what I say, they're

in the position where they can really – because they've got travelling and distance whatever they do, I mean, there's not much difference going to Exeter, going to Devonport, going to Deloraine, going to Westbury - - -

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Sure.

MR FINCH: - - - for their activities.

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: And the other which I think is very relevant is the fact that the area is actually in West Tamar Municipality.

MR FINCH: Yes.

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: That indicates a fair tie, doesn't it?

MR FINCH: Yes. It gives us that link. And the numbers still – it was interesting a few years ago I noticed that there was a diminution in Rowallan, in respect of numbers. But I believe that's not the case now, that numbers are in fact building up in Rowallan.

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: Well - - -

MR FINCH: But at one stage, you know we get that report from the Electoral Commission that gives you a feedback on the numbers. And probably about three 25 years ago, three or four years ago I noticed that there was a, you know, probably about 170-odd less people in Rowallan from the previous estimate that was done.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Mr Type may have some information on that.

30 MR TYPE: Rowallan started out very low following the 1998-99 redistribution. It was about almost minus nine per cent, and has come up to about minus six per cent over the life of that redistribution.

MR FINCH: Yes.
35

MR TYPE: So it was set low and has in fact recorded quite a reasonable rate of increase.

MR FINCH: Well, that annoys me to a certain extent because I was going to blame 40 the member for Rowallan for actually causing the diminution in the numbers. However - - -

MR TYPE: The numbers have actually improved during the life of the redistribution.
45

MR FINCH: Damn.

THE CHAIRPERSON: In fact under the proposal it goes, as Julian said, from something just over six per cent deviation from the average to – if the proposal were adopted – it would go to just under five per cent of the - - -

5 MR FINCH: This is with the inclusion of those areas from the southern part of his electorate?

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

10 MR FINCH: Yes, okay.

THE CHAIRPERSON: And that's in 2012, based on the projections, in 2012, so the intention being to try and get the numbers in Rowallan closer to the average division of enrolment.

15

MR FINCH: Okay, okay. So, you know, I don't think it makes much difference to my electorate, does it, 170 or – the projected 147.

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: No, well, as I say, the numbers in that particular enclave, if I can call it that, are so small that they are not really going to be significant and, from our perspective the major issue is the community of interest - - -

MR FINCH: Okay.

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: Good, okay. Any of my fellow tribunal members got any other questions for Mr Finch about this? No?

MR TAYLOR: No.

30 THE CHAIRPERSON: Is there anything else that you wanted to let us know?

35 MR FINCH: No, no. Only that, as I say, I'm having a meeting tomorrow night with the people out there and I'm intending to stand again for the seat of Rosevears. At this stage I have nobody else contesting, that I know of, although the nominations haven't opened yet, so I haven't heard of anybody. So I'm growing more and more confident that I'll be the member for the next six years and I feel that I will include – if this is granted, that I will include Frankford in my electorate work and I'll embrace that community strongly and I'll keep a strong link particularly to that – the Blue Barn Café, so that if there are issues out that way that are of a State matter that
40 they'll have an understanding that I'm their person and I'm their representative.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. But you would appreciate that even if we do make a recommendation for this area to be adjoined to Rosevears that doesn't take effect for the forthcoming election.

45

MR FINCH: No, no, no, and that's fine, that's not an issue. I won't be campaigning there.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Can I ask you one other issue that doesn't relate to this Frankford thing, but you will be aware that there have been a number of submissions made to us regarding the name of the adjoining electorate of yours of Paterson - - -

5

MR FINCH: Yes.

THE CHAIRPERSON: - - - that the name ought to revert to Launceston, do you have a view about that?

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MR FINCH: I've heard the argument and it is a sound argument, I believe, and I think that for the city – the two cities, of Hobart and Launceston, to not have an electorate named after them when in fact you are searching for that name that signifies the area and the location, I mean it's fairly obvious to me that it should – Launceston is the city here, it's the hub of the district is really Launceston and the city itself and similarly with Hobart. I think it's not so much about, you know, the Margaret Street sewer or you know, or that sort of thing that typifies what the area is about. Paterson, to me, it – no, it doesn't resonate as being the location, Launceston does. You know the location. Paterson could be anywhere that Paterson went during his time here.

20

THE CHAIRPERSON: Sure.

MR FINCH: Is Paterson only synonymous with Launceston? I'm not sure it is.

25

MR MURPHY: Well, I think the former tribunal named it after Paterson Street.

MR FINCH: Well, I rest my case. You know, I mean, you know, well Margaret Street sewer, you know. I mean, you know, you are looking for something to hang your hat on and I think the Paterson name just doesn't resonate with me - - -

30

THE CHAIRPERSON: No, but if I could - - -

MR FINCH: - - - to give you some idea of where it is.

35

THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Can I put it in a slightly different way? No doubt that many of your electors consider themselves to be residents of Launceston and describe themselves as residents of Launceston. If there were to be another electorate named Launceston, the people who consider themselves to be residents of Launceston in that greater sense would be still enrolled as electors in the electorate of Rosevears, is that a problem for you, do you think that would be something that your electors would have difficulty with?

40

MR FINCH: No.

45

THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay.

MR FINCH: Because we have an understanding amongst ourselves that we don't encroach – I talked about the courtesy of not dealing with other people's constituents if we are able to avoid it, unless they specifically want to deal with you as a friend or as somebody that they know, so it is always the courtesy as always to say, "Look,
5 you are not in my electorate, this is your representative, this is the person that you should speak to," and then we are happy to take on that – so let's say somebody in West Launceston, Summerhill, Riverside, those sort of areas, because I've already campaigned for the seat of Rosevears and that was the first time that the area had been campaigned in under that name, I campaigned very strongly in the southern
10 suburbs. In fact I won every area in this southern area of my electorate.

I think they have an understanding that their Legislative Council seat is Rosevears. But if there is any confusion by people who are new to the area, or people the first time they are embracing the issue of a state matter and need to come to a legislative
15 councillor, we soon check. I always check, where do you live, which street are you in, which side of the street are you on, so that I make sure that they are a member of my electorate or an elector before I embrace that issue. I let them know that their representative is actually somebody else, would you prefer – you know, they would be happy to take on your issue and they will represent you, come back to me if you
20 are not satisfied or if you want you can stay with me if you want to keep dealing with me. So it's that courtesy that we deal with each other, so I don't think there would be the confusion.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay.
25

MR MURPHY: I think – there isn't perhaps the other confusion, the potential 8000 Launceston rate payers in your electorate at the moment, thinking that the new member for Launceston might be their member?

MR FINCH: No, no. I think it all depends how well the Electoral Commission communicate that change to people. I think it's a matter of communication in respect of saying, "The name change has taken place," then a map showing, this is the area of Launceston, then highlighting this is Rosevears, this is Windermere - again, it is an opportunity to promote those that are still relatively new electorates and to show
35 where the boundaries are.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Sure.

MR FINCH: And I think that with proper, you know, public relations and advertising, you know, I think we can get the message through to people, but as I say
40 the back up is always that we certainly let people – we want to know their location, where they're from, to make sure that we're not dealing with our colleagues constituents, so we cover off on that.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Good. Thank you very much.
45

MR FINCH: Okay.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Is there anything else?

MS SHORT: No.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: No. Great, we can let you go. Thank you very much.

MR FINCH: Thank you for the opportunity.

10 <THE WITNESS WITHDREW

ADJOURNED [10.28 am]

15 **RESUMED** [10:32 am]

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: Well, we will get under way.

<THE HON GREG HALL MLC, CALLED

25 MR HALL: Okay.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Welcome along, Mr Hall.

30 MR HALL: Yes, thank you, Richard, thank you very much.

THE CHAIRPERSON: I'll just run through some preliminaries so we are singing from the same hymn sheet in terms of what we're on about and so on.

35 MR HALL: Yes.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Just so far as the process to this point is concerned, the point that I'd emphasise is that the committee's proposal is something which was proposed by the committee and this is a tribunal, it's a different body.

40 MR HALL: Right.

THE CHAIRPERSON: So we are not here to defend the committee's proposal, we are here to hear what people think about the committee's proposal and then bring an independent judgment to that.

45 MR HALL: Yes, yes.

THE CHAIRPERSON: We are recording the proceedings and it's our intention, with your consent, to put the transcript on the internet along with your original submission. Is that okay from your point of view

5 MR HALL: That's fine, yes.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. And I should also let you know that our friend from the ABC here is also potentially recording some part of the proceeding.

10 MR HALL: Yes, okay, yes, yes.

THE CHAIRPERSON: So far as the procedure today is concerned we would like to keep it as informal as possible, it's not a court of law, we won't be swearing people in - - -

15

MR HALL: Right.

THE CHAIRPERSON: - - - but the Act does require that if there's any documents that you want to table that we need to get those verified by oath, so - - -

20

MR HALL: Yes.

THE CHAIRPERSON: - - - if there's any written statements that you want to leave us with. Also, whilst it's a public inquiry there's a capacity for anything that you want to tell us in private for us to consider an application from you for the thing to be heard in private if you want to do that.

25

MR HALL: Yes.

30 THE CHAIRPERSON: So far as the process from here is concerned we will be publishing a further redistribution proposal. We currently aim to do that on 12 April, although we reserve the right to vary that date if it takes us longer to work through the details of what people tell us and so on. If we believe that that further proposal is significantly different from the committee's proposal then there will be an opportunity for further objections and another round of hearings and inquiries, such as we are having now.

35

MR HALL: Yes.

40 THE CHAIRPERSON: But we also have the right to say that if we believe that it is not significantly different from the committee's proposal for that – for us to publish a final determination after that and that becomes the new set of boundaries, there is no further appeal. So you are aware about those possible consequences, I guess.

45 MR HALL: Yes, yes.

THE CHAIRPERSON: But with all of that – those preliminaries behind us, then perhaps I can just invite you to tell us what you think is important for us to know and we would like to have the opportunity to ask questions about that.

5 MR HALL: Yes, yes.

THE CHAIRPERSON: And for you to have the opportunity to make a concluding statement when we finish that process, but we are in your hands.

10 MR HALL: Yes, thank you, Mr Chair and I think I made it clear in just my – the email that I sent to the committee that really I have no real problems with the redistribution of the boundaries. I have – it's expanded quite a bit and I understand that, you know, to having – Rowallan is the only electorate which actually takes in three of the – you know, the north, north western, south, it's the only one that has
15 that characteristic about it and I understand the southern boundary now taking in – whereas I used to go down just south of Bothwell, now taking in Hamilton, Ouse and something else – Tarraleah, I think it was.

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: And Derwent Bridge.

MR HALL: It just means that I've got to - yes, and Derwent Bridge. So that being part of the Central Highlands local government area, I think fits the bill.

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Well, I should let you know that we have had suggestions from others - - -

MR HALL: Yes.

30 THE CHAIRPERSON: - - - as part of this process, that Rowallan on that southern boundary ought to stay with its existing boundary - - -

MR HALL: Right.

35 THE CHAIRPERSON: - - - and that Ouse, Tarraleah, Derwent Bridge have got a greater community of interest with - - -

MR HALL: With Derwent.

40 THE CHAIRPERSON: - - - Derwent.

MR HALL: Yes.

THE CHAIRPERSON: And they ought to stay in that electorate.

45 MR HALL: Yes.

THE CHAIRPERSON: We have also had a suggestion just this morning that the part of West Tamar Council that surrounds Frankford ought to be transferred to

Rosevears rather than staying in Rowallan. Both of those suggestions have got implications in terms of the numbers in Rowallan obviously - - -

MR HALL: Yes, that's - yes.

5

THE CHAIRPERSON: - - - and we'll need to work through those consequences, but the argument that has been put to us in both cases is that the community of interest is greater for the southern part of the Central Highlands municipality to stay with Derwent and for the Frankford enclave to stay with Rosevears.

10

MR HALL: Yes.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Or to move to Rosevears.

15 MR HALL: In the first instance I do understand that Bothwell was seen as part of – more of Central Highlands and of course the local government – the council do have an office at – one at Ouse, I think and one at – no, one at Hamilton, rather and one at Bothwell.

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

MR HALL: On the other hand, if I advertised down there, which I do frequently, because you know, having a large rural electorate you know that it covers that area as well, so - - -

25

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

MR HALL: - - - you know, I suppose it all ends up with numbers at the end, you know, I'm not particularly fussed either way. As for Frankford, yes, it is part of the West Tamar area, although it would seem to me to almost have an affinity with Westbury, Frankford people coming through that way. So it's – once again it's almost become six of one, half a dozen of the other in that respect as to whether it ought to be part of Rosevears, as Mr Finch would say, or Rowallan, so yes.

30

35 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes. Do you have a view about the extent of that community of interest between Frankford and Westbury/Deloraine, as opposed to Frankford/Exeter?

MR HALL: I would have thought perhaps the community of interest might be more towards Westbury and Deloraine rather than Exeter - - -

40

THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay.

MR HALL: - - - but it's probably split pretty even, I've got to say. It's probably equally distanced between both, yes.

45

MR TAYLOR: Where would they sort of – where would they acquire services and shopping and those sort of things, would they normally go into Exeter or head down to Westbury/Deloraine, do you think, or Devonport?

5 MR HALL: Yes, I thought when I was mixed up with – when I was Mayor of Meander Valley Council that it was generally more towards – orientated towards Westbury, but they have either option and in fact conversely they can go to Devonport, the other way too, so you know, it's - - -

10 MS GILLAM: What about schools, where do the kids tend to move on to high school?

MR HALL: I'm just trying to think where the – yes, I'm not sure about that. They would probably go to Exeter High School I would think rather than – they certainly wouldn't come through to Deloraine. The other options are that they go through to Launceston to Prospect High School or something like that. Yes, yes, yes. And in regard to the northern boundary, the acquisition I think of Launceston Airport industrial area and also Devon Hills, I think, yes, once again that fits within the Northern Midlands Council area, which I have quite a significant part. Yes.

20

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

MR HALL: I've got to say, Mr Chair, with – in terms, if you look at communities of interest, Rowallan, whilst it is rural by character, but the communities of interest are very much different, you know, of now being the member for five, seven years or so and into my second term and you know, they are vastly different to communities of interest from say, Sassafras and Harford in the intensive areas of the north west coast, compared to say the central highlands and even the pastoral areas of the northern midlands.

30

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

MR HALL: So it is a very disparate and large electorate in that respect, yes, and the communities of interest aren't – are very, very diverse I have to say.

35

THE CHAIRPERSON: I appreciate that. So is it safe for me to conclude from that that Devon Hills and Launceston Airport industrial estate are different in character from much of the rest of your electorate, is that a problem for you? Do you think that it's - - -

40

MR HALL: No, no, Devon Hills I think is – I went for a drive up there the other day just to refresh my memory on that area and you know, I do have other rural residential five acre lot patches in the electorate so that's pretty common. The industrial area, yes, there's a developing – well, there will be around Westbury, so that will be in common with that, in keeping with that, so I have no issues with that, yes.

45

THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Thanks, I'm sorry to drop those ones on you unannounced as it were, but they are ones that have been raised with us.

MR HALL: That have been raised, yes.

5

THE CHAIRPERSON: And yes, we greatly appreciate your views about those issues.

MR HALL: Yes, yes. The southern one, I suppose – I was trying to think that through. As I said before, I can see that there is more of a community of interest, you know, with Hamilton to the Derwent Valley, but by the same time they are – there is some cohesion with the local government area.

10

THE CHAIRPERSON: Sure.

15

MR HALL: And you know, I think they have alternatively had, they have council meetings, one in Hamilton, the next one they have in Bothwell, and so it is – and that's the way it is.

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

MR HALL: Yes.

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes, and the issue for us, as I've said, there are two priorities that we have to apply in making our judgments.

MR HALL: Yes.

30 THE CHAIRPERSON: The first of them is the numbers in electorates and the second is community of interest and the Act says those specifically in terms of the different priorities that attach - - -

MR HALL: Yes, yes.

35 THE CHAIRPERSON: - - - so we do need to bear in mind the total number of electors in Rowallan compared to the average divisional enrolment - - -

MR HALL: Yes.

40 THE CHAIRPERSON: - - - and there's a case for inclusion of more people on that basis to bring the numbers in Rowallan up a bit.

MR HALL: Yes.

45 THE CHAIRPERSON: Having said that it is also a much – as you've said, a much more diverse and larger electorate, so it is more difficult for you to service.

MR HALL: I would have thought that the numbers, particularly in Hamilton and Ouse, would remain pretty static, if not maybe decline slightly, but I know that, you know, you have got to have that addition to it now to bring the numbers up to speed, yes.

5

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

MR HALL: Just the other issue, if I may, Mr Chair, that I might raise and that is in terms of the name Rowallan and it's struck me in the time that I've held the seat that the actual name is not well recognised or synonymous – it's very difficult with a large electorate like it, I realise, to have something which reflects the character of the whole electorate and Rowallan as we know was named after Lord Rowallan, one of our former Governors and it is now a Hydro lake, a fishing lake, but it's not all that well known and I think come election time people become very confused with a lot of the names of the Legislative Council electorate areas, and I mean Lyons is easy for them. People get confused with local government elections, you know, so that I think is an issue.

But the solution, and I've thought about it long and hard when you've got such a disparate area, what do you actually call it, you know, and I came up with a few names like Central Rural, Highland and Rural – these are all double bangers, I know, Central Tasmania, Central Districts, Lakes – did I say Central Rural?

MS SHORT: Yes.

25

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

MR HALL: Yes. Rural Heartland even and so there were just a few of those that I've tried to sort of get which were synonymous with the whole area, because I think I have six different local government areas there and it's difficult to – whilst Meander Valley might be the centre it is also Kentish and it's Latrobe and it's also Northern Midlands and it's also Central Highlands, so it's - yes, it's a difficult one. I mean, some of the names I think like Mersey and Huon are quite – you know, people recognise the, there's an affinity with them, though I know that there's been a move perhaps for Paterson to be changed to Launceston and Wellington to Hobart and so that makes it a bit easier for recognition if you like.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes, it is much easier where you've got a more cohesive electorate with a dominant geographical feature and I think previous tribunals have said that the names have been selected on the basis of geographical features that are significant within an electorate - - -

MR HALL: Yes.

THE CHAIRPERSON: - - - and it is more difficult for Rowallan to find any such feature, isn't it? If there were to be any one, I don't know, maybe the Western Tiers or something like that.

MS SHORT: Yes.

MR HALL: Well, I do have Cradle Mountain, but it is – you know, it's right at one edge of the electorate, yes.

5

MS SHORT: What about Western Tiers or you know, something like that or is that again quite limiting?

MR HALL: Yes, I did think of that too; that runs pretty well through the centre of the electorate so that's a possibility.

10

THE CHAIRPERSON: Julian, yes, you wanted to make a comment.

MR TYPE: Mr Chair, through you, there is one historical name in the Legislative Council division which is not currently in use and that is Meander.

15

MR HALL: Yes. Meander - - -

THE CHAIRPERSON: How do you feel about that?

20

MR HALL: I'm just thinking that Meander certainly – as I said the Meander Valley certainly is the – it's probably close to where I live and it runs through the centre of the electorate, however I'm not too sure how much affinity people with - down around Bothwell, and or people down in Port Sorell or indeed in the Kentish area would have with that, you know, they have other significant geographical things, you know, rivers and mountains in those areas, so – yes.

25

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes, and I think you've hit the nail on the head as to why previous tribunals chose new names.

30

MR HALL: Yes, yes, yes, I just wanted to float it past, you know.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

MR HALL: It is an issue, particularly when it comes to election time and people, if you had to go out and ask, you know, they might know me, but what's he the member for and they say, "Well, yes, I think he's from around the Deloraine area, but is he in Lyons or - you know, so that's part of the issue.

35

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes. Do you think that – I mean, part of the answer to this I think is just effluxion of time, isn't it, things will as time goes by people get more used to using names that are attached.

40

MR HALL: They may, but given the frequency of our elections, you know, every six years it's a long – quite a while between drinks and people get used to – they get confused, as I said before, with local government elections in between, and also federal and state elections where those divisions are quite well known.

45

THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay.

MR TAYLOR: I think we've all, like you, applied ourselves to trying to find another name, and the difficulty is that most names we come up with tend to isolate
5 the division to a pocket of that division rather than the division broadly.

MR HALL: Yes, I agree.

MR TAYLOR: Perhaps, Rowallan, while less specifically identified with an area of
10 it was chosen as a more generally known name, rather than drawing attention to a specific area. But if you – we'll certainly have a look at the names you've suggested. Some of them are a little complex and may also cause confusion, so we need to consider it carefully before changing it.

15 MR HALL: Yes. I had the name – I had the word “rural” in there because that does reflect the whole – the nature of the whole electorate. And there is - - -

MR TAYLOR: Central rural - - -

20 MR HALL: - - - no outstanding large town. I mean you could take Deloraine, Longford, Port Sorell, they're all about the same size, about 3000 people each and so on. And it is a rural electorate, yes, and it encompasses the central part of Tasmania if you like.

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes, I guess of the ones that you read out the only one that jumped out at me was Central Districts and I wondered why you'd want to name it after a South Australian football club.

MR HALL: Yes, well I did think of that actually.

30 MR MURPHY: I guess the other issue with those is that they're sort of attributes rather than names.

MR HALL: Sure.

35 MR MURPHY: I mean the principle for the other names is that they should be identifiable with some feature, rather than being an attribute of the feature.

40 THE CHAIRPERSON: I should let you know that Peter has some expertise in nomenclature.

MR HALL: Okay, yes.

45 MR TAYLOR: Yes, it certainly would beg the question as to whether, for example, Apsley and Murchison should then be related to their position in Tasmania, rather than a name of a feature as they are, so it would be changing the style of names to go to a descriptive name.

MR HALL: Yes, I do recognise that and Apsley is probably – that’s a difficult one too because that’s a large electorate whereas Apsley, you know, we have the Douglas Apsley National Park I suppose, and there is a small district called Apsley down towards Melton Mowbray, yes, very small.

5

THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay.

MR TAYLOR: It’s in your division.

10 MR HALL: It was, it still is, yes.

THE CHAIRPERSON: All right. Are there any other questions for Mr Hall from my fellow tribunal members?

15 MR MURPHY: Not from me.

THE CHAIRPERSON: No. Is there anything else that you’d like us to take away, that we haven’t touched on?

20 MR HALL: No, as I said when I looked at the redistribution I thought okay that’s given me a fair bit more work.

THE CHAIRPERSON: A few more miles on the car.

25 MR HALL: But I wasn’t – I’m not personally particularly alarmed by it. If Hamilton and Ouse remain with Derwent well so be it, you know, to me it’s not the end of the world. So, yes, I’m reasonably comfortable with those and with the airport and Devon Hills as well. They didn’t stand out as issues to me.

30 THE CHAIRPERSON: Good. Okay, well thank you very much indeed for your submission and for making the time to come along this morning, it’s very helpful for us to get your input.

MR HALL: It’s a pleasure. Thank you.
35

<THE WITNESS WITHDREW

40 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. We’ll adjourn.

ADJOURNED [10.53 am]

45 **RESUMED** [11.00 am]

<MAYOR A. VAN ZETTEN, CALLED
<DR J. MORRIS, CALLED
<THE HON D. WING MLC, CALLED
<MRS M. SMART, CALLED

5

THE CHAIRPERSON: Well, welcome along everybody and thanks very much for taking the time both to make submissions to the tribunal and to be here this morning, we greatly appreciate your interest and presence. It makes our job a lot easier if
10 we're getting input about matters that we need to decide rather than having to make all these decisions in the absence of any views of community members. So we appreciate that greatly, and thank you for your interest.

I will just run through a couple of preliminary points so that we're all on the same
15 page as far as that's concerned. This is the Redistribution Tribunal, it's a different body to the Redistribution Committee, so this process is started afresh. We're not here to defend the committee's proposal, we're here to listen to objections and comments and suggestions, and to bring a fresh mind to those issues. Having said that we do have to apply the same priorities and principles as the committee and we
20 will be doing that as we work through our task. Today, I'd hope is as informal as possible. We were accused yesterday of looking like the Spanish Inquisition and we're trying to be consumer friendly and everything.

MS GILLAM: They look more like the Inquisition.

25

MS SHORT: Yes.

MR VAN ZETTEN: I was going to say at least we've got four, or five actually. You're on our side. We're equal.

30

THE CHAIRPERSON: That's good, okay. Well, it is required to be a public inquiry and as Bronwyn has said she's here representing the public I guess, and we're also intending that a transcript should be prepared. With your consent we would like to put that transcript on the internet, along with the submissions which
35 have been made. So is that okay if we do that with the proceedings today. That's good, thank you very much. The other matter that I wanted to mention was as we're dealing informally with this we won't be swearing people in to give evidence or anything like that. But the Act does require that if any written statements are tabled, they need to be verified by oath. So it's an anomaly in the legislation I think, but just
40 be aware that if you do want to table any documents then we'll need to get you to swear to them.

Also whilst it's a public inquiry there is the capacity for us to hear things in private and if there are matters that you'd like us to hear in private then we'd like you to let
45 us know so that we can consider whether it's an appropriate thing for us to do in the circumstances. So far as the process is concerned we intend to hear from all of you and each of you today. We won't be responding today to things that you put to us, our task is to advertise a further redistribution proposal. We're currently planning to

do that on 12 April, but it depends on the logistics of how we can work out the numbers of some of the suggestions that have been made to us and so on.

5 So it may be a little bit after that, but our target date at present is 12 April. When we publish that proposal we need to decide whether it is significantly different from the Redistribution Committee's proposal. If it is we will then invite further objections and conduct further hearings and inquiries like this into that further proposal, and if it's not – if we take the view that it's not significantly different, then we can thereafter publish a final determination which is final and there is no appeal against
10 that. Those boundaries become the new boundaries for the Legislative Council. So with those preliminaries is there any questions that arise from any of that, are you comfortable with all of that? Okay.

15 We've taken the step of inviting four people along today because the matters that were canvassed in your submissions were the same issue, that's relating to the naming of the Paterson electorate and also the Wellington electorate, and we thought it was sensible for each of you to be able to hear what the others were saying and to speak in support of anything that you might like to say. So we are in your hands at this point. We would like to hear your views. You can assume that we've read your
20 submissions and that we've taken those in, so you don't need to go through all the detail of those, but if there are any matters that you particularly want to draw to our attention now is the opportunity.

25 MR VAN ZETTEN: Well, I'm happy to start if that's okay and I'm honoured actually to be sitting here beside long aldermen and ex-mayors. I think – I know all the aldermen feel very strongly about this, I don't come just as myself and I do represent the people of Launceston, so there's another one representing the people of Launceston in a very strong way. I think I just want to follow on the discussions and it was good to sit in a bit early on the discussions before because the discussion there
30 was that the comments were made that it's the more generally known name that is what you look for.

35 Well, in our case Paterson is not the more generally known name at all. In fact most people out there don't really know what Paterson is referring to, where it is referring to, it's not a landmark in this city, it never really has been. So from that point of view I believe the Launceston and the CBD is far more a landmark, it's an area that people recognise that entails the whole area. So I believe that would be a feature which would be strongly recognised and point out to what it's about.

40 The name obviously was Launceston way from the beginning, so people have known that name for a long, long time and for some reason which we're not clear on it was changed in 1999. I think the other issues that are in the letter which we probably don't really need to go over, but more likely is the fact that it's a very unknown name and I think I want to stress the point Paterson, the whole street of Paterson, if that's
45 what it's referring to Paterson Street, is not in the area as well, some of it is in Rosevears, so why Rosevears doesn't become Paterson then, it might just as logical as our area being called Paterson.

It's just not known, it's just an area that's not known and I think there's plenty of cases throughout the country where the name has identified with a city or with an area, and I think we'd like to see the same here. I think it would save a lot of confusion. It would clarify to people where Launceston is, the boundaries of
5 Launceston which Paterson just doesn't do that at all for us at the moment. It's very unclear. It's a street, if that's what we're referring to, or a person which is another very unclear thing. To us it's very confusing, there's no clarity in that and we'd love to see, and the council very strongly wants to recommend that the name comes back to Launceston and not Paterson.

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, thanks for that, Mayor.

MS SHORT: Will we take questions as we go?

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes, by all means if there's questions, yes.

MS SHORT: One in particular to the mayor. The boundary for the local government area, if you like, Launceston is quite different obviously to this electorate and in fact a large proportion of people in the Launceston, LGA if you
20 like, are in the Windermere legislative electorate. Do you think there's any confusion by putting Paterson back to Launceston, wouldn't that confuse people in your local government area?

25 MR VAN ZETTEN: I don't think so. You mean at election time for voting?

MS SHORT: Yes. Given that Windermere is in the Launceston LGA but has a separate legislative council - - -

30 MR VAN ZETTEN: I don't think so because I think people see Launceston as the CBD and its surrounds and I know people that live in Riverside and as far as local governments go and up at Prospect, and they see themselves as part of Launceston, yet they're in a different area. So I don't think it would, I think as far as for this purposes it would be very clear that Launceston and CBD and the surrounds, and
35 people know those boundaries wouldn't have trouble with that at all.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, thanks for that. Who would like to address us next?

MR WING: I'm happy to go last.

40 THE CHAIRPERSON: Mrs Smart.

MRS SMART: Thank you indeed. First of all I'd like to thank everybody for giving me this opportunity to speak about Launceston, because it's very important to me and I was an alderman here for 15 years, and apart from that I just love
45 Launceston. But I made some points in my written submission and I'm pleased to be able to make some public comment here and I don't wish to make any private comments.

I've just come from the Launceston Advisory Heritage Committee meeting and I thought it was quite appropriate because I think the heritage of our city is very important. Launceston, as the third oldest city in Australia, is a very important city. And I think that most of the major cities in Australia have a legislative council or an electoral division named after them, and Launceston and Hobart, I have to add that, are two which miss out. I think it's most inappropriate and I'd like to endorse most of the mayor's comment actually, that the council has unanimously endorsed him coming here and making these comments, it's not his private prerogative.

5
10 And some years ago when the division was changed from Launceston to Paterson, the council at that time made the point that they thought it should be Launceston. I don't think there will be any confusion with the boundary, the municipal boundaries and the electoral boundaries. But I think as our third oldest city we're deserving – and historically and our heritage, we're deserving of having the legislative council electoral boundaries of this area called Launceston. It all stems back to the heritage and Gidley King when he came here and it was named after that.

15
20 And we have strong ties with our city in Cornwall, in England of Launceston and I think it is entirely appropriate. I cannot for the life of me understand why this electoral division in the Legislative Council was named after a street. That puzzled me somewhat, but I'm very hopeful now that we can redress this wrong and have it changed back to Launceston. Thank you.

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, thanks very much, Mrs Smart. Anybody have any questions for Mrs Smart at this point. Dr Morris?

DR MORRIS: Yes, thank you. I appreciate the courtesy of being invited here today following my written submissions. Just to give – I don't represent anyone other than myself. I've been interested in name that are used in streets and cities and towns in Tasmania, and as I mentioned in my submission wrote a book with my son a few years ago about the origin of the names of streets in Launceston. For some 10 years ago I was treasurer of the Launceston Historical Society, so that's just a background I'm coming from.

30
35 I made a submission to the previous hearing regarding the proposed name change to Paterson and saw this as another opportunity to object to the change. To change a name that's been used for nearly 150 years for no obvious reason, not only causes some confusion, but it just seems inexplicable. Although people are getting a bit used to it, I don't really think people have had time to get used to this change and it must cause some confusion. Paterson Street which is apparently the reason for choosing Paterson, most of it's not in the Paterson electorate anyway which adds to the confusion.

40
45 I mentioned in my written submission Paterson, although he was the leader of the first settlement in the north, he settled out at Yorktown and although he was interested in Launceston, he refused to move his headquarters to Launceston. In fact he was very dishonest about it because in his reports to Macquarie he would sometimes make out that he was in Launceston. He would head his letter Launceston

instead of Yorktown. So he was an ill man and didn't do a very good job, he was more interested in his garden.

5 So Paterson Street of course is named after him and for the electorate to inherit that name from him just seems quite inappropriate historically. And again historically for nearly 150 years it was the Launceston electorate, why change for no apparent reason. There is also good reason for Launceston to be retained as a name and that's already been mentioned. I don't think I've got anything further to add to what I've already said, so I'll leave it at that. Thank you.

10

THE CHAIRPERSON: Thanks very much Dr Morris. Any questions for Dr Morris? No. Mr Wing.

15 MR WING: Thank you, Mr Chairman and members of the tribunal. I also appreciate very much the opportunity to come here to discuss the submissions that we have all made with a consistency which is obvious in supporting a reversion to the name of Launceston of the electorate which I'm honoured to represent currently called Paterson. Like my friends here I'm – I was somewhat bewildered about the decision of the previous tribunal to insist on renaming the electorate which had been named, as Dr Morris said for 148 years, Launceston without any problem at all.

20

25 There had not been any feeling in the community that there should be any change. In fact the feeling in the community from those who consider this has been unanimously in my experience, that the name of Launceston should have been retained. The 1999 tribunal, using guidelines, said that they were applying names to electorates on two main principles that they should be named after well recognised geographical features, and in some cases have an accepted historical reference to the proposed division.

30 Well, Paterson Street is not a well recognised geographical feature. Outside Launceston it is a little known street, if known at all. Inside Launceston it is not even the main street and it certainly could not be claimed to be a well recognised geographical feature. Nor does it fit the other guideline of being accepted historical reference to the proposed division. As we've heard from Dr Morris Lieutenant Colonel Paterson did not even live in Launceston. The 1999 tribunal was quite emphatic through the chairman in saying that the proposed electorate of Paterson, now the electorate of Paterson, was being named Paterson not after any individual, but because of the street.

40 So even if you extend beyond that, the fact that the street was named after Colonel Paterson, not only is the majority of that street in the electorate of Rosevears, but Colonel Paterson, as we heard from Dr Morris, didn't even live here and his jurisdiction extended over the whole of northern, north western and north eastern Tasmania, from approximately Oatlands south it was Buckinghamshire and Cornwall
45 north of Oatlands. So there's no reason why that name should be associated particularly with Launceston any more than Scottsdale or Circular Head or Campbell Town. And the fact that a street which happened to be in Launceston is named after him goes against the reasoning of the 1999 tribunal, that it was certainly not being

named after an individual, but the street is named after the individual which doesn't have any particular historical significance to this precise area in which we are now any more than the other places that I've mentioned.

5 So it does not readily identify any area or any boundary. If you mention Paterson and say, "Where would the boundaries be of the electorate of Paterson in the Legislative Council of Tasmania?" I don't think anybody could on the basis of that snippet of information identify where it would be. But the name Launceston does. The electorate of Launceston, well, people would expect that to include the CBD and
10 those significant parts of Launceston. I must say after my electorate was renamed Paterson, I have used the name as sparingly as possible. I refused to have it on my correspondence for quite some considerable time.

In talking with the media I like to be known as an independent member of the
15 Legislative Council from Launceston. Probably fortunately throughout most of this period I was also president, so I was able to put that on the letterhead but not Paterson. And by choice I do not propose to continue as president beyond this year. And I'm really almost appealing to the tribunal to let me sign letters after June the member for Launceston, because I've been proud, for the 17-odd years before the
20 name was changed, to be known as the member for Launceston, named after the city in which I love to live. I'm very proud of that and I think it's a slight on our city to have been deprived of having at least one electorate named after the city, because that is common throughout Australia. I think Alice Springs is probably the only city that does not have at least one electorate named after it. And some cities have more
25 than one, and I've identified those in my submission.

I do not have similar pride in being known as the member for Paterson, named after a street. I think my electorate would be the only electorate in Australia and hopefully
30 in the world that is named after a street. And I think I'll leave it at that and not go into any further adjectives. But it was a serious step to deny this city, and also the city of Hobart from having an electorate named after them. As Mrs Smart has said, Hobart is the second-oldest city in Australia, Launceston is the third-oldest city in Australia and they each deserve to have an electorate named after them. In my
35 submission I said that if there were submissions to support the change of name of the electorate of Wellington to Hobart, I would be supportive of that. I now know that the Hobart City Council and I think Mr Parkinson have made submissions to that effect, and I do support those.

It was very unusual that of the four Legislative Council electorates in the Hobart,
40 Mount Wellington area, the only one that the 1999 tribunal named Wellington was the one that had no part of Mount Wellington in it. The other three had part of Mount Wellington. The former electorate of Hobart had no part of Mount Wellington in it, the only one of four that didn't. It was the only one of four that was named Wellington. So that seemed illogical too. At least Mount Wellington is a
45 well-known geographical feature, but I still support our capital city having an

electorate named after it. I believe it is deserving and appropriate, and it was longstanding as the case with this electorate, now named Paterson.

5 I've given some statistics on page 3 of my submission, showing that currently, as at
30 September 2007 and for the projected date of 30 September 2011, more than 70
per cent of the people in the electorate of Paterson live in the Launceston municipal
area, and only, well, fewer than 7000 in each case, only slightly more than 6000 at
the moment live in other areas. Now, that is, I think, solely the other areas are in the
boundaries of the Meander municipal area. And that includes Blackstone Heights,
10 part of Prospect, Prospect Vale and Hadspen. None of those areas would be seen as,
not desirous of competing with Launceston to have the electorate named after them.
And Hadspen is the only township within the proposed new boundaries of the
electorate of Paterson and I don't think anybody in Hadspen would be suggesting
that the electorate should be named Hadspen, nor would anybody living in the other
15 areas suggest that it be Blackstone Heights, or Prospect, or Summerhill.

So unlike, say, the electorate of Montgomery which includes Ulverstone, Penguin,
Burnie, where if you named Montgomery one of those, the other two towns would
feel disadvantaged perhaps, there is no competing, no competition in terms of towns
20 or areas for another area to be named instead of Launceston. Now, I was very
encouraged to read in the committee's reasons, the 2007-2008 redistribution
committee's reasons on page 12 referring to the proposed change of boundaries to
take out of the electorate of Paterson those areas in the northern midlands area, that
would be Devon Hills and the Launceston airport. The committee commented on
25 page 4, that that consolidated Paterson as a metropolitan division centred on
Launceston's CBD and southern suburbs. And I think that I a very relevant,
appropriate comment because Paterson now will become more of an urban electorate
centred on Launceston CBD and southern suburbs.

30 Now, I have made reference on page 4, to cities, Australian cities which have their
name used more than once in the naming of electoral boundaries. And I won't read
all through but Ballarat, for example, has a House of Representatives seat named
after it. It also, in the Victorian Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly
have electorates named Ballarat East and Ballarat West. Bendigo has a House of
35 Representatives seat named after it. In the Victorian Legislative Assembly Bendigo
East and Bendigo West. Geelong is the name of an electorate in both the Victorian
Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly, and I've given many other
examples of that. And unfortunately neither Hobart nor Launceston currently have
even one electorate named after them.

40
The – on page 5 I've given details of the number of organisations and facilities
named Launceston. It's widespread. I've included Launceston Country Club
Casino. It's so named in the Launceston telephone directory, but I think it has been
officially renamed Country Club Tasmania, so I just mention that. But it's still fairly
45 widely known as the Launceston Country Club Casino. I support the submissions
and the comments made by my friends here today, and also the Launceston Chamber
of Commerce.

Now, the attitudes and the points made in these submissions have been made consistently by the same organisations and individuals since the suggestion was first made in 1998 that the name of the electorate of Launceston be changed to Paterson. There is a consistency from leading citizens, from the City Council, from the
5 Launceston Chamber of Commerce. And I must say in discussions that I've had about this issue, everybody to whom I've spoken or who've spoken to me since it was first mooted that there be a change of name have, to a person, been opposed to the name of Paterson and have been supportive of the name of Launceston.

10 There was a fair amount of incredulity expressed initially and that has continued about the proposal and then the decision to change the name to Launceston. And I have not found anybody who has supported that. I have not – and everybody who has discussed that with me has been supportive and quite strongly supportive of Launceston being the appropriate name. Now, I want to refer to the names of a
15 number of former members of the Legislative Council who have represented one of the three electorates based around this city and their views. With the electorate of Paterson formerly Launceston, the only other surviving former representative is Mr Ray Shipp. He was the member for Launceston until 1982 for approximately 12 years. He is now a member of the Launceston City Council. As you've heard from
20 our mayor, the Launceston City Council was unanimously and strongly in favour of the name being Launceston and not Paterson, and I know that Mr Shipp is very strongly of that view, having been the former member for Launceston.

With the seat of Rosevears, formerly Cornwall, you've heard from Mr Kerry Finch
25 this morning I think and I think you raised the subject with him. You know his views strongly in favour of the electorate being named Launceston. Mr Robin McKendrick, Alderman Robin McKendrick, a member of the Launceston City Council is one of those who unanimously supported the submission made by the mayor. Mr Ray Bailey, a former member for Cornwall and then Rosevears, and Mr
30 George Brooks, former member for Westmoreland, now Windermere, made a joint submission with me to the 1998-99 tribunal about boundaries and names. And the three of us made a joint strong submission including the submission that the electorate now known at Paterson should be called Launceston. Mr Darrell Chellis is a former member for Westmoreland. He has authorised me to say that he strongly
35 favours the name Launceston, and Alderman Ivan Dean, MLC also is one of the aldermen who unanimously supported that.

The only surviving former member of any of those electorates that I've not been able to speak with about this is Sir Geoffrey Foote. I attempted to phone him this
40 morning but he wasn't answering. I know him well, as Dr Morris does, and I feel I know what he would think about that, but I haven't been able to speak with him so I can't quote him. So the name Launceston has its stamp impressed widely in and over the whole of the area of the electorate now known at Paterson to the extent, as I've said in my submission, that the most logical and appropriate name for this
45 division is Launceston. And I believe the most logical and appropriate name for the electorate of Wellington, with no part of it in Mount Wellington, even I think, with the proposed redistribution of some of the boundaries, is Hobart, and I commend

those ideas to you and your colleagues, Mr Chairman. And thank you for the opportunity of being able to do that.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thanks very much, Mr Wing. This is a differently constituted tribunal from the 1998-99 one and we've been - - -

MR WING: I'm very pleased to know that.

10 MR TAYLOR: We hate it.

THE CHAIRPERSON: We've looked at the published reasons for the tribunal's view about these issues. It seems to me that the central point is the one that Cassie put to the mayor, and I'd be interested in your comments as to whether or not it is a sensible principle to seek to differentiate between the names of electorates and the names of local government areas for all the reasons of avoiding confusion and separate identities and all of those sorts of things. If that principle is to be accepted, then I hear you as saying that, even if you accept that principle, the name Paterson is inappropriate for this area, and the name Wellington is inappropriate for Hobart. But is this an issue where we ought to be looking for different names from both Wellington and Paterson, but not reverting to the name of the local government area that applies to those locations.

25 MR WING: Thank you for the opportunity of commenting of that, Mr Chairman. I'd refer to the, first of all, to the practice in other parts of Australia. I haven't been able to check this out, but I refer to the electorate of Brisbane in the House of Representatives. Brisbane has a population exceeding that of Tasmania, and an annual budge, I think, still exceeding that of Tasmania.

30 So that seat of Brisbane, I assume, would not cover, well, certainly not cover the whole of Brisbane, and it would cover a smaller percentage of the population of Brisbane, I would expect, than the percentage of people living in the Launceston boundaries in the electorate of Paterson, over 70 per cent. I doubt if the people outside the boundaries of the Federal Electorate of Brisbane would feel disadvantaged, or if there would be any greater confusion than might exist among electors concerning which boundaries they live in anywhere in Tasmania. I think if you took a poll of Tasmanians and asked in which electorate boundary do they live, there would be not a lot of people who would be able to readily identify the electoral boundaries.

40 But in practical terms, I don't think that causes any confusion because I do know that from the discussion I had with Mr Finch, that he had explained to you the practice that we have here in Launceston. If people phone any of the three local members and we usually ask, where do you live, and then if they're not in our boundaries we explain that they are in another member's boundary and it's our convention that we don't transgress or trespass into another member's boundaries, and we refer them to the other member.

So I agree with the mayor, I don't think there's any particular problem there over and above the problem that the people in Hobart might have in deciding where their boundaries are. Take the electorate of Derwent. I mean people at Derwent Bridge, I don't think that they would feel that they should – that their electorate should be
5 called Derwent. The Derwent River covers a very large area of the electorate of Derwent. I don't think that causes any more confusion than people might have in any event about in which electorate they live.

10 And for 148 years it could be tested and I'm not aware of anybody who saw that as a problem. I don't think there was any evidence to the previous tribunal that that was a problem. I don't think there was any evidence available that that is a problem over and above any problems that people might have in understanding where they are. If they live in Campbell Town, which Legislative Council electorate they're in than if they live in any other part of Tasmania.

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes, I'm putting to you, I guess, the principle that there are some people who live and who identify themselves as residents of Launceston City Council, but who are not within the boundaries of the Paterson electorate. Are they not going to be confused if they see advertising for periodic election for an electorate named Launceston. Are they not going to think I ought to be voting in this?
20

MR WING: At election time, I think the electoral office would be aware too that people all over the place are confused where they are. I mean I've heard people phoning me when there's an election for Westmoreland, to see whether they're in the
25 electorate of Westmoreland, or if they're in another electorate. Some people are confused anyway, but I don't think the naming of the electorate has even been a reason for that, or that that constitutes any problem.

MR VAN ZETTEN: I think that issue is there now because people don't know
30 whether they are in Paterson or Windermere anyway, some of them, depends where the boundary line is.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Sure.

35 MR VAN ZETTEN: They've still got to find out, so I still think that issue is there. I don't think it will change the issue. I think it'll be easier. Seventy per cent will be in the one. If you make that 100, that's fine, we'll accept that, but 70 per cent would all be in Launceston, will be in Launceston.

40 MR MURPHY: Can I just clarify that? It's not quite that way. The way it's presented, the numbers are correct, but I mean the ratepayers are distributed across Apsley, Rosevears and Windermere and in fact they've got 2000 in Apsley and 8000 in Rosevears roughly, and 18,000 in Windermere, with the 17,000 in Paterson. So they're all Launceston ratepayers and they're the people we'd be worried about
45 outside Paterson, other than the 17,000 that are in Paterson.

MR WING: I don't think there's any historical evidence that that's ever been a problem in the 148 years, as I say, any more than the problem that exists all over

Tasmania with the Legislative Council electoral boundaries, and people not being sure in which boundary they live. So I don't think the naming aggravates that and hasn't aggravated. In the 17 years I was a member for Launceston that wasn't any greater problem than in any other electorate. But if we look at the national practice
5 with Brisbane, for example, Adelaide, there's a House of Representative seat of Adelaide. Now, that wouldn't incorporate everybody in Adelaide. I mean I can't give you statistics about that, but obviously knowing the hundreds of thousands of people who live in Adelaide, the majority of Adelaide would be outside the electorate of Adelaide.

10

So I mean if that had been a problem, that name would have been changed a long time ago. If it had been a problem in Brisbane that would have been changed too. And I suspect that in a number of other cases, the city, Bendigo in the House of Representatives, that may well be, I'm not sure, but certainly Brisbane and Adelaide
15 are examples of that same situation existing as would exist here if Paterson reverts to Launceston. I don't see that as a problem. I don't see that on balance anyway, even there is some evidence that we're not aware of that that increases the problem of people not being certain in which electorates they live in. But that does not carry sufficient weight to counter balance the strength of the reasons in favour of calling
20 Paterson Launceston. The reasons in favour of that, I want to suggest, strongly outweigh any possible reasons on that basis against it.

THE CHAIRPERSON: So I'm correctly interpreting that you don't have a second option?

25

MR WING: No, no.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay.

30 MRS SMART: Mr Chairman, could I just comment on that last point? The municipal area of Brisbane incorporates five other electoral divisions, but the electoral division which is called Brisbane incorporates the CBD, and I think that's important, that although there are five electoral divisions within the municipal area of Brisbane, it's the electoral division which incorporates the CBD which is actually
35 called Brisbane. And I think that's also the case with Adelaide. So I take up Mr Wing's point here, that I think that there won't be confusion caused, and there certainly wasn't in the 148 years, and I think the people of Launceston will be no more confused than they are now.

40 MR MURPHY: I'm just wondering if there was a closer alignment of the Launceston municipal boundaries earlier.

MR WING: No, there was less, there was less. Because when I was first elected my electorate took in Riverside, which was in the Beaconsfield Municipality, now West
45 Tamar it's called. It took in Blackstone Heights which was in the Westbury Municipality then, now Meander Valley. It took in Youngtown and Kings Meadows which was in the St Leonards Municipality, and it took in some of Launceston. In

fact in those days probably the minority of electors lived in the Launceston boundary, but I'm not sure about that.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, yes.

5

MR WING: But there were four municipal areas and it was known as Launceston and there was no problem. I mean if there had been a problem we would have known about it.

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: 148 years.

MR WING: Yes, that's right. The Electoral Commission would have known about it. People would have been complaining. But there wasn't. So now, there are only two municipal areas. There is Launceston municipal area. There is the Meander
15 Valley municipal area, and as the 2008 redistribution committee said, the fact that the areas in the northern Midlands are taken out, now consolidates Paterson as a metropolitan division centred on Launceston CBD and southern suburbs. I'm grateful to Mrs Smart for what she has just said. I think that's very relevant. I don't
20 think there is any possible name that could more appropriately identify the situation and the location of the electorate of Paterson than Launceston, centred on the CBD and that's a very good point Mr Smart has made, that Brisbane and Adelaide electorates being named after those cities appropriately because those electorates so named centre on the CBD in each case.

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: Almost treating the CBD as a geographic feature.

MR WING: Yes, that's right.

MR VAN ZETTEN: A lot more sense than Paterson.

30

MRS SMART: Street.

MR TAYLOR: Well, the name Paterson and whatever reason.

35 MR WING: I don't think there is any feature that better identifies the electorate now known as Paterson by way of well-recognised geographical features than the name Launceston.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, thank you for that. Is there any more questions that
40 anybody has for Mr Wing or others of the panel assembled? Thank you all very much for taking the time and effort, as I said at the start, both for making submission and to attend this morning. We appreciate very much you doing that, and as I said, the task before us is to publish a further proposal once we've considered the matters that have been put to us. And we will aim to do that on 12 April, although forgive us
45 if it's not quite on that date.

MR VAN ZETTEN: Thank you for the opportunity and I'm looking forward to it coming out on 12 April.

<THE WITNESSES WITHDREW

MATTER ADJOURNED at 11.51 am INDEFINITELY

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