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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

O/N 79519

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

In absentia:

MR PETER MURPHY, Surveyor-General

MS CASSANDRA SHORT, Nominated by the Australian Statistician

MR BRUCE TAYLOR, Electoral Commissioner

HENTY HOUSE, LAUNCESTON

2.23 PM, THURSDAY, 24 APRIL 2008

Continued from 27.3.08

<THE HON GREG HALL MLC, CALLED

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you for coming along - - -

MR HALL: Right.

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: - - - and as you say this is something of a sledge hammer for a very small matter.

MR HALL: Yes, it is, yes.

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Let me put some matters just on the public record because I would like to treat this in the same way as the previous inquiry.

MR HALL: Yes.

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: It's a public inquiry, but if there are matters that you want us to deal with confidentially - - -

MR HALL: Yes.

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: - - - then you can apply to us and we will consider whether or not we should do that. We are intending to do a transcript and to publish it on the web - - -

MR HALL: Yes.

30 THE CHAIRPERSON: - - - the same as we did with the other inquiries unless you object to that. Is that okay?

MR HALL: No, that's okay, yes.

35 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, thanks. But obviously there's just Liz and I here today. The full tribunal has delegated to us the capacity to conduct this inquiry. They obviously want to make any decisions.

MR HALL: Yes.

40 THE CHAIRPERSON: Just for the sake of the record, to run through the process that we think applies to that. Section 18(4) of the Act – I'm sorry, section 20, subsection (4) of the Act says:

45 *That the tribunal is not bound by the legality of this evidence and they regulate the conduct of proceedings at inquiry into an initial objection as it thinks fit.*

Subsection 22(4) says:

Sections 18, subsection (3) and 21 apply to an inquiry into further objections if it were an initial objection.

5 It is our belief that the reference to section 21 is an erroneous one, that it should refer
to section 20 and that therefore the intention is plain that an inquiry – the proceedings
in an inquiry into a further objection should be conducted in the same way as
proceedings in an inquiry into an initial objection and would strengthen the matter by
the fact that schedule 2, item 8 says that the tribunal can proceed at meetings as it
thinks fit. So the tribunal, having met and determined the way that it wants to
10 conduct this inquiry - - -

MR HALL: Yes.

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: - - - is by delegation, that's the way that we have got to the
place in which we are. So I thank you for indulging me and letting me put that at
least on the record.

MR HALL: Yes.

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: I also would just like to note that the only objection that we
have to the further proposals; this issue about the name of the electorate that you
represent, whatever the outcome of this discussion it is likely that we would
determine that there's no significant difference from the further proposal to a final
determination. We can go straight to a final determination and if you take a different
25 view to that then I'd invite you to let us know now rather than being caught by
surprise if a final determination appears after we complete this sort of process.

MR HALL: Yes.

30 THE CHAIRPERSON: That's – even once we have made the final determination
it's not the end of the road, because we then need to work through the transitional
arrangements and I think in the circumstances it can front this tribunal as opposed to
previous ones, the transitional arrangements are obviously going to be a lot simpler
than in the past, so we don't expect that to be too complicated, it is just mere words
35 in the process.

MR HALL: Yes.

40 THE CHAIRPERSON: Those are all the preliminary matters. I did have some
questions that the tribunal has put together to ask of you. They do sort of work
through the issues in a structured sort of way, so maybe I can go through those
questions with you.

45 MR HALL: Yes, yes, that's fine.

THE CHAIRPERSON: If there are any matters obviously that we don't cover then
I'll invite you to give those to us as well. But the first of the questions is that, given
the minimal change to Rowallan division in this further proposal, do you believe that

the impact and costs of changing the name can be justified? I'd like to get your comments on that proposition first off.

5 MR HALL: I presume, Richard, you are referring to the – that the boundary changes are minimal? Is that what you're saying?

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

10 MR HALL: Yes, yes, okay. Yes, well, I – well, first of all, thank you for the opportunity to speak about this matter. As I said at the original hearing, I felt that the name Rowallan was a bit – was not – what was it like, trying to think of the words that I used at the time, was not relevant in a lot of - to a lot of people in the electorate, particularly when we have elections only every six years, so it's quite
15 about the Western Tiers being a dominant – I didn't at the time, it was a – but it certainly is a dominant feature in the electorate.

20 As to whether it's worth the cost and everything else, I think it is. I think it is – if we have names for electorates and there is an opportunity to change to something which is more relevant, then I think – I've no idea what the cost is worth, I mean, it's obviously to do with letterheads and other paperwork basically - - -

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

25 MR HALL: - - - and it's – yes, so I have – I don't have any idea of what that might be.

MS GILLAM: I think changing maps and some of those things would - - -

30 MR HALL: Yes, yes, maps would have to be changed. From a personal point of view I would have to change all my business cards and all that sort of thing and within the Legislative Council itself there would have to be changes made to names on different items. However, of course, if Launceston and Hobart go ahead they are all going to have to be changed as well, so there are probably going to be three
35 electorate name changes, yes - - -

THE CHAIRPERSON: Sure.

40 MR HALL: - - - from an administrative point of view. Yes.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. But just to sum up, your perspective would be that it is worth contemplating change to the name Rowallan.

45 MR HALL: Yes, yes, yes it is, yes.

THE CHAIRPERSON: All right. The next question was that the further proposal suggests the name Great Western Tiers can be used on the basis that that's the proper geographic name for the feature that dominates the horizon throughout the electorate.

In your view, what's wrong with that name and what's the basis for concluding that it is better used.

5 MR HALL: Yes. I think Great Western Tiers is a bit of a mouthful. I mean, there have been precedents set where I think that, you know, you have had Western Devon and other electorates, you know, with a two-barrelled name. As you are aware in the chamber we are – members are required to refer to the Honourable Member for whatever, you know, so the Honourable Member for Great Western Tiers gets a little bit of a mouthful, I think. So perhaps, you know, just – commonly known, if I can
10 say, in the Meander Valley and the Northern Midlands it is, you know, it is referred to as the Western Tiers rather than the Great Western Tiers by most people, even though that you may see on a map the name Great Western Tiers.

15 And I suppose to be consistent, if you think about it some of the names that we have for our electorates now, Montgomery is a case in point; Sue Smith's electorate is Montgomery, yet a feature is Mount Montgomery, you know, so to be consistent it ought to be Mount Montgomery and it probably should be Mount Murchison or the Murchison River and so it goes on. So there are already quite a few electorates that have not got the full name, if you like.

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: Sure.

MR HALL: Yes.

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. The comment about common acceptance of the abbreviated form, if I could call it that - - -

MR HALL: Yes.

30 THE CHAIRPERSON: - - - are there organisations in your electorate that you know of that use that abbreviated form. Is there any - - -

35 MR HALL: Yes, I can think of sort of the Western Tiers Rural Youth Organisation is one. I'm sure there are others. I'm just trying to think of them. Just for the moment I can't grab any, because a lot went - in the last amalgamation of councils many took up the name, Meander Valley. Yes, as a – as, you know, sort of a stretching through that old Deloraine and Westbury municipalities, yes. Yes, yes.

40 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. And you mention that there's broad acceptance in use of the term Western Tiers throughout the electorate. Have people expressed to you they would prefer that the electorate is called Western Tiers rather than Great Western Tiers, for example?

45 MR HALL: Most people have. Yes, most people have. I did canvass a few people and they thought that the – you know, whilst they weren't going to die in a ditch over it, they thought that Western Tiers was sufficed quite well, and that included some of my confederates in the upper house as well. Yes. And I've talked to people who actually live underneath the mountain out around Caveside and areas like that and if

it's not – they often refer to it as the mountain, but the Western Tiers would come second.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

5

MR HALL: Yes, yes.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes, okay. You mentioned, I think, the logistical problems in terms of space on cards and signage and all of those sorts of things. The simplest solution to that would be, as I alluded to earlier, is just to keep the existing name of Rowallan, but I understand you to be putting to us that changing to the Member for Western Tiers is preferable to being the Member for Great Western Tiers for all those sorts of signage and business cards and those sorts of things.

10
15 MR HALL: Yes. I mean, there's only a limited amount of space on business cards and even if you are doing signage for elections, all those sorts of things they do, you know, anybody who has got a short name like Hall, it is much better than doing that than Rattray-Wagner, it's easier, if I can put it that way.

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

MR HALL: Yes, yes. So that's simply a matter of logistics in that sense, yes.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Given that we are at the conclusion of this process and it's likely, although not decided yet, that the tribunal will make a final determination and won't go out again, are there any other names that have occurred to you in the time since we last spoke that you would prefer rather than Western Tiers, or is Western Tiers your preferred name?

30 MR HALL: It is, it is and I'd – you know, when you think about it, it is the dominant feature of – I've got five municipalities, it's a dominant feature for all of Meander Valley, Northern Midlands, Kentish gets a fair look at it as well, even the parts of Sassafras in the Latrobe Municipality that I represent, all from, you know, the higher ground, all have a view to the south of Western Tiers and the Central
35 Highlands Municipality, whilst they can't actually see the Western Tiers they know that that is their northern escarpment of the Central Highlands. So it really is the dominant feature of the whole electorate.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay.

40

MR HALL: There's nothing else that really stands out and I've canvassed it. Rang quite a few people, you know, and it really gets people to -it makes them – they scratch their heads and really think about it and they – most would come to the conclusion that Western Tiers certainly the one that is most applicable.

45

THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. That brings us to the end of the formal questions that the tribunal has had for you.

MR HALL: Right.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Liz, unless there's anything else from you?

5 MS GILLAM: No, I haven't got anything further, no.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Is there anything that we haven't canvassed that you wanted to put to us about the issue - think that we ought to be considering in making up our minds about this?

10

MR HALL: No, I don't think so, Richard, I think it's - or Mr Chairman, I think it's a relatively simple matter in some ways from my point of view anyway and this is something that the tribunal has to make a decision on, you know, having done - and I'm not going to die in a ditch, but there you are.

15

THE CHAIRPERSON: Exactly your preference.

MR HALL: I thought it was - I thought - I've come in to express my preference and yes, the way I look at it and you know, I've talked to other members as well quite extensively about it and they concur with me that that is a better option than the Great - the Great Western Tiers.

20

MS GILLAM: Were they in favour of the changed name from Rowallan?

25 MR HALL: Yes.

MS GILLAM: I mean, not - forgetting about the Great, did they think that was a good move?

30 MR HALL: Yes, they did. They did, Liz, yes, yes. I don't think I had any members or any - nobody has expressed a view to me that it is not a good name change, nobody at all, whether it be public and or - there may be some people out there, I don't know, but they haven't expressed that view to me.

35 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. All right. Well, unless there is anything else that you want to say to us I think we can draw stumps at this point. Thank you for, you know, coming in - - -

MR HALL: Thank you.

40

THE CHAIRPERSON: - - - and thank you for accepting the changed arrangements for the inquiry.

MR HALL: I'm sorry to have been such a nuisance.

45

THE CHAIRPERSON: Not at all, not at all. I've said to a number of people on a number of occasions, it would be a poorer process without the input of members of

the community and members of the Legislative Council, so we very much value that.
So thank you.

5 MR HALL: Well, thank you.

MS GILLAM: Thank you.

MR HALL: Thanks very much for that.

10

<THE WITNESS WITHDREW

MATTER ADJOURNED at 2.37 pm INDEFINITELY

Index of Witness Events

| | |
|-------------------------------|------|
| THE HON GREG HALL MLC, CALLED | P-84 |
| THE WITNESS WITHDREW | P-90 |

Index of Exhibits and MFIs

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