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29 February 2008



The Chairman
Legislative Council Electoral Boundaries Redistribution Tribunal
Level 2, Telstra Centre
70 Collins Street
HOBART TAS 7000

Dear Mr Chairman

Re: 2007-08 Redistribution of Legislative Council electoral boundaries

This letter is in reply to the invitation to lodge a written comment in relation to the *Initial Redistribution Proposal*.

Whilst the Committee has proposed to retain the present names of all fifteen divisions in its initial proposal (p. 11), I note at page 9 that by stating "once the final determination of the new electoral boundaries **and the names** of the new electoral divisions is made", the Committee indicates that names changes can occur and the phrase (at p. 10) "the Committee is to take into account community of interest in each Council division" encourages me again to raise the inappropriate names of the divisions of Paterson and Wellington.

In 1999 the name of the division for 148 years of Launceston was changed to that of Paterson, despite compelling reasons to retain its historical and much more suitable and relevant name of Launceston.

I submit that the present redistribution of boundaries provides an appropriate opportunity to restore the name of Launceston as the more preferable and acceptable name for the division for the following pertinent reasons:

1. Launceston had been the name for 148 years for the division, inexplicably and unreasonably changed to Paterson in 1999, causing confusion in the minds of electors.
2. The change preferred to change the name of the division from its principal City to a not over-prominent street name, the street in fact being mainly in another electorate.
3. Paterson Street was named for Lieutenant Colonel William Paterson who led the initial settlement at Port Dalrymple on the River Tamar, and who settled at York Town. Despite the unsuitability of this site, and the decision to move the settlement to Launceston, Colonel Paterson preferred to remain at York Town. Launceston in fact developed in spite of Paterson!

4. The division contains the major part of central Launceston so that the change of name of the division from Launceston to that of Paterson was not only inappropriate, but in fact was opposed at the time by the leading elements of the City, and the re-naming thus ignored the legislative requirement to take into account "community of interest in the division".
5. The adjacent divisions of Rosevears and Windermere are named after very small settlements, so it seems quite incongruous to have the name of the division of Launceston abandoned and changed to that of Paterson.
6. The name of Launceston for the division would be much less confusing for electors than retaining the discordant name of Paterson.

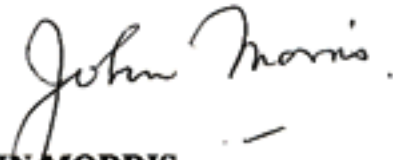
I respectfully submit that similar arguments would apply to the restoration of the traditional and more appropriate name of Hobart for the division which in 1999 was also sadly changed to Wellington.

I therefore humbly ask that serious consideration be given to restoring the names of Launceston and Hobart respectively to the divisions of Paterson and Wellington. To the argument that name changes are not necessary or not needed at this time, I would suggest that the 1999 changes should not have occurred and that these corrections are appropriate and would regularise the discordance of 1999 before becoming embedded by time.

My interest in the history of names led me to co-author in 1990 the book *History in Our Streets*, an historical account of Launceston street names.

May I thank the Tribunal for allowing me to make this submission.

Yours sincerely



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