



THE FEDERAL  
REDISTRIBUTION  
TASMANIA

# Public suggestion number 2

Michael Woolford

3 pages

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Fedredistribution-TAS](#)  
**Subject:** Redistribution of Federal Electoral Divisions in Tasmania  
**Date:** Saturday, 5 November 2016 4:36:55 PM

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I write in response to your newspaper notice in today's *Mercury*.

At the time of the publication of the results of the federal election on Sunday 3rd July this year, what attracted my attention was the **significant disparity** between the number of voters in the five Tasmanian electorates compared to the number of voters in all the other states. Only in the Northern Territory were the numbers lower than in Tasmania. That is indeed understandable considering the vast size of the territory and the smaller voter population (total c 130,00).

In Tasmania, the five electorates have between 72,000 and 76,000 voters ... a state total of 373,584 voters ... averaging 74,716 voters per electorate

There is something decidedly **UNdemocratic** about the electorates in Tasmania, when one considers other parts of the Commonwealth.

In the A.C.T., there are two seats: Canberra, with 143,279 voters and Fenner, with 138,847 voters .... a total of 282,126 voters.

Three seats in N.S.W. serve as examples: Cowper (118,388), Gilmore (115,984) and Page (117,317) .... a total of 351,689 voters.

In summary, in the A.C.T. each vote is **worth only half of a vote** in Tasmania and in N.S.W., the voters in the electorates mentioned above are represented by three members when, in Tasmania, a slightly larger number of voters has **five seats**. In those three N.S.W. seats, a vote is worth between 40% – 50% of a vote in Tasmania.

Why should this situation continue?

Why are votes in Tasmania **worth MORE** than votes from other parts of the country? We Tasmanians cannot argue that there are vast distances to travel across each electorate. There must be many electorates in Queensland, Western Australia and New South Wales which are larger than the whole of Tasmania! Yet, the voters return one member to the house and, in every case but for the two in the Northern Territory, there are more voters in the electorate.

If anything, Tasmania should be REDUCED to FOUR electorates ... and that only increases the number of voters in each to 93,396 ... **still less** than most of the electorates across the country.

The electorate of Lyons should disappear and the remaining four should be redistributed

to bring each of them to the 93,000 + mark.

Our Commonwealth prides itself on the 'one person- one vote' maxim but, under the current distribution in Tasmania, one person's vote is worth a good deal more than another Australian's vote; one who happens to live pretty much anywhere on the mainland.

Regards,

Michael Woolford

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Fedredistribution-TAS](#)  
**Subject:** Redistribution  
**Date:** Sunday, 6 November 2016 5:58:03 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

In addition to the email I sent yesterday, I wanted to make the comment that, while the division of Lyons in Tasmania should be removed and redistributed to the remaining four electorates, the name of the electorate should not be lost.

Of the Tasmanian electorates, the name Lyons holds a special place .... the only Tasmanian-born Prime Minister of our country. Of the others ... only Braddon and Bass should remain. The one was a premier of this state (colony) and the other, one of the most significant explorers in our history, particularly so in the history of Tasmania. The two ex-governors (Franklin and Denison) should become footnotes in the electoral history of our country. They were mediocre administrators and, besides, they have plenty of things named after them.

The four Tasmanian electorates should be: Lyons, Braddon, Bass and Clarke (Andrew Inglis).

Regards,

Michael Woolford