



THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
TASMANIA

Public suggestion number 14

Mark Mulcair

4 pages

FEDERAL REDISTRIBUTION OF TASMANIA 2016

(Mark Mulcair)

INTRODUCTION

I am pleased to be contributing to the 2016 Tasmanian Redistribution. I am an independent person, with no connections to any political party or organisation, and have been a frequent contributor to many state and federal redistributions over the years. I hope that submissions from independent, non-partisan people such as myself will be of value to the Committee.

The enrolment projections in Tasmania clearly show that the majority of the growth will be in the south of the state, particularly in Hobart and surrounds. The Division of Franklin is projected to be over quota, while Denison and Lyons are also expected to show reasonable growth. In contrast, there is projected to be much slower growth in the north. The Division of Braddon is projected to fall outside tolerance, while Bass also has lower than average growth.

The logical thing to do, therefore, is to expand Bass and Braddon into the northern parts of Lyons. Lyons in turn can then push southwards to soak up the excess around outer Hobart. The Committee may wish to make more significant changes around Hobart (see below), but the general principle for Bass, Braddon and Lyons still applies.

Since 4 of the 5 Divisions are held by the ALP, the political impact of the redistribution is fairly minor. Obviously, any gain in ALP margin in one seat will be offset by a corresponding reduction in margin in a neighbouring seat. Denison is held by Andrew Wilkie with a large margin, and any changes to the underlying 2PP vote are unlikely to have a major impact on his position.

ISSUES WITH CURRENT DIVISIONS

With only five Divisions, most of which have a clear geographical focus, most Tasmanian redistributions are relatively simple and uncontroversial. However, there has often been debate and objection to the constructions of two Divisions in particular; Lyons and Franklin.

Division of Lyons

Lyons in its current form is very much a 'bits and pieces' Division, taking in all the parts of Tasmania that don't neatly fit in the other four seats. From the outskirts of Hobart, the Division extends as far north as the northern coast between Launceston and Devonport. Current enrolment projections will likely cause Lyons to move further south, and take in additional parts of outer Hobart.

At the last redistribution, the Committee removed the western coastal area from Lyons, which went some way towards reducing the sprawl and diversity of the Division. I suggest that the Committee continue this approach for Lyons at this redistribution, by removing all of the northern coast. This will further reduce the physical size of Lyons, make the Division more compact and coherent, as well as address the projected surplus in the south of the state.

Division of Franklin

One frequent objection to the current Division of Franklin is its discontinuous nature. Franklin in its current form exists in two distinct parts, with no connection between them that does not pass through another Division.

Various alternatives have been proposed at previous redistributions. These generally involve Franklin pushing right up into the southern suburbs of Hobart, with the eastern shore transferred to either Denison or Lyons. This makes sense from a logical point of view, but previous Committees have rejected this option because it would involve a large number of electors. In addition, there does not seem to have been a groundswell of objections/complaints from local residents.

Personally, I have no strong opinion either way. I have not made any major changes to Franklin in my submission, but I would not object if that was how the Committee chose to proceed. I would simply suggest that whatever decision the Committee makes, local opinion is taken into account. While the current arrangement of Franklin looks odd, if the locals don't have a problem with the arrangement, why should anyone else?

PROPOSAL FOR THE DIVISION OF BRADDON

Braddon is projected to fall under quota, and has the lowest projected growth rate in the state. A significant injection of electors is needed, and these can realistically only come from the Division of Lyons.

A very logical gain is the balance of Latrobe Council, which is currently split between Braddon and Lyons. Latrobe has strong links to Devonport City, and there was some objection to the removal of parts of Latrobe from Braddon at the last redistribution. This change allows all of Latrobe to be reunited with Devonport in Braddon.

The area proposed to be transferred also has a higher projected growth rate than the existing Braddon. This will go some way towards ensuring that the Division remains within quota in the longer-term.

	CURRENT	PROJECTED
EXISTING BRADDON	73,208	73,286
+ Latrobe (balance)	4,522	4,697
PROPOSED BRADDON	77,730	77,983
Fraction of Quota	1.0362	1.0130

PROPOSAL FOR THE DIVISION OF BASS

Bass has slightly higher projected growth than Braddon, but is still expected to fall towards the bottom of quota by the projection time. I suggest a further addition of electors, and once again these can only realistically come from Lyons.

Given part of West Tamar is already within Bass, and given the area's connection to Launceston, it seems logical to unite all of West Tamar within Bass. This transfers around 8000 electors to Bass, and takes the Division over tolerance, so Bass needs to return some territory to Lyons.

One option is to remove the rural areas in the north-east of the Division (Dorset Council and Flinders Island), allowing Bass to contract right up to the Tamar Valley. This would succeed in making Bass more compact, but would result in Lyons pushing even further north than it does now. This is completely contrary to the logic of contracting Lyons southwards.

The second option is to transfer the balance of Meander Valley Council. This too has its problems, since the parts of Meander Valley in Bass are effectively part of Greater Launceston, and it is not ideal to split them from the city itself. However, on balance, I think this change is better than forcing Lyons as far north as Flinders Island.

Growth projections suggest that this part of Meander Valley should be able to be returned to Bass at a future redistribution. Sometimes, a temporary less-than-ideal arrangement is necessary to meet quota and prevent problems elsewhere.

	CURRENT	PROJECTED
EXISTING BASS	73,632	75,058
+ West Tamar	7917	8073
- Meander Valley	6840	7233
PROPOSED BASS	74,709	75,898
Fraction of quota	0.9959	0.9859

PROPOSAL FOR THE DIVISION OF DENISON

The existing Denison is well within tolerance, has reasonable projected growth, and is clearly based on central Hobart plus the City of Glenorchy. Since I am not proposing any major redraw of Franklin, the Division of Denison can be left unchanged.

	CURRENT	PROJECTED
EXISTING DENISON	73,993	76,019
Fraction of Quota	0.9864	0.9875

PROPOSALS FOR THE DIVISIONS OF LYONS AND FRANKLIN

Assuming no change to Denison, then these two Divisions can easily be self-adjusted, with Franklin's excess compensating Lyons for the losses to Braddon and Bass. A very logical transfer is the balance of Brighton Council (Old Beach and surrounds). Most of Brighton is already within Lyons, and this change would unite the council within Lyons.

Both Divisions would be well within tolerance at the projection time, with plenty of room for Franklin's projected growth.

	CURRENT	PROJECTED
CURRENT LYONS	77,181	79,555
- Latrobe	4,522	4,697
- West Tamar	7917	8073
+ Meander Valley	6840	7233
+ Brighton	2822	3178
PROPOSED LYONS	74,404	77,196
Fraction of quota	0.9919	1.0028

	CURRENT	PROPOSED
EXISTING FRANKLIN	77,058	80,997
- Brighton	2822	3178
PROPOSED FRANKLIN	74,236	77,819
	0.9896	1.0109