



THE FEDERAL  
REDISTRIBUTION  
TASMANIA

# Public suggestion number 15

Latrobe Council

5 pages

# Submission by Latrobe Council of the Redistribution of Federal Electoral Boundaries in Tasmania

30<sup>th</sup> November, 2016

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Latrobe Municipality covers an area of 600 square kilometres at the eastern end of the North West Coast of Tasmania. The Council area includes the towns/localities of Latrobe, Tarleton, Wesley Vale, Moriarty, Northdown, Port Sorell, Shearwater, Hawley Beach, Squeaking Point, Thirlstane, Harford, Sassafras and Merseylea.

The Latrobe municipality is currently divided between two electoral divisions, Braddon for the Latrobe area and Lyons for the Port Sorell area.

Latrobe Council requests the Port Sorell area be redistributed to the electorate of Braddon from Lyons.

## 2. BACKGROUND

Prior to the redistribution process of electorate boundaries in 2008, the Port Sorell area was a part of the Braddon electorate in Tasmania. At the time Council strongly objected to the Australian Electoral Commission's proposed transfer of Port Sorell from the electorate of Braddon to the electorate of Lyons.

Council has continuously consulted with the Port Sorell community via its Port Sorell Advisory Committee which represents eighteen different groups/organisations within the local area. Groups represented include Commercial/Retail, Commercial Tourist, Landcare groups, Port Sorell Bowls Club, Port Sorell Garden Club, Port Sorell Golf Club, Port Sorell History Group, Port Sorell Lions Club, Port Sorell Men's Shed, Port Sorell Surf Life Saving Club, Rubicon Club, Rubicon Combined Probus Club, Rubicon Senior Citizens Club, Port Sorell Primary School, Tasmanian Police, U3A, Youth and Community. There is clear and overwhelming support by representatives and the organisations/groups they represent to have the Port Sorell area returned to the Braddon electorate and to reunite the municipality, in electorate terms.

At a workshop of the Latrobe Council held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 Council supported the redistribution of the Port Sorell area to the Braddon electorate from Lyons.

## 3. ELECTORAL REDISTRIBUTION

The Port Sorell area has many commercial, tourism and social links to Latrobe and the North West Coast "Braddon electorate" and has little connection with the majority of the population and infrastructure contained in the Lyons electorate. These connections include:

- The **Mersey Community Hospital** – The hospital is located in the Latrobe Council area and services the North West Coast region with strong links to the North West Regional Hospital and the North West Private Hospital, both located in Burnie.
- **Devonport Airport** – This regional facility is also located in the Latrobe Council area and the Council has been proactive working with neighbouring councils to support the expansion of passenger services to the North West Coast.

Opportunities have been identified to develop synergies between the Devonport – Melbourne ferry passenger services which carry approximately 385,000 passengers each year and the nearby airport carrying 145,000 passengers during the 2015/16 financial year.

- **Dulverton Waste Management Site** – This regional facility is located just outside of Latrobe and is managed by a Joint Authority comprising representatives from Latrobe, Devonport, Central Coast and Kentish Councils. It also accepts waste from Burnie.
- The Devonport, Central Coast, Latrobe and Kentish Councils have dedicated tourism promotion personnel who work closely with each other, the regional tourism authority, Tourism Tasmania and tourism operators to co-operatively market the area under the **Devonport and Cradle Country** banner.
- The proposed **Mersey Industrial Estate**, supported by Latrobe and Devonport City Councils, has great opportunities to increase economic development close to the Devonport Airport and increase airport passenger number similar to what is currently happening with the Translink industrial area near the Launceston Airport.
- Latrobe Council is a member of the **Cradle Coast Authority**, along with eight other councils in the Braddon electorate. We play a key role in advocating for regional issues in this forum and enjoy and respect the support of fellow member councils. There is no similar affiliation with councils from outside the Cradle Coast Region.
- The Latrobe, Devonport, Central Coast and Kentish Councils work co-operatively in **emergency management** for the region and recent bushfire and flood events have served to again highlight the effectiveness of this alliance.
- The North West Coast communities have many **cultural links** with each other. All towns in the current Braddon electorate have very positive relationships. One only has to look at the strong sporting ties and competitions across the North West Coast which makes for a very positive and healthy community spirit.
- **Health** – Child health services are provided from Devonport. Community health services are also provided through the Tasmanian Health Service based in Devonport.
- **Education** - While there is now a Port Sorell Primary School, secondary schooling is Latrobe based and tertiary schooling available in Devonport.

#### 4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Latrobe Council respectfully requests that the Port Sorell area be redistributed from the Lyons electorate to the more appropriate electorate of Braddon.

Latrobe Council's community of interest and that of the Port Sorell area in particular, is very much within the North West of Tasmania. The Port Sorell community has closer links with the Braddon electorate in terms of community, economic, social and regional interests than it does with the largely dispersed electorate of Lyons.

We seek to have the Latrobe Municipality reunited in the one electorate to provide a common political representation for all those who choose to make the Latrobe Municipality their home. As it stands the general community is confused as to what electorate it resides.

In addition, the electorate of Braddon does not meet the current enrolment quota or projected enrolment quota for Tasmania (76,983). If the Port Sorell area (projected enrolments 4,190) is removed from the Lyons electorate then this will ensure Braddon is within the projected enrolment

quota, whilst ensuring Lyons is still within the projected enrolment quota (data sourced from the Australian Electoral Commission website: Enrolment projections).

In addition, we humbly ask that once a decision is made on the future of electoral boundaries that a long term commitment is made so the community is not subject to ongoing uncertainty and angst each time a review or redistribution is undertaken.



Latrobe Council

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