



THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
TASMANIA

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WALKER



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Dear Madam/Sir,

This Submission discusses boundary modifications (Braddon, Franklin and Lyons) and the name of the Denison electorate. The views expressed in the submission are made as an individual and not on behalf of any entity including the Clarence Local Government Area (LGA).

I want to state my appreciation for the impartial and robust process undertaken by the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) to review and adjust federal electorate boundaries in Australia. The process allows individuals to participate at multiple stages and provide feedback on submissions made by others. The AEC redistribution process is generally regarded as impartial. With variation limits of 3.5% from population quotas a sensible balance is struck between constraining malapportionment and having rationale boundary configuration.

With that in mind it is disappointing that unlike the last redistribution the AEC is withholding access to electoral mapping software. Access to such software last redistribution was of great assistance to work through scenarios. In November when I enquired I was told that should I want to access the software it could be provided to me but I would need to pay a licensing fee of \$4000. This is unfair and restricts the use of sophisticated mapping software to political parties. The capacity for individuals to efficiently work through a range of scenarios is unreasonably impeded.

SUGGESTED CHANGES: The estimated quota per electorate by 2021 is 76 983. Braddon at 73 286 is the only electorate projected to be under the 3.5% quota tolerance. Franklin at 80 997 is the only electorate projected to be over quota. I suggest that this is a redistribution cycle where the best approach would be minimal change.

The most elegant solution would be for areas of the Latrobe LGA currently located in Lyons to be transferred into Braddon. This consolidates the Latrobe LGA within the one electorate in order to put Braddon within quota tolerance. Reading back over the submissions made through 2008-2009 robust representations were made by members of this community displeased that they were being transferred into Lyons. I don't recall any community members welcoming the change. I would suggest consolidating all the Latrobe LGA within Braddon would satisfy community of interest concerns.

After the last redistribution over 4000 voters from the Brighton LGA were transferred out of Franklin and into Lyons. At the time this left around 2000 voters from the Old Beach area as the only part of Brighton LGA situated in the Franklin electorate. The Old Beach area should be transferred into Lyons so as to consolidate all of the Brighton LGA within Lyons. I would suggest that locating all of the Brighton LGA within the one electorate could be supported on a community of interest basis.

There are well defined topographical features separating Otago in the north of Clarence LGA with Old Beach in the south of Brighton LGA. At this point in Old Beach the East Derwent Highway has the River on one side and cliff faces on the other. Once in Otago there are paddocks or houses on large blocks of land on both sides of the East Derwent Highway.

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS: The bulk of Tasmania's population growth is occurring in Clarence and Kingborough.

By the time of the next scheduled redistribution it is going to become increasingly challenging to redistribute electors out of Franklin. It is likely that come the next redistribution serious consideration will need to be given to reconfiguring Franklin into a South East electorate and Denison to a South West electorate. This would also result in major changes to Lyons. The Tasmanian Electoral Commission adjust House of Assembly electorates to match any changes made the AEC to the Tasmanian House of Representative electorates. With a 25 member House of Assembly any changes made by the AEC to the boundaries impact on 30 Members from both Parliaments.

POSSIBLE DENISON NAME CHANGE: It is my expectation that this redistribution process will again see a concerted push to rename the Division of Denison to either Clark or Inglis Clark. This attracted a lot of submissions through the 2008-2009 redistribution process. My then submissions made passing commentary supportive of a name change. If a Division renaming is to occur I believe Clark is preferable to Inglis Clark.

I am now sympathetic to the conclusion arrived through the 2009 review. That is that any change to the electorate name of Denison be held over until such time when a major adjustment in the configuration of the electorate boundary occurs. This is a distinct possibility in the next review process.

I look forward to reading other submissions next week.

Yours Sincerely

James Walker
2/12/2016