



THE FEDERAL  
REDISTRIBUTION  
TASMANIA

# Further objection number 17

Meander Valley Council

2 pages

# Meander Valley Council

## Proposed redistribution of Tasmania into electoral divisions

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Meander Valley Council objects to the proposed changes to the Bass and Lyons Electoral Divisions proposed by the Augmented Electoral Commission.

In particular Meander Valley Council objects to the excision of the urban areas of Prospect Vale, Blackstone Heights and Hadspen from the Bass electoral division and the subsequent inclusion of this area in the Lyons electoral division.

It should be noted that Meander Valley Council also has ongoing concerns about the size of the Lyons electoral division, as currently configured and as proposed. These concerns extend to the scale of the electoral division, the difficulty of identifying a cohesive community of interest and the ability of elected members to provide adequate representation.

This current objection, however, concentrates on the location of the Bass electoral division boundary as it relates to the greater Launceston urban area.

### **1. Community of interests within the proposed electoral division, including economic, social and regional interests**

- Prospect Vale, Blackstone Heights and Hadspen are included in an area described in the Greater Launceston Plan as the greater Launceston urban area. The Greater Launceston Plan is a strategic land use and economic development plan endorsed by the eight Northern Tasmania councils. It informs land use planning decisions, investment and most recently the Federal Government City Deals and Smart Cities initiatives.

Within the Bass Electoral division the greater Launceston urban area is an identifiable community of interest. The everyday function, interaction and exchange within greater Launceston is characterised by

- School locations and attendance patterns
- Shared community and social infrastructure
- Shared public transport
- Shared services infrastructure
- Common goals and aspirations

Prospect Vale, Blackstone Heights and Hadspen are an integrated part of this urban system.

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### **2. Means of communication and travel within the proposed electoral division**

- Prospect Vale, Blackstone Heights and Hadspen are located within 15minutes commute from the electoral division offices of Bass representatives.
- Prospect Vale, Blackstone Heights and Hadspen residents have public transport connections to electoral division offices of Bass representatives.
- The Examiner newspaper is the primary print media in Northern Tasmania, the majority of readers are located in the Greater Launceston Urban Area (Bass Electoral Division)

### **3. The physical features and area of the proposed electoral division**

- The current electoral boundary along the South Esk River forms a natural definable boundary between the urban areas of Launceston and the regional areas of Meander Valley
- The proposal of the Augmented Electoral Commission would create a boundary down the centre of a local road and along rear yard fences. It is an artificial boundary difficult to visualise or identify.

### **4. The boundaries of existing electoral divisions in Tasmania, with this factor being subordinate to the consideration of the first three considerations**

- The Bass- Lyons electoral boundary at Hadspen recommended in the initial redistribution report is an existing boundary, well known and recognised by locals.

Meander Valley Council would ask that the Augmented Electoral Commission proposal to include the urban areas of Meander Valley in the Lyons electoral division is reviewed and that Prospect Vale, Blackstone Heights and Hadspen continue to be included in the Bass electoral division as an integral part of the greater Launceston urban area.

Meander Valley Council would welcome the opportunity to make further submissions on this matter.