



THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
TASMANIA

Further objection number 21

ALP Tasmanian Branch

3 pages

The logo for the Australian Labor Party, featuring the word "Labor" in white, bold, sans-serif font on a red rectangular background. To the right of the red box is a blue square containing five white stars, representing the Australian flag.

Labor

26 July 2017

Redistribution Committee for Tasmania
Australian Electoral Commission
2nd Floor, NAB Building
86 Collins Street
HOBART TAS 7000

Dear Redistribution Committee of Tasmania,

The Australian Labor Party, Tasmanian Branch is pleased to respond to the Redistribution Committee's proposal for the redistribution of Tasmania into electoral divisions.

The Australian Labor Party, Tasmanian branch expresses the view that the augmented Australian Electoral Commission decision to exclude from the division of Bass the urban component of Meander Valley Council should be rejected.

The decision favours the community of interest arguments raised by Dorset municipality, but fails to recognise sufficiently, if at all, the deep connections at all levels between the urban parts of Meander Valley Council and the remainder of Launceston city.

Meander Valley Council consists of an urban portion and a substantial rural component. The urban component is universally considered as indistinguishable from Greater Launceston. There is no obvious boundary between Launceston City Council and Meander Valley Council other than the features chosen to provide the boundary for municipal purposes. In larger metropolitan cities on the mainland such suburban distinctions on lines of community identity are considerably easier to identify.

The Australian Labor Party, Tasmanian branch is strongly of the view that the local government boundary between Launceston and Meander Valley should not be utilised for the purposes of the redistribution, due to the fact that the community of interest overwhelmingly favours the retention of the urban parts of Meander Valley Council with the balance of Greater Launceston.

The Australian Labor Party, Tasmanian Branch can understand the significant resistance from those portions of Meander Valley Council which are proposed to be redistributed to the Lyons electorate, in that the urban portion of Meander Valley

Council has always been treated as urban, as opposed to rural, and more importantly identifies as part of Greater Launceston.

The redistributed electorate, should the urban portions of Meander Valley Council be allocated to the Lyons electorate will form one of two urban portions of a predominantly rural electorate, but separated by a significant distance.

There is little to no community of interest between the urban part and the rural part and, significantly, between the two predominantly urban parts, one in the south of the state and the other in the north of the state.

We note and emphasise that all of the services with respect to the urban component of Meander Valley Council are associated with the urban aspects of Launceston, including sporting facilities, educational facilities, and suburban shopping centres. There is no boundary in any sense between residents of Launceston city accessing those resources within urban Meander Valley Council and vice versa.

The same commonality can also be applied to the community of interest argument on work and jobs. The overwhelming number of residents in the urban portion of Meander Valley Council work within Greater Launceston, many in the CBD.

The urban portion of Meander Valley Council is likely to grow, particularly around Hadsphen. Given that the connection with urban Launceston is both physical and temporal, in the sense that Hadsphen's role as a dormitory suburb delivers residents into the centre of the city of Launceston within less than 10 minutes, the balance of convenience remains with urban Meander Valley Council remaining within the electorate of Bass rather than being redistributed into Lyons.

The Australian Labor Party, Tasmanian branch urges the Committee to reverse the Augmented Electoral Commissions proposal to split the city of Launceston. We note that the previous Redistribution Committee proposal was centred upon creating a division of Bass which contained within it all of Greater Launceston. This revised decision goes completely against that by splitting the city, it should be rejected.

The Australian Labor Party, Tasmanian branch reiterates our original submission which demonstrated only limited changes to boundaries are needed to meet the Australian Electoral Commission's legislative requirements for redistributions.

In relation to the renaming of the Denison Division to Clark, we strongly welcome this decision.

The majority of the Public Suggestions supported Denison being renamed to Inglis Clark. Many prominent Tasmanians wrote individual Public Suggestions or put their name to supporting the renaming.

It was clear there is broad community support for the renaming of Denison to Clark. Inglis Clark made a significant contribution to Tasmania and Australia throughout his life. The Australian Labor Party, Tasmanian Branch is pleased that one of Tasmania's most significant figures will be recognised with an electorate named in his honour.

His values are embodied in the Australian Constitution and unlike Denison, his views more closely reflect those of the people in this division. It is also appropriate the person who introduced the Hare-Clark system, which ensures all Tasmanians are represented and have a voice in State Parliament, should be recognised.

Once again, the Australian Labor Party, Tasmanian Branch is very pleased and welcomes the Redistribution Committee's decision to rename the division of Denison to Clark.

The Tasmanian Branch of the Australian Labor Party looks forward to further discussing our proposals.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Stuart Benson.

Stuart Benson
State Secretary