



THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
TASMANIA

Further objection number 22

Michael Ferguson MP

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Attention: Augmented Electoral Commission for Tasmanian redistribution

I write to lodge my objection to the exclusion of the entirety of Meander Valley Council from the Federal Electoral Division of Bass.

This is a surprising nonsensical proposal, for a number of reasons which I briefly canvass:

1. The communities of Prospect Vale, Blackstone Heights and Hadspen are all places currently within the Division of Bass which comprise the eastern geographic part of the Meander Valley Council municipal boundary.
2. These communities of people intensely relate to the greater Launceston community, notwithstanding the municipal boundaries. With the exception of the township of Hadspen, this eastern part of Meander Valley Council have for very many years been part of the Division of Bass.
3. It seems very remarkable to move this community into the Lyons electorate, apparently to satisfy a population balancing need which only exists as a consequence of the recent proposal to move the entirety of the West Tamar municipal area into Bass, that is – those communities North of Legana which are currently in the Division of Lyons.
4. I submit that the Augmented Commission should revisit this matter again, taking less interest in municipal boundaries as the basis for arbitrarily moving communities into and out of electoral divisions; and instead focus more interest in ensuing that communities of interest are held together.

I thank the Augmented Commission for considering these points of view as the basis of my objection.

Michael Ferguson

26 July 2017