



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
TASMANIA**

Submission OB90

Brighton Council



Date: 26 March 2026

Redistribution Committee for Tasmania
Australian Electoral Commission
Level 7, 144 Macquarie Street
HOBART TAS 7000
Email: FedRedistribution-tas@aec.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Response to the February 2026 Proposed Redistribution

Brighton Council Officers welcome the opportunity to provide a submission to Round 2 of the Tasmanian Federal Redistribution ('the Redistribution').

This summary draws together Brighton Council's original submission and the key matters raised by neighbouring councils, insofar as they relate to Brighton's interests and the broader southern Tasmania redistribution.

Brighton's Core Position

Brighton Council does not support the proposed transfer of the Brighton municipality from the electorate of Lyons into the electorate of Franklin, nor any proposal that would split the municipality between electorates.

Council maintains that Brighton should remain wholly within the electorate of Lyons, consistent with its long-standing electoral history and community of interest.

Community of Interest and Regional Function

Brighton occupies a distinct position as a regional and peri-urban hub at the interface between Greater Hobart and regional Tasmania. While Brighton is a key growth area within the Greater Hobart region, it also performs an essential sub-regional servicing role for the Southern Midlands and Central Highlands as clearly identified in data within the Brighton Activity Centre Strategy.

As outlined in Council's previous submission and the Mayor's recent public commentary:

- Brighton is a focal point for employment, education, health services, retail, sport and community infrastructure for surrounding rural municipalities.
- Council works closely with these regional partners on initiatives such as sub-regional infrastructure planning and employment programs.
- Transferring Brighton into Franklin would electorally disconnect Brighton from the regional communities that interact with and depend on it, diminishing this role.

These characteristics align more closely with the regional and mixed urban-regional character of Lyons than with the predominantly metropolitan and south-east coastal focus of the proposed Franklin electorate.

Socio-economic Profile and Advocacy Needs

Brighton is a fast-growing and youthful municipality, but also one with significant socio-economic disadvantage, particularly in suburbs such as Bridgewater, Gagebrook and Herdsmans Cove. Many residents experience transport disadvantage and rely heavily on coordinated federal advocacy for:

- social infrastructure investment,
- improved public transport and accessibility,
- employment and skills pathways.

Council considers that these challenges are best addressed within a single, cohesive electorate whose policy priorities align with those of other regional and peri-urban communities in Lyons.

Alignment with Broader Community-of-Interest Principles

Brighton Council notes that Glenorchy City Council raised complementary concerns about the importance of communities of interest, travel patterns and representational coherence, albeit from a metropolitan perspective. While the two municipalities differ in character, both submissions emphasise the same statutory principle: electoral boundaries should reflect real social, economic and service relationships, not be driven by numerical balancing alone.

In this context:

- Glenorchy functions as a major urban municipality integrated with Hobart and aligns with Clark.
- Brighton functions as a regional gateway and service hub, aligning more naturally with Lyons.

The proposed redistribution disrupts both of these alignments.

Scale of Disruption

Council also notes the significant level of elector movement associated with the proposal. As highlighted in the Redistribution Committee's report, the proposed changes would move a substantial proportion of Tasmanian electors between divisions. Brighton Council submits that such disruption should only occur where clearly necessary and where no lower-impact alternatives exist.

From Brighton's perspective, the proposed transfer into Franklin represents a disproportionate response that weakens community representation without improving community coherence.

Alternative proposal

Council believes that there is an existence of a more credible, lower-disruption option elsewhere in southern Tasmania that would achieve the objectives of the redistribution. This would be a simple move of Derwent Valley into Clark. This would see:

- targeted adjustments between electorates to correct numerical imbalances;
- "contiguity-friendly" options that resolve structural issues without wholesale reassignment of metropolitan or peri-urban local government areas; and
- the principle that where multiple options are available, the Commission should prefer those that minimise disruption and preserve existing community alignments.

Conclusion

Brighton Council respectfully submits that the proposed transfer of the Brighton municipality into Franklin should not be adopted and that Brighton should remain wholly within the electorate of Lyons.

Yours faithfully



James Dryburgh

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER