



THE FEDERAL  
REDISTRIBUTION  
TASMANIA

# Submission OB91

Central Highlands Council



27 March 2026

Tasmanian Redistribution  
Australian Electoral Commission  
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Canberra ACT 2601  
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Dear Sir/Madam

### **Submission on Boundary adjustments to the Federal Electoral district of Lyons in Tasmania**

The Central Highlands Council has assessed the proposed changes the federal electoral district of Lyons in Tasmania and which to make the following submission.

#### **Draft Redistribution – Tasmania**

This submission is made in response to the Australian Electoral Commission's proposed redistribution of federal electoral boundaries in Tasmania. It specifically addresses the proposed inclusion of Glenorchy City Council within the Division of Lyons.

Central Highlands Council is a rural local government area with distinct economic, demographic, and geographic characteristics. It is submitted that the proposed changes would adversely affect the effective representation of rural communities within Lyons.

#### **Position**

It is strongly submitted that the proposed redistribution should not proceed in its current form. The inclusion of Glenorchy introduces a substantial urban population into what is presently a predominantly rural electorate, resulting in structural changes that undermine the representation and advocacy of rural communities.

#### **1. Dilution of Rural Representation**

The Division of Lyons has historically functioned as a predominantly rural and regional electorate.

The inclusion of Glenorchy, a large urban centre, would materially alter the demographic composition of the electorate. Given the size of Glenorchy's population relative to smaller rural communities, there is a significant risk that electoral outcomes will increasingly reflect urban priorities.

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This shift has practical consequences. Rural issues such as agricultural sustainability, regional infrastructure, access to health services, and local economic development may receive reduced attention. Over time, this may lead to diminished advocacy for the needs of smaller councils, including Central Highlands Council.

## **2. Reduced Marginality of the Electorate**

The proposed redistribution may reduce the marginality of the Division of Lyons. Marginal electorates typically attract a higher degree of political attention, funding commitments, and policy focus. A reduction in marginality risks diminishing this attention, particularly for rural and regional concerns.

For councils such as Central Highlands, which rely on strong federal engagement to secure funding and support for infrastructure and services, this change presents a tangible disadvantage.

## **3. Impact on Rural and Regional Councils**

Local government areas within Lyons, including Central Highlands Council, depend on effective federal representation to advocate for community needs. These include road infrastructure, telecommunications, healthcare access, and economic development initiatives.

The introduction of a dominant urban population centre may result in competing priorities that disadvantage rural communities. In practical terms, this may manifest as reduced visibility of rural issues and decreased access to targeted funding opportunities.

## **4. Community of Interest Considerations**

A core principle of electoral redistribution is the preservation of communities of interest. Glenorchy, as an urban municipality, differs significantly from the rural and regional communities that comprise much of Lyons.

These differences extend to economic structure, service delivery needs, population density, and lifestyle. The proposed amalgamation risks creating an electorate that lacks cohesion and does not adequately reflect shared interests.

## **5. Increased Complexity in Representation**

The Division of Lyons is already geographically large and diverse. The addition of Glenorchy would increase both the population size and complexity of the electorate.



This creates practical challenges for effective representation. Members of Parliament may face competing demands that make it more difficult to adequately represent smaller, more remote communities.

## **Conclusion**

For the reasons outlined above, it is respectfully submitted that the proposed inclusion of Glenorchy within the Division of Lyons should not proceed.

The proposal risks undermining rural representation, reducing political attention to regional issues, and weakening the coherence of the electorate. Consideration should instead be given to maintaining an electoral structure that preserves the integrity and effective representation of rural and regional communities.

Submitted on behalf of Central Highlands Council.

  
  
Stephen Mackey  
General Manager