



**THE FEDERAL  
REDISTRIBUTION  
TASMANIA**

# Submission OB46

Jeff Waddell

**Response**

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**to the proposed redistribution of**

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**Commonwealth Electoral Divisions**

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**in the State of Tasmania**

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Disclaimer: Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the data provided in this submission, there may be instances of calculation or raw data errors.

As the author, I in no way intend to mislead the reader if any data or calculation errors are contained herein, as I have performed all calculations in good faith.

## The proposed Divisions & the Committee's report

Firstly, credit where credit is due. Addressing Franklin's fragmentation was a step beyond which I thought the Redistribution Committee would not only consider but also address and resolve.

This is both surprising and welcome.

Second, and perhaps the easiest consideration to make, was to leave Braddon unchanged.

The addition of Blackstone Heights and Prospect Vale to Bass sets the precedent. Adjacent urban centres need to be united in the same electorate where it is practical to do so.

I have no objections to the Committee's proposed Bass, Braddon and Clark.

Reading the report of the Redistribution Committee, I note the following statement from Page 21:

In compliance with the requirements of the Electoral Act, the Committee also sought to apply the following principles in developing the boundaries of the proposed electorates:

- Support sustainability of Tasmania's electoral boundaries and minimise future disruption by distributing high-growth areas between electorates where possible.
- Draw boundaries with continuous physical connection, using rivers and other geographic features as natural divides, noting the precedent for rivers to function as federal electorate boundaries.
  - Include an urban centre within each electorate where possible.
  - Contain local government areas within a single electorate where possible.
  - Consider the geographic size of electorates where possible.

My response to the above is as follows: There is nothing in the Commonwealth Electoral Act, within the Redistribution section, which specifies anything minimising 'future disruption' (whatever that means). Only that projected enrolments fall within plus or minus 3.5% of the average divisional enrolment at the projection time.

The projection results from the previous Redistribution are on the next page and should remind everyone that this methodology is far from reliable!

Secondly, including an urban centre within each electorate is, again, a principle the Committee has chosen to apply, and not grounded in the legislation.

The Committee knew that Section 66 (3) (b) (i) of the Commonwealth Electoral Act specifically states:

*community of interests within the proposed Electoral Division, including economic, social and regional interests*

Nothing more, nothing less.

They appear to have ignored the word 'regional' splitting greater urban Hobart into three different electorates.

I also note the principle relating to whole local government areas being contained within a single division was immediately cast aside when determining Bass' new boundaries. Splitting the Meander Valley LGA between Bass and Lyons.

The final bullet point in relation to considering the geographic size of a division is again not based in the legislation.

The Committee has adopted principles which could - and has (in my opinion) - caused it to propose electoral boundaries by considerations other than as per the legislation.

Does that make those proposed boundaries illegitimate/unlawful?

## Enrolment projections from the 2016-7 Redistribution

The table below compares the enrolment data from the 2016-7 Redistribution Projection Date – 14/5/2021 with the Gazetted Enrolment Data provided by the AEC as at 30/4/2021 – just 14 days before the Projection Date.

Division	Act 1/9/2016	Proj 14/5/2021	Proj Var %	Act 30/4/2021	Act Var %	Proj Growth	Act Growth	Discrepancy
Bass	74,467	75,653	-1.73%	78,451	-0.98%	1,186	3,984	2,798
Braddon	77,739	77,992	1.31%	81,482	2.85%	253	3,743	3,490
Clark	74,054	76,080	-1.17%	74,314	-6.20%	2,026	260	-1,766
Franklin	73,304	76,877	-0.14%	78,482	-0.94%	3,573	5,178	1,605
Lyons	75,508	78,313	1.73%	83,390	5.26%	2,805	7,882	5,077
<b>Totals</b>	<b>375,072</b>	<b>384,915</b>		<b>396,119</b>		<b>9,843</b>	<b>21,047</b>	<b>11,204</b>
<b>Avg.</b>	<b>75,014.40</b>	<b>76,983.00</b>		<b>79,223.80</b>		<b>1,968.60</b>	<b>4,209.40</b>	<b>2,240.80</b>

The Divisions of Clark and Lyons both failed to meet the projected enrolment requirement of +/- 3.5% at the projection time.

The 2016-7 Redistribution projected a growth 9,843 electors between 1/9/2016 and 14/5/2021.

The actual growth was 21,047 electors to 30/4/2021 – over 11,000 more than what was projected.

A State-wide under projection of over 110%.

**The augmented Electoral Commission shouldn't be under any illusion that the current (2025) projections are likely to be any more accurate than the 2016 projections were.**

## Franklin & Lyons

Urban communities, specifically State capital cities and their greater urban areas, are communities of interest unto themselves. Separate from their regional and provincial surrounds.

Greater urban Hobart is a community of interest.

Whilst it contains more than enough electors for one electorate, the entire community can be contained within two electorates.

Yet the Redistribution committee has proposed to split greater urban Hobart across three of the State's five electorates.

In doing so, it has placed electors living in St Helens, in the far NE corner of the State in the same electorate as electors living in Moonah, some 247 Km away, on the west side of the Derwent River.

### **What economic, social or regional communities of interest do they share?**

Just 76 kilometres south of St Helens is Bicheno, still on the NE coast. It's not proposed to be in the same electorate as St Helens but **IS** proposed to be in the same electorate as Bellerive, some 173 Km away on the east side of the Derwent River.

The same question in relation to economic, social or regional communities of interest applies there.

I can't make the case for either. And if the augmented Electoral Commission looks at this proposal objectively, it, also, won't be able to make the case.

The proposed Franklin and Lyons don't create communities of interest, they **FRAGMENT** them!

This doesn't pass the 'pub test'!

If the augmented Electoral Commission doesn't have alarm bells ringing in relation to the proposed Franklin and Lyons, it should have!

## A better solution

The proposed Franklin contains the electors of greater urban Hobart on the eastern side of the Derwent River in addition to electors in the rapidly growing Brighton council to the north.

With both the Bowen and Bridgewater bridges connecting the electors of Brighton and Clarence councils to Glenorchy council, the logical first step is to transfer the electors within the Glenorchy council from their current electorate of Clark to Franklin, not Lyons.

Clarence council is already divided between Franklin and Lyons.

A small modification to the electoral boundary within Clarence Council, using the significant geographic feature of the Meehan Range, predominantly aligning with SA2 boundaries, plus the locality of Mount Rumney, forms the base for a better boundary between Franklin and Lyons.

From the Division of Franklin proposed by the Redistribution Committee, I propose the following improvements:

1. Gains the Glenorchy LGA from Lyons
2. Returns the Glamorgan Spring Bay, Sorell and Tasman LGA's to Lyons
3. Returns the part of Clarence LGA which is currently in Lyons back to Lyons
4. Transfers the Cambridge and South Arm SA2's, excluding the locality of Mount Rumney (SA1 60102100505) to Lyons.

### Table of Transfers – Franklin (as proposed by the Redistribution Committee)

Division	Component	Current	Projected
<b>Franklin</b>		<b>80,237</b>	<b>84,951</b>
	Ex Clark, from Lyons - Glenorchy LGA		
From Lyons	Austins Ferry - Granton	3,135	3,389
From Lyons	Berriedale - Chigwell	4,126	4,093
From Lyons	Claremont (Tas.)	6,027	6,095
From Lyons	Derwent Park - Lutana	2,810	2,896
From Lyons	Glenorchy	7,494	7,536
From Lyons	Lenah Valley - Mount Stuart	42	41
From Lyons	Montrose - Rosetta	3,532	3,438
From Lyons	Moonah	3,547	3,499
From Lyons	Mount Wellington	0	0
From Lyons	New Town	28	29
From Lyons	West Moonah	2,628	2,672
	Currently in Lyons, proposed to transfer to Franklin		
To Lyons	Dodges Ferry - Lewisham	-7,034	-7,429
To Lyons	Forestier - Tasman	-2,157	-2,089
To Lyons	Sorell - Richmond	-8,047	-8,773
To Lyons	Southern Midlands	-14	-11
To Lyons	Triabunna - Bicheno	-4,035	-3,992
	From existing Franklin - rural Clarence LGA		
To Lyons	Cambridge (exc. SA1 60102100505)	-6,243	-6,579
To Lyons	South Arm	-3,721	-3,838
<b>New Total</b>		<b>82,355</b>	<b>85,928</b>
<b>Variation</b>		<b>-0.34%</b>	<b>1.62%</b>

From the Division of Lyons proposed by the Redistribution Committee, I propose the following improvements:

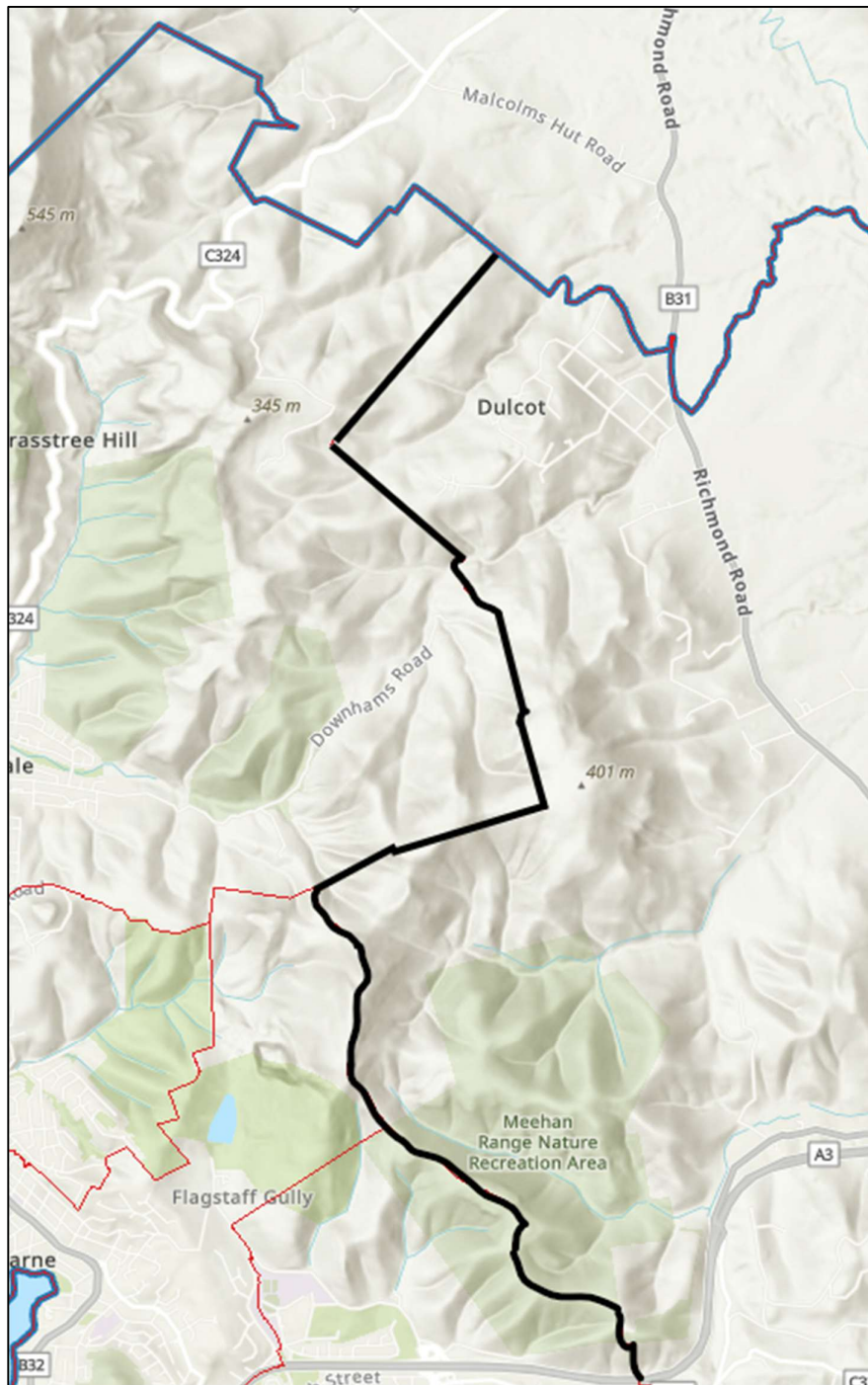
1. Transfers the Glenorchy LGA to Franklin
2. Regains the Glamorgan Spring Bay, Sorell and Tasman LGA's from Franklin
3. Regains the part of Clarence LGA which is currently in Lyons back from Franklin
4. Gains the Cambridge and South Arm SA2's, excluding the locality of Mount Rumney (SA1 60102100505) from Franklin.

### Table of Transfers – Lyons (as proposed by the Redistribution Committee)

Division	Component	Current	Projected
<b>Lyons</b>		<b>81,883</b>	<b>83,086</b>
	Ex Clark, to Franklin - Glenorchy LGA		
To Franklin	Austins Ferry - Granton	-3,135	-3,389
To Franklin	Berriedale - Chigwell	-4,126	-4,093
To Franklin	Claremont (Tas.)	-6,027	-6,095
To Franklin	Derwent Park - Lutana	-2,810	-2,896
To Franklin	Glenorchy	-7,494	-7,536
To Franklin	Lenah Valley - Mount Stuart	-42	-41
To Franklin	Montrose - Rosetta	-3,532	-3,438
To Franklin	Moonah	-3,547	-3,499
To Franklin	Mount Wellington	0	0
To Franklin	New Town	-28	-29
To Franklin	West Moonah	-2,628	-2,672
	Currently in Lyons, proposed to transfer to Franklin		
From Franklin	Dodges Ferry - Lewisham	7,034	7,429
From Franklin	Forestier - Tasman	2,157	2,089
From Franklin	Sorell - Richmond	8,047	8,773
From Franklin	Southern Midlands	14	11
From Franklin	Triabunna - Bicheno	4,035	3,992
	From existing Franklin - rural Clarence LGA		
From Franklin	Cambridge (exc. SA1 60102100505)	6,243	6,579
From Franklin	South Arm	3,721	3,838
<b>New Total</b>		<b>79,765</b>	<b>82,109</b>
<b>Variation</b>		<b>-3.47%</b>	<b>-2.90%</b>

## The proposed boundary north of the Tasman Hwy

Images courtesy ABS Maps



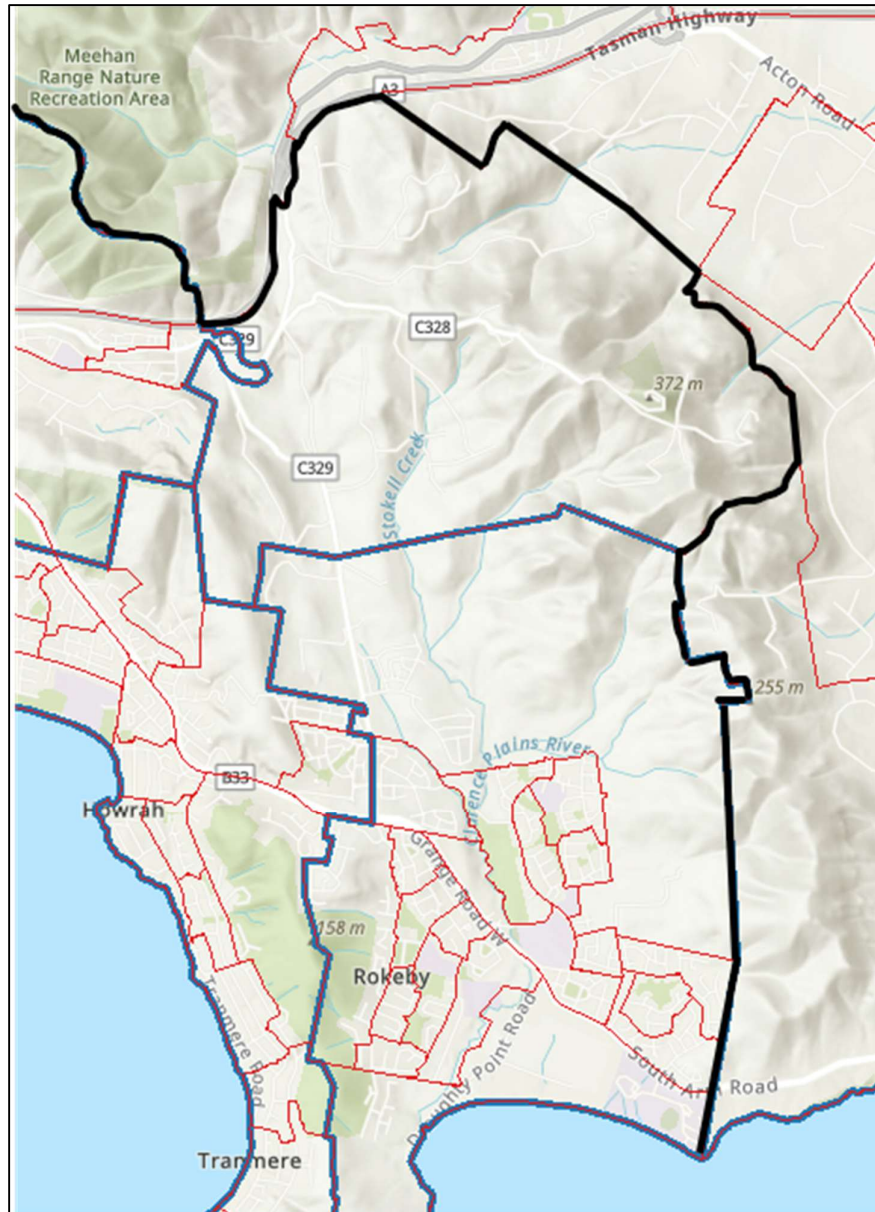
Blue = existing Divisional boundary (current Lyons to the north)

Black = proposed Divisional boundary (aligning with Cambridge SA2 boundary)

Proposed Franklin to the left/west; proposed Lyons to the right/east

Red = 2021 SA2 boundaries

## The proposed boundary south of the Tasman Hwy



Black = proposed Divisional boundary.

Proposed Franklin to the left/west; proposed Lyons to the right/east

Blue = 2021 SA2 boundaries

Red = 2021 SA1 boundaries

## Summary of proposed changes & closing comments

The above changes reduce the number of electors moved between electorates – as proposed by the Redistribution Committee - by 11,323 current electors and 11,877 projected electors.

Only two LGA's are split between electorates, after my improvements to the Redistribution Committee's draft boundaries – Meander Valley (as proposed by the Redistribution Committee) and Clarence (which is already divided between Franklin and Lyons)

Finally, the pub test. Can I objectively make the case that St Helens and Bicheno share economic, social and regional communities of interests?

Absolutely.

Does the same apply to Moonah and Bellerive?

Yes. Far more than what the draft boundaries deliver.

Greater urban Hobart is now represented by two Divisions – Clark and Franklin (same as current)

Lyons retains its community of interest as the regional centre of the State.

Overall, I believe my changes to both Franklin and Lyons create more cohesive electorates than those proposed by the Redistribution Committee.

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