



**THE FEDERAL  
REDISTRIBUTION  
TASMANIA**

# Submission OB67

Doug Chipman

## **Submission to the Redistribution Committee for Tasmania**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your report about the proposed redistribution of electoral divisions for Tasmania. I lodged Submission 5 during the initial suggestions stage and subsequently provided feedback on the published ideas. My earlier submission proposed a structural realignment of southern Tasmania's federal electoral boundaries, including the creation of a new south-eastern division to replace the current configuration of the Division of Franklin. I would like to congratulate the Committee on the Proposed Report as it relates to southern Tasmania.

In this submission, I would like to:

- reaffirm my support for your proposals for the structural realignment in southern Tasmania;
- request a review of the boundary between Bass and Lyons; and
- add to my proposal regarding the naming of the new south-eastern Tasmanian electoral division, currently referred to as Franklin.

### **Structural Realignment in Southern Tasmania**

While some concerns may be raised about the disruption the proposed boundary changes may cause, for example, from political parties, sitting members, the Mayor of Glenorchy (The Mercury, 9 Mar 2026, p16), and the Mayor of Brighton (The Mercury, 17 Mar 2026), there has also been clear public support for the Committee's approach. For instance, The Mercury editorial on 4 March 2026 endorsed the broader direction of the redistribution and recognised the value of addressing long-standing structural issues in southern Tasmania.

The Mayors of Glenorchy and Brighton argue that Glenorchy forms a community of interest with the City of Hobart. That observation is valid, but it is not unique to these two councils. The same economic, social, and transport connections extend across the wider Greater Hobart metropolitan region, including the City of Clarence, Kingborough Council, and the affiliate councils of Brighton Council and Sorell Council. Residents across all six councils share labour markets, services,

transport corridors, and markets with the Hobart CBD. Recognising a community of interest between Hobart and Glenorchy does not merit an exclusive relationship that should determine electoral boundaries. Greater Hobart now contains more than two electoral quotas worth of electors, and as in all Australian capital cities, electoral boundaries within metropolitan areas must be drawn in accordance with the statutory redistribution criteria rather than assumed municipal alignments.

Electoral redistributions are rarely comfortable. They unsettle established political arrangements, alter familiar campaign networks, and challenge long-standing assumptions about representation. That disruption is real, but redistribution exists to maintain democratic fairness. The current proposal represents more than a routine numerical adjustment. It recognises how southern Tasmania has evolved: the Division of Franklin has for decades spanned both sides of the Derwent River, linking communities separated by water and connected only by a single bridge corridor. Meanwhile, population growth across the eastern shore and the south-east has placed increasing pressure on enrolment balances between neighbouring divisions.

By consolidating LGAs, recognising emerging population centres, and creating electorates that better reflect geographic and community connections, the draft redistribution strengthens long-term electoral stability. While it may inconvenience some incumbents, the broader outcome, clearer communities of interest and fairer representation, makes the change both justified and worthwhile.

### **Bass–Lyons Boundary**

In my earlier submission I proposed that the entirety of the Break O’Day Council area be incorporated into the Division of Bass, rather than fragmenting the Meander Valley LGA by transferring the communities of Blackstone Heights and Prospect Vale into Bass. It is disappointing that the draft redistribution did not adopt that proposal.

It is notable that the proposed redistribution released in 2017 similarly suggested that Blackstone Heights, Prospect Vale, and Hadspen, part of the Meander Valley LGA, should be included in Bass. However, the Augmented Electoral Commission

for Tasmania modified that proposal and determined that “the entirety of the Municipality of Meander Valley be located in the Division of Lyons.” The Commission recognised that keeping LGAs wholly within a single electoral division helps to unite communities of interest. That reasoning remains sound and relevant for the present redistribution.

The projected elector numbers for Bass could be sustained equally well by transferring the entirety of the Break O’Day LGA into Bass while leaving the Meander Valley LGA wholly within Lyons. From a statistical perspective, such a change would have minimal impact on the projected enrolment figures for Bass and Lyons. The population of Break O’Day is broadly comparable to that of Blackstone Heights and Prospect Vale combined, meaning the overall numerical effect on the proposed redistribution would be insignificant.

Including the entirety of the Break O’Day LGA within Bass would produce a stronger outcome in terms of community of interest and regional coherence. Break O’Day is a member of the Northern Tasmanian Alliance of Resilient Councils and maintains strong economic, social, and service connections with northern Tasmania, particularly with the city of Launceston. Residents rely heavily on Launceston for health services, education, retail, transport, and employment. The region is also integrated with northern Tasmania through shared media markets, sporting competitions, and tourism networks, including the Bay of Fires and the broader north-east trail systems. Transport corridors reinforce these connections, most notably the Tasman Highway, linking the north-east coast directly with Launceston and the wider northern region.

Incorporating Break O’Day fully within Bass would reflect sensible patterns of mobility, service use, and regional identity. Equally important, it would align electoral boundaries with existing LGAs, which represent coherent communities of interest. LGAs provide a natural basis for political representation because they reflect shared economic, social, and service networks, local decision-making structures, and community engagement. Preserving these alignments avoids unnecessarily dividing communities and strengthens the relationship between elected representatives and the residents they serve. This approach is consistent

with the considerations set out in section 66(3) of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918, particularly the importance of recognising communities of interest and practical means of communication within electoral divisions.

By contrast, fragmenting the Meander Valley Council area by transferring Blackstone Heights and Prospect Vale to Bass would weaken community coherence and complicate representation, as residents who share local institutions and governance structures would be located in different federal divisions. Reversing the Augmented Electoral Commission's 2017 determination would introduce unnecessary instability for these communities.

For these reasons, incorporating the Break O'Day LGA into Bass, while keeping the Meander Valley LGA entirely within Lyons, would represent a more coherent and consistent redistribution outcome for both divisions.

### **Naming of the New South-Eastern Electoral Division**

The draft report invites submissions regarding the possible renaming of the Division of Franklin. Where an electorate undergoes substantial geographic change, it is reasonable to consider whether its name should continue to reflect its new composition and identity.

The proposed south-eastern electorate will encompass the municipalities of Brighton, Clarence, Sorell, Tasman, and Glamorgan Spring Bay. These areas form a coherent arc of coastal and riverine communities historically associated with the Oyster Bay region, the acknowledged home of the Paredarerme Aboriginal nation (please see the map comparison at Annex A). The Australian Electoral Commission's naming guidelines encourage the recognition of Aboriginal names where appropriate. Recognising Paredarerme in Tasmania's electoral geography would align with those principles while acknowledging the deep cultural history of the region. Such a change would not diminish existing historical narratives; rather, it broadens recognition of the diverse histories that shape Tasmania's civic landscape and aligns the electorate's identity more closely with its geography.

## **Conclusion**

The draft redistribution represents a significant but constructive realignment of electoral boundaries in southern Tasmania. However, it fails to respond adequately regarding the boundary between Bass and Lyons. Rather than fragment the Meander Valley LGA, the Break O’Day LGA should be transferred in its entirety into Bass. Furthermore, the Franklin electoral division should be retired, and the proposed south-eastern electoral division should be titled *Paredarerme* to reflect the history and geography of the new electoral division.

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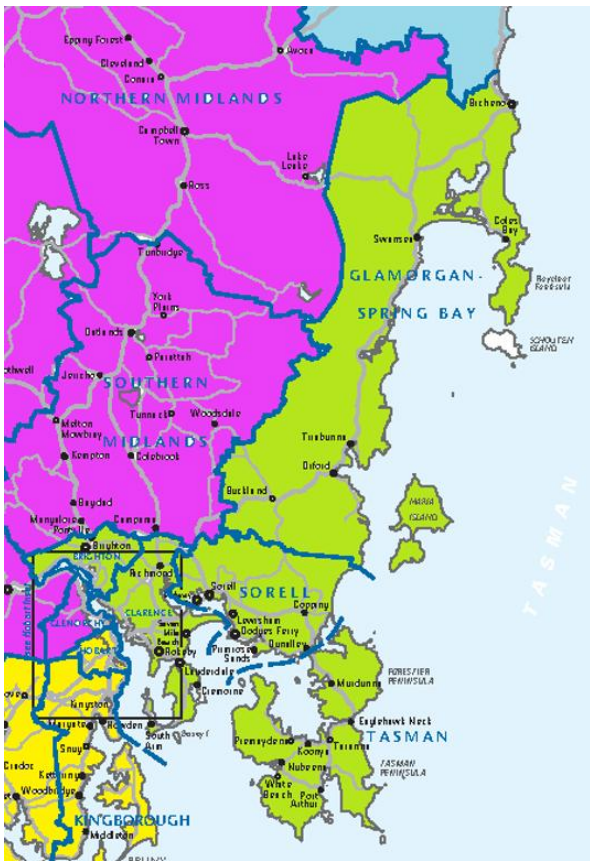
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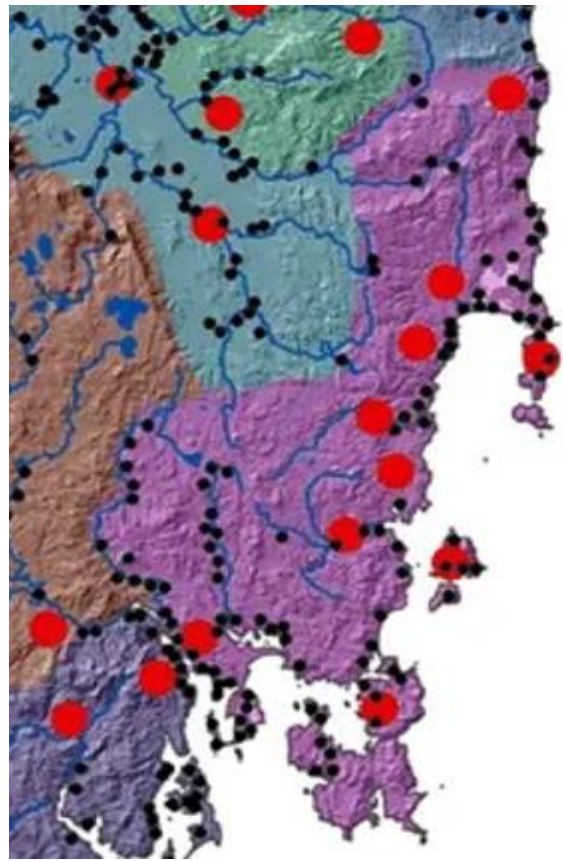
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MAP COMPARISON OF  
PROPOSED NEW DIVISION  
And  
PAREDAREME NATIONAL BOUNDARY



*ii The Proposed SE Tasmania Electoral Division (green)*



*i The Paredareme National Boundary (purple)*