



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
TASMANIA**

Submission OB72

Glenorchy City Council

Council Submission

TO	Augmented Electoral Commission for Tasmania
SUBJECT	Objection of Proposed Redistribution of Tasmania's Federal Electorates (Redistribution Committee proposal – February 2026)
FROM	Glenorchy City Council
DATE	20 March 2026

1. Executive summary

Glenorchy City Council (GCC) lodges this objection to the Redistribution Committee's proposal to transfer the Glenorchy local government area from the electorate of Clark to the electorate of Lyons. GCC submits that Glenorchy is a major metropolitan municipality within Greater Hobart with strong communities of interest and travel/communication linkages aligned to the Clark electorate.

GCC supports the 'one vote, one value' objective and recognises the primary requirement that proposed electorates meet the redistribution quota at commencement (12 August 2025) and, as far as practicable, meet the projected enrolment quota at the projection time (8 April 2030).

Glenorchy's proposed alternatives summary:

- **Retain Glenorchy City Council wholly within Clark.**
- **Preferred (least-disruption) alternative:** transfer Derwent Valley (including New Norfolk) from Lyons to Clark to materially correct the Clark/Lyons numerical imbalance.
- **Contiguity-friendly alternative (if the Commission prioritises resolving Franklin's non-contiguity in this redistribution):** retain Glenorchy in Clark and adopt a modified southern reconfiguration that achieves contiguity without moving Glenorchy, using a different balancing transfer package (Section 4B).
- **Support the secondary criteria** of communities of interest and travel/communication with evidence (Annex A).

2. What the Redistribution Committee proposes (relevant to GCC)

The February 2026 proposal reshapes southern Tasmania so that Clark becomes a southern-most electorate including Hobart, Huon Valley and Kingborough; Franklin becomes a south-east electorate including Brighton, Clarence, Glamorgan Spring Bay, Sorell and Tasman; and Lyons becomes a smaller mainly south-central electorate that gains Glenorchy and loses most east-coast LGAs.

The Committee states its key reasons include meeting projected enrolment requirements, resolving Franklin's non-contiguity and drawing boundaries using the River Derwent as a clear and recognisable divide.

3. Reasons GCC should remain in Clark

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Glenorchy City Council accepts that redistributions are driven by numerical equality and that quota compliance may require change. However, the Commonwealth Electoral Act also requires consideration of communities of interest, means of communication and travel, physical features and existing boundaries.

The Redistribution Committee's proposal would move **113,884 electors (27.56% of Tasmanian electors)** into different electorates. This is a high-disruption outcome that should be adopted only where a **lower-disruption, quota-compliant alternative is not reasonably available**.

Glenorchy's metropolitan community of interest with Hobart is evidenced by Journey to Work data: **59.5%** of employed Glenorchy residents work outside Glenorchy and Hobart is the largest workplace destination (**9,271 people; 39.3%**).

Reallocating Glenorchy from a metropolitan electorate to a predominantly regional electorate risks reducing representational coherence for communities that are economically and socially integrated with Greater Hobart. This is a statutory "community of interest" concern. A more proportionate approach is available that can address the Clark/Lyons numerical imbalance while better reflecting communities of interest and travel patterns and reducing disruption.

If highly integrated metropolitan communities are placed in electorates with materially different geographic and policy focus, constituents can experience less coherent representation across transport, housing, urban renewal and metropolitan service issues. That is precisely what the secondary criteria are intended to avoid where practicable.

Ensuring each electorate includes an urban or regional centre may be a design preference, but it does not override the statutory requirement to preserve communities of interest and travel patterns where practicable. Put plainly: using Glenorchy to remedy Lyons' "centre" issue risks treating a major metropolitan LGA as a balancing instrument rather than respecting the metropolitan community of interest between Glenorchy and Hobart.

3.1 Communities of interest (economic, social and regional)

- Glenorchy is part of the continuous Greater Hobart urban area. Its labour market, services and daily life are strongly integrated with Hobart and adjacent northern suburbs (Annex A).
- ABS Census 2021 Journey to Work data shows a major share of Glenorchy resident workers commute to Hobart for employment, demonstrating a metropolitan community of interest aligned with Clark (Annex A).
- Glenorchy residents' higher-order health service catchment is strongly oriented to Hobart, including tertiary and specialist services at the Royal Hobart Hospital, reinforcing Glenorchy's metropolitan community of interest with Hobart.
- Glenorchy and Hobart have similar demands and community expectations, a metropolitan focus, and collaborate through the Greater Hobart Strategic Partnership, the City Deal and major infrastructure planning.
- Glenorchy and Hobart face shared metropolitan challenges that are more effectively addressed together within a single electorate.

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- Transferring a major metropolitan LGA into Lyons risks combining materially different constituencies (metropolitan vs dispersed regional), reducing representational coherence.

3.2 Travel and communication

The Electoral Act secondary criteria include “means of communication and travel”. Glenorchy’s principal commuter and service corridors are metropolitan, centred on the Hobart CBD and the Brooker Highway / northern suburbs transit spine (Annex A).

There is an active project proposal to link Glenorchy and Hobart via the Northern Suburbs Transit Corridor (the unused rail corridor), using light rail or rapid bus and supporting higher-density housing along the corridor.

Glenorchy and Hobart are also progressing the Derwent River Ferry Service, with planning and approvals processes underway and Australian Government funding supporting delivery.

3.3 Boundary stability and voter clarity

The Electoral Act requires consideration of the boundaries of existing electorates. Where a quota-compliant alternative exists that materially reduces elector movement, boundary stability should be given substantial weight.

4. Alternatives to moving Glenorchy to Lyons

4A. Preferred option: least disruption and strong communities of interest

GCC proposes a targeted correction to the projected imbalance between Clark (projected to be under quota) and Lyons (projected to be over quota) under current boundaries: **transfer Derwent Valley (including New Norfolk) from Lyons to Clark.**

In addition to materially reducing disruption, this transfer is also defensible against the secondary criteria: Derwent Valley and New Norfolk have strong functional connections into Greater Hobart for higher-order services, employment, and regional-to-metropolitan travel along the Derwent corridor. This makes the transfer at least **community-of-interest neutral**, while avoiding the much more significant community-of-interest mismatch created by moving an entire metropolitan LGA (Glenorchy) into a predominantly regional electorate.

Area currently in Lyons (SA2)

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Area currently in Lyons (SA2)	Enrolment 12 Aug 2025	Projected enrolment 8 Apr 2030
Derwent Valley	2,420	2,420
New Norfolk	5,861	6,317
Total indicative transfer	8,281	8,737

(Values reflect the Redistribution Committee’s published SA2 composition for Lyons.)

Indicative effect of transferring these SA2s from Lyons to Clark (using current electorate totals published by the Committee):

Electorate	Current (12 Aug 2025)	After transfer (indicative)	Projected (8 Apr 2030)	After transfer (indicative)
Clark	74,449	82,730	75,689	84,426
Lyons	89,599	81,318	92,995	84,258

4B. Contiguity-friendly option: achieve Franklin contiguity without moving Glenorchy

GCC recognises the Redistribution Committee’s emphasis on resolving Franklin’s non-contiguity. If the Augmented Electoral Commission determines that achieving contiguity in this redistribution is a priority, GCC submits there is a contiguity-friendly alternative that can preserve the contiguity objective while still retaining Glenorchy in Clark.

Option Contiguity-friendly – Conceptual boundary approach

- Retain the concept of a contiguous south-east electorate (Franklin) and a contiguous south-west electorate (Clark), broadly consistent with the Committee’s southern reconfiguration intent.
- Retain Glenorchy City Council wholly within Clark.
- To avoid moving Glenorchy to Lyons, replace the Committee’s balancing transfer into Lyons (33,369 electors moved from Clark to Lyons in the Committee’s proposal) with an alternative balancing package drawn from outside Glenorchy (see below).
- This option remains “contiguity-friendly” because it keeps Franklin contiguous (and eliminates the current non-contiguity) while allowing the Commission to choose an alternative balancing transfer that minimises disruption and preserves metropolitan communities of interest.

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The Committee’s proposed transfer from Clark to Lyons totals **33,369** electors and is largely comprised of SA2s within the Glenorchy LGA (plus small Hobart SA2 fragments). GCC’s position is that this package should not be adopted because it relocates a major metropolitan LGA into a predominantly regional electorate.

Committee transfer package from Clark → Lyons (SA2)	Enrolment (12 Aug 2025)
Austins Ferry – Granton	3,135
Berriedale – Chigwell	4,126
Claremont (Tas.)	6,027
Derwent Park – Lutana	2,810
Glenorchy	7,494
Montrose – Rosetta	3,532
Moonah	3,547
West Moonah	2,628
Lenah Valley – Mount Stuart (part)	42
New Town (part)	28
Total	33,369

Source: Redistribution Committee report, Table I (Clark SA2 composition / transfers to Lyons).

Practical ways to “swap the balancing” while keeping contiguity

Contiguity-Friendly Option – Pathway 1 (preferred within contiguity objective): Lyons retains the Brighton LGA (including Bridgewater–Gagebrook, Brighton–Pontville and Old Beach–Otago) rather than transferring these areas into the reconfigured Franklin. This reduces the number of electors Lyons must gain elsewhere by ~14,424 (commencement figures).

Contiguity-Friendly Option – Pathway 1 then uses a non-Glenorchy balancing transfer to Lyons (for example, an agreed set of Hobart LGA SA2s) rather than moving Glenorchy. This preserves Glenorchy in Clark while keeping Franklin contiguous (Franklin remains a south-east electorate anchored on Clarence, Sorell, Tasman and Glamorgan Spring Bay).

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Contiguity-Friendly Option – Pathway 2 (fallback only): If a non-Glenorchy balancing package is not practicable, the Commission could consider a limited split at the edge of Greater Hobart (e.g., a small number of SA1s) rather than transferring an entire LGA. GCC does not prefer this, but notes it may be less disruptive than relocating the whole Glenorchy LGA.

Area retained in Lyons under Contiguity Friendly Option - 1 (instead of moving to Franklin)	Enrolment (12 Aug 2025)
Bridgewater – Gagebrook	5,834
Brighton – Pontville	5,100
Old Beach – Otago	3,490
Total	14,424

Source: Redistribution Committee report, Table J (Franklin SA2 composition / transfers from Lyons).

Illustrative example only (to demonstrate feasibility): a package of Hobart LGA SA2s totalling ~20,484 electors (commencement figures) could be used as part of the balancing transfer to Lyons in place of moving Glenorchy. The Commission would model exact SA1 boundaries to satisfy quota requirements and to avoid unnecessary fragmentation.

Illustrative non-Glenorchy package (Hobart LGA SA2s)	Enrolment (12 Aug 2025)
Hobart (SA2)	5,406
New Town (SA2)	4,085
Lenah Valley – Mount Stuart (SA2)	6,372
West Hobart (SA2)	4,621
Total	20,484

Source: Redistribution Committee report, Table I (Clark SA2 composition – electors retained from Clark).

How this option addresses AEC stated priorities (and trade-offs)

- **Contiguity:** Franklin is configured as a single contiguous electorate (south-east focus), resolving the current non-contiguity concern.

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- **Communities of interest:** Glenorchy remains in a metropolitan electorate consistent with its labour market and service catchment evidence (Annex A).
 - **Least disruption:** compared with relocating an entire metropolitan LGA into Lyons, the Commission can choose a balancing transfer that is smaller, more targeted, and based on existing metropolitan linkages.
 - **Trade-off:** CF-1 departs from the Committee’s preference to move Brighton into the reconfigured Franklin; however, it aligns with Brighton Council’s preference to remain intact in Lyons and reduces the need to move Glenorchy.
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5. Trade-offs and risks (and how to address them)

- **AEC emphasis on contiguity:** GCC’s preferred option (4A) prioritises numerical correction and reduced disruption; Option 4B provides a contiguity-friendly pathway if contiguity is treated as decisive.
- **Bass projected shortfall:** Under current boundaries, Bass is projected to be below the minimum at the projection time. GCC does not oppose a small northern adjustment to resolve this, but submits it can be achieved without relocating Glenorchy.
- **Stakeholder impacts:** Any option involving Brighton, Hobart, or Derwent Valley should include early engagement to reduce contestability and improve the Commission’s confidence in the community-of-interest rationale.

6. Conclusion

Glenorchy City Council respectfully requests that the Augmented Electoral Commission amend the proposed redistribution to retain the Glenorchy local government area within Clark. GCC submits that numerical equity can be achieved through a materially lower-disruption approach by transferring Derwent Valley (including New Norfolk) from Lyons to Clark (Option 4A).

If the Commission prioritises resolving Franklin’s non-contiguity in this redistribution, GCC submits that a contiguity-friendly alternative exists that preserves the contiguity objective while avoiding relocation of Glenorchy to Lyons (Option 4B).

This is not about political comfort; it is about statutory community-of-interest coherence. Moving a metropolitan LGA into a largely regional electorate is a mismatch where the same numerical objectives can be achieved with less disruption. If quota compliance can be achieved while keeping Glenorchy in Clark and avoiding a large-disruption outcome, then the “necessary disruption” case is materially weaker for relocating Glenorchy specifically because a less disruptive solution exists that better respects communities of interest and travel.

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Annex A – Evidence of metropolitan community of interest (Glenorchy ↔ Hobart)

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Purpose: to provide concise evidence supporting the Electoral Act secondary criteria of “communities of interest” and “means of communication and travel”.

A1. Journey to Work: where Glenorchy residents work (ABS Census 2021)

ABS Census Journey to Work data (compiled and presented by .id) indicates Glenorchy is strongly integrated with the Hobart labour market.

Measure (Glenorchy resident workers)	Number	Share
Total employed resident workers	23,605	100%
Live and work in Glenorchy	8,557	36.3%
Live in Glenorchy, work outside Glenorchy	14,036	59.5%
No fixed place of work	1,012	4.3%

Top workplace LGAs for Glenorchy residents (workplace location):

Workplace LGA	Number	Share
Hobart	9,271	39.3%
Glenorchy	8,557	36.3%
Clarence	2,448	10.4%
Brighton	707	3.0%
Kingborough	557	2.4%
Derwent Valley	347	1.5%

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2021; compiled and presented by .id (profile.id).

A2. Commuting modes and public transport spine

On Census day 2021 in Glenorchy, the majority of residents travelled to work by private car, with a material public transport task and active transport share.

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Main method of travel to work (Census day 2021)	Share
Private car (driver or passenger)	70.1%
Public transport	6.7%
Walked or bicycle	3.1%
Worked at home	5.1%

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2021; compiled and presented by .id (profile.id).

Metro Tasmania’s Hobart Network identifies Glenorchy and the northern suburbs as a high-frequency corridor into Hobart, including “Turn Up and Go (North)” services linking Glenorchy–Moonah–New Town–Hobart and express services operating via the Brooker Highway.

A3. Service catchments: tertiary health and education

Health: The Royal Hobart Hospital is Tasmania’s largest hospital and a major referral centre for the southern region, and it functions as a key tertiary and specialist service destination for Greater Hobart residents, including Glenorchy, reinforcing Glenorchy’s service orientation to the Hobart metropolitan centre.

Education/skills: TasTAFE operates major campuses in Hobart and across Greater Hobart, forming a shared metropolitan vocational education network accessed by Glenorchy residents.

A4. Implication for Electoral Act secondary criteria

- The scale of commuting from Glenorchy to Hobart supports a metropolitan “community of interest” consistent with Clark.
- The presence of high-frequency public transport and direct road corridors to Hobart demonstrates strong “means of communication and travel” within the metropolitan area.
- Key tertiary health and education services are concentrated in Hobart, reinforcing Glenorchy’s metropolitan service catchment.

References (Submission and Annex A)

- Redistribution Committee for Tasmania (Feb 2026), Proposed redistribution of Tasmania’s electoral divisions – Report of the Redistribution Committee (AEC).
- profile.id (compiled from ABS Census 2021), Glenorchy City – Residents’ place of work (Journey to Work). https://profile.id.com.au/glenorchy/residents?BMID=160_
- profile.id (compiled from ABS Census 2021), Glenorchy City – Method of travel to work. <https://profile.id.com.au/glenorchy/travel-to-work>

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- Metro Tasmania, Hobart Network (timetables and maps; northern suburbs / Glenorchy corridor). <https://www.metrotas.com.au/timetables/hobart/>
- Tasmanian Department of Health, About Royal Hobart Hospital. <https://www.health.tas.gov.au/hospitals/royal-hobart-hospital/about-royal-hobart-hospital>
- TasTAFE, Campuses. <https://www.tastafe.tas.edu.au/campuses>
- TasTAFE, Collins Street (Hobart) Campus. <https://www.tastafe.tas.edu.au/campuses/collins-street-campus-hobart>