



Submission S10

Dr Mark Mulcair

SUGGESTIONS FOR 2025 TASMANIAN FEDERAL REDISTRIBUTION

Dear Committee Members,

Please find my Suggestions for the 2025 Tasmanian federal redistribution

I hope these Suggestions will help you in your deliberations.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Dr Mark Mulcair

INTRODUCTION

I am grateful for the opportunity to offer my Suggestions to the 2025 Tasmanian redistribution.

I am a completely independent person, with no affiliation to any political party or organization, but I have always had a strong interest in redistributions and electoral boundaries. In recent years, there has been a growing group of us that have emerged to offer our opinions and suggestions, to complement and provide alternatives to the usual political party submissions.

While I am not a resident of Tasmania. I have contributed to many redistribution suggestions over the past 15 years, and am quite familiar with the state's geography and communities of interest.

I hope that my Suggestions will be of benefit to the Committee in their deliberations.

GENERAL STRATEGY

The projection figures show clearly that the Division of Lyons is well over quota, whereas Bass and especially Clark are below. Clearly, there will need to be some expansion of both Clark and Bass to soak up the excess electors from Lyons.

With only 5 clearly-established Divisions, this would normally be fairly straightforward. Clark is the main 'Hobart' based seat, and Bass is the main Launceston-based seat, so it seems simple for both Divisions to just expand to take in further outer parts of both cities.

For Bass, this works fine. However, the Division of Clark does pose some problems due to its existing nature and strong boundaries.

Where should Clark expand?

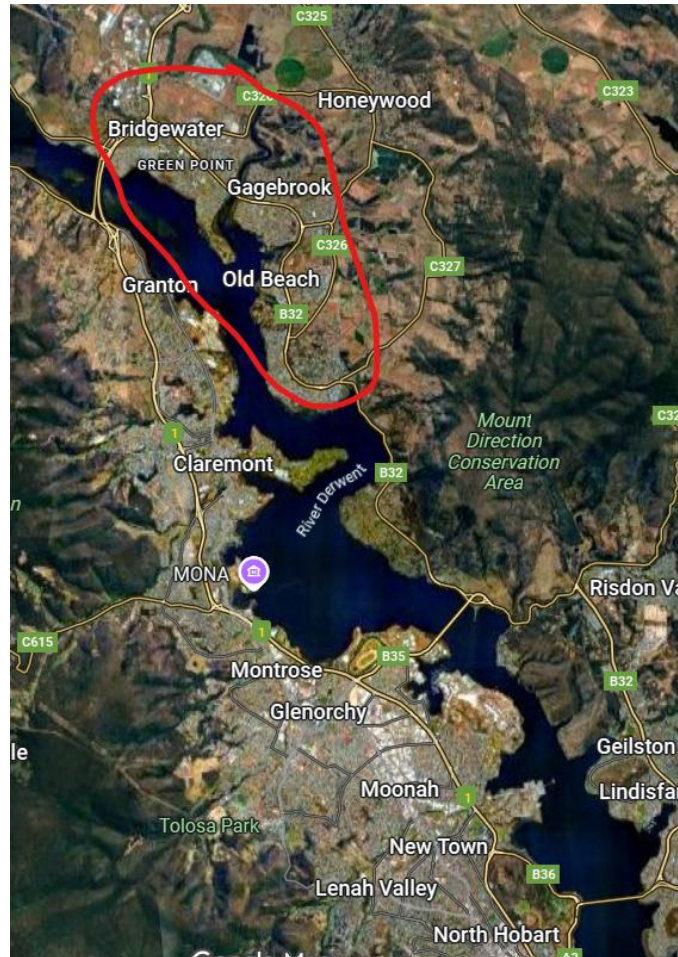
The Division of Clark contains most of Hobart that lies on the western bank of the Derwent River. Currently it is bounded to the north and east by the river, the west by mountains, and to the south mostly by the open space between central Hobart and Kingston. All of these are strong and clear boundaries.

Clark is bounded by the Divisions of Lyons (which is over quota), and Franklin (which is within tolerance although at the high end).

On the projected enrolments, Clark will be well under quota and needs to expand significantly. This will require a breaching of one of its strong existing boundaries, and all of the available options have flaws and drawbacks.

OPTION 1

One option is to expand Clark northwards into Lyons – for example, across the Derwent into the Bridgewater area.



Alternatively, Clark could extend up the river to take in New Norfolk and surrounding rural areas.



These might be regarded as ‘minimal change’ type options, as they would involve transferring electors directly from Lyons to Clark, without any need to involve the Division of Franklin. The change would involve simply expanding the northern boundary into areas immediately adjacent to Hobart, taking in areas with good links to the existing suburbs within Clark.

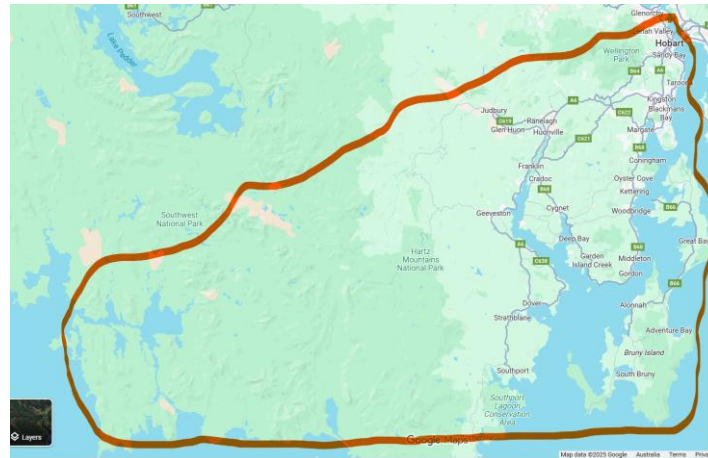
However, both of these have some drawbacks

- Expanding Clark across the river means that yet another Division crosses the Derwent, which is still a strong boundary in the area.
- The removal of Bridgewater would disrupt the connection between the Derwent Valley and the remainder of Lyons, as many of the eastward links from the New Norfolk area run back through Bridgewater.
- Pushing Clark up the river towards New Norfolk would take in more rural and semi-rural communities that are not quite as good a fit with urban areas of Hobart.

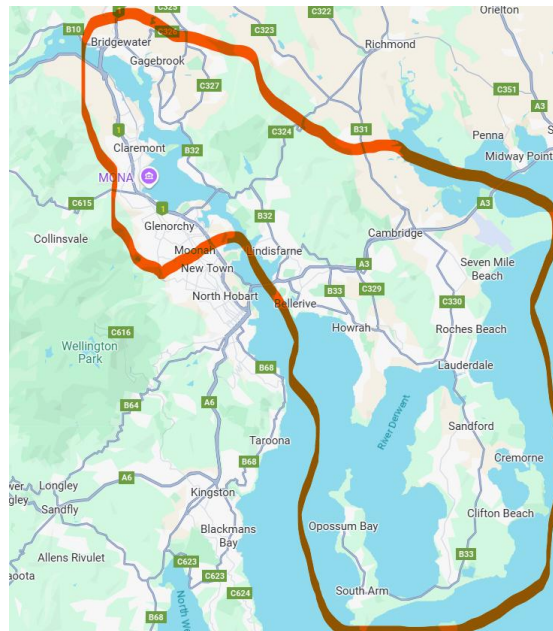
OPTION 2

A more radical option is to make major changes between Clark and Franklin, to eliminate the existing ‘disconnection’ in the latter Division.

In this arrangement, Clark would take in all of the existing Franklin that lies west of the Derwent, resulting in a Division taking in central Hobart, the southern suburbs, and the south-western rural areas:



Franklin in turn would then gain Glenorchy, and as much of the Bridgewater area as needed to make up the numbers, resulting in a Division something like this:



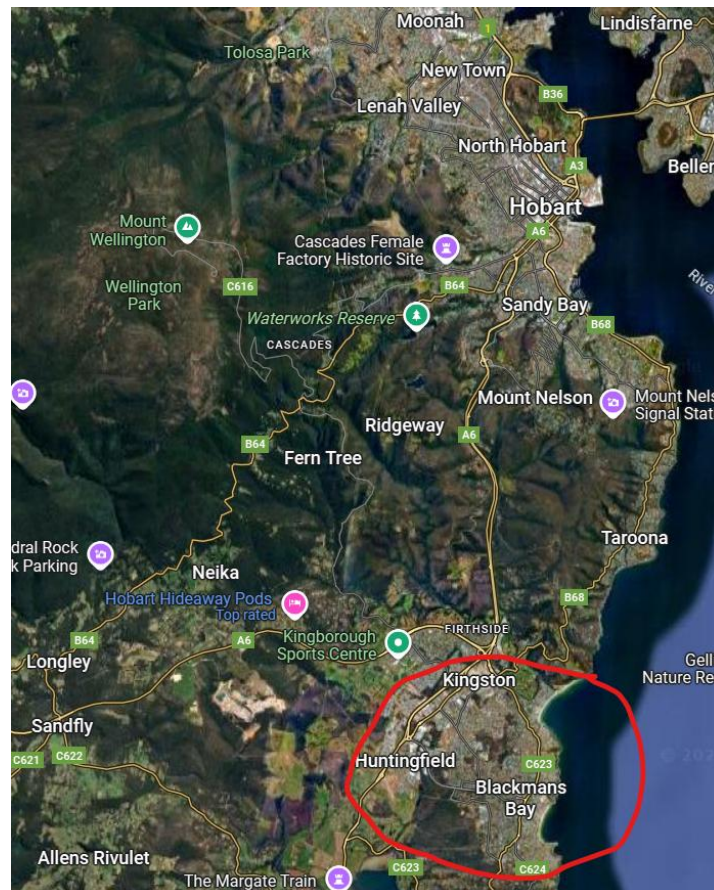
This has the advantage of making Franklin a much more coherent Division, focused clearly on northern and eastern Hobart, with multiple connections across the Derwent to join the two halves of the seat. It would also leave Clark lying completely west of the river.

However, the proposed Clark would be quite an odd Division – a ‘Hobart’ seat taking in rural and wilderness areas over 100km from Hobart itself, while excluding suburban areas only a few kilometres away from the city. The community of interest through such a seat would be tenuous and confusing.

There would also need to be a large number of electors that would need to be moved under this arrangement, around 35,000 to 40,000 in each direction. Tasmanian Divisions are around 80,000 – 90,000 electors, so represents nearly half of each seat being moved.

OPTION 3

I am proposing a third option – Clark should expand southwards to take in more of the Kingston area from Franklin.



Franklin in turn expands along the eastern bank of the river to take in as much of Old Beach, Gagebrook and/or Bridgewater as is necessary to make up its numbers.

In my opinion, this arrangement has several advantages:

- There is no need for a radical redrawing of Clark and Franklin.
- The number of electors transferred between Clark, Franklin and Lyons is relatively small.
- Clark remains a Division completely based on Hobart, and on the west bank of the river. There is no need to take in rural areas or jump the river.

I do acknowledge that there are still a couple of drawbacks, such as the ‘discontinuous’ nature of Franklin remaining. However, I feel that these drawbacks are fewer and less significant than for the other options, and I also feel that the benefits of this arrangements do a better job of outweighing these drawbacks.

Once the boundaries for Clark are established, the remaining seats fall into place quite naturally. The existing excess in Lyons can be used to compensate the remaining Divisions, with all seats retaining their existing character and undergoing only minor changes.

BOUNDARIES

Generally, I have tried to use municipal boundaries wherever possible. Failing that, I have at least tried to use major roads and natural features in the local area, or follow ‘on the ground’ community of interest (e.g. outer suburban areas which are clearly part of a city despite not being in the same municipal council).

POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS

While there is no requirement for ‘electoral fairness’ in federal redistributions, it is still interesting to look at possible political implications.

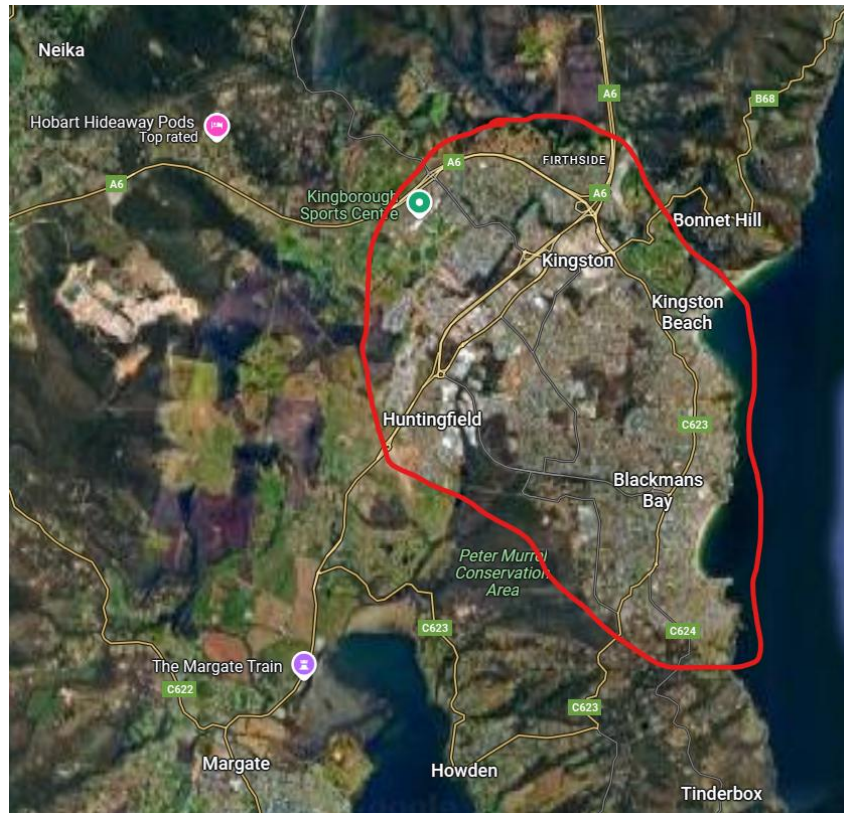
The strong swing to Labor at the last election means that many Tasmanian seats have somewhat inflated margins. However, at a more normal election, I would expect Franklin to be slightly strengthened for Labor, while Lyons would be weakened. The other Division with major change is Clark, which is held very safely by Independent Andrew Wilkie and is unlikely to be significantly impacted. Longer term, perhaps my changes would favour the Greens over Labor in Clark.

SUGGESTIONS IN DETAIL

CLARK

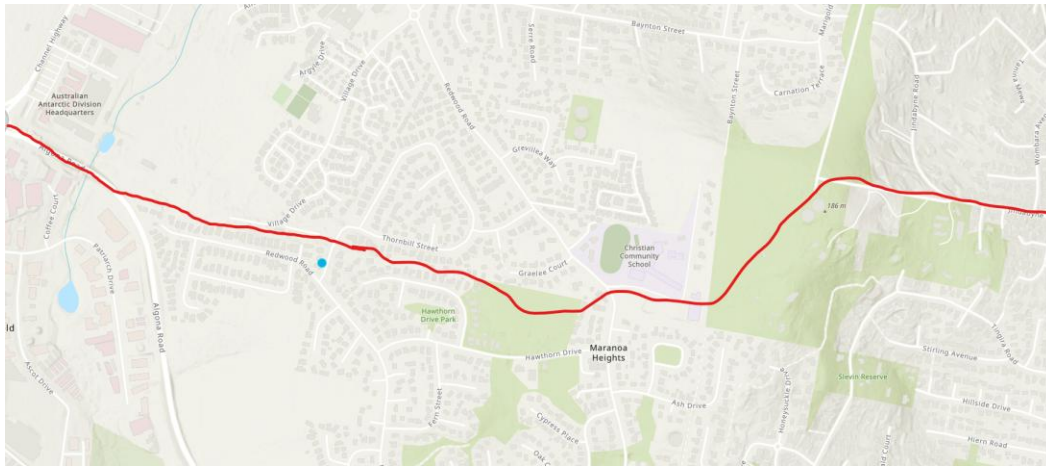
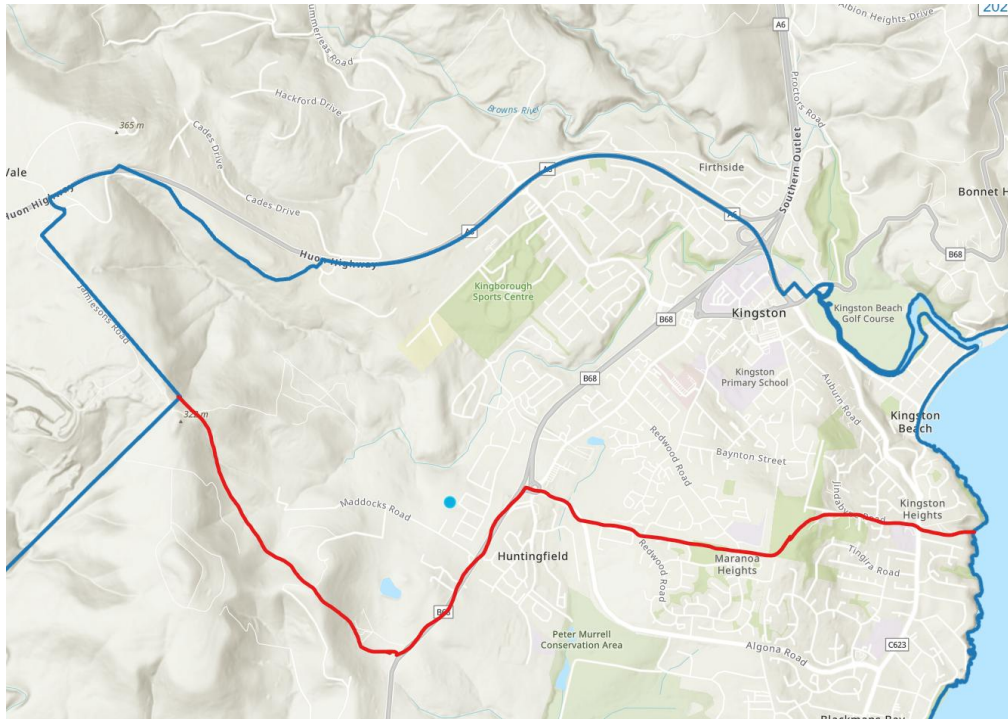
In the introduction, I outlined my general plan for Clark to expand southwards into the Kingston area. The question is exactly where to draw the boundary.

The Kingston and Blackmans Bay suburban area is fairly self-contained – it is slightly separated from the suburbs closer to Hobart, and surrounded by mountains, parklands, and open space.



However, there are too many electors here to transfer to Clark without taking it over tolerance, so some sort of split will need to be made.

I suggest trying to use open space as far as possible, making the split as clear and neat as it can be. To that end, I suggest beginning at the open space around Boronia Beach, then following Jindabyne Road, Boronia Hill Reserves, Hawthorne Reserves, open space between property boundaries, Algona Road, Channel Highway, and the Kingston suburb boundary:



I feel that at least this boundary would make some sense on the ground. However, I acknowledge that I am not a local, so I would be open to input from others who might be able to suggest a better boundary in the area.

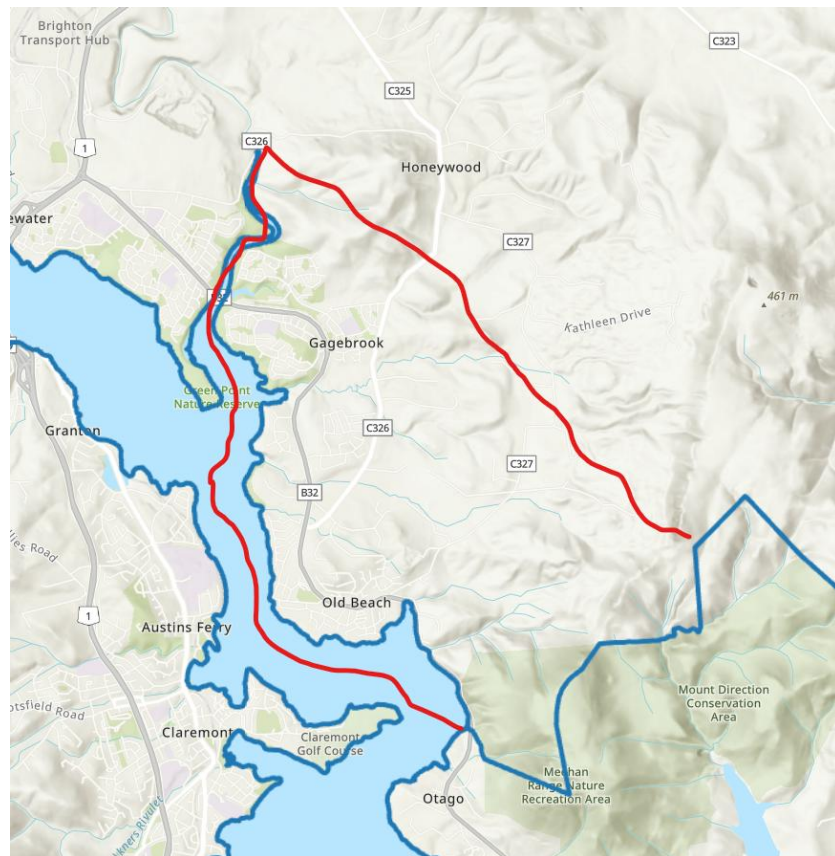
My proposal would transfer 8000 – 8500 electors from Franklin to Clark, leaving the Division very close to quota at projection time.

CLARK		Current	Projected
Existing		74,449	75,689
+ Kingston – Huntingfield SA 2 (part)	From Franklin	6354	6943
+ Kingston Beach – Blackmans Bay SA2 (part)	From Franklin	1702	1711
NEW		82,505	84,343

FRANKLIN

The transfer to Clark takes the Division of Franklin below tolerance, and it needs to make compensating gains from Lyons.

I suggest the sensible option is to simply expand along the eastern bank of the river to take in Old Beach, Gagebrook, and Herdsmans Cove:



Before the 2017 redistribution, all three of these communities were placed within Franklin, so essentially this is a return to the previous boundary between the two seats. There are good links southwards to Otago and other communities on the eastern bank currently in Franklin, and the Jordan River is a clear boundary in the area.

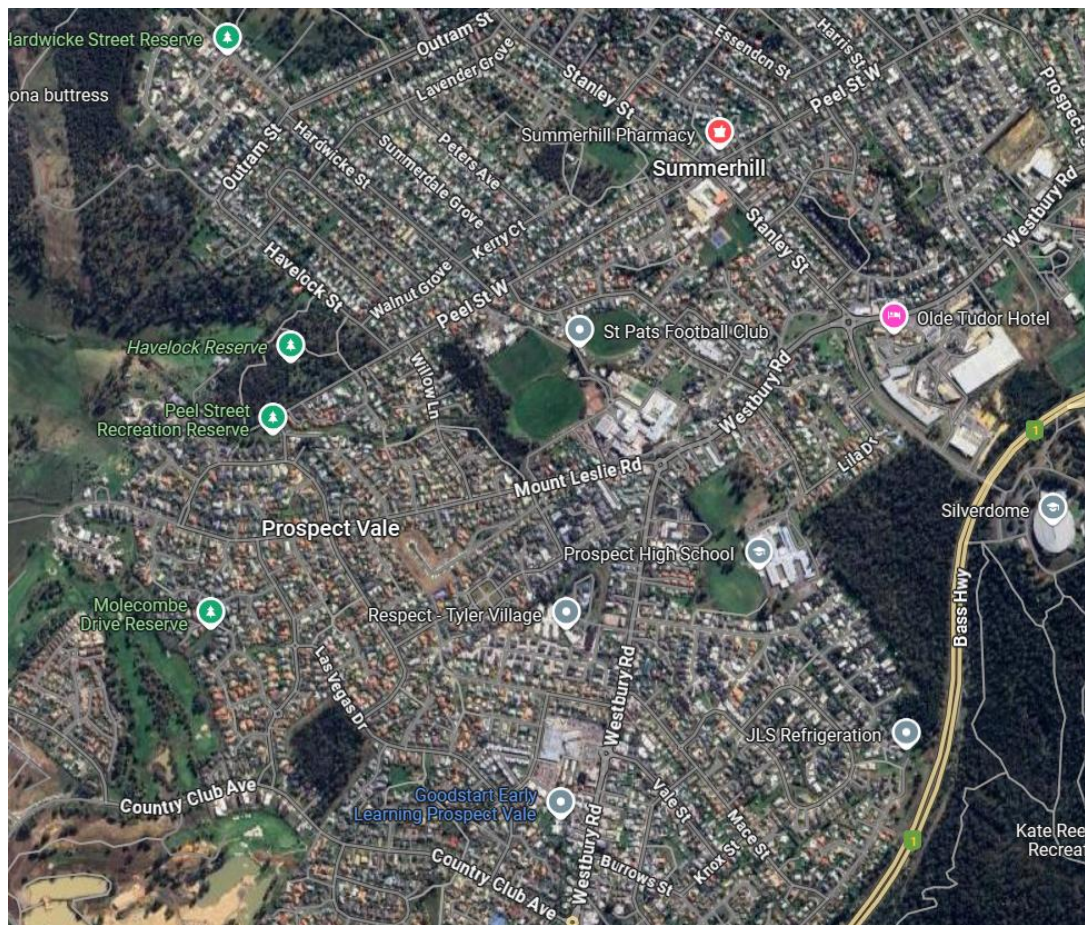
FRANKLIN		Current	Projected
Existing		83,956	87,262
+ Bridgewater – Gagebrook SA2 (east Jordan River)	From Lyons	3490	3714
+ Old Beach – Otago SA2 (balance)	From Lyons	1940	2172
- Kingston – Huntingfield SA 2 (part)	To Clark	6354	6943
- Kingston Beach – Blackmans Bay SA2 (part)	To Clark	1702	1711
NEW		81,330	84,494

BASS

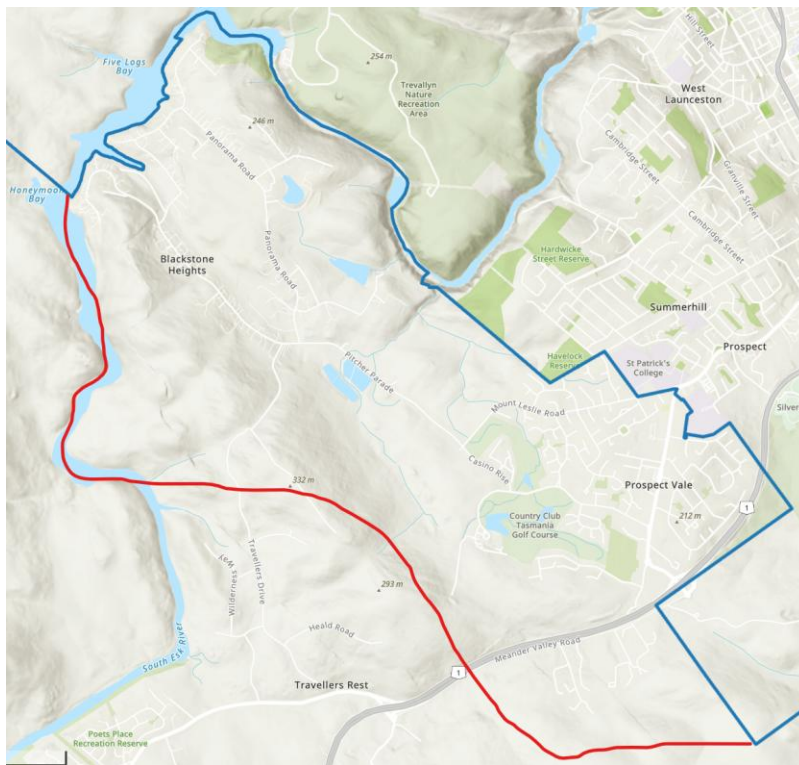
Bass is the north-eastern Tasmanian Division, covering almost all of Launceston plus surrounding rural areas.

On current figures, the seat is below tolerance and needs to make gains. Practically, this can only be from the Division of Lyons.

I suggest a very logical and obvious gain is the Prospect Vale area. While this is not part of the Launceston LGA, it is essentially part of suburban Launceston, and forms a continuous urban area with other suburbs such as Summerhill and Prospect that are already in Bass:



Therefore I think it makes enormous sense to transfer all of Prospect Vale plus neighbouring Blackstone Heights to Bass. This makes use of the South Esk River and open space as a very clear and obvious new boundary. Around 5500 electors are added, brining Bass well within tolerance at the projection time.



BASS		Current	Projected
Existing		80,560	80,818
+ Prospect Vale – Blackstone SA2 (all)	From Lyons	5371	5362
NEW		85,931	86,180

LYONS

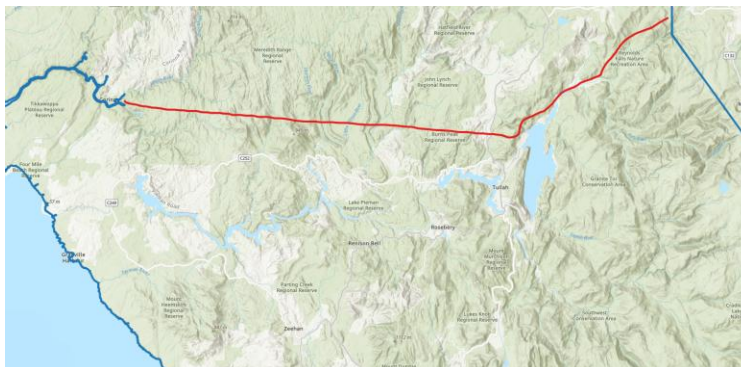
On its existing boundaries, the Division of Lyons was projected to be well over quota. However, the losses to Franklin and Bass now leave it at the bottom of tolerance.

In theory, this could be left without any further changes, since both it and neighbouring Braddon would be within tolerance. I would have no problem with this option.

However, since Braddon is towards the top of tolerance and Lyons is now at the bottom, there is also the option of transferring West Coast LGA to bring Lyons much closer to quota. The towns

on the western coast of Tasmania have some strong links northwards to Burnie via the Murchison/Ridgley Highway corridor, and was transferred from Lyons to Braddon at the 2008 redistribution.

However, these areas also have good links back to the central and southern parts of Lyons via the Lyell Highway, so would fit quite well in the Division if the Committee decided to better balance the numbers between the two seats.



LYONS		Current	Projected
Existing		89,599	92,995
+West Coast SA 2 (all)	From Braddon	3037	3164
- Prospect Vale – Blackstone SA2 (all)	To Bass	5371	5362
- Bridgewater – Gagebrook SA2 (east Jordan River)	To Franklin	3490	3714
- Old Beach – Otago SA2 (balance)	To Franklin	1940	2172
NEW		81,835	84,911

** ‘Wilderness West’ SA2 is also transferred from Braddon to Lyons under this option, but it has 0 electors so does not impact the above calculation*

BRADDON

Braddon is currently within tolerance although at the higher end.

As noted above, it has the option of remaining unchanged, or donating around 3000 electors to Lyons on the western coast.

Either way, Braddon would remain a clear ‘north western’ seat, based on Devonport, Burnie, and surrounding rural and coastal communities.

BRADDON		Current	Projected
Existing		84,612	86,021
- West Coast SA 2 (all)	To Lyons	3037	3164
NEW		81,575	82,857