



Submission S13

James Walker



Dear AEC Tasmanian Redistribution Committee,

This initial submission is focused on the prism for the committee to consider change. It is less granular on boundaries than what I previously proposed in the 2008 and 2016 processes. This submission is made entirely on my own behalf and not as a representative of any other entity.

This time the Committee will have to navigate the best way through what is effectively two redistribution approaches. Firstly "Nip and Tuck", the minimalist approach to boundary adjustments to ensure all five electorates are within quota. Secondly "Radical Surgery" which will see the present Clark, Franklin and Lyons electorates profoundly changed from their current configurations. If not this time, a radical approach will almost certainly be required next time around as the population concentrations keeps changing.

Through the last process we also experienced "Flip Flopping" whereby communities who had been transferred into a different electorate in 2008 found themselves back in the old electorate in the subsequent redistribution. This time I would suggest flip flopping only occur where there is not only a community of interest rationale, but also a strong degree of confidence that they would not need to be moved again at a following redistribution. A nip and tuck approach this time is also more likely to lead to flip flopping next time.

I look forward to reading the initial submissions of others later this month. It would be pleasantly surprising if any submissions provide elegant nip and tuck suggestions for Clark, Franklin and Lyons.

Federation ensures each State has a minimum of five electorates. When considering Tasmania in demographic fifths there are four distinct population clusters that form the default basis for structuring electorates. That is South East, South West, North East and North West. Bass and Braddon rationally encompass North East and North West population clusters. To meet quota this round Bass can expand into the Break O'Day Local Government Area (LGA) or by flip flopping urban elements of the Meander Valley LGA that were moved into Lyons last round. This should only occur if there is high probability it would be a durable change for future redistributions. Whilst projections show Braddon slightly over quota it is comfortably within the quota tolerance, I would suggest no change to Braddon in either a nip and tuck or radical surgery approach.

A new South East electorate would address the increasing challenge of Franklin's non-contiguous boundaries separated by a river and the Clarke Electorate. Areas of Franklin on either side of the Derwent River presently experience significant population growth. The new South East electorate would encompass all of the Tasman, Sorell, Clarence and Brighton LGA's as well as parts of either the Southern Midlands or Glamorgan Spring Bay LGA's.

A South West electorate would see all of Huon Valley and Kingborough and Hobart LGA's form this electorate. The remaining electorate would comprise the Glenorchy LGA and the remaining areas of the current Lyons electorate.

On present population trends radical surgery of Tasmanian electorates is a matter of when not if. This will be disruptive whenever it occurs. With long lead in times before the next federal and state elections it is a fairly convenient time in the cycle to make such a change.

In conclusion the radical surgery approach based on the four distinct population clusters will be more durable and predictable when changes are required to keep electorates within quota tolerance. It is also likely to result in electorates that are on average easier to service by their representatives

Yours Sincerely

James Walker

Clarence Councillor