



Submission S18

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To: [FedRedistribution - TAS](#)
Subject: Tasmanian federal redistribution - submission C. Hutchison 6 November 2025
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Tasmanian Redistribution Committee (TRC)
Australian Electoral Commission (AEC)
via email: FedRedistribution-tas@aec.gov.au

Thursday 6 November 2025

~ Submission for the Tasmanian federal redistribution ~

To the TRC,

I write to make a short but considered submission regarding the Tasmanian electoral boundaries in my personal capacity. This submission does not reflect the opinion of my employer nor does it reflect any real or perceived political affiliations.

This submission is based on the numbers below and some informal research using Tasmanian locality population figures [1].

The 5 electorate system of representative government in Tasmania, that reflects the Federal electoral boundary, does work.

Contrast this to the fifteen Legislative Council divisions that demonstrate how Tasmania prefers to distribute its electoral boundaries. I see the legislative council boundaries representing more clearly, the natural community districts.

There are many matters to consider when designing or considering the features of a representative political system in Tasmania, from the tradition of the Hare-Clark voting system, to the recent restoration of 7 seat electorates at a state level, sharply contrasted by single seat electorates at the federal level, and the current reality of a lower house that cannot form a majority State government because Tasmanians are increasingly voting for diversity in State Parliament.

While the division of powers and responsibilities provides different degrees of community involvement, one has to ponder the complexity of the multiple levels of government. Why do we have so many different systems and traditions, and the rationality behind these different ways of doing governance – and ask how necessary it all really is.

In my view, the electoral boundaries demonstrate identity and belonging as part of that system, and communities have a long history and relationship with their local candidates and members. This means that radical change to electoral boundaries isn't likely to occur in the near future under the existing representative democratic system of governance used in Tasmania.

The challenge for decision makers, however, exists because adjusting the boundaries to maintain the same function of proportionate representation means that there are limited options for change based on the current demographics and relatively stable population.

After considering a few scenarios, it was clear that aiming for a simple redistribution was going to be the most straightforward, and I imagine that this will be the natural outcome of this short but significant process.

In my view, it is critical in this process to make the least adjustments necessary to the 5 electorate boundaries and cause the least social and political impact to electorates, while also aiming to maintain an equal number of electors in each electorate over the next five years.

The recommended changes I have are as follows:

- The electorate of Lyons loses the whole Derwent Valley Local Government Area (LGA) to Clark
- The electorate of Clark gains the whole Derwent Valley LGA from Lyons
- The electorate of Lyons gains Eastern Shore Localities: Otago, Grasstree Hill, Cambridge, Dulcot, plus others if necessary, from Franklin [2]
- The electorate of Franklin loses Eastern Shore Localities: Otago, Grasstree Hill, Cambridge, Dulcot, plus others if necessary, to Lyons [2]
- The electorate of Franklin gains the Kingston suburb areas of Firthside and Browns River from Clark
- The electorate of Clark Loses the Kingston suburb areas Firthside and Browns River to Lyons

Based on the figures supplied by the AEC [3], the number of electors in Franklin and Lyons is projected to increase at a greater rate than Braddon, Bass, and Clark in the next five years.

If the above changes were implemented and populations did follow predicted trajectories, then in 2030, the AEC could:

- The electorate of **Lyons** can continue to absorb areas in **Franklin** along the eastern shore boundary
- The electorate of **Franklin** can, if necessary, absorb areas along **Clark's** southern boundary, including **Bonnets Hill, Taroona, Kingston North, Leslie Vale, Longley, and Nieka**
- The electorate of Bass may eventually gain **Prospect Vale** and **Blackstone Heights** from Lyons if population remains minimal across the Bass electorate.

While the Derwent Valley LGA, members for Clark, and the broader Clark electorate would have to adjust to this demographic change arising for the electoral boundary redistribution, I think in the medium-long term, it would add value to the representative process by requiring predominantly city-based member(s) to gain the views and perspectives of constituents in rural and regional communities, to ensure they maintain a balanced view in their communities.

All things considered, I see these changes as having the least impact but creating the best solution to the redistribution of Tasmania's electorates to ensure it maintains equal numbers of enrolled electors and applies the principle of proportionate representation as fairly as possible.

References:

[1] ABS Census Data <https://abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/>

[2] LIST Map Tasmania <https://maps.thelist.tas.gov.au/listmap/app/list/map>

Details: an overlay of the approximate proposed boundary adjustment in dark red.



[3] <https://www.aec.gov.au/redistributions/2024/tas/essential.html>

Electorate	Enrolment as at 12 August 2025		Projected enrolment at 8 April 2030		Is the numerical requirement met?
	Enrolment	Percentage variation from the redistribution quota	Projected enrolment	Percentage variation from the projected enrolment quota	
Bass	80,560	-2.51%	80,818	-4.42%	No
Braddon	84,612	2.39%	86,021	1.73%	Yes
Clark	74,449	-9.91%	75,689	-10.49%	No
Franklin	83,956	1.60%	87,262	3.20%	Yes
Lyons	89,599	8.43%	92,995	9.98%	No