



The Federal Redistribution 2008
Tasmania



Public Objection Number 3

Martin Gordon

4 Page(s)

> objection



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cc

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Subject objection

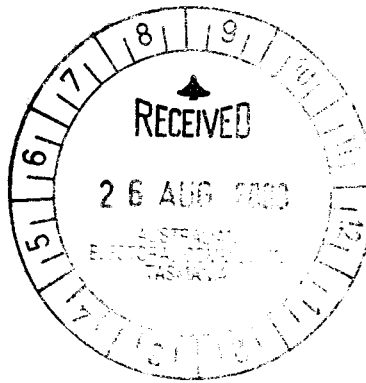
Attached is a objection to the proposed redistribution.

Regards

Martin Gordon



TAS redis objection 2008.doc



> objection

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Augmented Redistribution Committee for the
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Redistribution for the Tasmania

Dear Committee Members,

I wish to make comments (which for technical purposes would be an objection) on your proposed redistribution which was released on 22 August 2008

General comments

The Committee has produced a proposed redistribution that involves modest changes to all Divisions. In many respects it is similar in intention to what I had originally proposed. I will make comments in relation to the various Divisions in turn:

Bass – the Committee proposals are quite sound, whilst Bass is within tolerances on existing boundaries, the proposals make effective use of local government boundaries, and incorporate nearby Launceston townships i.e., Hadspen which for practical purposes is part of Launceston. Whilst I had proposed no changes I cannot fault the proposed boundaries.

Denison and Franklin – the Committee cited my comments on the awkward configuration of Franklin. Having heard the Committee's deliberations at pages 14-16, I was rather surprised that the Committee did not create a more southern Denison Division and a Glenorchy-Clarence Franklin Division.

I had some difficulty working out how the Committee had arrived at 82,000 electors (Para 81). In fact the transfers of some 61,000 electors would suffice in my view. The concern about Denison crossing the Derwent River sat oddly with the fact that Franklin has for a very long time done exactly that. The Committee having considered this option in a rather conservative conclusion resolved to continue the same piecemeal adjustments, which actually exacerbate the awkward division of Franklin.

The Committee might have looked to the proposed boundaries in Western Australia which have proposed undoing of over 80 years of the configuration of the Division of Kalgoorlie. The reasoning was essentially the time had come, it was no longer reasonably possible to maintain the current north-south boundary, and a east-west one instead was proposed which has in one stroke eliminated this dilemma faced at each redistribution.

All this aside, the Committee has come up with quite a workable boundary between Franklin and Denison to address the elector imbalance between the two Divisions.

Braddon and Lyons

The adjustments made to Lyons in respect to Bass and Franklin are quite reasonable. It resolves a elector deficiency in Bass, in a sensible way which I have described above. The transfers from Franklin solve a elector growth imbalance in a workable way.

The Committee mentions the linkage between the West Coast and North West of the state. In the past Braddon was configured with the West Coast included. Whilst there is some logic in this link, it did not seem to be justified by the disruption that it has necessitated. The Committee has proposed that 20,526 (21,291) electors be moved within the entire state, but this adjustment between Braddon and Lyons involves 14,371 (15,025) of them. 71% of the total transfers are involved with this movement and for really no obvious advantage. The land area transferred is some 15,000 square kilometres, all for a net increase/decrease of 793 (511) electors between the Divisions.

Currently Braddon is the second closest Division to quota; the proposals of the Committee would make it the fourth furthest from quota. It would actually make the Divisions less equal than leaving them with the Bass/Franklin adjustments proposed. In fact no change at all would leave both Lyons and Braddon more equal in electors if no exchanges were made between them!

If the Committee feels that an adjustment is necessary, I suggest that say transferring that part of Kentish LGA west of Lake Barrington to Braddon makes more sense and is less disruptive than shifting some 15,000 electors, and 15,000 square kilometres of the state. Transferring one town or several seems to me to be a more sensible option than what the Committee has proposed.

If the Committee wants to make the proposed changes that is its prerogative but it is a highly disruptive way of achieving a net shift of literally 3-6% of the numbers involved. In other states with larger numbers of Divisions it is sometimes quite unavoidable to shift electors through several Divisions to achieve balance; in Tasmania this is not necessary. The table below summaries the net effect of the proposals in one table.

Existing Division				Proposed Division					
				Net Elector adjustments between Braddon and Lyons					
	Now	2012	Growth	Now		Variation	2012		Variation
Bass	69562	71588	2.91%	71084		0.91%	73250		0.33%
Braddon	71477	73530	2.87%	72270	793	2.60%	74041	511	1.42%
Denison	69283	70621	1.93%	71085		0.91%	72594		-0.57%
Franklin	73036	76481	4.72%	68673		-2.51%	71877		-1.55%
Lyons	68845	72814	5.77%	69091	-793	-1.92%	73272	-511	0.36%
				Made up of transfers of electors					
				14371			15025		

I would propose two options, either no exchanges between Lyons and Braddon or the transfer alone of the western portion of Kentish LGA with the use of Lake Barrington as a boundary. Either would be preferable to the massive dislocation proposed. The first option would mean only 5,885 (6,266) electors been transferred within the entire state, the latter some 6,500 (7,000) approximately.

My objections are modest in terms of minimising elector disturbance and continue to utilise major physical features as boundaries where possible. I look forward to hearing further about your deliberations.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Gordon
25 August 2008