



The Federal Redistribution 2008
Tasmania



Public Objection Number 28

Grant Atkins

3 Page(s)

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"jan atkins"
<janatkins3@bigpond.com>

13/09/2008 05:47 PM

To <tas.redistribution@aec.gov.au>

cc

bcc

Subject



Dear Sir,

Please find attached my objection to the proposed redistribution of electoral boundaries in Tasmania. A hard copy of my objection has been posted.

Grant Atkins

39 Sunhaven Drive,



Port Sorell. Tas 7307 Australian Electoral Officer for Tasmania.doc

13/09/2008 05:47:16 PM

Australian Electoral Officer for Tasmania.
Australian Electoral Commission.
GPO Box 520.
Hobart TAS. 7001



Dear Sir,

Redistribution of Federal Electoral Boundaries in Tasmania

I write to lodge my objection to the recommended transfer of Latrobe Municipality from the electoral subdivision of Braddon into the electorate of Lyons. I am totally opposed to this proposal because Latrobe Municipality has a very close connection to the Cradle Coast Region and has little affiliation with the large sprawling electorate of Lyons.

Latrobe has close social, economic, governance, historical and sporting connections with the Cradle Coast Region and these should not be severed by an electoral boundary change. For many years member Councils of the Cradle Coast Region have worked hard to develop the strong regional framework that exists between member councils today. Regional cooperation exists with water supply, emergency services, health care, transport, tourism, resource management, planning, industry, advocacy and education. If Latrobe is transferred out of Braddon these important regional activities could be jeopardized.

The Devonport Airport and Mersey Community Hospital are both important community facilities serving the Cradle Coast area and located within the Latrobe Municipality. In the last Federal election the importance of the Mersey Community Hospital to the Braddon electorate was highlighted with an outcome that has substantially increased funding for Tasmania's struggling health system. Had the hospital been located in Lyons the outcome may have been much different with no additional funding being provided. Many of the vegetables and crops grown within the rich agricultural areas of Latrobe are processed in other Cradle Coast centres and transported interstate through the Devonport and Burnie ports.

In recent years the electorate of Braddon has been a marginal seat which has resulted in close attention by political parties. Rightly or wrongly the people of the Braddon electorate have benefited from this situation. If Latrobe is removed from Braddon its 9000 plus residents could well miss out on future important government assistance to the area and become the poorer member of the Cradle Coast Region. The political representation of Latrobe residents clearly sits with the Cradle Coast Region not the Lyons electorate.

Latrobe residents have little if any community of interest with other centres in the Lyons electorate. Latrobe's community is closely linked to the City of Devonport which has the largest population of any town or city within Braddon. Latrobe residents are only five minutes away by car from Devonport and Port Sorell residents are only 15 minutes away.


A significant proportion of the people from Latrobe Municipality undertakes their commercial business in Devonport and also work and shop there. Residents from Latrobe Municipality also travel to Devonport for recreational, social and cultural activities.

I have read the Redistribution Committees report and find no convincing argument as to why Latrobe Municipality should be removed from the Lyons electorate. The proposal appears to be more of a decision based on "adjusting electoral numbers for convenience" rather than for any logical reason. The result of this being that it is the residents of Latrobe that will ultimately suffer. Clause 73 of the report suggests that Latrobe has commercial, tourism and transport links with those local government areas to the east. Whilst such links may exist in proportion they are minor to the many links that Latrobe Municipality shares with Devonport City and other major coastal centres to the west. It could well be argued that the Kentish Municipality has a greater connection to the east particularly in relation to tourism as the Union Bridge Road and Olivers Hill Road provide important linkages between the Deloraine/Mole Creek area, Cradle Mountain and Kentish area.

Whilst Latrobe Municipality has limited community of interest with the Deloraine/Westbury area it has no community of interest with other centres of Lyons such as St Helens, Swansea, Campbell Town, Longford, New Norfolk, Bridgewater, Ouse, Derwent Bridge, Bothwell etc. To remove Latrobe from Braddon and to place it in an electorate with these distant locations has no real logic particularly when considering the issue of community of interest.

The Redistribution Committee obviously has a difficult task to consider the redistribution of elector numbers as required under the guidelines set within the Commonwealth Electoral Act. Without access to the data and resources available to the Committee it is difficult for individuals such as myself to offer alternative solutions. However to remove the local government area of Latrobe from Braddon would bring real and detrimental injustice to those people who currently reside in the Municipality. There is no doubt that the community of interest of the Latrobe Municipality is strongly connected to the City of Devonport and the Cradle Coast Region. The Committee is urged to reconsider its decision on this important issue and to leave Latrobe Municipality as part of the Braddon electorate.

Yours faithfully,



Grant Atkins,

39 Sunhaven Drive,

Port Sorell, TAS. 7307.

11th September 2008

Phone 03 64287810 janatkins3@bigpond.com