



The Federal Redistribution 2008
Tasmania



Public Objection Number 42

Ian Duncan

4 Page(s)

> Redistribution of Tasmania Electoral Divisions 18 Sept 2008



"Ian Duncan"
<ianduncan@ozemail.com.au>

18/09/2008 08:14 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Redistribution of Tasmania Electoral Divisions 18 Sept 2008

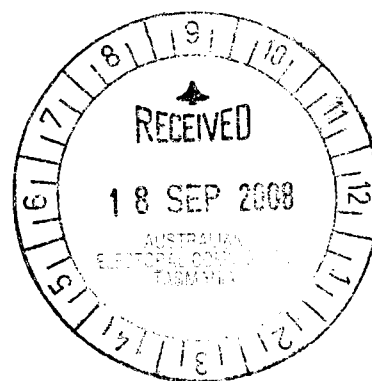
Dear Review Committee Members and Australian Electoral Commission,

I attach for your consideration my comments and objections,

Kind regards,



Ian Duncan. Redistribution of Tasmania Electoral Divisions 18 Sept 2008.doc



> Redistribution of Tasmania Electoral Divisions 18 Sept 2008

18 September 2008

By email to: tas.redistribution@aec.gov.au

To: Australian Electoral Commission, Review Committee

Re: 2008 Proposed Redistribution of Tasmanian Electoral Divisions

I herewith submit my comments and objections in response to your recent publications regarding review and proposed redistribution of Electoral Divisions in Tasmania.

Enrolment for each of the existing five divisions across Tasmania varies across a range of minus 2.27% (Lyons) to plus 3.68% (Franklin) over average divisional enrolment at the commencement date of this discussion. **All divisions are well within the allowable quota tolerance of plus or minus 10%.**

So the need to actually change boundaries is at best marginal and as the AEC paper was working on projections of population growth, the paper itself says the project for Lyons is the highest at 5.77% with Franklin being the next. The report itself says that as the projected enrolment is within plus or minus 3.5% on average, a minimal change to Franklin's boundaries by moving electors into either Denison or Lyons or both would solve this slight imbalance.

However, the report decides to explore more subjective reasons for changing electoral boundaries.

In doing so, the report suggests that "changes to electoral boundaries will inevitably result in a level of disturbance to affected electors and their elected representatives."

They have identified this as a difficulty, and it is only the West Coast that has sought to be moved into Braddon because one or two believe their interests would be better served under that arrangement. Otherwise there is no real compelling argument to radically change boundaries.

Therefore the following comments are offered for each electorate:

BASS

There is a basic agreement that the proposed changes in Section 60 be agreed to as it will allow the least disruption to those people on the edges of Bass and Lyons.

BRADDON

There are some considerable qualms about changing the boundaries in Braddon and adding the West Coast. Over the years, the community of interests has changed backwards and forwards depending on the politics of the day. In essence, one could

argue that the West Coast has more in common with the smaller isolated communities in Lyons than it does with the higher population, more closely knit towns of Braddon. In Federal consideration, the West Coast would be seen as a marginal area of Braddon, whereas it is seen as integral part of the Lyons economy with many of its floating population being drawn from northern and southern Lyons who keep their main living properties on the Eastern side of the State. It is strongly argued that the West Coast remains in Lyons.

In similar vein, the towns of Sheffield and Railton are more closely linked with the country towns of the Meander Valley and Mole Creek than they are with the coast. Their main industry draws its workers from Lyons and its major supplies of energy are also drawn from Lyons.

Latrobe and Port Sorell on the other hand, used to be in Lyons and were moved recently within the last 8 years into Braddon. To move them back now would cause enormous problems for electors as many in this area are retirees, elderly or holiday businesses more aligned with the Coast and the Bass Highway than Sheffield and Railton.

There is no economic reason for these two regions to be changed. The Councils do not want it, and I do not believe there has been a sufficient argument made to make these disruptive transfers. It is strongly argued that these areas remain in their respective present electorates.

DENISON

The change of name to Inglis Clark would reflect the importance to the State of this pioneer. Other changes reflect the changes in population and are likely to be acceptable to the community.

FRANKLIN

This is the biggest electorate and while it makes sense to look at Bridgewater as a possible change to Lyons, its community of interest is really with the Eastern shore and the facilities provided for Bridgewater Gagebrook areas. The changes would once again be affecting a low socio-economic grouping who have less understanding of the political process than most and are less mobile than many others in the State. It would lead to greater isolation and marginalisation to be part of such a big electorate of Lyons.

Therefore it would make sense to draw off the maximum part of the population from the southern boundary around the Taroona Kingston area which is a growth area and will continue to develop over the next decade balancing the numbers in Denison.

LYONS

This leaves Lyons, and the mishmash proposed is very unsatisfactory - leaving many electors to work out why they have needed to change electorates again in some cases.

The Lyons - Franklin changes would benefit Lyons in the population argument but would do nothing for the people who are on the southern end. It would add yet another isolated High School into the mix which is not supported by the Lyons population.

The effect of making the moves between Braddon and Lyons does nothing to improve the facilities of each area, nor to develop further the communities of interest that are already there. The north-west coast along its coastline to Asbestos range is very much a community of interest in that it is a retirement/tourism belt and the hinterland of Lyons provides for it. They have very different needs, both socially and economically.

The very worst scenario exists in moving Railton and Sheffield into the North West while excluding Latrobe and Port Sorell. It is strongly argued that this does not occur.

CONCLUSION

I have been through the suggested changes and believe that the recommendations are far too radical and should be scaled back to more minimal disruptions. Tasmanians do not move as much as people on the mainland, and many families have spent generations in the small towns that make up our electoral divisions. Unless there is some glaring reason or need to change, (for example, if a whole new town is built in one of the divisions skewing the population over the average 3.5%), then there is no logical argument or need for change just for the sake of a few constituents or a few politicians who might personally benefit by a moving of the electoral boundaries.

Lyons is the most affected by the proposed changes and is thus considered the most controversial. However if the intention is genuinely to assess "as far as practicable" the effect the changes might have, and that there has been an "endeavour to ensure" all interests have been considered", including the many barriers such as communication, travel, health and education requirements of each area, then it is argued that these changes should not go ahead as currently outlined.

Ian Duncan,
29 Pearsall Street,
Snug. Tasmania. 7054.