



The Federal Redistribution 2008 Tasmania



Public Suggestion Number 11

Hon Ruth Forrest MLC

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> Electoral Boundary Redistribution Submission



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Subject Electoral Boundary Redistribution Submission

Submission attached.

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> Electoral Boundary Redistribution Submission

**Australian Electoral Commission Electoral Boundary
Redistribution
Tasmanian House of Representative Boundaries**

Submission – Hon Ruth Forrest, Independent Member for Murchison,
Legislative Council of Tasmania.

This submission, including a recommendation focuses primarily on the electorates of Braddon and Lyons and takes into consideration the need to ensure that at the ‘projected date’ (15th August 2012), the numbers of all electors in each Electoral Division is not less than 96.5% and not more than 103.5% of the average divisional enrolment. I acknowledge that the electorates of Franklin and Denison will require consideration with regard to this issue under this review, however, as stated my submission only relates to the North, North West and West of the State.

As a Member of Parliament in Tasmania’s Legislative Council, holding the single member electorate seat of Murchison, I wish to focus primarily on the electorate of Braddon and the issues related to the requirement that due consideration be given to issues of grouping electorates according to community interests, including economic, social and regional interests, means of travel and communication and the physical features of an electorate. Murchison is the largest geographic electorate in the Legislative Council of Tasmania, including the North West Coast from Shorewell Creek in Burnie, through to Circular Head, King Island and the West Coast.

I recommend that the West Coast Local Government region be excised from the electorate of Lyons and included in the electorate of Braddon. When considering Local Government boundaries, this adjustment could be achieved along current Local Government boundaries. Below I will provide supporting evidence on which I have based this recommendation.

As a local member representing this area, I do spend considerable time travelling to these areas but do not find this onerous due to the road network that provides ready access to all these areas. I do not believe this is the case for the current electorate of Lyons, where it can take many hours to travel from the West to the East coast or to the West Tamar region. As there are no major highways that provide safe and efficient road access from the East Coast to the West Coast, it would be reasonable to move the communities on the West Coast into the electorate of Braddon. If this were to occur there would need to be some adjustment at the eastern end of Braddon in the Latrobe and/or Kentish areas. Considering the Latrobe and/or Kentish areas are geographically close to the Launceston region and linked with a major highway, such an adjustment would be appropriate.

Including the West Coast in the electorate of Braddon would improve the representation of this region as access to the area is far more achievable than as currently exists with the West Coast included in Lyons. As a Member of Parliament representing this area, admittedly smaller than a proposed electorate of Braddon, I have found that to represent this entire area adequately is quite achievable, as evidenced by feedback from within the electorate. I also attend functions and events in the electorate of Braddon, outside the electorate of Murchison, on occasions. This

would certainly not be an onerous addition in terms of representation, as this area is more densely populated and readily accessible with excellent road infrastructure. The electorate of Braddon currently has five lower house members in the State Parliament.

The West Coast has a much more significant 'community of interest' with the North West Coast. Many mine workers who work on the West Coast have their home base on the North West Coast and many of the mining executive staff and other corporate travel related to West Coast business accesses the West Coast via Burnie or Devonport. Many mining suppliers such as Caterpillar, Haul Max, Atlas Copco and a number of engineering and other companies that provide contract workers and services to the mines, are located on the North West Coast. Corporate management of some mining ventures are also based on the North West Coast.

The majority of students from the West Coast who wish to undertake tertiary education or study including TCE, TAFE or other technical training and University courses offered at the Cradle Coast Campus of the University of Tasmania, travel to the North West Coast to undertake this as they can travel home on weekends and holidays more readily, and in a shorter timeframe, than from Launceston or Hobart.

Furthermore the East Coast and West Coast have significantly different major issues and major industries. The people of the West Coast have significantly more business and industry links with the North West and generally will travel to the North West to undertake business, general purchases, to access further education and to travel interstate or overseas. There are also significant port and rail linkages between the North West and West Coast regions.

The residents of the West Coast have access to the West Coast Hospital in Queenstown and Community Health facility (previously a hospital, with plans to reinstitute a 24-hour service) in Rosebery. All medical needs that cannot be met on the West Coast are transported by road to the North West Regional Hospital in Burnie, unless the severity of the patient's medical condition or weather conditions warrant (and permit) air transfer to either Burnie or Hobart. Relatives wishing to visit hospitalised patients prefer to travel to Burnie due to time and road condition factors.

The Tarkine area is recognised as an important area for tourism. This area links the North West, Circular Head region with the West Coast. Including the West Coast in the Braddon electorate would enhance the tourism linkages between North West and West Coasts as the tourism routes, including the Western Explorer and the proposed 'Tarkine drive', would be well placed in one electorate. This is further supported by the fact that there is a need, and a number of plans, to develop and open up this area to tourism. Road infrastructure will be required and significant funding will be required that will see economic benefits to both the West and the North West Coasts.

I am happy to provide verbal evidence to support this submission if required.