



**The Federal Redistribution 2008
Tasmania**

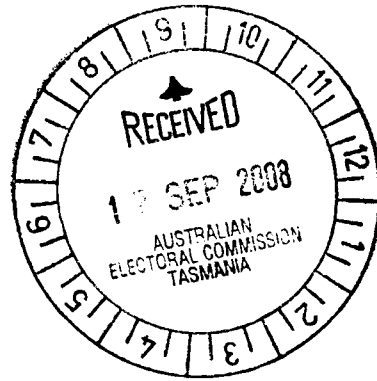


Public Objection Number 34

Latrobe Council

4 Page(s)

2008 Proposed Redistribution of Tasmania into Electoral Divisions



Submission by Latrobe Council September 15th,
2008 providing comments on the Report of the
Redistribution Committee

CG/GM

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September 16, 2008

Australian Electoral Officer for Tasmania,
Australian Electoral Commission,
G.P.O. Box 520,
HOBART TAS 7001

Dear Sir,

REDISTRIBUTION OF FEDERAL ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES IN TASMANIA

At a meeting of the Latrobe Council on Monday September 8th, 2008 it was agreed:

“That the Council submit our objection to the Australian Electoral Commission expressing strong opposition to the proposed transfer of Latrobe from Braddon electorate to Lyons electorate”.

As noted in Council's original submission dated April 29th, 2008, *“our community of interest is very much with the North West of Tasmania in terms of economic and social activities. The intensive vegetable industry (supplying 80% of Australia's requirements) and all the accompanying infrastructure is largely in the area covered by the Braddon electorate”.*

The Council strongly disagrees with Clause 73 of the Redistribution Committee's report that Latrobe has commercial, tourism and transport links with its neighbouring LGA's to the East.

It is noted that while the Bass and Frankford Highways traverse this area there are very little other interests shared with the West Tamar and Meander Valley Council areas. The Asbestos Ranges is a physical barrier to the West Tamar Council area while the forests in the Paramatta Creek area provide a cut off between the North / North East part of Tasmania and the North West Coast.

In comparison there are many commercial, tourism and social links with the North West Coast “Braddon electorate” including:

- **The Mersey General Hospital** – The Hospital is located in the Latrobe Council area and services the North West Coast region with strong links to the Burnie Private Hospital.
- **Devonport Airport** – This regional facility is also located in the Latrobe Council area and the Council has been proactive working with neighbouring Councils to support the expansion of passenger services to the North West Coast.

Opportunities have been identified to develop synergies between the Devonport - Melbourne ferry passenger services which carry approximately 360,000 passengers each year and the nearby airport.

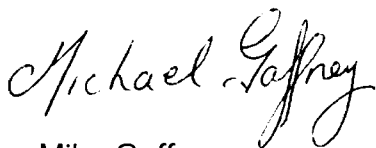
- **Dulverton Waste Management Site** – This regional facility is located just outside of Latrobe and is managed by a Joint Authority comprising representatives from Latrobe, Devonport, Central Coast and Kentish Councils. Negotiations are currently taking place to accept waste at the site from the Burnie Council area.
- The Devonport, Central Coast, Latrobe and Kentish Councils each have dedicated tourism promotion personnel who work closely with each other, the regional tourism authority, Tourism Tasmania and tourism operators to co-operatively market the area under the **Devonport and Cradle Country** banner.
- The proposed **Mersey Industrial Estate**, supported by Latrobe and Devonport Councils has great opportunities to increase economic development close to the Devonport Airport and increase airport passenger number similar to what is currently happening with the Translink industrial area near the Launceston Airport.
- The **Cradle Coast Authority** is working with food producers participating with the “Produce of Heaven” promotional campaign to help develop longer term marketing strategies and links between regional foods and the region as a destination. The Cradle Coast Authority has also indicated that Latrobe should remain as part of the Braddon electorate.
- The Council is an active member of the Cradle Coast Authority and the **Cradle Coast Water Authority** which provide services to Councils in the Braddon electorate. The new “Water and Sewerage Corporation” includes Latrobe in the North West “Braddon focused” scheme.
- The Latrobe, Devonport, Central Coast and Kentish Councils work co-operatively on **emergency management** for the region.
- The North West Coast has many **cultural links** with each other. All towns in the current Braddon electorate have very positive relationships. One only has to look at the strong sporting ties and competitions across the North West Coast which makes for a very positive and healthy community spirit.

- **Educationally** all of the schools in the Latrobe Municipality are part of the Barrington District which falls in the Braddon electorate. Our current Braddon State and Federal representatives are familiar with our issues and concerns. It is suggested that it will not be efficient nor effective if education needs for the Latrobe Council area are politically separated from the Braddon electorate.

While the North West Coast Region has a significantly slower annual population growth trend (0.7% 2002-2007; 0.4% 2006-2007) than the State as a whole (0.9% 2002-2007; 0.7% 2006-2007) and all other regions in the State, the Latrobe Council area has one of the fastest population growth areas in Tasmania. The Council recently engaged Associate Professor Natalie Jackson from the University of Tasmania to prepare a demographic analysis for Port Sorell and suburbs. Dr Jackson highlighted that the Port Sorell region grew significantly over the 2001-2006 period at an annual rate of 3.4%. This growth is likely to continue and over the next decade and the Port Sorell, Shearwater, Hawley and Squeaking Point area is likely to increase from the current population of approximately 3,500 to between 5,000 to 6,000 residents. Dr Jackson also highlighted that Port Sorell is one of the first localities in Tasmania where the ageing population is not replacing itself and relying on net migration to increase population. This ageing population situation could result in many rural areas having a steady reduction in population in the future while population in coastal centres such as Port Sorell will continue to increase. The Council believes that the Electoral Commission, in making recommendations on boundary redistributions, should be projecting enrolments beyond the 2012 timeframe.

In conclusion Council wishes to re-iterate that it strongly opposes the inclusion of the Latrobe Council area in the electorate of Lyons as its social, economic, education, governance and sporting connections are with the North West Coast Region of Tasmania and the Braddon electorate. The Latrobe and Port Sorell area is closely linked to the City of Devonport which has the largest population of any town or city within Braddon and three regionally significant assets for the North West Coast area (Mersey Community Hospital, Devonport Airport and Dulverton Waste Management site) are located in the Latrobe Council area.

Yours sincerely,



Mike Gaffney
MAYOR