



**The Federal Redistribution 2008
Tasmania**



Public Objection Number 49

Cradle Coast Authority

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> Federal Electoral Redistribution - Tasmania



"Gillian Binet"
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To <tas.redistribution@aec.gov.au>

cc

bcc

Subject Federal Electoral Redistribution - Tasmania

Dear Sirs

Please find herewith the attached letter "Objection to Proposed Federal Electoral Redistribution - Tasmania"

Kind regards

Gillian Binet

Executive Administration Officer

Cradle Coast Authority

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<<Objection to Proposed Federal Electoral Redistribution - Tasmania
190908.pdf>>



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> Federal Electoral Redistribution - Tasmania

18 September 2008

Redistribution Committee for Tasmania
Australian Electoral Commission
GPO Box 520
HOBART TAS 7001

OBJECTION TO PROPOSED FEDERAL ELECTORAL REDISTRIBUTION – TASMANIA

The Cradle Coast Authority is an independent body created by the nine local government Councils of northwest Tasmania to advocate and coordinate sustainable development of the Cradle Coast region.

The Cradle Coast region includes the combined local government areas of Burnie City, Central Coast, Circular Head, Devonport City, Kentish, King Island, Latrobe, Waratah-Wynyard and West Coast Councils, the boundaries of which coincide with those of the ABS statistical division of Mersey-Lyell.

In its previous submission to this review (28/04/08), the Authority recommended that boundaries of the Braddon electorate be aligned with those of the Cradle Coast/Mersey-Lyell region, noting that

- despite their unique identities, the local communities of its member council areas are increasingly speaking and acting collectively as a distinct region of Tasmania;
- most State and Federal government services and initiatives delivered on a regional basis are now aligned to this regional catchment and 'community of interest'; and
- the wellbeing of all communities in the region relies on many essential services, including health, education and transport, that are delivered as highly integrated, whole-of-region systems.

The Authority notes the Commission's proposal to include West Coast and Kentish Councils in the Braddon electorate, but transfer the Latrobe Council area to Lyons. In the Authority's opinion, whilst this proposal satisfies statistical requirements, the removal of Latrobe effectively negates the significant community of interest benefits of adding West Coast and Kentish to Braddon.

The Authority firmly believes that the region's interests would best be served by electoral boundaries that reflect the way the region works. The Cradle Coast region works as one region, and should be one electorate.

Within the region, the urban strip between Wynyard and Latrobe functions as an integrated service corridor supporting communities along its length and throughout its rural hinterland, including Kentish and West Coast. Fragmentation of political representation and advocacy for this corridor, as a whole, could jeopardise the integrity of those services and rekindle elements of the parochialism that local government in the region has worked hard to overcome in recent years.

The Authority acknowledges the AEC's obligation to ensure similar numbers of electors in each electorate, but considers that the communities and electors of the region it serves would gladly trade a marginal decrease in statistical representation for the unity and critical mass of a single regional electorate.

This position is supported by the Authority's Board and its Council Representatives Group (two delegates from each Council), which currently includes the Mayors of all nine Cradle Coast Councils.

Yours sincerely



Roger Jaensch
Executive Chairman

cc Cradle Coast Councils