



The Federal Redistribution 2008 Tasmania



Public Suggestion Number 5

West Tamar Council

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Redistribution Committee for Tasmania
GPO Box 520
Hobart
Tasmania 7001

Dear Committee

West Tamar Council wishes to make a submission to the Redistribution Committee, particularly as it affects the West Tamar Municipality.

At present the West Tamar Municipality is split almost evenly between the Bass electorate and the Lyons electorate. The boundary line being at Muddy Creek, just north of Legana. Roughly 55% of the municipal population live in the Bass electorate, while about 45% live in Lyons. The divisional line is confusing to many residents and on election days the polling booth at Legana accepts votes for both Bass and Lyons. Many residents are confused as to which electorate they are enrolled and in which they required to lodge their vote.

At its meeting on March 18th 2008 Council passed the following motion:

"That Council, at the forthcoming redistribution of electoral boundaries, propose that all of West Tamar municipal area be included in the Bass Electorate".

We note that under section 66 (3) (b) of the Electoral Act 'community of interest' is a major factor to be taken into account in determining electoral boundaries.

We submit that all the West Tamar community has a close relationship with other parts of the Bass electorate. In the Northern part of the municipality many residents commute to Launceston, Bell Bay and Georgetown for employment, while there are other close ties such as tourism promotion and the very popular 'Wine Route'.

In the Southern part of the municipality many residents commute to Launceston for employment from areas in both Bass and Lyons. Popular residential areas such as Grindelwald, Rosevears Exeter and Gravelly Beach are included in Lyons but many of the residents commute to Launceston and other parts of Bass for employment.

In addition the major connecting roads are the West Tamar Highway, which leads to Launceston, the Batman Highway which leads Georgetown and the Frankford Highway which leads to Latrobe and Devonport in the Braddon electorate. There is no major road connection to any part of the Lyons electorate.

In fact all economic, tourism, social, sporting, cultural and recreational activities for residents living in all parts of West Tamar municipality are shared with the Bass electorate, and have no interaction with any other part of Lyons whatever.

In putting forward proposals for the adjustment of electorate boundaries we are conscious of the requirements of section 66, 3 (a) of the Act which requires the Commissioners to maintain a tolerance of the numbers in each electorate at the projection time.

We also note the desire of the West Coast Council to be included in the Braddon electorate and have attempted to include the wish of that Council in our proposal.

	Enrolments 13/2/08	Projections 15/8/12
Bass	69,562	71,588
Braddon	71,477	73,530
Denison	69,283	70,621
Franklin	73,036	76,461
Lyons	68,845	72,814
Average	70,440	73,006

From the above it is clear that numbers need to be reduced in Franklin and Braddon and increased in Bass, Denison and Lyons.

We therefore submit the following proposed adjustment of electoral boundaries.

In the case of Franklin and Denison the average numbers in the two electorates at the projected period of August 2012 is 73,541, which is well within the allowable tolerance and therefore an adjustment between the two electorates would satisfy the requirements of the Act. Such an adjustment could either be in the Glenorchy or Kingston areas.

However a more substantial adjustment is required between Bass, Braddon and Lyons.

We submit the following proposals based on February 2008 figures, and they are based on the inclusion of entire municipalities within one electorate.

Lyons

February 2008 enrolment	68,455
Deduct West Coast	2,446
West Tamar	<u>5,562</u>
	60,447
Add Latrobe	5,130
Meander Valley (Bass section)	<u>4,864</u>
Adjusted enrolment	70,441

Bass

February 2008 enrolment	69,562
Deduct Flinders	<u>4,864</u>
	64,698
Add West Tamar	<u>5,562</u>
	70,260

Braddon

February 2008 enrolment	71,477
Deduct Latrobe	<u>5,130</u>
	66,347
Add West Coast	<u>2,446</u>
Adjusted enrolment	68,793

We submit the proposed boundary adjustments are within the tolerance allowed by the Electoral Act and better reflect the community of interest of the residents, and also the means of communication within the areas affected.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Barry Easter
Mayor