

**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
TASMANIA**

Submission CS2

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FEEDBACK ON IDEAS

Introduction

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the ideas submitted in Stage One of the Tasmanian redistribution project. I was the author of Submission 5.

Proposing a radical solution to retire Franklin as an electoral division and create a new south-eastern Tasmanian division is a unique opportunity. This approach can effectively address chronic electoral issues in Tasmania, such as:

- Trending malapportionments in Clark and Lyons are now 9.91% under and 8.43% over, respectively.
- The failure of Franklin to meet key non-statistical criteria such as communities of interest, means of communication and travel, physical features and area; and
- The large, dispersed and 'catch what's left over' nature of Lyons.

The Minimalist Approach

A minimalist approach for this particular redistribution would be a simplistic and lazy way to meet the redistribution statistical requirements, as it would give excessive weight to subordinate criteria, such as existing boundaries, and ignore serious deficiencies regarding critical non-statistical redistribution criteria. In essence, it would overlook compelling demographic changes that have been evolving in Tasmania over many decades and 'kick the can down the road' for another redistribution committee to address in the future.

Many of the submissions proposed a 'nip & tuck' approach to meet the statistical requirements, especially from Lyons to Bass. However, the 'nip & tuck' approach, while a quick & easy way to balance the divisions statistically, inevitably causes fragmented communities of interest. In some cases, it even causes communities to flip-flop between electoral divisions. For example, in the last two redistributions, the historic town of Richmond in the City of Clarence has moved from Lyons to Franklin and back again. For this redistribution, some submissions suggest a similar flip-flop outcome for Prospect and Blackstone Heights, which are part of the Meander Valley LGA and are currently in the Lyons area. Such instability is inimical to good democratic practice and makes it very difficult for communities to build solid democratic relationships with their representatives, and vice versa. This approach contributes to a lack of trust in the electoral system and creates a disconnect between communities and their representatives.

To the extent that communities of interest are important, a superior solution is to consolidate all of the Break O'Day LGA into Bass as suggested in Submissions five and six. Break O'Day shares strong social, economic, and service linkages with northern Tasmania, particularly Launceston, which functions as the region's primary centre for health, education, retail, and transport. The LGA forms part of the wider North-East community of interest, with established connections through the Tasman Highway corridor, shared media and sporting networks, and integrated tourism products such as the Bay of Fires and the North-East trail systems. These ties align Break O'Day more naturally with the communities currently within Bass than with those of central Tasmania. Including Break O'Day in Bass would maintain regional coherence, reflect real-world patterns of mobility and service use, and support population balancing without requiring artificial or fragmented boundaries. It would also help to alleviate the geographic spread of Lyons.

Clark

Most submissions agreed that to meet the quota, Clark must expand further south and absorb more of Kingborough's suburbs. Kingborough's population is already 80% that of the City of Glenorchy, and more than double that of the City of Burnie – it meets all the criteria for being a city and is growing rapidly. Its growth is likely to accelerate because Kingston, at its heart, is to become the home base for national AFL and NBL teams. A minimalist redistribution that takes more of Kingborough into Clark would be detrimental to Kingborough as an essential community of interest. Moreover, the Greater Hobart Act 2019 (TAS) legally establishes Kingborough as an equal partner of the cities of Clarence, Glenorchy, and Hobart in Greater Hobart. Legacy boundaries tying the Hobart and Glenorchy LGAs are subordinate considerations that should not determine the outcome of this redistribution.

Furthermore, to acknowledge the importance of the Kingborough LGA as a community of interest, and to avoid leaving the smaller Huon Valley LGA as a remote 'island' of Franklin, Clark should be reshaped to encompass the entirety of Kingborough and the Huon Valley LGAs. These areas share a strong metropolitan and peri-urban connection with Hobart, forming a coherent southern electorate defined by transport corridors, schooling networks, and community identity. Bringing both municipalities fully into Clark avoids the fragmentation of Kingborough seen in minimalist options and ensures that the Huon Valley,

long tied to Hobart through work and services, is represented alongside its natural metropolitan partner. A southern expansion of Clark to include the Kingborough and Huon Valley LGAs would create a coherent Tasmanian electoral division with a strong urban core and surrounding rural heartland in the style of Bass and Braddon. It would also ensure the integrity of the Brighton, Clarence, and Glenorchy LGAs within single electoral divisions.

Franklin

Separating Glenorchy from Clark opens the door to several possibilities, with some submissions proposing it form a new electoral division which includes some or all of Clarence. However, it's crucial to consider the community of interest. The Clarence and Glenorchy LGAs should not create a new electoral division split by the River Derwent, because Clarence, the second-largest LGA in Tasmania by population, belongs firmly to the Eastern Shore, with its own service hubs, transport corridors, and identity tied to the eastward growth of metropolitan Hobart. To force Clarence into a division with Glenorchy, or to divide its electors across the river, would fracture its identity and integrity as a community of interest. Residents of Clarence overwhelmingly orient their daily lives, schools, shopping, recreation, within the Eastern Shore. Keeping Clarence whole and on its natural side of the river ensures that representation reflects lived geography rather than arbitrary quota-driven adjustments.

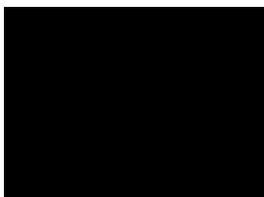
Clarence, Sorell, Brighton, Tasman, and Glamorgan-Spring Bay LGAs should collectively form the division of *Paredarerme*, as they represent a coherent South-East Tasmanian community bound by shared geography, infrastructure, and identity. These municipalities connect by the Arthur, East Derwent, and Tasman Highway corridors, as well as through standard schooling and service networks, and by a strong orientation toward Hobart's metropolitan sphere. Grouping them into one electorate avoids the fragmentation of Brighton and Clarence seen in some minimalist options, reduces the sprawl of Lyons, and ensures that the East Coast and Tasman Peninsula remain alongside their natural partners on the Eastern Shore. This configuration respects community of interest, keeps whole LGAs intact, and underscores the importance of respecting natural and cultural boundaries in the redistribution process. It grounds the division in a logical and durable geography that can be further dignified by the culturally resonant name *Paredarerme*, acknowledging the original Oyster Bay nation.

Lyons

All of these adjustments would naturally place electors of Glenorchy into Lyons, giving that division a clearly defined major urban centre for the first time. This inclusion of Glenorchy, with its industrial base, civic identity, and northern metropolitan character, would strengthen Lyons by anchoring it with a substantial population hub. At the same time, transferring Brighton, Clarence, Sorell, Tasman, and Glamorgan Spring Bay into *Paredarerme* reduces Lyons' geographic sprawl by around 30%, transforming it from an unwieldy catch-all into a more compact and manageable electorate. This reconfiguration ensures Lyons is both urban-anchored and geographically coherent in the style of other Tasmanian electoral divisions and improves representational integrity while relieving the division of its current overextension. These changes present a promising future for Lyons, enhancing its representational integrity and making it more manageable.

Conclusions

In conclusion, while the minimalist approach may satisfy quota arithmetic, it would fail to uphold the primary redistribution criteria set out in the Commonwealth Electoral Act. It would further fragment communities of interest, disregard natural means of communication and travel, and ignore clear physical features such as the Derwent River. By contrast, Submission 5 offers a principled solution: Clark expands south to incorporate Kingborough and Huon Valley, Clarence and its eastern partners unite as *Paredarerme*, and Lyons gains coherence with Glenorchy as its urban anchor and a reduced geographic footprint. This configuration not only meets the statistical requirements of enrolment (+/- 10% present quota and +/- 3.5% projected quota) but also respects non-statistical criteria by keeping LGAs intact, aligning electorates with transport corridors and service networks, and recognising cultural heritage through the name *Paredarerme*. It is therefore the option that best satisfies both the numerical and qualitative criteria of redistribution, delivering electoral divisions that are logical, durable, and democratically strong.



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