



THE FEDERAL  
REDISTRIBUTION  
TASMANIA

# Submission CS6

James Walker



Dear AEC Tasmanian Redistribution Committee,

It was great to see other initial submissions with suggestions around electoral boundaries and or electorate names. As always, this submission is my own and should not be considered as representing the views of any entity I may be associated with.

I would note that there seems to be a fair degree of consensus in submissions for Braddon to remain unchanged. This also goes for the shortfall in Bass electors to be rectified via transfer of urban elements from the Meander Valley Local Government Area (LGA). Whilst this is a flip-flop from the last redistribution, it is both a logical and durable solution for Bass.

Things become a little more complicated in relation to the remaining electorates in order to achieve electorates within quota tolerance.

#### **NIP AND TUCK WORK AROUNDS**

To solve Clark's shortfall with a minimalist or "Nip and Tuck" approach there were generally two options to redress the quota imbalance. As predicated, in both cases we necessarily end up with electorate boundaries that are more disconnected and less coherent than we start with.

The most common suggestion was to expand Clark southwards to encompass all of Kingston. It may be argued that this is fairly compact and clean. I would suggest that this is only the case if you take a Clark centric prism to redistributions. This option exaggerates the non-contiguous format of the Franklin electorate. By the next redistribution it will become even more disparate.

It is also important to note that State electorate boundaries are adjusted to match federal boundaries. None of the existing western shore State Franklin MP offices would be in Franklin noting three of these offices are based in the Kingston CBD which is proposed to become Clark.

The other option was to incorporate southern elements of the Brighton LGA into Clark. Whilst noting the concerns raised in Submission 14, there is a community of interest rationale to suggest this is the more prudent nip and tuck option. Glenorchy is the CBD which many of these residents utilise for services such as health care. On a state level there are three Clark MPs with offices based in Glenorchy. In Lyons one office is based in Bridgewater with the nearest others in Sorell.

#### **RADICAL / LONG TERM DURABLE OPTIONS**

Whilst a major reconfiguration of Clark, Franklin and Lyons would initially cause short term disruption, it would result in rational and durable electorate configurations with the ability for more effective representation.

As noted previously, major change is a matter of when and not if as demographic patterns would require increasingly disparate changes to maintain elector quota tolerances.

It is pleasing that the bulk of substantive change suggestions had a consistent theme to reconfiguring Clark. That is take out the Glenorchy LGA whilst bringing in the remainder of the Kingborough as well

as the Huon Valley LGA. This southwest configuration of the Clark electorate is durable, cohesive and logical.

South West Clark leads to the follow up questions particularly for Franklin. The most common Franklin suggestion was a Clarence and Glenorchy LGA tie up. The next option was a South East solution incorporating the Tasman, Sorell and Brighton LGA's as well as partial elements from Glamorgan Spring Bay and / or Southern Midlands LGA.

The Glenorchy and Clarence LGA option would make Franklin the most compact electorate in Tasmania with a principally suburban composition. The Bowen Bridge would make this option technically contiguous. The community of interest argument is weaker with this option, I believe it would function as an electorate of two distinct and separate halves more so than it does currently.

The South East Solution for Franklin was best represented in Submission 5. As a Clarence Councillor for over a decade in my experience Clarence is more interconnected with Sorell and Tasman in terms of shared services, SERDA (South East Regional Development Authority) and patterns of community travel.

A South East Franklin electorate would represent a fairer geographical share of the Tasmanian landmass. Clarence also has a significant agribusiness sector. Both Clarence and Brighton host significant transport infrastructure with the Hobart International Airport and the Brighton intermodal transport hub. This new South East configuration for Franklin along with the new South West Clark electorate would be stable, durable and provide predictable management for future redistributions.

Lyons would also become easier to service under this model with Glenorchy LGA providing an urban population centre resulting in a smaller geographical footprint.

#### **Other matters**

Tasmania has had five electorates since Federation. They have all changed in configuration and some in name since 1901. I don't believe any electorate should be retired or any new one formed. The current electorates should remain as foundation electorates regardless of how significant their boundaries are adjusted or if their names are changed. The history and connection to representatives past including a Prime minister, Premiers and numerous members should and can be preserved.

#### **Conclusion**

In light of the submissions a radical approach based on the four distinct population clusters remains the most rational and durable redistribution option. The Nip and Tuck minimalist submissions would exaggerate existing distortions. Future boundary adjustments will be required due to changing population distributions and long-term considerations are required at this redistribution.

Yours Sincerely

James Walker

Clarence Councillor