



Submission FOB230

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Offord, Angela - Redistribution TAS - Submission on the proposed Tasmanian redistribution (feedback)

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Submission on the proposed Tasmanian redistribution details

Category: Boundaries

Details: Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed redistribution of federal Tasmanian electorates.

This submission addresses the proposed transfer of Glenorchy City Council (GCC) from the electorate of Clark to the electorate of Lyons and the retention of ProspectVale and Blackstone Heights.

Key arguments against the inclusion of GCC in Lyons.

1. Community of Interest Misalignment:

Glenorchy has a strong urban identity tied to Greater Hobart, characterised by significant economic, social, transport connections, physical contiguity and shared projects and activities. Conversely the Lyons electorate primarily encompasses the rural and regional communities of the Derwent Valley, Brighton, Midlands, Meander, Central Highlands, Break O'Day and Kentish making the inclusion of GCC into Lyons an aberration.

2. Demographics and the potential for Representational Inequality:

The proposed change would have approximately a third of the electors in Lyons in GCC, transforming Lyons into a more urban-centric electorate focused on northern Hobart and far removed from its historical predominantly rural regional character. The proposed retention of Prospect Vale and Blackstone Heights in Lyons does not balance this

move. It was commonsense to remove Prospect Vale and Blackstone Heights as originally proposed. The decision risks diminishing the representation of rural and regional electors/communities and skewing the policy priorities of elected representatives away from them towards urban communities. This has the potential to adversely affect policy decisions that are meant to equitably serve the whole community experience and views.

3. Fragmentation of Communities of Interest:

Splitting urban Hobart and greater Hobart into three electorates and transferring GCC into a predominantly rural and regional electorate risks fragmenting existing cohesive communities of interest and unnecessarily disrupting established service delivery, infrastructure planning and community engagement.

4. Electoral Cohesion:

Many residents of Glenorchy travel south, very short distances, to Hobart CBD for work, education and services. This pattern of movement signifies a cohesive metropolitan zone shared between Glenorchy and Hobart.

In contrast the remaining areas in Lyons interact with the regional hubs of Brighton in the south and Sheffield, Longford and Launceston in the north west and north of the state. The Lyons electorate will lack cohesion. Sheffield is a rural hub, GCC is part of Hobart the urban capital.

Lyons electorate will now straddle either side of the Derwent disrupting the contiguity of Lyons. Discontiguity was one of the reasons given for the redistribution of Franklin.

5. Statistical Support for Opposition:

My analysis of the data demonstrated that a statistically significant majority (69%), of the submissions addressing the incorporation of GCC into Lyons, were in opposition to the move.

This statistic underscores strong community sentiment against the proposed change, calling for respect for the will of the people in electoral decisions in our democratic system of governance in Australia.

6. Erosion of Local Identity:

The unique identity and characteristics of rural and regional areas of Lyons may be overshadowed by the concentrated urban context of GCC, leading to policies and initiatives that do not equally consider the rural and regional community experience or the realities faced by them.

This in turn may cause significant disenfranchise.

7. Increased Complexity for Our Representatives:

Our elected representatives may struggle to effectively balance urban and rural interests, leading to a representation that does not adequately address either community.

As a resident and candidate of the Lyons electorate, I believe that maintaining the rural and regional identity of the electorate of Lyons and ensuring voices are heard and best represented is crucial. Including urban areas like Glenorchy within the electoral boundaries of Lyons could lead to a disconnect that ultimately undermines the representation and advocacy that our community deserves.

Conclusion:

The proposed transfer of GCC into the Lyons electorate lacks coherence with established communities of interest, contiguity and presents

significant risks to equitable effective representation for rural, regional and semi-urban electors alike. It could result in a significant disconnect between electors and their representatives, undermine effective governance, and lead to unequal resource allocation and the inability to balance diverse community needs. Retaining Glenorchy within the electorate of Clark and Brighton in Lyons reflects the natural alignment of urban and regional communities and should safeguard and reinforce the communities of interest fundamental to effective governance and democratic representation in Tasmania.
