



THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
TASMANIA

Submission COB6

Anonymous 3

Feedback on Proposed Re-distribution of Tasmania

Introduction

This submission proposes not only an alternative set of electoral division boundaries for Tasmania's five Federal electoral divisions, but also a coördination of Tasmania's electoral division boundaries for Local, State, and Federal Government.

Electoral Division Design Principles

This proposal uses the following four principles in order of priority from high to low:

1. Federal divisions have to contain populations within 10% of the State quota.

- a. Section 65 of The Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 states that “A quota of electors, ascertained by dividing the number of electors in the State or Territory by the number of Members, is the basis for the proposed redistribution. The estimated enrolment in a proposed division may not depart from this quota by more than 10 per cent.”
- b. Note that the estimated enrolment in this proposal is based on entire population figures (for that is all that be available) not the subset population of eligible electors as required; however, percentage figures among divisions are assumed to be comparable assuming similar age profiles per division.

2. Divisions should be agglomerations of the proposed LGAs as per the Future Tasmania Local Government Review 2023.

- a. Tasmania should gradually move to a “Russian-doll” electoral division structure among Local, State, and Federal Government, as:
 - i. 15 “inner” divisions for both Local Government Councillors (multiple* members per division) as per the Tasmania Local Government Review 2023, and 15 State Government MLCs (single member per division)

Despite the very different population levels of these 15 divisions, having equal representation of one State MLC per LGA be consistent with the corresponding equal representation of 12 Senators per State in the Federal Senate, as required by Section 7 of the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act 1900.
 - ii. 5 “middle” divisions as agglomerations of the 15 “inner” divisions above for both 35 State Government MHAs (7 members per division), and 5 Federal Government MHRs (1 member per division)
 - iii. 1 “outer” division as an agglomeration of the 5 “middle” divisions above — i.e. the entire State of Tasmania — for 12 Federal Government Senators (6 members per division per half-election for 12^ members total)

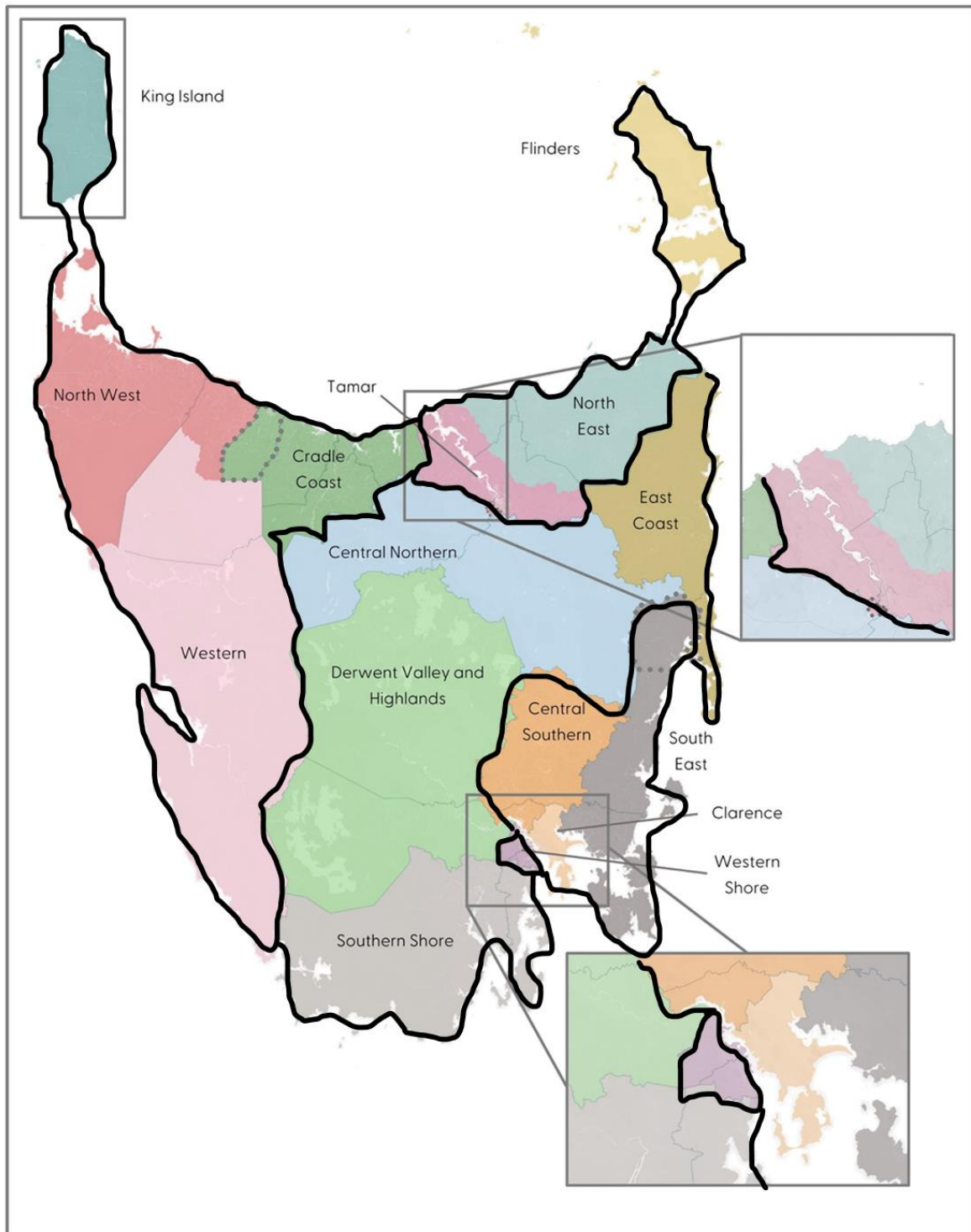
Electoral Boundary			Seats per Electoral Division				
Layer	Class	Divisions	Local Councillors	State MHAs	State MLCs	Federal MHRs	Federal Senators
Inner	LGA	15	*		1		
Middle	District	5		7		1	
Outer	State	1					12^

- b. This principle simplifies representation for electors, who for a given Local Council would have the same State Lower House members, the same State Upper House member, the same Federal Lower House member, and the same Federal Upper House members.
- c. This principle facilitates existing members running for higher tiers of Government without splitting their established constituency across divisions.

3. Divisions should contain connected communities.

4. Division changes should minimise the number of electors who be moved to a new division after the re-distribution.

Proposed Electorates



* Base figure sourced from Tasmania Local Government Review 2023

Populations of Proposed Federal Divisions

Proposed LGA	Proposed Federal Division	LGA Population
Central Northern	Lyons	27,671
Central Southern	Franklin	25,646
Clarence	Franklin	61,465
Cradle Coast	Braddon	87,883
Derwent Valley & Highlands	Lyons	13,807
East Coast	Lyons	8,351
Flinders	Bass	914
King Island	Braddon	1,615
North-East	Bass	9,922
North-West	Braddon	22,138
South-East	Franklin	22,768
Southern Shore	Lyons	55,230
Tamar Valley	Bass	105,915
Western	Braddon	4,542
Western Shore	Clark	108,302
Total		556,169

* LGA Population as per Tasmania Local Government Review 2023

Population Deviations of Proposed Federal Divisions

All proposed divisions are within the $\pm 10\%$ threshold of the State quota permitted by The Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918.

Quota: 111,234

Proposed Federal Division	Division Population	Departure from Quota
Bass	116,751	+5.0%
Braddon	116,178	+4.4%
Clark	108,302	-2.6%
Franklin	109,879	-1.2%
Lyons	105,059	-5.6%
Total	556,169	+0.0%

Evaluation of Proposal against Design Principles

1. Federal divisions have to contain populations within 10% of the State quota.

Among the proposed divisions, the largest deviation in population from the average division is -5.6% in Lyons, which is well within the $\pm 10\%$ difference threshold permitted by The Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918.

2. Divisions should be agglomerations of the proposed LGAs as per the Future Tasmania Local Government Review 2023.

All proposed divisions are agglomerations of proposed LGAs as per the Future Tasmania Local Government Review 2023.

3. Divisions should contain connected communities.

Clearly, four of the five proposed divisions represent highly connected communities; the exception of Lyons represents the “left-over” after the broadly proximate communities of Bass, Braddon, Clark, and Franklin have been connected at similar population levels. Unfortunately, the constraint of divisions having to contain populations within 10 per cent of the average population prevents Southern Shore Council and its only current direct road connection to Western Shore Council from being in the same division without splitting Western Shore Council into separate divisions, which would violate the design principle of divisions being agglomerations of LGAs. However, completion of the long-proposed “Southern Explorer (Plenty Link Road)” road link between Huonville and New Norfolk would somewhat mitigate the current disconnect between the Southern Shore and Derwent Valley & Highlands Councils within the proposed electorate of Lyons.

4. Division changes should minimise the number of electors who be moved to a new division after the re-distribution.

This proposal greatly reduces (relative to the incumbent proposal) the number of electors who would have to move division, particularly by keeping the three current Greater Hobart LGAs of Hobart, Glenorchy, and Clarence within their existing divisions, namely Clark, Clark, and Franklin respectively. The present proposal contains only minor changes for voters in Bass and Braddon, with the most significant change being for some voters switching between Franklin and Lyons; however, this latter change does address the present disconnect in Franklin, which is split by the division of Clark and the Derwent River.

Conclusion

The geometric and geographic objective reality is that there be no way to partition Tasmania into five equally populated divisions without one area being an outlier to its division. Nonetheless, the design principle that divisions should be agglomerations of the proposed LGAs as per the Future Tasmania Local Government Review 2023 does provide an objective way to decide which area should be that outlier — Southern Shore.