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# Submission COB7

Angela Offord

**From:** [REDACTED]  
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# Offord, Angela - Redistribution TAS - Submission on the proposed Tasmanian redistribution (feedback on ideas)

## Personal details

**First name:** Angela  
**Surname:** Offord  
**Email:** [REDACTED]

## Submission on the proposed Tasmanian redistribution details

**Category:** Boundaries

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

I have read and analysed all of the 95 ideas submissions\*

This submission addresses the proposed transfer of Glenorchy City Council (GCC) from the electorate of Clark to the electorate of Lyons, assessing concerns raised by the proposed distribution of areas and their associated communities of interest.

I note that there are many good ideas and suggestions for solutions contained within the submissions.

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 represents rural and regional communities of the Derwent Valley, Brighton, Midlands, Meander, Central Highlands, Break O'Day and Kentish making the inclusion of Glenorchy into Lyons, rather than keeping it in Clarke, 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. This risks diminishing the representation of rural and regional electors and skewing the policy priorities of elected representatives away from rural and regional communities to an urban community with the potential to adversely affect policy decisions that are meant to equitably serve 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.

## 5. Statistical Support for Opposition:

My analysis of the data \* demonstrates that a statistically significant majority (69%), of the submissions addressing the incorporation of GCC into Lyons, are in opposition to the move. Submissions from LGAs naturally should carry more weight than individual submissions as councils are the closest level of government to the people, representing the people in their local government areas and making decisions based the greater present and future good. 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 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.

Alternative suggestions summarised for the Committee to consider:

1. The retention of GCC within Clark where community interests align more closely with metropolitan dynamics
2. The retention of Brighton Council within Lyons reinforcing its historical alignment with rural communities, and the continuation of well established regional service delivery, which would preserve better representation for both rural and urban constituents without unnecessary disruptions at the same time retaining the contiguity of Lyons.
3. The inclusion of Derwent Valley Council within the electorate of Clark

Conclusion:

The proposed transfer of GCC into the Lyons electorate lacks coherence with established communities of interest and presents significant risks to equitable effective representation for rural, regional and semi-urban electors alike. It could lead to 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.

\* 95 ideas submissions

Three doubled up, one withdrawn and two other making

89 pertinent ideas submissions

32/89 ideas submissions concerned with electorate boundaries

39/89 ideas submissions concerned with electorate names

18/89 ideas submissions concerned with electorate boundaries and names

24/32 opposed movement GCC into Lyons

4 ideas didn't address the issue making 24/28 or 85% oppose

8/18 opposed movement GCC into Lyons

3 ideas didn't address the issue making 8/15 or 53% opposed movement GCC

On average 69% ideas submissions addressing the movement of GCC into Lyons oppose the move.

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