



THE FEDERAL  
REDISTRIBUTION  
TASMANIA

# Submission COB10

Ben Harris

## ***Response to Proposed Redistribution of Tasmania***

### **Braddon**

The population figures did not require an adjustment of boundaries to meet the current or expected population quota and the current boundaries neatly encapsulate a clear community of interest of the Northwest and West Coast communities so it was a sensible decision to not alter those boundaries.

### **Bass**

I support the proposal of moving the localities of Prospect Vale and Blackstone Heights from Lyons into Bass. Bass needed the extra electors and including two localities that form part of the continuous suburbs of Launceston which is the heart and anchor of the seat was the most sensible option. These suburbs are almost an anomalous part of the Meander Valley LGA which is otherwise a collection of rural villages and towns surrounded by agricultural land so are more in line with the demography of Bass than of Lyons.

### **Clark, Franklin, and Lyons**

I will deal with these together as the draft redistribution proposed such a drastic reshaping of all three electorates that are interconnected with one another that it makes sense to approach them as a trio.

While I have concerns and suggestions to improve the proposed configuration of these three seats, I do want to acknowledge that the Committee made the drastic but correct decision to break apart the current Franklin seat to address its non-contiguity. The only alternative open was to slice more of Kingston out of Franklin and make the population balance even more lopsided towards the Clarence half of the electorate which would have made the argument that the seat represented a community of interest untenable.

My concerns with the proposed redistribution are:

1. It disrupts the nature of Lyons as a regional and rural electorate and will turn the rural, less populated parts of the new proposed electorates of Franklin and Lyons into the poor relations to the larger urban population centres of Clarence and Glenorchy. I acknowledge that a similar argument can be made regarding the Huon Valley being included in Clark but that is geographically and demographically unavoidable and at least the Huon Valley is part of the south of the state unlike St Helens, Deloraine and Sheffield which would share an MP with Moonah under the proposal.
2. This will effectively lead to 3 members of parliament likely being based in the three major population areas of Greater Hobart (Glenorchy, Clarence and Hobart City)
3. I also question the logic of a map where driving along the main arterial transport route of this state 40km north from the centre of Hobart will take the driver from Clark to Lyons to Franklin and back to Lyons again. The inclusion of the Brighton LGA into the new Franklin

electorate that is distinctly pitched as an Eastern Tasmania electorate presents as almost an odd afterthought

I agree that Clark should be reconfigured to contain the LGAs of Huon Valley, Kingborough and Hobart.

I propose that Franklin (or a newly named electorate) should consist of the LGAs of Glenorchy, Clarence (except for Richmond) and the localities of Otago and Old Beach in the LGA of Brighton. This is a contiguous division through the Bowen Bridge crossing of the Derwent River. While this seat retains the western shore / eastern shore split of the old Franklin, it can be driven across without having to enter another electorate. I would argue that this maintains a community of interest of the northern and eastern suburbs of Hobart. While the Committee's proposal uses the Derwent as a boundary between electorates, I would suggest that the Derwent be considered one of the features of the electorate.

This leaves Lyons to be made up of its current configuration except for losing Prospect Vale and Blackstone Heights to Bass, and the localities of Old Beach and Otago to Franklin. I would argue this electorate retains a rural, regional and coastal character that has been the longstanding nature of the communities that Lyons has covered.

My proposal only moves just under 20% of the electors of Tasmania as opposed to 27.5% under the proposal from the committee.

My proposal has one seat entirely located in the Greater Hobart councils and one that has the overwhelming majority of its electors from the Greater Hobart councils as opposed to 3 of 5 seats spreading outwards from Greater Hobart.

My proposal gives the following population for each seat

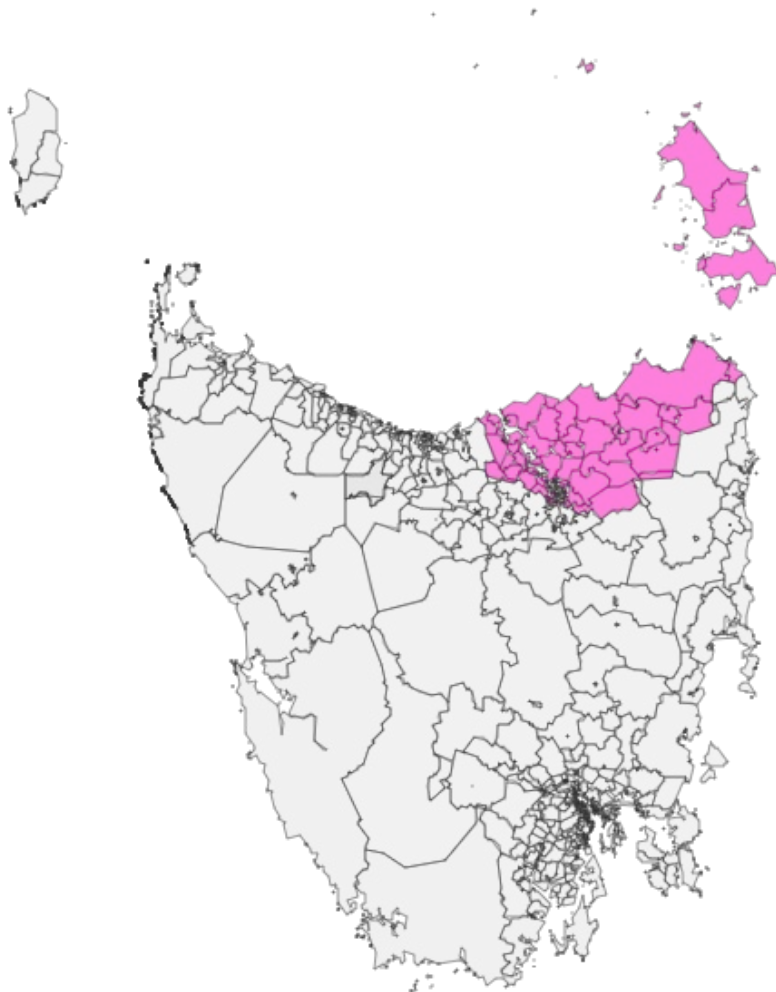
Name	Current Population	Projected Population
Bass	85934 (+3.99%)	86183 (+1.92%)
Braddon	84612 (+2.39%)	86021 (+1.73%)
Clark	80552 (-2.52%)	82588 (-2.33%)
Franklin	81343 (-1.56%)	84077 (-0.57%)
Lyons	80735 (-2.30%)	83916 (-0.76%)

All seats should grow in population over the projected period and the seats of Franklin and Lyons should grow to almost reach the projected enrolment quota. The northern seats are larger on current numbers but the projected rate of growth is slower and will allow the southern seats to catch up.

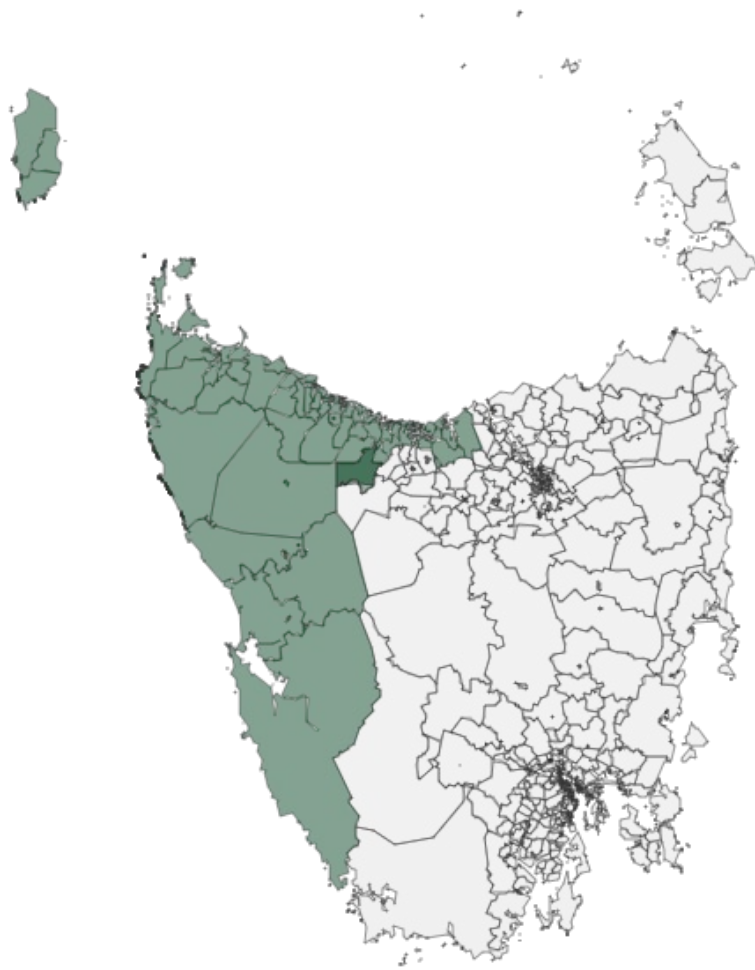
I note that the committee has raised the possibility of renaming the electorate of Franklin given its drastic reshaping in their proposal. The name of Franklin harks back to Sir John and Lady Jane Franklin. There is a public square, a river, a town in the Huon Valley named for the Sir John as well as one of the University's residential hall for Lady Jane. Sir John's major claim to fame is not his governorship of Tasmania but his doomed expedition and so this redistribution provides a chance to recognise a notable Tasmanian. I haven't given much thought to any renaming and it may be best to settle what the electorates look like after redistribution to then determine which if any need renaming.

Maps of proposed seats

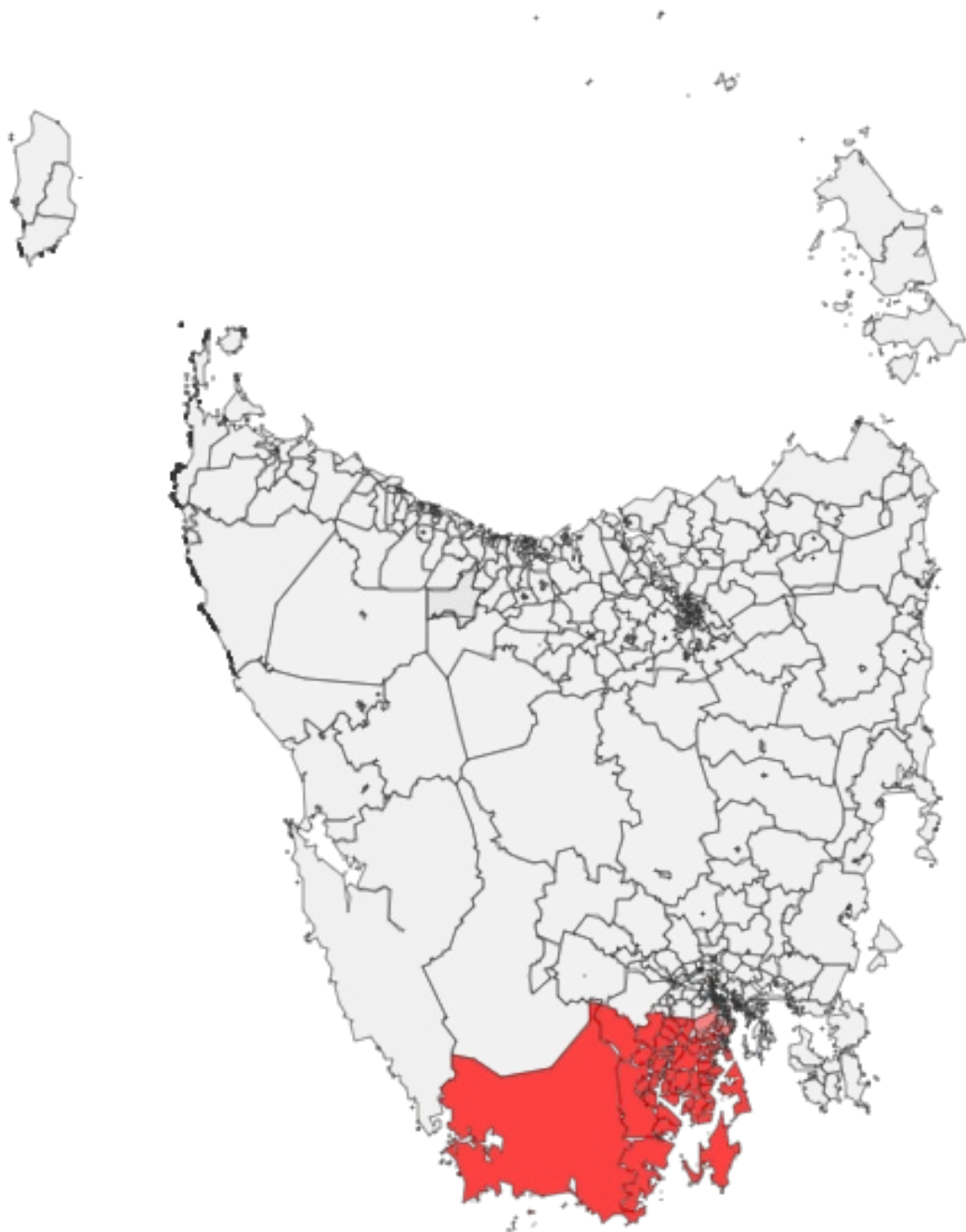
Bass



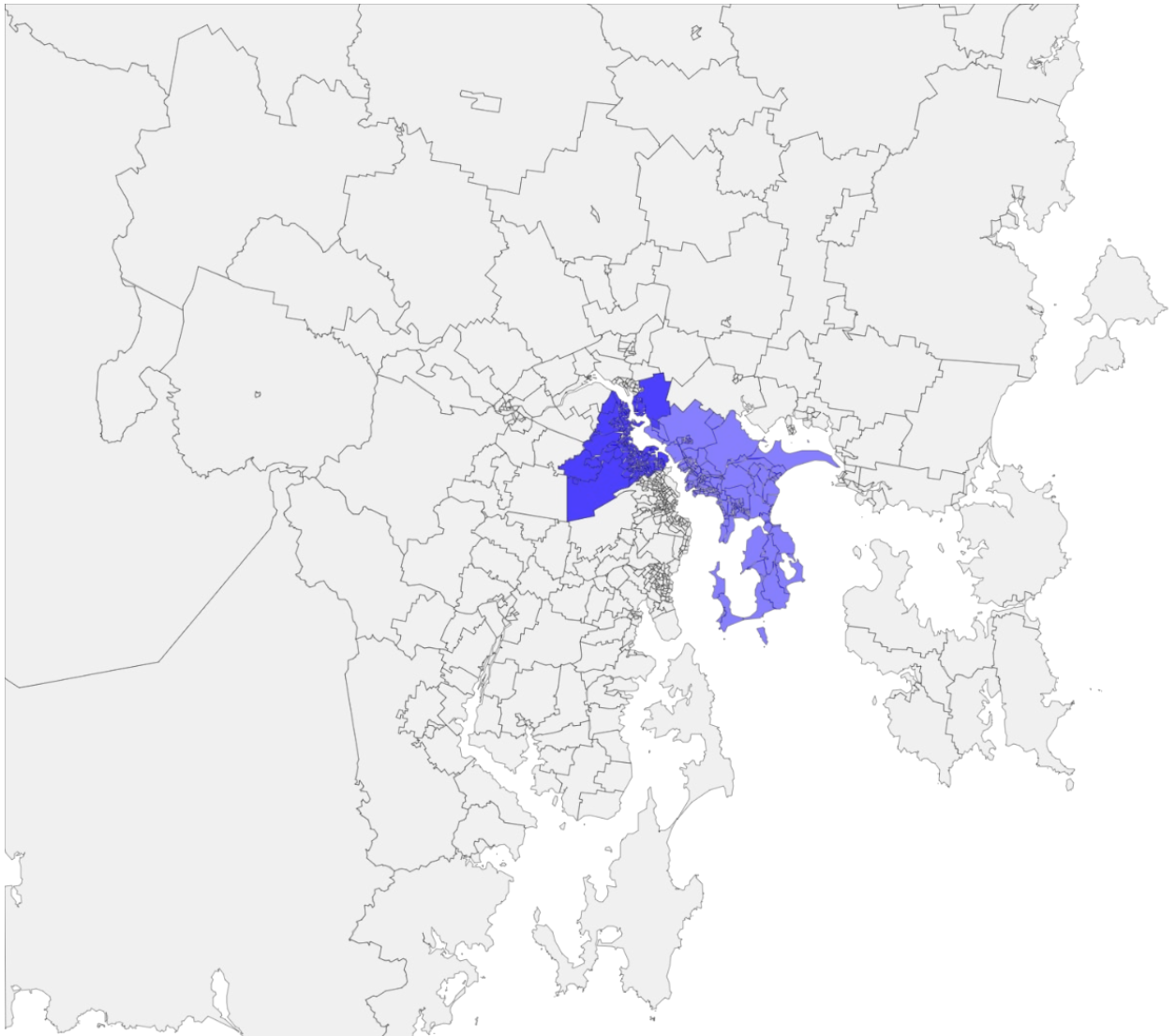
Braddon



Clark



Franklin



Lyons

