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Sales, Finley - Redistribution TAS - Submission on the proposed Tasmanian redistribution (feedback on ideas)

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Submission on the proposed Tasmanian redistribution details

Category: Names and Boundaries
Details: Addressing a number of issues, primarily the splintering of Hobart into three mixed classification electoral divisions and the renaming of a 1903 de-facto federation division. Additionally other minor changes.

Tasmania federal redistribution

Finley Sales

The current proposal has serious issues, primarily including a dilution of metropolitan and rural voters at the expense of what I would view as a prioritisation of land contiguity over all else. I am proposing an alternative option which splits Hobart in a less dramatic way into two electorates rather than three, in an effort to keep electorate classifications more consistent, and to ensure Tasmania does not end up in a scenario where 60% of its seats are decided primarily by a city which makes up only 40% of the state's population. I propose a far less geographically radical change for Franklin, which negates the need to rename it, and a far more different Clark, which could potentially justify a new name, though I'm unsure whether that's entirely necessary. The changes will bring Clark down to quota while allowing it to absorb the cross-Derwent portions of Franklin, leading to a geographically contiguous (with the exception of Macquarie Island) division. What this does, is split Hobart two ways and prevents the much worse prospect of Hobart being split three ways, with portions going into the far more rural division of Lyons, and Clark expanding to take in numerous non-metropolitan areas in the south that are currently in Franklin, itself being moved so radically that on the draft boundaries it is potentially being renamed.

I'll start with Bass, where I think the AEC proposal is great, no notes whatsoever. Shifting Prospect Vale - Blackstone from Lyons to Bass is a common sense move that helps to unify greater Launceston and consolidate it within Bass while fixing quota.

I agree that Braddon is generally not in need of fixing, though I would like to propose two very minor changes along the Braddon—Lyons boundary which will not affect any electors but does work to create a more cohesive set of electoral divisions. I'm proposing a realignment of the boundary from the Kentish—Central Coast local government area (LGA) boundary to the Sheffield - Railton—Burnie - Ulverstone Surrounds SA2 boundary or the Middlesex boundaries with South Nietta and Loongana (two ways of saying the same line). This results in a more cohesive electoral division boundary and resolves the pene-exclave that exists between Braddon and Lyons as a result of using the garticule LGA border over the more natural locality borders. The single Sheffield - Railton SA1 (60402109117B) that resides in the Central Coast LGA would move from Braddon to Lyons and the single Burnie - Ulverstone Surrounds SA1 (60401107605B) that resides in Kentish LGA would transfer to Braddon. This would result in zero electors being transferred.

I would like to make another similar change to the Lyons—Clark boundary. I am proposing a minor transfer along the division's western boundary. Like the above minor changes which result in zero electors being transferred, this is another case of realigning boundary priorities away from garticule based LGA borders and towards more natural locality borders. The portion of the Berriedale - Chigwell (60103101412B) in the locality of Glenlusk would be taken from Lyons and transferred to Clark.

Other than that minor change, I am proposing a rather radical redistribution for Clark, and putting forward a name in the case that such a proposal is significant enough to require it. Clark would lose large portions of its south to Franklin and gain all parts of Franklin's current territory on the East of the Derwent as well as some portions of southern Lyons. I am

prioritising electorate type and the keeping of metropolitan electorates separate from rural ones so unfortunately Clark is unable to be contiguous by land, but I think that this is a far more important aspect than contiguity. In my view, these boundaries, while non-contiguous, still represent a large improvement over the current boundaries and a more democratic and demographically contiguous makeup compared to the draft proposal boundaries.

I am proposing that all of the Old Beach - Otago SA2 be moved into Clark. This includes the majority of the SA2 which is in Lyons and two SA1s (60101100307, 60101100301B) which are currently in Franklin. This would both unite the SA2 and work towards an alternative two way split for Hobart rather than the current draft proposal that splits it thrice. It also has the added benefit of working towards allowing Franklin to undergo a far less radical change that results in a less mixed electoral division and no need for a name change.

Additionally, I am proposing the moving of all the remaining portions of Franklin, including the SA2s: South Arm, Cambridge, Rokeby, Howrah - Tranmere, Bellerive - Rosny, Mornington - Warrane, Lindisfarne - Rose Bay, Geilston Bay - Risdon, & Risdon Vale. This will help to keep Greater Hobart more contained in two electoral divisions rather than three as well as allow Franklin to change less radically.

If such a redistribution were to occur, I think it would be reasonable, though I'm not sure it would be absolutely necessary, to abolish Clark and establish a new division. The name I propose for such a new division would be "Miller", named for Dame Mabel Flora Miller. She was the first woman elected to the Hobart City Council as well as one of the two tied first women to be elected to the Tasmanian House of Assembly, serving as the Member for Franklin, along with all manner of other political and civil roles. Though The city of Hobart is now entirely within Franklin, as this new electorate is still primarily made up of Greater Hobart, I think that the name is entirely suitable.

I am proposing a significant change to Franklin, however nowhere near as radical as the one put forward in the draft boundary proposal. I have kept in the spirit of the draft proposal in making Franklin contiguous, however I am doing so by keeping it in southern Tasmania, rather than moving it to the East Coast. This has a few benefits, primarily that it results in a far less fractured Greater Hobart, allowing Clark to expand to cover more or less the other half of the metropolitan area, it makes the electoral division contiguous, and it also results in a less radical change which negates the need to rename the electoral division, preserving the closest thing Tasmania functionally has to an original federation division. Having nearly finished this proposal I realised that I was essentially proposing the current draft Clark proposal as the Franklin proposal, this makes sense given its a good seat for what we're working with, but it should be Franklin rather than Clark so that a more sensible Clark can maintain a less splintered Greater Hobart and certainly a far better result for Franklin than being dragged up the East Coast to be split between a Greater Hobart south and lots of regional north.

Given that Franklin already contains Kingston it makes sense to push the border further along that contiguous metropolitan area and unite the Kingsborough LGA. Further, I propose also transferring the City of Hobart LGA from Clark down to Franklin. These changes put Franklin within quota and reposition it compared to the current draft proposal in a way in which it can continue to exist with its current name.

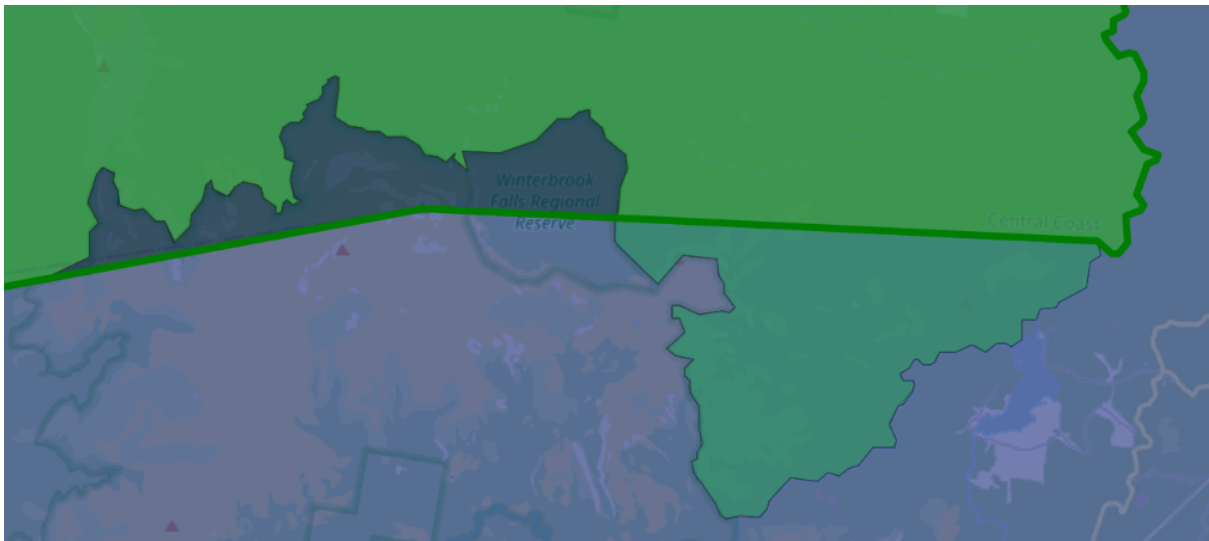
I didn't start this proposal hoping to save Franklin, my primary concern was the split up of Hobart, not even knowing the year of Franklin's creation, however the final product ended up as one which doesn't need to be renamed. And this is a good thing. I made an effort to still keep in the spirit of the draft proposal's effort to solve the issue of Franklin's currently outstanding geographical limits, however I would like to note that Franklin has a history of dipping in and out of incontinuity as the ebb and flow of population has historically pushed it closer and then allowed it to put a buffer zone between itself and the very wide portions of the River Derwent. Tasmania is doomed as the smallest state but also the one with the broadest population distribution, and a number of electoral divisions too small to really fit that distribution, to eternally difficult redistributions. I have also made an effort to preserve the electoral division's geographic spirit so that it does not need to be renamed. Franklin has always contained the Huon Valley, historically being centred around it, and incidentally, the Western portion of the electoral division is prioritised and the character is preserved.

At the first Australian Federal election in 1901, Tasmania did not have single member divisions. Having not legislated single-member electorates, Tasmania's contest was a statewide first-past-the-post five-member Electoral Division of Tasmania. This was done away with before the 1903 election but it means that, on paper, neither Tasmania nor South Australia (who had a similar divisional structure) have any original electoral divisions. Franklin however was one of the five new divisions established at that redistribution and it has persisted ever since, it is an original single member division if not necessarily an original by federation standards and it would be a great shame to see it abolished after 123 years.

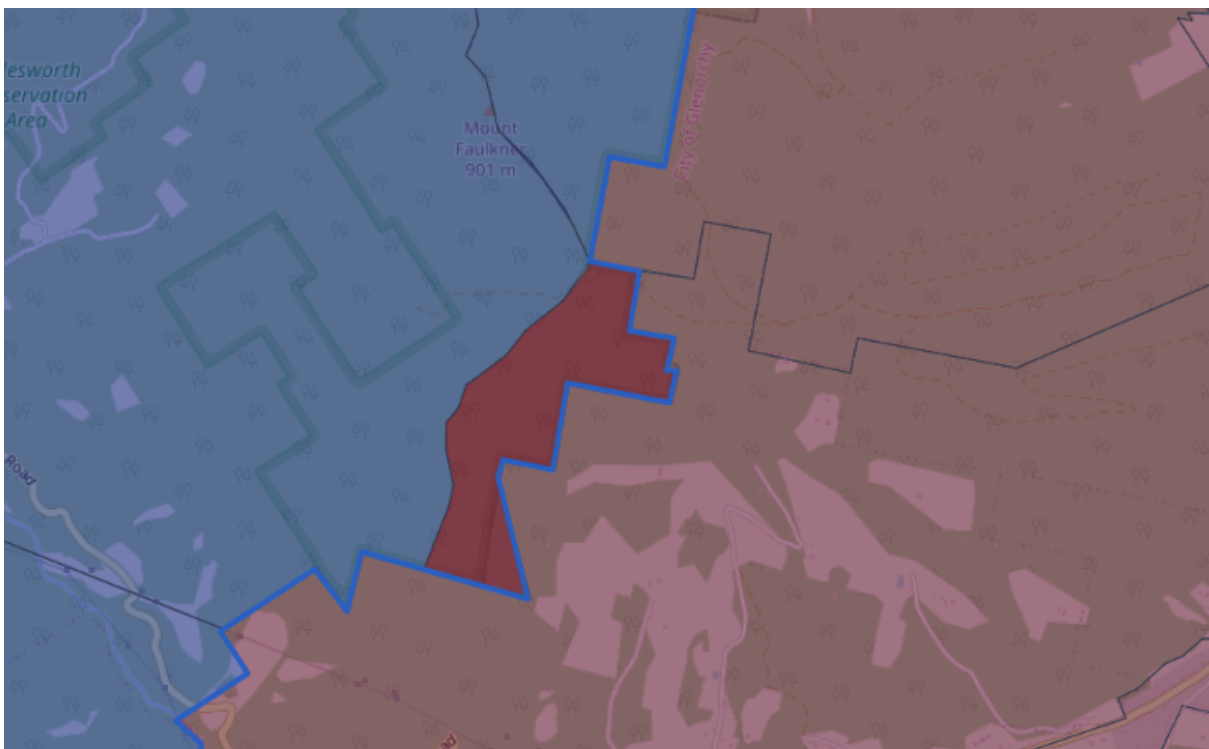
Its abolition also feels generally quite unnecessary, there are plenty of ways to redraw this electorate in which it does not need to be renamed and if that is a feasible option, it should be pursued. I fear that, in hindsight, this may remind me of the abolition of New South Wales's Electoral District of Murrumbidgee, one of only two electorates to have persisted since the state's first colonial election, and a totally unnecessary abolition in favour of reviving a previous electorate name which had not been used for quite some time and in the modern age of large regional electorates doesn't even make much sense. When people look back at this redistribution, that frustration that I feel towards the NSWEC is not a feeling that we want people to feel towards the AEC. It's an incredible thing for an electorate to last as long as Franklin has, and given we make explicit effort to protect those established just three years earlier, why should we not extend that benevolence to Franklin, which did not have a chance to exist at the time of those original federation divisions.

Even if Franklin ends up with something as radically different as the current draft proposal, I still think it should not be renamed for these reasons and would oppose such a move.

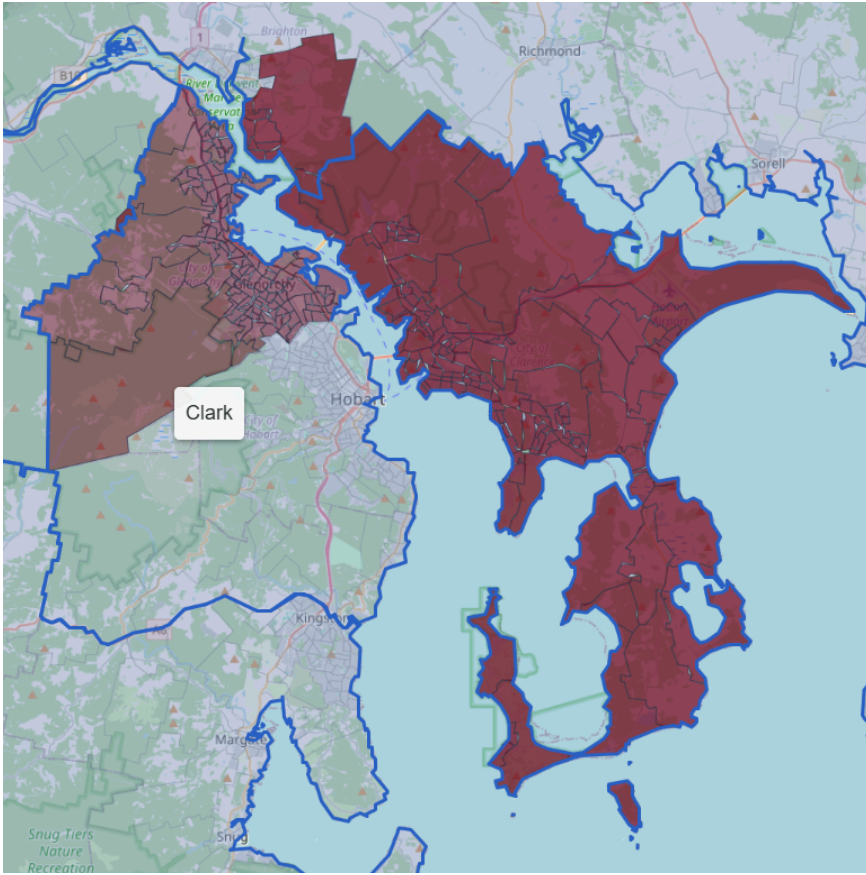
Below are the changes outlined above in the order of which they were addressed. Darker shaded areas denote gained territory.



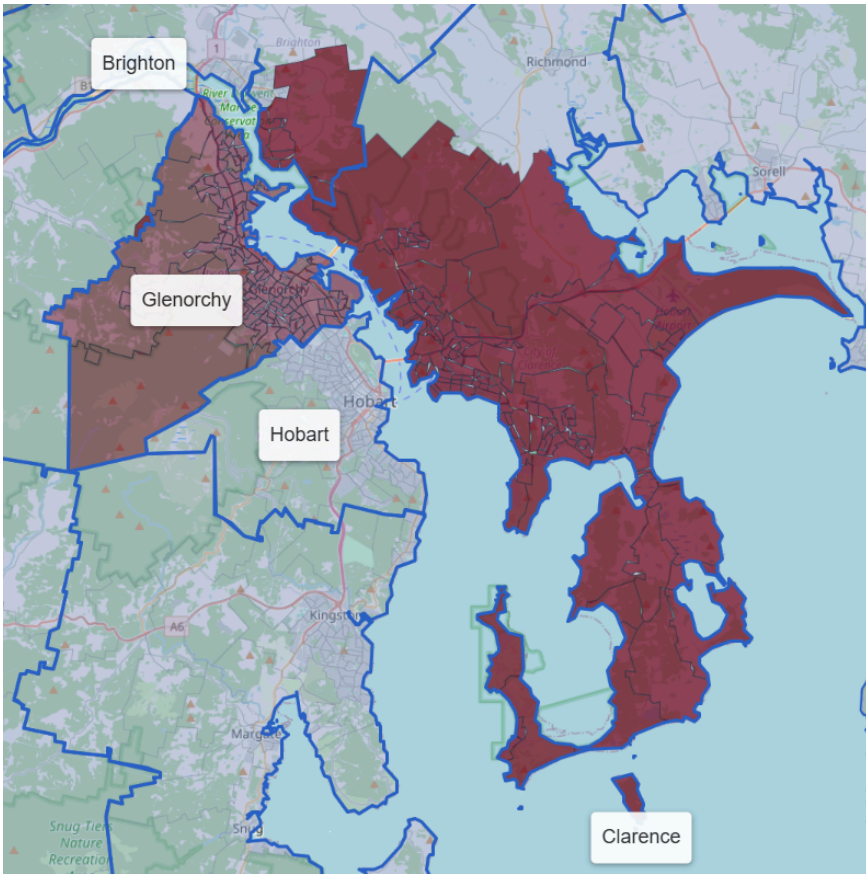
Braddon—Lyons border minor boundary shifts with LGA and electoral division boundaries overlaid.



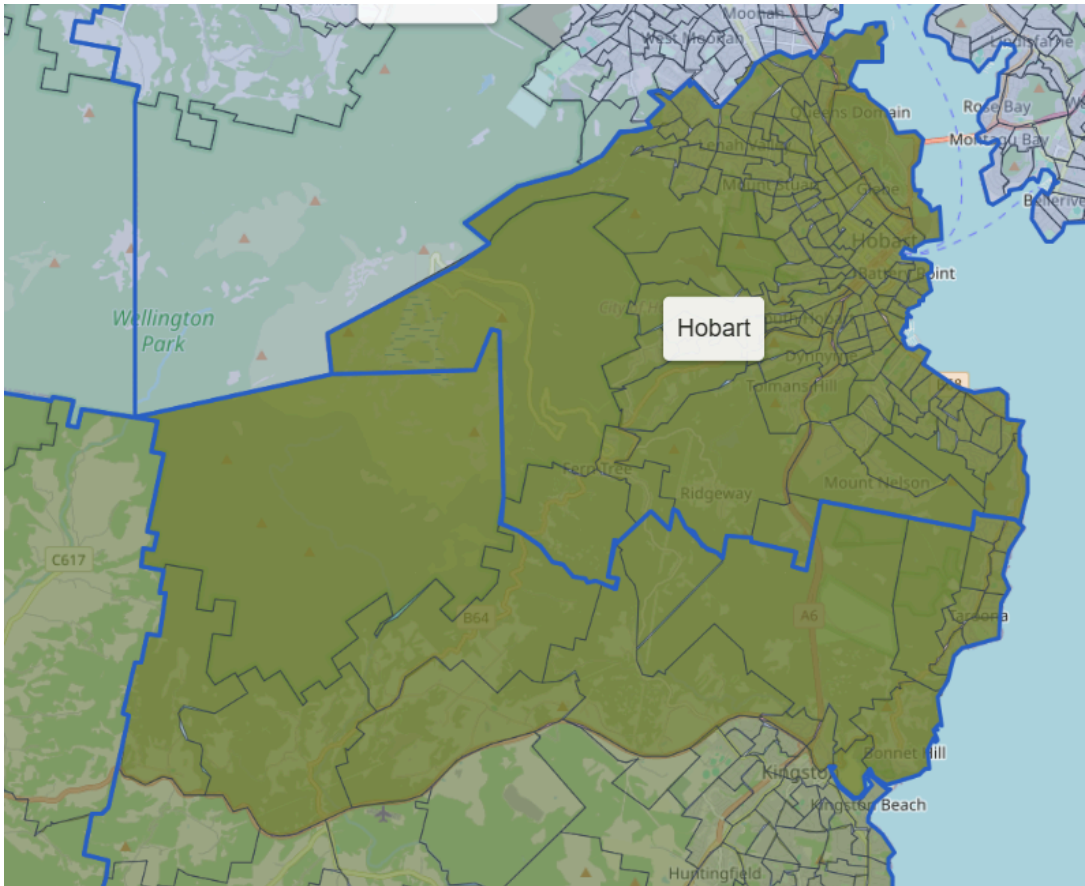
Lyons—Clark minor boundary shift with LGA and electoral boundaries overlaid.



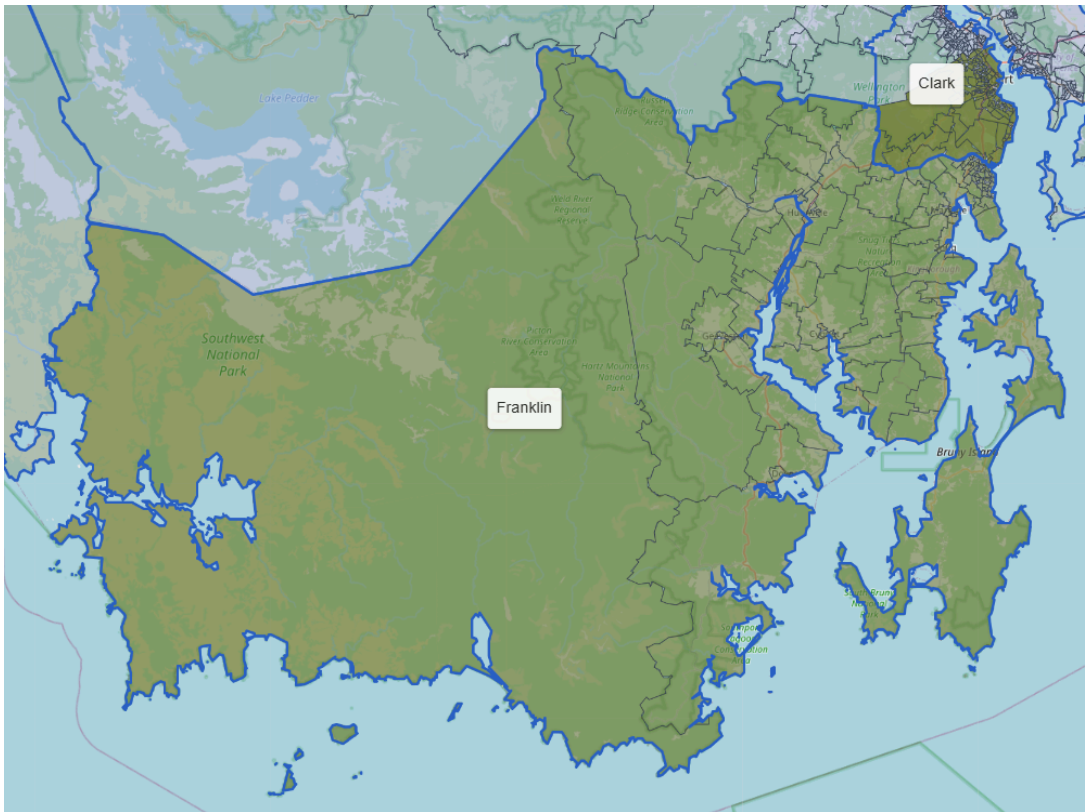
Proposed Clark boundaries in red with current electoral division boundaries overlaid.



Proposed Clark boundaries in red with LGA boundaries overlaid.



Franklin additions with LGA boundaries overlaid.



Proposed Franklin boundaries with current electoral division boundaries overlaid. While not visible in this image, Macquarie Island remains in Franklin.