



PROPOSED REDISTRIBUTION OF FEDERAL ELECTORAL DIVISIONS IN TASMANIA

The Redistribution Committee for Tasmania (the Redistribution Committee) has made a proposed redistribution of federal electoral divisions in Tasmania.

Members of the public and organisations are invited to inspect the report of the Redistribution Committee which contains:

- reasons for the proposed redistribution,
- maps showing the names and boundaries of each proposed electoral division, and
- suggestions and comments on suggestions previously lodged with the Redistribution Committee.

Members of the public and organisations are now invited to lodge written objections against the proposed redistribution.

WHY IS A REDISTRIBUTION BEING CONDUCTED?

A redistribution of federal electoral divisions in Tasmania is required because more than seven years have elapsed since the last redistribution. On Thursday 1 September 2016, in accordance with section 59 of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (Electoral Act), the Electoral Commission directed that a redistribution commence.

As part of a determination on Thursday 13 November 2014 of the number of members of the House of Representatives to which each state and territory will be entitled at the next federal general election, it was determined that Tasmania remains entitled to five members of the House of Representatives.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR A REDISTRIBUTION

In making its proposed redistribution, the Redistribution Committee was bound by section 66 of the Electoral Act.

The number of electors in each proposed electoral division must not deviate by more than 10 per cent above or below the current enrolment quota. The current enrolment quota for Tasmania was determined by the Electoral Commissioner to be 75,014 as at Thursday 1 September 2016.

As far as practicable, the Redistribution Committee must ensure that the number of electors enrolled in each division at Friday 14 May 2021 (the projection time) will not deviate by more than 3.5 per cent above or below the projected enrolment quota of 76,983.

Enrolment as at Thursday 1 September 2016, the projected enrolment figures, current and projected enrolment quotas, and the redistribution timetable, are available on the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) website: www.aec.gov.au/tas-redistribution

Section 66 of the Electoral Act also provides that the Redistribution Committee:

'give due consideration, in relation to each proposed Electoral Division, to:

- (i) community of interests within the proposed Electoral Division, including economic, social and regional interests;*
- (ii) means of communication and travel within the proposed Electoral Division;*
- (iv) the physical features and area of the proposed Electoral Division; and*
- (v) the boundaries of existing Divisions in the State or Territory'.*

Consideration of existing boundaries is subordinate to the other factors set out above.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED SO FAR?

Notices inviting suggestions relating to the redistribution and comments on suggestions were placed in the *Commonwealth Government Notices Gazette* on Wednesday 2 November 2016 and in *The Advocate*, *The Examiner*, *The Mercury* and *The Weekend Australian* on Saturday 5 November 2016.

Twenty-one suggestions and eight comments on suggestions were received and all were considered by the Redistribution Committee in the development of its proposal.

The proposed federal divisions

The Redistribution Committee proposes retaining the names of the five electoral divisions in Tasmania.

The Redistribution Committee was required to alter the divisional boundaries as two of the five electoral divisions fell outside the range for the permissible maximum and minimum number of projected electors as at Friday 14 May 2021.

The Redistribution Committee proposes altering the current electoral division boundaries such that:

- the Municipality of West Tamar in its entirety is located in the proposed Division of Bass,
- the Municipality of Latrobe in its entirety is located in the proposed Division of Braddon,
- the south-western boundary of the proposed Division of Denison is the Huon Highway,
- the Municipality of Brighton in its entirety is located in the proposed Division of Lyons,
- the Municipality of Dorset is located in the proposed Division of Lyons,
- the Municipality of Flinders is located in the proposed Division of Lyons, and
- the Richmond area is located in the proposed Division of Lyons.

Under the proposed redistribution, 21,808 electors or 5.81 per cent of electors would change from their current federal electoral division.

VIEWING THE REDISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE'S PROPOSAL

The Redistribution Committee's report, including maps, is available electronically on the AEC website (www.aec.gov.au/tas-redistribution).

A printed copy of the report can also be inspected in AEC offices in Tasmania and at the office of the Australian Electoral Officer for Tasmania (Ground Floor, 2 Salamanca Square, Hobart). The location of each AEC office is available on the AEC website or by phoning 13 23 26.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Objections

Any interested person or organisation who wishes to make an objection to the proposed boundaries or names of electoral divisions contained in the proposed redistribution has until **6pm (AEST) Friday 2 June 2017** to lodge a written objection via the means listed in the 'How to lodge an objection or comment on an objection' section below. Objections received after the prescribed lodgement time cannot be considered.

People or organisations making objections are requested, where practical, to provide any paper maps in A4/A3 size to facilitate copying.

Comments on objections

Objections will be available for public inspection from **Monday 5 June 2017** at the office of the Australian Electoral Officer for Tasmania (Ground Floor, 2 Salamanca Square, Hobart) and on the AEC's website (www.aec.gov.au/tas-redistribution). Any written comments on the objections must be lodged in writing with the AEC by **6pm (AEST) Friday 16 June 2017**. Comments received after the prescribed lodgement time cannot be considered.

The comments on objections will be available for public inspection from **Monday 19 June 2017** at the office of the Australian Electoral Officer for Tasmania (Ground Floor, 2 Salamanca Square, Hobart) and on the AEC's website (www.aec.gov.au/tas-redistribution).

Objections considered by the augmented Electoral Commission

Written objections and comments on objections are considered by the augmented Electoral Commission. The augmented Electoral Commission for Tasmania comprises:

- the three members of the Australian Electoral Commission – the Chairperson, the Electoral Commissioner and a non-judicial member, currently the Australian Statistician, and

- the three remaining members of the Redistribution Committee – the Australian Electoral Officer for Tasmania, the Surveyor General of Tasmania and the Auditor-General for Tasmania.

As part of its considerations, the augmented Electoral Commission may hold an inquiry into any objection or comment on an objection.

The second redistribution proposal

After it has considered all objections and comments on objections, the augmented Electoral Commission will make its own proposed redistribution.

Further objections

If the augmented Electoral Commission's proposed redistribution is significantly different from the Redistribution Committee's proposal, the augmented Electoral Commission will invite further objections. Information will be provided should this stage be required.

Final determination

After considering all submissions, the augmented Electoral Commission will make a final determination of boundaries and names of the electoral divisions for Tasmania by notice published in the *Gazette* on Tuesday 14 November 2017.

Copies of the augmented Electoral Commission's determination and reasons for that determination, together with the work of the Redistribution Committee, will be tabled in both Houses of Parliament. Once this has occurred, this material will be made available to the public via the AEC website.

WHEN WILL THE NEW FEDERAL ELECTORAL DIVISIONS COME INTO EFFECT?

The new names and boundaries of electoral divisions will be in place from the determination on Tuesday 14 November 2017. However, electoral events will not be contested on these new electoral divisions until a writ is issued for a general election following the expiry or dissolution of the House of Representatives.

HOW TO LODGE AN OBJECTION OR A COMMENT ON AN OBJECTION

Objections and comments on objections should be lodged via the AEC website at www.aec.gov.au/tas-redistribution. Objections and comments on objections can also be submitted:

- by email to: FedRedistribution-TAS@aec.gov.au
- in person, during business hours, to: The Australian Electoral Commission (Att: Redistribution Secretariat), at Ground Floor, 2 Salamanca Square, Hobart
- by mail to: The Australian Electoral Commission (Att: Redistribution Secretariat), GPO Box 520, Hobart TAS 7001
- by fax to: 02 6293 7660.

PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF OBJECTIONS AND COMMENTS ON OBJECTIONS

The Electoral Act requires that submissions to the augmented Electoral Commission be made publicly available. Copies of all submissions will be made available in full for public inspection at the office of the Australian Electoral Officer for Tasmania (Ground Floor, 2 Salamanca Square, Hobart), in accordance with the Electoral Act.

All submissions will also be published in full on the AEC's website and included in reports produced by the augmented Electoral Commission.

Signatures and address details of people and organisations who lodge written submissions will be removed prior to publication.

It is strongly recommended those wishing to make an objection or comments on objections read the 'Guidelines for making a public suggestion'.

MORE INFORMATION

Persons or organisations intending to make submissions are urged to take account of the requirements of the Electoral Act. In particular, those making submissions are advised to ensure their submissions are in the physical possession of the Australian Electoral Commission by the relevant closing time.

A wide range of information is available on the AEC's website, including:

- further information about the federal redistribution process in Tasmania, including an indicative timetable and background information – www.aec.gov.au/tas-redistribution
- information about current electoral divisions in Tasmania – www.aec.gov.au/profiles/index.htm
- Guidelines for making a public submission – www.aec.gov.au/Electorates/Redistributions/guidelines-for-submissions.htm
- Guidelines for naming federal electoral divisions – www.aec.gov.au/Electorates/Redistributions/guidelines.htm
- the legal requirements for a federal redistribution as outlined in Part IV of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* – www.aec.gov.au/Elections/australian_electoral_system/Electoral_Legislation.htm)
- general information about the redistribution process – www.aec.gov.au/Electorates/Redistributions/.

Further information can be obtained from the Redistribution Secretariat:

Telephone: 03 6235 0503

Email: FedRedistribution-TAS@aec.gov.au

REDISTRIBUTION OF STATE ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES

For information about the review of Tasmania's Legislative Council divisions visit <https://lcredistribution.tas.gov.au/> **This is a separate process not administered by the AEC and is not related to federal parliament.**

Mr Tom Rogers

Electoral
Commissioner

Mr David Molnar

Australian Electoral Officer
for Tasmania

Mr Michael Giudici

Surveyor General of
Tasmania

Mr Rod Whitehead

Auditor-General of
Tasmania