

Redistribution of Legislative Council Electoral Boundaries

Legislative Council Electoral Boundaries Act 1995 – Section 19 Notice

Further Redistribution Proposal

Pursuant to section 21 of the Legislative Council Electoral Boundaries Act 1995, the Redistribution Tribunal now publishes its Further Redistribution Proposal. The substance of the Tribunal's findings or conclusions concerning the Initial Redistribution Proposal and objections appears on the following page. The Tribunal is of the opinion that this Further Proposal is significantly different from the Redistribution Committee's Initial Redistribution Proposal. Accordingly, any person or organisation may lodge with the Tribunal by post, facsimile or e-mail a written comment, suggestion or objection. Submissions will be placed on the Tasmanian Electoral Commission's website unless they contain a specific request to the contrary.

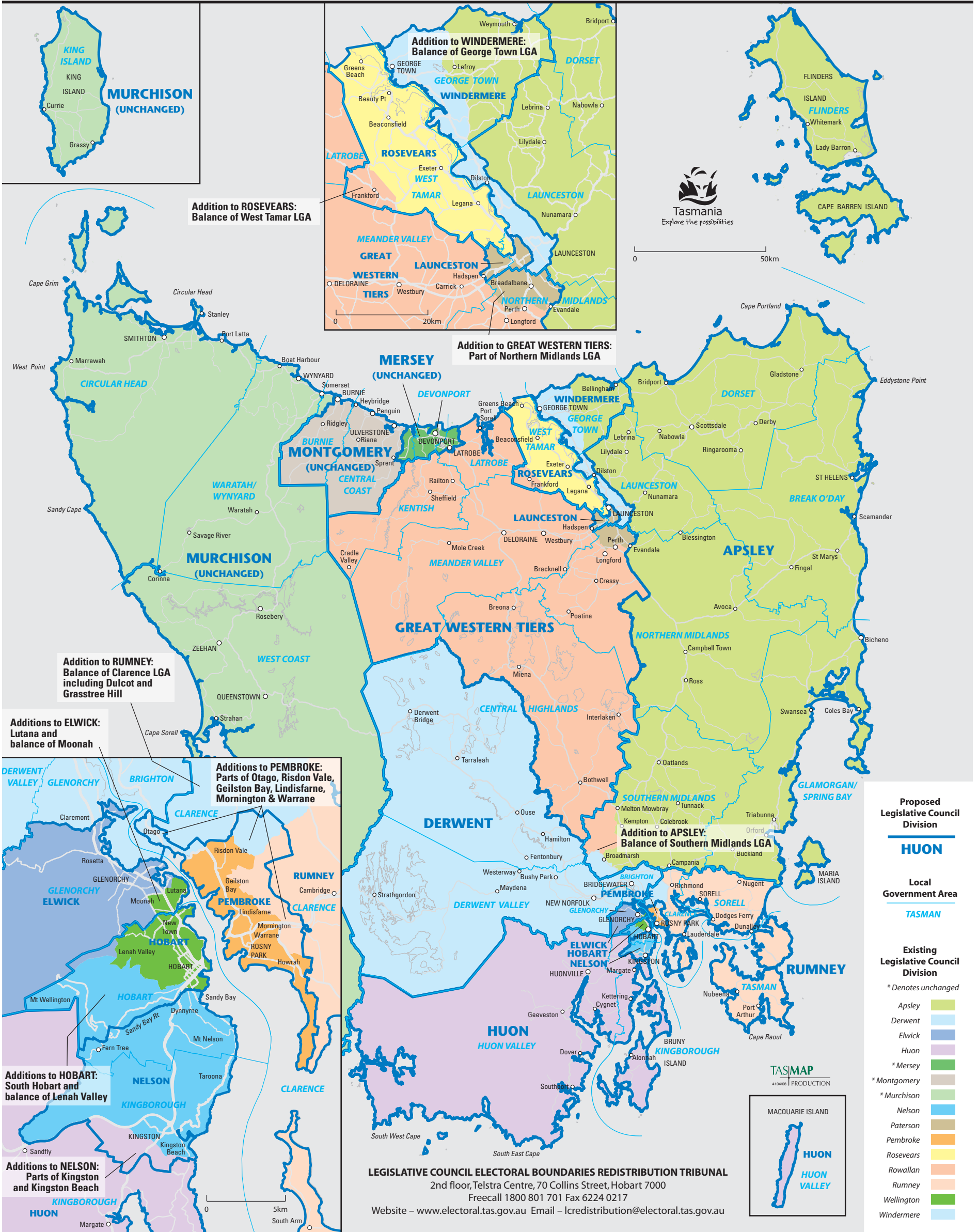
Subject to section 18(3) of the Act the Tribunal will hold an inquiry into further objections. Please refer to the Notice of Inquiry on the following page. **Objections must be lodged by 5pm on Monday 21 April 2008.**

Where practicable, facilities for testing alternative scenarios – consisting of computer software and a trained operator – will be made available in Hobart to persons wishing to make a comment, suggestion or objection during the seven day period. Appointments may be made through the Assistant.

Richard Bingham Chairperson of the Redistribution Tribunal 12 April 2008



NOTE: Elections for the Divisions of Huon and Rosevears in May 2008 will be conducted on the basis of existing boundaries.



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Notice of Inquiry

Public Hearing

The Redistribution Tribunal is to hold an inquiry, the subject of which is to be:

“Comments, suggestions or objections received in relation to the Further Redistribution Proposal for the redistribution of the State’s 15 Legislative Council electoral divisions.”

The public hearing will commence at 10am on Wednesday 23 April 2008 on the 2nd floor, Telstra Centre, 70 Collins St, Hobart and will continue at 2:00 pm on Thursday 24 April at Conference Room, 4th floor, Henty House, Launceston.

Any person or organisation that has lodged a written comment, suggestion or objection no later than 5pm on Monday 21 April 2008 has a right to be heard.

Those intending to lodge submissions and who wish to be heard at the inquiry are asked to contact the Redistribution Secretariat as soon as possible.

Written submissions can be sent to the Tribunal by post, facsimile or email.

Access to Submissions and Other Information

The Redistribution Committee’s initial proposal and associated maps, together with copies of all comments, suggestions and objections received and transcripts of the Redistribution Tribunal’s public inquiry, are available on the Tasmanian Electoral Commission’s website, www.electoral.tas.gov.au

Members of the public have a right to obtain other information on the Further Redistribution Proposal, statistics and electoral maps from our designated public offices (*Service Tasmania*).

If you prefer other arrangements, the Assistant, Mr Julian Type, may be contacted on the freecall number shown below. We will distribute material throughout Tasmania.

Redistribution Process

On 9 February 2008 the Redistribution Committee published an initial redistribution proposal, including maps showing names and boundaries of proposed divisions, boundary descriptions and reasons. The proposal was exhibited at each public office.

Within 28 days, that is, by close of business on Tuesday 11 March 2008, any person or organisation was entitled to lodge a written suggestion, comment or objection.

The Tribunal considered the submissions lodged and held an inquiry.

Having completed its inquiries the Tribunal now publishes its Further Redistribution Proposal. As the Tribunal has stated that in its opinion the further proposal differs significantly from the initial proposal, a person or organisation may lodge a further written comment, suggestion or objection by 5pm on Monday 21 April 2008. An inquiry will be held into any further comment, suggestion or objection.

The Tribunal may then publish a subsequent proposal.

If, in the Tribunal’s opinion, a subsequent further proposal differs significantly from an earlier proposal, a person or organisation may lodge a further written comment, suggestion or objection within 7 days. An inquiry will be held into any further comment, suggestion or objection.

The Tribunal then makes a final determination of the names and boundaries of the 15 Legislative Council electoral divisions. The Tribunal’s determination is final. It may not be challenged or appealed against.

Transition arrangements to implement the redistribution are also to be determined by the Tribunal, as soon as practicable after it makes its final determination. These involve the allocation of members to the new divisions and associated matters. The Tribunal must conduct a hearing into matters relating to transition arrangements. As soon as possible after that hearing, the Tribunal makes and publishes its initial transition proposal. Within 14 days after publication, a person or organisation may lodge a written submission in relation to the initial transition proposal. The Tribunal considers submissions received and may hold an inquiry into matters raised.

The Redistribution Tribunal is to make and publish a final transition determination as soon as practicable after the completion of its deliberations.

Redistribution Criteria

In accordance with the *Legislative Council Electoral Boundaries Act 1995*, the Redistribution Tribunal must take into account the following priorities:

- the first priority is to ensure, as far as practicable, that the number of electors in each Council division would not (in four and a half years’ time) vary more than $\pm 10\%$ of the average Council division enrolment;
- the second priority is to take into account community of interest within each Council division.

After taking into account the priorities specified above, the Redistribution Tribunal must consider the following matters in the case of each electoral division:

- the means of communication and travel within the division;
- the physical features and area of the division;
- existing electoral boundaries;
- distinct natural boundaries.

The Council division quota is to be the basis for the Initial Redistribution Proposal.

For this redistribution the average divisional enrolment, or quota, is 23, 183 and was determined as at 30 September 2007.

In no case is any variation from the Council division quota to exceed 10%.

The Substance of the Tribunal’s Findings or Conclusions Concerning the Initial Redistribution Proposal and Objections

With the exceptions described below, the Tribunal adopted the initial redistribution proposal published by the Redistribution Committee on 9 February 2008.

Additions to Wellington

Three objectors disagreed with the Committee’s proposal to join Sandy Bay and Dynnyrne north of the University of Tasmania to the Division of Wellington. All preferred that all or part of South Hobart be added to Wellington.

The Tribunal has been persuaded that there is a greater community of interest between South Hobart and the balance of Wellington than exists for Sandy Bay and Dynnyrne.

One option was to join only that part of South Hobart east of the Cascade Brewery to Wellington. The Tribunal takes the view that this approach would isolate the balance of South Hobart, and has preferred to use Sandy Bay Rivulet for the length of its course from Fern Tree to the River Derwent as a natural boundary between Nelson and Wellington.

Additions to Elwick

The initial proposal transferred the part of Moonah bounded by Main Rd, Derwent Park Rd and Brooker Hwy to Elwick, while retaining Lutana in Wellington. One objector suggested reversing this transfer, while another called for both areas to remain in Wellington, and for a substantial area of West Moonah to be added to Wellington. Adoption of the latter suggestion would not have complied with either the allowed variation from the quota, or the allowed variation from 2012 average division enrolment (ADE).

The Tribunal noted that, following its decision relating to South Hobart, Wellington already had a 2012 enrolment very slightly over 2012 ADE, and that the community of interest of Lutana, Moonah and West Moonah was clearly with each other, more than with Hobart City suburbs to their south.

Accordingly, the Tribunal proposes transferring both Lutana and Central Moonah to Elwick, so establishing the Hobart City/Glenorchy City boundary as the basis for the Wellington/Elwick boundary.

There are two minor exceptions to this municipal boundary: one house in Ripley Rd, West Moonah, actually located in Hobart City, and a cluster of houses in Mowbray Ct and the northern extremity of Girrorabong Rd, Lenah Valley, actually located in Glenorchy City. Keeping in mind the criterion relating to ‘means of communication and travel’, the Tribunal allocated these houses according to the balance of their respective localities.

Elwick’s northern boundary

The above decision put Elwick’s enrolment 7.9% above the quota (although this is expected to reduce to 2.4% above 2012 ADE). There was little scope for Elwick to accommodate excess enrolment from its northern neighbour Derwent, so the Tribunal’s proposal has reinstated the existing Elwick/Derwent boundary, and notes that this is consistent with one objector’s preference for an east-west boundary in the vicinity of Clarendon.

Derwent, Pembroke and Rumney

The Tribunal received an objection to the proposal to add the southern part of Central Highlands municipal area to Rowallan, and was persuaded by the objector that the electors affected had cultural, commercial and sporting links almost exclusively with Southern Tasmania. Accordingly, the Tribunal proposes to reinstate the existing boundary between Derwent and Rowallan.

Two decisions described above left Derwent with no transfer of its high enrolment to either Rowallan or Elwick, so the Tribunal looked to Hobart’s eastern shore, and saw an opportunity to consolidate Clarence City in the divisions of Pembroke and Rumney. The Tribunal proposes to transfer Otago from Derwent to Pembroke, and Grasstree Hill/Dulcot from Derwent to Rumney.

In this context, the Tribunal notes that it was not greatly persuaded by an objector who argued against any additions to Pembroke.

Frankford

One objector argued for the transfer of part of the West Tamar municipal area, centring on Frankford township, from Rowallan to Rosevears, so as to unify West Tamar municipal area in Rosevears. The Tribunal accepted this suggestion.

The North West

One objector argued for the addition of Port Sorell to Mersey, Forth/Turners Beach to Montgomery, eastern Burnie to Murchison, and West Coast municipal area to Rowallan. The Tribunal considered that this suggestion did not comply with either the allowed variation from the quota, or the allowed variation from 2012 ADE, and also believed that the West Coast municipal area’s clear community of interest lay in the direction of Burnie and other North West Coast settlements.

Names of divisions

Seven of the 12 objections to the initial redistribution proposal dealt exclusively with the names of the divisions, Paterson, Wellington and Rowallan, and another objection also addressed the issue.

The Tribunal notes that use of the names Launceston and Hobart was discontinued by the 1998-99 Redistribution Committee and Tribunal in the exceptional circumstance of the reduction from 19 to 15 of the number of members of the Legislative Council. That Committee was “cautious, being aware that using existing names for new divisions could signal possible transition arrangements in some eyes”. Where that Committee proposed new names, “names of well-recognised geographical features closely associated with proposed divisions were used”.

The current Tribunal is not constrained by a change in the number of members of the Legislative Council and, while accepting the principle of naming divisions for geographic features, has been persuaded that neither Paterson nor Rowallan connotes a well-recognised feature. In the case of Wellington, the Tribunal has been persuaded that Mount Wellington is a feature common to a number of Hobart divisions, and does not adequately distinguish the division bearing its name.

The Tribunal has accepted the argument that the best-recognised geographic features of Paterson and Wellington are, respectively, Launceston and Hobart’s central business districts, and accordingly proposes to name these divisions Launceston and Hobart.

The Tribunal also acknowledges the historical significance of Hobart and Launceston as Australia’s second and third oldest cities, and the long history of these names being associated with electoral divisions.

The Tribunal noted an objection to the name Rowallan and proposes to rename this division as Great Western Tiers, for a geographical feature that dominates the horizon over much of the division.

Visit the Tasmanian Electoral Commission’s website www.electoral.tas.gov.au for more information on the Further Redistribution Proposal:

- **Details of current and projected enrolment in the proposed divisions**
- **Detailed information on the composition of the proposed divisions**
- **Detailed maps of boundaries in urban areas**

Richard Bingham – Chairperson of the Redistribution Tribunal – 12 April 2008

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