

Subject: Submission re Legislative Council Redistribution Initial Transition Proposal
Date: Friday, 21 July 2017 at 4:00:05 PM Australian Eastern Standard Time
From: Sarah Lovell
To: Redistribution Information
Attachments: image003.png

Dear Mr Blake,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission into the transition arrangements for the redistribution of Legislative Council boundaries.

As the new member for Rumney, I was elected on 6th of May 2017. I spent a great deal of time developing relationships with the communities across the electorate during my election campaign, including the Tasman Peninsula and Sorell, and electors in those communities saw fit to put their faith in me as their elected representative. I have since continued to develop those relationships and support those communities to the best of my ability.

With the 2017 redistribution significant parts of the current Rumney division will be excluded from the new Rumney division, and become part of the new division of Prosser. Under the proposed transition arrangements, it is my understanding that those constituents will face the polls in May 2018 to elect a new member, however from the date the tribunal deems their decision final until the date of the election, the seat of Prosser will be without an elected representative.

There is a significant amount of uncertainty in the community about this process, and I would like to address those concerns in this submission.

- **Absence of an elected representative until May 2018:**

Having voted for a representative in the Legislative Council as recently as 6th of May 2017, it is of great concern to the constituents of the Tasman Peninsula and Sorell that their will as expressed in the outcome of the recent election is to be disregarded. While I believe it appropriate that these communities have the opportunity to elect a new representative at the earliest possible opportunity, it is concerning to the community and to me, that these constituents will, in effect, have no representation in the Legislative Council, and no local Upper House member, for what could be an extended period of time.

In reality, what I expect will occur is that these constituents, for all intents and purposes, will continue to consider me their Upper House member, having elected me so recently. I expect the same will occur for the communities in the lower part of the current division of Apsley and their current member, while they too are without an elected representative.

I have developed relationships in these communities with many constituents, community groups, and businesses. I take the trust these communities have put in me very seriously. I do not believe that it is fair or just for these communities to be left without adequate support and representation throughout the transition period and until the election in May 2018.

It is my intention to continue to support these communities as best I can, until they are able to elect a new member, and it is my understanding that the intentions of the current member for Apsley are the same.

I submit to the tribunal that consideration be given to an appropriate reallocation of resources to enable current members to adequately support these communities throughout the transition period.

- **Timeframe for decision**

Given the significance of the redistribution, particularly for the constituents of the new division of Prosser, the uncertainty around a date of implementation is causing a great deal of concern in the community.

It is possible that the amount of time Prosser is without an elected member before going to the polls is a number of months, or a much shorter period of time. This could significantly change the action needed to address the absence of an elected member for this division, and it would be appreciated by all concerned if this could be announced as soon as possible to allow for planning and consultation.

I submit to the tribunal that a decision be made around the date of implementation as soon as possible, to allow for comment and/or questions to be addressed, and to enable members to adequately plan, before the changes come into effect.

As the elected member for Rumney, I have a sincere sense of obligation and responsibility to my entire electorate. While this will continue to the new division of Rumney, it is concerning that the communities of the Tasman Peninsula and Sorell will not benefit from a continuation of support and resources. It is a priority for me to ensure that constituents in these communities continue to be supported and represented until they are able to exercise their democratic right to elect a new Legislative Council member.

Yours sincerely

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