

**Submission:**

*To:* Redistribution Tribunal  
The Australian Electoral Commission  
Tasmania

*Subject:* **The proposed plans to change the electorate boundaries of Apsley.**

*From:* Tim Slade

Monday, February 27, 2017.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my surprise and concern at the proposed change to the boundaries of Apsley.

I live at Pioneer. Here, drinking water issues have dominated for the past four years, since late 2012. Our drinking water is contaminated with lead (Pb). At the time of my submission to you today, several people at Pioneer are yet to receive safe drinking water from TasWater, via the installation of a rainwater tank, as agreed.

The electorate of Apsley possesses the majority of towns in Tasmania wherein drinking water has been contaminated with lead (Pb) ~ Pioneer, Winnaleah, Ringarooma, Avoca, Rossarden and Whitemark. At the time of this submission, four towns in Tasmania remain on a *Do Not Consume* alert for lead (Pb) ~ Pioneer, Winnaleah, Avoca and Rossarden. Each of these towns are in Apsley.

The electorate of Apsley also contains many towns wherein a *Boil Water* alert is active.

A grass-roots campaign for the real-time reporting of drinking water data began here at Pioneer. Tania Rattray accepted our request to take this policy to the Legislative Council.

On August 9, 2016, Ms. Rattray, speaking passionately for all Tasmanians, successfully proceeded our motion, for real-time data reporting, through the Legislative Council.

As Ms. Rattray has lived and worked in the North-East her whole life, she has evidently developed an intimate knowledge and familiarity with the people of this district and the issues that face us. Ms. Rattray, whose office is in Scottsdale, is always willing to meet to discuss issues with me.

Drinking water is the biggest issue in Tasmania at the moment. A change to our representation here in the North-East ~ no matter who the new representative may be ~ is not conducive to the quality and momentum of our case to improve drinking water in our community.

Living at Pioneer, a resident here now for six years, it is my view that drinking water is too important an issue to be compromised by an arbitrary electoral boundary change here in Apsley.

For your reference, I have included for you here a link to my file of 12 published articles, 2013 - 2017, about Tasmania's drinking water problems, and the real-time reporting of data at TasWater:

<http://tasmaniantimes.com/index.php/category-article/239>

Although I know Ms. Rattray only through our work with regard to drinking water, I observe that she is an independent voice in Apsley, a person who cares for the people and works hard and skillfully for them.

Ms. Rattray's passion and care for her job, and for our people and place, in my view, should not be considered in separation from the history of her life here, as a born-and-bred citizen of the North-East.

It is only natural that one should care and love the most ~ be devoted to ~ the place where one was born, raised and now lives. In Ms. Rattray's case, as a citizen *and* as the representative of the community.

A bureaucratic change to Apsley's electorate boundaries will be to needlessly sever a community from their chosen representative in the State government's house of review.

This is especially so when one considers the magnitude of changes that the Electoral

Commission is proposing, and I would be interested to learn of any undertaking so far by the Electoral Commission to determine the true extent of the potential impact to the community of the proposed electoral boundary changes? And indeed, when and how was data collected to suggest a boundary change may be considered?

I humbly ask that you reconsider your proposed plans to change the boundaries in Apsley.

I hope that you can find a happy compromise, or else, continue with how things are now ~ with Ms. Rattray as our representative ~ with the awareness that, history being the best guide to the future, Ms. Rattray will be the North-East's *chosen* representative for a great many years to come.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Slade.

Pioneer, Tasmania  
APSLEY.