



2016-17 Redistribution of Legislative Council Electoral Boundaries

Further Redistribution Proposal – Substance of the Tribunal’s Findings & Conclusions

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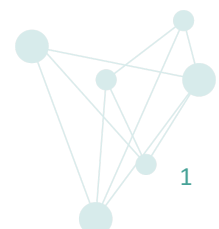
1 April 2017

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

On 28 January 2017, the Redistribution Committee published an Initial Redistribution Proposal, including maps and 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 Monday 27 February, any person or organisation was entitled to lodge a written suggestion, comment or objection. The Tribunal considered the submissions and held an inquiry.

Following the inquiry, the Tribunal now publishes its Further Redistribution Proposal.

With the exceptions described below, the Tribunal adopted the Initial Redistribution Proposal published by the Redistribution Committee on 28 January 2017. The following is the substance of the Tribunal's findings and conclusions concerning the Initial Redistribution Proposal, submissions and inquiry.



Concern over the enrolment data used for the redistribution

Some submissions shared a confusion concerning the age of the enrolment data and projection formulae used by the redistribution and suggested that the process should be delayed until more recent data is available.

The *Legislative Council Electoral Boundaries Act 1995* requires the Electoral Commissioner to strike the quota, which is to be used as the basis for meeting the first priority. The enrolment numbers listed under “Actual enrolment 30 September 2016” in tables included within the Initial Proposal Reasons document are the actual enrolment figures within each geographical area on the State electoral roll on 30 September 2016.

The ABS population estimates as at 30 June 2015 were used to form the basis for the projections in this report. These were the latest figures available from the ABS to align with the time-frame of the redistribution. The ABS considers that these population data are fit for the purpose of preparing the projected estimated resident population for the Legislative Council electoral boundary areas.

Perth and Hadspen

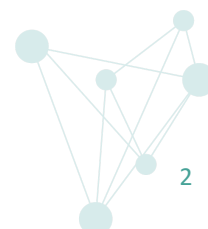
Four objectors disagreed with the Committee's proposal to join Perth to the division of Launceston and to join Hadspen to the proposed division of McIntyre. All held the view that Hadspen is recognised as an outer suburb of Launceston and that Perth is a rural service centre and strongly identifies with the other communities within the Northern Midlands municipal area.

The Tribunal was persuaded by this argument and identified a new boundary that enables the proposal to include Hadspen in the division of Launceston (as is currently the case) and the township of Perth to be in the proposed division of McIntyre.

Elwick and Derwent boundary

One objector disagreed with the proposed boundary between the divisions of Elwick and Derwent. The objector proposed moving the locality of Collinsvale from Elwick to Derwent and the localities of Berridale and Chigwell from Derwent to Elwick. It was suggested that as Collinsvale is a rural area it should be in Derwent. Similarly, the objector suggested that the urban localities of Berridale and Chigwell are better suited to the urban division of Elwick.

The Tribunal was not persuaded by this argument on the basis that: the proposed boundary around Collinsvale follows the Glenorchy City municipal boundary (which would infer a strong community of interest), the northern urban spread of Hobart reaches further than the localities of Berridale and Chigwell and the suggested change does not provide as strong a boundary as the one proposed.



Pembroke, Prosser and Rumney boundaries

One objector provided two alternative boundary scenarios between the divisions of Pembroke, and Rumney, and the proposed division of Prosser.

Scenario 1 included all Pembroke electors south of Bellerive in Rumney and the region from Richmond through to Old Beach in Pembroke. In this scenario Prosser's proposed boundaries were not changed. The Tribunal was not persuaded by this argument due to the extremely strong community of interest between Bellerive and Howrah.

Scenario 2 included Howrah Gardens and Rokeby in Pembroke, the Sorell and Tasman municipal areas in Rumney and the region comprising Old Beach, Risdon Vale and Geilston Bay in Prosser. The Tribunal was not persuaded by this argument as it held the view that urban localities relatively close to the Hobart CBD should not be included in essentially an east coast division.

Rumney and Prosser boundaries

One objector disagreed with the proposed boundary between Rumney and the proposed division of Prosser. The objector suggested that the residual 34 Clarence electors within Prosser be transferred to Rumney, as this is a clear boundary for local government municipal areas and the House of Assembly and House of Representative divisions.

The Tribunal was persuaded by this argument.

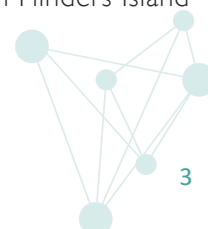
New division of McIntyre

One objector praised the creation of the east-west boundary between the proposed divisions of McIntyre and Prosser.

Thirteen objectors disagreed with the creation of the proposed division of McIntyre on one or more of the following grounds:

- The proposed division is too large
- The townships across the new division do not share a strong community of interest.
- Divisions that run in a north-south direction are easier to service and represent than the east-west direction of the proposed division of McIntyre.
- Splitting the east coast of Tasmania between two divisions would have a negative impact on the Great Eastern Drive and the development of business and tourism along the coast.

The Tribunal was not convinced by the various concerns raised against the creation of the McIntyre division. The proposed division of McIntyre is smaller in area than the current division of Apsley. While these concerns were raised, only one alternate proposal to the proposed McIntyre division was submitted. This alternative extended the current division of Western Tiers to include the midlands area and parts of the Brighton municipal area. This had the effect of changing the division of Apsley into a narrow strip along the eastern coast from Flinders Island to the Tasman Peninsula.



On balance, the Tribunal was not persuaded that the alternative proposal caters for many of the concerns raised above and that the impact on Apsley outweighs the benefits in maintaining the division of Western Tiers.

Timing of changes to Rumney

Two objectors raised concerns regarding the timing of the proposed changes to Rumney and the forthcoming periodic Council election conducted on the current electoral boundaries. The Tribunal recognised the unique nature of conducting a redistribution throughout the periodic Legislative Council election cycle. The Tribunal held the view that this is an issue for consideration as part of the transition determination.

Objections concerning representation

Thirteen objectors raised concerns about the possible reduction in northern representation within the Legislative Council. These objectors suggested that any changes to electoral boundaries should meet the minimal requirements set out in the Act and that broader changes to electoral boundaries should be incremental across multiple redistributions.

The Tribunal noted that many of these submissions held the current Members for Apsley and Western Tiers in very high regard and appreciated the work that they undertook for their constituents, including support of local issues such as improvement in water quality.

Due to the periodical cycle of Legislative Council elections, reliance on incremental boundary changes could result in future elections for a division being contested across continually moving boundaries. As discussed in the Initial Proposal Reasons, a southward and eastward movement of enrolment numbers needs to be reflected in the proposed divisional boundaries. The Tribunal held the view that the Committee's proposal — which had 13 of the 15 divisions moving towards the enrolment quota — best satisfies the criteria to which the Tribunal must have regard.

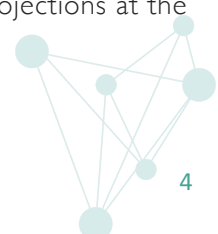
In response to the argument for incremental change over redistributions, the Tribunal modelled a scenario where only minimal changes were made to Rumney, Apsley and Pembroke electoral boundaries. With this minimal change scenario and the Further Redistribution Proposal, the Tribunal then compared the expected effect on the variation from the quota of future division enrolment (assuming a linear projection of enrolment data) for future redistributions.

For the minimal change scenario the expected effect was that:

- 5 divisions would exceed the 10% limit for the forward (4 ½ year) projections at the next redistribution (due in **2026**).

For the Tribunal's Further Redistribution Proposal the expected effect was that:

- no divisions would exceed the 10% limit for the forward (4 ½ year) projections at the next redistribution (due in **2026**) and
- only 1 division would exceed the 10% limit for the forward (4 ½ year) projections at the subsequent redistribution (due in **2035**).



The proposal for a designated Aboriginal seat within the Legislative Council was put forward by two objectors. The Tribunal noted that this would be a matter for the Parliament rather than within the scope of the duties of the Tribunal.

Names of divisions

Eleven of the 29 objections to the Initial Redistribution Proposal made a comment in relation to division names.

The Initial Redistribution Proposal abolished the divisions of Western Tiers and Apsley and proposed two new divisions — McIntyre and Prosser. Two objectors argued that new names would cause voter confusion, however the Tribunal held the view that there may be more confusion caused by retaining the names of the former divisions.

One objector suggested it was appropriate to use an Indigenous name for either Rumney or the proposed division of Prosser, however two objectors from the Aboriginal communities submitted that use of an Aboriginal name was not appropriate and the Tribunal was persuaded by this argument.

Two objectors proposed alternate geographical feature names for Prosser (Freycinet and Jordan). The Tribunal was not persuaded that Jordan was a better-known geographical feature within the area, and while Freycinet is well-known, it is not central to the area within the division.

