

ABN 68 027 137 155  
3 Ellenor Street Scottsdale Tasmania  
PO Box 21 Scottsdale Tasmania 7260  
P 03 6352 6500 F 03 6352 6509  
E dorset@dorset.tas.gov.au  
www.dorset.tas.gov.au



Our Ref: 17/1598

24 February 2017

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Redistribution Tribunal  
C/- Tasmanian Electoral Commission  
Reply Paid 83575  
MOONAH TAS 7009

### TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

#### **Submission - 2016-17 Legislative Council Electoral Boundaries Redistribution**

I am writing in relation to the review of Legislative Council division boundaries, which occurs every 9 years to maintain a statistically balanced number of electors across all divisions.

Dorset Council at its 20 February 2017 Council Meeting resolved to lodge a submission against the Initial Proposal, in particular the redistribution of the current Apsley (of which Dorset is located within) and Western Tiers electorates. Council also resolved to support the alternate boundary redistribution proposed by MLCs Tania Rattray and Greg Hall.

Please find attached Dorset Councils submission and please reference the alternate scenario map provided by MLC Hall in his submission. (Reference Hall3)

If you have any further questions on the submission, please don't hesitate to contact me on 03 6352 6500.

Yours sincerely

**GREG HOWARD**  
Mayor

## Dorset Council Submission – 24 February 2017

### 2016-17 Legislative Council Electoral Boundaries Redistribution

#### Objections to Initial Proposal (dated 28 January 2017):

1. The new electorate of McIntyre which would stretch from Railton in the west to the east coast and north to include Flinders Island, would encompass such a diverse range of interests that would make difficult for an elected member to service effectively.

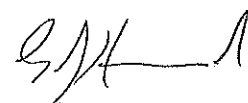
At the moment Apsley's main economic drivers are:

- Intensive agriculture in pockets of Dorset and the south east.
- Broad acre cropping and grazing on the plains of Flinders Island, the north and east coasts and midlands area.
- Fishing and aquaculture.
- Forestry
- Tourism based around coastal and marine activities but more recently expanded to include cycling activities.

Of these drivers only intensive agriculture and forestry exist to any large degree in the expanded areas included into McIntyre from the municipal areas of Northern Midlands, Meander Valley and Kentish. Therefore the elected member's allegiances would be split between the majority of voters in Meander Valley, Northern Midlands and Kentish and the economic wealth provided by the eastern half of the electorate.

2. Deleting Apsley and Western Tiers which are primarily northern electorates and replacing them with McIntyre and Prosser means moving more of the political representation from the north to the south. It is the northern half of the state which is the driving force for the state's agricultural, forestry and mining industries.
3. With the majority of the population in the new electorate of McIntyre based in the western half the economically important municipalities of Dorset, Break O'Day and Flinders Island would have little chance of having a local elected member as their representative.
4. Notwithstanding travel to Flinders Island, the travel between the north east, the east coast and Meander Valley, Northern Midlands and Kentish would seem more difficult than a continuous drive down the east coast.
5. There is a significant risk that the recent investment in mountain biking and accommodation within the Dorset and Break O'Day municipalities could be jeopardised by a lack of representation from the eastern half of the electorate.
6. Proposal for expansion of Break O'Day south to include Bicheno and Dorset to include Lilydale and Nunamara are ignored by the new electorate boundaries.
7. Irrigation schemes in Dorset and the Midlands have the potential to affect population distribution and appear to have been ignored by the committee.

A less aggressive change to boundaries as proposed by MLC's Tania Rattray and Greg Hall (refer to alternate scenario map referenced Hall3) appear to maintain electorates of similar interests while achieving the required population balance and would be supported by the Dorset Council.



**GREG HOWARD**  
Mayor