

THE CLARK INDEPENDENT



AUGUST 2026

ANDREW WILKIE - INDEPENDENT FEDERAL MP

Federal electorates set for shakeup

The boundaries of the federal electorates in southern Tasmania are set to be changed and will be in place for the next federal election. The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) reviews boundaries at least every seven years to ensure that electorates contain about the same number of voters.

The electorate of Clark will lose the Glenorchy City Council area but absorb all of the Huon Valley Council and Kingborough Council areas. The electorate of Franklin will now include much of the East Coast. Lyons will take in the Glenorchy City Council area. It remains to be seen if the federal changes are applied to state electoral boundaries.

Such a big redistribution has been made necessary by the significant imbalance in the number of voters between federal electorates. For instance, at the 2025 federal election there were 74,304 enrolled voters in Clark, which could be up to 12,000 fewer than needed by 2030 to ensure that the electorate meets the AEC's required standard for parity with the other electorates.

I've represented and served roughly the same area for about 16 years and built up a strong relationship with the community, and for this reason it will be particularly sad to say goodbye to the people of the Glenorchy City Council area when these changes take effect at the next election. This area is an incredible community with some of the best of Tasmania.

But I'm also thrilled to be given the chance to represent more of the south. It's a fabulous part of Tasmania, somewhere I know well already as our family shack is down that way. My new community can be confident that I'll work hard to represent and serve them the best I possibly can.

You can go to aec.gov.au to learn more about the boundary redistribution.

Did you know?

Tasmanian federal electorates contain fewer voters than mainland electorates. That's because the Australian Constitution requires that no "Original State" will ever have fewer than five electorates. So even though Tasmanian population growth has been slower than mainland population growth, we had five electorates at Federation and still have five electorates, all with significantly fewer voters than mainland electorates. This is a good thing because it gives the State more representation in the Parliament in Canberra, which is very important, for instance when mainlanders try to reduce our share of the national GST allocation or cut back Bass Strait cost equalisation schemes.



Celebrating multiculturalism

For tens of thousands of years, hundreds of aboriginal languages have been spoken across the continent, representing an enormous diversity of nations and cultures.

The first documented European visit was by Dutch explorer Willem Janszoon in 1606, though there have been disputed claims of earlier visits by people from other parts of the world.

Convicts and settlers from England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland brought with them distinct cultures, languages and religions. And when gold was discovered, many people arrived from elsewhere, among them significant numbers of Chinese. Through the early years, Pashtun and Baloch cameleers brought their expertise to help chart the interiors, at the same time establishing the first Australian mosques through the mid-1800s.

After World War Two some two million migrants arrived from the United Kingdom and Europe. They were joined by over 100,000 Vietnamese after the fall of Saigon. More recently people have fled to safety in Australia from violence in the Middle East and Africa. Peoples from India are one of the main sources of new Australians nowadays.

Australia's significant history of welcoming people to our shores has helped create an open, creative, dynamic, diverse and mature nation. Our economy is stronger, our cultural life is richer and more interesting, our outlook has become broader, and we are more engaged in our region. In other words, Australia has always been home to a rich and diverse multicultural society. Politicians who choose to peddle a politically expedient dream of some sort of "monoculture" utopia wilfully ignore Australia's real story and strength.



Credit: Citizenship ceremony, Hobart City Council

Student success!

Well done to the Tasmanian students who were selected and attended the 31st AFS Youth Assembly and International Affairs Academy in Geneva this month. They include Sadie and Eva from Hobart College, and Charlotte and James from Elizabeth College.

Attending the Assembly is an outstanding achievement, with the event drawing 700 emerging young leaders from all corners of the globe to discuss and develop solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges. During their visit, students engaged in workshops, changemaking initiatives, and seminars aimed at equipping them with the skills necessary to drive positive change. Delegates also gained first-hand experience in leadership, international affairs and diplomacy.

Closure of LPOs

I'm taking Australia Post and the Federal Government to task over the Licensed Post Office (LPO) network and the services they can offer. These are the smaller, non-corporate outlets making up two thirds of the national postal network. LPOs are very important in Tasmania, especially in small towns and suburbs where they are a community hub providing critical postal, banking and bill payment services. The closure of the West Hobart LPO in particular has created significant concern in the community, so much so that I've raised the matter directly with both the Minister for Communications and the CEO of Australia Post.

NDIS changes cause for concern

The House of Representatives recently voted in favour of the *NDIS Amendment (Securing the NDIS for Future Generations) Bill*, a package of reforms the Federal Government argued is necessary to improve the long-term financial sustainability of the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The Federal Government said the changes would rein in spending, crack down on fraudulent activity and remove dodgy operators from the system. As this newsletter went to print, the Bill was still being scrutinised by a Senate committee.

While I agree that the NDIS must be placed on a sustainable footing, the changes risk leaving vulnerable people with disability without access to essential supports. For that reason, I voted against the Bill. Frankly the risks for Tasmanians are particularly significant given the State Government's dire financial situation and limited capacity to increase disability services.

These concerns were amplified by the many disability advocates, participants and families who contacted me to explain how the proposed changes would undermine community participation and quality of life. I shared some of these experiences in Parliament, in particular the story of a Tasmanian mother raising her son with the support of the NDIS. Her story highlighted fears about reduced support, increased uncertainty and the potential impact on the lives of people with disability.



Government kidding with gambling changes

After taking more than one thousand days to respond to the cross-party, unanimous recommendations of the Murphy Report, *You win some, you lose more*, the Federal Government is finally set to try and legislate its half-baked response to gambling harm. I say half-baked, because the Government's proposals will do little to protect vulnerable Australians and children from gambling harm.

The Government's policy still allows for three gambling ads per hour between 6am and 8.30pm, with ads unrestricted after 8.30pm. It does nothing to ban inducements and it also fails to establish a national regulator.

I cannot support the Government's plan because it would do virtually nothing to implement the effective reforms detailed in the Murphy Report. Clearly the Government continues to be more concerned with protecting the interests of gambling companies, media companies and major sporting codes, rather than the interests and wellbeing of Australians.

I encourage members of the community to contact Tasmanian Senators to express their disgust with the Government by visiting www.stopgamblingads.com.au



Community notice board

Eureka Clubhouse

EUREKA
BY HOME BASE

Eureka Clubhouse is a psychosocial non-clinical mental health program using the International Clubhouse model to support people with a lived experience of mental ill-health. It's located at 6 Florence Street Moonah. For people 18 years or older.

Call **1800 955 700**
or email info@homebasetas.org.au

Rethink Waste Tasmania

A fabulous online guide to waste and recycling has been produced by Rethink Waste Tasmania. This is an initiative of local councils and supported by the Tasmanian Government.

Go to rethinkwaste.com.au
or scan the qrcode to view their
A-Z guide to recycling and waste.



Claremont Flower Show

CLAREMONT
FLOWER
SHOW GROUP

The Claremont 2026 Daffodil, Camellia & Spring Flower Show is on Saturday 5 September 12pm-4pm (Official Opening 2pm) and again on Sunday 6 September 10am-3pm. At the Claremont War Memorial Hall, corner of Main Road and Bilton Street. General admission \$5, concession \$3 and EFTPOS available.

claremontflowershowgroup.org

St George Society

Clark is home to numerous cultural and nation-focused community groups. For instance, the Royal Society of St George Tasmanian Branch. It provides opportunities to participate in a range of social and cultural events.

Members are also invited to attend events worldwide, as well as events organised by other Commonwealth societies in Tasmania. King Charles III is the Society's patron.

For more information email
stephenj1@iprimus.com.au

Miniature Show 2026

Miniature Enthusiasts of Tasmania are holding their show on Saturday 17 October 10am-4.30pm and Sunday 18 October 10am-4pm. At the Claremont War Memorial Hall, corner of Main Road and Bilton Street. Admission \$5 per adult.



UTAS Tax Clinic

UNIVERSITY of TASMANIA

Need help with your tax return? The University of Tasmania Tax Clinic is a free community support service that provides advice on your tax return, tax regulation and legislation, small business obligations and complex tax issues. It's located on the Ground Floor at 157 Elizabeth Street in Hobart.

Call **6226 6118**
or email tax.clinic@utas.edu.au

Want to get in touch with Andrew?

- Drop into the office at 188 Collins Street Hobart
- Post a letter to GPO Box 32 Hobart TAS 7001
- Phone 6234 5255 or 6234 5861
- Email andrew.wilkie.mp@aph.gov.au
- Ask for a meeting

andrewwilkie.org



Notice Board contributions welcome

Community groups, including in that area of Franklin set to become part of Clark, are welcome to submit notices for publication. To be considered, material must be in the public interest, brief and in no way related to any for-profit enterprise.

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