# ISO 639-3 Registration Authority
# Request for Change to ISO 639-3 Language Code

Change Request Number: 2019-047 (completed by Registration authority)

Date: 2019-2-17

Primary Person submitting request: Kirk Miller

E-mail address: kirkmiller at gmail dot com

Names, affiliations and email addresses of additional supporters of this request:


PLEASE NOTE: This completed form will become part of the public record of this change request and the history of the ISO 639-3 code set and will be posted on the ISO 639-3 website.

## Types of change requests

Type of change proposed (check one):

1. ☐ Modify reference information for an existing language code element
2. ☐ Propose a new macrolanguage or modify a macrolanguage group
3. ☐ Retire a language code element from use (duplicate or non-existent)
4. ☐ Expand the denotation of a code element through the merging one or more language code elements into it (retiring the latter group of code elements)
5. ☒ Split a language code element into two or more new code elements
6. ☐ Create a code element for a previously unidentified language

For proposing a change to an existing code element, please identify:

Affected ISO 639-3 identifier:   xtz

Associated reference name:     Tasmanian


## 5. Split a language code element into two or more code elements

(a) List the languages into which this code element should be split:
Seven to nine languages, (i) to (ix), are proposed.

The primary and secondary names are taken from AIATSIS, which mostly got them from Tindale and Horton, or from Bowern (2012).

The 'T' codes in paretheses following the names are the AIATSIS / AUSTLANG reference codes. The 8-character codes in brackets are Glottolog codes.

*Northern family*
(i) **Northern Tasmanian** / Tommeginne (T1) [part of neta1235]*
(ii) **Port Sorell Tasmanian**  (T13) [port1278]

*Western family* [west2205]
(iii) **Northwestern Tasmanian** / Peerapper (T3, T6, T11, T12)
(iv) **Southwestern Tasmanian** / Toogee (T10)


*Northeastern family*
(v) **Northeastern Tasmanian** / Pyemmairrener (T7, T9, T14) [benl1235]
     (Ben Lomond, Cape Portland–Piper River)
(vi) **North Midlands Tasmanian** / Tyerrernotepanner (T4) [part of neta1235]*


* Bowern did not consider North Midlands (T4) to be a distinct language from Northeastern. However, Dixon & Crowley did, and Glottolog follows in separating it from Northeastern, though they appear to conflate it with Northern Tasmanian (T1).


*Eastern family*
(vii) **Oyster Bay Tasmanian** / Paredarerme (T2, T8, T15) [oyst1235]
     (Big River Tasmanian (T8) is instead known as Lairmairrener)
(xiii) **Southeast Tasmanian** / Nuenonne (T5) [sout1439]**
(ix) **Bruny Island Tasmanian** (T5) [brun1235]**


** Glottolog follows Bowern in treating Southeast Tasmanian as a pair of languages, so it may be appropriate to assign two ISO codes, one for Bruny Island [brun1235] and one for the hinterland [sout1439]. AIATSIS assigns code T5 to both.


Bowern also treats Oyster Bay as a pair of languages, but this is not followed by Glottolog.


(b) Referring to the criteria given above, give the rationale for splitting the existing code element into two or more languages:
Bowern (2012), the best investigation of Tasmanian materials to date, identifies a dozen Tasmanian languages. However, several of these have only marginal documentation, or are extracted from word lists where different languages had been jumbled together, and so are unlikely to meet ISO requirements. Neither have they been accepted by Glottolog. AIATSIS codes do not correspond one-to-one to Bowern, as they were based on an earlier study, namely Crowley & Dixon (1981).


Glottolog more closely follows the conference paper Bowern & Lau (2011). Bowern (2012) consolidates several of the languages in Bowern & Lau.


(c) Does the language code element to be split represent a major language in which there already exists a significant body of literature and research? Are there contexts in which all the proposed separate languages may still be considered the same language—as in having a common linguistic identity, a shared (or undistinguished) body of literature, a written form in common, etc.? If so, please comment.
No. Not only was Tasmanian not a single language, but it does not even appear to have been a single language family. (Bowern classifies the languages into 3 to 4 independent families, Glottolog into a somewhat different 4 families). As such, [xtz] might be considered as an ISO 639-2 code, analogous to other geographic codes, such as neighboring [aus] Australian and [paa] Papuan.

In order to complete the change request, the form "Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3" (file name "ISO639-3_NewCodeRequestForm.doc" or "ISO639-3_NewCodeRequestForm.rtf") must also be submitted for each new identifier that is to be created. That step can be deferred until this form has been processed by the ISO 639-3 registrar.

## Sources of information

Please use whichever of the points below are relevant in order to document the sources on which you have based the above proposal.

(a) First-hand knowledge. Describe:


(b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:


(c) Knowledge from published sources (please give complete bibliographical references):
Claire Bowern (2012), "The riddle of Tasmanian languages", Proc. R. Soc. B, 279


Claire Bowern & Tyler Lau (2011), "Computational Phylogenetics and the number of Tasmanian Languages". Paper Presented at ICHL, Osaka, 2011.


Terry Crowley & R.M.W. Dixon (1981), "Tasmanian". In R.M.W. Dixon & B.J. Blake, eds., *Handbook of Australian languages*, vol. 2, 395-421.


AIATSIS / AUSTLANG descriptions are available at URL https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/language/Txx, where 'Txx' is replaced with the reference code.


Glottolog bibliographies are available at URL https://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/abcd1234, where 'abcd1234' is replaced with the language code.


**Please return this form to:**
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SIL International, Office of Language Information Systems
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