



Suggestion 57

Les Montanjees

2 pages

From: Les Montanjees [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 8 November 2017 11:39 AM
To: FedRedistribution - SA
Subject: Proposed redistribution of Mayo electorate

To the Redistribution Committee for South Australia,

As a resident of the federal electoral district of Mayo I write to make suggestions to the South Australian Federal Redistribution currently being undertaken by the Australian Electoral Commission.

I do not believe that the Division of Mayo should be abolished in this redistribution process. I note that the committee responsible for managing the redistribution must consider

1. Community of Interests within the proposed electorate, including economic, social and regional interests.
2. Means of communication and travel within the proposed federal electorate
3. The physical features of an area of the proposed federal electorate.

With these criteria in mind, I would like to make the following comments:

Community of Interests

“Community” is what defines this electorate. Mayo is largely made up of small to medium-sized country towns and rural areas. It is well acknowledged that areas such as this are characterised by close-knit, independent and resourceful folk who tend to remain in the area for generations as stewards of the land and the settlements where people call it home. Volunteerism thrives and the creative arts flourish. Sport, farmers markets, sharing, self-help, valuing heritage and the environment are all characteristic of this electorate. A typical example of the community spirit that exists here is during bushfires, when local CFS groups help each other, incorporating the long experience of the farming communities and generations of settled families in order to fight the fires. Recently a bushfire expert from Mt Barker came to KI to help residents establish their bushfire plans. We help each other in Mayo.

This part of South Australia was home to the Kurna people long before white settlement and remains so. They have a spiritual connection to the land and sea. When they pass from the Earth their spirits follow the ancient journey of their ancestors to their resting place on Kangaroo Island. It would be unthinkable to carve up the area and parcel it out among metropolitan electorates to which the Kurna people have no connection.

With its fertile soils and reliable rainfall the Mayo electorate is well placed to make a considerable contribution economically. The electorate contains several major wine and horticulture regions and significant dairy, sheep and cropping areas. The canola and Ligurian honey industries on Kangaroo Island have attracted worldwide interest (Japan has bought the whole canola crop for the past several years) and the island joins the rest of Mayo as a large contributor to the tourism industry.

Physical features of Mayo

The electorate of Mayo describes a gentle crescent that takes in the Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island. It is a natural fit, delineating a clear rural/semi-rural region, quite distinct from the metropolitan electorates. People who live in areas such as this develop unique approaches to living that contribute to the progressive expansion of what it means to be Australian. It's impossible to put a value on

this and it is plain that to carve it up and distribute its pieces into electorates in which they don't fit would be to lose something precious. Once it's gone it can never be resurrected.

I hope you will consider my submission, and that you will see fit to keep the Division of Mayo as one of the ten electoral divisions in South Australia.

Yours sincerely, Les Montanjees

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