



Suggestion 141

Tania Kunze

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From: Tania Kunze [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 15 November 2017 6:53 PM
To: FedRedistribution - SA
Subject: Changes to electoral boundaries

To the Redistribution Committee for South Australia,

I write to make suggestions to and express my concerns about the South Australian Federal Redistribution currently being undertaken by the Australian Electoral Commission.

I am a constituent of the Federal Division of Mayo.

I do not believe that the Division of Mayo, which is a large area and comprises of many diverse communities, should be abolished in this redistribution process.

I note that the committee responsible for managing the redistribution must consider;

1. Communities of Interest 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 do not believe that the Division of Mayo should be abolished.

Communities of Interest

As a constituent of Mayo, I know that the collaboration between Federal and Local Government is incredibly important. Mayo includes the entirety of the Adelaide Hills Council, Mount Barker District Council, Alexandrina Council, Victor Harbor Council, The District Council of Yankalilla and the Kangaroo Island Council. To abolish Mayo and split these councils between two or three electorates would mean that my local community is not represented consistently.

I have personally been involved in the community run heritage steam railway "Steamranger" which crosses 3 council zones, and often has complex negotiations with more than one government body, should the electorate be rezoned, these negotiations will become even more complex.

I am also involved in a number of community arts initiatives across the Mayo electorate and can attest to the diversity of the many rural and semi-rural communities already existing in our area. I believe we need individual federal representation, because our issues are not as uniform as our city electoral counterparts.

The community of Mayo has shared interests and passions. Mayo has a very high percentage of volunteers, local events like country shows and festivals are well attended and weekend sport is an institution. Personally I have been involved in art markets, school holiday programs, community art exhibitions and festivals throughout Mayo and have been impressed at the diversity, professional standards and enthusiasm for these events, both by organisers and attendees.

In an economic sense, Mayo contains the vast majority of South Australia's horticulture industry and seven distinct wine regions. I believe it is better that these important businesses in our community are represented by someone who understands the issues they are facing, rather than being represented by someone based in

the metropolitan area. We also have a growing tourism industry, some excellent youth programs and some very philanthropic community minded business leaders.

At the recent election, the results from the ballot boxes show a consistent vote for our current independent Federal Member. I was working in one of the polling booths and our local voters asked Federal Parliament loud and clear for an independent voice in this region.

Physical features of Mayo

There are distinct physical features that define Mayo from the metropolitan electorates and the rural electorate of Barker, including the Hills Face Zone, the Onkaparinga River and the Lower Lakes.

The Hills Face Zone is a large planning zone in South Australia that restricts development in the Adelaide Foothills and Mount Lofty Ranges. As a result of this zone, there is an effective barrier between metropolitan Adelaide and the communities of the Adelaide Hills. It does not make sense for these two distinct areas to be represented by a metropolitan based electorate.

The Lower Lakes separate riverside communities including Goolwa, Milang and Currency Creek from the Division of Barker. This creates a true physical barrier between Mayo and Barker.

Population Growth in Key Areas

I know that the AEC must attempt to make sure all of the remaining ten electorates have a similar population. Mayo currently has 3 fast growing communities in Mount Barker, Victor harbor and Strathalbyn. Mount Barker in particular currently has a population 34,000, but this is projected to increase to 55,000 by 2036. It would not be fair for an area of this size to be included within a metropolitan seat boundary, as the needs and experiences of the voters would be considerably different.

In a nutshell, I think it would be a huge shame for this large, diverse and rapidly growing area to have it's federal representation scattered to the wind.

The redistribution of a local federal electorate appears to me as a way of squeezing out an independent candidate, which I hope is incorrect, as I thought the Australian political system was actually democratic in structure.

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, Tania Kunze [REDACTED]

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