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Comment on suggestion 23

Mel Ready

4 pages

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 15 December 2017 9:08 AM
To: FedRedistribution - SA
Subject: [SA REDISTRIBUTION SUGGESTIONS] Mel Ready *WWW* [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Attachments: vic-Mel Ready-.docx

South Australian Redistribution comment on suggestion uploaded from the AEC website.

Name: Mel Ready

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Additional information:

Dear AEC

I oppose the submissions made to the Australian Electoral Commission that suggest moving the suburbs of Happy Valley, Aberfoyle Park and Flagstaff Hill, into the federal electorates of Mayo and Kingston which stretch down to Kangaroo Island and Noarlunga, Christie's Beach and Sellicks Beach respectively.

The federal electorates of Mayo and Kingston have little in common with Happy Valley, Aberfoyle Park and Flagstaff Hill.

Natural boundaries

There is a clear natural boundary between these suburbs and the southern boundary of the electorate of Boothby and the electorates of Mayo and Kingston. The natural boundary includes the areas of Happy Valley Reservoir, Glenthorne Farm and O'Halloran Hill Recreation Park and the foothills as demonstrated in the attached maps.

Communities of interest

To separate Happy Valley, Aberfoyle Park and Flagstaff Hill from the rest of Boothby, in particular the areas of Blackwood, Craighburn Farm, Eden Hills and Bellevue Heights makes little sense. These suburbs share significant communities of interest.

All these areas are at significant risk of bushfires during the summer months. The suburbs of Belair, Glenalta, Hawthorndene, Blackwood, Craighburn Farm, Eden Hills and Bellevue Heights, Pasadena and those of Flagstaff Hill, Aberfoyle Park and Happy Valley share very real concerns on bushfire policy and management. These suburbs, at the base of the Mount Lofty Ranges, are all leafy foothills areas with a high bushfire risk.

As part of this bushfire concern, residents in these suburbs are all concerned about roads leading to and from the area which, in the event of a bushfire, would present a grave risk for these constituents.

Roads and transport

Residents in the suburbs of Happy Valley, Aberfoyle Park and Flagstaff Hill share very similar transport interests along with residents around Belair, Glenalta, Hawthorndene, Blackwood, Craighburn Farm, Eden Hills and Bellevue Heights. There are very few main roads in and out of the area. This is a serious problem and concern for residents during bushfire season.

As many residents commute for study or work or to shop roads are also a daily concern. Residents in Happy Valley, Aberfoyle Park and Flagstaff Hill can travel to Blackwood and along Main Road towards the city or they can travel to Flagstaff Road and then along Marion Road or South Road to the city.

All routes are congested and struggle to cope with the traffic load.

Residents in Happy Valley, Aberfoyle Park and Flagstaff Hill have limited public transport options. The only current option is by bus. Residents may benefit from the extension of the train line from Tonsley to Flinders University and the federal Member and state Liberal representative are working hard to see a transport hub created for residents to take advantage of the close by transport option.

There is significant, long-term traffic pressure on Marion Road and South Road. For these reasons the federal government and the former and current Members for Boothby fought for and secured significant federal funding to address serious traffic bottlenecks.

The current Member for Boothby secured \$2 million for a study into Marion Road. The federal government is also investing \$496 million of federal funding for the Darlington Upgrade to fix the South Road-Sturt Road bottleneck, including an additional \$42 million announced during the federal election campaign to extend the train line from Tonsley to Flinders Medical Centre.

Shopping

Most residents of Flagstaff Hill, Aberfoyle Park and Happy Valley shop locally at the Aberfoyle Hub shops. Many also shop at the Flagstaff shops, Blackwood shops and Westfield Marion.

Previous submissions

I note that in the 2003 and 2011 redistribution submissions by the Liberal Party to the Australian Electoral Commission Redistribution process it was noted that:

“Strong communities of interest are scattered throughout the hills face zone, particularly around the suburbs of Flagstaff Hill and Blackwood. Both are well serviced by local recreational, commercial and community facilities and have direct access to the Adelaide CBD by public transport and road networks.

The Liberal Party suggests that in order to bring the division of Boothby within the tolerances of the projected enrolment criteria, the best solution is to transfer electors from the division of Mayo to the division of Boothby.

In giving consideration to preparing a redistribution which keeps changes for electors to a minimum, the Liberal Party suggests that the Committee consider transferring the suburb of Aberfoyle Park from Mayo to Boothby.

It is worth mentioning that in 2003, both the Liberal Party and the ALP in their submissions made suggestions that Aberfoyle Park had a common community of interest with Flagstaff Hill and the metropolitan division of Boothby and that the transfer of electors in Aberfoyle Park from the division of Mayo to the division of Boothby could be well supported on community of interest grounds. The Liberal Party believes these arguments still apply.

It is also worth observing that in comments on the metropolitan part of Mayo the 2003 Redistribution Committee accepted “the desirability of uniting the Aberfoyle Park/Flagstaff Hill areas”.

Summary

I believe that the changes proposed in the Liberal Party and Labor Party submissions would substantially disrupt our community in Boothby.

Our current southern boundary is ideal in maintaining our federal electorate of Boothby as one centred on the southern and inner southern suburbs of Adelaide.

The suburbs of Flagstaff Hill, Aberfoyle Park and Happy Valley belong in Boothby.

Finally, I note the seat of Boothby was one of the first seats created in South Australia in 1903 along with Adelaide, Barker, Grey, Hindmarsh and Wakefield and so it should be retained.