Objection 57

William Gough

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Dear Australian Electoral Commission,

The suburbs of Flagstaff Hill, Aberfoyle Park and Happy Valley are currently in the federal electorate of Boothby. That's where we want them to stay.

Our community identifies more with the Mitcham Hills and Adelaide Plains areas, which include suburbs like Blackwood and Marion, than it does with the far southern suburbs such as Noarlunga, Christies Beach, Hackham West and Morphett Vale in the federal elecorate of Kingston.

In our area we share much more community, retail and transport infrastructure with the rest of Boothby than we do with residents in the federal electorate of Kingston. We use Happy Valley Drive, Flagstaff Road, Marion Road and South Road to get to the city, or shopping precincts at Westfield Marion. We use Main Road through Blackwood to get to the city as well. We commute to train stations in Boothby that service the Seaford, Tonsley and Belair Lines. Miost of our journeys are in a northerly direction, towards Blackwood, Westfield Marion, various shopping areas near Marion Road or South Road, and to the CBD.

Most residents in our area will use Flinders Medical Centre and Flinders University located at Bedford Park in the heart of Boothby at some point in their lives, and many work at these centres. These community of interest, travel, economic and social factors should be given much more weight by the Electoral Commission when deciding future boundaries than environmental features like the Sturt River.

With the Onkaparinga Council based so far away in Noarlunga – where we rarely go – we want to retain access to our locally based Federal Member of Parliament in Boothby, rather than a Federal MP in Morphett Vale.

I object to the Commission's draft boundaries that will see our area moved out of Boothby, in many cases, for the first time in over 20 years.

Yours sincerely, William Gough