



Suggestion 101

Mark McDermid

2 pages

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From: Mark McDermid [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 9 November 2017 9:36 AM
To: FedRedistribution - SA
Subject: Saving the seat of MAYO

To the Redistribution Committee for South Australia,

Dear Sir/Madam, I am writing to you to request that the seat of MAYO is not removed as part of a proposed redistribution and reduction of federal seats being undertaken by the Australian Electoral Commission.

I am a constituent of the seat of Mayo, and believe there are many reasons why MAYO should remain as it is, and not be abolished in this redistribution process.

Mayo consists of multiple Local Council communities (including Adelaide Hills, Mount Barker, Kangaroo Island, etc) all with common interests. These Local Councils engage and collaborate closely with our Federal member who is able to represent a consistent view to parliament. Disbanding this collection of communities and splitting them across other electorates which don't have the same interests or challenges would be a retrograde step.

These areas of common interest and business, such as horticulture, food and wine (there are 7 wine districts in Mayo) are best represented by someone who understands the issues they are facing, rather than being represented by someone based in the metropolitan area. At the last federal election, the results for the seat of MAYO show a consistent vote for our current independent Federal Member, Rebekha Sharkie. I believe this shows a desire across the region for an independent voice in Federal Parliament. It would be disappointing if this voice was silenced due to the electorate being abolished.

There are distinct physical features that define Mayo and differentiate it from the metropolitan electorates and the neighbouring rural electorate of Barker, including the Hills Face Zone 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.

I realise that the AEC must try to make sure all of the remaining ten SA electorates have similar populations. It is worth knowing that Mayo currently has 3 fast growing communities in Mount Barker, Victor Harbor and Strathalbyn. In particular, Mount Barker has a population 34,000 that is projected to grow to 55,000 by 2036. It would not be fair for an area of this size and population growth to be included within a metropolitan seat boundary, given the needs (such as roads, health, education and employment) of the Mayo constituents would clearly be considerably different to those of a metropolitan seat.

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

Yours sincerely, Mark McDermid [REDACTED]

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