



Suggestion 105

Lisa James

2 pages

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From: Lisa James [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 9 November 2017 12:21 PM
To: FedRedistribution - SA
Subject: The seat of Mayo

To the Redistribution Committee for South Australia,

I am a constituent of the Federal Division of Mayo.

I do not believe that the Division of Mayo should be abolished in this redistribution process.

Mayo contains the vast majority of South Australia's horticulture industry and seven distinct wine regions. I believe it is better that these primary industries are represented by someone who understands the issues they are facing, rather than being represented by someone based in the metropolitan area.

The current seat of Mayo has a strong community that works together and understands the challenges faced in country areas. As an example of community I would suggest the wonderful volunteer organisations that protect and give information regarding emergencies, particularly bushfire. The needs of our community are vastly different from those of people living in the city. We need representation that understands how important, and different our needs are. We need to be represented, not sidelined by larger metropolitan populations.

At the recent election, the results from the ballot boxes show a consistent vote for our current independent Federal Member. I believe this shows a need across the region for an independent voice in Federal Parliament, and it would be disappointing if this voice was silenced due to the electorate being abolished. I believe it would be in the interests of the two major parties to abolish an independent seat for their own gain and I am very worried that this might be the case. I feel it is wrong for a democratic process to be able to marginalise independent voices and I fear the government and opposition may work together to do that.

I moved from the city to the Adelaide Hills two years ago, and I can see how different the needs are for people up here. Representation for local primary producers is so important, and the different needs for growing families in country areas rather than suburban areas is obvious to me. But also life itself, distances travelled, the need for community and neighbourhood, different environmental impacts – these are all things that don't affect city people in the same way, but are extremely important in the country. It is important that we have a voice about issues that affect our lives.

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.

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.

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