



Submission S4

Dr Mark Mulcair

SUGGESTIONS FOR 2025 SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL REDISTRIBUTION

Dear Committee Members,

Please find my Suggestions for the 2025 South Australian federal redistribution

I hope these Suggestions will help you in your deliberations.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Dr Mark Mulcair

INTRODUCTION

I am grateful for the opportunity to offer my Suggestions to the 2025 South Australian redistribution.

I am a completely independent person, with no affiliation to any political party or organization, but I have always had a strong interest in redistributions and electoral boundaries. In recent years, there has been a growing group of us that have emerged to offer our opinions and suggestions, to complement and provide alternatives to the usual political party submissions.

While I am not a resident of South Australia, I have contributed to many redistribution suggestions over the past 15 years, and am quite familiar with the state's geography and communities of interest.

I hope that my Suggestions will be of benefit to the Committee in their deliberations.

GENERAL STRATEGY

The projection figures show that the two seats above tolerance – Spence and Mayo – adjoin the two seats below tolerance – Makin and Barker. In theory, the changes could be confined to these four seats, with the other six left completely untouched.

However, I always believe that redistributions provide the opportunity to tidy up kinks and anomalies in existing boundaries even if the numbers don't strictly require it. To this end, I have been able to make a few more beneficial changes to some of the other seats, especially to the Division of Boothby.

The expansion of Makin and the contraction of Mayo results in a generally anti-clockwise rotation of seats throughout metropolitan Adelaide (e.g. the Divisions of Adelaide and Boothby).

All of my proposed changes are relatively minor, and all 10 existing seats clearly retain their general character. I do not see any need to make any sort of radical changes or redrawings of the existing boundaries.

BOUNDARIES

In regional areas, I have used municipal boundaries wherever possible. Failing that, I have at least tried to use SA2 boundaries or open space to provide a clear divide between Divisions.

In metropolitan Adelaide, I have focussed on major roads and natural features – all of my proposed changes follow significant roads or rivers in the area.

POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS

While there is no requirement for ‘electoral fairness’ in federal redistributions, it is still interesting to look at possible political implications.

In this case, the greatest changes occur between two relatively safe Labor seats (Spence and Makin), and the territory involved is equally safe for Labor, so the impact on both seats’ margins will be minimal. The only other seat to undergo any significant adjustment is Mayo, currently held by an independent.

SUGGESTIONS

GREY

I am proposing that the Division of Grey remain unchanged. While it is at the lower end of tolerance, the seat is already geographically enormous, so should not gain any further territory unless absolutely necessary.

GREY		Current	Projected
Existing		129,724	132,595

BARKER

Barker is one of the Divisions that is below tolerance and must make gains. Assuming no changes with Grey, the only practical option is to make some sort of gain from the Division of Mayo.

Unfortunately, this means that at least one of the Adelaide Hills, Mount Barker, or Alexandria DCs will need to be split.

One option I considered was to transfer Strathalbyn and surrounds, given it has links to Wellington, Callington, and Murray Bridge. However, this area lies along one of the main communication lines from Mount Barker to the coast, so removing it from Mayo would leave these two areas somewhat disconnected.

I suggest instead transferring the very northern part of the Adelaide Hills DCs, around Kersbrook, Birdwood, Gumeracha, and Houghton. These communities have some good links northwards, with some of the major roads in the area running back to the Barossa Valley. Of all of the 'Hills' communities, these are probably the best fit with the existing western parts of Barker.

These changes add around 5500 electors, leaving Barker very close to quota at the projection time.

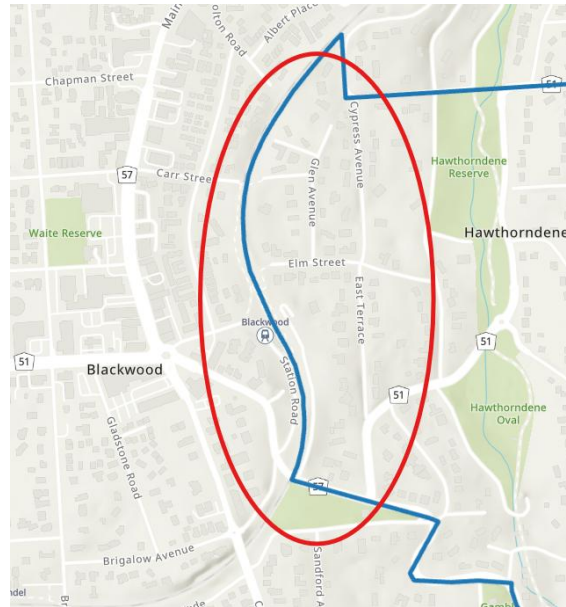


BARKER		Current	Projected
Existing		128,035	131,186
+ Adelaide Hills SA2	From Mayo	5405	5592
NEW		133,440	136,778

MAYO

Mayo is projected to be well over quota at the projection time, and the losses to Barker still leave it outside tolerance.

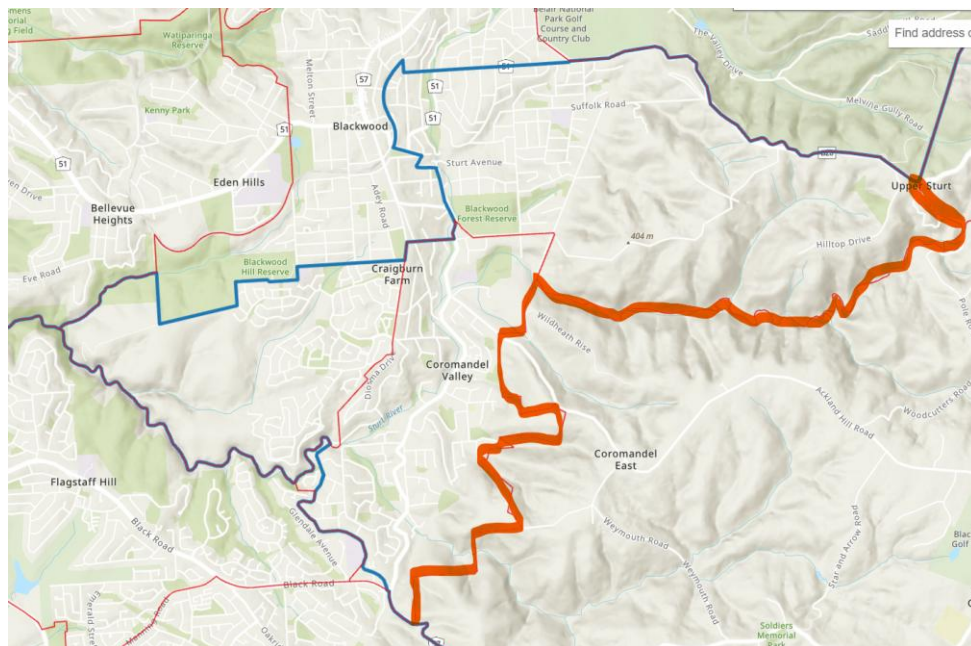
One unfortunate boundary from the last redistribution was the split of the Blackwood/Coromandel Valley area. The existing boundary with Boothby basically runs through the middle of Blackwood itself, and uses some fairly minor streets through the surrounding suburbs.



Now that the numbers permit, it makes enormous sense to re-unite as much of this area as possible.

Therefore, I suggest all of Blackwood, Craighburn Farm, Hawthorndene, and Coromandel Valley be transferred to Boothby. Most of this area was in Boothby before the previous redistribution, and the connections to the north and west – into suburban Adelaide and similar surrounding foothills communities – are all stronger than eastwards into Mayo.

The proposed boundary would largely run through parklands and open space, making it a particularly good divide between the two seats.



MAYO		Current	Projected
Existing		139,164	147,436
- Adelaide Hills SA2	To Barker	5405	5592
- Blackwood SA2 (balance)	To Boothby	5290	5860
- Coromandel Valley SA2	To Boothby	3227	3222
NEW		125,242	132,762

KINGSTON

Assuming no changes with Mayo, I suggest no changes to Kingston. The Division is within tolerance, and O'Halloran Hill is a very strong existing northern boundary.

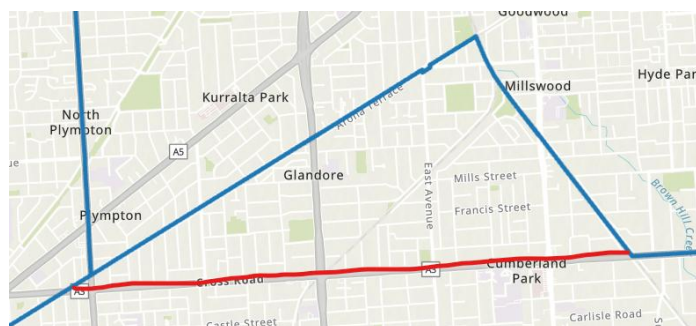
KINGSTON		Current	Projected
Existing		128,141	133,610

BOOTHBY

The gains from Mayo allow all of the suburbs surrounding Blackwood to be re-united in Boothby, forming a strong community of interest in the eastern part of the seat. They also take the Division outside tolerance at the projection time.

I suggest a very neat way to bring Boothby back within quota is to transfer the Millswood/Clarence Park area back to Adelaide, returning to the very strong boundary of Cross Road. This area was within Adelaide before the previous redistribution, and it seems extremely sensible to me to use Cross Road – the major east-west road in southern Adelaide – as the boundary between the two Divisions.

These changes would leave Boothby very close to quota at the projection time.



BOOTHBY		Current	Projected
Existing		128,867	133,351
+ Blackwood SA2 (balance)	From Mayo	5290	5860
+ Coromandel Valley SA2	From Mayo	3227	3222
- Goodwood Millswood SA2	To Adelaide	4714	4749
- Edwardstown SA2 (nth Cross Road)	To Adelaide	1777	1810
NEW		130,893	135,874

ADELAIDE

Straightening the southern boundary along Cross Road is a very sensible change, re-uniting all of the Goodwood/Millswood area back into a single seat.

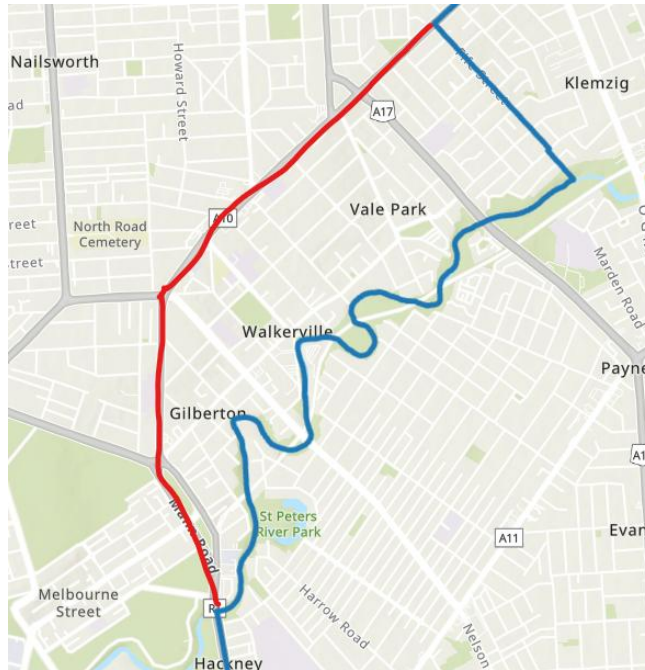
With this gain, Adelaide now needs to lose electors, and practically this can only be to either Sturt or Hindmarsh.

The Division of Hindmarsh is already projected to be towards the higher end of tolerance and has limited scope to make compensating losses after any gain from Adelaide, so I suggest it be left as is.

Instead, I suggest a logical transfer is Walkerville and Vale Park to the Division of Sturt. This makes sense, as Sturt is at the lower end of tolerance and can accept these electors without needing to make changes elsewhere.

This change would simply involve extending the existing boundaries along North East Road and Park Terrace. Both Walkerville and Vale Park would fit well with neighbouring suburbs on the north bank of the Torrens, currently in Sturt, and there are also some good links towards the south.

To avoid making a large kink in the boundary, I suggest Medindie remain in Adelaide. This allows the boundary to make a straighter path along Northcote Terrace to North East Road.



ADELAIDE		Current	Projected
Existing		130,638	135,319
+ Goodwood Millswood SA2	From Boothby	4714	4749
+ Edwardstown SA2 (nth Cross Road)	From Boothby	1777	1810
- Walkerville SA2 (east Northcote Tce)	To Sturt	4989	5250
NEW		132,140	136,628

HINDMARSH

I am proposing that Hindmarsh remain unchanged.

There is definitely a case to remove the area south of Adelaide Airport, as it would probably fit better with Boothby, but the numbers involved are too large and would cause too many flow on effects to other Divisions.

HINDMARSH		Current	Projected
Existing		130,799	137,208

STURT

Sturt can absorb Walkerville and Vale Park with no need for any other changes.

All of the other suburbs on the north bank of the Torrens and east of the CBD are currently in Sturt, so I feel this gain is simply a logical extension.

STURT		Current	Projected
Existing		129,873	133,986
+ Walkerville SA2 (east Northcote Tce)	From Adelaide	4989	5250
NEW		134,862	139,236

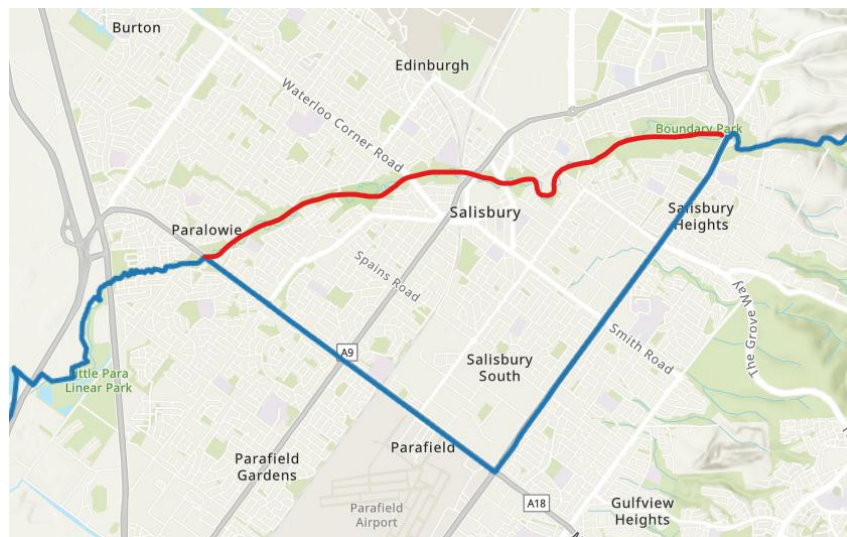
MAKIN

The Division of Makin is projected to be the most under-quota seat by far, and needs to make significant gains to be brought back within tolerance.

Fortunately, the seat adjoins Spence, which is the most over-quota Division. Therefore, a simple transfer of territory should be enough to bring both seats back within tolerance.

I suggest a very neat arrangement is to simply expand Makin to the Little Para River, taking in almost all of the rest of the Salisbury area plus all the suburbs immediately to the south. Since Makin already contains Salisbury East and Salisbury Heights, it seems logical to simply extend this further into Salisbury itself. The Little Para River forms a clear divide between ‘Salisbury’ and ‘Elizabeth’, so seems very suitable as a boundary.

Makin is set towards the top of tolerance at both the current and projection times, which is logical given its slow growth.



MAKIN		Current	Projected
Existing		123,230	125,587
+ Salisbury East SA2 (balance)	From Spence	2614	2685
+ Salisbury SA2 (sth Little Para River)	From Spence	11460	11068
NEW		137,304	139,340

SPENCE

The loss of Salisbury brings Spence back within tolerance and creates a very strong and clear new southern boundary.

The only slight drawback with this arrangement is that the area transferred to Makin is relatively slow growing, so most of the high-growth territory remains in Spence. However, I don't see any neat way around this without pushing Grey right down into the metropolitan area, or making a more radical redraw of Spence and Makin. I feel this is too much change at this redistribution.

Maybe at the next redistribution – or possible if/when Parliament is expanded and extra seats are created – could the issue of splitting the growth areas in the north be addressed.

Spence is set at the lower end of tolerance now, and its continued growth will push it towards the higher end at the projection time.

SPENCE		Current	Projected
Existing		139,392	153,055
- Salisbury East SA2 (balance)	To Makin	2614	2685
- Salisbury SA2 (sth Little Para River)	To Makin	11460	11068
NEW		125,318	139,302