



The Federal Redistribution 2003
South Australia



**Comment # 16
On Public Suggestions**

Australian Democrats

15 pages

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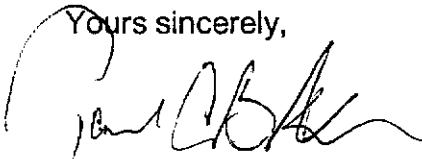
Redistribution Committee for South Australia
9th Floor, AMP Building,
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ADELAIDE SA 5000

Friday 18th July 2003

Dear Sirs,

I enclose the Australian Democrats [South Australian Division] Inc Comments on the Public Submissions to the Redistribution Committee for South Australia.

Yours sincerely,



for Tony Hill

2003 SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REDISTRIBUTION

COMMENTS ON THE PUBLIC SUGGESTIONS

AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS (S.A. DIVISION) INC

INTRODUCTION

Public Suggestions to the Redistribution Committee for South Australia were lodged on or before Friday 4 July 2003. The Public is now invited to provide Comments on the Suggestions.

In 1999, there were only ten Suggestions made to the Redistribution Committee. On this occasion, 24 Suggestions have been made. In 1999 we were able to divide the Suggestions into two broad categories, those which dealt with only one electorate or with a small group of electorates, and those which were Statewide Suggestions.

On this occasion, the categories are not so neatly defined. Two Suggestions relate only to electorate names. Twelve Suggestions relate essentially to one electorate. The balance include detailed Statewide Suggestions, with maps, as well as a Suggestion, essentially limited to submissions about one region (the National Party), our Suggestion, which was essentially a submission as to the general process, and with a particular focus on what might occur in rural South Australia, and one submission which provided detailed Suggestions in relation to all current electorates, but no overall conclusion as to what might occur throughout the State (the Liberal Party).

As in 1999, it is easier to commence our Comments by discussing the electorate based Suggestions, and then proceeding to the more general Suggestions. However, as a number of Suggestions have made specific recommendations in relation to the naming of electorates, we turn to that issue first.

NAMING OF ELECTORATES

Two Suggestions relate solely to the naming of electorates. Mr J D Encel suggests that electorates be named after Florey and Unaipon. For the reasons provided by Encel, we suggest that Florey is an inappropriate name for a Federal Electorate. We make no submission either way in relation to Unaipon.

Both Encel and Mr Michael Hedger suggest that the name Port Adelaide be abolished as an electorate. This is certainly a possibility which must be considered. To the other reasons provided by them, we would also add that a state electorate is now called Port Adelaide. Obviously, that is an argument which applies with equal force to the electorate name of Adelaide.

In his suggestion, Mr Glynn Evans suggests that the electorate of Sturt be renamed Dunstan. We opposed the suggestion of naming an electorate Dunstan in 1999. We did so on the ground that Mr Dunstan's contribution to the South Australian Politics was such that the opportunity to name an electorate after him should be given to the State Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission. Although this opportunity was not taken up in 2002, and the Commission has acted on the wishes of the House of Assembly that its electorate names be geographical rather than honorific, we maintain the view that the late Mr Don Dunstan should be honoured by the naming after him of a State Electorate rather than a Federal Electorate.

A number of other Suggestions included various submissions in relation to electorate names. Many supported the preference to retain the names of Federation Electorates. A number of suggestions include detailed maps with electorate names attached. In some cases the proposed electorates are given names on the basis of assigning the name of the current electorate which contained the majority of the new electorate. We do not necessarily support that method of name-transfer.

A better approach might be to consider the general historical region in which a particular electorate has been situated. For that reason, those who have generally suggested a westward movement of Boothby and a movement of Sturt into the city of Unley ignore the fact that, historically, Boothby has been a South Eastern suburban and hills electorate. If the Boundaries proposed by Mr Martin Gordon were accepted by the Redistribution Committee, then we would submit that the electorate which he names Boothby ought to be renamed by the restoration of the name of the electorate abolished in 1992 – Hawker, and that the electorate which he names Sturt ought to be renamed Boothby. Similar comments can be made in relation to the Suggestions of Mr Christopher Connolly and of One Nation.

In this respect, it is appropriate to record that we agree with the suggestion of Gordon and One Nation that, if the electorate which "appears to disappear" is Hindmarsh, then Port Adelaide could well be renamed Hindmarsh.

At this point, it is also appropriate to note that a number of suggestions as to a reconfiguration of Wakefield (Mr Neil Andrew, MP, One Nation, Liberal Party, Gordon and to a lesser extent Mr Charles Richardson) create electorates of Wakefield which are more reminiscent of the early electorate of Angas. Further, many submissions would result the entire District Council of Wakefield being outside the electorate of Wakefield, and in most cases, in Grey.

THE ELECTORATE BASED SUGGESTIONS

As we noted in 1999, electorate based suggestions potentially suffer from failure to consider the big picture, with the consequence that perfectly sensible electorate based suggestions may need to be rejected for reasons associated with the quota or other factors.

To that comment, we would add on this occasion that it is often easy to assert that various regions have some forms of community of interest. What is often harder to identify are the dividing lines. It is also easy to assert that three regions (call them A, B and C) share common interests, when a closer examination of the situation might suggest that, taking into account some socio-economic factors, geographical communication factors, local government area factors or other relevant issues, regions A and B might well share common interests but differ from region C, and that on other relevant grounds, areas B and C might well properly be linked, but A might be regarded as separate.

If such an analysis is undertaken then a number of potential electorate boundaries may become apparent where it might otherwise have been thought that there were none.

Perhaps the best example of the above point is to be seen by a close examination of the submissions of the Burnside, Norwood, Payneham and St Peters and Campbelltown Councils and of Mr Christopher Pyne, MP and Mr Andrew Southcott, MP.

Pyne convincingly suggests that the three local government areas result in an appropriate electorate of Sturt. There is much which links Burnside and Norwood. There is much that links Payneham and Campbelltown. On the other hand, it might only be the 1997 local government amalgamation which links Norwood and Payneham. The Suggestion from the City of Norwood, Payneham and St Peters points to three different Messenger newsletters being delivered within the local government area. Southcott also refers to Messenger newspaper deliveries in his analysis of Boothby (without explaining how it is that picking parts of the distribution of three particular Messenger newspapers provides the natural definition of an electorate containing broadly uniform communities of interest!).

A closer analysis may reveal that there is more to be said for the pleas of the Burnside and Campbelltown Councils for each of their Councils to be in the one electorate, but that there is not so much to be said for the same plea of the Norwood, Payneham and St Peters Council. At the same time, that analysis may weaken Pyne's general submission and may throw open as an appropriate alternative the Suggestion made by One Nation, Prof Harry E Green (as an alternative), Connolly and the Australian Labor Party, that Sturt (or Sturt renamed as Boothby) could become an electorate more focused on the south eastern suburbs rather than simply the eastern suburbs.

We now turn to the individual Suggestions.

Public Suggestion No.1 – Town of Gawler

We accept that there is merit in the submission made by the Town of Gawler. On the other hand, there is also merit in the ALP submission that Gawler has characteristics which are in common with other northern parts of Metropolitan Adelaide. As it happens, Gawler's preference to be part of an electorate which includes rural areas is almost impossible not to accommodate on this occasion. The seemingly inexorable southward

march of the boundary of Grey may eventually alter that position – however not on this occasion.

Public Suggestion No. 3 – Mr Christopher Pyne, MP – Member for Sturt

As in 1999, there is much of Mr Pyne's submission which is readily supportable – in particular his submission that the City of Campbelltown should be reunited in one electorate. Once again, there is a difference between the Suggestions of Pyne and of the Hon Trish Worth, MP - Member for Adelaide, in relation to the inner eastern suburbs.

However, in the end result, Pyne submits that the electorate of Sturt should be a relatively long narrow electorate with a north south axis rather than a more compact electorate. That factor potentially increases the distances to be travelled by the constituents through the electorate. These are minor consideration. In general terms the proposed electorate is quite sensible.

Pyne's case for the combination of the local government areas of Burnside, Norwood, Payneham and St Peters and Campbelltown in the one electorate is convincingly argued. There is much to commend it.

We would, however, take issue with the submissions made by Pyne and others, notably Southcott, which talk of the artificial notion of community interest of some regions "relating to an electorate". This is meaningless "doublespeak". The concept of communities of interest relates to geographical locations. It allows one to suggest that two regions share common interests and can therefore be combined in one electorate on "community of interest" grounds.

The issues which identify communities of interest are not those which identify Federal Electorates. It is therefore usually incorrect to speak of an area outside the electorate of Sturt as having a community of interest with the electorate of Sturt. Rather, it might well be said that a relevant region outside Sturt (eg that part of the City of Campbelltown which is in Mayo) shares many interests with certain parts of the electorate of Sturt (eg the balance of the City of Campbelltown and perhaps parts of the City of Norwood, Payneham and St Peters).

Therefore, we do not agree with Pyne's statement (at page 3 of his Suggestion) that suburbs such as Teringie, Woodforde and others share "strong community of interest ties with the current electorate of Sturt". Not only is the statement meaningless in and of itself, it is irrelevant when Pyne's own Suggestion involves a removal from Sturt of other areas. For the assertion to have any force, there is a need to ensure that the excluded areas do not share "community of interest ties" with the suburb of Teringie, Woodforde *et al.* Given the geographical proximity of the suburbs which Pyne proposes to remove, to those which he proposes to include, it is by no means clear that the Suggestion does not suffer from the defect just identified.

However, despite our quarelling with part of his reasoning, we accept that Pyne makes a convincing case for the reuniting of the City of Campbelltown in one electorate along with Norwood, Payneham and St Peters, especially Payneham. With respect, however the case is not so convincing that Campbelltown needs to be joined in the same electorate as Burnside.

At page 9 of his Suggestion, Pyne argues that the eastern parklands are a natural boundary for his electorate. While this is true, the reality is that the whole of the parklands constitutes a natural boundary for electorates. That boundary must be crossed somewhere, and possibly more than once. The real difficulty is to identify which parts of the parklands provide the best boundaries. In many ways, the strongest and most natural boundary provided by the parklands is on the western side of the City of Adelaide, where there is also a railway line which constitutes a fairly natural additional boundary.

Once one accepts that the City of Adelaide (including North Adelaide) must be included in a larger electorate, then the question becomes: which parts of the parklands cannot or should not be electorate boundaries? Once it is realised that that question must be asked, the force of Pyne's submission in this respect is very greatly diminished.

Public Suggestion No. 5 – Mr Thomas Gallasch

We agree with Mr Gallasch's Suggestion, which, in our view, adds to the argument which we have put previously, and again on this occasion, in relation to the need to remove the balance of the City of Campbelltown from the Hills based electorate of Mayo (or whatever Hills based electorate is ultimately created).

Public Suggestion No. 6 – St Ignatius' College

While the Suggestion of St Ignatius' College seeks the same outcome as Pyne and others, including various Councils and possibly Gallasch, the College does not demonstrate why any particular special case should be made for it. It could well be said that it is the College's own decision to have two campuses separated by a quite large distance, and it therefore takes the risks which flow from that. No doubt similar considerations apply to all sorts of other organizations.

That said, as is obvious, we agree with the College's proposition that the Athelstone Campus should not be contained in the electorate of Mayo. We do not rule out the possibility that the Athelstone Campus could properly be contained in an electorate generally based in the north eastern suburbs of Adelaide and that the College's Norwood Campus might not happen to be in an electorate based on the south eastern suburbs.

A more powerful case might well have been made by the College if it provided evidence to show that it had a very small number of students who resided in the Hills parts of Mayo and a large proportion of its students who resided in Sturt, Makin and the part of the City of Campbelltown which is in Mayo. Pyne attempted this sort of argument in

relation to the more clearly geographically zoned public education institutions in and around the City of Campbelltown. In this respect, Pyne's submission is convincing.

Public Suggestion No. 8 – Prof Harry E Green

Green's Suggestion is perfectly sound. As is the case with almost every other local government authority, there is very good reason to attempt to ensure that each local government authority's geographical region is kept within one Federal electorate. Sometimes this is not possible.

Green does make the sensible observation that it might be possible for the City of Burnside to be in the same electorate as the City of Unley.

Public Suggestion No. 11 - City of Burnside

This Suggestion involves a perfectly valid request to keep the Council's geographical region within one Federal electorate. It is interesting to note that Burnside does not specifically say what other areas should be in the same electorate as it. The request that it remain within the Sturt electorate may be seen as an implication of a preference to remain in an electorate with the City of Norwood, Payneham and St Peters. However, that is not the only option.

Public Suggestion No.12 – The Barossa Council

The Barossa Council's fear of being split between two electorates is not a necessary consequence of the potential abolition of Wakefield. The Council's request that Wakefield not be abolished fails to address the necessary incursion into that electorate by Grey. Also, it does not address the question of what other areas the Council would like to see in the proposed maintained electorate of Wakefield.

Public Suggestion No.13 – Mr Neil Andrew, MP

Mr Andrew's Suggestion proceeds on an unstated assumption. He accepts the logic of Yorke Peninsula being removed from Wakefield and being placed in Grey. He accepts that one electorate must be based in the South East of the State (Barker). However, he seeks to maintain the existence of a separate electorate substantially based on the Riverland (Wakefield) by taking territory from Barker and Grey. The implication is that Barker must gain territory from elsewhere, as must Wakefield. This implies either the destruction of Mayo, which loses territory both to Wakefield and Barker and therefore leaves a large part of the Adelaide Hills to be incorporated in an electorate containing a substantial Adelaide Plains element, or alternatively the inclusion in Barker of a substantial element of the Southern outer metropolitan area.

The unstated assumption is that either or both of those options is acceptable. We disagree. Barker should not contain a substantial Adelaide Metropolitan component. The Adelaide

Hills are sufficiently populous to be the basis of an electorate which should not contain parts of the plains.

The alternative to Andrew's Suggestion is that if Wakefield is to obtain the Riverland, Barossa, Light, Gawler and Mallala and regain the Clare and Gillbert Valleys, then it must gain some electors from Bynothon. In light of the ALP submission that Gawler is part of the outer Adelaide Metropolitan area (probably more accurately described as a dormitory town), then the inclusion of some parts of Metropolitan Adelaide in such a hybrid electorate is not inappropriate.

Public Suggestion No.14 – Mr Andrew Southcott, MP

Like Pyne's Suggestion, Southcott's Suggestion contains a deal of research and demographic evidence pointing to a number of factors which, to an extent, are common throughout the current electorate of Boothby, or at least parts of it.

Southcott's case for the inclusion of Aberfoyle Park and Flagstaff Hill in the same electorate is persuasive. It is echoed in the ALP submission. However, Southcott does not grapple with the question of whether it is inevitable that the electorate which is to include Aberfoyle Park and Flagstaff Hill should be one based on the southern Adelaide Plains Metropolitan area rather than, for example, an electorate based on the Adelaide Metropolitan area south of O'Halloran Hill or an electorate based on the eastern and southern Adelaide Hills region.

As with Pyne, submissions such as that "Boothby be should be remain a southern suburbs seat consistent with its community of interest" (p4) are meaningless doublespeak.

While Southcott makes the valid point that, so far as it may be possible, it is sensible to use local government boundaries as electoral boundaries, he provides no argument to support his contention that it should be the Mitcham Council which is kept intact rather than the Marion Council for the whole Holdfast Bay Council. He does not even face up to this inherent contradiction in his approach.

The statistics provided in relation to the Flinders University and the Flinders Medical Centre are meaningless. There is, for example, no comparison with the percentage use of those institutions which might exist on alternatively drawn boundaries of Boothby, for example substantially based on Marion and Holdfast Bay Councils.

Similarly, the statistics about Australia Post and local newspapers do not develop the argument. Indeed, the distribution of the Eastern Courier Messenger suggests that the alternative noted by Green, which is essentially the submission of One Nation and the ALP, may provide a better alternative for an electorate. Further, the distribution of the Messengers suggests that there maybe force in our argument that the Mitcham local government area actually cuts across a natural divider of communities of interest. The existence of the "Blackwood Times" may identify the Hills community within the City of Mitcham and being better combined in an electorate with other Hills communities,

such as the northern parts of Mayo and the parts of Aberfoyle Park and Flagstaff Hill which Southcott correctly identifies as being better united than divided.

Public Suggestion No.15 – Hon Trish Worth, MP

Ms Worth seeks an addition to the electorate of Adelaide which is sensible, taken in isolation, but also would be very advantageous to her in electoral terms. There is one significant flaw in her argument. Her conclusion that all inner City suburbs ought to be included in the one electorate has much force. Unfortunately, Worth's suggested boundaries for Adelaide do not bear out that submission. She ignores the inner City suburbs to the west of Adelaide. There may be justification for not including the inner western suburbs in an electorate of Adelaide, for example because this might make it more difficult to create an electorate in the western suburbs, given that they have a permanent barrier at the coastline. However this is not stated to be the reason for her ignoring the inner western suburbs in her Suggestion.

Public Suggestion No. 19 – The City of Campbelltown

We agree that the City of Campbelltown is not well served by being contained in two electorates. However for some Council areas, this will be inevitable. The real problem lies in the fact that one of those two electorates is substantially based in a region with which is not easy for residents of the City of Campbelltown to communicate and with a quite different community.

It is, after all, possible to imagine circumstances in which the boundaries of Sturt and Makin might be such that the City of Campbelltown was split between those two electorates. Such a split would be far less disadvantageous to the City of Campbelltown and its inhabitants than the current split between Sturt and Mayo.

On the other hand, we suggest that the City of Campbelltown is drawing somewhat too long a bow in suggesting that its has a strong relationship with the City of Burnside, but not mentioning other closer Councils such as Tea Tree Gully.

Public Suggestion No. 20 – City of Norwood, Payneham and St Peters

As with other Council Suggestions, we agree with the City of Norwood, Payneham and St Peters that Councils are better served if they remain in one electorate. Sometimes this is not possible.

The Council seeks to remain within the electorate of Sturt, but does not identify what other areas ought to be contained in it. To that extent, the submission is somewhat meaningless. If the Council means that its wants to be in one electorate with Burnside and Campbelltown, then there is much force in its Suggestion. However there is also much force in Suggestions made by others, and in other options open to the Redistribution Committee, which might result in the Council of Norwood, Payneham and

St Peters being combined with Burnside and Unley, with Adelaide, Walkerville and Prospect or with Campbelltown and Tea Tree Gully.

It is interesting to note that the Council complains of having difficulties in communicating with all of its residents because of the coverage of three different Messenger newspapers within the area. Perhaps this is an indication that the City of Norwood, Payneham and St Peters contains some different communities of interest. Perhaps some socio-economic and demographic factors split the council area, whereas other such factors justified the 1997 amalgamation.

THE GENERAL SUGGESTIONS

Some of the general Suggestions included detailed maps. Others, like ours, contained broader principles without specific suggestions for any or all electorates. One Suggestion (the Liberal Party) contains specific proposals for all 12 current electorates, but no internal requirement of consistency. That is to say the Liberal Party proposals in relation to any set of 11 electorates could not be completely accepted, because no 11 proposed electorates actually meld together to cover the entire State.

That is not to criticise any of the approaches. Those who provide detailed maps of the whole state have put forward concrete options for the Redistribution Committee. There may be reasons to accept or to reject those options. Where we believe such reasons to exist, obviously we will say so.

On the other hand those who paint the broad picture, or provide a series of different options in relation to various areas, also assist the Redistribution Committee by providing some building blocks upon which to base the final Redistribution.

We now turn to the various Suggestions.

Public Suggestion No.1 – Mr Glynn Evans

We submit that Mr Evans' comment that Mayo is held by very senior Minister and therefore is unlikely to be abolished is not justified. The identity of the incumbent in any electorate is not a factor to be taken into account by the Redistribution Committee.

Evans suggests that the railway line is a better boundary than South Road for the electorates of Adelaide and Port Adelaide / Hindmarsh. This submission is acceptable. We have previously agreed with the use of South Road. Both are quite reasonable boundaries.

Evans' suggestion that the Unley Council area be transferred from Adelaide to Boothby is sensible and has historical precedent. The City of Adelaide must be in some electorate. Therefore, the parklands must be breached as a natural boundary in at least one direction. We do not object to the concept of the parklands being breached in only one direction so that the City of Adelaide is the northernmost part of a southern suburbs electorate, or the

southernmost part of a northern suburbs electorate (or similarly for east and west). However, the current situation where the City of Adelaide is in the middle of an electorate which contains both northern and southern suburbs, but virtually none to the east or west, divides communities of interest. Evans provides one possible solution.

Public Suggestion No.7 – Mr Martin Gordon

Gordon suggests that the seat which is to be eliminated must be a City based electorate. His reasoning underpinning his conclusion ignores the possibility of reuniting the Riverland with the south east of the State in Barker, as was suggested by the ALP, Connolly and by us. Our view is that the demise of Hindmarsh is a possibility, but certainly not the only possibility.

As we have noted earlier, what Gordon suggests should be Boothby would be better being called Hawker and what he suggests should be called Sturt would be better as Boothby.

We strongly object to the suggestion made by Gordon that Murray Bridge should be excised from Barker and added to Wakefield. Richardson makes the same suggestion. If Barker is to maintain the Fleurieu Peninsula, then the only realistic link between the 2 main parts of the electorate, the south east of the State and the Fleurieu, is Murray Bridge. To remove Murray Bridge from the electorate is therefore contra-indicated on section 66(3)(b)(ii) grounds.

Further, the effect of removing Murray Bridge from Barker is to require that Barker contain parts of the outer metropolitan area. We submit that this is inappropriate in an electorate which is principally contained of the south eastern rural regions and towns.

If our opposition to the proposal in relation to Murray Bridge is accepted, then much of what flows from that change in Gordon's Suggestion relating to the Adelaide Metropolitan area, must necessarily fail. That said, we must also record that we oppose his proposals in relation to Mayo, Sturt and Adelaide.

Gordon's Mayo mixes Hills and plains communities without including easy routes of communication in the proposed electorate. Gordon's proposal in relation to Sturt appears contrived. Parts of the Cities of Prospect and Walkerville do not obviously lend themselves to inclusion with Norwood, Payneham and St Peters, let alone with Burnside.

Finally, we suggest that it would be surprising for the Adelaide parklands to be crossed in the westerly direction, where perhaps the parklands is the strongest boundary between communities of interest. We do not think it appropriate for the City of Adelaide to be in a generally western suburbs electorate.

Public Suggestion No.9 – National Party of Australia (SA) Inc

The National Party submission is based upon considerations of marginal importance under the Act, and fails to deal with the critical issue, namely the reduction of voter population in rural South Australia. The National Party appears to support lower quotas for rural electorates. Obviously this is not permitted. It would be a wrong exercise of the discretion of the Redistribution Committee to determine that a series of electorates should be set at the lower end of the quota range, solely on the basis that they are rural electorates. This would introduce weighting factor in favor of rural votes which is not permissible.

The National Party asserts the need for interstate rural representational parity with no citation of legal justification for it, and in the face of the clear requirement to the contrary because of the predominantly urban nature of South Australia's population profile.

The National Party's suggestion is the only one which fails to grapple with the need to add a significant number of voters to the electorate of Grey and the consequential effect which this must have on Wakefield. Finally, it is inconsistent for the National Party to suggest that a metropolitan electorate is the one to be abolished and then to decide that Mayo should be abolished, given its predominantly semi-rural nature.

Public Suggestion No.10 – Mr Christopher Connolly

Connolly has made a minor error in his division of the State into three regions. The statistical divisions which we recited in our Suggestion include the Playford and Onkaparinga Councils in the Adelaide statistical division, rather than the outer Adelaide Division.

Nevertheless, much of Connolly's reasoning and approach is valid. The only significant concern which we have with Connolly's Suggestion is that the City of West Torrens appears to be split between four electorates – Hindmarsh, Adelaide, Boothby and Sturt. This is not ideal.

As we have noted previously, if the Committee were minded to accept the bulk of Connolly's suggestion, then we would suggest that his Boothby be named Hawker and his Sturt be named Boothby.

PUBLIC SUGGESTION NO.16 – THE LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA (SA DIVISION)

For reasons which are internal and probably obvious, the Liberal Party does not particularly grapple with the need for the State of South Australia to lose an electorate. As the Liberal Party currently holds nine of the twelve South Australian electorates, for it to suggest that one of its own electorates should be abolished would create internal problems. To suggest that one of the ALP's electorates should be abolished would

inevitably result in the marginalisation of some adjoining Liberal held electorates. That would cause similar internal problems for the Liberal Party.

Nevertheless, much of what the Liberal Party submits is quite acceptable – in particular their recitation of the principles which guide the redistribution on pages 3 and 4. Every electorate as proposed by the Liberal Party would have merit, considered in isolation. The internal inconsistency of the Liberal Suggestions is best shown by the proposals in relation to Adelaide and Sturt, which mirror the Suggestions made by the Liberal Party sitting members of Parliament in those electorates. The Party does not seek to resolve the dispute between Pyne and Worth over whether the inner eastern Adelaide Metropolitan Suburbs should be in seat of Adelaide or Sturt.

There is one exception to the general position that the Liberal Party proposals are acceptable. That exception relates to Mayo, where the Liberal Party has provided a series of reductions to the electorate, but only minor gains. The Liberal Party is virtually alone in suggesting that the current Sturt/Mayo boundary in the City of Campbelltown is acceptable.

Public Suggestion No.17 – One Nation

As with most of the general Suggestions, there is much to commend the general principles and method adopted by One Nation in its Suggestion. However, as with the National Party, we consider that it would be inappropriate for the Redistribution Committee deliberately to set the rural and semi-rural electorates below quota and at the margins of the permissible range. That would create a deliberate pro-rural imbalance, which imbalances is not acceptable. For this reason, were the Redistribution Committee minded to accept much of the One Nation proposal, we would submit that there ought to be marginal adjustments so that the rural electorates are not all at the bottom end of the permissible quota range.

This could be achieved by putting more of the proposed Bonython in the electorate of Wakefield and more of the proposed Kingston in Mayo, with possibly a consequential transfer from Mayo to Barker.

All of the above said, the One Nation proposal for Mayo is probably the most acceptable suggestion of those made to the Redistribution Committee, particularly when all of the section 66(3)(b) criteria are considered.

Public Suggestion No. 18 – Australian Labor Party, South Australian Branch

As with most others, there is much to commend the ALP approach and reasoning, particularly in the country parts of South Australia. Obviously, we would support the ALP proposal in relation to Barker.

As in 1999, the two party preferred figures provided by the ALP are irrelevant to the Committee's considerations.

We agree with the ALP that there is merit in the proposal to include Gawler and Elizabeth in the same electorate, combined with some northern rural areas. The ALP proposal "softens" the divide between the Adelaide Metropolitan area and the rural regions.

However we do suggest that the ALP proposal in relation to Mayo results in an electorate which is too long in the north south direction. Travel and communication throughout the electorate are not optimised. A better proposal would be to include the northern part of the ALP's proposed Mayo (Barossa and Light) in the ALP's proposed Bonython, and including the Mitcham hills region in Mayo. Obviously consequential flow on adjustments would be needed throughout the Adelaide Metropolitan seats – however we would not expect this to be too difficult.

Public Suggestion No.22 – Mr Charles Richardson

Just because South Australia is to lose a seat, it is not the case that the Redistribution process must commence by attempting to identify which seat is to be lost. In our submission, by commencing this way, Mr Richardson has made a number of Suggestions which are unacceptable. In particular, the suggestion that Mayo could become an amalgamation of the Adelaide Plains Council of Tea Tree Gully and the northern Adelaide Hills is unacceptable. Further, for reasons which we have previously discussed in relation to Gordon's Suggestion, the transfer of Murray Bridge from Barker to Wakefield is unacceptable.

Otherwise, the actual electorates suggested by Richardson are entirely proper electorates. They do contain communities of interest. They generally satisfy section 66(3). Unfortunately, the overall proposal contains two unacceptable electorates. Undoing the problems in those electorates will have flow-on effects through out the entire State (with the exception of Grey), such that is unlikely that the other proposals can be accepted.

Public Suggestion No. 23 – The Electoral Reform Society of South Australia

Our support for multi member electorates is well know. However, this is not possible under the Commonwealth Electoral Act as it stands. Therefore, this Redistribution Committee cannot implement the proposal submitted by the Electoral Reform Society.

CONCLUSION

Having reviewed all of the Suggestions, and in particular having considered those Suggestions which attempt to retain the electorate of Wakefield, and the impact of those Suggestions on the electorate of Barker, we are now firmly of the view that the best solution to the problem presented by the decreasing rural population and the increase in the quota is that which was floated in our Suggestion and is clearly part of the Suggestions of the ALP and of Connolly.

However, while in many ways, we agree with most of the ALP Suggestion, we do not support its proposal in relation to Mayo. Rather, Mayo should be drawn using some of the ALP's proposal and some of the One Nation and Connolly proposals. Kingston should move further south. Bonython should include Barossa and Light and the balance of the demised electorate of Wakefield.

Thereafter, with minor adjustments, the balance of the ALP suggestion in relation to Metropolitan Adelaide provides a reasonable basis for the Redistribution Committee to proceed with the redistribution of the State of South Australia into eleven electorates for the House of Representatives.

Whatever the Redistribution Committee decides, it is likely that there will be strenuous objection from many quarters. We look forward to the opportunity to prepare an Objection later, if necessary. We think it likely that vociferous objection to whatever is ultimately proposed will require oral hearings to be held before the Augmented Redistribution Committee.

REF: PBNJ2003AD0702