



The Federal Redistribution 2003  
South Australia



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**Public Objection number 12**

**Australian Labor Party, South Australian Branch**

**11 pages**

**Australian Labor Party**  
**South Australian Branch**

**Objections to the Proposed Redistribution of the 2003**

**AEC Redistribution Committee for South Australia**

**3<sup>rd</sup> October 2003**

## **1.0 Overview**

On the 5<sup>th</sup> September 2003 the AEC Redistribution Committee for South Australia made public its report on the 2003 Proposed Redistribution of South Australia.

The ALP notes that the process by which South Australia is being redistributed into eleven from twelve federal Divisions has led to the defining characteristics of areas of the state being revisited. Geographic features and urban and regional communities are having assumptions as to their physical, social and economic place within the state and affinities with adjacent and distant areas re-evaluated.

Additionally, the ALP notes that the Committee has appeared to agree with several of the ALP's assessments as to the most appropriate grouping of communities within Divisions.

Of particular note are the conceptual similarities between the ALP's Suggestion and the Committee's Report in relation to (among others) Grey, Barker and Mayo.

While the ALP's Suggestion and the Committee's Report may share some common conceptual ground, the ALP submits that some boundary choices in the proposed redistribution are less than optimal, with one specific decision (the "finger" intrusion into Port Adelaide) being quite odd.

The ALP submits that the boundaries within the proposed redistribution can be somewhat improved upon without challenging the concepts within the Report.

The ALP further submits that, with a hypothetical 50% 2PP state-wide result, a fair outcome would be a minimum of 5 seats to the ALP and 5 seats to the Liberal Party.

This has probably been effected by this redistribution.

However, the ALP notes that, with the proposed boundaries, it is conceivable for the ALP to attract in excess of 44% 2PP of the state-wide vote and win only 1 of 11 seats – the Liberals, with less than 56% support to win 10 of the 11 South Australian seats.

The ALP submits that this would be an unfortunate result of this redistribution, and urges the Committee to consider amending boundaries so as to reduce this imbalance.

## **2.0 Application of requirements of the Commonwealth Electoral Act**

The *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* establishes a set of principles in Section 66 to which the Redistribution Committee must give consideration in preparing a proposal.

The ALP notes that the Report satisfies the requirements of Section 66(3)(a) in relation to quota.

The ALP also notes the Committee's stated position of using the allowable tolerance above and below quota to better enable the selection of the most appropriate boundaries.

It is also noted that the Committee expressed a preference for bringing about as little disruption as possible to electors, that is, minimizing elector displacement.

The Report states that the Committee sought to ensure that the criteria other than those pertaining to elector numbers, that is, Section 66(3)(b) were given “maximum possible consideration”, namely:

- community of interests within the proposed Electoral Division, including economic, social and regional interests;
- means of communication and travel within the proposed Electoral Division;
- the physical features and area of the proposed Electoral Division; and
- the boundaries of existing Divisions in the State.

The ALP will argue that, in certain instances, these criteria can easily be given more substantial effect through the amendment of one boundary between two neighbouring Divisions (in isolation), or the amendment of the boundaries of three adjoining Divisions.

### **3.0 Federal Divisions**

#### **3.1 ADELAIDE / STURT**

The area bordered by Greenhill, Fullarton, Kensington and Portrush Roads has never been within the Division of Adelaide.

The proposed Portrush Road boundary is at odds with numerous submissions concentrating on the eastern suburbs:

- Public Suggestion #3 - Mr Christopher Pyne;
- Public Suggestion #5 - Mr Thomas Gallasch;
- Public Suggestion #6 - Saint Ignatius' College;
- Public Suggestion #8 - Professor Harry E Green;
- Public Suggestion #11 - City of Burnside; and
- Public Suggestion #16 - Liberal Party of Australia - SA Division.

The ALP submits that the transferred areas bordered by Kensington Road, Portrush Road, Greenhill Road and Fullarton Road from Proposed Federal Division of Adelaide should remain in the Federal Division of Sturt.

Further the ALP maintains that the area bordered by Grand Junction Road, Wandana Avenue, North East Road and Fosters Road should be transferred from the proposed Federal Division of Sturt to the Federal Division of Adelaide.

The ALP submits that the proposed boundaries in the Committee's Report present some difficulties, as follows:

◆ *historical relationship with past boundaries*

As identified above, the area bordered by Greenhill, Fullarton, Kensington and Portrush Roads has never been within the Division of Adelaide.

The Division of Adelaide, needing to increase elector numbers, can encompass more of the Port Adelaide Enfield East SLA, as it has a historic association with the seat of Adelaide.

In addition, the areas the ALP submits should be transferred from Sturt to Adelaide have a history of being incorporated in the Federal Division of Adelaide.

◆ *communities of interest*

The overwhelming majority of the City of Burnside has had a long association with the seat of Sturt, and the ALP submits that it remain in the federal Division of Sturt.

A divisional boundary along Kensington Road would follow the boundary that separates City of Burnside from the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters.

Being directly east of Victoria Park Racecourse, the areas south of Kensington Road do not have the same ease of access to arterial routes to the CBD that those areas north of Kensington Road have.

The Commission's proposed boundary runs adjacent to both Burnside Village shopping centre (on Greenhill Road) and the City of Burnside's Town Hall / library facilities (on Portrush Road). This would be a confusing and unnecessary division of the local communities of interest as both are community centres. Residents south of Kensington Road tend to shop at Burnside Village while those north of Kensington Road tend to venture north to The Parade.

The existing Federal Division of Adelaide has a far larger share of voters from the City of Port Adelaide Enfield than the Federal Division of Sturt. The ALP proposal further unites the communities of the former City of Enfield – communities that have few links to the distinctly eastern local government areas of the cities of Tea Tree Gully and Campbelltown.

The current and proposed new boundary of Fosters Road that separates the Adelaide and Sturt divisions continues to isolate the Hampstead Centre / Morris Hospital (which are not far east of Fosters Road) from James Nash House / Mental Health Service (on the western side of Fosters Road) and the Royal Society for the Blind (west of Fosters Road). The ALP proposal unites all of those health and allied health care institutions into the Federal Division of Adelaide, which is a large primary and secondary health care industry and teaching institution centre.

### **3.2 BARKER/ BOOTHBY/ MAYO**

The ALP argued in our Suggestion of 4 July 2003 that the suburban areas around Aberfoyle Park should be transferred to Boothby.

The ALP here asserts that, given the boundaries contained in the Report, that part of the suburb of Coromandel Valley in the Federal Division of Mayo should be transferred from the Federal Division of Mayo to the Federal Division of Boothby.

The ALP also suggests the corresponding transfer of that part of the Barossa - Barossa SLA that is in the proposed Federal Division of Barker to the Proposed Division of Federal Mayo.

These amendments to the Committee's Report are based on the following observations:

◆ *current and projected electors*

The above transfers better equalise both actual and projected enrolment numbers of the three Divisions involved. In particular, Barker (as proposed within the Report) is extremely close to tolerance and heavily reliant on slow population growth to hold its enrolment numbers beneath 103.5% of quota over the next four years. Mayo (as proposed within the Report) is, conversely, reliant on relatively high growth to bring its enrolment numbers within tolerance over the next four years and could use a net gain to ensure that it does so. Boothby is a very low growth seat and the ALP submits that its projected enrolment be set closer to quota.

◆ *communities of interest*

Coromandel Valley

The Committee has endeavoured to draw boundaries that separate metropolitan divisions from the Adelaide Hills areas. Our proposal unites the suburb of Coromandel Valley, which has an urban focus, with the seat of Boothby.

The Coromandel Valley area in question clearly has better transport and communication links with the Division of Boothby than it does with Mayo. Indeed, the Boothby suburbs of Glenalta and Hawthorndene have a far quicker link to the (Mayo) hills towns of Stirling, Aldgate and Crafers (via Upper Sturt Road) than does Coromandel Valley.

Additionally, the area directly east of Coromandel Valley (in Mayo) is sparsely populated.

Coromandel Valley has clear connections with the Blackwood/Eden Hills/Hawthorndene areas in Boothby. Blackwood is a shopping centre for the area and Flinders Medical Centre is its nearest major health care facility.

Barossa SLA

We recognise that the Barossa Council needs to be split between two divisions to satisfy criteria regarding quota.

The ALP suggests the transfer of that part of the Barossa – Barossa SLA that is in the proposed Division of Barker to the proposed Division of Mayo. This will “straighten” the two divisions’ shared boundary. Barker would no longer have that unfortunate hook around Mayo’s northern boundary.

This transfer will unite the distinctly southern Barossa towns of Lyndoch, Williamstown, Springton and Mount Pleasant within one Division. Lyndoch is, in fact, closer to Williamstown than it is to the Nuriootpa-Tanunda-Angaston cluster of northern Barossa towns.

### 3.3 HINDMARSH

The ALP notes, with some astonishment, the inclusion into Hindmarsh of a coastal 'finger'. This odd looking inclusion would seem to be at odds with the Committee's adherence to communities of interest criteria.

The ALP is concerned that this unusual projection was incorporated into the Committee's proposed Hindmarsh to satisfy other than community of interest criteria.

The ALP submits that a better solution may be found with regard to the following considerations:

◆ *minimizing voter displacement*

The proposed change to Hindmarsh's northern boundary to Bower Road and Frederick Road causes in excess of 15,900 electors to be moved from Port Adelaide.

The ALP Suggestion argued that slightly more than 10,000 electors be moved. This would have been sufficient for Hindmarsh even after removing part of Edwardstown to Boothby (-3.1% from projected quota).

◆ *historical relationship with past boundaries*

The ALP Suggestion emphasised the historical boundary of Trimmer Parade and Crittenden Road. This was completely ignored in favour of a boundary that has no precedent (Fredrick Road) and brings together areas sharing questionable communities of interest (see below).

◆ *communities of interest*

Public Suggestion #22- Mr Charles Richardson argues for Hindmarsh to absorb its traditional areas east of South Road, and an area of Marion.

Public Suggestion #10- Mr Christopher Connolly argues that Hindmarsh should increase its Charles Sturt LGA focus, incorporating the inner north-western industrial suburbs.

While potentially providing sufficient electors to Hindmarsh to meet the requirements of the Act, reincorporating within the Division traditional Hindmarsh areas and boundaries, neither of these suggestions was adopted by the Committee.

The Committee's Report chose two suggestions (#16- Liberal Party of Australia- SA Division and #17- One Nation) upon which it bases its decision to redefine Hindmarsh as a coastal Division, that is, having its character disproportionately drawn from the coast.

Public Suggestion #17- One Nation does not, however, argue that Hindmarsh is a Division defined by the coast. This suggestion actually argues that the current Division of Hindmarsh be abolished, and that a redrawn Port Adelaide be renamed Hindmarsh.

The ALP is strongly of the view that a redrawn and renamed Division of Port Adelaide, as suggested by Mr Gordon, continuing to have the coast as it's western

boundary, does not in itself provide any reason to redefine the principal character of the current Division of Hindmarsh along coastal lines.

The ALP submits, rather, that the central unifying identity of Hindmarsh has always been its Western Suburbs nature.

Public Suggestion #16- Liberal Party of Australia- SA Division argues that, throughout the twentieth century, Hindmarsh has always maintained its coastal focus. The ALP believes this is akin to a hypothetical assertion that, through the same period, Wakefield has maintained its coastal focus.

The metropolitan area was, for the first half of the twentieth century, divided into three Divisions: the CBD; the eastern and south-eastern suburbs; and the north-western and western suburbs. The scale of Hindmarsh and Boothby through these years invariably required the Divisions to exhibit many community and physical characteristics. The most obvious distinction between the two Divisions is that, while Boothby was mainly residential, Hindmarsh was heavily industrial.

From 1949, Hindmarsh ceased to encompass the greater Port Adelaide area, being drawn to incorporate the industrial western and inner north-western suburbs, including Beverley, Croydon, Bowden and Brompton. Hindmarsh never became a thin coastal strip, but maintained a largely east-west (approximately) rectangular shape as far east as the railway line within Adelaide's western parklands.

The focus on the inner-western industrial suburbs has been maintained despite at least one previous redistribution suggestion (of Mrs Chris Gallus MHR in 1991) to redefine Hindmarsh along coastal lines, making use of Marion Road as an eastern boundary. This has never received broad support.

The area surrounding West Lakes, proposed for incorporation within Hindmarsh, has features that clearly link it to Port Adelaide, not Hindmarsh.

West of Frederick Road is a body of water that is the southern part of the extensive Port River system. The Port River system creates a community of interest in its own right:

- There is extensive waterside housing along the southern reaches of the river, just as the Port Adelaide redevelopment is building a substantial quantity of waterside housing north of the proposed boundary;
- The effects of pollution on the waterway and other environmental concerns have a distinct impact on this community and are shared with adjacent Port Adelaide residents;
- Water activities including boating and those based at the Rowing And Aquatic Centre create a strong link with, and establish that there is more in common between, the Port River system and outer harbour.

West Lakes residents naturally and necessarily have their attention drawn downstream toward the Port River mouth – not southward into Hindmarsh.

Whilst the ALP fully supports the Committee uniting the River Murray communities into the one electorate of Barker, we note in the proposed redistribution the

Committee advocates a boundary that unnecessarily cuts the Port River system in half. The ALP submits that this is at odds with the community of interest criteria.

The West Lakes Shopping Mall complex is undergoing a \$62 million redevelopment and expansion. It will incorporate an additional 12,500 square metres of retail space, increasing the size of the centre to 61, 500 square metres on completion. It will include 70 new specialty tenancies, a new food court, an upgraded centre court and a leisure and entertainment centre including cinemas.

The Mall is integrated with the north western suburbs through its expansive public transport system linkages based at West Lakes.

On the corner of West Lakes Boulevard and Brebner Drive, Charles Sturt City Council has a large community library that services residents across much of the north-western council area.

Aami Stadium is more than a mere sports ground. It is itself a complex consisting of (in part) the Park Convention Centre, bars and a cafe, a fitness centre and surrounding ovals used by the general public and amateur sporting clubs.

All of the above facilities, which are continuing to receive highly substantial capital and cultural investment, clearly draw attention to this area as the epicentre of the north-western suburbs (that is, the greater Port Adelaide area), just as Westfield Marion shopping complex does within Boothby, and should therefore continue to be located within the Port Adelaide Division.

The West Lakes area is in stark contrast to the area east of Frederick Road, which comprises semi-industrial suburbs. This area has more in common with Hindmarsh's current composition than that based around the recreational, residential and economic characteristics of the Port River system.

### **A Better Northern Boundary for Hindmarsh**

The ALP submits that the northern boundary of Hindmarsh utilize Trimmer Parade and either:

- Findon, Woodville and Port Roads; or
- in concert with the adjustment to Wakefield's southern boundary (described below), Crittenden and Grange Roads, East Terrace and Port Road.

## **3.4 WAKEFIELD**

The proposed Wakefield boundaries in the Committee's Report are less than ideal for a number of reasons:

### **◆ *minimizing voter displacement***

While all Bonython electors will be within a Division of a different name, the impetus behind minimising voter displacement from the City of Salisbury to the Division of Port Adelaide should be maintained.

The ALP submits that reducing the scale of this transfer may assist the community of interest criteria within the Act to be better met.

The northern boundary of Wakefield as proposed by the Committee (incorporating both the entire Claire & Gilbert Valleys and Kapunda & Light LGAs) presents an opportunity for a better southern boundary to that suggested.

◆ *communities of interest*

The Report does not identify any reason for the choice of Wakefield's southern boundary.

The Report stresses the strong preference of the Committee to use LGA boundaries where possible. Ordinarily, this is hard to fault.

Quota requirements probably make it impossible at this stage to redraw Wakefield to utilize the Playford and Salisbury LGA boundary in its entirety. It is possible, however, to make substantial use of it.

The City of Playford's southern boundary (in part) consists of the tributary Gould Creek, flowing into the Little Para Reservoir, and the Little Para River. It is currently used (in part) as Bonython's southern boundary (as it will be by Wakefield). The proposed boundary of Makin will continue the use of Playford's boundary to its intersection with Main North Road.

This waterway has proven to be both a well accepted Divisional and LGA boundary.

Beyond Makin, the River and its linear park continue to act as Playford's southern boundary almost to the Salisbury city centre.

The Report moves the majority of the City of Salisbury into Port Adelaide, but the Council's offices will be in Wakefield, along with Salisbury's business and shopping precinct.

The Report's proposed boundary dissects both the suburbs of Salisbury (with approximately 50% in each Division) and Burton, whereas using the Little Para River causes only Salisbury to be minimally split.

### **A Better Southern Boundary for Wakefield**

The ALP submits that the use of this LGA boundary (in part) and waterway would be a preferable southern boundary for Wakefield – the two features operating together or in isolation from the boundary of the Division of Mayo through to the Division of Port Adelaide at Port Wakefield Road, a continuous line running across the entire breadth of northern and north-eastern suburbs.

This will decrease the number of electors of the Salisbury area transferred to Port Adelaide from 27,295 (29,498 projected) to 22,753 (24,741 projected) electors.

The river is a much clearer Divisional boundary, running east-west in a reasonably straight line, and is the most obvious demarcation between the Salisbury and Elizabeth areas (see Attachment A).

#### **4.0 Conclusion**

The ALP agrees with the main points of the redistribution, namely:

- ◆ the abolition of the rural Division of Wakefield but the maintenance of the name;
- ◆ the inclusion of the Yorke Peninsula into Grey;
- ◆ uniting the River Murray communities within Barker;
- ◆ the establishment of Mayo as a clearly peri-urban Division incorporating the Mount Lofty Ranges and the Fleurieu Peninsula; and
- ◆ the recognition of Kingston as a Division of the southern suburbs.

The ALP notes that the Committee's development of boundaries sometimes must depart from the Committee's desires – namely, minimizing elector displacement and tending toward historical boundaries / groupings of communities.

The ALP submits that the displacement of electors from the Division of Bonython (now Wakefield) into Port Adelaide is excessive.

The ALP submits that the peculiar “finger-like” shape of the northern Hindmarsh boundary and especially its division of the Port River system is contrary to the community of interest criteria.

The ALP submits that a possible consequence of this redistribution is, in an election where Labor secures 44% of the state-wide 2PP vote, only one seat being won by Labor.

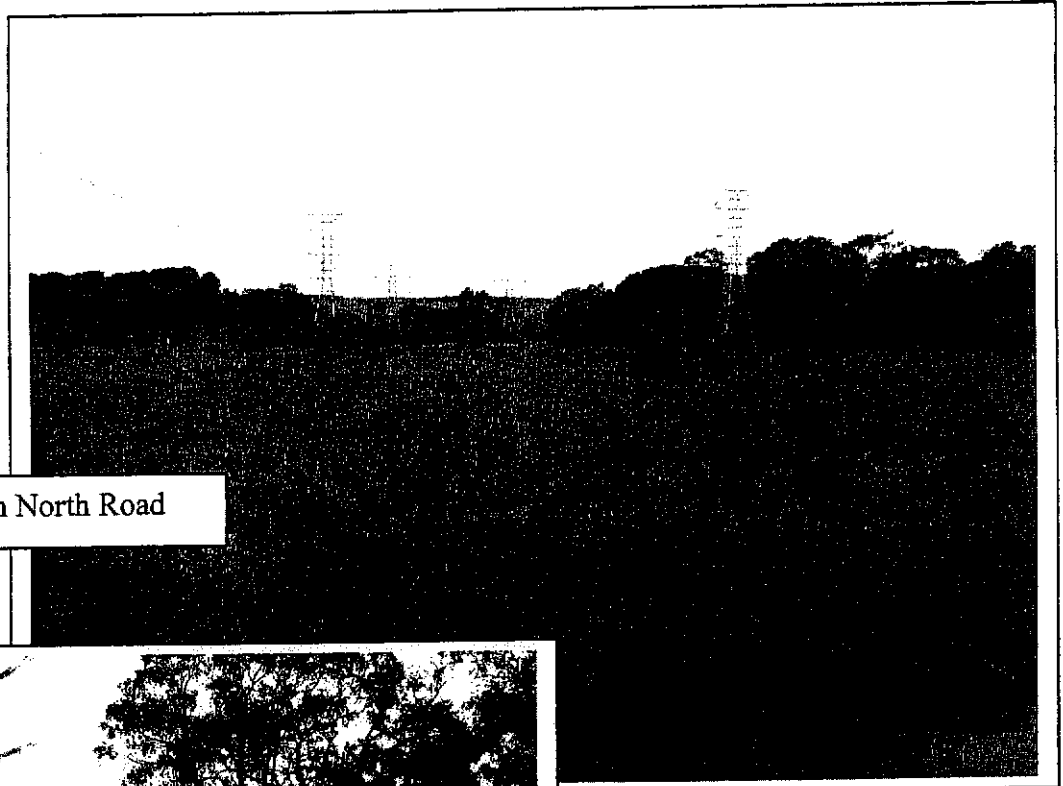
The ALP requests the Committee revisit a number of its proposed boundaries, namely:

- ◆ the eastern boundary of Adelaide / western boundary of Sturt -
  - incorporating as much of the City of Burnside as possible within Sturt; and
  - making adjustments to realize quota criteria within the Port Adelaide Enfield LGA;
- ◆ those of Barker / Boothby / Mayo, with Mayo relinquishing Coromandel Valley to Boothby and absorbing the Barossa – Barossa SLA from Barker;
- ◆ the northern boundary of Hindmarsh, utilizing Trimmer Parade and either –
- ◆ Findon, Woodville and Port Roads; or
- ◆ in concert with the adjustment to Wakefield's southern boundary, Crittenden and Grange Roads, East Terrace and Port Road; and
- ◆ the southern boundary of Wakefield –
  - extending the use of the Little Para River through to Port Wakefield Road.

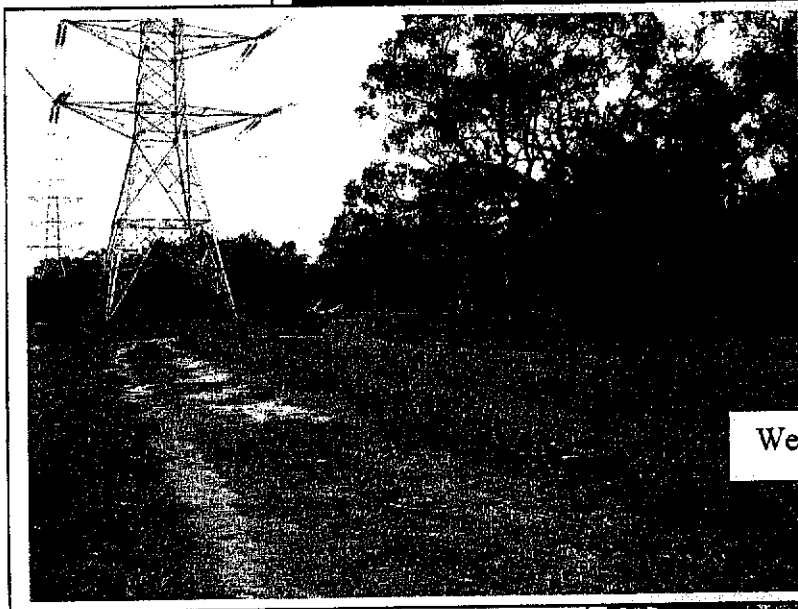
The ALP submits that with these revisions the redistribution can better meet the community of interest criteria.

The details of suggested changes to proposed boundaries are available upon request.

*Little Para River  
(and adjacent parklands)*



West of Main North Road



West of Waterloo Corner Road

West of Kings Road

