Public Suggestion # 3

Mr Christopher Pyne, MP

12 pages

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This suggestion contains coloured maps that have been reproduced in black and white. The original coloured maps may be viewed at the office of the Australian Electoral Officer for South Australia, Level 9, 1 King William Street, Adelaide.

PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CHRISTOPHER PYNE MP
Federal Member for Sturt

MEMORANDUM

To: Redistribution Committee
Australian Electoral Commission
1 King William Street
Adelaide SA 5000

From: Christopher Pyne MP

Date: 20 June 2003

Please find enclosed my submission for the South Australian 2003 federal boundaries redistribution.

Christopher Pyne MP

Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600 • Tel (02) 6277 4842 Fax (02) 6277 8581
38 The Parade, Norwood SA 5067 • Tel (08) 8363 0666 Fax (08) 8363 0030

2003 FEDERAL BOUNDARIES REDISTRIBUTION (South Australia)

Submission

From

Christopher Pyne, Member for Sturt

Introduction

Recent population changes have meant South Australia must lose one Federal seat. This submission attempts to assist the Redistribution Committee ("the Committee") to arrange the boundaries of the seat of Sturt, in a way that complements its natural topography and communities of interest for constituents.

The submission has in mind that the projected enrolment in four years time be within the bounds set down by the Electoral Act 1918 ("the Act") while complying with the four criteria in the Act.

These criteria are:

1. Community interests within the division, including economic, regional and social interests,
2. Means of communication and travel within a division,
3. Physical features and area,
4. Existing boundaries of divisions.

The details of the submission are confined to redistributing the boundaries of Sturt.

Enrolment

The seat of Sturt is currently below the average projected enrolment of 98 909. It is required that the seat be within 3.5% of the average.

Sturt needs to gain enrolled voters on the projected figures. The simplest approach is for the seat to maintain its existing boundaries as far a practicable while gaining new enrolled voters from an adjoining electorate.

Under this submission, Sturt would have a projected enrolment of 98 045 which is 0.87 per cent less than zero variation from the average.

New Sturt Boundaries

I propose that Sturt's:

- northern boundary (Grand Junction Road), and
- southern boundary (Glen Osmond Road from it's corner with Fullarton Road and Mt Barker Road to the City of Burnside's eastern Council boundary),

remain unchanged.

I propose that the western boundary remain unchanged from Fullarton Road to Payneham Road to Battams Road. The new boundary would then extend along Payneham Road, to Wicks Avenue and Windsor Grove, continuing in an easterly direction along North East Road to Grand Junction Road.

The suburbs that would be transferred to the federal seat of Adelaide are Vale Park, Marden, Felixtow, Klemzig, Hillcrest, Oakden and Gilles Plains. There are strong community of interest bonds between these suburbs and the seat of Adelaide. They also share communication and transport facilities in common.

This adjustment allows the Committee to satisfy the requirement that Sturt's estimated enrolment in three and a half years be within three and a half per cent of the average estimated enrolment.

The changes I am proposing on the eastern boundary will further enhance the application of the four indicative criteria.

I propose that Sturt's eastern boundary be:

- The City of Burnside's eastern council boundary to Old Norton Summit Road (this is the current boundary); and
- The suburb boundaries of Teringie, Woodforde and Rostrevor to the City of Campbelltown boundary where it joins the City of Tea Tree Gully boundary, and then the City of Tea Tree Gully boundary to Grand Junction Road.

In summary, the new boundary would herald the following changes:

- Sturt gains- the suburbs of Teringie and Woodforde, the remainder of the suburb of Magill that was not part of Sturt, the suburbs of Rostrevor, Newton and Athelstone, the suburb of Paradise west of Darley Road, and the remainder of the suburb of Highbury that was not part of Sturt; and
- Sturt loses- The suburbs of Vale Park, Marden, Klemzig, Felixtow, Hillcrest, Oakden and Gilles Plains.

There are strong communities of interest within these areas.

My experience of the last ten years indicates that constituents living in this area, particularly the elderly, find both communication and travel within my electorate satisfactory.

The area fits neatly into the overall topography of metropolitan Adelaide in terms of major roads, rivers and the Hills.

The existing boundaries are maintained as far as practicable.

The Four Criteria

"Community interest within the division, including economic, social and regional interests".

The City of Burnside should remain the base of the Sturt electorate. The parts of the City of Norwood, Payneham and St Peters and the City of Campbelltown which are contained in Sturt, and the communities of interest that exist between these areas in the electorate, are firmly ingrained and strongly entrenched.

The City of Burnside contains within it the Burnside Village Shopping Centre, the Burnside Hospital and other centres of community interest that relate to the constituents of Sturt.

The Burnside Village Shopping Centre is a major shopping precinct for residents living in the Burnside Council area. Not only does this centre house the only Coles supermarket in the immediate area, it also contains a variety of specialty shops, branches for all the major banks and the Glenside Post Office. This shopping centre is important to the constituents of Sturt, as is the Burnside Hospital which provides important community services for constituents in the entire electorate of Sturt.

The Norwood Centrelink is the only Centrelink office in the eastern suburbs. This Centrelink services constituents in the majority of the Sturt electorate, from as far north as Dernancourt and Windsor Gardens and as far south as Glen Osmond and Waterfall Gully. The Adelaide electorate has its own Centrelink Customer Service centre which is located in the city centre.

The suburbs of Teringie, Woodforde, Magill, Rostrevor, Newton, Paradise, Athelstone and Highbury all have strong community of interest ties with the current electorate of Sturt.

1. The local government boundaries in the eastern and north eastern suburbs lend themselves to a federal seat between the City of Adelaide and the Hills.

   The Cities of Burnside, Norwood/Payneham/St Peters and Campbelltown share similar age, income, family relationship, education, household, background, language and career demographics

which strengthen the community of interest bonds between them. All the City of Burnside, a large majority of the City of Norwood/Payneham/St Peters and almost half the City of Campbelltown form the major part of the seat of Sturt.

Magill, Rostrevor, Newton, Paradise and Athelstone are all contained within the City of Campbelltown.

Including more of the City of Campbelltown in Sturt will maintain the consistent demographic make-up of the seat. It would not require the introduction of another local government district into the seat.

The community, sporting and social groups in the area reflect the local government boundaries referred to above. By concentrating local government districts in one seat, it adds to the community of interest in that electorate.

As Magill, Rostrevor, Newton, Paradise and Athelstone are all suburbs in the City of Campbelltown, their addition to Sturt adds to the community of interest in the area.

The suburb of Highbury falls entirely within the City of Tea Tree Gully Council. The Sturt suburbs of Dernancourt, Holden Hill and Highbury are all part of the City of Tea Tree Gully. Including the remainder of Highbury would be in keeping with the community of interest in the area.

2. The constituents of the suburbs of Teringie, Woodforde, Magill, Rostrevor, Newton, Paradise, Athelstone and Highbury do their shopping and take their entertainment in the same shopping precincts as the current constituents of Sturt.

   Coles supermarkets have three shopping centres adjacent to the current border between Sturt and Mayo. They are located at Firle (Sturt), Dernancourt and Newton (Mayo). The Firle and Newton shopping centres are located in such a way that they draw their shoppers from constituents on both sides of the street. In the case of Dernancourt, the residents of Highbury frequent this centre, as it is the only shopping complex in the immediate area.

   Foodland stores are located in Newton (Mayo) and Magill (Sturt). In the case of Newton many customers live on the Sturt side of the boundary and in the case of Magill, the reverse is true.

   Bi-Lo has two shopping centres adjacent to the current border between Sturt and Mayo. The store in Rostrevor services customers who live in Rostrevor (Mayo), Magill, Tranmere and Hectorville (Sturt). The Campbelltown store also services customers living in a wide ranging area. Customers who shop at this store live in the Sturt suburbs of

Campbelltown and Hectorville, and in the Mayo suburbs of Paradise and Athelstone.

The Woolworths supermarket in Athelstone (Mayo) is located near the Sturt/Mayo border. This shopping centre draws its shoppers from constituents living in Athelstone, Paradise, and Newton (Mayo) as well as Campbelltown (Sturt).

3. Constituents of the suburbs of Teringie, Woodforde, Magill, Rostrevor, Newton, Paradise, Athelstone and Highbury practice their religion with current constituents of Sturt.

   The Roman Catholic parishes of Tranmere (Sturt), Hectorville (Sturt), Newton (Mayo) and Dernancourt (Sturt) all have within their parish boundaries areas of both Sturt and Mayo. In the case of Tranmere, the parish is located largely within Sturt with about one fifth of the area in Mayo. Hectorville is split approximately equally between Sturt and Mayo, Newton is located largely in Mayo with around one third in Sturt, and Dernancourt is largely located in Sturt with a small portion located in Mayo.

   The Roman Catholic parishes of Hectorville and Newton conduct Italian cultural and religious festivals as part of their calendar of events. These draw many thousands of participants each year from the surrounding area. The Italian community is well represented in the north eastern and eastern suburbs lying in Sturt and Mayo. The members of the organising committees for festivals such as Santa Maria di Montevirgine, Saint Anthony, San Rocco, Santa Maria del Arco and others are drawn from Sturt and Mayo.

   The Anglican parishes of Campbelltown and Magill are both geographically split evenly between the Sturt and Mayo electorates. The Campbelltown parish is far reaching, including the suburbs of Campbelltown, Paradise and Dernancourt (Sturt) and Newton, Athelstone and Highbury (Mayo). The Magill parish draws its parishioners from the Sturt suburbs of Hectorville and Tranmere, and the Mayo suburbs of Rostrevor, Woodforde and part of Teringie.

   The Lutheran parishes of Payneham (Sturt), Glynde (Sturt) and Dernancourt (Sturt) are not far from the boundary with Mayo and Magill (Sturt) is adjacent to the boundary. While the Lutheran Church does not have formal parish boundaries, the parishes are located in areas that draw parishioners from both Sturt and Mayo.

4. The constituents of Teringie, Woodforde, Magill, Rostrevor, Newton, Paradise, Athelstone and Highbury all have a firm community of interest bond with the constituents of the current seat of Sturt established through their common membership and activity in the numerous community, sporting and social groups that exist in the eastern and north eastern suburbs.

Listed in the local government directories for Campbelltown, Burnside or Norwood/Payneham/St Peters Councils are:

- 29 community, sporting and social groups situated on or adjacent to the Sturt/Mayo boundary. These groups service constituents in both electorates, in particular, those living in Tranmere, Hectorville and Campbelltown (Sturt), and Magill, Rostrevor and Newton (Mayo).
- 41 community, sporting and social groups in the suburbs adjacent to Teringie, Woodforde, Magill, Rostrevor, Newton, Paradise, Athelstone and Highbury but in the seat of Sturt.
- 30 community, sporting and social groups in the suburbs of Teringie, Woodforde, Magill, Rostrevor, Newton, Paradise, Athelstone and Highbury (Mayo), who draw their members from surrounding suburbs located in Sturt.

All these clubs, associations and community groups draw their membership from the surrounding area known generally as the eastern and north eastern suburbs. There are none that draw a noteworthy number of members from the rest of the seat of Mayo.

In most cases the only point of difference between members of the clubs, associations and groups is the boundary between Mayo and Sturt.

Most of these clubs, associations and groups are replicated in the Hills. These Hills clubs in turn draw their members from the suburbs and communities in the remainder of the seat of Mayo that is in the Hills, not in metropolitan Adelaide.

5. Families in the suburbs of Teringie, Woodforde, Magill, Rostrevor, Newton, Paradise, Athelstone and Highbury access the same primary, junior primary and secondary schools as families in Sturt and vice versa.

None of the primary or junior primary schools are zoned, meaning children can attend these schools from anywhere that is convenient to the family. There are five primary or junior primary schools in Magill, Hectorville, Campbelltown, Dernancourt and Highbury. The Magill and Highbury schools are located in the Sturt sections of this suburb. Students who attend reside in the entire suburb, which is geographically split between the Sturt and Mayo electorates. There are five primary or junior primary schools located in the suburbs of Athelstone, Paradise, Newton and Rostrevor. These schools draw their students from families in both Sturt and the metropolitan part of Mayo.

There are three zoned secondary schools on the Sturt/Mayo boundary. The Windsor Gardens Vocational College includes in its catchment zone areas of Sturt as well as the sections of Highbury and Newton

that I propose are included in the redistributed seat of Sturt. The zoned area for Charles Campbell Secondary School is geographically split between the Sturt and Mayo electorates with students attending from both, including the suburbs of Athelstone, Newton and Campbelltown. The Norwood Morialta High School has a campus in Sturt and a campus in Mayo. Its zone includes areas in Sturt and the suburbs of Magill, Rostrevor, Teringie and Woodforde in Mayo.

6. Constituents in Teringie, Woodforde, Magill, Rostrevor, Newton, Paradise, Athelstone and Highbury all access the same library facilities as the constituents of Sturt.

   The Campbelltown Library is situated in the electorate of Mayo, yet it services and is accessed by constituents in Sturt. Residents living in the suburbs of Paradise, Campbelltown and Hectorville (Sturt), all actively use this library, as do residents of Athelstone, Newton, Rostrevor, Woodforde, Teringie and Magill (Mayo).

7. Constituents living in the suburbs of Teringie, Woodforde, Magill, Rostrevor, Newton, Paradise, Athelstone and Highbury, all access the same Centrelink office as the constituents of Sturt.

   Located in the Sturt electorate, the Norwood Centrelink office is the only centre of its type in the whole area. Customers of Centrelink Norwood are geographically split between the electorate of Sturt and the section of Mayo proposed to be included in Sturt by this submission.

"Means of communication and travel within a division"

Constituents in Teringie, Woodforde, Magill, Rostrevor, Newton, Paradise, Athelstone and Highbury have many reasons to feel that they would be better suited from a communication and travel viewpoint by being constituents in Sturt rather than Mayo.

1. Australia Post assigns areas to each of its Mail Centres. Australia Post clearly regards Teringie, Woodforde, Magill, Rostrevor, Newton, Paradise, Athelstone and Highbury as part of the north eastern and eastern suburb catchment area for postal services.

   The constituents in the area use postal services in common. They do not travel further into Mayo to use postal services as it would be a greater distance in travel and more time consuming.
   The Glynde Mail Centre is the main delivery centre for the electorate of Sturt and also services the Mayo suburbs Magill, Rostrevor, Newton, Paradise, Athelstone and Highbury. The Glynde Delivery Centre is also responsible for servicing the suburbs of Teringie and Woodforde, which are also part of the Mayo Electorate.

2. The proximity of the Sturt Electorate Office and the constituents of the north eastern and eastern suburbs affinity with the plains as opposed to the Hills, has meant that I have handled a disproportionate number of matters for constituents in Mayo.

   These constituents, who are residents in Mayo, have demonstrated by coming to the Sturt Electorate Office that they find it difficult or impractical to travel to the Mayo Electorate Office in Stirling.

   Since 1994 when I began to keep records of this category of constituents in an easily accessible form, I have written letters to, or on behalf of, 513 constituents in Mayo. My office has taken innumerable telephone contacts with constituents of Mayo whose requests have been able to be satisfied without recourse to writing.

   This demonstrates that many of the enrolled constituents requiring assistance in the north eastern suburbs find it easier to access someone other than their elected representative purely because of travel distances and convenience issues.

3. Public Transport guides indicate that the bus routes that service Woodforde, Teringie, Magill, Rostrevor, Newton, Paradise, Athelstone and Highbury service the current seat of Sturt and not the rest of the seat of Mayo.

   This is the case for routes 102, 105, 106, 125, 125P, 176, 177, 179, 550, 551, 552, 576, 577, 580, 580P and 581.

   There are no public transport routes that connect Teringie, Woodforde, Magill, Rostrevor, Newton, Paradise, Athelstone and Highbury with the remainder of the current seat of Mayo.

   A constituent living in any one of those suburbs is required to take public transport from their home to the city centre and then from the city centre via the Mt Barker Freeway to the Mayo Electorate Office in order to access their local MP.

   This is a particularly difficult task for older constituents seeking help from their local MP. Older constituents are disproportionately represented amongst those that need help in dealing with government services. They are also disproportionately represented amongst those that use public transport.

   To give an example- a person living in Athelstone who wishes to leave home about 9:00am to have an appointment with their Federal MP can take the 576 bus at 9:03am arriving at the city at 9:31am. At 9:55am they can take the 164F bus to Stirling, arriving at 10:21am. After an hour and a half in Stirling they could take a 164F bus back to the city at 12:02pm arriving at 12:30pm. They could then catch a 543 bus, leaving the city at 12:35pm which would take them to Paradise Bus

Interchange. From Paradise they could catch a connecting 576 leaving at 12:50pm and arriving at Athelstone at 1:04pm.

Assuming he or she makes all the connections, the shortest round trip is over four hours!

The Sturt Electorate Office is 11-15 minutes bus ride from the city on the 122, 123, 124 and 125P buses. For the constituents of Teringie, Woodforde, Magill, Rostrevor, Newton, Paradise, Athelstone and Highbury, their travel times and convenience would be enhanced by their inclusion in Sturt.

4. Local community newspapers in the north eastern and eastern suburbs include Teringie, Woodforde, Magill, Rostrevor, Newton, Paradise, Athelstone and Highbury within the boundaries of their newspaper circulation.

   Local newspaper proprietors understand that these constituents have more in common with the constituents of the plains than the Hills. Their advertisers know that the constituents in Teringie, Woodforde, Magill, Rostrevor, Newton, Paradise, Athelstone and Highbury do their shopping on the plain and not in the Hills.

   The readers of the local newspapers receive the same information about their local area, yet some are in Mayo and others in Sturt.

   The *Leader Messenger* has within its boundaries of circulation the Sturt suburbs of Dernancourt and Holden Hill as well as the section of Highbury I propose be redistributed in to Sturt.

   The *East Torrens Messenger* includes within its circulation Athelstone, Newton, Rostrevor and Magill as well as the Sturt suburbs of Hectorville, Tranmere, Paradise and Campbelltown.

   Local newspapers are a significant source of communication within local communities.

"Physical features and area"

The physical features of metropolitan Adelaide are well known to the Committee. In the case of Sturt they represent a strong argument for the continuation of a seat based in the eastern and north eastern suburbs.

1. Sturt is bounded by the Parklands in the West. This is a natural physical boundary that should be maintained. It is complemented by the Hills in the east which form another natural boundary that allows a seat to exist on the plain in between.

Magill, Rostrevor, Newton, Paradise, Athelstone, Teringie, Woodforde and Highbury exist on that plain. Their inclusion in Sturt would be in keeping with the criteria that natural boundaries should be observed where possible.

In the north, Grand Junction Road and in the South Glen Osmond Road are the boundary roads. Both are significant main roads that traditionally divide metropolitan Adelaide into a familiar grid. Sturt has traditionally been the eastern sector of this grid.

The inclusion of Magill, Rostrevor, Newton, Paradise, Athelstone, Teringie, Woodforde and Highbury in Sturt would not upset these two boundaries.

"Existing boundaries of divisions"

The inclusion of Teringie, Woodforde, Magill, Rostrevor, Newton, Paradise, Athelstone and Highbury in Sturt is a relatively small change. It meets the Act's requirement that the number of enrolled voters in each seat be within 3.5% of the average number of enrolled voters in all seats in three and a half years.

It does this while largely maintaining existing boundaries.

Historically, Magill, Rostrevor, Newton, Paradise, Athelstone and Highbury have all been located in Sturt. Relocating these suburbs to Sturt would be consistent with boundaries that have existed in the eastern and north eastern suburbs since the creation of the seat in 1949.

Conclusion

Supporting documentation is too lengthy to include with this submission but is available upon request.

I am available to appear before the Committee to discuss this submission and any other matters in relation to this redistribution over the course of your inquiry.

Thank you for your consideration.

Christopher Pyne MP

20 June 2003.

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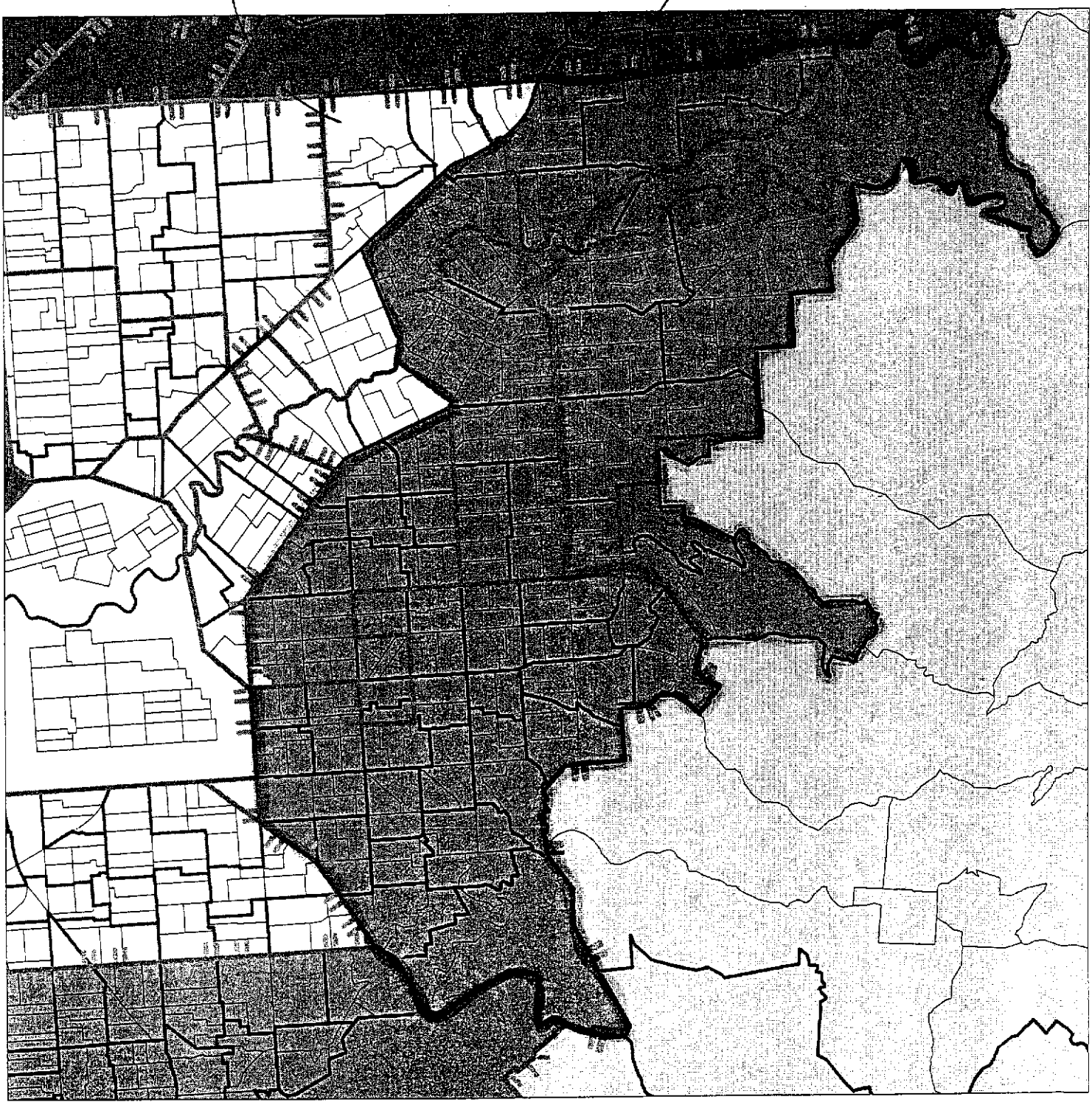
new seat of Shirt