



The Federal Redistribution 2003
South Australia



Public Suggestion # 24

Australian Democrats

5 pages

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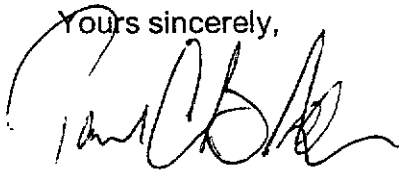
Redistribution Committee for South Australia
9th Floor, AMP Building,
1 King William Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Friday 4th July 2003

Dear Sirs,

I enclose a Submission to the Redistribution Committee for South Australia in relation to the redistribution of federal electoral boundaries in South Australia on behalf of the Australian Democrats [South Australian Division] Inc.

Yours sincerely,



for Tony Hill

2003 SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REDISTRIBUTION

PUBLIC SUGGESTION

AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS (SA DIVISION) INC.

BACKGROUND

The present Redistribution is happening because the State of South Australia must lose one electorate, from 12 down to 11. In 1999, the House of Representatives electorates for the State of South Australia were redistributed because of the Seven Year Rule. For the first time, s63A of the Commonwealth Electoral Act was used in order to determine an earlier Projection time than would otherwise have obtained, namely 30 June 2001 rather than in approximately mid-2003.

The effect of this is that the electorates would now be reasonably close to quota if the number of electorates were to be 12. They currently have relatively similar enrollment numbers. No electorate is particularly close to the new quota. Thus the ordinary desirability of making minimal electoral changes will be difficult to implement. In any event, that is a subordinate requirement to the other s66(3)(b) requirements.

In 1999, the Redistribution essentially involved the correction of boundaries for the purpose of "equalisation" of enrollment numbers. Our submission that the likely loss of an electorate on this occasion should have informed the drawing of boundaries (so that alterations on this occasion could be kept to a minimum) was rejected. The effect is that no boundary is sacrosanct (other than the borders of the State). It is not a case of calculating how many voters must be added to any particular electorate, and how many removed from another. While the slate is not wiped clean, the chalk is more easily removed!

Once again, we have been provided with enrollment statistics and projections on a Census Collector District (CCD), Local Government Area (LGA) and Federal Electorate basis. Where CCDs or LGAs traverse electorate boundaries, we are able to calculate the totals where necessary. We have also used the material provided to calculate totals on Statistical Division (SD) basis for the five rural Statistical Divisions. We regard each of the statistical regions referred to above as providing some assistance in defining communities of interest and in making other assessments relevant to s66(3)(b).

The rural SD numbers are as follows:

SD	12/3/03 Enrollment	31/7/07 Projection
Eyre	22878	23940
Northern	51425	50794
South East	43225	43521
Murray Lands	45822	46683
Yorke & Lower North	32040	34031
Totals	195390	198969

These totals are very close to two quotas, especially on the projected figures.

Once again, our approach is not to draw detailed maps, but rather to raise issues, and suggest methods by which the Redistribution might be performed.

THE S66(3)(b) CONSIDERATIONS

Each of the issues which we raised as primary s66(3)(b) considerations in 1999 remains an issue on the current electoral boundaries. Those issues were the following:

- 1 The inclusion of a suburban area from the Adelaide plains in the peri-metropolitan electorate of Mayo is anomalous. Others, eg Mr Pyne MHR agreed. This was only partly corrected in 1999, leaving an even more anomalous "rump";
- 2 The peri-metropolitan Fleurieu Peninsula is out of place in Barker; and
- 3 There are obvious communication issues in the electorate of Wakefield, comprising both Yorke Peninsula and the Riverland, but not the Clare and Gilbert Valleys.

In addition, we also objected to the traversing of the Gillman/MFP area in the electorate of Port Adelaide. As the Federal electorate numbers must be quite large, and the State electorate of Port Adelaide also traverses the same area, the objection must be made much more faintly in the case of a Federal Redistribution.

THE RURAL ELECTORATES

In 1999, we suggested that, rather than augmenting Grey's numbers by adding the Clare and Gilbert Valleys, the Yorke Peninsula should have been added and other areas removed. On this occasion, we submit that the only realistic option available to the Redistribution Committee is to remove the Clare & Gilbert Valleys and Goyder DCs from the existing Grey and to add the whole of the Yorke Peninsula and the balance of the Wakefield Council to it.

Geography requires that an electorate be formed containing both the Eyre and Northern SDs, plus some extra territory. To add to the current Grey from the west of the Clare & Gilbert Valleys DC would cut off the Yorke Peninsula. To add any part of the Riverland would split that well defined community of interest and add an area with no realistic means of communication with the rest of the electorate. The Yorke Peninsula cannot be added without removing the areas added in 1999. Yorke Peninsula itself should not be split.

If Grey is altered as we suggest, then one option available to the Committee is to make fundamental changes to Barker, such that it comprises the balance of the five rural SDs, viz the South East, the Murray Lands and the eastern part of the Yorke & Lower North SD, ie the Clare & Gilbert Valleys and Goyder DCs. This would deal with the issue identified above in relation to the Fleurieu Peninsula.

However, on our estimate, this would leave the possibility of creating an electorate comprising most, if not all, of the Outer Adelaide SD. We do not think that this would be an appropriate electorate. The Fleurieu differs from the Adelaide Hills to an extent (although both were part of an earlier version of Mayo). The Adelaide Hills has a far greater commuter residential population than the Fleurieu. However both differ even more markedly from the Northern parts of the Outer Adelaide SD, the Mallala, Gawler, Light and Barossa DCs.

An alternative, in relation to Barker, is simply to add to its current configuration from the southern parts of Mayo or Kingston. We would oppose any other alternative involving the splitting up of the Riverland.

On balance, we prefer the first option identified above. That will result in South Australia having two truly rural electorates. We would then prefer to see what remains of Wakefield (Mallala, Gawler, Light and Barossa) combined with the City of Playford.

Mayo can then be altered so that it comprises much, or even all of the balance of the Outer Adelaide SD, together with the Adelaide Hills suburbs to the south of the City, such as Blackwood and Belair (currently in Boothby), and Flagstaff Hill and Happy Valley (currently mostly in Mayo).

THE SUBURBAN AREAS

It is difficult to make meaningful suggestions about the City and suburbs of Adelaide, because so much depends on the positioning of the "inner" boundaries of the rural and partly rural electorates. With the exception of two parts of Mayo, the current boundaries of Barker, Mayo and Wakefield on the "outside", and Kingston, Boothby, Sturt, Makin, Bonython and Port Adelaide on the "inside" mostly mirror the boundary of the Outer Adelaide and Adelaide SDs.

It could be that the equivalent new boundaries will precisely mirror the SD boundary. There is much logic in this. Alternatively, the boundary could be breached in the north, as we have suggested in relation to the Outer Adelaide parts of Wakefield and the City of Playford, and in the south east as we have suggested in relation to the southern Adelaide Hills and Mayo.

Other possibilities also exist. If the Fleurieu is removed from Barker, then Kingston might move south. This could reflect the semi-rural nature of part of the City of Onkaparinga, and that there is no absolute necessity for the Southern Vales region to be separated from the Yankalilla DC and the balance of the Fleurieu. If our principal submission is rejected, then Mayo could continue to include the parts of the City of Campbelltown.

In those circumstances, and given that we do not consider that there are many communities of interest in the Adelaide plains region which are so tightly defined as to require that they be in the same electorate, we prefer not to make any but the most general of comments in relation to this area.

In general, we have agreed with the historical use of South Road as an electoral boundary, particularly due west of Adelaide. This may remain an appropriate boundary. However, all other things being equal, and specifically, should other changes allow it, we would support the unification of the City of Port Adelaide Enfield into one electorate.

On the other hand, we would also support any proposal which resulted in the City of Adelaide becoming the centre of an electorate comprising the City and most or all inner suburbs, including to the east and/or west (ie, crossing South Road), rather than the current elongated electorate.

CONCLUSION

We have identified a general preferred approach to this Redistribution. We leave the mapping to those with sophisticated computer programs. We look forward to Commenting on the other Public Suggestions, particularly as we recall that we were able to adopt some of the Suggestions made by others in 1999.

If the opportunity arises, we would be happy to supplement this Submission and any later Comments, with oral submissions.