



Objection 265

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1 page

Objection: Craighburn Farm proposed to shift to Mayo

Dear Australian Electoral Commission,

I write to object to the proposal to shift the suburb of Craighburn Farm from the Boothby electorate to the Mayo electorate.

Craighburn Farm is part of the Mitcham Hills and has its strongest link with the Blackwood area. That's where residents of Craighburn Farm shop, use services and participate in sport and leisure activities. It is 5-7 min car journey to Blackwood. Our State MP, the member for Waite is based in Blackwood.

In our area we share much more community, retail and transport infrastructure with the rest of Boothby than we do with residents in the federal electorate of Mayo.

Craighburn Farm is part of Mitcham Council, together with Blackwood, Belair, Eden Hills, Hawthorndene and surrounding suburbs.

I understand that in considering new electoral boundaries, the Commission must consider community of interests.

Clearly, Craighburn Farm has much more in common with Blackwood and surrounding suburbs that are proposed to remain in Boothby, than Adelaide Hills, including Mount Barker, the Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island, which form the heart of the electorate of Mayo.

Most residents in our area will use Flinders Medical Centre and Flinders University located at Bedford Park in the heart of Boothby at some point in their lives, and many work at these centres. These community of interest, travel, economic and social factors should be given much more weight by the Electoral Commission.

Craighburn Farm is a relatively new suburb with substantial new housing development in greater metropolitan Adelaide. We have very little in common with the rural nature of the Mayo.

We want to retain access to our locally based Federal Member of Parliament in Boothby, who has assisted residents with a range of electoral matters affecting our suburb. As residents of Craighburn Farm we have easy access to our member of Parliament, with a car journey of less than 20 minutes, approximately 11 km. Should Craighburn Farm be moved to Mayo, residents would need to travel to Mount Barker, a distance three times longer and double the time.

While I understand that boundaries and have to be drawn and suburbs may have to be shifted, the proposal to carve out a suburb from metropolitan electorate of Boothby and shift it to rural Mayo, frankly does not make much sense.

Clearly, if the electorate of Boothby need to transfer voters to surrounding electorates, then there must be more appropriate and logical alternatives than the current proposal which would see our area moved out of Boothby for the first time in 84 years.