



Objection 267

Kathleen Sparrow

2 pages

From: Kathleen Sparrow
Sent: Thursday, 10 May 2018 2:07 PM
To: FedRedistribution - SA
Subject: Leave Boothby alone

Australian Electoral Commission, Dear Sirs

The suburbs of Flagstaff Hill, Aberfoyle Park and Happy Valley are currently in the Federal Electorate of Boothby. I believe strongly that's where they should stay.

Having lived in this area since 1973, over this journey I have had an intricate affiliation with community based organisations. I therefore feel I am suitably qualified to make the above statement.

As a community, we are in a very unique situation . . . wedged in no man's land between Metropolitan Adelaide and the rural Fleurieu Peninsula. Both these areas have very different issues. While there are some issues that overlap, at present the pressing issues are those of a Metropolitan nature.

For example, the publishers of Adelaide's chain of local papers realigned their paper coverage areas, shifting us to the more southerly one.

When we received the Hills and Valley Messenger (which covers the Mitcham Hills and Adelaide Plains areas), which included suburbs like Blackwood and Belair, Bellevue Heights Coromandel Valley and Eden Hills, stopping just short of the Marion Shopping Precinct. This paper was widely read in my local area with almost every household picking up their paper and using it to obtain knowledge of local happenings.

We now receive the Southern Times Messenger which is aligned with the far southern suburbs such as Noarlunga, Christies Beach, Hackham West and Morphett Vale in the Federal electorate of Kingston. I now notice that there is an abundance of uncollected papers littering the footpaths and gutters . . . this I believe is because of the lack of relevance in the coverage to our locality.

Our household, while still glancing at the paper finds very little to read because of the vastly differing issues covered because of the differences mentioned earlier. In short we have little to no mutual interest in what is happening "kilometres away".

We are connected to the Marion Shopping Precinct, with its vast array of services and the Flinders University and associated Hospitals by an efficient road system (10 minutes) and with the improvements happening, will in the near future, have an improved public transport link to the City of Adelaide. This means that a huge percentage of local people will soon use this as the major public transport route. The facilities further south takes almost half an hour to drive the distance required, with an inferior public transport link.

In our area we share much more community, social, retail and transport infrastructure of Boothby than we do with constituents in the Federal Electorate of Kingston. We use Happy Valley Drive, Flagstaff Road, Marion Road and South Road to get to the city, or shopping precincts at Westfield Marion. We use Main Road through Blackwood to get to the city as well as the superior medical facilities available in Blackwood and Belair We commute to train stations in Boothby that service the Belair line and will in the near future have a closer Flinders Uni stop to utilise on the Tonsley Line. I believe that as the area ages even more than it is at present, these transport options will be used much more frequently.

With the aging population I mention above, many residents in our area will use Flinders Medical Centre and Flinders University located at Bedford Park, in the heart of Boothby in the future. Many work at these centres. Community interest, travel, economic and social factors should be given much more weight by the Electoral Commission when deciding future boundaries than environmental features like the Sturt River, which while running through the area, has in the past been of no relevance.

With the Onkaparinga Council based so far away in Noarlunga, and with an aging population we need to retain access to our locally based Federal Member of Parliament in Boothby, rather than a Federal MP in Morphett Vale.

I object to the Commission's draft boundaries that will see our area moved out of Boothby, into an electorate that covers a population with vastly differing needs to those of myself and my neighbours.

In short don't touch the boundary of Boothby.

Sincerely

Kathleen Sparrow
