City of Burnside

Civic Centre
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Tusmore SA 5065
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Date: 6 April 1999

To: John Kirwin's Office

Organisation: The Redistribution Committee

Fax: 8212 9357

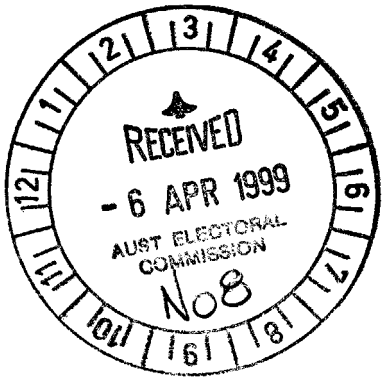
No. of Pages: 4 **(inc this page)**

Subject: Electoral Boundaries of Burnside

From: Rodney Donne

Message:

Please see attached copy of letter from Mayor Taylor posted on Thursday 1 April 1999.



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From the Office of the Mayor

30 March 1999

The Redistribution Committee
9th Floor
1 King William Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Sir/Madam,

RESPONSE TO THE SUGGESTIONS OF - TRISH WORTH MP, THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY, THE LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA (SA DIVISION), THE AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS, S PANTELIOS AND M VIRGILI

There are a number of proposals to divide the City of Burnside, wholly or partly, from the seat of Sturt. These suggestions appear to fail the criteria in the Act.

I am of the view that boundaries of Parliamentary Electorates and Local Governments should reflect 'communities of interest'. This is currently the case with the boundaries of the City of Burnside and the fact that the entire Council area falls within the Sturt Electorate, makes it correspondingly easier for the Member for Sturt to reflect the views of the Burnside community.

Maintenance of current electoral boundaries for the Sturt Electorate (insofar as they impact upon the City of Burnside is therefore important) and the concept of dividing the Council area into a number of electorates would not be supported. Community of interest, the physical features of the area and the maintenance of existing boundaries are satisfied by the continuation of the City of Burnside in Sturt.

M Vigili's argument that Burnside is increasingly diverse geographically is hard to understand. It is a homogenous community existing entirely on the Adelaide Plains and Foothills. It has no community of interest with the Hills contained in Mayo.

S Pantelios' suggestion makes no attempt to argue the community of interest, or physical features aspects that would support her suggestions that the eastern half of Burnside is better suited to the seat of Mayo or that the western half of Burnside is better suited to the seat of Adelaide. Burnside shares a community interest with the City of Campbelltown and the City of Norwood Payneham and St Peters, and the concept of an amalgamated City of East Adelaide comprising all three councils has received attention in the past and will undoubtedly receive further consideration in future years.

The Hills and Plains areas lend themselves to different communities as evidenced by the proposed transfer of the suburbs of Auldana and Skye from the Adelaide Hills Council to Burnside. The Hills represent a distinct natural boundary.

The Australian Labor Party suggests the division of Burnside between Mayo, Adelaide and Sturt.

The Liberal Party and Trish Worth MP suggest the division of the City of Burnside between Sturt and Adelaide.

Concentrating local government areas within federal seat boundaries necessarily adds to community interest within an area. Splitting Burnside Council between electorates has the opposite effect. For example:

- Catchment areas of our local community newspapers, do not include the City of Adelaide or the Adelaide Hills Council area (The Eastern Courier, Billboard and Weekender).

- Community and sporting and social groups of Burnside draw their membership from the eastern suburbs and exist in competition with parallel organisations, found in the Hills and City of Adelaide.

- School catchments and Church parish boundaries also reflect the natural boundaries of the Adelaide Parklands and Mt Lofty ranges.

- Shopping and entertainment facilities service the eastern suburbs resident - not Hills or City dwellers.

- As part of the (State) Government Local Government Boundary Review Process, Burnside Council held discussions with the District Council of East Torrens, however it soon became apparent that (with the exception of Skye and Auldana) insufficient community interest existed to proceed.

Trish Worth MP suggests that state seats should be a matter of consideration for the committee. In drawing the boundaries for state seats the primary consideration of the Electoral Commission goes to "fairness". The Electoral Commission is not required to have regard to community of interest to the same extent as they are in federal redistributions.

In the past the Burnside Community has expressed concern about changes in state electoral boundaries. There is a belief that this effectively disenfranchises residents (until after the next election) as the current Member has little to gain by working hard on behalf of residents who will not be eligible to vote in that electorate at the next election. This concern was expressed recently as a result of changes to House of Assembly electorates. Furthermore, moving parts of Burnside from Sturt would appear to increase the likelihood that the Council area would be used to 'top up' other electorates in future redistribution to the disbenefit of our community.

The Council area should therefore remain within one electorate if at all possible.

Sturt was created in 1949. Its abolition or renaming would be contentious as would the proposal to split the Burnside Council area and divide it into a number of other electorate.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Taylor
Mayor

City of Burnside

WITH COMPLIMENTS

CIVIC CENTRE 401 GREENHILL RD, TUSMORE S.A. 5065 TEL (08) 366 4200 FAX (08) 366 4299

Original for your files (was returned in post for some reason! - So have emailed this c/- electoral Commission.)

CEO's office.

Serving Our Community

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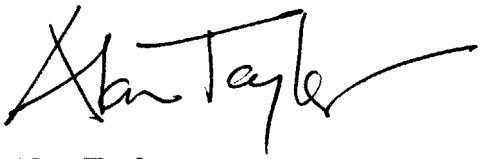

Alan Taylor
Mayor