

**CHRISTOPHER PYNE**

MEMBER FOR STURT

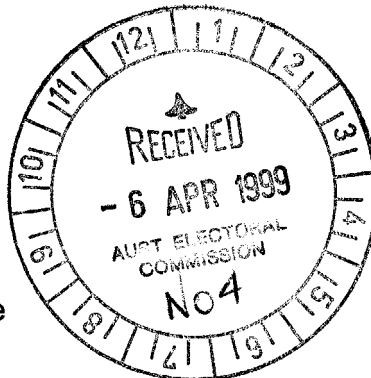


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6 April 1999

The Redistribution Committee  
9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
1 King William St  
ADELAIDE SA 5000



Dear Sirs

**Comment on the suggestions of : Trish Worth MP, the Australian Labor Party ("the ALP"), the Liberal Party of Australia (SA Division) ("the Liberal Party"), the Australian Democrats ("the Democrats"), S Pantelios and M Virgili.**

The Redistribution Committee ("the Committee") will be familiar with my suggestions for the redistribution of federal electoral boundaries in South Australia under the Electoral Act 1918 ("the Act").

This letter makes four comments on the suggestions of the applicants named above.

Briefly, they are –

1. The suggestions fail to enhance community of interest in the seats of Sturt ("Sturt") and Mayo ("Mayo") and therefore fail the criteria in the Act whereas my suggestion better enhances community of interest in both seats.
2. Retaining the whole of the City of Burnside ("Burnside") in one federal electorate satisfies the criteria of the Act and it should not be divided between federal seats.
3. Retaining the majority of the City of Norwood/Payneham and St Peters ("Norwood/Payneham and St Peters") in Sturt satisfies the criteria of the Act and it should not be further divided between federal seats.
4. Incorporating more of the City of Campbelltown ("Campbelltown") in Sturt satisfies the criteria of the Act and should be supported by the Committee.

**The suggestions fail to enhance community of interest in Sturt and Mayo and therefore fail the criteria in the Act whereas my suggestion better enhances community of interest in both seats.**



My suggestion envisaged Mayo moving south and taking in more of the rural District Council of Alexandrina ("Alexandrina") and the rural District Council of Willunga ("Willunga") allowing Sturt to move east taking in more of Campbelltown.

This suggestion enhances community of interest in both Sturt and Mayo. Mayo does not currently reflect community of interest being a seat that is both rural and urban. Some of the suggestions referred to above continue to perpetuate the anomaly that suburbs of the eastern plain of Adelaide remain in the Hills based, rural electorate of Mayo.

In commenting on the suggestions referred to it is necessary to demonstrate how my suggestion better enhances community of interest for Sturt and Mayo.

To enhance community of interest in Mayo changes need to be made to the other rural electorates. I suggest that the District Council of Bute be included in the seat of Grey ("Grey") from the seat of Wakefield ("Wakefield"). I suggest that the District Council of Mt Pleasant be included in the seat of Barker ("Barker") from Wakefield. Mayo can then be extended further into Alexandrina and Willunga (formerly in Barker).

This allows Mayo to transfer urban areas to Sturt while Sturt transfers areas into the seat of Adelaide. It increases the rural areas and decreases the urban areas encompassed by Mayo, which is consistent with the rural nature of the seat.

Alexandrina and Willunga encompass rural districts not unlike those currently in Mayo. Prior to the 1992 redistribution of boundaries Alexandrina was in Mayo. Reuniting this area with the rest of Mayo would make sense under the community of interest, communication, transport and physical features criteria of the Act. This is in contrast to the suggestions of S Pantelios, M Virgili, and the ALP which fail to address the current anomalies inherent in the current Mayo boundaries.

This suggestion allows Grey, Wakefield, Barker, Mayo, Sturt and Adelaide to fulfill the overall criteria of the Act that the number of enrolled voters in each seat be within three and a half percent of the average number of enrolled voters in three and a half years.

Maps and a table are attached that demonstrate these suggestions and their effect in a graphic format.

The ALP suggests that Mayo "bunny hop" down the eastern periphery of Adelaide including parts of the suburbs that were previously in Makin, Sturt or Boothby. None of these suburbs share a community of interest with the Hills or the other rural parts of Mayo. There are no physical boundaries or aspects of communication and transport that would lend weight to the ALP proposal. In fact, it seems chiefly designed to maximise the Liberal vote in the safe Liberal seat of Mayo and maximise the ALP vote in the marginal Liberal seats of Makin, Adelaide and Hindmarsh.

The ALP suggests that Sturt cross Grand Junction Road and take in areas in the City of Tea Tree Gully ("Tea Tree Gully") but advances no arguments in favour of this suggestion. My original suggestion proposed that the sole area of Tea Tree Gully in



Sturt (Holden Hill) be excised from this seat. There are obvious advantages in concentrating local government areas in federal seats. It would be unfortunate for the community of interest that exists in Tea Tree Gully to be undermined by its division between Mayo, Sturt and Makin.

The suggestion of S Pantelios proposes radical and unnecessary change.

M Virgili encourages the Committee to "minimise the transfer and dislocation of people between electorates". His suggestion then proposes major alterations to the boundaries involving serious "transfer and dislocation" of constituents.

South Australia will maintain twelve seats in this redistribution making radical or major change unnecessary. The Act provides that existing boundaries should be maintained where possible. Their suggestions propose change that effectively abolishes Sturt.

S Pantelios' and M Virgili's suggestions for Mayo and Sturt fail to advance compelling arguments as to how community of interest is enhanced by adopting their proposals. Their suggestions simply place areas of the north eastern suburbs currently in Mayo into Sturt and place areas of the eastern suburbs currently in Sturt into Mayo. It is a direct swap of two areas, neither of which have a community of interest with the rest of Mayo.

S Pantelios proposes that Sturt extend as far as Churchill Road, Prospect from Campbelltown's eastern boundary. M Virgili proposes that Sturt extend as far as Main North Rd from Campbelltown's eastern boundary.

They provide no evidence as to how this new seat would enhance community of interest.

M Virgili describes the new seat of "Dunstan" that is created following his changes as a seat that includes the "inner city eastern suburbs associated with Walkerville, Norwood/Payneham and St Peters and Burnside Councils". In fact, the changes he suggests actually exclude all those "inner city eastern suburbs" from the current seat of Sturt and include them in Adelaide!

S Pantelios' arguments exclusively relate to the ethnicity of the constituents of the north eastern suburbs.

Her arguments reinforce my own suggestion that the suburbs of Magill, Rostrevor, Newton and Paradise should be included with the rest of Sturt because of the strong community of interest that exists between those constituents and the constituents in the rest of Sturt.

However, ethnicity should not form the sole basis of evidence of community of interest. Yet, even in making an argument based on ethnicity for her suggestion, she fails to note the strong ties between the constituents of Italian or Greek background in Norwood/Payneham and St Peters, Burnside and Campbelltown. She also fails to advance any arguments regarding the ties of ethnicity between Campbelltown and



the City of Port Adelaide/Enfield ("Port Adelaide/Enfield") or the City of Prospect ("Prospect").

The Greek Orthodox Church of Prophet Elias in Norwood serves the Greek Orthodox constituents of the eastern and north eastern suburbs.

The Italian Social Clubs such as Altavilla/Irpina (Norwood), San Giorgio la Molara (Payneham), and Fogolar Furlan (Firle) serve the constituents of Italian background from Burnside, Norwood/Payneham and St Peters and Campbelltown. The St Anthony, San Pelligrino and Santa Maria di Montevirgine Festivals draw their organising committees and followers from Burnside, Norwood/Payneham and St Peters and Campbelltown. These groups do not share community of interest with, for example, northern suburbs such as Kilburn, Sefton Park and Clearview.

S Pantelios and M Virgili ignore the lack of commonality between Campbelltown and Port Adelaide/Enfield or Prospect.

There are no local community newspapers or Council newsletters that have Port Adelaide/Enfield, Prospect or Campbelltown in common in their distribution area. This is unlike the distribution areas of other local community newspapers that include parts of Campbelltown, Burnside and Norwood/Payneham and St Peters.

Port Adelaide/Enfield, Prospect and Campbelltown do not share postal centres, community or sporting or social groups, schools, shopping areas, church parishes, entertainment precincts or public transport routes in common.

M Virgili admits in his suggestion that changing the names of electorates involves "inconvenience to electors". He suggests that Sturt be renamed "Dunstan". There is no reason to rename Sturt. It would involve unnecessary inconvenience to electors and unnecessary administrative costs to government. Sturt was created in 1949. After fifty years it would be highly controversial to effectively abolish this seat.

M Virgili notes that keeping change to a minimum "maximises continuity with historical boundaries which in most cases represent good communities of interest". His statement supports my understanding, that in the absence of evidence indicating that community of interest would be enhanced by certain changes to a seat, the Committee is required to maintain the existing boundaries of a seat as far as practicable.

I contend that the suggestions of the ALP, S Pantelios and M Virgili do not enhance community of interest for either Sturt or Mayo and should be rejected. Further, I contend that the suggestions of the Liberal Party and T Worth MP do not enhance community of interest to the same extent as my own suggestion and therefore my suggestion should be preferred by the Committee.

**Retaining the whole of Burnside in one federal electorate satisfies the criteria of the Act and it should not be divided between federal seats.**



There are a number of proposals to split Burnside, wholly or partly, from the seat of Sturt.

Community of interest, ease of transport and communication, the physical features of the area and the maintenance of existing boundaries are satisfied by the continuation of Burnside in Sturt.

S Pantelios' suggestion makes no attempt to argue the community of interest, communication, transport or physical features aspects that would support her suggestions that the eastern half of Burnside is better suited to Mayo or that the western half of Burnside is better suited to Adelaide.

Her contention that the pejorative description of Burnside as "leafy" and "establishment" is enough evidence to establish a community of interest between Burnside and Mayo is wrong.

Her suggestion swaps areas of the plain in the north eastern suburbs currently included in Mayo, with areas of the plain in the eastern suburbs. Neither area has a community of interest with the rest of Mayo. Burnside shares a community of interest with Campbelltown and Norwood/Payneham and St Peters.

M Virgili's contention that Burnside is increasingly diverse geographically is untrue. The geography of Burnside has remained unchanged. It is a homogenous community existing entirely on the Adelaide plains and foothills. It has no community of interest with the Hills or rural areas contained in Mayo. M Virgili suggests that there are "hills" suburbs in Burnside but fails to provide their names.

M Virgili asserts that the upgraded Mt Barker freeway will lead to constituents of the plains pursuing their interests in the Hills and vice versa. He provides no evidence for this theory. The authority responsible for the freeway has informed me that there is no evidence available to support this argument.

The Hills and plains areas are two distinct communities. Evidence advanced in my original suggestion to the Committee regarding community, sporting and social groups, means of communication such as public transport and local community newspapers, church parishes, schools and shopping districts support this proposition.

M Virgili and S Pantelios suggest that the future inclusion of the suburbs of Auldana and Skye in Burnside supports their argument for the division of Burnside. The opposite is in fact true. Auldana and Skye will be included in Burnside because of their proximity and community of interest with the plains and the rest of Burnside. This decision further demonstrates that the Hills represent a recognised natural boundary. Their exclusion from Burnside is an historical anomaly. It is timely that it has been recognised as such and corrected.

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 Burnside between Sturt and Adelaide.

The arguments already advanced provide evidence to refute these suggestions. However, there are other general arguments for Burnside not to be divided between federal electorates –

- Concentrating local government areas within federal seat boundaries necessarily reflects community of interest within an area. Many local organisations and associations are based on local government boundaries. Splitting local government boundaries between electorates has the opposite effect.
- The shopping and entertainment districts of Burnside service the constituents of the eastern suburbs that live on the Adelaide plain. The constituents of the Hills and the City do not travel to Burnside to do their shopping, go to restaurants or be entertained. For example, the Chelsea and Trak Cinemas and the shopping and business precincts of Dulwich, Tusmore, Erindale, Magill, Frewville, Wattle Park, Marryatville, Burnside, Kensington Road, Portrush Road and Glen Osmond Road are patronised by the constituents of the eastern suburbs.
- Dividing Burnside between two or three federal electorates would split church parish boundaries. The Roman Catholic parishes of Dulwich and Burnside, Norwood, and Glen Osmond, and the Anglican parishes of Norwood, Toorak Gardens, Kensington, Burnside, Kensington Gardens and Magill are wholly contained in the eastern suburbs sharing no commonality with either Adelaide or Mayo.
- The distribution areas of the local community newspapers *The Norwood and Burnside Weekender*, *The Eastern Courier* and the Burnside Council newsletter are the eastern plains suburbs. None of these means of communication for businesses and sources of information for constituents includes the City of Adelaide or the Hills in their area of distribution.
- Dividing Burnside between two or three federal electorates will not reflect the operation of the community, sporting and social groups of Burnside. These groups draw their membership from the constituents of the eastern suburbs. Most of the community and social groups like Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis, Zonta and the many sporting clubs that operate in places like Kensington Park and Hazelwood Park are replicated in Adelaide and Mayo. There is almost no cross over of membership in these organisations between the eastern plain, Hills or city.
- The government junior primary and primary schools (Linden Park, Rose Park, Burnside, Norwood, Magill and Marryatville) and the government secondary schools (Glenunga, Marryatville and Norwood/Morialta) in Burnside draw their pupils from the catchment area of the eastern suburbs. They are the source of significant community of interest as the focus of many families lives for the majority of the time that children spend with their parents. The children living in Adelaide attend government schools there. Only in exceptional circumstances do



the children living in Mayo travel from the Hills to the plain to attend government schools.

- The inclusion of part of Burnside in Mayo would subject the constituents of the eastern suburbs to the same inconvenience that the constituents of the north eastern suburbs have been subjected for the last seven years. The proximity of the Sturt electorate office on the plain would lead to their continuing use of the Member for Sturt for their enquiries in preference to undertaking the lengthy trip to the Mayo electorate office in Stirling. To a lesser extent there would be inconvenience suffered by the constituents of that part of Burnside suggested for inclusion in Adelaide.
- Suggestions to include the western part of Burnside in Adelaide and the eastern part of Burnside in Mayo ignore the criteria of the Act that requires the Committee to have regard to the physical features of an area. The parklands are an obvious physical feature on the western boundary of Sturt. The Hills are a substantial physical impediment on its eastern boundary.

Trish Worth MP suggests that the boundaries of 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 a federal redistribution. State electorate boundaries change more often than federal electorate boundaries. This makes relying on them as an indicator for a federal redistribution problematic. State seat boundaries should therefore not be taken into account in the redistribution of federal boundaries.

Her suggestion also argues that as Adelaide includes part of six of the seven council areas surrounding the seat it would be consistent to include part of Burnside in Adelaide. In fact, as local government boundaries of themselves indicate an area of community of interest, her point reinforces the argument made in my original suggestion that all of the City of Walkerville should be included in Adelaide. Further division of local government boundaries (and hence the consequent diminution of community of interest) would run contrary to the criteria contained in the Act.

Trish Worth MP argues that shared polling booths are a relevant consideration for deciding community of interest between abutting suburbs. Shared polling booths are a convenience devised by the Electoral Commission for a particular polling day, they are not chosen on the basis of community of interest. If it is relevant, the same argument could be made to support my original suggestion that Marden be included in Adelaide.

**Retaining the majority of Norwood/Payneham and St Peters in Sturt satisfies the criteria of the Act and it should not be further divided between federal seats.**

The suggestions referred to propose that a number of suburbs in Norwood/Payneham and St Peters be excised from Sturt and included in Adelaide.



The suggestions referred to fail to elucidate cogent arguments for their contention.

M Virgili points to few arguments in favour of his suggestion in relation to the suburbs associated with Norwood/Payneham and St Peters.

He states that the councils in the suburbs surrounding the City of Adelaide "steadfastly rejected amalgamation overtures from neighbouring suburban councils through the local government reform process".

In fact, the City of Kensington and Norwood, the City of Payneham and the City of St Peters amalgamated to form a third eastern suburbs council (along with the City of Burnside and the City of Campbelltown). The Cities of Kensington and Norwood, Payneham and St Peters rejected overtures from the Town of Walkerville and the City of Adelaide for discussions about merger.

The Cities of Norwood/Payneham and St Peters, Burnside and Campbelltown were determined to remain entities that continued to exist between the City and the Hills. The suggestions of M Virgili and S Pantelios propose the opposite to that desired and finally promulgated by the Cities referred to in the local government reform process.

There has been consideration given to the amalgamation of the three Cities in the next round of local government reform to create one eastern and north eastern suburbs council.

S Pantelios makes no attempt to argue the case for the exclusion from Sturt of most of the suburbs of Norwood/Payneham and St Peters. Her arguments seem to primarily relate to dividing Burnside. As already argued above her arguments about ethnicity ignore the ethnic demography of the areas currently in Sturt.

There are a number of features of Norwood/Payneham and St Peters that make it appropriate for inclusion with the other Council areas of the eastern and north eastern suburbs –

- It is a new City but has its foundation deeply rooted in the history of South Australia. It is an area long associated with the eastern suburbs.
- Norwood/Payneham and St Peters has recently resolved to adopt the name the "City of East Adelaide" after a comprehensive consultation process with the local community and local businesses. Nothing could more clearly indicate the firm belief of local leaders, the community and business that the area encompassed by this City is a part of the eastern suburbs along with Burnside and Campbelltown.
- The constituents of the eastern suburbs shop, do business and are entertained in the precincts of the eastern suburbs. For example, The Parade is a vibrant shopping, entertainment and community centre that services the constituents of the eastern and north eastern suburbs. The Parade has undergone enormous development in the last decade (recently a new cinema complex was opened on The Parade). There is no community of interest between the constituents of the





eastern suburbs and Adelaide. The Parade is the convenient "heart" of Sturt. Dividing this area from the rest of Sturt makes no sense.

- The *Norwood & Burnside Weekender*, *Eastern Courier*, *Payneham Messenger*, *Billboard* and *Norwood/Payneham* and *St Peters* newsletter are all communications that serve the area of the eastern and north eastern suburbs. None of these newsletters have the City of Adelaide or other parts of Adelaide within their distribution networks.
- Constituents of Italian heritage are well represented in this area. The cultural and religious festivals referred to above (St Anthony and San Pelligrino) are conducted in *Norwood/Payneham* and *St Peters*. The former City of *Payneham* was the most densely populated local government area in Australia of people of Italian background. This represents a strong demographic connection between the communities of Italian background in *Campbelltown*, *Burnside* and *Norwood/Payneham* and *St Peters*.
- Local government areas reflect community of interest and should be concentrated, where practicable, in one federal seat. The local government boundaries of *Norwood/Payneham* and *St Peters* are a recent creation. At the time the three councils merged a study was conducted by Professor Hugo into the communities of interest that existed within the three council areas and the *Town of Walkerville* to the north. The study found that the three councils shared substantial community of interest. It concluded that these communities of interest were not shared with the *Town of Walkerville*.
- The further division of *Norwood/Payneham* and *St Peters* will split the Anglican parishes of *Norwood* and *Payneham* and also split the Catholic parishes of *Payneham*, *St Peters* and *Norwood*.
- The current boundary between *Sturt* and *Adelaide* ignores the *River Torrens*. I do not propose that *Sturt* should be extended to the *River Torrens* but I would submit that the Committee have regard for at least one physical feature of the area - the parklands.
- The community, social and sporting groups of *Norwood/Payneham* and *St Peters* draw their membership from the eastern and north eastern suburbs. The same groups are replicated in the local government areas that make up *Adelaide*. Sometimes the community, social and sporting groups of *Norwood/Payneham* and *St Peters* actively work in concert with similar groups in *Burnside* or *Campbelltown* and formally make up "eastern divisions" in some cases. This is not true of community, social and sporting groups in the local government areas proposed for inclusion in *Sturt* by the suggestions of the ALP, S Pantelios and M Virgili in particular, and Trish Worth MP and the Liberal Party (SA Division) to a lesser extent.

**Incorporating more of *Campbelltown* in *Sturt* satisfies the criteria of the Act and should be supported by the Committee.**



The suggestions of the ALP, the Liberal Party, the Democrats, S Pantelios and M Virgili support the inclusion of more of Campbelltown in Sturt.

The arguments they advance for their suggestions support those I proposed in my original suggestion to the Committee.

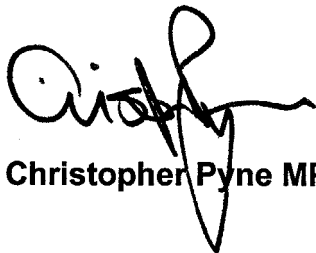
The suggestions of S Pantelios, M Virgili and the ALP go further than is necessary to fulfill the criteria of the Act. Their suggestions cannot be accepted without making radical changes to the other boundaries of Sturt, Mayo and Adelaide. In the first three headings of this comment I have argued why their suggestions fail to enhance community of interest, fail to have regard to communication and transport issues, breach physical features of the area and ignore existing boundaries.

I draw on their support for my suggestions only in so far as it would encourage the Committee to include the rest of Magill, Rostrevor (part), Newton and Paradise (part) in Sturt.

I have argued in detail in my suggestion to the Committee for the acceptance of this proposition. I will not repeat those arguments here but simply direct your attention to pages 3 to 9 of my suggestion.

I am available to appear before the Committee to discuss any aspect of this comment or my suggestion about this redistribution over the course of your inquiry.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Pyne', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Christopher Pyne MP



23 Feb 1999	15:26:50	CCDs	Actual Enrol	Var% (A) <10%	Projected Enrol	Var% (P) <3.5%	Population	Area (sq km)
Adelaide	288	87,574	2.56	88,235	1.14	124,022	68.84	
Barker	302	85,199	-0.22	87,470	0.26	115,977	53,928.42	
Bonython	226	82,400	-3.5	87,834	0.68	127,385	340.22	
Boothby	252	86,558	1.37	86,314	-1.06	114,385	125.15	
Grey	357	84,243	-1.34	84,395	-3.26	126,122	895,451.07	
Hindmarsh	275	87,440	2.41	87,932	0.79	113,148	64.59	
Kingston	223	83,792	-1.87	86,948	-0.33	120,616	347.51	
Makin	196	84,038	-1.58	87,037	-0.23	116,658	106.46	
Mayo	246	85,815	0.5	88,676	1.65	118,315	2,729.29	
Port Adelaide	266	87,184	2.11	87,064	-0.2	119,870	164.17	
Sturt	237	83,820	-1.83	85,492	-2	111,379	66.14	
Wakefield	290	86,569	1.39	89,478	2.57	119,468	30,696.78	
<b>Average for all Divisions</b>								
	263	85,386	0	87,239.58	0	118,945.42	82,007.39	
<b>Sum of all Divisions</b>								
	3,158	1,024,632	0	1,046,875	0	1,427,345	984,088.64	







