

# Redistribution of Federal Electoral Boundaries South Australia 2011



# Presentation by the Electoral Commissioner

(April 2011)



# Definition

A redistribution is a redrawing of electoral boundaries to ensure that, as near as practicable, there are a similar number of electors in each division for a given state or territory.

# Entitlement

South Australia is entitled to **11** seats in the House of Representatives.

This entitlement has not changed as a result of the redistribution.

Redistributions have no impact on the Senate.

# Why is this redistribution happening?

A redistribution is required because seven years has elapsed since the last redistribution in South Australia.

The last redistribution in South Australia was determined on 17 Dec 2003.

The redistribution must be commenced within 30 days after the end of the seven-year period.

This redistribution commenced on 12 January 2011.

# The redistribution process

- The process is governed by the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*.
- A Redistribution Committee is appointed to develop the redistribution proposal.
- The Redistribution Committee is an independent and impartial body.
- Membership:
  - the Electoral Commissioner
  - the AEO and State Manager (Ms Witham)
  - the State Surveyor-General
  - the State Auditor-General.

# Timetable

12 January 2011	Direction to commence redistribution
4 April 2011	Enrolment statistics available on the AEC website
6 April 2011	Public suggestions invited
6 May 2011	Public suggestions close
9 May 2011	Comments on public suggestions invited
20 May 2011	Comments on public suggestions close
12 August 2011	Redistribution Committee report with proposal published
9 September 2011	Objections close
12 September 2011	Comments on objections invited
23 September 2011	Comments on objections close
21 October 2011	Augmented Electoral Commission makes announcement
16 December 2011	Determination of boundaries and names

# Extensive public consultation - the process

- Members of the public are invited to submit suggestions from 6 April.
- Newspaper advertisements inviting suggestions:
  - Adelaide Advertiser on Saturday 9 April 2011
  - Sunday Mail on Sunday 10 April 2011
- Suggestions must be received by the Secretariat by 6pm on Friday 6 May 2011.
- All suggestions will be published on the AEC website on 9 May 2011.
- Comments on the suggestions open until 6pm on Friday 20 May 2011. (Also published on the AEC website).



The Redistribution Committee meets and develops a proposed redistribution.

In doing so it:

- considers all suggestions and comments
- needs to comply with the numerical criteria
- also takes other considerations specified in the Electoral Act into account.

The Redistribution Committee plans to release its proposed redistribution on Friday 12 August 2011.

The proposal report will detail the Committee's decisions and the reasons for its decisions.

Members of the public will be invited to submit objections to the proposal, and then may comment on the objections.

Public inquiries may be conducted.

# What is the Quota?

Each redistribution must adhere to the numerical criteria specified in the Electoral Act. The first numerical criterion relates to the 'quota'.

The permissible maximum number of electors in a division in SA is

$$(\text{Quota } 100\,636 + 10\%) = \mathbf{110\,699}$$

The permissible minimum number of electors in a division in SA is

$$(\text{Quota } 100\,636 - 10\%) = \mathbf{90\,573}$$

For the redistribution to be valid, each division in South Australia must have between 90 573 and 110 699 electors.

# Projected enrolment

The second numerical criterion relates to the projected enrolment.

The projection time for South Australia is 21 January 2015.

The Redistribution Committee must endeavour to ensure that the number of electors enrolled in each division in South Australia at 21 January 2015 is not less than 96.5% or more than 103.5% of the average divisional enrolment.

Projected enrolment figures are provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and are on the AEC website.

# How is the projected enrolment calculated?

- The number of Members of the House of Representatives to which South Australia is entitled = **11**.
- The estimated total number of electors enrolled in South Australia at the projection time (21 January 2015) = **1 152 271**
- Therefore, the average divisional enrolment at 21 Jan 2015 = **104 752**

Maximum number of electors in a division at the projection time (103.5%)  
= **108 418**

Minimum number of electors in a division at the projection time (96.5%)  
= **101 086**

# Other considerations

The numerical criteria are the most important factors in a redistribution.

*Secondary considerations:*

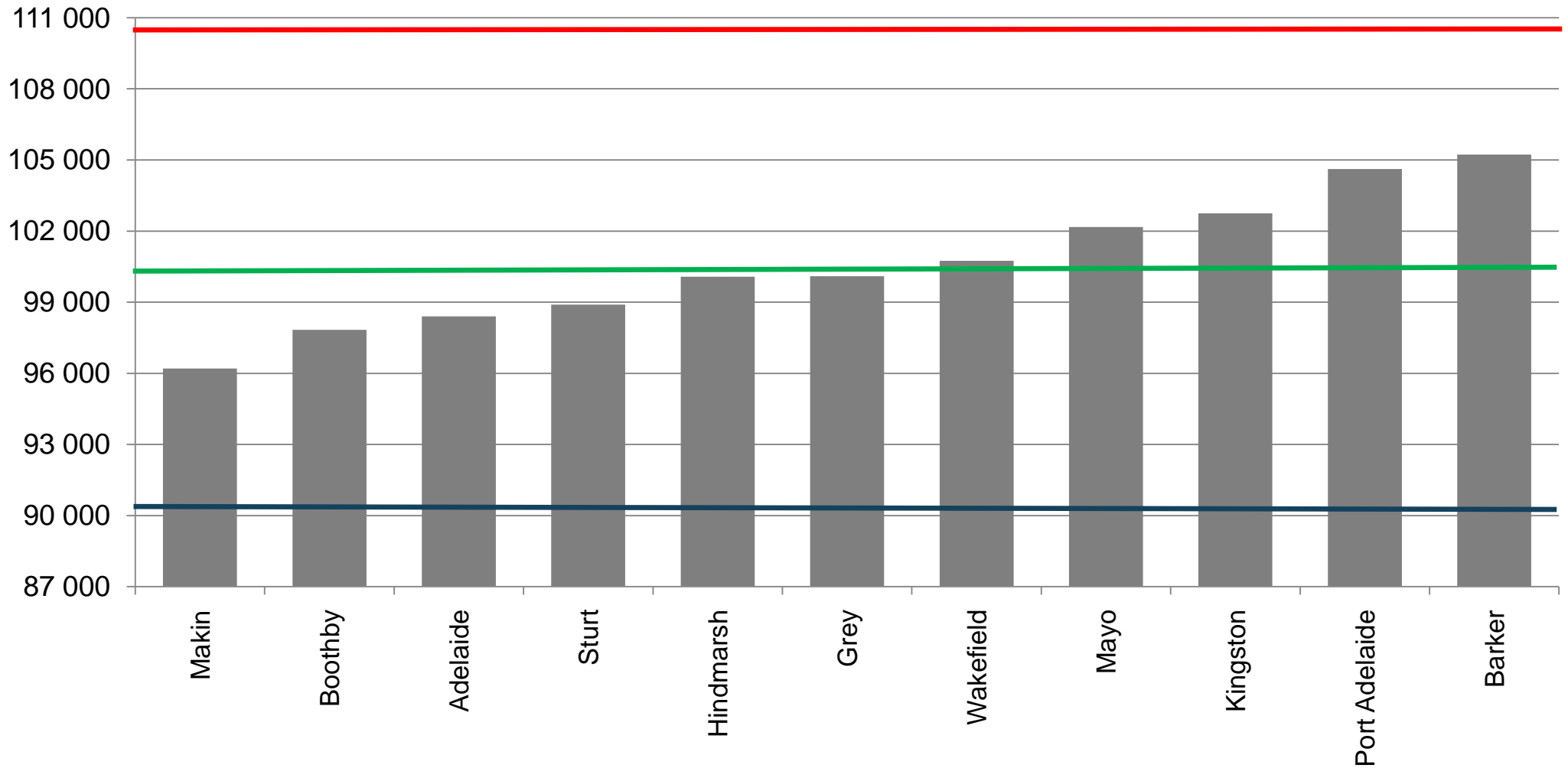
The Redistribution Committee is to ‘give due consideration to’:

1. community of interests within the proposed electoral division, including economic, social and regional interests
2. means of communication and travel in the proposed division
3. the physical features and area of the proposed division
4. the boundaries of existing divisions in South Australia – *but this is subordinate to the other criteria.*

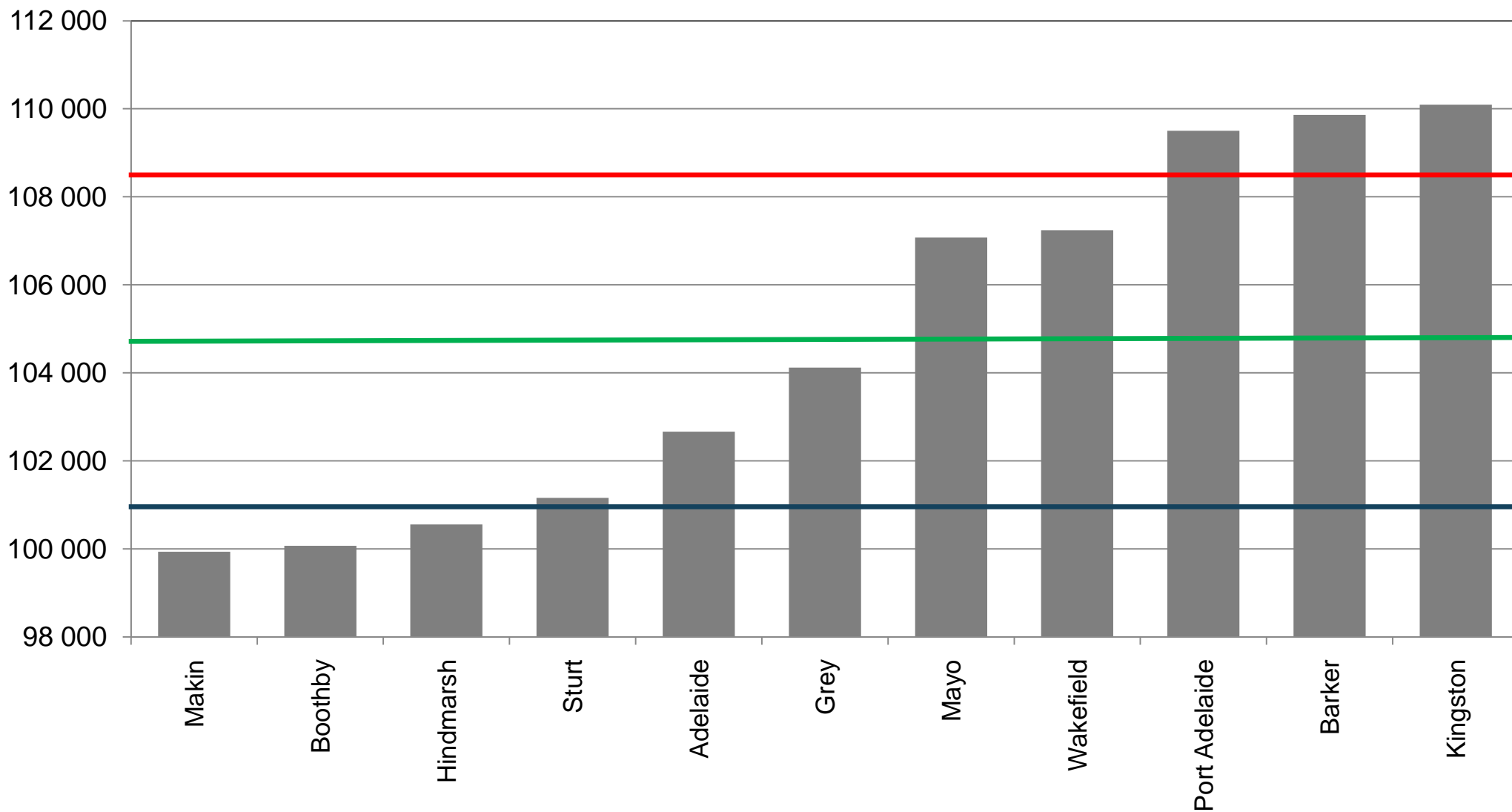
# Announcement & implementation

- The augmented Electoral Commission, which comprises the Chair of the Electoral Commission, the Australian Statistician and members of the Redistribution Committee, is tentatively scheduled to announce its decision about the redistribution on 21 October 2011.
- The redistribution is scheduled to be determined on 16 December 2011.
- The redistribution will come into effect on that date.
  - However for the purposes of electing members of Parliament, the new boundaries come into effect at the first federal election after the determination date.

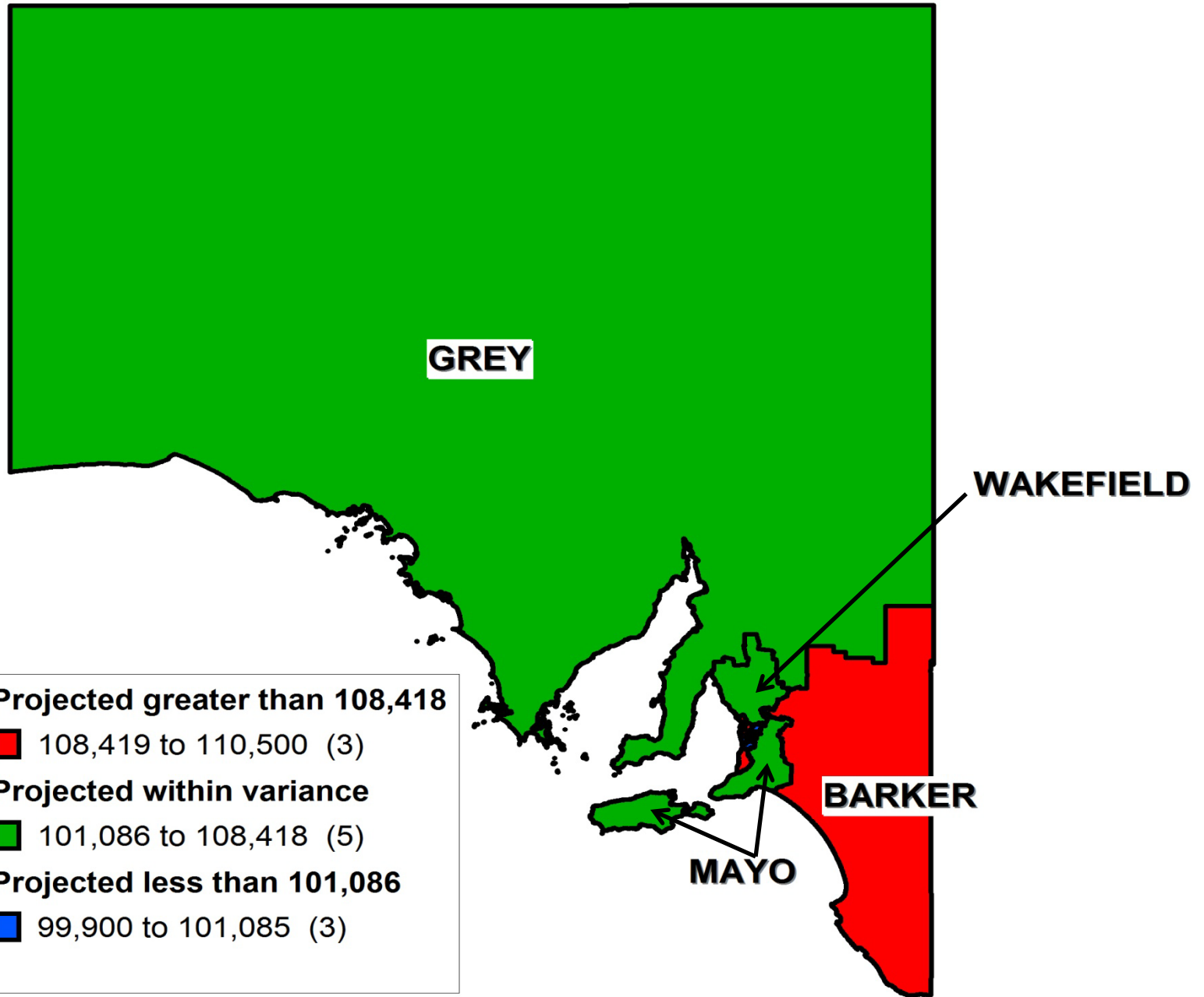
# Actual enrolment 12 Jan 2011

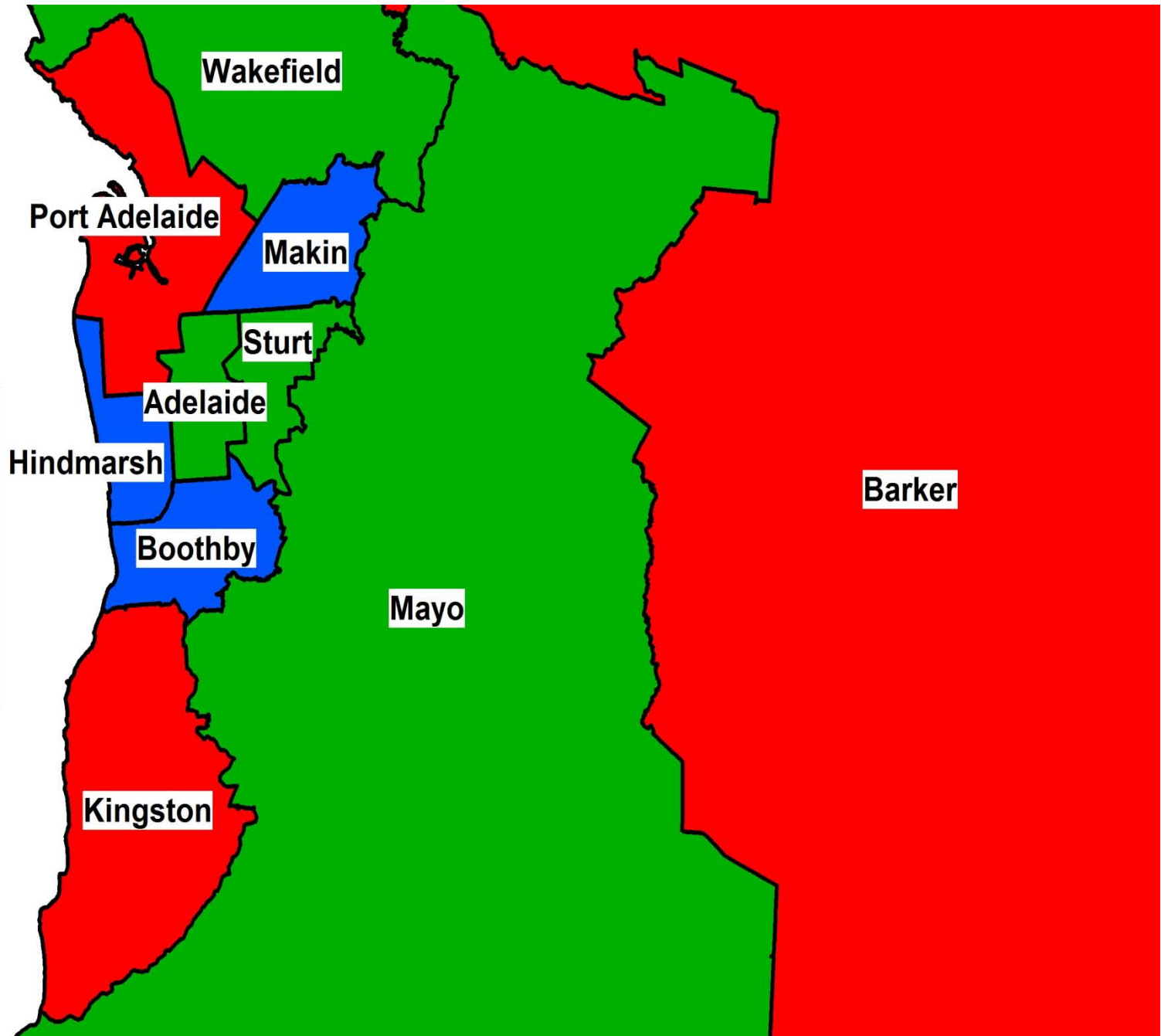


# Projected Enrolment 21 Jan 2015









- Projected greater than 108,418**
- 108,419 to 110,500 (3)
- Projected within variance**
- 101,086 to 108,418 (5)
- Projected less than 101,086**
- 99,900 to 101,085 (3)



# Conclusion

- The redistribution process is prescribed by the Electoral Act.
- This process is:
  - independent and transparent, with significant opportunity for public consultation, and
  - politically neutral – no political considerations are taken into account, e.g.: elector voting patterns or polling places are not considered. (ABS CCDs are the basic building block for the redistribution).
- There is no single solution to any redistribution. Ultimately the Redistribution Committee and augmented Electoral Commission must exercise their judgment in light of the information before them and the criteria in the Electoral Act.
- See the [AEC website](#) for further information about the redistribution.

# AEC contact details

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