



Public Objection Number 3

**Kyam Maher - State Secretary
Australian Labor Party**

4 pages



9th September 2011

Redistribution Committee of South Australia
9th Floor
Origin Energy House
1 King William Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Committee Members,

On behalf of the Australian Labor Party, please find attached our objections to the 2011 Redistribution proposal for South Australia.

Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kyam Maher".

Kyam Maher
State Secretary

Australian Labor Party

Objections to the redistribution proposal 2011 Redistribution for South Australia

The ALP agrees with the Redistribution Committee's general strategy that there need not be large movements of electors in this redistribution (at paragraph 58):

"the extent of variation from the average projected enrolment was relatively small, meaning the necessary adjustments could be accommodated with relatively minor changes to existing boundaries"

The Committee also sought to unite and retain rural communities of interest (paragraph 58). The ALP submits that by proposing to further divide the Barossa Council, which would now be divided between three electorates rather two, this key objective has not been achieved and that distinct communities of interest are less well served.

In the Barossa Council area the Committee proposes to transfer 2 619 voters from Barker to Wakefield and 2 066 electors from Mayo to Wakefield.

The Committee noted at paragraph 118, that the completion of the Northern Expressway has created a major transport link *"between Williamstown through Gawler and into the City of Adelaide."* This is not, per se, a distinguishing feature of Williamstown that provokes a specific community of interest with other parts of the Division of Wakefield. By the same logic any town that is connected by road to Gawler then has good links to the City of Adelaide through the Northern expressway, but it would be a nonsense to suggest that is good reason to transfer all towns connected by road to Gawler to the division of Wakefield.

The Committee further notes in paragraph 118 that it has sought to unite the locality of Williamstown into one electorate. The Committee's aim would be achieved and communities of interest better preserved if the whole of the locality of Williamstown were in an electorate such as Mayo

The ALP suggests that the 2 066 Barossa Council electors proposed to be transferred from Mayo to Wakefield remain in Mayo, and that the 2 619 Barossa Council electors proposed to be transferred from Barker to Wakefield instead be transferred to Mayo.

Mayo would then have 104 248 projected electors, a variation from the average of only -0.48% (rather than the -2.98% variation from the average that the Committee currently proposes). There would be no change in the Committee's projected variance for Barker as the Division is still transferring 2 619 electors – we are just suggesting that these Barossa Council electors are transferred to Mayo (which after losing the suburban area of Aberfoyle Park is now a wholly regional electorate) rather than the largely metropolitan electorate of Wakefield.

Uniting the whole of the locality of Williamstown in Mayo rather than Wakefield would leave Wakefield 4 685 electors down on the Committee's proposal and needing to gain electors. The ALP proposes that there is a very simple solution to this that wouldn't involve Wakefield having electors transferred from another electorate, rather Wakefield wouldn't transfer some of the electors the Committee proposes be transferred from Wakefield to Port Adelaide.

The ALP submits that in the Salisbury area voters have been unnecessarily transferred and that has resulted in proposed boundaries that negatively effect communities of interest in that area.

Pursuant to the Committee's proposal the Division of Port Adelaide is already 1.45% above the average projected enrolment. If the Division of Port Adelaide had approximately 3 000 less electors transferred to it from Wakefield then the Division of Port Adelaide would be slightly closer to the average projected enrolment at 1.41% below the average projected enrolment.

The Committee proposes to move the suburbs of Burton, Direk, Salisbury North and Waterloo Corner from Wakefield to Port Adelaide (8 067 electors). The Committee suggests at paragraph 76 that this move is:

"...in line with communities of interest as it unites the developing suburb of Burton into one electorate, rather than splitting the suburb across two electorates."

It difficult to reconcile this rationale when the Committee fails to unite the nearby suburbs of Waterloo Corner and Salisbury – leaving those suburbs split across the same two electorates.

The suburbs of Burton, Direk, Salisbury North and Waterloo Corner have stronger ties to areas in Wakefield such as Elizabeth than they do with the Division of Port Adelaide (which is becoming much more of a coastal electorate with the proposed transfer of it's most inland suburbs of Cavan, Gepps Cross, Mawson Lakes, Parafield, Pooraka, and Salisbury South to Makin).

Many of the suburbs surrounding Burton, Waterloo Corner and Salisbury North – such as Brahma Lodge, Edinburgh, Salisbury Park and Salisbury Plain will remain in Wakefield if the Committee's proposed changes take effect.

There are a number of communities of interest considerations that provide good reasons to retain some of the Salisbury area suburbs in Wakefield rather than transferring them to Port Adelaide.

Transport Links:

The suburbs of Burton, Waterloo Corner and Salisbury North, Brahma Lodge, Edinburgh, Salisbury Park and Salisbury Plain share similar transport links such as the Salisbury Highway, Main North Road and the Gawler to Adelaide rail line.

Shopping Centres:

People in Burton, Waterloo Corner and Salisbury North are more likely to shop at either the Parabanks shopping centre in Salisbury or the Elizabeth City Centre in Elizabeth. Both are in Wakefield.

Sporting Links:

At least two junior soccer teams, Salisbury United and Salisbury Villa, play in the Elizabeth and Districts Junior Soccer Association.

The SANFL mandated recruiting zone for the Central Districts Football Club (Bulldogs) based in Elizabeth, a club with a strong community presence in Northern Adelaide, includes Salisbury North and Burton.

There are numerous ways that 3 000 voters across the suburbs of Burton, Direk, Salisbury North and Waterloo Corner (Salisbury area) could be retained in Wakefield rather than transferred to Port Adelaide. Rather than nominate very

specific areas that might remain, the ALP is confident the Augmented Electoral Commission for South Australia will be able to determine a suitable boundary in this area.

In summary the ALP suggestions would result in Divisions that are numerically even closer to average projected enrolment, communities of interest that are better protected and enhanced, and current boundaries that are better respected (with approximately 5 000 less voters transferred in total). The ALP's suggestions are summarised in the tables below.

Mayo	Projected enrolment	% Variance
Committee's proposal	101 629	-2.98%
Retain Barossa area proposed to be transferred to Wakefield	2 066	
Accept Barossa area of Barker proposed to be transferred to Wakefield	2 619	
New suggested total	106 314	1.49%

Port Adelaide	Projected enrolment	% Variance
Committee's proposal	106 271	1.45%
Accept less electors in the Salisbury area from Wakefield.	(3 000)	
New suggested total	103 271	-1.41%

Wakefield	Projected enrolment	% Variance
Committee's proposal	104 621	-0.13%
Not transfer Barossa area proposed to be transferred from Mayo	(2 066)	
Not transfer Barossa area proposed to be transferred from Barker	(2 619)	
Transfer less electors in the Salisbury area to Port Adelaide.	3 000	
New suggested total	102 946	-1.72%

Barker	Projected enrolment	% Variance
Committee's proposal	107 242	2.38%
Not transfer Barossa area proposed to be transferred to Wakefield	(2 616)	
Transfer Barossa area proposed to be transferred to Wakefield to Mayo instead	2 619	
New suggested total (no change)	107 242	2.38%