



The Federal Redistribution 2011
South Australia



Public Suggestion Number 7

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5 pages

2011 FEDERAL ELECTORAL REDISTRIBUTION FOR THE STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PUBLIC SUGGESTION

AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS (SA DIVISION) INC

Introduction

1. The South Australian Federal electorates are to be redistributed in December 2011 by reason of the 'seven year rule'.
2. This Public Suggestion is submitted by the Australian Democrats (SA Division) Inc. The party has been provided with enrolment data and projections by the Australian Electoral Commission/the Redistribution Committee for South Australia.
3. In the past, and again on this occasion, our approach is not to draw maps, but rather to raise issues for consideration.
4. There are four criteria which the Committee is required to consider in performing the redistribution – *Commonwealth Electoral Act*, s66(3):
 - a. communities of interest within the proposed division, including economic, social and regional interests;
 - b. means of communication and travel within the proposed division ;
 - c. physical features and area of the proposed division; and
 - d. existing boundaries of divisions in South Australia.
5. Criterion (d) above is subordinate to the other criteria. However, that fact should not obscure the consideration that the current boundaries were drawn in 2003 by reference to these criteria, and therefore some of those boundaries may have particular 'strengths' in terms of the other criteria.
6. What is more, as the 2003 Redistribution occurred because of the loss of an electorate, the usual criterion of the existing (1999) boundaries was necessarily

an even lesser than usual consideration – losing one out of twelve electorates required a significant 'redraw' – although ultimately the Committee decided to leave the 1999 Hindmarsh untouched.

7. The point made in paragraph 5 above is, we submit, particularly relevant to the consideration on this occasion of some of the boundaries which were significantly redrawn in 2003 – and in particular those associated with two decisions which were supported by many of those who made Suggestions and/or otherwise participated in the 2003 redistribution process:
 - the transfer of an anomalous Adelaide Plains portion of the 1999 Mayo into 2003 Sturt; and
 - the reunification of the entire Riverland in the single electorate of Barker.
8. At the Objection stage in 2003, we suggested that the then proposed Grey, Wakefield and Barker be altered particularly around the Barossa, Clare and Gilbert Valleys. That objection was not successful.
9. At that same stage, we also unsuccessfully objected to the treatment of Port Adelaide, in particular, the inclusion within that electorate of significant suburbs and market garden areas to the north of Gillman.
10. Otherwise, we generally accepted (as we still do) that many of the electoral boundaries were then drawn such that communities of interest and communication issues were well addressed.
11. The present electorates are all within the permissible 10% tolerance of quota as of 2011. However, there are electorates which are anticipated to be out of the 3.5% tolerance at the Projection date in 2015.
12. In rough terms, the following adjustments are required:
 - Barker, which is currently well over-quota, will be outside (over) tolerance in 2015 by around 1,350 voters;
 - Kingston, which is currently only slightly over-quota, will be outside (over) tolerance in 2015 by around 1,675 voters;

- Port Adelaide, which is currently moderately over-quota, will be outside (over) tolerance in 2015 by around 1,100 voters;
 - Boothby, which is moderately under-quota, will be outside (under) tolerance in 2015 by around 1,000 voters;
 - Hindmarsh, which is currently very close to quota, will be outside (under) tolerance in 2015 by around 500 voters; and
 - Makin, which is currently well under-quota, will be outside (under) tolerance in 2015 by around 1,150 voters;
13. The tolerance of 3.5% gives a margin of around 7,350 voters. That is a significant consideration in electorates where growth can be expected to continue beyond the Projection date, given the reasonable likelihood that an election may occur quite some time after that date, but before any further Redistribution.
14. We consider that the decision made in 2003 to unify the Riverland with the South East in the electorate of Barker (and to undo a previous decision to include the Fleurieu Peninsula within Barker – by transferring it to Mayo) should not be undone. Further, most of the boundary between Mayo and Barker, particularly at the southern end, should be maintained – on community of interest grounds in relation to both electorates.
15. Similarly, the Barker-Grey boundary, from its eastern end at the South Australia/New South Wales border, should also be maintained, for similar reasons.
16. This means that the appropriate place from which any transfer out of Barker should occur is in its north-west (the part which abuts Wakefield and Mayo).
17. That will allow a transfer of voters from Barker through either Wakefield or Mayo (and we suggest, through Wakefield) into Makin.
18. As Barker is presently over-quota, the transfer should be towards the upper limit of the permissible range – which range is that Barker can lose between

1,350 and 8,700 voters (numbers in 2015 projection terms), and that Makin can gain between 1,150 and 8,500 voters. (The process does not need to leave Wakefield's numbers precisely as per the 2015 projection.)

19. Further, that then allows the other necessary transfers to occur by direct transfers:

- a swap of at least 1,100 and up to 7,850 (2015) voters from Port Adelaide to Hindmarsh; and
- a swap of at least 1,675 and up to 8,350 (2015) voters from Kingston to Boothby.

20. Other possible 'processes' could be considered. For example:

- The Mayo-Barker boundary at the east of Mayo could move to the east, with Kingston moving south or Boothby east. We do not support this, as the present Mayo-Barker boundary at the east of Mayo divides well the Adelaide Hills based Mayo and the part-Riverland based Barker;
- Mayo could be reconfigured, by transferring its part of the Barossa to Wakefield, and picking up some of the more rural parts of the south of Kingston – with a consequential northward movement of boundaries through the Adelaide plains. Depending on the precise changes made (especially with respect to splitting smaller local government areas), we might support such a process, as the unification of the Barossa within one electorate – logically Wakefield – is supportable on community of interest grounds;
- A reconfiguration of the eastern half of the boundary between Grey and Wakefield would be appropriate, as the northern-most parts of Wakefield (eg Clare and Gilbert Valleys DC) share more with the mid-north parts of Grey than do the southernmost parts of Grey (eg Wakefield DC). We would support this if it is possible.

21. For these reasons we suggest that the redistribution process be performed by making the transfers of voters set out in paragraphs 16 – 19 above, (with or

without the suggested transfer between Grey and Wakefield) leaving the electorates of Adelaide and Sturt unchanged (and possibly Grey and Mayo).

22. The source of the proposed transfer from Barker to Wakefield is the Barossa DC, which, unfortunately, would still be split between electorates (and if major surgery is not performed to Mayo as suggested in the second dot point in paragraph 20, that would be between 3 electorates). We suggest a transfer of at least 4,000 (2015) voters, and preferably more.
23. Part of the City of Salisbury can be transferred from Wakefield to Makin without any difficulty in respect of the s66(3) criteria. Again about 5000 (2015) voters should be transferred.
24. Similarly, parts of the Charles Sturt Council at the south of Port Adelaide should be transferred to Hindmarsh. A substantial 'block' defined by main roads should be transferred, rather than there being any attempt to be too particular as to numbers. About 5000 (2015) voters should be transferred if possible.
25. We make the same suggestion about the area to be transferred in the southern part of the City of Marion, where we suggest that there ought to be transfer of around 6,000 (2015) voters from Kingston to Boothby.

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