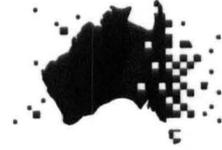




The Federal Redistribution 2011  
South Australia



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**Public Suggestion Number 5**

**Mrs Joy Baluch AM – Mayor  
Port Augusta City Council**

**11 pages**

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**Port Augusta**

CITY COUNCIL

## *Office of the Mayor*

File Name: F10/2852  
Record No: AR11/7560

**2 May 2011**

Claire Witham  
Acting Australian Electoral Officer  
and State Manager for SA  
Australian Electoral Commission  
South Australia – State Office  
GPO Box 344  
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Ms Witham

I refer to your letter of 1 March 2011 wherein you advised of a review of Federal Electoral Boundaries in South Australia.

My Council has considered this matter and has resolved that it:

*"Advises the Acting Australian Electoral Officer and State Manager for SA that Council believes that for voters to receive equal representation to those electors in more densely populated electorates, that the electorate of Grey should be split in two to form 2 electorates, with the other nine seats in the State containing an additional 10,000 electors which would still be within the range of number of electors that electorates."*

In support of this decision, I attach a copy of the City Manager's report on this topic that explains the reasoning.

Yours faithfully

**MRS N.J. (JOY) BALUCH AM**  
**MAYOR**

Enc: Report (AR11/6211)



**PortAugusta**  
CITY COUNCIL

REPORT FOR:	<b>Operations Committee</b>		
MEETING DATE:	11 April 2011		
REPORT FROM:	City Manager		
REPORT TITLE:	<b>Redistribution of Federal Election Boundaries</b>		
FILE NAME:	F10/2852	RECORD NO:	AR11/6211

STRATEGIC PLAN SUB GOAL/S

1.2 Recognise & value the diverse needs & culture of our community.

**PURPOSE**

To gain Council's view on how the Federal seat of Grey should be treated in the redistribution of boundaries.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**Operations Committee recommends Council:**

1. Receives and notes the report (AR11/6211) dated 04 April 2011, submitted by the City Manager concerning "Redistribution of Federal Election Boundaries".
2. Advises the Acting Australian Electoral Officer and State Manager for SA that Council believes that for voters to receive equal representation to those electors in more densely populated electorates, that the electorate of Grey should be split in two to form 2 electorates with the other nine seats in the State containing an additional 10,000 electors which would still be within the range of number of electors that electorates should contain.

**BACKGROUND**

The letter in attachment 1 outlines the background to this topic.

**DISCUSSION**

1. The Federal seat of Grey covers 904,881 sq kms being 92% of the state's area.
2. The map at Attachment 2 outlines its boundaries. The electorate is some 1150kms east to west and 990 kms north to south.
3. Apart from small cities on the coast the electorate is a wide expanse of unsettled bush with few roads and limited small towns and settlements. This belies the fact that the electorate holds most of the state's most valuable resources and will be the mainstay of the state's economy.

4. In essence the most valuable assets in the state are within the Federal seat of Grey which is next to impossible for one person to access, know and be able to represent the diverse views of the far flung settlements. To add to the complexity of the community the seat also includes the majority of the state's Aboriginal population.
5. The size of the electorate reflects the scarce population that resides in the area. This is due to the one vote one value principle on which our democracy is based. That may be an objective way to establish the number of people represented but it does not measure the complexity of the issues that arise from that number of electors being spread over such a vast area nor the difficulty of those electors being able to access their Member of Parliament and meet with him.
6. It is suggested that the quotas for the state should be weighted to take account of the tyranny of distance. Currently in the seat of Sturt (eastern suburbs of metropolitan Adelaide) there are over a thousand voters per square kilometre whereas in Grey there is less than one voter per square kilometre.
7. Greater consideration needs to be given to the value of representation a voter in the seat of Grey can gain as opposed to a voter in the seat of Sturt. The one vote one value equation needs to be considered in terms of the value of the representation able to be given, which must clearly be impacted by the spread of the electorate.
8. This approach is by no means a reflection on the representation currently provided by Rowan Ramsey MP but more a reflection on the extreme pressure he must be under to do his very best for his diverse electorate.
9. On this basis the tyranny of distance and complexity in Grey should lead to the area being represented by at the least two Members of the House of Representatives to ensure voters get equal value of representation from their members to those in the City.
10. A division of the electorate up the Stuart Highway would still leave very large electorates but give the members a lesser area to cover and enable them to give greater attention to the diverse communities within. This will lead to Members of Parliament in the other 9 seats in the state having an additional 10,000 voters however this additional number is within the range already allowed.

## **CONFIDENTIALITY PROVISIONS**

n/a

## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

### **1: Financial/Budget**

n/a

### **2: Legal**

Council has been requested to make comment as allowed for under the Electoral Act.

### **3: Environment**

n/a

### **4: Community**

#### 4.1 General

The community in the seat of Grey have a right to equity of representation which is different from simply having the same number of electors in the seat.

4.2 OPAL Program  
n/a

**GREG PERKIN**  
**04/04/2011**



Mayor Joy Baluch  
 Port Augusta City Council  
 PO Box 1704  
 PORT AUGUSTA SA 5700

Dear Mayor Baluch

It is my pleasure to invite you and your staff to an information session which I will be presenting about the redistribution of federal electoral boundaries in South Australia which will be undertaken this year.

The briefing will provide an overview of federal redistributions, including how the process will unfold over the course of the year, the factors to be taken into account when redrawing the boundaries and the consultation mechanisms.

I am pleased to offer a choice of two sessions at this stage:

Australian Electoral Commission 9 <sup>th</sup> Floor Origin Energy House 1 King William Street Adelaide, South Australia	Tuesday 5 April	11.00 am to 12.00 noon
	Wednesday 13 April	2.00 pm to 3.00 pm

If you are interested in attending, I would be grateful if you could please advise Mr Paul Hawes on email [saredistribution@aec.gov.au](mailto:saredistribution@aec.gov.au) or telephone (08) 8237 6575 by Tuesday 29 March.

#### Background

The Electoral Commission formally commenced the redistribution of South Australia on 12 January 2011, in accordance with the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (the Electoral Act), because seven years had elapsed since the last redistribution.

The rules for redistributions are laid out in some detail under the Electoral Act and are designed to ensure that Australians have, as near as possible, the same number of electors in each federal electoral division representing them in the House of Representatives. As you are aware, South Australia is entitled to 11 members in the House of Representatives and this entitlement remains unchanged.

A Redistribution Committee for South Australia consisting of the Electoral Commissioner, the Australian Electoral Officer for South Australia, the State Surveyor-General and the State Auditor-General will be charged with the responsibility of developing the redistribution proposal.

There will be several opportunities for interested persons and organisations to make suggestions or comments before and after the release of the redistribution proposal.

Before making its proposal, the Redistribution Committee will consider all public suggestions and comments received and will also take into account factors such as economic, social and regional communities of interest.

It is anticipated that the redistribution will be finalised on 16 December this year. A federal election prior to that date would be conducted on the existing electoral boundaries.

I am pleased to attach a background paper about the redistribution. Further information is available at [www.aec.gov.au](http://www.aec.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Claire Witham  
Acting Australian Electoral Officer  
and State Manager for SA

1<sup>st</sup> March 2011

enc

# Information paper

South Australia | Federal Redistribution 2011

## What is the purpose of this federal redistribution?

The redistribution aims to ensure that there are equitable numbers of electors in each federal electoral division in South Australia in accordance with the provisions of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (the Electoral Act).

## Why is this redistribution being held in South Australia?

The Electoral Act requires that the Electoral Commission commence a redistribution if a period of seven years has elapsed since the state was last distributed into electoral divisions (paragraph 59(2)).

The Electoral Act also provides that the redistribution must be commenced within 30 days after the expiration of that seven year period. The last redistribution of South Australia was determined on 17 December 2003. Therefore the redistribution of federal electoral boundaries in South Australia commenced on 12 January 2011.

South Australia's entitlement to representation in the House of Representatives remains unchanged at 11 members.

## Who organises the proposed redistribution of federal electoral boundaries?

A Redistribution Committee will be appointed to produce a proposed set of boundaries and names for electoral divisions in South Australia. The Redistribution Committee will comprise:

- the Electoral Commissioner, Mr Ed Killesteyn
- the acting Australian Electoral Officer for South Australia, Ms Claire Witham
- the State Surveyor-General and
- the Auditor-General for the State

## What are the steps in the redistribution process?

An indicative timetable is attached to this paper. The timetable is also available on the AEC website.

### Enrolment quota

The enrolment quota for the purposes of the South Australian redistribution is 100 636. The quota was calculated by dividing the number of electors enrolled in South Australia on 12 January, when the redistribution started, by the number of Members of the House of Representatives to be elected at the next general election (11).

The number of electors in each federal division in a proposed redistribution must not deviate from this quota by more than 10%. Therefore, each electoral division must have between 90 573 and 110 699 electors.

In addition, the projected number of electors enrolled in each federal division in South Australia as at 21 January 2015 should not deviate from the projected average divisional enrolment at that time by more than 3.5%. These figures will be available on the AEC website in early April 2011.



### Lodging suggestions

Interested persons or organisations will be invited to lodge suggestions about the South Australia redistribution with the Redistribution Committee. This advertisement is scheduled to appear in the Gazette on 6 April and in the press on 9 April.

Public suggestions must be received by the AEC in Adelaide by 6pm (CST) on Friday 6 May. The suggestions will be published on the AEC website on Monday 9 May. A two week period then follows when comments on suggestions can be submitted. The comment period closes at 6pm (CST) on Friday 20 May.

### The redistribution proposal

The Redistribution Committee will then consider the written suggestions and comments and develop a set of proposed boundaries. The Electoral Act requires the Redistribution Committee to ensure that the enrolment in each proposed division meets the numerical requirements outlined above.

Also, in developing its proposal, the Committee shall give due consideration to:

- communities of interest within the proposed division, including economic, social and regional interests
- means of communication and travel within the proposed division
- physical features and area of the proposed division and
- existing boundaries of divisions in South Australia. (This last criterion is subordinate to the others.)

When the Redistribution Committee has finished its deliberations, it will publish a report and maps which will detail the proposed boundaries and provide reasons for the proposal. It is anticipated that the proposal for South Australia will be published on 12 August. This date is subject to change and updates will be provided on the AEC website.

The proposed redistribution will be notified in the Gazette and in the press, and objections to the proposal will be invited. Members of the public have 28 days to lodge written objections to the proposal. This is followed by a period of 14 days during which interested persons and organisations may lodge

written comments on the objections. The objections and comments on objections will be published on the AEC's website.

### Objections to the proposed redistribution

An augmented Electoral Commission will then convene to consider objections to the proposed redistribution and to make a final determination of the names and boundaries of the electoral divisions in South Australia. The augmented Electoral Commission comprises the members of the Redistribution Committee together with the Chairperson of the Australian Electoral Commission and the non-judicial Commissioner (currently the Australian Statistician).

The augmented Electoral Commission has 60 days to consider all objections relating to the proposal. As part of its deliberations, the augmented Electoral Commission holds one or more public inquiries into the objections. After considering the objections, the augmented Electoral Commission will make its own proposed redistribution for South Australia. It is anticipated that the augmented Electoral Commission will announce its proposal on 21 October.

If the augmented Electoral Commission's proposed redistribution is significantly different from that proposed by the Redistribution Committee, it will invite further objections.

### Final determination of names and boundaries

Following consideration of all objections the augmented Electoral Commission will make a final determination of the names and boundaries of the electoral divisions.

At this stage the determination date is scheduled for 16 December 2011. A redistribution report explaining the final outcomes, and maps, will be publicly released after being tabled in Parliament.

### When do the new boundaries come into effect?

The enrolment of new electors and changes to existing enrolments are implemented immediately following the determination of new boundaries. However, for the purpose of electing Members of Parliament, the new boundaries do not come into effect until the next federal election after the determination date.

**What if a federal election is held before the redistribution process is completed?**

The normal redistribution process will continue regardless of a federal election.

A mini-redistribution is not invoked because South Australia's entitlement to Members in the House of Representatives (11) has not changed.

**Does the elected member for a division remain the member following a redistribution that effects that division?**

For the purposes of electoral representation, the elected Member for a division remains the Member of their current division until the next federal election after the redistribution is determined.

**Does the federal redistribution impact on the redistribution of state electoral boundaries, which is also scheduled for 2011?**

No, the federal redistribution and the state redistribution are separate exercises, governed by different legislation and timeframes, and are not related.

*Want more information?*

Further information about the redistribution process is available on the AEC website: [www.aec.gov.au](http://www.aec.gov.au), or by contacting the Redistribution Secretariat at [saredistribution@aec.gov.au](mailto:saredistribution@aec.gov.au).

**Indicative redistribution timetable for South Australia 2011 (as at February 2011)**

Milestone	Indicative date
<b>Direction to commence redistribution</b>	<b>12 January 2011</b>
Enrolment statistics available on AEC website	4 April 2011
Government Gazette call for public suggestions	6 April 2011
Newspaper call for public suggestions	9 April 2011
Suggestions close	6 May 2011
Suggestions available for public perusal	9 May 2011
Comments on suggestions open	9 May 2011
Comments on suggestions close	20 May 2011
Comments on suggestions available for public perusal	23 May 2011
<b>Proposed Redistribution Report released</b>	<b>12 August 2011</b>
Objections invited by Gazette notice	12 August 2011
Newspaper invitation for objections	From 13 August 2011
Objections close	9 September 2011

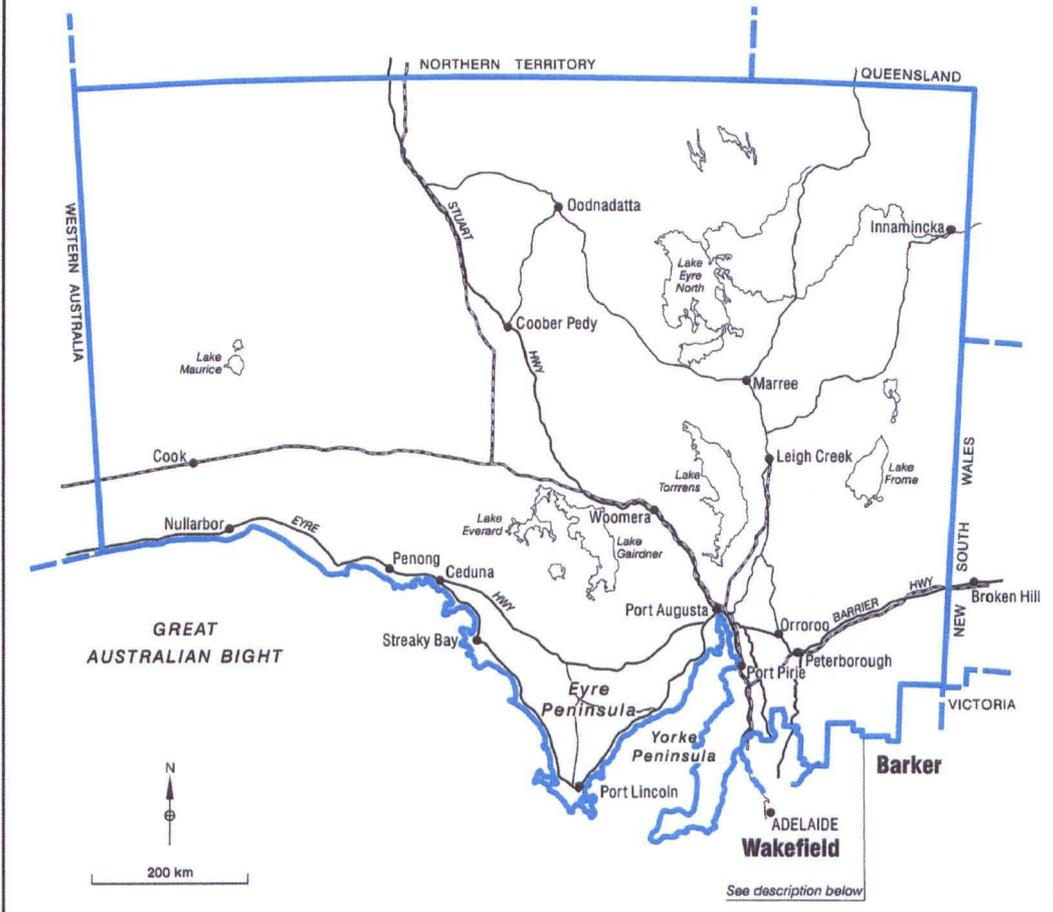
Milestone	Indicative date
Objections available for public perusal	12 September 2011
Comments on objections open	12 September 2011
Comments on objections close	23 September 2011
Comments on objections available for public perusal	26 September 2011
Augmented Electoral Commission considers objections	During October 2011
Public inquiry (if required)	13–14 October 2011
<b>Augmented Electoral Commission makes public announcement (tentative date)</b>	<b>21 October 2011</b>
Further objection period (if required)	TBA
Augmented Electoral Commission must finish considerations	22 November 2011
<b>Augmented Electoral Commission makes final determination by Gazette notice</b>	<b>16 December 2011</b>
Augmented Electoral Commission's report is tabled in Parliament	After 16 December 2011
<b>Augmented Electoral Commission's report publicly available</b>	<b>After Tabling</b>



AL00016



COMMONWEALTH ELECTORAL DIVISION OF  
**GREY**



**Description:** County of Hamley Bdy, HD Parcoola, Unincorporated Area Bdy, Goyder LGA, Northern Areas LGA, Wakefield LGA, Frome State Assembly District Bdy, Barunga West LGA, Yorke Peninsula LGA

- Divisional boundary ———
- Adjoining Divisional boundary - - - -
- Division area 904,881 sq km
- Railway line ———

**Note:**  
Federal redistribution finalised in January 2004.  
Local Government Area (LGA) descriptions are current at November 2002



**2004**  
Reprinted 2007 VC00001