



The Federal Redistribution 2011
South Australia



Public Suggestion Number 6

**Michael Brown – State Secretary
Australian Labor Party (SA)**

16 pages



6 May 2011

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

Dear Committee Members,

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

Regards

Michael Brown
State Secretary

Australian Labor Party
Submission to the
2011 Redistribution Committee for South Australia

Introduction

The last redistribution in South Australia was finalised in late 2003, and as seven years have now elapsed, the Australian Electoral Commission is required to undertake a redistribution of Electoral Divisions in South Australia pursuant to s 59(2)(c) of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*.

The current redistribution presents an opportunity to make minimal changes. The task in this redistribution is significantly different from recent redistributions in other states, and from the last South Australian redistribution, in that there is no loss or gain of a Division.

In South Australia, the variation in projected enrolment between Divisions is relatively small, ranging from 4.60% below to 5.10% above the average divisional enrolment at the projection time. This is in stark contrast to the last Victorian redistribution, where projected enrolment ranged from 12.70% below to 27.79% above the average.

Of the 6 South Australian Divisions that are outside the 3.5% tolerance below and above the average divisional enrolment at the projection time, no Division is more than 2,000 electors outside the tolerance level. The total number of electors that would need to change Divisions across the whole of South Australia would only be 6,897 if the only electors moved were those that it was absolutely necessary to move to bring Divisions within tolerance.

In approaching this submission, the ALP's primary focus was keeping Divisions within the 3.5% tolerance below and above the average enrolment at the projection time, then ensuring that communities of interest are respected and finally, where possible, keeping changes to a minimum.

Many of the communities of interest reasons for the boundaries drawn in the 2003 Redistribution of South Australian still apply equally today, and those boundaries are largely respected in this submission. However, as was noted by the 2003 Redistribution Committee, there were a small number of areas where the requirement to keep Divisions within tolerance resulted in sub-optimal communities of interest outcomes, and this submission suggests remedies for some of those outcomes.

The ALP's submission is structured in two distinct groups of Divisions roughly based on areas in the South and areas in the North of South Australia.

The South

Kingston and Barker are 5.10% and 4.88% above average divisional enrolment at the projection time respectively and need to lose electors, while Boothby is 4.47% below and needs to gain electors. Adelaide and Sturt are within tolerance but below the average while Mayo is within tolerance but above the average.

Our submission suggests:

- Removing the rural townships and primary production areas from Kingston and transferring them to Mayo;
- Removing the small suburban areas from the largely rural Division of Mayo and transferring them to Boothby;
- Removing the remainder of the Town of Walkerville local government area from Sturt and reuniting the entire Town of Walkerville local government area in Adelaide;
- Shifting the border between Boothby and Sturt slightly to even out voter numbers and better reflect communities of interest; and
- Slightly adjusting the border between Mayo and Barker to even out projected enrolments.

Removing the rural townships and primary production areas from Kingston and transferring them to Mayo.

Kingston is well above tolerance and is required to lose electors.

There have been no major changes in the communities that comprise the northern border of Kingston along its boundary with Boothby since the 2003 Redistribution Committee noted (at paragraph 46):

The northern border of Kingston is a clearly defined and recognisable barrier between two communities.

It follows that Kingston must lose electors to its only other contiguous Division, Mayo. The most suitable area of Kingston to transfer is the primary production and rural McLaren Vale area of the Fleurieu Peninsula.

Mayo, being a Rural Division, and already comprising part of the Fleurieu Peninsula, is well placed to accept electors from Kingston, particularly if Mayo loses suburban electors to Boothby. The McLaren Vale area has, historically, regularly been placed in a Rural Division rather than included with the southern suburbs.

Not only is it a Rural Division, but Mayo is largely an Adelaide Hills Division and there are many shared interests between the Adelaide Hills and Fleurieu Peninsula communities, of which the McLaren Vale area is a part. As the 2003 Redistribution Committee stated (at paragraph 40):

There existed a greater community of interests between the Fleurieu Peninsula and the Adelaide Hills areas of Mayo than with the beach suburbs

of Kingston. It also noted the historical connection between the Peninsula and the Hills.

A new boundary between Kingston and Mayo could follow the Onkaparinga River to Main South Road, then follow Main South Road down to Kingston's current southern boundary near Sellicks Beach. This boundary is clearly defined and recognisable and has the advantage of reliably separating the rural areas from the outer southern coastal suburbs.

Having Kingston as north-south Division reflects the direction of transport that most people follow in that area; the main roads are all north-south. The suggested border closely follows the boundary of the State District of Kaurna, which is an entirely metropolitan State District.

Removing the small suburban areas from the largely rural Division of Mayo and transferring them to Boothby.

The 2003 Redistribution Committee accepted (at paragraphs 43-45) the desirability of uniting the suburban areas of Flagstaff Hill (in Boothby) and Aberfoyle Park (in Mayo) but was unable to bring these suburbs within a single Division and at the same time ensure Mayo falls within the required tolerance. The 2003 augmented Commission noted (at paragraph 15):

The Redistribution Committee stated that it had considered ways to move as many of the "suburbs" as possible from Mayo into neighbouring metropolitan Divisions, but was unable to move all of them due to requirements of enrolment tolerance. One area that was considered but was unable to be moved was Aberfoyle Park.

It is with good reason that there was a desire to correct this anomaly. Aberfoyle Park is a suburban area that shares much more in common with the neighbouring suburb of Flagstaff Hill and the rest of Boothby, an Outer Metropolitan Division, than with the rest of Mayo, a Rural Division.

The suburbs of Flagstaff Hill and Aberfoyle Park are paired together for the purposes of high school zoning (see Attachment 1). This brings together many organisations, such as sporting clubs and parents' groups, that share common interests.

Modes of transport inextricably link Flagstaff Hill and Aberfoyle Park, with commuters to and from these suburbs east of Happy Valley Reservoir generally using Flagstaff Road as their main mode of transport. Bus routes from the centre of Adelaide to these two suburbs all use Flagstaff Road (see Attachment 2). Not only do these two suburbs fall within the City of Onkaparinga local government area, they fall with the same council ward – Thalassa Ward.

Removing the remainder of the Town of Walkerville local government area from Sturt, reuniting the entire Town of Walkerville in Adelaide.

The Town of Walkerville is the smallest metropolitan local government area in South Australia, yet it is split between Adelaide and Sturt. It is often unavoidable for larger metropolitan councils to be split between Divisions but residents in such a small local government area as Walkerville is will almost certainly have more of an affinity to the rest of their council area than occurs in much larger metropolitan councils.

Although Adelaide is within the acceptable tolerance, it is still below the average and can therefore accept more electors. The remaining Walkerville Council area will bring Adelaide to very close to the average projected enrolment and reunite a clear community of interest.

Shifting the border between Boothby and Sturt slightly to even out voter numbers and better reflect communities of interest.

With Boothby gaining Aberfoyle Park, it is now over the acceptable tolerance, while Sturt is now under the acceptable tolerance. Even before removing the remainder of the Town of Walkerville local government area, Sturt was 3.43%, or a mere 76 electors, away from falling below tolerance.

Transferring the north-eastern protrusion of Boothby, bounded by Fullarton, Cross and Glen Osmond Roads, would bring both Boothby and Sturt comfortably within tolerance.

There are strong communities of interest between the proposed transfer area of Boothby with Sturt. For example, the majority of this area falls within the Glenunga International High School zone. The school is located in Sturt.

Sturt is largely a Division based on the eastern suburbs, while Boothby is a Division based on the southern suburbs. The residents of the suburbs proposed to be moved into Sturt, Myrtle Bank and part of Fullarton would consider themselves to be part of the eastern suburbs of Adelaide rather than the southern suburbs. In addition, most of the residents of Myrtle Bank and Fullarton use the Burnside Village Shopping Centre, in Sturt, as their major shopping centre, rather than travelling to any of the major retail precincts within Boothby, such as at Mitcham.

Slightly adjusting the border between Mayo and Barker to even out projected enrolments.

Barker is over the acceptable tolerance and needs to lose votes. The determination of the 2003 augmented Commission noted (at paragraph 18) the desirability of:

Uniting the River Murray in one Division.

Adhering to this principle makes it difficult for Barker to shed electors to Grey.

As Wakefield is already over the average projected enrolment, it is not, per se, a good candidate to accept electors from Barker. In addition, the small shared border between Wakefield and Barker is the local government area boundary between the Town of Gawler and Light Regional Council, so it would be undesirable to unnecessarily split regional local councils.

A number of options exist to transfer electors from Barker to Mayo.

The Barossa Council local government area is already split between Barker and Mayo so shifting the boundary slightly, for instance to move Lyndoch from Barker to Mayo, would work well numerically. Lyndoch is changing in nature to become more of a commuter township for the growing Gawler area, and will be even more so with the Gawler East and Concordia residential developments.

Williamstown is already in Mayo and as both Williamstown and Lyndoch are at the very southern end of the Barossa Valley registered area according to Wine Australia's Geographical Indicators (see Attachment 3), it will not disrupt communities of interest to include both towns in one Division.

Alternatively, the whole of the Barossa Council local government area could be united in Mayo. This would place Mayo over tolerance and require the transfer of votes from Mayo to Barker. The Alexandrina Council local government area, which is currently wholly within Mayo, could be split and the town of Goolwa placed in Baker. This would have the benefit of uniting all of the near Adelaide wine producing regions (Barossa Valley, Eden Valley, Adelaide Hills and McLaren Vale) in Mayo and place the final River Murray township (Goolwa) in Barker with the rest of the River Murray towns.

The North

Port Adelaide is 4.53% above the average divisional enrolment at the projection time and needs to lose electors, while Hindmarsh and Makin are 4.01% and 4.60% below the average divisional enrolment at the projection time respectively and need to gain electors. Grey is almost on the average and Wakefield is within tolerance, but slightly on the high side.

Our submission suggests:

- Continuing the trend from the last redistribution and transferring more electors from Port Adelaide to Hindmarsh;
- Transferring electors in the suburb of Hillbank from Wakefield to Makin;
- Transferring a small number of electors from Port Adelaide to Wakefield to even out voter numbers and better reflect communities of interest; and
- Transferring a further portion of the Wakefield Regional Council local government area from Wakefield to Grey.

Continuing the trend from the last redistribution and transferring more electors from Port Adelaide to Hindmarsh.

Hindmarsh is below tolerance and needs to gain electors. In 2003, the augmented Commission affirmed the decision of the Redistribution Committee to redistribute Hindmarsh in a northerly direction to take in electors from Port Adelaide. The communities of interest and historic boundaries of Hindmarsh suggest that the Division is, and should be, a Western suburbs Division stretching from the inner western suburbs to the coast.

Most residents at the northern end of Hindmarsh, in the suburb of Semaphore Park and further to the north, undoubtedly view themselves as living in the western coastal suburbs, while those residents at the southern end of Hindmarsh, in the suburb of Brighton and beyond, see themselves as being part of the southern coastal suburbs. The location of a theoretical border between "western" and "southern" suburbs is illustrated by the fact that for many Government departments and service providers the dividing line between their southern and western metropolitan regions is somewhere around Glenelg (see Attachment 4).

Moving Hindmarsh any further to the south would be changing the very nature of what is a western suburbs Division.

The nature of the suburbs at the northern end of Hindmarsh has changed very little since the 2003 and the same communities of interest rationale that was adopted by the augmented Commission then still apply today. It would therefore be practical to transfer further parts of Port Adelaide (which is over tolerance and needs to shed electors) to Hindmarsh.

With this in mind, a very identifiable boundary would be to include areas south of West Lakes Boulevard and west of Tapleys Hill Road in Hindmarsh. Transferring approximately 3,300 electors would bring Hindmarsh to just below the average divisional enrolment at the projection time and would bring further parts of the suburb of Seaton, part of which is already in Hindmarsh, into Hindmarsh. This move would also unite very similar suburbs that surround the Grange Golf Course, currently in Hindmarsh, and the Royal Adelaide Golf Course, currently in Port Adelaide.

Much of the Hindmarsh "coastal finger", comprising the suburbs of West Lakes, Tennyson, Grange, lies within the Seaton High School zone, yet the school itself is just outside of Hindmarsh (see Attachment 5). The suggested boundary of West Lakes Boulevard and Tapleys Hill Road would bring Seaton High School and most of the remaining Seaton High School zone within Hindmarsh.

Transferring electors in the suburb of Hillbank from Wakefield to Makin.

Makin is below the average divisional enrolment at the projection time and needs to gain electors. Most of the borders of Makin are very distinct and clearly define communities of common interest. In the 2003 Redistribution, additional electors were sourced from the north western corner of the Division

in the Salisbury Heights and Salisbury East areas, preserving Main North Road as an important boundary.

The eastern border of Makin ought not be transgressed. This border is also the boundary between the Adelaide Hills Council and City of Tea Tree Gully local government areas, which provides a clear separation between metropolitan Adelaide and the Adelaide Hills. Moving Makin over its current eastern boarder would unnecessarily and fundamentally change the nature of the Division from being wholly metropolitan to a Division that is both metropolitan and rural.

The western boarder of Makin, Main North Road, also presents as a very firm boundary that clearly divides the communities on either side of the road. Main North Road functions as the main north-south road transport corridor through the northern metropolitan area. This clear divide is reinforced by the fact no State District transgresses Main North Road.

The most logical area for Makin to gain electors from is the Hillbank area. If Makin gained just over 3,000 electors within the suburb of Hillbank from Wakefield, then Makin would be well within tolerance. For example, using the Hillbank suburb boundaries, Makin could gain that part of the suburb of Hillbank up to Willison Road. The boundary could then continue east along Willison Road to Blacktop Road, and then follow a line from somewhere near the Para Substation on Blacktop Road to the Little Para Reservoir.

This new boundary would continue the progression of the boundaries of Makin from the 2003 Redistribution and, importantly, would ensure Makin does not cross the natural western boundary of Main North Road.

As a northern foothills suburb, Hillbank has much in common with neighbouring suburbs such as Salisbury Heights. In fact, much of the suburb of Hillbank falls within the Salisbury Heights Primary School zone. Admittedly, gaining most of Hillbank would see Makin cross a suburban local government area boundary. However, as noted recently by the 2009 Redistribution Committee for New South Wales (at paragraph 65), local government area boundaries in metropolitan areas are less significant than they are in regional areas:

The Committee considered that within the greater Sydney area, local government boundaries were less significant given the diversity, accessibility and availability of economic, social and regional services and interests within these more closely populated regions.

Alternatively, another possible way that Makin might gain electors would be to take a small number of electors from Sturt. This suggestion acknowledges that Grand Junction Road forms a very distinct southern boundary, but notes it is not as distinct as Makin's eastern and western boundaries. If Makin gained the suburb of Gilles Plains, an area bounded by Grand Junction, North East and Sudholz Roads, then this would deliver the required number of electors to Makin and also include those areas of the State District of Florey not already with Makin.

Taking into account the two options outlined above, transferring most of Hillbank to Makin would be preferable, not only for the community of interest

reasons outlined but also because Wakefield is towards the upper end of the tolerance level, whereas Sturt, both on its current boundaries and on the boundaries proposed above, is below the average projected enrolment.

Transferring a small number of electors from Port Adelaide to Wakefield to even out voter numbers and better reflect communities of interest.

Even with the transfer of approximately 3,330 electors from Port Adelaide to Hindmarsh, Port Adelaide is above the average divisional enrolment at the projection time, although within tolerance. This allows for a transfer of electors from the northern, sparsely-populated semi-rural area of Port Adelaide to Wakefield.

If the area currently within Port Adelaide, bounded by the Barker Inlet, Little Para River, Port Wakefield Road and Gawler River, was transferred to Wakefield, it would result in the shift of approximately 1,000 electors. This would bring the Division of Port Adelaide very close to the average projected enrolment.

Such a move would also better reflect communities of interest. The areas north of the Barker Inlet that are currently in Port Adelaide, such as St Kilda and Waterloo Corner, are heavily characterised by semi-rural industries and properties, particularly market gardens. These northern areas of Port Adelaide have much more in common with neighbouring areas of Wakefield, such as Virginia and Angle Vale, than they do with the rest Port Adelaide.

Transferring a further portion of the Wakefield Regional Council local government area from Wakefield to Grey.

Given the changes outlined above, there exists an opportunity to transfer further parts of the Wakefield Regional Council to Grey, which is slightly under the average divisional enrolment at the projection time.

The Wakefield Regional Council local government area is currently split between Wakefield and Grey. The desirability to unite regional local councils has often been noted by the Commission, and was summarised well by the 2009 Redistribution Committee for New South Wales (at paragraph 65):

Local Government and Regional boundaries were used extensively in rural and regional areas as indicators of communities of interest.

The portion of the Wakefield Regional Council local government area that is within Wakefield could be transferred to Grey, thus uniting the whole of the local government area in one Division. This would place both Divisions within tolerance, with Wakefield being towards the high end and Grey towards the low end. Such an outcome may be desirable as since the last South Australian redistribution, Wakefield has experienced significantly higher rates of growth than Grey, and this trend can be expected to continue.

If the average divisional enrolments at the projection time are to be kept as even as possible, then only part of the remaining Wakefield Regional Council local government area might be transferred from Wakefield to Grey. For

example, transferring the area north of the Wakefield River, including the towns of Balaklava and Port Wakefield, to Grey would see both Divisions being closer to the projected average.

Conclusion

South

- Removing the rural townships and primary production areas from Kingston (the McLaren Vale region south of the Onkaparinga River and east of South Road) and transferring them to Mayo. Approximately 7,000 projected electors;
- Removing the small suburban area of Aberfoyle Park (area bounded by Manning, Happy Valley, Chandlers Hill and Main Roads) from the Rural Division of Mayo and transferring them to Boothby. Approximately 10,300 projected electors;
- Removing the remainder of the Town of Walkerville local government area from Sturt and reuniting the entire Town of Walkerville local government area in Adelaide. Approximately 1,600 projected electors;
- Shifting the border between Boothby and Sturt slightly, by transferring the area bounded by Glen Osmond, Fullarton and Cross Roads from Boothby to Sturt, to even out voter numbers and better reflect communities of interest. Approximately 3,800 projected electors; and
- Slightly adjusting the border between Mayo and Barker by transferring the township of Lyndoch from Barker to Mayo to even out projected enrolments. Approximately 3,100 projected electors.

North

- Continuing the trend from the 2003 Redistribution and transferring more electors from Port Adelaide to Hindmarsh (an area bounded by Frederick Road, Grange Road, Tapleys Hill Road and West Lakes Boulevard). Approximately 3,300 projected electors;
- Transferring electors in the suburb of Hillbank from Wakefield to Makin (following the Hillbank suburb boundary north to Willison Road then across to the Little Para Reservoir). Approximately 3,000 projected electors;
- Transferring a small number of electors from Port Adelaide to Wakefield (an area bounded by the Barker Inlet, the Little Para River, Port Wakefield Road and the Gawler River) to even out voter numbers and better reflect communities of interest. Approximately 1,100 projected electors; and
- Transferring a further portion of the Wakefield Regional Council local government area from Wakefield to Grey (an area north of the Wakefield River, including the towns of Balaklava and Port Wakefield). Approximately 2,200 projected electors.

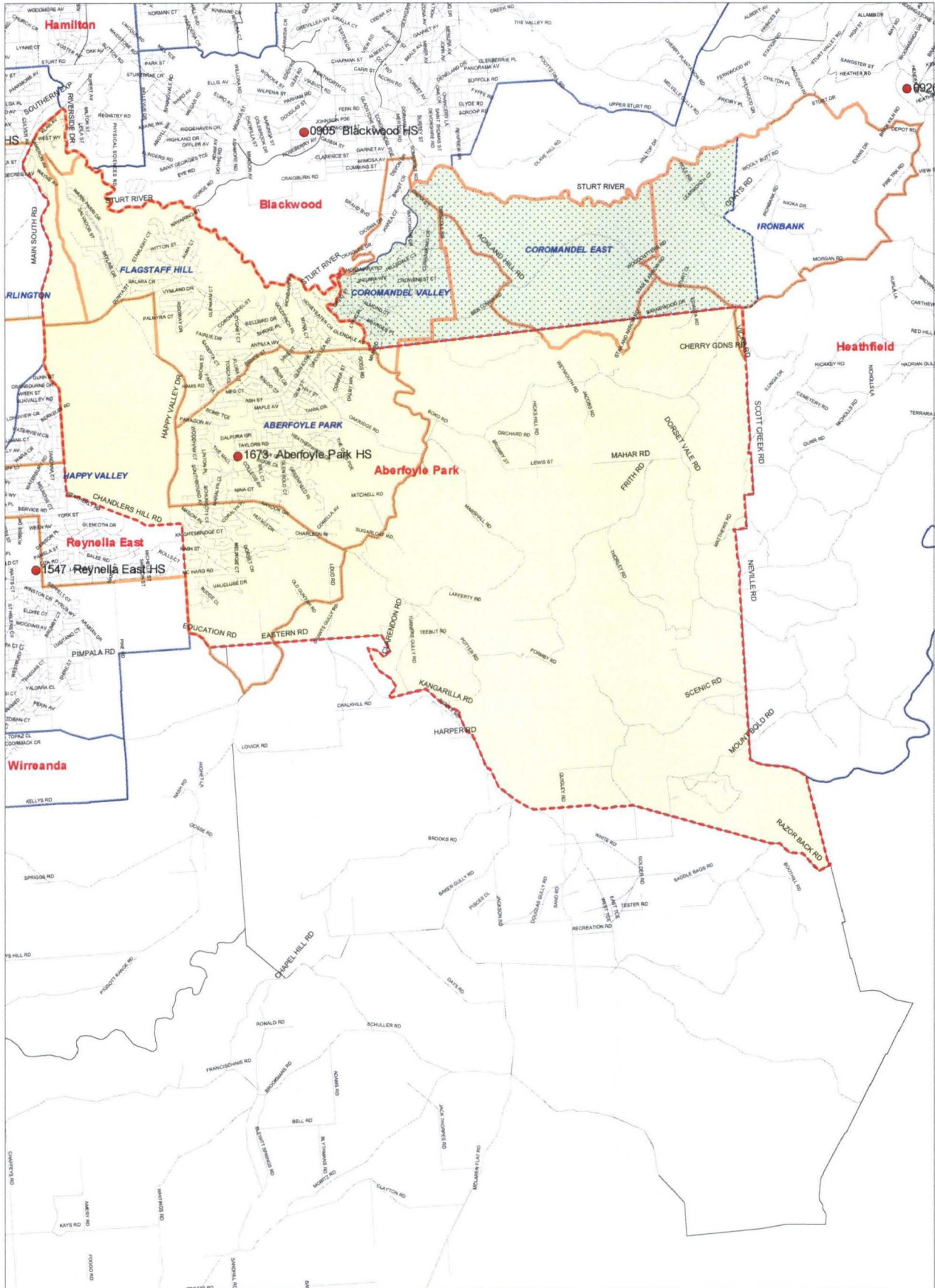
In summary, the changes outlined above would ensure that all Divisions are within the 3.5% tolerance level. In fact, the changes would bring all Divisions to within 2% of the average divisional enrolments at the projection time.

In addition to meeting the tolerance criterion, many of the suggested changes reinforce communities of interest, particularly uniting rural communities and ensuring very similar metropolitan communities are within the same Division. This submission endeavours to address some of the sub-optimal but numerically necessary boundaries drawn as a result of the 2003 Redistribution.

Finally, this submission makes minimal change to existing boundaries and disturbs as few electors as possible. Given that no Division is projected to be over tolerance by more than 2,000 electors, these changes are able to be made by moving less than 36,000 (approximately 3%) electors across South Australia.

Attachment 1

1673 Aberfoyle Park High School Zone



SUBURB

Zoned to Blackwood or Aberfoyle Park HS

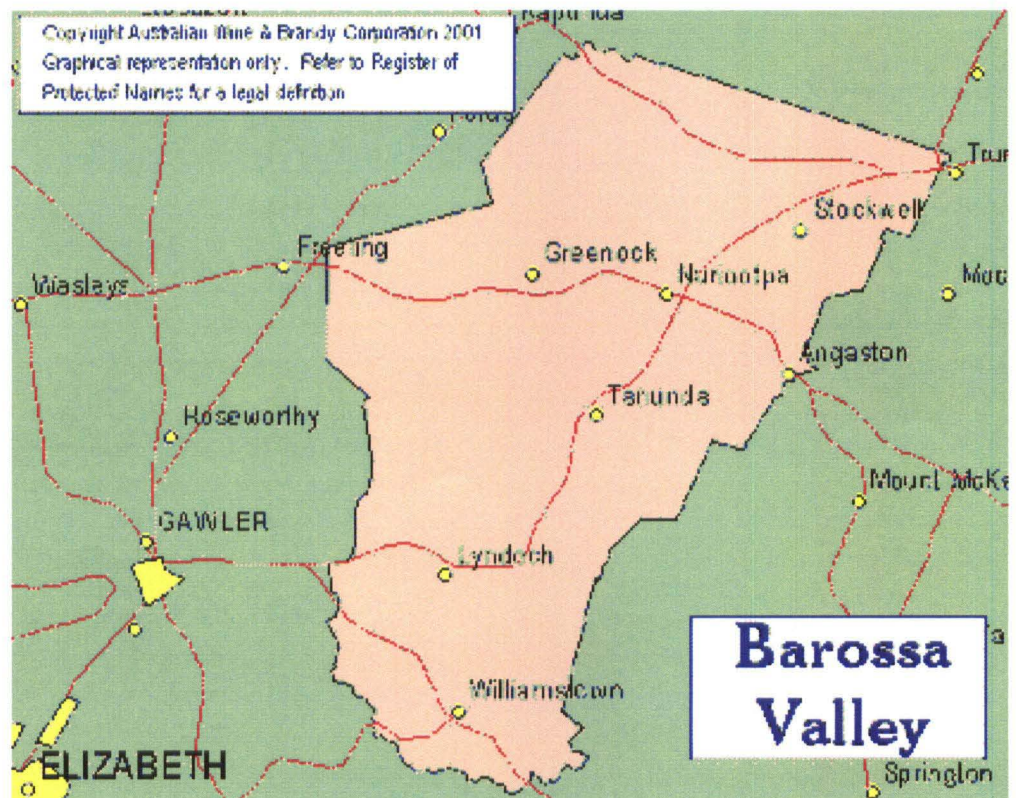
Aberfoyle Park High School Zone



PLEASE NOTE:
This timetable can be enlarged for easier reading using the "zoom" tool in your PDF viewer.

Attachment 3

Map for: Barossa Valley



Source: Wine Australia

<http://www.wineaustralia.com/australia/Default.aspx?tabid=1000#mapBarossaValley>



Find a site or service

Browse by Map

Text Search

A-Z Listing

School/Preschool Websites

Search for Child care

- Out of School Hours Care
- Search for Playcentres
- Search Occasional Care
- Other Childcare Services

Family Day Care Offices

High School Zoning

- 01 - Eastern Adelaide
- 02 - Northern Adelaide
- 03 - Southern Adelaide
- 04 - Western Adelaide
- 05 - Adelaide Hills
- 06 - Barossa
- 07 - Fleurieu & Kangaroo
- 08 - Eyre and Western
- 09 - Far North
- 10 - Limestone Coast
- 11 - Murray & Mallee
- 12 - Yorke & Mid North

Primary School Zoning

- 01 - Eastern Adelaide

Adelaide - Metro Regions & Adelaide Hill

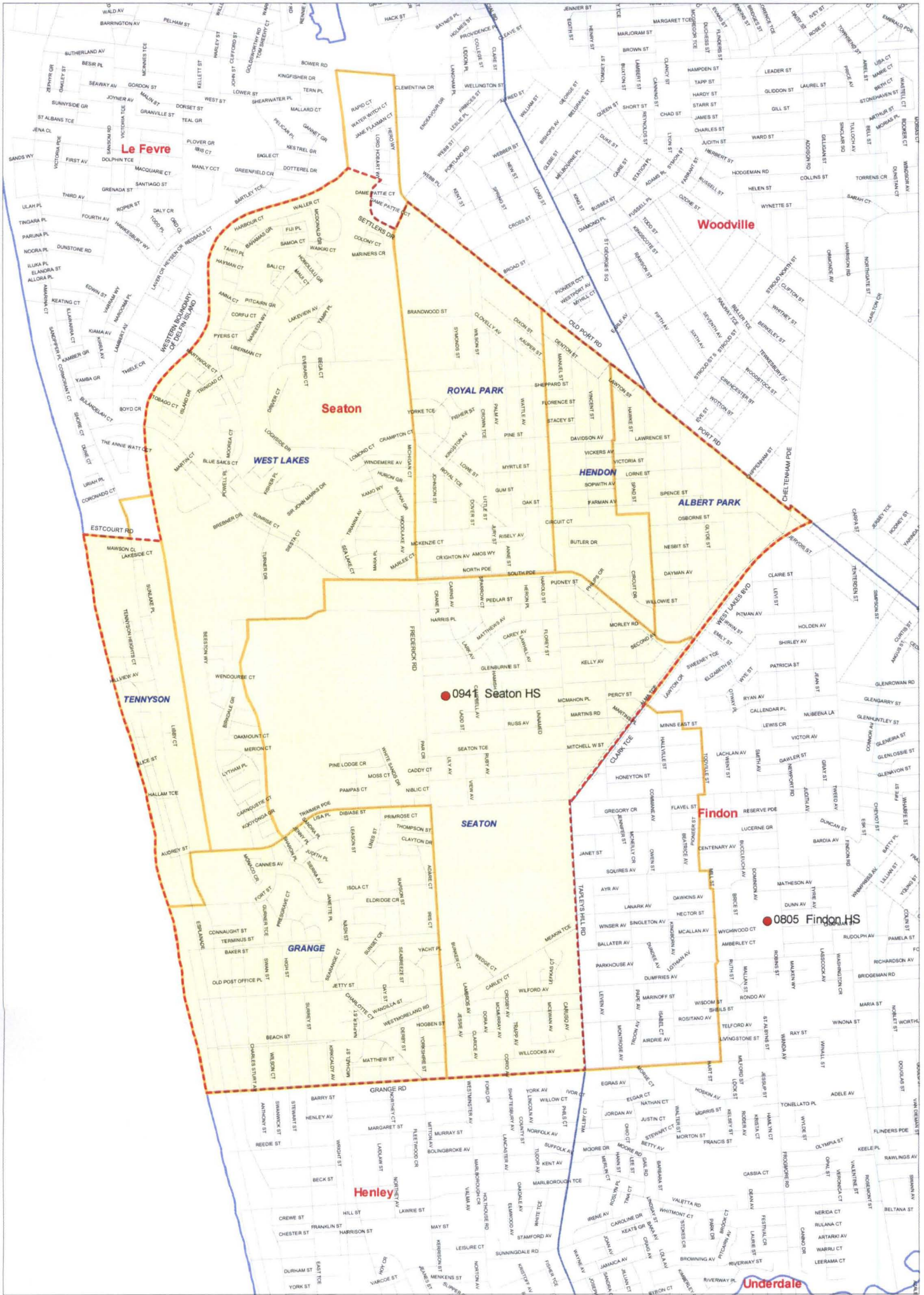
Click on a region below to see a list of the educational fa

Metropolitan Regions & Adelaide Hills



Source:

<http://www.decs.sa.gov.au/locs/pages/default/hszoning/>



Suburb

Other School Zones

Seaton HS Zone