



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

Submission COB18

Tom Venning MP



TOM VENNING MP

MEMBER FOR GREY

Australian Electoral Commission
Level 9, 1 King William St
ADELAIDE SA 5000

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By email: FedRedistribution-sa@aec.gov.au

Submission to the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) in Response to Ideas on the Proposed Redistribution and Renaming of the Electorate of Grey

Executive Summary

This submission is made in response to the ideas submitted on the proposed redistribution and renaming of Grey.

I thank all contributors for their engagement in this process. The volume and quality of submissions highlight the strong opposition among the people of Grey to both the proposed boundary expansion and the renaming. Community feedback overwhelmingly rejects these changes.

The AEC received 415 submissions in relation to South Australia's redistribution. Of the;

- 241 submissions addressing the proposed redistribution of Grey, 236 opposed and 5 supported the proposal (**97.93% opposed**).
- 282 submissions addressing the proposed renaming of Grey, 212 opposed and 70 supported the proposal (**75.18% opposed**).

The AEC received 12 submissions from local governments regarding the proposed redistribution and renaming of Grey. Of the;

- 12 submissions addressing the proposed redistribution of Grey, 12 opposed and 0 supported the proposal (**100% opposed**).
- 9 submissions addressing the proposed renaming of Grey, 7 opposed and 2 supported the proposal (**77.78% opposed**).

This submission reinforces and reflects the consensus drawn from submissions on the proposed redistribution and renaming of Grey. When considered alongside the requirements of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918, the strength of community

sentiment supports restraining the proposed expansion of Grey and retaining the current name.

Feedback on Proposed Boundary Changes

The overwhelming majority of submissions demonstrate concern that the proposed expansion of Grey, to include outer metropolitan areas, would dilute the representation of regional, rural, and remote communities.

A consistent theme across submissions is that Grey is already one of the largest and the most diverse electorate in Australia. Submissions emphasised that effective representation depends on maintaining a clear regional focus, with shared economic, social, and geographic interests.

Submissions outlined that incorporating metropolitan areas would introduce competing priorities that differ significantly from those of regional communities. There is a strong view that this would further abate the voices of regional constituents and make engagement with their member of parliament more difficult.

Grey satisfied the numerical requirements at the commencement of the redistribution and remains projected to do so. The feedback from submissions, in conjunction with the considerations set out in section 66(3)(b) of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918, strongly supports retaining the current boundaries.

Feedback on Proposed Renaming

There is strong opposition to the proposed renaming of Grey.

Many submissions emphasised that the name “Grey” has been in continuous use since Federation and holds longstanding historical and regional significance. Submissions expressed concern that changing the name would undermine continuity, create confusion, and diminish the electorate’s established identity.

A recurring theme in submissions was that renaming Grey would impose unnecessary costs, with funds required for changes to signage, stationery, and official materials better directed elsewhere.

While there is recognition of Dr Lowitja O’Donoghue’s contributions, many submissions suggest there are more appropriate ways to honour her legacy, including naming a future electorate in her name rather than replacing an existing Federation name.

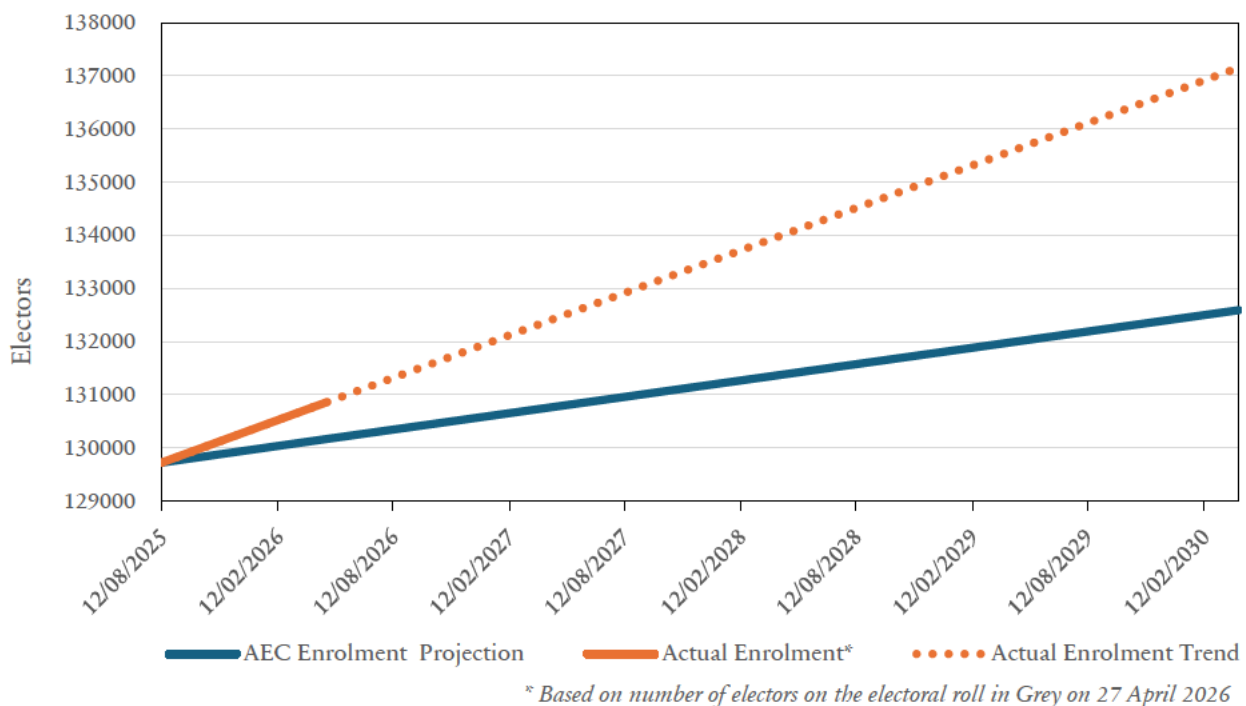
Feedback from submissions, together with the naming guidelines for federal electorates, supports retaining the name of Grey.

Enrolment Trends and Projection Concerns

This submission reiterates the concerns of my submission (OB286) regarding the reliability of enrolment projections for Grey and the weight placed on those projections in determining boundary changes.

At the commencement of the redistribution on 12 August 2025, Grey had 129,724 electors. The AEC projects that this will increase to 132,595 electors by 8 April 2030. However, as of 27 April 2026, enrolment has already reached 130,852. Based on the current rate of growth, Grey is on track to exceed the AEC's 2030 projection before June 2027 and reach approximately 137,153 electors by 8 April 2030.

AEC Enrolment Projection v Actual Enrolment Trend (Grey)



The divergence between projected and actual growth is consistent with previous redistributions and suggests that AEC projections may underestimate enrolment growth in Grey.

Conclusion

This submission reflects the feedback provided by the people, councils, and organisations of Grey. The overwhelming opposition to both the proposed boundary expansion and renaming is not marginal; it's decisive.

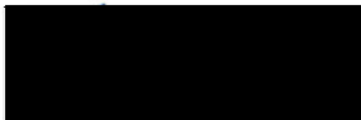
When considered alongside:

- Grey's compliance with enrolment requirements; and

- The considerations set out in section 66(3)(b) of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918;

there is a strong case for restraining the proposed expansion of Grey and retaining the current name.

Yours sincerely



Tom Venning MP
Member for Grey