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Submission OB114

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D, Michelle - Redistribution SA - Submission on the proposed South Australian redistribution

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Submission on the proposed South Australian redistribution details

Category: Boundaries

Details: I write to oppose the proposed transfer of Happy Valley and Aberfoyle Park from the Division of Kingston to the Division of Mayo.

As a former resident of Happy Valley during the period it sat within Mayo, I have direct experience of what that arrangement looked like in practice. At the time, Mayo's representation was largely concentrated on communities such as Stirling and Aldgate - areas with quite different geographic and demographic characteristics to Happy Valley. Despite being within the electorate, our community received little focus from the member. When the boundary was redrawn to place Happy Valley within Kingston, the change reflected the actual demographic and geographic alignment of these suburbs far more accurately.

The Division of Mayo is now oriented primarily toward agricultural and rural communities. Happy Valley and Aberfoyle Park do not share that character. Returning these suburbs to Mayo risks repeating the same dynamic as before - communities that don't fit the electorate's dominant profile being deprioritised in favour of those that do.

By contrast, representation under Kingston has been demonstrably effective for residents of Happy Valley and Aberfoyle Park (where I currently reside). Local issues have been raised and actioned by the current member in ways that reflect genuine engagement with this community. That track record matters.

The proposed change does not resolve any clear representational problem - it creates one. I respectfully urge the Committee to retain the existing boundaries, keeping Happy Valley and Aberfoyle Park within the Division of Kingston.
