



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

Submission OB313

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mble

I am writing in relation to the proposed redistribution and renaming of the electorate, including the change from Grey to **O'Donoghue**, and the proposed inclusion of the suburb of **Riverlea**.

I wish to express my strong support for the electorate being named **O'Donoghue**, in honour of Lowitja O'Donoghue. As a nurse now transitioning to retirement, I have worked closely with the legacy she created throughout my professional life. I established the first Aboriginal Health Unit at Gawler Health Service, work deeply influenced by the principles Lois championed — equity, cultural respect, and advocacy for Aboriginal health and wellbeing.

There is also a deeply personal connection. My mother (who went to school at Quorn with Lowitja) was a student nurse alongside Lowitja O'Donoghue at the Royal Adelaide Hospital in the 1940s. I grew up hearing of the enormous respect she earned, particularly given the significant barriers she faced as an Aboriginal woman pursuing nursing at that time. Her determination, strength, and service left a lasting impression across generations. For these reasons, I believe the name O'Donoghue is both appropriate and meaningful.

However, I feel strongly that **Riverlea should not be included** in the formation of this new electorate.

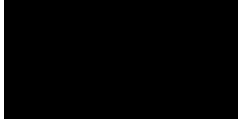
Riverlea is a metropolitan-adjacent suburb with community needs that are fundamentally different from those of remote and regional areas such as **Melrose, Port Augusta, Port Pirie Whyalla and outback SA** , which are deeply connected to the rural and outback realities of South Australia. The challenges faced by these regional communities — particularly in health access, workforce shortages, service delivery, and social welfare — require focused advocacy and an MP whose time and travel are not drawn disproportionately toward metropolitan concerns.

Including Riverlea risks diluting the voice of rural and remote communities. Metropolitan priorities, particularly in health and welfare, can unintentionally overshadow the distinct and pressing needs of regional South Australians. There is also the practical consideration of the increased travel demands placed on the Member of Parliament, which may further limit on-the-ground engagement with outback and regional communities who already experience service disadvantage.

I believe electorates function best when there is a strong alignment of community context, lived experience, and shared challenges. In my view, Riverlea's inclusion does not achieve this and may undermine effective representation for both metropolitan and rural residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on these important matters. I appreciate the complexity of redistribution processes and trust that community perspectives such as these will be carefully considered.

Yours sincerely,



Alison James RN RM MNsg