



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

Submission OB318

District Council of Elliston

21 April 2026

Australian Electoral Commission
Via Submission Portal

To the Redistribution Committee

Re: Proposed Redistribution and Renaming of the Federal Electorate of Grey

The District Council of Elliston (**Council**) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission in response to the Australian Electoral Commission's proposed redistribution of South Australia's federal electoral divisions.

Council acknowledges the importance of maintaining electoral fairness through population quotas; however, we wish to raise several key considerations regarding the proposed redistribution of the Electorate of Grey, with particular reference to geographic scale, governance complexity, and effective representation of regional communities.

1. Tyranny of Distance and Geographic Scale

The Electorate of Grey already encompasses an extensive geographic area, covering the vast majority of regional South Australia. The scale of the electorate presents inherent challenges in ensuring equitable access to federal representation, particularly for remote and isolated communities.

Council is concerned that any further expansion, either through additional geographic coverage or increased administrative complexity, will exacerbate the "tyranny of distance." This has practical implications for:

- Accessibility of the Federal Member to constituents
- Capacity for meaningful community engagement
- Equity of representation across dispersed populations

Council submits that maintaining manageable geographic scope should remain a priority in any redistribution outcome.

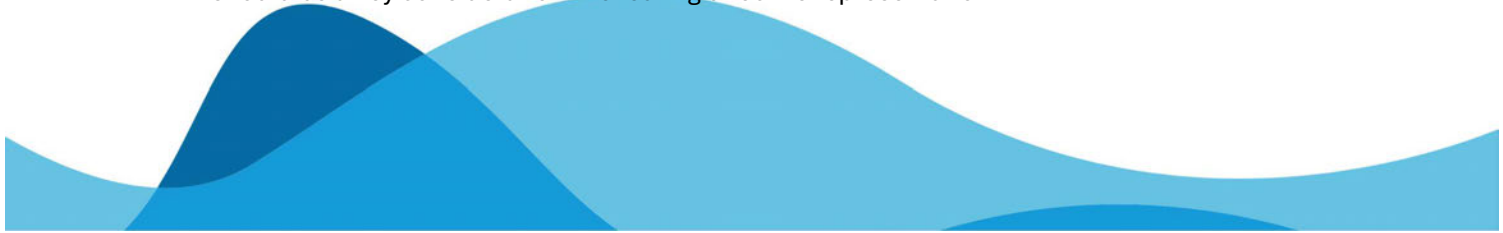
2. Number of Local Government Areas and Governance Complexity

The Electorate of Grey currently includes a large number of local government areas, creating a complex governance environment with diverse and, at times, competing regional priorities.

The proposed inclusion of additional councils, particularly from metropolitan fringe areas, would further increase this complexity. Council is concerned that:

- The addition of urban growth-area councils may shift focus toward metropolitan issues
- Regional and remote priorities may be diluted
- Effective advocacy across a wide range of councils may become increasingly constrained

Council submits that minimising the number of local government areas within a single electorate should be a key consideration in ensuring effective representation.



3. Community of Interest

Council notes that the current electorate predominantly represents rural, regional, and remote communities with shared economic, social, and infrastructure challenges.

The inclusion of metropolitan fringe areas risks weakening this community of interest by introducing fundamentally different demographic and policy priorities. Maintaining coherent communities of interest is essential to ensuring that representation reflects shared regional needs.

4. Effective Representation

While the electorate is projected to remain within acceptable enrolment quotas, Council notes that numerical compliance alone does not ensure effective representation.

The existing scale and diversity of the electorate already present significant challenges. Any changes that increase complexity may reduce the capacity for effective advocacy and service delivery at a federal level.

Council encourages the Committee to consider alternative redistribution options that achieve quota requirements while preserving effective representation for regional communities.

5. Renaming of the Electorate

Council acknowledges and supports the proposal to rename the electorate to O'Donoghue in honour of Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue AC CBE DSG.

Dr O'Donoghue was a distinguished national leader with strong connections to regions within the electorate, including the APY Lands and regional South Australia. Her contributions to health, public administration, and Indigenous advocacy are widely recognised and of enduring national significance.

Council recognises the importance of reflecting Australia's history and diversity in electorate names and considers the proposed renaming to be appropriate in acknowledging the contribution of an eminent Indigenous South Australian.

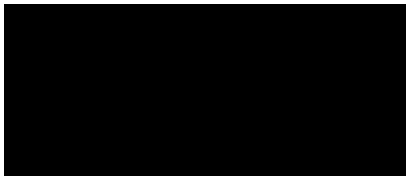
6. Conclusion

Council appreciates the opportunity to provide input into this process and respectfully submits that:

- Consideration should be given to limiting further expansion of the electorate to address the challenges associated with geographic scale and governance complexity
- The importance of maintaining strong communities of interest within regional electorates should be prioritised
- The proposed renaming of the electorate to O'Donoghue is supported

Should the Committee require any further information, please contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely



Nikki Becker
Chief Executive Officer