



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

Submission OB371

District Council of Ceduna



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Our Ref: EF20/ : ED21/

Your Ref:

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Australian Electoral Commission
Via: Public Submission Portal

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Proposed Redistribution of South Australia – Objection to Boundary Realignment and Renaming of the Electorate of Grey

The District Council of Ceduna has formally resolved to object to elements of the proposed redistribution of South Australia, specifically:

1. The proposed realignment of the electorate of Grey to include parts of the current electorate of Spence; and
2. The proposed renaming of the electorate of Grey.

Objection to Boundary Realignment

Council's objection relates to the proposed transfer of Buckland Park, Riverlea Park, Virginia and part of Waterloo Corner from the electorate of Spence into the electorate of Grey. The Redistribution Committee identifies that this transfer represents 3,589 electors as at 12 August 2025 and 4,475 projected electors at 8 April 2030. The report further confirms that the redistribution process is based on elector enrolment data and projected enrolment and does not take into account population that is not enrolled.

Council acknowledges that the proposed redistribution satisfies the numerical requirements of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918. However, Council considers that the proposal does not adequately respond to the secondary criteria under the Act, particularly in respect to communities of interest.

The areas proposed to be transferred from Spence represent one of the most significant and fastest growing peri urban regions in South Australia. The Riverlea development and surrounding localities form part of a major greenfield growth corridor that is rapidly transitioning into a metropolitan urban environment. Population projections indicate that the Riverlea area alone is expected to grow from fewer than 2,000 residents in 2025 to more than 6,000 residents by approximately 2031, with longer term projections exceeding 20,000 residents. This represents growth of well over 300 per cent within a relatively short period.

By contrast, the majority of the electorate of Grey, along with neighbouring regional electorates such as Barker, are characterised by rural, agricultural, industrial and remote communities, many of which experience low or moderate

growth and, in some cases, population decline. The redistribution report itself highlights that growth across South Australia is uneven, with high growth concentrated in outer metropolitan areas, including those within Spence.

Council considers that the inclusion of these peri urban growth areas within Grey would create a fundamental misalignment of communities of interest. The electorate would be required to represent both a rapidly expanding metropolitan growth front with significant infrastructure and service demands, and vast regional and remote communities with materially different economic, social and service needs. This would dilute effective representation across the electorate and is inconsistent with the intent of the secondary criteria of the Act.

Council also notes that the proposed redistribution appears to prioritise minimal disruption, with only 51,659 electors, or 3.95 per cent of electors, required to change electorates. While Council acknowledges the administrative efficiency of this approach, it considers that minimising elector movement should not outweigh the importance of maintaining coherent and aligned communities of interest.

In Council's view, if additional electors are required to be incorporated into Grey to satisfy quota requirements, a more appropriate approach would be to consider areas from the electorate of Barker. The electorate of Barker shares a far stronger alignment with Grey in terms of demographic profile, land use, economic activity and community characteristics. Adjustments between these electorates would better preserve coherent regional communities of interest.

Council further acknowledges the challenges associated with significant population growth within the electorates of Spence and Mayo. However, given the scale and pace of growth occurring in the Riverlea and Virginia corridor, Council submits that further consideration of alternative boundary configurations is warranted. In particular, options beyond those that achieve minimal change should be explored where they provide a more sustainable and logical alignment of communities over time.

Objection to Renaming of the Electorate of Grey

Council has also resolved to object to the proposed renaming of the electorate of Grey.

Council acknowledges the intent to recognise individuals of significant contribution to Australia. However, Council does not consider that sufficient justification has been provided to support the renaming of a long-standing electorate.

The electorate of Grey has been in continuous use since 1903 and represents one of the most geographically expansive electorates in Australia. Over this time, the name has developed strong recognition and identity across a wide range of regional, remote, industrial and agricultural communities. It is used consistently across government, industry and the broader community as a geographic and administrative reference.

Council considers that this long-standing identity forms part of the community of interest of the electorate. Retaining the name supports continuity, clarity and cohesion across a dispersed regional population.

While the individual proposed to be recognised has a strong connection to parts of the electorate, Council notes that the electorate of Grey encompasses a significantly broader geographic area including Eyre Peninsula, the Far West Coast, Upper Spencer Gulf and extensive outback regions. Council considers that the proposed name does not reflect the diversity and breadth of communities within the electorate as a whole.

Council further notes that the redistribution guidelines indicate that electorate names should not be changed without strong reasons. In this instance, no deficiency or issue has been identified with the existing name of Grey that would necessitate its replacement.

Council also considers that renaming a long-established electorate without broad and demonstrable community support risks creating uncertainty and setting an undesirable precedent for future redistributions.

Conclusion

In summary, Council considers that while the proposed redistribution satisfies numerical requirements, it does so at the expense of appropriate community representation and long-standing regional identity.

Accordingly, Council respectfully requests that:

- The proposed transfer of Buckland Park, Riverlea Park, Virginia and part of Waterloo Corner from Spence into the electorate of Grey be reconsidered;
- Alternative boundary arrangements be explored, including consideration of adjustments involving the electorate of Barker; and
- The name of the electorate of Grey be retained.

If you wish to discuss this matter further please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience on (08) 8625 3407.

Yours sincerely



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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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