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Submission OB384

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Subject: Redistribution Proposal Grey Electorate
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Submission regarding AEC proposed redistribution and renaming of Electorate of Grey

Redistribution - It is with a degree of astonishment and a great deal of concern that I read that the AEC is proposing to change the electorate boundaries for the South Australian electorate of Grey to extend beyond its current area to include the suburb of Riverlea and parts of the City of Playford. I wish to register my strong opposition to any such change and urge that common sense prevail before making any changes.

Grey electorate is **already** one of the three largest electorates in Australia that covers approximately 92% of South Australia. I fully understand that generally electorates are based on the number of voters within the electorate to ensure that they remain similar, **however the geography and diversity of electorates, and common sense, must also be taken into account before making any changes in this proposed redistribution.**

The sheer diversity of issues already contained within the Grey electorate alone are massive, and the thought of extending the boundary even further to include an almost 'metropolitan' area with completely different and complex issues and needs is, I believe, robbing every constituent in the Grey Electorate, of fair representation. Members of city electorates can virtually be within an hour of travelling from one side to the other with the ability for Members to easily meet with their constituents, visit sites etc – Grey is well beyond that!

The Grey electorate is incredibly diverse pouring millions of dollars into the Australian Economy through its mining, ports, rail, roads,

airports, fishing and farming enterprises, industry, energy, tourism etc. This diversity alone would be completely alien to the proposed extended area.

Our constituent's needs are diverse too, addressing complexity that comes with the tyranny of distance from larger centres, health, indigenous concerns, law and order; poor communication options, the list is endless. We are almost a nation within our own geographical electorate with different concerns than our metropolitan cousins.

I live in Port Lincoln, a regional city of some 16,000 residents within the Grey electorate, and I feel privileged that being in a larger community within our region – with good transport options of airports and highways – we are incredibly well serviced by our local Member with regular visits and opportunities to lobby

However there are so many, very small towns and indigenous communities and lands that are extremely isolated within Grey already. They deserve to be truly represented in Canberra and able to meet with their Member face to face. Their issues are just as valid and important.

Grey already covers hundreds of thousands of kilometres and I am aware that our Members – past and present – do an incredible job at being available for face to face meetings, being visible throughout the electorate, attending functions and the like. And physical presence is **vital** for them to be able to see for themselves the issues – state of roads, ports, mine sites, mental and other health facilities, poor communication services– the list is endless.

It is almost impossible for one Member of Parliament to adequately represent their constituency when representing and servicing such a huge area, ensuring some actual physical presence at times within the electoral cycle,. In fact I believe it places a terrible toll on the health and wellbeing of the Member for Grey, including family and staff, already just being able to travel within the electorate AS WELL AS travelling to Canberra to represent us.

I truly urge the Commission to revoke any change to existing boundaries.

Renaming I have no real issue with the suggested change of name of Grey to O'Donoghue, the sentiment is valid and Lowitja O'Donoghue is worthy of being recognised, but I do wonder why there is a need to change at this time for this electorate and believe that many in this electorate would consider this a waste of taxpayers money in the current economic climate and therefore unworthy of pursuit at this time. .

Yours sincerely

Angela Cordon