



Comment on suggestion 4

Rebekha Sharkie MP

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Federal Member for Mayo



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Redistribution Committee for South Australia
Australian Electoral Commission
Level 9, 1 King William Street
ADELAIDE SA 5001

To the Redistribution Committee for South Australia,

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL REDISTRIBUTION

I write to comment on the suggestions made by several parties with regard to the South Australian federal redistribution.

I offer comment on the following public submissions.

Submission 207 – Mr Michael Burke

While submission 207 does not propose any changes to electoral boundaries, it does propose changes to the names of electorate, most notably changing the name of the Division of Mayo to either the Division of Bonython or the Division of Angas.

While I appreciate the history behind both of these proposed names, I must strongly protest any attempt to change the name of the Division of Mayo.

Mayo was named after Helen Mayo, a prominent doctor and social activist and the first woman elected to an Australian University Council.

There are only 19 Federal electoral divisions in Australia named after women. There are only two electorates in South Australia named after women, the other one being the Division of Adelaide which shares its namesake with the City of Adelaide which was named after Queen Adelaide, wife of William IV. It would be disappointing Mayo had its name changed, particularly since Helen Mayo was such a prominent South Australian who advanced many important causes for women, children and community health.

Submission 208 – Australian Labor Party

This submission outlines a scenario where the Alexandrina, Kangaroo Island, Victor Harbor and Yankalilla local government areas are transferred to the Division of Barker, while the Barossa local government area is included entirely within the electorate of Mayo.

While acknowledging that it would be preferable for the Barossa local government area to be represented by a single electoral division, I believe that redistributing the boundaries of Mayo and Barker in such a way would be inconsistent with the communities of interest consideration that the Redistribution committee must take into account.

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Strathalbyn shares a strong community of interest with nearby townships in the Mount Barker and Adelaide Hills local government areas, while the Fleurieu Peninsula as a whole shares little in common with either the Riverland or South-Eastern South Australia. For further information on the communities of interest shared between the Alexandrina, Mount Barker and Adelaide Hills local government areas please refer to my original submission (Submission 184).

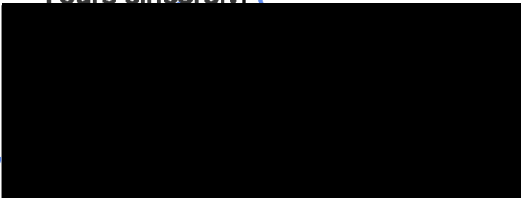
It would also result in instances where residents of the South Coast of the Fleurieu Peninsula have to travel to Murray Bridge to visit their nearest electorate office. I strongly suggest that the Division of Mayo continue to represent the Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island region.

Submission 211 – Liberal Party of Australia

I acknowledge that submission 211 identifies that the boundaries of Mayo should remain largely similar to their current distribution. I support this position. However, it is important to highlight that any incorporation of areas of the Mitcham LGA into the division of Mayo would result in the Mitcham LGA being divided between two Federal electorates and thus the Redistribution Committee should consider the communities of interest test while evaluating this suggestion.

I thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Yours sincerely,



REBEKHA SHARKIE MP
Federal Member for Mayo