



Objection 318

Liberal Party of Australia
(SA Division)

9 pages



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Redistribution Committee for South Australia
Australian Electoral Commission
GPO Box 344
Adelaide SA 5001

11 May 2018

Dear Committee Members,

I submit an Objections Submission on behalf of the Liberal Party of Australia (South Australian Division).

Our Suggestions Submission comprises the following:

1. A written submission with a summary of suggestions, commentary on the methodology we have used in formulating them, the suggestions in detail as summarised by mapping software tracking movements between divisions.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank the Commission's staff for their assistance to date.

Yours sincerely,



Sascha Meldrum

State Director

OVERVIEW

This Objections Submission is made in response to the Australian Electoral Commissioner's invitation to members of the public to submit written objections about the Redistribution Committee's proposed redistribution of federal electoral divisions in South Australia which was released on 13 April 2018.

The Liberal Party acknowledges that South Australia will decrease its representation from 11 to 10 Federal Electoral Divisions. We note that in making the proposed redistribution, the Redistribution Committee is required by the Act to:

1. Ensure the number of electors in each proposed electoral division must not deviate by more than 10 per cent above or below the current enrolment quota. The current enrolment quota for South Australia was determined by the Electoral Commissioner to be 119,503.
2. As far as practicable, the Redistribution Committee will ensure that the number of electors enrolled in each electoral division at 20 January 2022 (the projection time) will not deviate by more than 3.5 per cent above or below the projected enrolment quota of 122,731.
3. Give due consideration, in relation to each proposed Electoral Division, to:
 - (i) community of interests within the proposed Electoral Division, including economic, social and regional interests;
 - (ii) means of communication and travel within the proposed Electoral Division;
 - (iii) the physical features and area of the proposed Electoral Division; and
 - (iv) the boundaries of existing Divisions in the State or Territory
4. Consideration of existing boundaries is subordinate to the other factors set out above.

In preparing this objections submission, the Liberal Party has aimed to adhere strictly to the elector constraints as set out in the Act, and has also paid due regard to maintaining community of interests, means of communication and travel, physical features and existing boundaries.

Further, and in response to the determination that South Australia would lose one Division decreasing its entitlement to 10 House of Representative Divisions at the next federal election, the Liberal Party's submission supports the abolition of the Division of Port Adelaide.

METHODOLOGY

At the outset, please note that the suggestions of the Liberal Party comply with the statutory requirements of Section 66 (3) of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act*.

ADDRESSING THE STATEWIDE PROPOSED REDISTRIBUTION

The Liberal Party has no major objections to the proposed redistribution released by the Redistribution Committee as it was the result of the recommended methodology of working from the outside inwards toward the city centre to ensure the regional electorates gain the necessary increased voter numbers.

The party supports the proposed abolition of the electorate of Port Adelaide and, broadly speaking, supports the proposed new boundaries set out for Grey, Barker, Mayo, Spence, Makin, Sturt, Adelaide and Hindmarsh. However, we do have a number of suggestions to the proposed boundaries of Boothby, bordering the electorate of Adelaide, Mayo, Kingston and Hindmarsh which are explained in greater detail in this submission.

ADDRESSING THE COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST ISSUE IN BOOTHBY

Boothby Enrolment

As stated in both the Liberal Party's Suggestions Submission and the Committee's proposed redistribution report, as at 20 January 2022, Boothby's projected enrolment is 109,835. This means Boothby must gain at least 8,601 electors but could gain up to 17,191 electors for it to fall within the permissible range of electors.

As voters move into the Divisions of Mayo and Kingston to meet their numerical requirement, the coastal location means that Boothby requires that its northern boundary be shifted northwards.

It is the Liberal Party's submission that Boothby gain electors from the Divisions of Hindmarsh, including the northern sections of Holdfast Bay and Marion LGA. With the northward shift of the boundary, Boothby would take in the seaside suburb of Glenelg.

As stated in the party's Suggestion Submission, it is our strong preference to retain the southern suburb of Flagstaff Hill in the Division of Boothby due to communities of interest in particular in regard to tertiary education, medical, public transport, shopping and entertainment services.

Communities of interest

Residents of Flagstaff Hill and Craighburn Farm have strong communities of interest links with the Boothby electorate, in particular the area of tertiary education, public transport and access to medical facilities, and therefore should remain in the seat of Boothby.

The Flinders University and Medical Centre precinct is well utilised by families and students in both the Flagstaff Hill and Craighburn Farm areas and should therefore remain in the Boothby electorate.

Shopping and Entertainment

The constituents of these suburbs shop and visit entertainment venues within Boothby. The Marion Shopping Centre is located within several minutes of these suburbs. This centre provides essential, everyday services to the constituents of these suburbs.

Suggested Boothby boundary changes

Based on the above, the party offers some suggestions for consideration by the Committee to ensure the key areas of Flagstaff Hill and Craighburn Farm remain in the Boothby electorate.

BOOTHBY BOUNDARY CHANGE SUGGESTION

Based on overwhelming feedback from the community in Flagstaff Hill and other concerned voters in the Boothby area, the Liberal Party has compiled a workable option for consideration as the Liberal Party's preferred position.

This legend helps outline suggested changes from the proposed redistribution as outlined below:

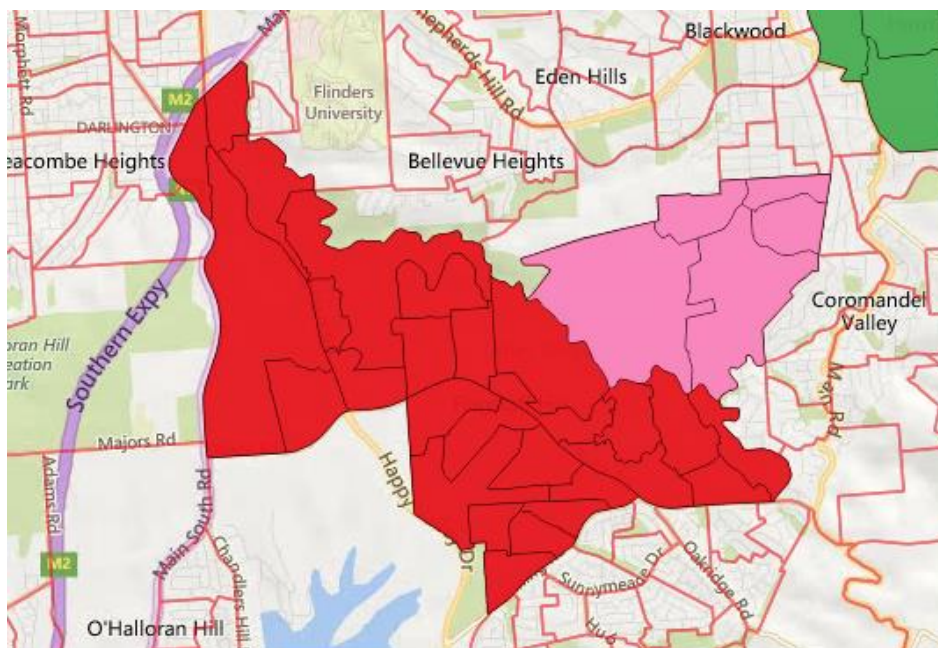
■	Kingston to Boothby
■	Mayo to Kingston
■	Boothby to Mayo
■	Adelaide to Hindmarsh
■	Boothby to Adelaide
■	Hindmarsh to Boothby
■	Boothby to Hindmarsh
■	Mayo to Boothby
■	Sturt to Mayo

Flagstaff Hill (Kingston to remain in Boothby) and Craighurn Farm (Mayo to remain in Boothby)

On the principle of minimising change to existing boundaries and uniting communities of interest, Flagstaff Hill should remain within Boothby.

Electors in Flagstaff Hill use Happy Valley Drive, Flagstaff Road, Marion Road and South Road to get to the city and the shopping precinct at Westfield Marion. They also use Main Road through Blackwood to get to the city and Adelaide's eastern suburbs. Electors in Flagstaff Hill commute to train stations in Boothby that service the Seaford, Tonsley and Belair Lines and consider the Flinders Medical Centre and Flinders University at Bedford Park to be their main health and tertiary education precinct.

Craighurn Farm should remain within Boothby and included with the suburb of Blackwood, as most electors consider their local town centre to be Blackwood. Craighurn Farm is a new development, as distinct from suburbs over the other side of Blackwood such as Hawthorndene, Glenalta and Belair.



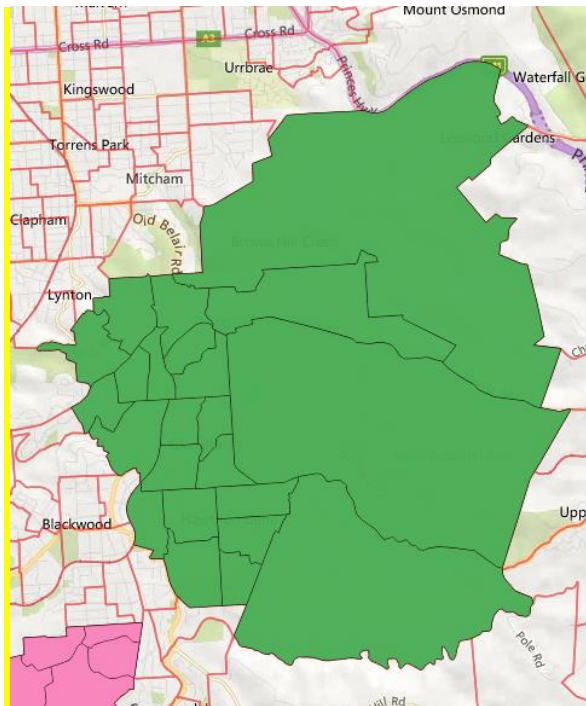
Hawthorndene, Glenalta and Belair (Boothby to Mayo)

The aforementioned areas have a community of interest as they best identify as Hills communities, more consistent with those in the Division of Mayo.

Further, the Division of Mayo in the proposed redistribution consists of three separated peri-urban areas. Insofar as possible this necessary supplemental population should be in the one area in order to maintain consistency in the communities of interest.

As the Member for Mayo must represent electors over a vast area the Commission should seek to concentrate the suburbs of greater metropolitan Adelaide in the same area within in the Division. Making these areas adjacent each other has a bearing on the time and distance it takes to travel in the Division for both electors and the Member. The means of communication between Craighburn Farm, and Hawthorndene and Aldinga also vary, and the areas are covered by different local newspapers.

Placing one suburban bloc into the Division of Mayo will enhance the representation of electors and their accessibility to their Member. The suburbs of Belair, Glenalta and Hawthorndene share a common means of communication in the *HillsValley Weekly*.



Novar Gardens (Hindmarsh to Boothby)

The Liberal Party agrees with the proposal to include the coastal suburb of Glenelg in the Division of Boothby as it unites the Holdfast Bay Council. However the Party objects to the placement of Novar Gardens in the Division of Hindmarsh as this suburb shares communities of interest with Glenelg, Glenelg North, Glenelg East and Glenelg South.

Electors in Novar Gardens consider themselves part of the coastal community south of Adelaide Airport and treat Jetty Road, Glenelg as the local town centre for services, retail and entertainment. Electors here are members of community groups within the Holdfast Bay Council and many electors work within the Jetty Road precinct.

The Glenelg Tram Line services electors in Novar Gardens and commuters from Novar Gardens use Anzac Highway to travel to the city, similar to Glenelg residents. By keeping Novar Gardens united with Glenelg, Morphett Road and Cross Road would become the clear physical boundary between the Divisions of Hindmarsh and Boothby.

Unley LGA (Boothby to Adelaide)

The northern boundary of Boothby ought to match the Unley Council boundary. Cross Road is a significant physical feature in metropolitan Adelaide. The inner suburban localities of Millswood, Kings Park, Clarence Park, Forresterville and Black Forest should remain in the Division of Adelaide as they share a community of interest with the rest of the Unley Council and similar interests to electors north of the CBD in Prospect Council.

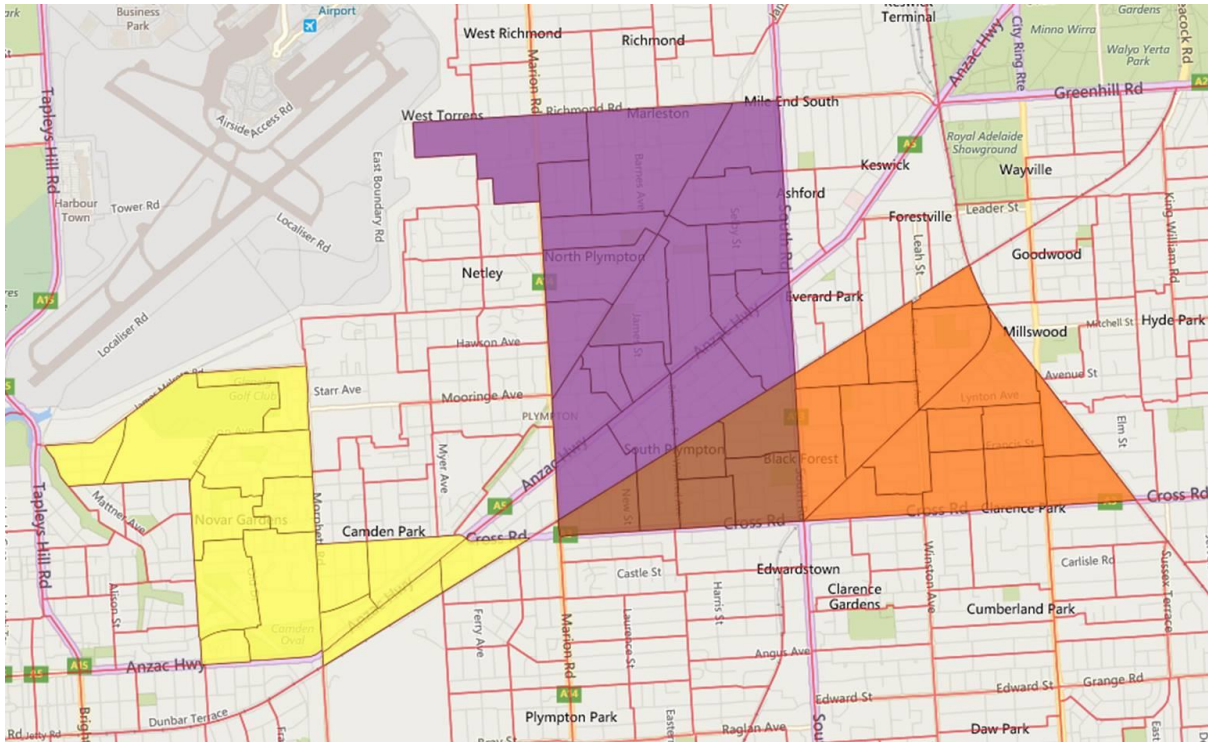
These electors in the Unley Council area currently reside in the Adelaide electorate and this adjustment will satisfy the requirement to ensure minimal change to divisional boundaries.

Plympton and Glandore (Boothby to Hindmarsh)

Consistent with the use of Cross Road as a significant physical feature, this section of Marion Council should remain in the Division of Hindmarsh. This will ensure minimal change and maintain voter numbers in the permissible range.

Marleston and Kurralta Park (Adelaide to Hindmarsh)

These areas should remain in the Division of Hindmarsh to satisfy population requirements and ensure minimal change.

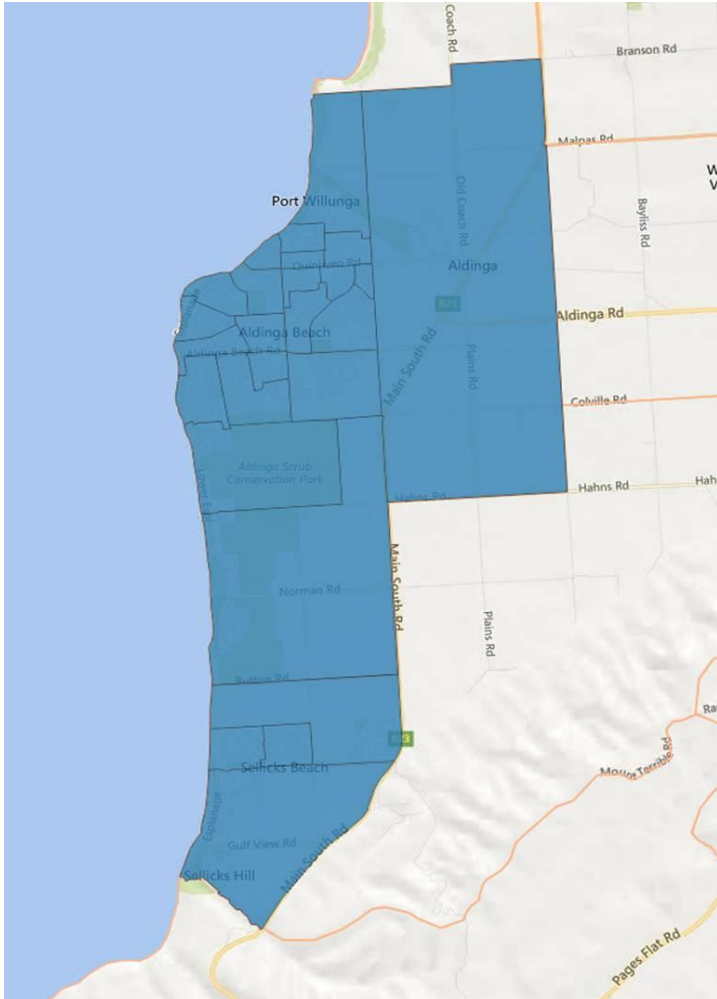


Aldinga Beach and Sellicks Beach (Mayo to Kingston)

Aldinga Beach and Sellicks Beach should remain within the Division of Kingston. This will ensure minimal change to the existing boundaries and maintain voter numbers while restoring communities of interest as part of the southern Adelaide coastal suburbs.

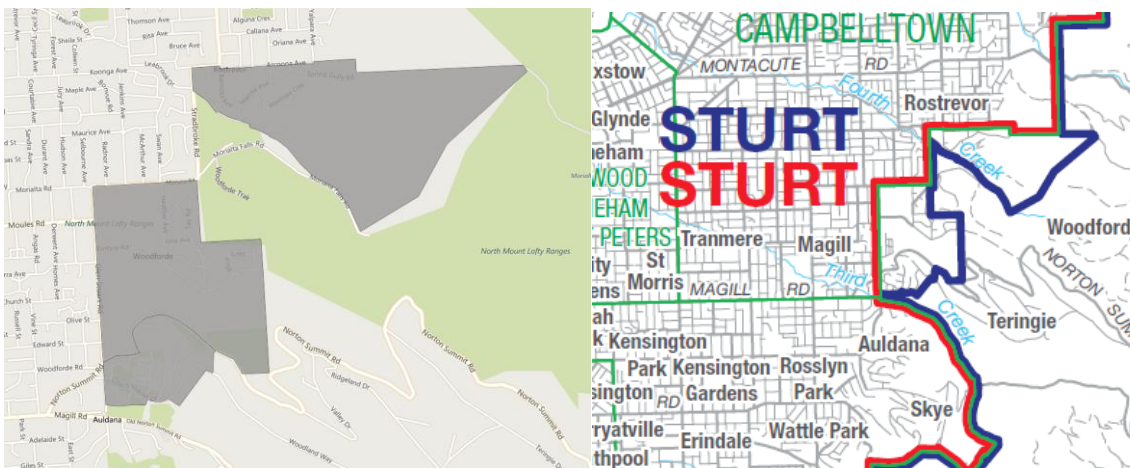
Electors in Aldinga have a common means of communication with those to the north in Kingston in the *Southern Times* weekly local newspaper. Public transport in these southern suburbs is a unifying interest, and this is best evidenced by the Member for Kingston's campaign to extend the Seaford Line to Aldinga.¹

¹ <https://www.rishworth.com.au/campaigns/408-join-the-campaign-to-get-rail-to-aldinga.html>



Terlingie and Woodforde (Sturt to Mayo)

The Terlingie and Woodforde areas in the map below identify as part of the Hills community, exist within the Adelaide Hills Council. Keeping these voters in Mayo will result in minimal change to existing boundaries and bolster voter numbers in the Division of Mayo.



Outcome: This would change the current enrolment numbers as per the table below:

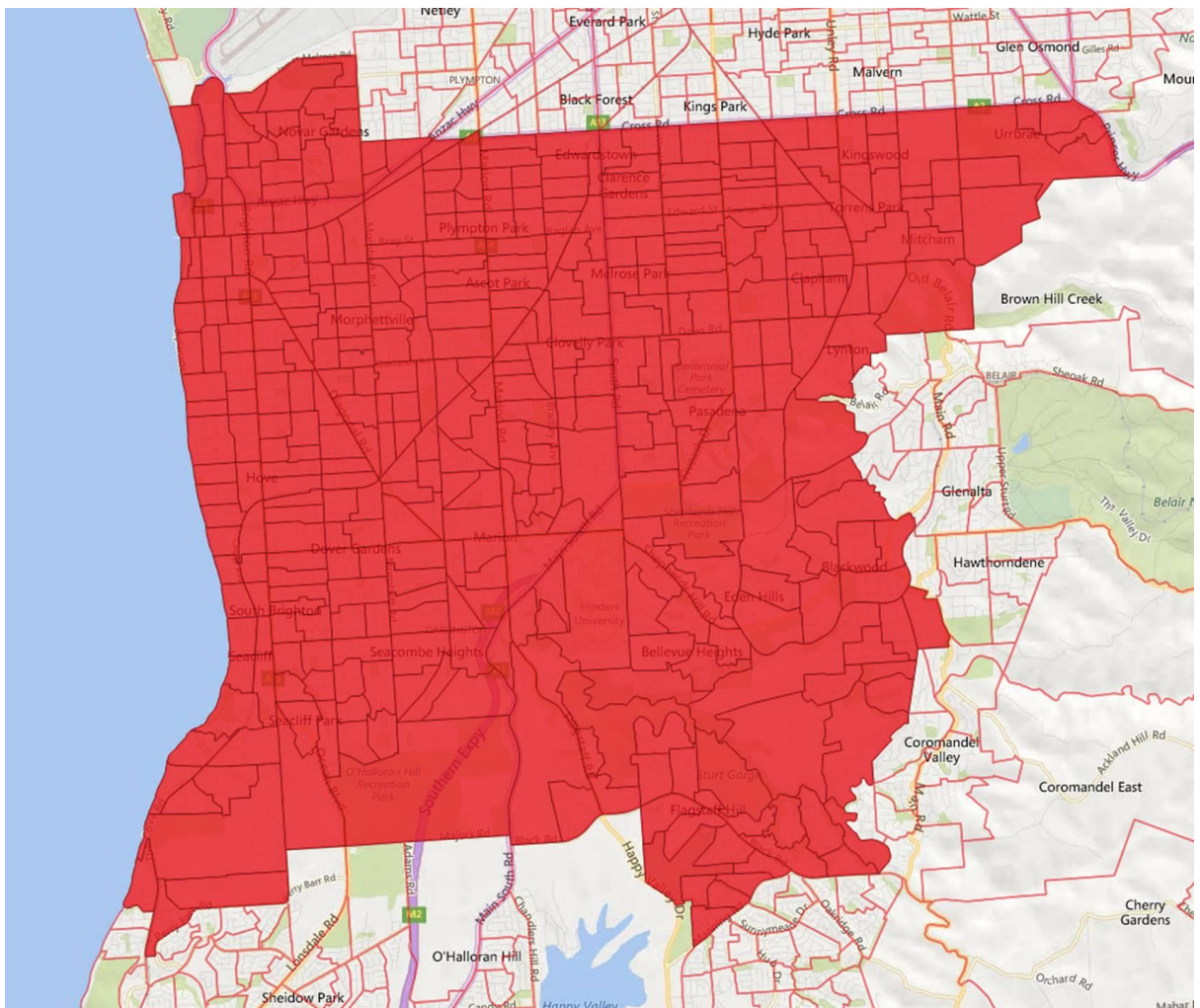
Projected enrolment numbers					Permissible range of electors	
	2022	Changes applied	Net change	Margin from range	Max	127,026
Adelaide	124,114	122,195	(1,919)	In range	Quota	122,731
Boothby	125,502	124,859	(643)	In range	Min	118,436
Hindmarsh	122,634	127,480	4,846	454		
Kingston	119,268	122,687	3,419	In range		
Mayo	123,713	118,959	(4,754)	In range		
Sturt	125,191	124,242	(949)	In range		

On the above figures, the projected enrolment numbers means that all affected electorates are within the permissible voter numbers with the exception of Hindmarsh which is very slightly over. This could be easily rectified by a couple of minor adjustment to Hindmarsh’s boundary.

Proposed new boundary of Boothby

The map below shows the key SA1s that we suggest should be incorporated into the seat of Boothby.

Some further minor adjustments could be made to the eastern boundary to improve the aesthetic shape of the seat, but overall the boundary is clear cut and meets one of the major objectives to bring together communities of interest within the permissible quotas.



CONCLUSION

If these adjustments to the boundaries are adopted a projected total of 35212 electors will not be required to move divisions compared to the proposed boundary put forward by the Redistribution Committee's report. By adopting this approach the Committee will avoid unnecessarily splitting of communities of interest in Flagstaff Hill, Craighburn Farm, Aldinga and Unley Council, while uniting others.

In the interests of electors in this area, the party encourages the Committee to review this submission and adopt the recommendations within to improve the outcome for voters.