



ANNO TERTIO

ELIZABETHAE II REGINAE

A.D. 1954

No. 37 of 1954

An Act to provide for the appointment of a Commission to report upon the redivision of the State into electoral districts, and for purposes consequent thereon or incidental thereto.

[Assented to 16th December, 1954.]

BE IT ENACTED by the Governor of the State of South Australia, with the advice and consent of the Parliament thereof, as follows :

1. This Act may be cited as the "Electoral Districts (Redivision) Act, 1954". Short title.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires— Interpretation.

"the commission" means the Electoral Commission appointed under this Act :

"commissioner" means a member of the Electoral Commission :

"district" means an electoral district :

"the metropolitan area" means the House of Assembly districts of Adelaide, Torrens, Prospect, Thebarton, Hindmarsh, Semaphore, Port Adelaide, Norwood, Burnside, Unley, Mitcham, Goodwood, and Glenelg, as existing at the time of the passing of this Act :

"the country areas" means all parts of the State which are outside the metropolitan area.

The Electoral Commission.

Appoint-
ment of
commission.

3. (1) The Governor may appoint an Electoral Commission consisting of three commissioners.

(2) The Governor shall appoint one of the commissioners to be the chairman of the commission.

(3) The commissioners shall hold office until the commission has completed its duties under this Act.

Procedure at
meetings.

4. (1) At every meeting of the commission the chairman, if present, shall preside, and in his absence the commissioners present shall appoint one of their number to preside.

(2) Two commissioners shall constitute a quorum of the commission for the transaction of business.

(3) A decision of the commission shall be valid if it is concurred in by at least two commissioners, but not otherwise.

Redivision of State into Electoral Districts.

Redistribution.

5. (1) Subject as hereinafter mentioned, the commission shall—

(a) re-divide the metropolitan area into thirteen approximately equal Assembly districts; and

(b) re-divide the country areas into twenty-six approximately equal Assembly districts; and

(c) divide each proposed Assembly district into subdivisions.

(2) For the purpose of this Act Assembly districts within the metropolitan area shall be regarded as being approximately equal to each other if no such district contains a number of electors more than twenty per cent above or below the average of the respective numbers of electors in all such districts; and the same principle, *mutatis mutandis*, shall apply to Assembly districts in the country areas.

Redivision of
Council
districts.

6. (1) The commission shall also redivide the State into five Council districts. Each Council district shall consist of two or more whole Assembly districts.

(2) In making the redivision under this section, the Commission shall provide for two Council districts in the metropolitan area, and three in the country areas, and shall as far as practicable retain the existing boundaries of Council districts.

7. (1) In re-dividing the State into Assembly districts the Commission, so far as is compatible with the provisions of section 5 of the Act, shall endeavour to create districts in each of which respectively the electors have common interests. Matters to be considered.

(2) The Commission shall also, so far as is compatible with the provisions of section 5 of this Act, and with subsection (1) of this section, endeavour to create Assembly districts, each of which—

- (a) is of convenient shape and has reasonable means of access between the main centres of population therein ; and
- (b) retains as far as possible, boundaries of existing districts and subdivisions.

8. (1) Before making its report the commission shall by such advertisements as the commission deems necessary, inserted in newspapers circulating generally throughout the State, invite written representations from individuals and organizations as to the redivision of the State into electoral districts and shall by such advertisements fix a time within which such representations must be made. Representations to Commission.

(2) Representations to the commission shall be in writing and shall include a short summary of the matters intended to be brought to the notice of the commission.

(3) The commission shall consider all relevant representations made to it in accordance with subsections (1) and (2) of this section ; and may, at its discretion, hear and consider any evidence, information and arguments submitted to it orally by or on behalf of any person or organization.

(4) Nothing in this section shall be deemed to restrict any power conferred on the commission by the Royal Commissions Act, 1917.

9. (1) The commission shall present copies of its report to the Governor and to the President of the Legislative Council and the Speaker of the House of Assembly. Report.

(2) The President and Speaker shall lay copies of the report on the table of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly respectively.

10. The Royal Commissions Act, 1917, shall apply to the commission and its proceedings as if— Application of Royal Commissions Act.

- (a) the commission were a commission to whom a commission of inquiry had been issued by the Governor ;

(b) the chairman and each other member of the commission were the chairman and a member respectively of such a commission ;

(c) the secretary of the commission were the secretary of such a commission.

**Financial
provision.**

11. The money required for the expenses of or incidental to the appointment and work of the commission shall be paid out of the money provided by Parliament for those purposes.

In the name and on behalf of Her Majesty, I hereby assent to this Bill.

R. A. GEORGE, Governor.