



OTAGO PENINSULA COMMUNITY BOARD

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Representation Commission
PO Box 3220
Wellington 6140

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposed Boundary Changes to Dunedin South Electorate

I'm writing to you regarding the proposed boundary changes to the Dunedin South Electorate. These changes will see the Otago Peninsula removed from the Dunedin South electorate and included in a revised Dunedin North area. These changes are contrary to the needs and current position of the Peninsula community and will disadvantage our area quite significantly.

The Otago Peninsula is a broad area of diverse communities running from Tomahawk to Taiaroa Head. Our area has always been traditionally recognised politically, economically and socially as a unique regional entity. As Dunedin City has developed and travel has changed, our community has become more reliant on the services, economy, recreation and social connections within the Dunedin South area. Peninsula intermediate and secondary school children all mainly attend schools within the Dunedin South area, and this too is a major part of the social connection our community has in this area. It seems completely counterintuitive to move the people who shop, bank, undertake business, play sport and educate their children in the Dunedin South electorate to one that they have no connection too.

One part of the Peninsula community particularly at risk from these proposed electorate changes is the community of Tomahawk. Tucked between the beginning of South Dunedin and the southern end of the Otago Peninsula this community has fiercely fought electorate reform before so as to continue to be considered part of the Otago Peninsula Community Board area. These electorate changes will disenfranchise this community from effective representation by placing them in an electorate that has no connection to them geographically or socially.

As the Otago Peninsula Community Board Chairman, I oppose these proposed electorate changes most strongly. We rely heavily on the Dunedin South area as our natural link with Dunedin City and more importantly as a part of that community. Common-sense must prevail here, and rather than have lines drawn on maps in Wellington, genuine representatives of the community must be listened to for the good of our community.

Yours sincerely

Paul Pope
Otago Peninsula Community Board Chairman