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**Title:**

Statement: Electoral Boundaries Commission established

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# STATEMENT

from the Premier

Date..... January 8, 1976

Embargo.....

State Administration Centre  
Victoria Square, Adelaide  
South Australia 5001  
228 4811

## ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES COMMISSION ESTABLISHED.

Legislation establishing an independent Electoral Boundaries Commission in South Australia and ensuring equal-sized House of Assembly electorates has received Royal assent.

The Premier, Mr. Dunstan, said the Constitution Amendment Act, passed unanimously by both Houses of Parliament in October last year, was signed by the Queen on December 19.

The legislation sets up an independent, three-member Commission with the responsibility of redistributing Lower House electorates on the basis of one-vote-one-value.

The members of the Commission - the Senior Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court, the South Australian Surveyor-General and the South Australian Electoral Commissioner - were automatically appointed when the legislation was assented to.

Mr. Dunstan said he expected the Commission would begin work shortly and the next State election - due in 1978 - would be contested on new boundaries based on equality of votes.

"After many years of struggle, the people of South Australia now have a constitutional guarantee that every person's vote is equal. The undemocratic, biased electoral systems of the past cannot occur again".

Mr. Dunstan said the Electoral Boundaries Commission was required to redistribute House of Assembly electorates after every third general election, provided five years had passed since the last redistribution. The Commission was completely independent and once new boundaries were drawn they would come into effect without any intervention by Parliament.



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