
From: S McLeod
Sent: Monday, 29 April 2019 8:18 AM
To: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox
Subject: Submission to Electoral Boundaries Review
Attachments: EBR Submission



28 April 2019

Dear Commissioners,

This submission seeks to raise a proposal to the Electoral Boundaries Commission. I make this submission as a former resident of the area of West Perth which forms the subject of this submission.

I wish to propose that the portion of West Perth west of the Mitchell Freeway (the "West Perth precinct") be included in the State Electorate of Nedlands and excluded from the State electorate of Perth.

In summary, this proposal is based on the following reasons:

- 1) There is a stronger community interest of the West Perth precinct with Subiaco and Subiaco East, rather than the Perth central city;
- 2) The Mitchell Freeway is a clear physical division which has until relatively recently been used as the western boundary to the electorate of Perth;
- 3) It is no longer possible to include all the City of Perth within one electorate, given its expansion following the introduction and passage of the City of Perth Act;
- 4) The exclusion of precincts west of Mitchell Freeway provides an easy adjustment to reduce the number of enrolled voters in the electorate of Perth, with only minor readjustment needed to the Nedlands/Churchlands boundary, if required; and;
- 5) Previous submissions have proposed that the relevant area of West Perth be incorporated into electorate of Nedlands, as has historically been the case.

1. A stronger community interest of the West Perth precinct with Subiaco East, rather than the CBD, with future land use patterns to further grow and facilitate a Subiaco East/West Perth town precinct.

A common misconception is that the West Perth community interest lies with the Perth Central Business District.

The West Perth precinct, west of Mitchell Freeway, has a stronger community of interest with Subiaco, and in particular Subiaco East. Hay Street (west) acts as a major commercial corridor, connecting the West Perth precinct with Subiaco east and the Subiaco Town Centre.

This community of interest is also evident in Subiaco amenities which service West Perth resident with supermarkets, health and other facilities located immediately in Subiaco east and the Subiaco town centre. Residents of West Perth typically benefit from shops, community facilities, and services in Subiaco, rather than those in central Perth.

Future land use patterns and current planning also strongly indicate further growth of this joint community of the interest.

The opening of the new college in Subiaco will facilitate a new school community spanning Subiaco and West Perth residents and redevelopment of major density around Subiaco Oval will create a clear new hub of amenities for West Perth residents.

Most critically, the future redevelopment of the former Princess Margaret Children's Hospital site, located in Subiaco East but bordering the West Perth precinct, will be a central focus point of residential, commercial, and entertainment facilities, creating a new activity node and town centre. Residents of West Perth will be much more effectively served by representation focused on these significant transformations which will occur over the next decade.

2. Mitchell Freeway has historically been a clear western border to the Perth electorate, and should be applied for the length of the western boundary of the Perth electorate.

The Mitchell Freeway has generally been recognised as a significant and clear physical division throughout the northern suburbs, and has historically been applied as the western border to the Perth electorate.

The Freeway structure is a strong physical barrier and landmark which serves to create separate and distinct communities of interest - east and west.

It is for this reason, the West Perth precinct and Kings Park should be included in the electorate of Nedlands. It should also be noted that the majority of West Perth west of the Mitchell Freeway had previously been included in the electorate of Nedlands until the 2007 redistribution.

This proposal submits that the boundary along the Mitchell Freeway should be applied again.

3. It is no longer possible to include all the City of Perth within one electorate, given its expansion under the introduction of the City of Perth Act.

It is acknowledged that local government boundaries are considered as part of the formation of electoral boundaries. It has been previously argued that West Perth should be included in the Perth electorate, on the basis that all of the City of Perth be contained within one electorate.

However, with the passage of the City of Perth Act, the University of Western Australia Crawley campus, parts of the suburbs of Crawley and Nedlands, and the entire QEII precinct were included into the City of Perth. As such, it would now be much more difficult to include the entirety of the City of Perth in the Perth electorate. These additions to the City of Perth are currently within the electorate of Nedlands, and there is little clear geographic or public interest reason for these to be incorporated into the electorate of Perth.

It should be accepted that the urbanised area of the City of Perth is no longer contiguous, and therefore should be considered a less significant boundary than those suggested the spatial interests of communities and by the physical severance of the Mitchell Freeway.

4. The exclusion of precincts west of Mitchell Freeway provides an easy adjustment to reduce the number of enrolled voters in the electorate of Perth, with only minor readjustment needed to the Nedlands/Churchlands boundary.

There is a clear need to reduce the number of enrolled voters in the Perth electorate. The exclusion of West Perth and Kings Park precincts provides a simple and concise option, using the clear physical barrier of the Mitchell Freeway.

The alternative of adjusting the northern boundary of the Perth electorate becomes more difficult, with no clear boundary limits, given that the marginal areas of Mount Lawley were previously excluded in the last redistribution.

5. Previous submissions proposing to remove West Perth from the Perth electorate

It should be acknowledged that similar submissions in relation to West Perth have previously been made to the Commission supporting the reintroduction of Mitchell Freeway as the eastern boundary of the district of Perth¹.

For the reasons outlined above, I believe there are significant public interest reasons for the area of West Perth situated on the west side of the Mitchell Freeway to be returned to the electorate of Nedlands.

Thank you for considering this submission.

¹ State Liberal Party of Western Australia. 2011. Submission to Electoral Boundary Review.