

All enquiries to Aaron Bowman, Manager Governance
Our ref: SJ1369 / OC19/9752



Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale

Sustainable. Connected. Thriving!

10 May 2019

Hon Eric Heenan QC
Chair
Western Australian Electoral Distribution Commission
GPO Box F316
PERTH WA 6841



Dear Sir

2019 WA Distribution Boundaries for the 2021 State General Elections

The Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale would like to provide comment on the suggestions that have been submitted regarding the 2019 Review of the WA State Electoral Boundaries for the 2021 State Election.

Council supports the principle idea submitted by the three political Parties that significant changes are to be avoided across Western Australia in this review, and as such, the Commission should avoid abolishing a non-metropolitan district to create a new metropolitan district as occurred in 2015.

It is however acknowledged that this will not be possible for the next review, and based on the current enrolments and future enrolments, this additional metropolitan seat will be required to be located in the South East of the metropolitan area.

The WA Labor proposal "that Darling Range transfer as much as possible of Serpentine-Jarrahdale LGA to Murray-Wellington, including the localities of Serpentine and Jarrahdale which requires a district to cross the Perth metropolitan boundary" is a good solution to avoid the abolishing of a non-metropolitan district, and is supported in principle by the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale.

Both the Liberal Party and WA Labor submissions either directly or indirectly acknowledge that the suburb of Byford is the epicentre of the growth within the South East metropolitan area, and as such, consideration should be taken into account that a district will be required that is either entirely based on the suburb or close to this in the next redistribution. This mirrors a similar issue in the North East metropolitan suburb of Ellenbrook, which both WA Labor and the Liberal Party acknowledge the community of interest justifications of ensuring the whole suburb is in one district and planning for this for the next distribution should occur now.

In addition, due to our population's affinity of living on the coast and to prepare for the next distribution, it is recommended that the current districts of Baldivis and Warnbro are based on an east-west alignment as opposed to the current north-south alignment that they all currently have.

This alignment synchronizes best with the Shire's "SJ 2050" document, (as illustrated below) which is our framework for how the Shire will accommodate the expected additional 100,000 people planned for in the State Government's Perth and Peel @ 3.5million strategic document.



It is acknowledged that the freeway is a natural divide for the eastern edge of the districts of Baldivis and Warnbro, however the freeway does not need to be, nor is it always used to divide other districts e.g. Kwinana. SJ 2050 identifies and points out the pluralistic values of connectivity across the freeway.

Council accepts that this could result in the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale being split after this current distribution in up to four districts being: Darling Range; Murray-Wellington; Baldivis and Warnbro. We however also recognise that this would be the result of the land size of the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale which is 905km² in comparison to that of the City of Rockingham (257km²) and the City of Kwinana (118km²) paired with our recent significant population growth and our projected growth moving forward.

The Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale does not foresee any issue, nor do we hold any concerns if our Local Government Area was required to be appropriately distributed, to fill the missing piece of the distribution jigsaw puzzle for the current distribution, as we acknowledge significant changes will be required in the next distribution.

Yours Sincerely

KR Donohoe
Chief Executive Officer

Extract SJ 2050 (copy of map within letter)

