

Two Rocks Yanchep Residents Association Inc.

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The Two Rocks Yanchep Residents Association
Submission to the WA Electoral Distribution Committee
State Electoral Boundaries – North Metropolitan – Butler

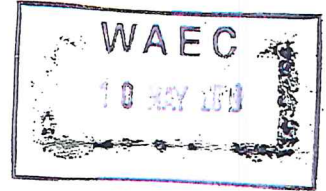
2019 Distribution of Electoral Boundaries in WA

We'd like to thank the Commission for the opportunity to make a submission regarding the review of electoral boundaries in WA. The Two Rocks Yanchep Residents Association (the Association) makes this submission in response to suggestions published to the WAEC website regarding the redistribution of suburbs from the electorate of Butler. We submit this only after consulting with the various submissions made so far to the Commission.

Currently, Butler is home to 34,345 electors which varies from the average district enrolment by 24.56%. This means that Butler must undergo changes to ensure it within the allowable VADE limit.

We strongly opposes the suggestions that the Commission should move our communities of Two Rocks and Yanchep into the regional seat of Moore which sits within the agricultural district.

The Association agrees with the submissions that state the excess electors in the Butler district is best mitigated by removed Quinns Rocks from Butler and placing it in the district of Burns Beach. Quinns Rocks is a matured suburb and has more in common with the mature suburbs to the south like Mindarie, Currambine and Iluka which are all suburbs within the district of Burns Beach. The fast-expanding suburbs of Yanchep and Two Rocks share a distinct commonality with other development hotspots in the Butler electorate, but has almost nothing in common with the coastal villages and inland towns to the north in Moore.



The submissions supporting the shifting of Quinns Rocks from Butler rather than Yanchep and Two Rocks address the criteria set out in the legislation. For example, they identify that Quinns Rocks has the same land usage, common interest, transport and coastal nature as the neighbouring beachside suburbs in the Burns Beach district.

The Association firmly believes that with Yanchep and Two Rocks categorised as metropolitan locations that, particularly after significant investment to connect Yanchep to the CBD by train, they remain within a metropolitan electorate. Currently, residents of Yanchep and Two Rocks travel only 25 minutes by car to be able to visit their local member. The electorate office for the Member for Moore – the Hon. Shane Love MLA – is located in Dongara, some 300km away. We understand the Member for Moore has his office located in Dongara due to it being at the nexus of several key transport routes from the north, south and east of Mr Love's office. This creates a serious disconnect with Two Rocks and Yanchep.

It is understood by the Association that the current Member for Butler, the Hon. John Quigley MLA, is in the process of moving premises to Butler Blvd. This means that residents in Yanchep and Two Rocks will soon have only a 10-15 minute bus journey to visit their current local member.

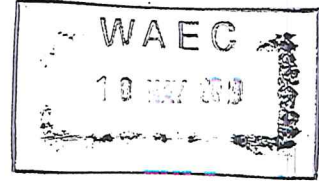
Metronet, the WA Government's heavy rail policy, includes an extension of the Joondalup line from Butler to Yanchep, due to begin construction later this year. Accompanying this transformational project will be the development of the Yanchep City Centre, which we are told will grow to rival Joondalup's City Centre in size and scope. Our interests and land usage align closely with the rest of the metropolitan seat of Butler and have nothing to do with and no commonality with the land usage in the agricultural region within which the regional seat of Moore is located.

As further evidence of common interest, the electoral district of Butler is entirely located within the North Coast Ward of the City of Wanneroo. If the reduction of electors in Butler is achieved by shifting Quinns Rocks to the district of Burns Beach, then the seat of Butler will still remain entirely within the North Coast Ward in the City of Wanneroo. Not only do Yanchep and Two Rocks share transport links with the rest of the Butler electorate; the City of Wanneroo, in planning its sport and recreational facilities, looks to place them within the North Coast Ward and does so in co-operation with the current local member, the Hon. John Quigley MLA. This will be in jeopardy should Yanchep and Two Rocks be shifted.

It is the Association's strong opinion that moving the suburb of Quinns Rocks into the electorate of Burns Beach and making minor modifications to neighbouring southern electorates is the most sensible option for a number of reasons. Firstly, as outlined above, Yanchep and Two Rocks are within the metropolitan area of Perth. To move them into a regional electorate would create a significant mismatch of priorities and cause difficulty in reconciling country interests with the interests of high growth metropolitan areas of Yanchep and Two Rocks.

Moving Quinns Rocks also has the effect of maintaining Burns Beach as a mainly coastal electorate in that it keeps its boundary west of the Mitchell Fwy, so that its position remains between the freeway and the coast.

Third, the projects currently underway to ensure connectivity between Yanchep and Two Rocks and the surrounding areas and Perth CBD make it vital that the localities remain within a metropolitan electorate.



Fourth is that if Yanchep and Two Rocks were to be put within the seat of Moore, it creates a serious anomaly and injustice concerning Royalties for Regions legislation. Royalties for Regions legislation states that Yanchep and Two Rocks are still within the metropolitan area and not the regional agricultural district. Because of this, any funding going to the electorate of Moore as part of Royalties for Regions funding will never be spent on infrastructure in Yanchep or Two Rocks despite the fact we would comprise 20% of the population of the electorate.

Maintaining Yanchep and Two Rocks within the electorate of Butler is sensible, community-focused and allows the electorate's VADE to reduce significantly – and well within acceptable levels. With minor and sensible shifts of the Burns Beach, Joondalup and Hillarys electorates (as described in the WA Liberal Party's submission), this would create a well-balanced spread of electorates in the north metropolitan area and sensibly maintain Yanchep and Two Rocks within a metropolitan electorate.

In conclusion, Yanchep and Two Rocks are metropolitan suburbs. They are soon to be linked to the CBD with a \$520m rail extension. For all intents and purposes, Yanchep and Two Rocks are part of the wider Perth City. To remove them from that situation and place them in an agricultural electorate is illogical and creates significant issues around commonality and transport links than the Quinns Rocks option, while both will result in similar elector numbers. For these reasons, the Two Rocks Yanchep Residents Association strongly suggests the Commission instead shifts Quinns Rocks into the electorate of Burns Beach and progresses minor changes in neighbouring electorates to ensure all are within acceptable variation of electors.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to have a say and for considering this submission.

Yours sincerely

Alex Figg

Chairperson