



Rita Saffioti MLA

Member for West Swan



Our ref: 2011074

Secretary
Electoral Distribution Commissioners
GPO Box F316
Perth WA 6841

To the Secretary

COMMENTS ON LIBERAL PARTY SUBMISSION RE: WEST SWAN ELECTORATE

I am writing to provide comments on the Liberal Party submission, in relation to its proposal regarding the electorate of West Swan.

I would like to make some preliminary comments about the electorate of West Swan. On the contrary to comments made in the Liberal Party submission there has actually been a strong growth in enrolment in this seat over recent years. From February 2007 to March 2011 there was a 10.7 per cent growth in enrolment compared to the State wide average of 9.6 per cent.

Additionally it is important to note there is significant urban development underway within the electorate. A number of new housing estates have commenced, with homes currently under construction in many different locations, including:

- Brookleigh Estate, Caversham (Swan Urban Growth Corridor);
- St Leonards, West Swan (Swan Urban Growth Corridor);
- Avonlee, Henley Brook (Swan Urban Growth Corridor); and
- Corimbia, Landsdale.

Approximately 33,000 people are expected to move into the Swan Urban Growth Corridor (Lord Street corridor), which is situated in the West Swan electorate (see attachment A).

This expansive growth will not be included in the 2011 Electoral Distribution, however it is important for background knowledge.

In relation to the Liberal Party proposal, the submission makes three key recommendations regarding the West Swan electorate.

I believe the proposals are poorly researched and appear to give no consideration to the several factors outlined in s16l of the *Electoral Act 1907*.



In particular the Liberal Party West Swan proposal gives no consideration to:

- community of interest;
- land use patterns; and
- physical features;

Below is a description of elements of their proposal and my response:

1. REMOVAL OF BEECHBORO (BENNETT SPRINGS) TO THE SEAT OF BASSENDEAN

Liberal Party submission:

"[West Swan] would as described lose the localities of Beechboro." p.8

"This adjustment will in turn enable the section of the locality of Beechboro lying north of Reid Highway and south of Marshall Road to be included in the district of Bassendean. Apart from the section within the Morley district, the locality of Beechboro would be concentrated within Bassendean and no longer spread over three districts." p.5

RESPONSE:

On 8 April 2011 the Geographic Names Committee approved the change of locality name to Bennett Springs. This means that part of Beechboro which lies north of Reid Highway (i.e. that part of Beechboro in the West Swan electorate) will now be a new suburb called Bennett Springs. (see Attachment B, official notification from Geographic Names Committee).

This new suburb of Bennett Springs encompasses the former Beechboro that is north of Reid Highway and that part of the suburb of West Swan, west of the Perth Darwin Highway alignment.

Bennett Springs is clearly separate from Beechboro. It is divided from Beechboro by Reid Highway, is relatively new in comparison to Beechboro, and will continue to have new residential development in the west.

Bennett Springs will have similar physical features to the new suburbs that are being created along the Lord Street corridor. These new housing developments along Lord Street, together with Bennett Springs will have a joint community of interest.

The Springs Shopping Centre and service/commercial precinct in Bennett Springs will become the primary shopping/service precinct for a majority of residents in the neighbouring Lord Street corridor.

Given this, it makes no sense to have Bassendean crossing Reid Highway to take in this new suburb.

It should also be noted that in April 2010 over 400 households in Bennett Springs took part in a survey to change the locality name. The result was that 97 per cent supported the change to Bennett Springs. It is understood that residents of Bennett Springs no longer hold any direct connection to Beechboro.

Therefore, the entire justification for the Liberal Party proposal to remove Bennett Springs from West Swan because "Beechboro" would no longer be spread over three electorates is no longer relevant.

2. REMOVAL OF CAVERSHAM TO MIDLAND

Liberal Party submission:

"[West Swan] would as described lose the localities of... Caversham." p.8

"It is proposed to include the locality of Caversham [to the Midland electorate], bounded by Lord Street to the west and Reid Highway to the north, and the Swan River to the south and east." p.7

RESPONSE

Caversham is an integral part of the Swan Valley.

The Swan Valley is indeed a key "community of interest". The Swan Valley is governed by its own legislation, the *Swan Valley Planning Act 1995* and has very distinct planning guidelines and regulations.

It has very distinct and common features. The Swan Valley has its own community of interest and unique land use patterns. Caversham includes the featured tourist road of West Swan Road. This primarily consists of vineyards and tourism businesses.

Physically the Swan Valley is known internationally for its picturesque scenery and as Perth's premium food and wine destination.

The Liberal Party proposal does not take into account any of these factors in proposing that this key part of the Swan Valley be redistributed to Midland.

Currently the Swan Valley is spread over two electorates, with the Swan River being the key divider between West Swan and Swan Hills.

The Liberal Party proposal would see the separation of this community of interest (Swan Valley) over three electorates, Swan Hills, West Swan, and Midland.

Labor's proposal on the other hand would be to incorporate the majority of the Swan Valley into one seat – West Swan.

Additionally, the part of Caversham not within the Swan Valley is part of the Swan Urban Growth Corridor (see Attachment A). There are new housing estates in this

area that together with the housing estates north of Reid Highway all form a part of the Swan Urban Growth Corridor. The Caversham housing estates will have direct transport links to the new housing estates north of Reid Highway, which are all within the West Swan electorate. New roads will be built to directly connect Caversham to these housing estates and the Caversham residents will access the community facilities north of the Reid Highway.

To ensure consistency with the *Electoral Act 1907*, I believe this proposal has no merit and should not be considered.

3. WEST SWAN TO GAIN A PART OF ELLENBROOK

Liberal Party submission:

"It is proposed that the locality of Lexia and the southern portion of Ellenbrook be transferred to the district of West Swan, leaving the locality of Aveley and the northern part of Ellenbrook within the district of Swan Hills. The boundary would run along Brookman Drive, Arbor Drive, Coolamon Boulevard, Pinegrove Drive, Bonney Lane and Henley Brook Avenue to the locality boundary of Aveley." p.8

"A further comparatively minor adjustment of the boundary between Swan Hills and West Swan is suggested, by moving it westwards from the Swan River to West Swan Road, as far south as its junction with Reid Highway." p.8

RESPONSE

The Liberal Party proposal is to split the suburb of Ellenbrook into two electorates, West Swan and Swan Hills and to have the new suburb of Aveley (which adjoins Ellenbrook) in the electorate of Swan Hills.

The Liberal proposal is very confusing and the proposed boundaries being slightly unclear. For example the Liberal Party proposal incorrectly names Brookmount Drive as "Brookman Drive".

Moreover, excluding Henley Brook Avenue, the roads that are proposed to act as the boundary are not major roads - they are simply minor suburban roads and would make one of the worse electoral boundaries in existence. These are not fit to act as electoral boundaries and would only result in confusion amongst electors.

The Liberal Party proposal makes no sense at all. The Ellenbrook area is a significant community of interest.

Currently the people of Aveley and Ellenbrook utilise Ellenbrook as the town centre as it was always intended to become. The *Directions 2031* document specifically labels Ellenbrook as the "secondary centre" of the North-east sub-region.

To divide this "secondary centre" contradicts the key factors in determining redistribution as set out in s161 of the Act. It would be similar to dividing the suburb of Armadale right down the middle of the town centre.

Ellenbrook is a growing region, and eventually will have its own electorate. In respect to Swan Hills, it would be more sensible to contract Swan Hills around the region of Ellenbrook as much as possible at this stage, with the knowledge that in the near future it will be its own electorate.

I trust the information I have provided is helpful. I would be more than willing to provide verbal evidence to your Commission if required. If you have any questions regarding this submission please feel free to contact me on 9248 3822.

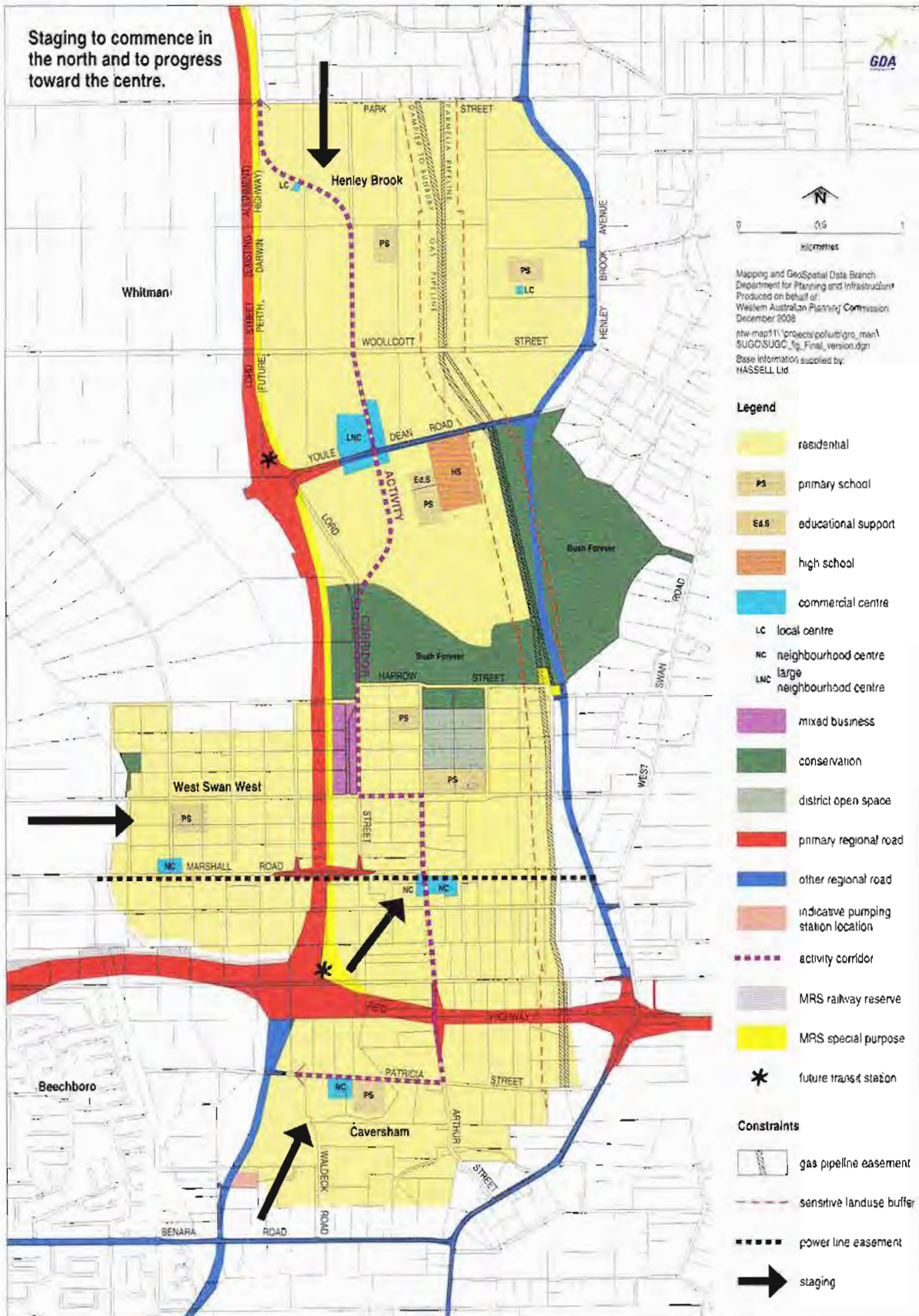
Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rita Saffioti', written in a cursive style.

**Rita Saffioti MLA
MEMBER FOR WEST SWAN**

29 April 2011

Appendix B: Staging fronts



Attachment B

The matters were put to the GNC, and the use of Bennett Springs was endorsed. This was then approved by Landgate on 8th April and the City of Swan was notified.

Danielle Stefani

Manager

Geographic Names

Location Products and Services

(08) 9273 7183

Main Details:

Full Name	Bennett Springs
Feature Class	Suburb (SUB)
Date Approved	08-APR-2011
Name Type	Approved Name (C)
Security Class	Complete Access (C)
Feature Number	100204467
Name Id	305869

Location Details:

Swan, City Of (8050)

Map References:

SH 50 14

Y

Display Name:

Bennett Springs

Origins and History:

Bennett Springs: a developer's estate name for the area which was originally part of Beechboro. Could possibly have been selected due to the Bennett Brook being situated at the eastern end of the development. The name has been in use by the community for some time and the name has been extended into portions of West Swan and Whiteman and includes other estates such as Orchid Park.



New Suburb of Bennett Springs

