

## D C CUSCUNA CPA

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Secretary to the Electoral Distribution Commissioners  
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Dear Sir/Ms

**OBJECTION / SUBMISSION RE: 2011 PROPOSED ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES FOR DISTRICTS OF MORLEY & MIRRABOOKA**

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on Western Australia's proposed (State) electoral boundaries as recently published as a booklet in the 11 June 2011 edition of the West Australian newspaper.

The Electoral Distribution Commissioners should be complimented for achieving what appear to be generally acceptable outcomes in respect to the review of most of the State's electoral boundaries in accordance with the requirements of the Western Australian Electoral Act 1907.

However, I have some concerns with the proposed new boundaries for the revised electoral district of Morley. Firstly, I consider it is inappropriate that you would actually propose to remove a significant section of the suburb of Morley from the new electoral district of Morley?

This proposed change highlights one of my key ongoing concerns with the use of suburb names for electoral districts (as advised in my submission to a previous electoral distribution). I am sure you realize that it is difficult enough for many electors to vote in an efficient and effective manner, without having to work out why they are voting for the electoral district of Mt Lawley (which is also a suburb!) when they actually live in the suburb of Morley? Surely, Western Australia is now grown up enough to use non-suburb names for its electoral districts, for example, the names of Western Australian Premiers, Members of Parliament etc (exceptions to this approach could be where an entire suburb formed an electoral district eg if the locality of Dianella was also determined as an electoral district)?

Secondly, why would you propose relocating only “part of the locality of Dianella” to the revised electoral district of Morley as stated on page 10 of your booklet? Surely it makes much more sense (in term of your general guidelines, ‘other matters’ and permissible limits) to relocate the rest of the locality of Dianella (that is adjacent to Alexander Drive and Yirrigan Drive) to the revised electoral district of Morley? This would increase the Morley electoral district’s elector numbers and reduce those for the new electoral district of Mirrabooka to within the acceptable limits? This is easily achieved by continuing to use the major road (Reid Highway) as the northern boundary for the revised electoral district of Morley up to Northwood Drive, Yirrigan Drive and Mirrabooka Avenue (the latter of which is a logical boundary for the proposed new electoral district of Mirrabooka)!

This leads me back to my bugbear in respect to the naming of the State’s electoral districts. Why name this ‘newly created’ district, Mirrabooka, when it could be readily be given a non-suburb name (for example, ‘Graham’ in honour of the late Herb Graham, who was a member of the Western Australian Parliament for this area for many years. Surely, the Commissioners are forthright enough to start this important and essential process of change to the naming conventions for our State’s electoral districts sooner rather than later?

Why create further confusion for the residents of Balga, Alexander Heights, Koondoola, Westminster, and very small sections of Ballajura and Dianella by including them in a new electoral district called Mirrabooka, when the Commissioners have the opportunity to ‘start with a clean slate’ and call this new district ‘Graham’ (or some other appropriate name, if considered more desirable). This will give these electors time to adjust to new name rather than create considerable confusion at the next State election when they have to work out why they are voting for ‘Mirrabooka’ when they live in Ballajura, Dianella etc.

I trust my comments and submission will assist you to finalise this year’s review of Western Australia’s (State) electoral boundaries.

Yours sincerely,



Dominic Cuscuna