
From: Saffioti, Rita <Rita.Saffioti@mp.wa.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 13 May 2015 3:13 PM
To: 2015 Electoral Boundaries Review
Subject: please find my comments on the Liberal Party submission to the redistribution review

Dear Commissioners

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the submissions received regarding the electoral boundary review. As the local Member for West Swan since its creation at the 2008 election, I wish to provide some important commentary in relation to the Liberal Party's proposal for the West Swan district.

West Swan was a district created as part of the 2007 redistribution. West Swan was created with the locality of Ballajura as its heart, with Landsdale to the north and stretching east, to include a number of localities west of the Swan River.

In the 2011 redistribution West Swan was changed dramatically. Landsdale was removed, as was approximately 2,300 voters, or 20 per cent, of the Ballajura locality. This portion, the north-west of Ballajura, was transferred to the district of Mirrabooka. The large growing suburb of Ellenbrook was transferred from Swan Hills into West Swan. This saw a transfer of approximately 7,300 electors from West Swan, and approximately 8,500 electors from Ellenbrook transferred to West Swan.

The Liberal Party submission continues to diminish the role of Ballajura as the heart of the West Swan district.

The Liberal Party's proposal to further rip out the core of this district makes no sense, and is entirely politically motivated. Instead of Reid Hwy as its current southern boundary, the Liberal Party propose to transfer the commercial district of Malaga (which has no electors) into Mirrabooka and split Ballajura further, taking a significant group of electors from the West Swan district and transferring them to Mirrabooka, across a major road (Alexander Drive). This will create an island of voters in the locality of Ballajura, who will be completely disconnected from other electors in their district.

I also note that the Liberal Party, in their submission, state that they wish to "avoid creating a boundary that runs along minor suburban streets", but then in their proposal for West Swan they move to carve up Ballajura and use minor suburban roads (Bellefin Drive and Cassowary Drive) as the electoral boundary. This simply does not make sense.

The Liberal Party continue to give scant regard to the electors of Ballajura. Ballajura is a strong community of interest. It is a large suburb in size and population. It is clearly separated from other residential suburbs by Alexander Drive and bounded by Marshall Road and Malaga to the south and Whiteman Park to its north east. Compared to all other suburbs, it has the strongest borders. It is served completely by the City of Swan, with one government high school, three primary schools, and one catholic primary school. It is served by the one senior citizens centre, and other strong sporting and community groups.

While my preference is to continue to represent all of the electors in the current West Swan electorate, I understand this is not a practical reality, given the significant growth of the number of electors.

West Swan has two major population hubs, with Ballajura (12,000 electors) and Ellenbrook (10,000 electors). The Liberal Party proposal to continue to carve up Ballajura is not a sustainable solution.

The overwhelming feedback from electors in the north-western portion of Ballajura when it was transferred to Mirrabooka in the 2011 redistribution was confusion and disappointment to not be connected to other Ballajura

electors. Those residents want to be represented solely by one local Member of Parliament. I can confidently say that residents in the south-eastern portion of Ballajura, that the Liberal Party is proposing to transfer out of the district, will be confused and disappointed. Ballajura should be united and represented as one electorate in the State Parliament.

I hope you do consider my comments when drafting the new boundaries.

Regards
Rita Saffioti

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