

**To The Attention of the Electoral Redistribution Commissioners  
Regarding the  
2011 Redistribution of Electoral Districts and Regions of  
Western Australia  
Submission by the Australian Labor Party  
(Western Australian Branch)**

This submission is made on behalf of the Australian Labor Party (Western Australian Branch) to the Electoral Redistribution Commissioners in respect of the 2011 Redistribution of Electoral Districts and Regions for Western Australia.

This submission consists of this written submission, maps of the 59 Assembly districts in a pdf format & data files using the EDGR software.

### **Introduction**

In the making and preparation of WA Labor's submission to the Commission, careful and specific attention has been paid to ensure a consistency with the *Act*. Under *The Electoral Act 1907*, s16l requires that due consideration is paid to the following:

- *Community of Interest;*
- *Land use patterns;*
- *means of communication and distance from the capital;*
- *physical features;*
- *existing boundaries of regions and districts;*
- *existing local government boundaries; and*
- *the trend of demographic changes*

The WA Labor Party has sought to observe all these criteria in the determination of the proposed Districts and Regions contained within the Submission.

It must be stated from the onset, that the challenge of this redistribution has been significant. With dramatic increases in population in the North Metropolitan and East Metropolitan Regions, the subsequent adjustments to accommodate the requirements laid out has led to a problematic adjustment of District borders.

These adjustments have had a necessary flow on effect to ensure Regional populations and the number of Districts remain consistent. WA Labor has produced a submission which falls within the guidelines set out, however does wish to confirm its commitment to ensuring stability and maintain existing boundaries where that is feasible.

Of particular concern in the development of the submission, has been the inherent awareness that these Regions and Districts will continue to grow at quite significant rates over the coming years.

It would have to be conceded that by and large the general process of redistribution is not understood by the general public. Frequently there is confusion and misunderstanding as to the drawing and redrawing of boundaries. In order to alleviate this and in order to make allowances for ongoing growth, WA Labor contends that the nature of each redistribution needs to clearly factor in rates of growth in determinations.

By including this in the process, it would allow for natural population growth to be accommodated in a way that does not see the necessity for major redistributions to be conducted every four years. It can allow for the process of change to be extended over a longer period of time. This would result in greater certainty and clarity in establishing appropriate communities of interest.

## **Districts**

In the calculation and determination of the updated District boundaries, there have been significant factors in terms of population growth within the general Metropolitan area. Significant growth has occurred in both the Northern and Eastern Metropolitan Regions.

In order to meet the required population levels for Districts within the Metropolitan areas there have necessarily needed to be adjustments which have slightly fallen outside the traditional boundary types that have previously been used. However, given that there is a continuity in the general community of interest, land usage and general physical attributes, these adjustments do not represent any dramatic shift.

The overall recommendation of the submission remains consistent with the Act and provides the following:

- Maintains the current number of Districts at 59 (42 Metropolitan, 17 Country)
- Adjusts for population growth within Metropolitan Districts whilst recognising the changes required which have been brought about by this growth
- Where possible, traditional boundaries have been maintained to ensure consistency
  - On occasion there has necessarily been a need to place boundaries based on a Census Collective District boundary. This however remains consistent with practise utilised by previous Commissioners (*eg: 2003 State Electoral Redistribution*).
- Provide clear and relevant connections in each District ensuring consistency in Community of Interest matters
- Provides the public with a clear and reasonable set of adjustments which would remain generally consistent with their expectations

The Mining and Pastoral Regional Districts remain broadly consistent. The District of Pilbara has been modified so as to ensure a more consistent boundary that improves the Community of Interest within the area. In consideration of this seat it was conjectured on incorporating the towns of Dampier and Karratha. Whilst this would provide a logical consistency with the region, the overall effect of the subsequent boundary changes required, would result in out of proportion electorates in terms of physical size and population.

The Districts comprising the South West and Agriculture Regions have also remained broadly consistent with the current boundaries. Any adjustments made have reflected the consistency of this submission in ensuring that there is ongoing and relevant Community of Interest in their determinations. However it is felt that adjustments need to be made to the Agriculture Region and this is covered in the relevant section below.

It is worth noting that at current population levels in the East and North Metropolitan Regions the pressure to add a new District is mounting. Clear increases in population and the anticipated housing developments planned for the North Metropolitan Region may bring about further pressures to create a new District. However the contention of WA Labor is that at present levels, a new District is not necessary.

However the Redistribution Commission has access to more detailed demographic information than the WA Labor Party. As such it is important that this more detailed information is considered and used in drafting the boundaries.

It is our strong view that any reduction in the number of districts in regional WA should occur only when absolutely necessary. The WA Labor Party has a strong and continuing commitment to one vote one value, however in this redistribution cycle it seems it is possible to maintain the current 17 seats in regional and rural WA and our proposal does this.

The result, however, of the current increases in population has meant that in order to maintain the average District population as determined by the current 42 metropolitan seat formula, those larger populated areas (eg Wanneroo, Swan Hills and Darling Range) have needed to divest significant numbers of population. This obviously has a flow on effect for surrounding Districts and the Regions. As previously stated, in order to accommodate these changes, Community of Interest has been foremost in the subsequent calculations.

## Regions

Current requirements under the *Act* specify that the State is to be divided into six Regions, specifically:

- North Metropolitan Region
- East Metropolitan Region
- South Metropolitan Region
- South West
- Agricultural
- Mining and Pastoral

Under the requirements of the *Act* (s.16D), the Regions are to be divided into 6 regions (being 3 Metropolitan and 3 Non-Metropolitan), each Region returning 6 Members for the Legislative Council. It is the position of WA Labor that there be no adjustment to this in the current redistribution.

In terms of current distribution of Regions in the three Metropolitan and the Mining and Pastoral Regions, WA Labor also believes that no adjustments need be made. As stated earlier there have been significant pressures in terms of ensuring consistency of population levels due to increased growth in some areas. The result of this may result in the Regional borders needing to be slightly adjusted to ensure the integrity of the balance of Districts per Region.

In the case of the South West and Agricultural Regions, we would submit one change to the current Regional Boundary.

Under s.16H (1)(c) of the *Act*, the Region known as Agriculture is defined thusly:

(c) one region, to be known as the Agricultural Region, consists of complete and contiguous districts that together form an area that is generally south, or south and west, of and adjacent to the Mining and Pastoral Region and in which the land use is primarily for agricultural purposes;

Further to this, the principle understanding of the redistribution remains that the Community of Interest should be maintained in the setting of Districts and Regions (s.161 (a)). WA Labor would contend that under these principles the District of Albany would more readily fall under the Agriculture Region than under that of the South West.

Historically this District has been both an area where the principle industry is agricultural, but also acting in the role of service and community centre for the agricultural community. It does not remain inconsistent with the definition as provided, nor the basis of community interest therefore, that Albany would be more readily identified with the Agriculture Region.

In identifying population levels between the two Regions, it is quite clear that the South West Region has for some time been experiencing steady growth. By contrast the Agricultural Region has had significant decline in the Region's population. The question of amendment by Large District Allowances does not come into play in these areas. It would be argued though, that the same concerns and issues of this Region would be equally felt in the Mining and Pastoral areas.

In order to address the necessity of contiguous borders as stated in the *Act*, WA Labor would recommend that the Agriculture boundary be extended in the following manner:

Extending the boundary of the District of Wagin westerly to the eastern boundary of the Shire of Denmark. Then extending north and easterly to incorporate the town of Mount Barker. Then extending north and westerly incorporating the Albany Highway as the District and Regional border towards the current border for the District of Wagin (*see attached map*).

This provides a logical and consistent boundary for the Agricultural region and formalises the association this area has with the District of Albany.

## **Conclusion**

As stated from the outset, the issues of highly increased population has meant that in order to maintain the integrity of the 59 District plan, the adjustments needed within the respective Districts has produced boundaries that have necessarily needed to follow CCD boundaries. But in all cases the primary objective of the ALP has been to ensure that the community of interest has been maintained and to ensure that as little impact as possible is experienced by the community of Western Australia.

We therefore respectfully present this submission for the consideration of the Electoral Commissioners.

Yours Sincerely

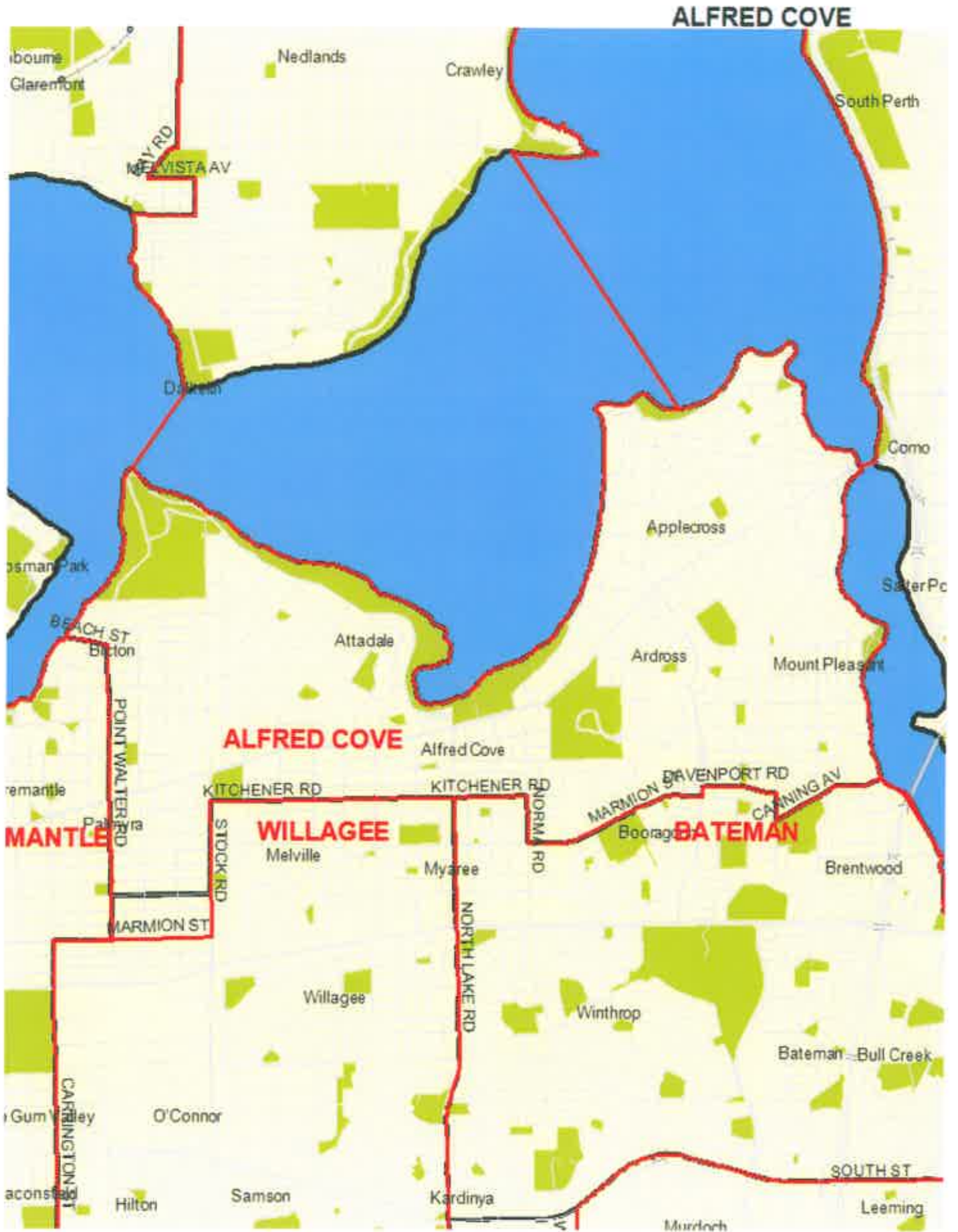
Simon Mead  
State Secretary  
Australian Labor Party (WA Branch)  
79 Stirling St  
Perth WA  
6000

# ALBANY



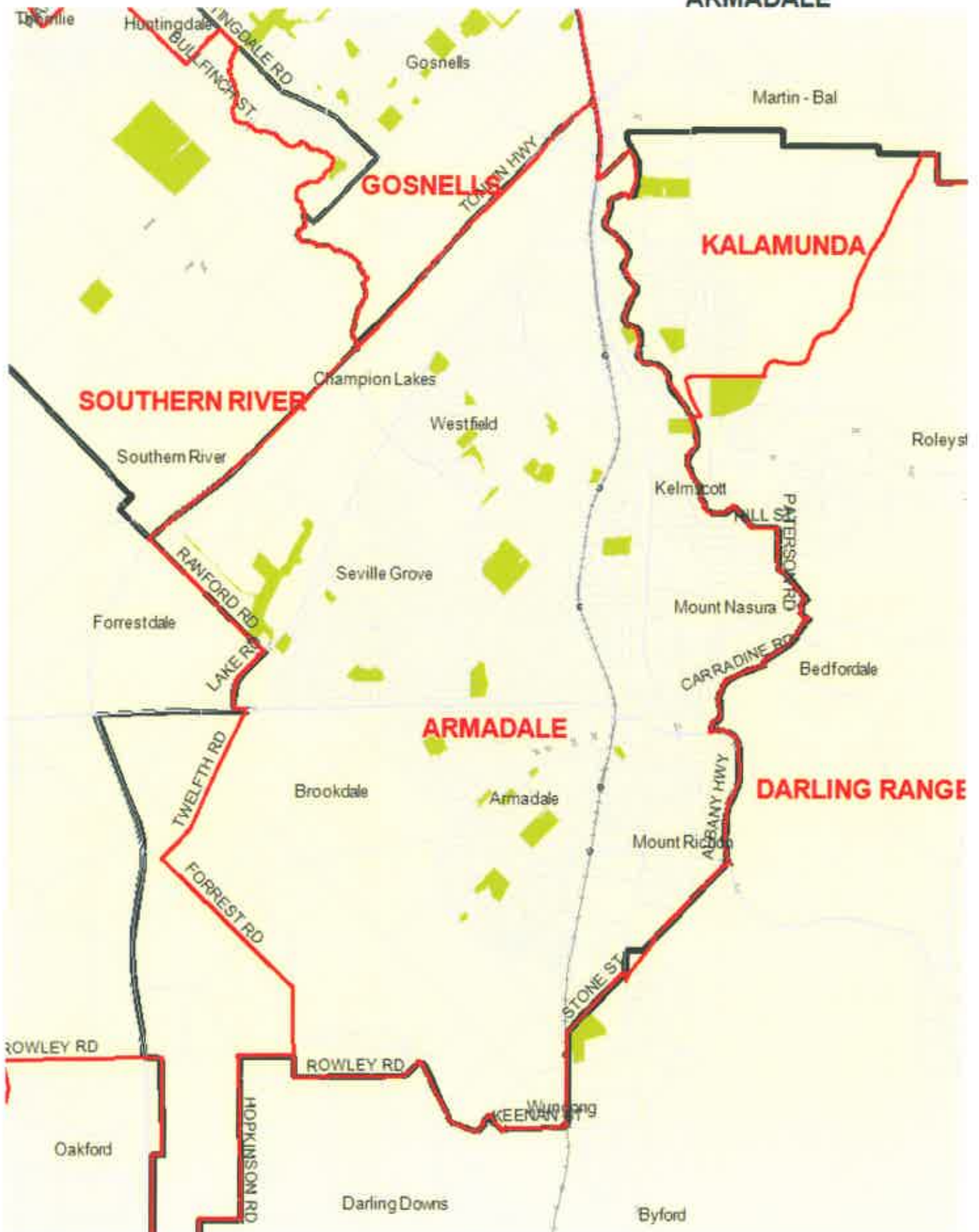
proposed boundary   
current boundary 





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# ARMADALE

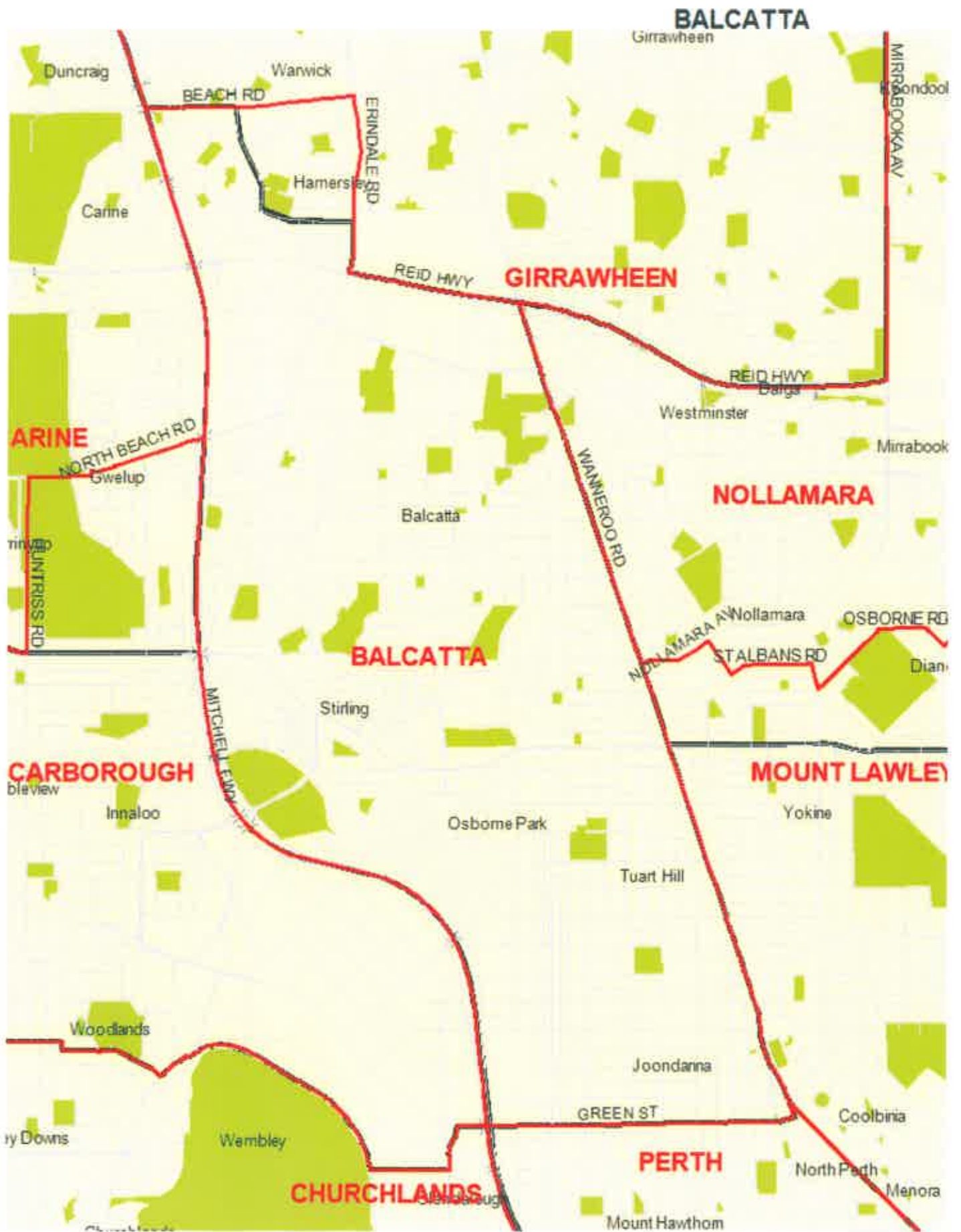


proposed boundary



current boundary





proposed boundary



current boundary



# BASSENDEAN



proposed boundary   
current boundary 



proposed boundary



current boundary





proposed boundary ———  
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**BLACKWOOD-STIRLING**



Local Government boundaries 



proposed boundary 

current boundary 

**BUNBURY**



Local Government boundaries 

proposed boundary   
current boundary 





Local Government boundaries 

proposed boundary   
 current boundary 



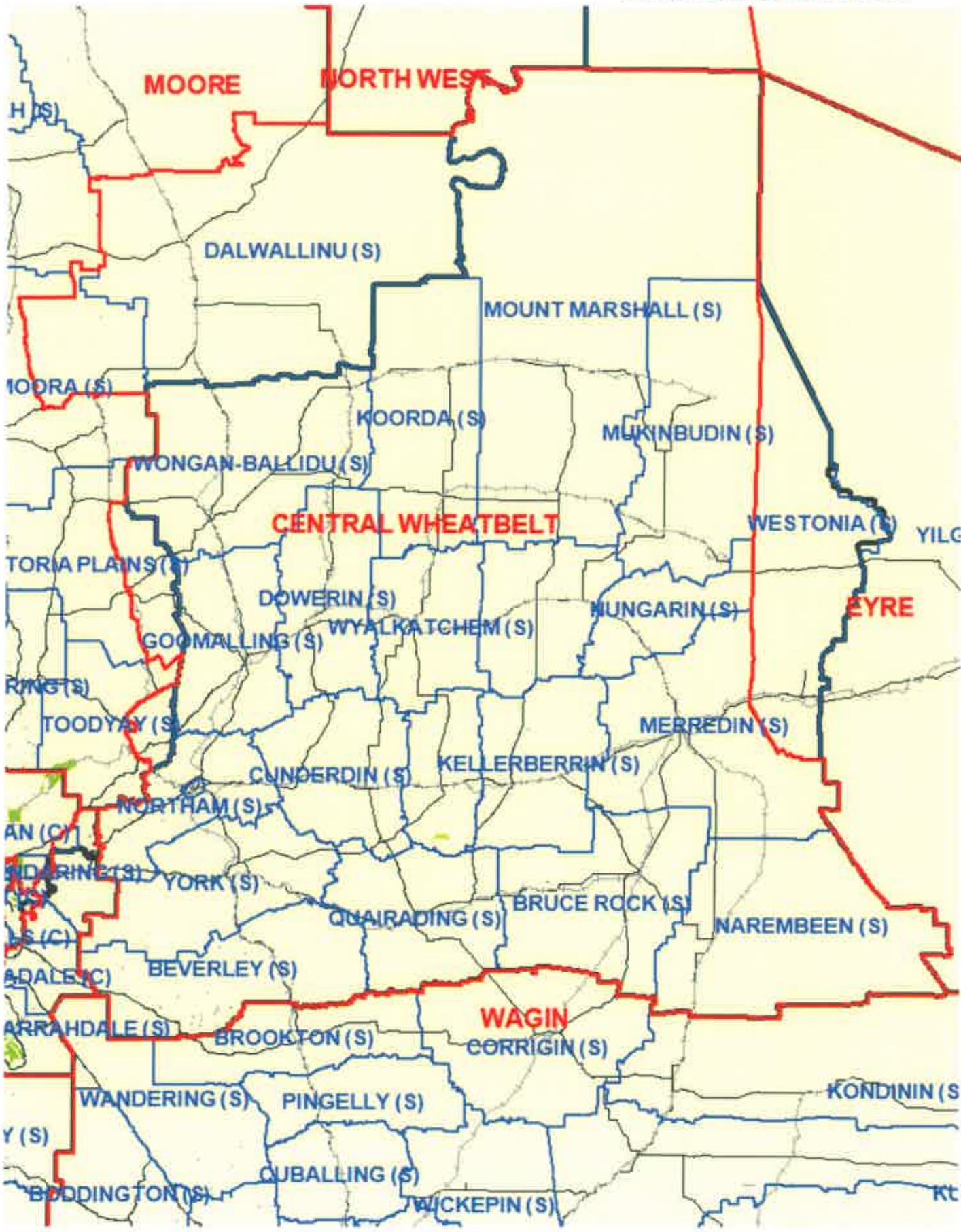
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current boundary

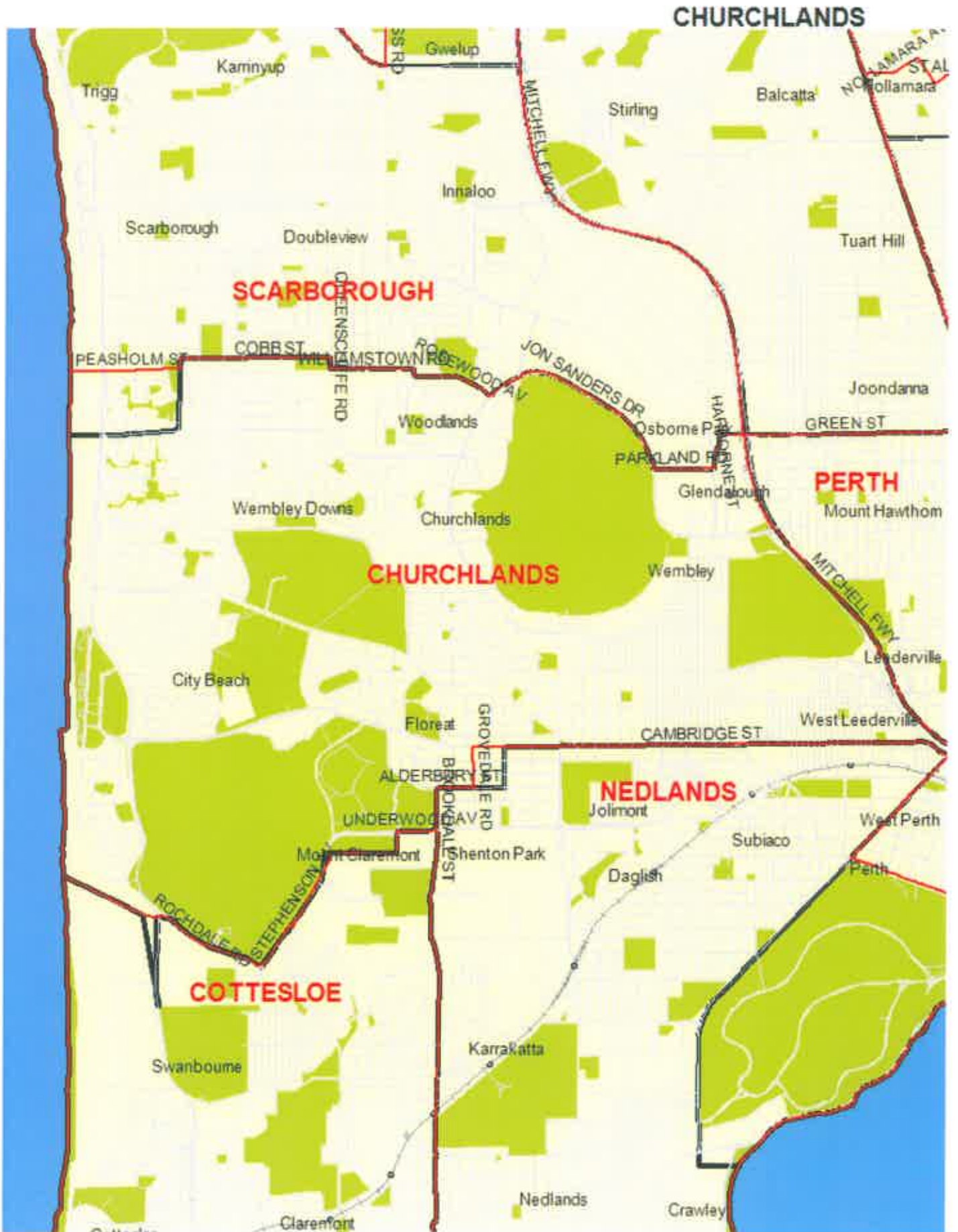


CENTRAL WHEATBELT



Local Government boundaries

proposed boundary  
current boundary



proposed boundary —  
 current boundary —



proposed boundary



current boundary





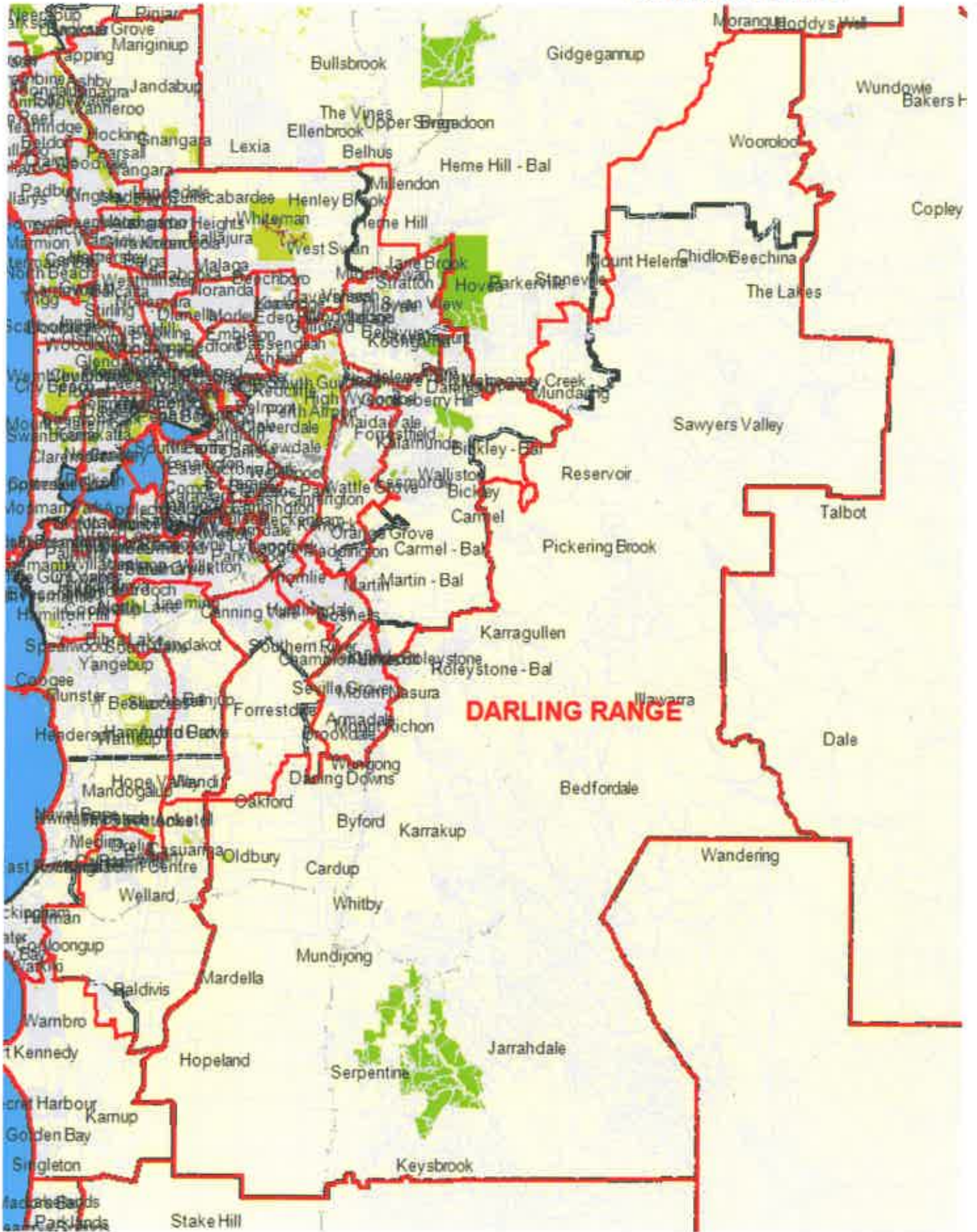
Local Government boundaries 

proposed boundary 

current boundary 



# DARLING RANGE



Local Government boundaries



proposed boundary



current boundary





DAWESVILLE

MANDURAH

MANDURAH (C)

MURRAY-WELLINGTON

DAWESVILLE



Local Government boundaries \_\_\_\_\_

proposed boundary \_\_\_\_\_

current boundary \_\_\_\_\_



Local Government boundaries

proposed boundary   
 current boundary

# FORRESTFIELD



Local Government boundaries

proposed boundary  
current boundary



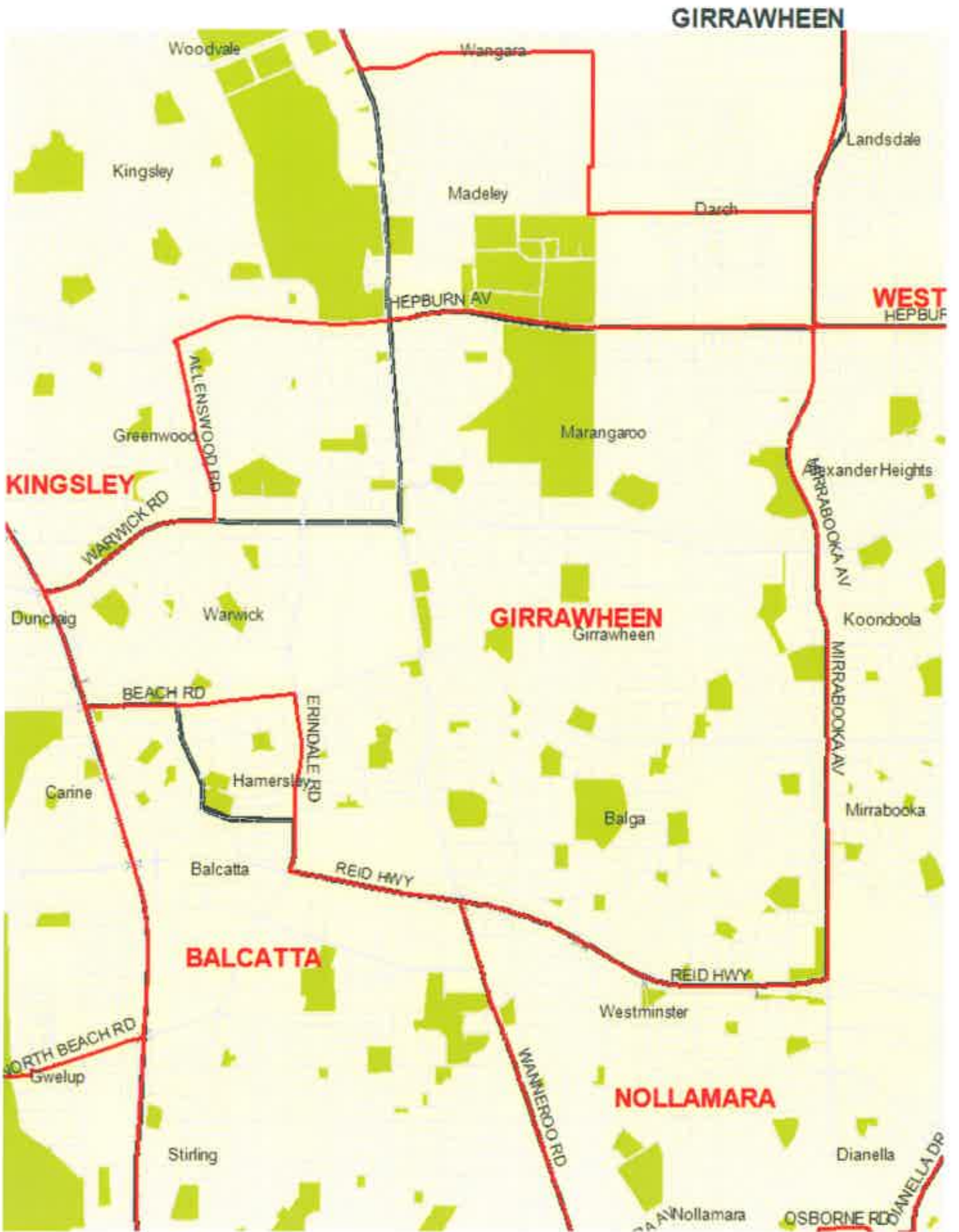
proposed boundary —  
 current boundary —

GERALDTON



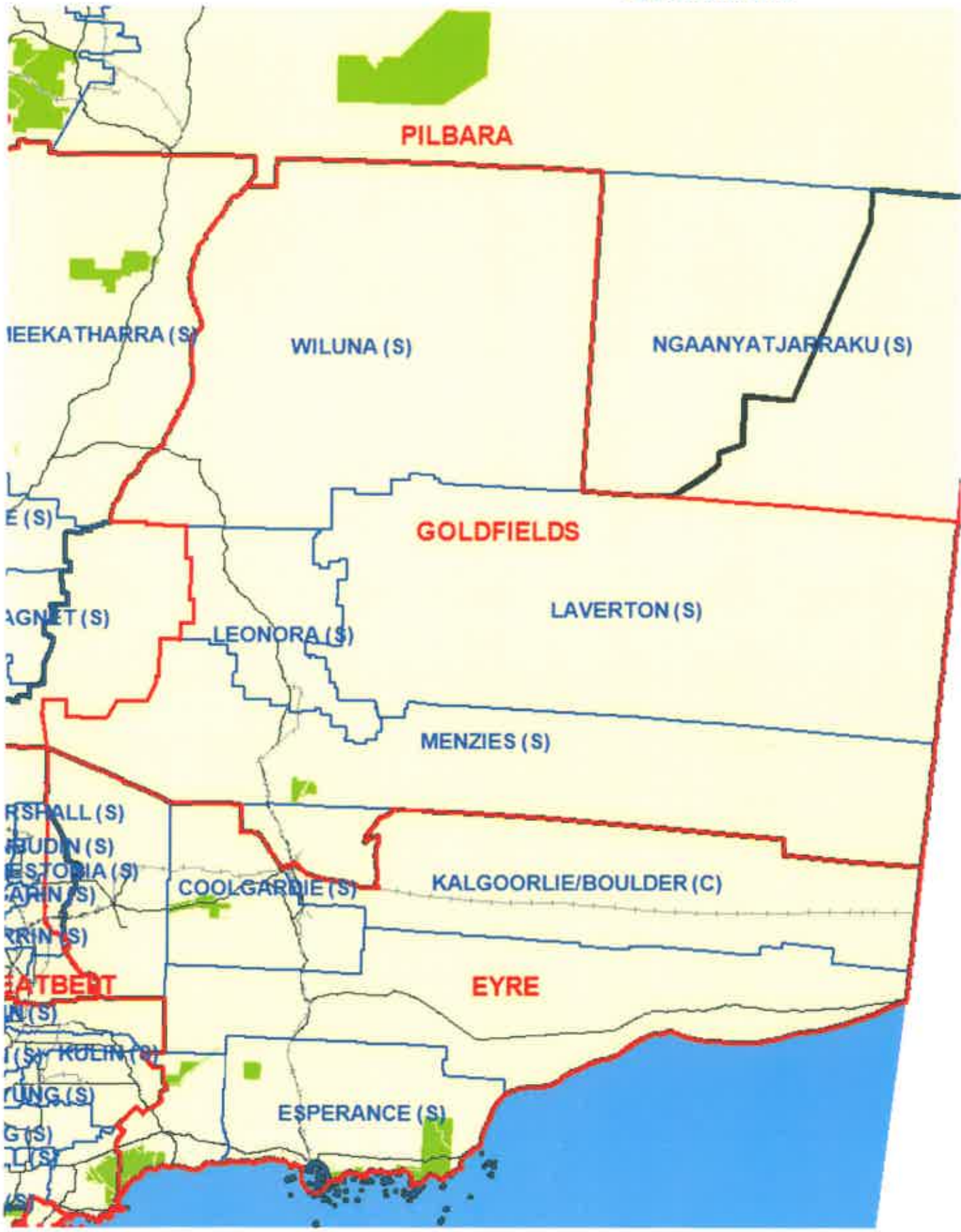
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current boundary —————



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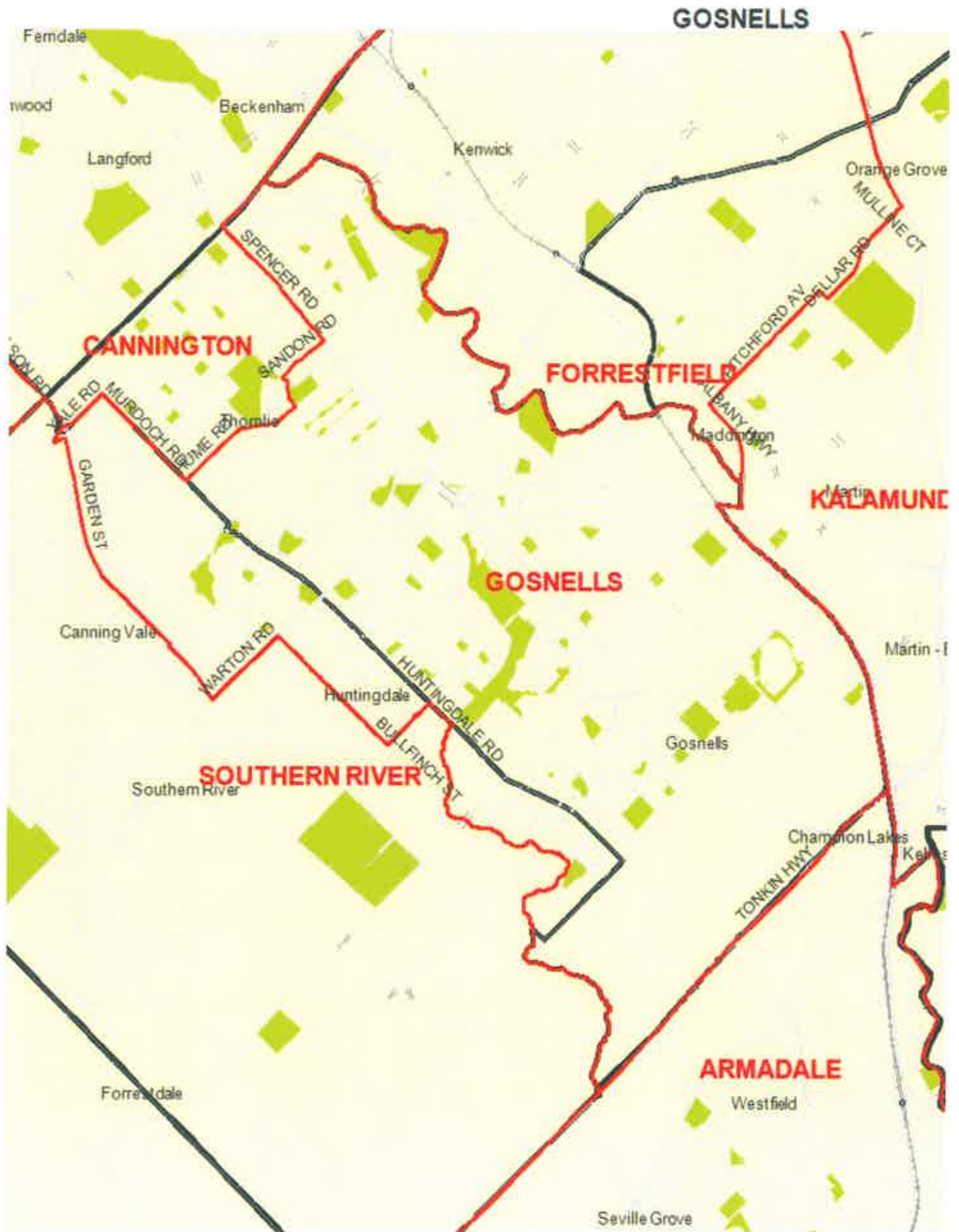
# GOLDFIELDS



Local Government boundaries 

proposed boundary 

current boundary 

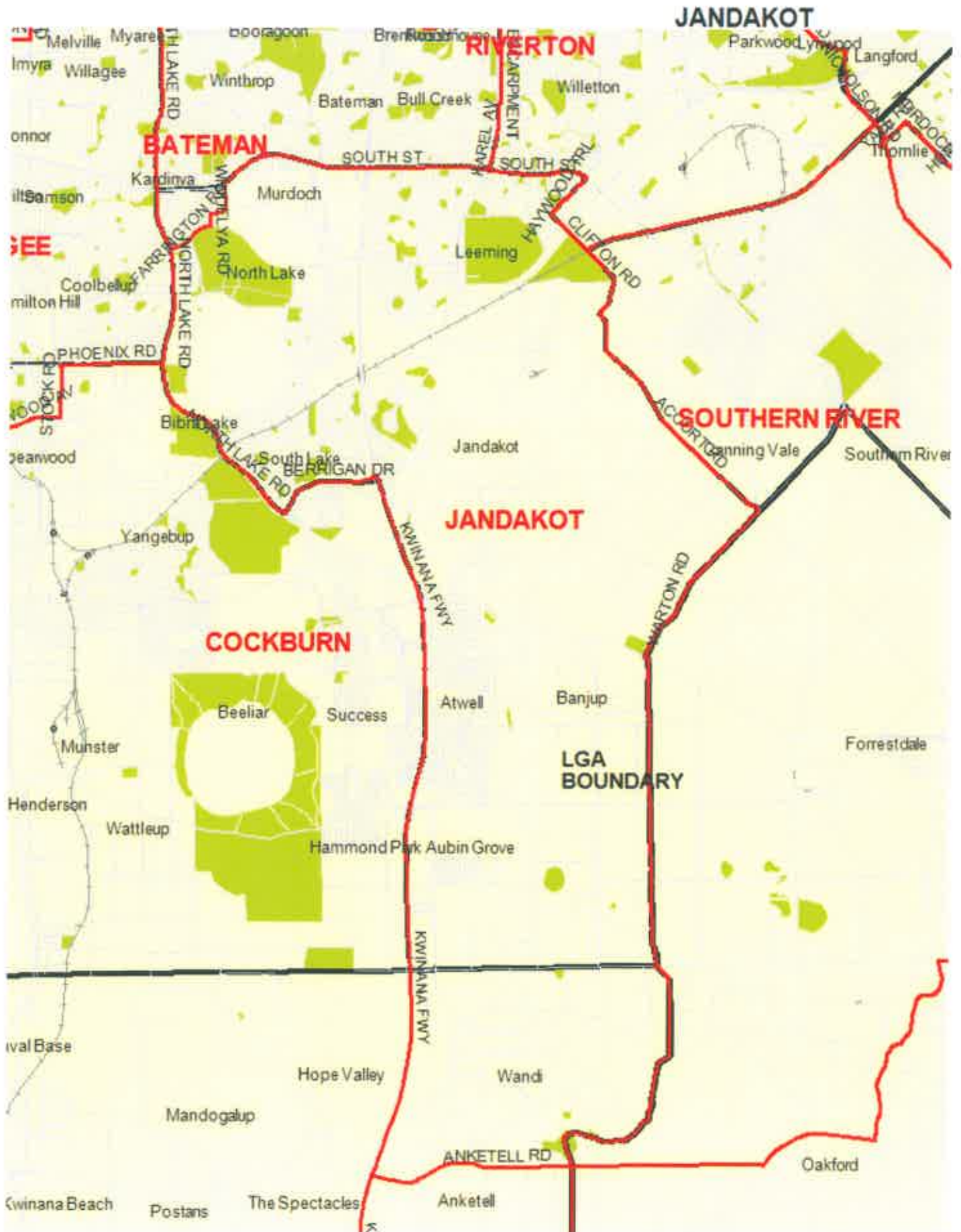


proposed boundary —  
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proposed boundary —  
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proposed boundary ———  
 current boundary ———



proposed boundary —  
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proposed boundary —  
 current boundary —

KIMBERLEY



Local Government boundaries —————

proposed boundary —————  
current boundary —————

# KINGSLEY



proposed boundary   
current boundary 



proposed boundary ———  
 current boundary ———



proposed boundary —  
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proposed boundary —  
 current boundary —

MIDLAND



proposed boundary —  
 current boundary —





Local Government boundaries

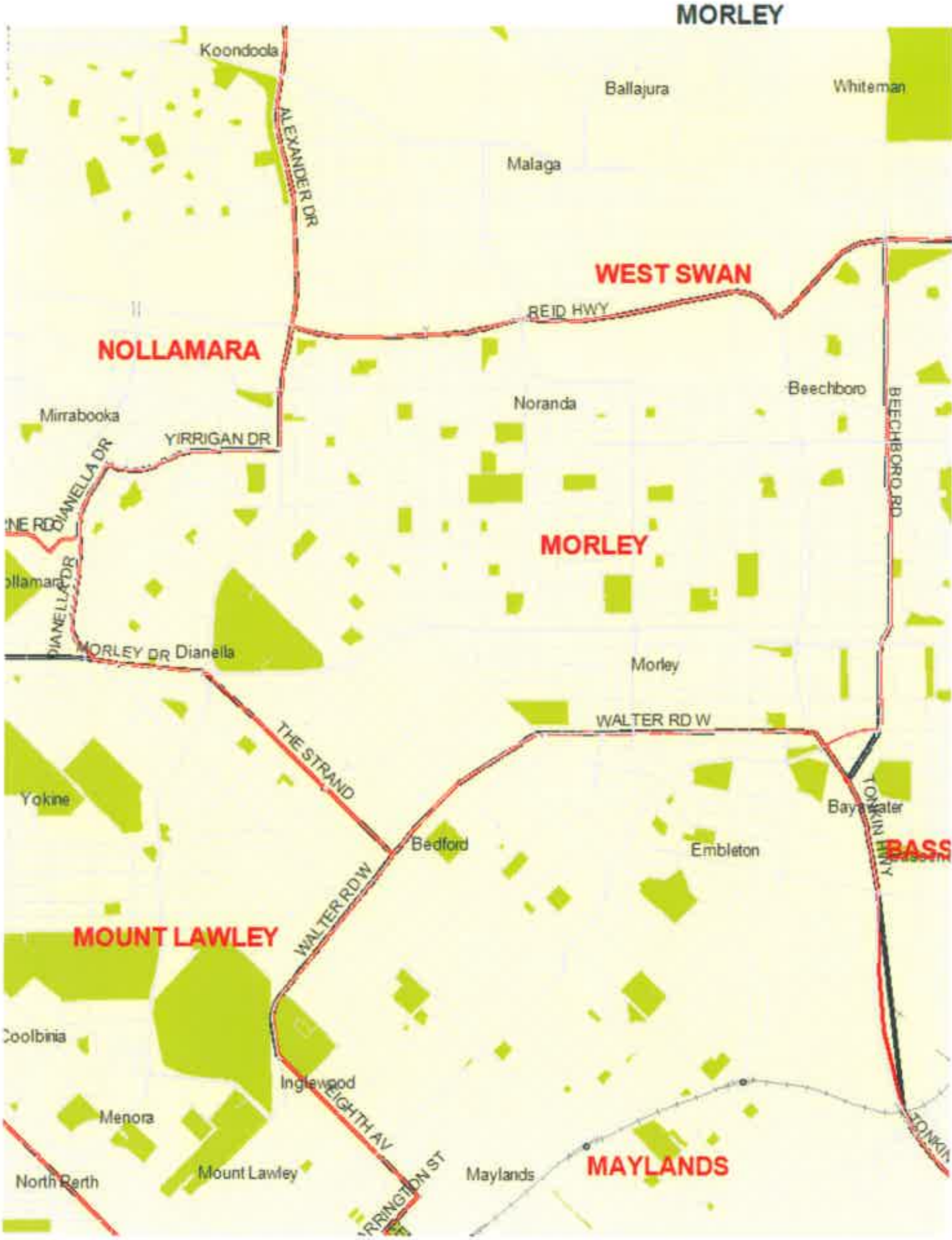


proposed boundary



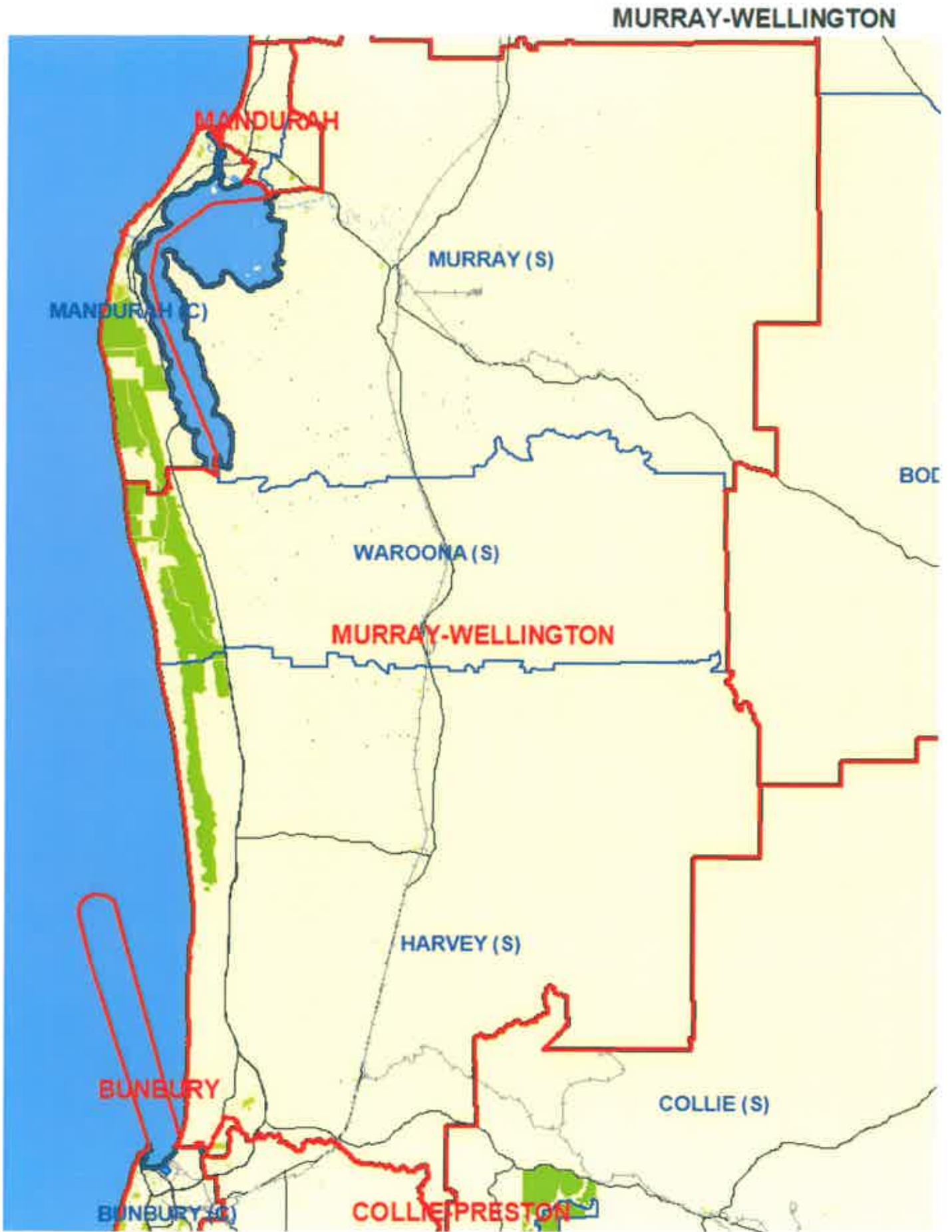
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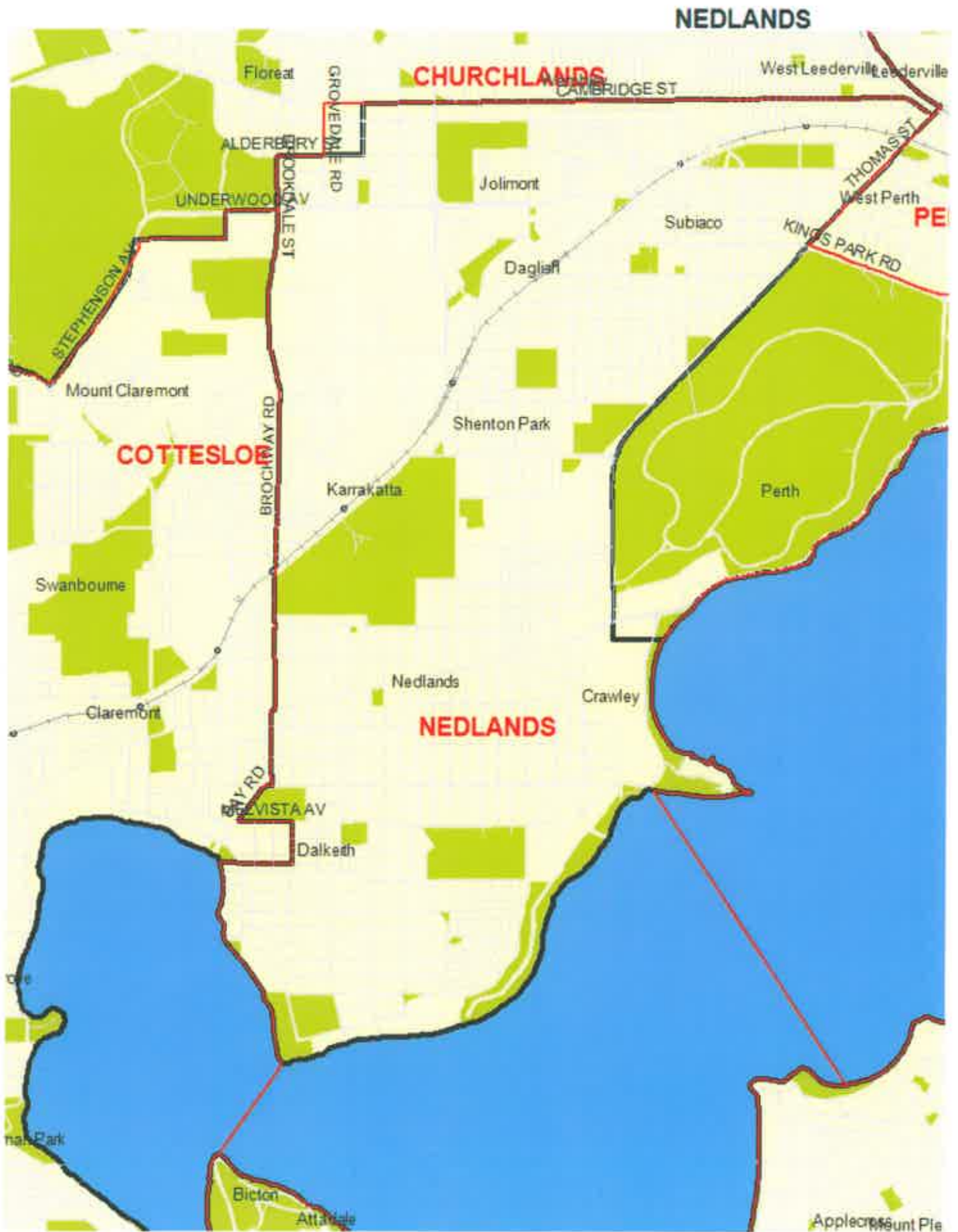


proposed boundary —  
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Local Government boundaries

proposed boundary   
 current boundary



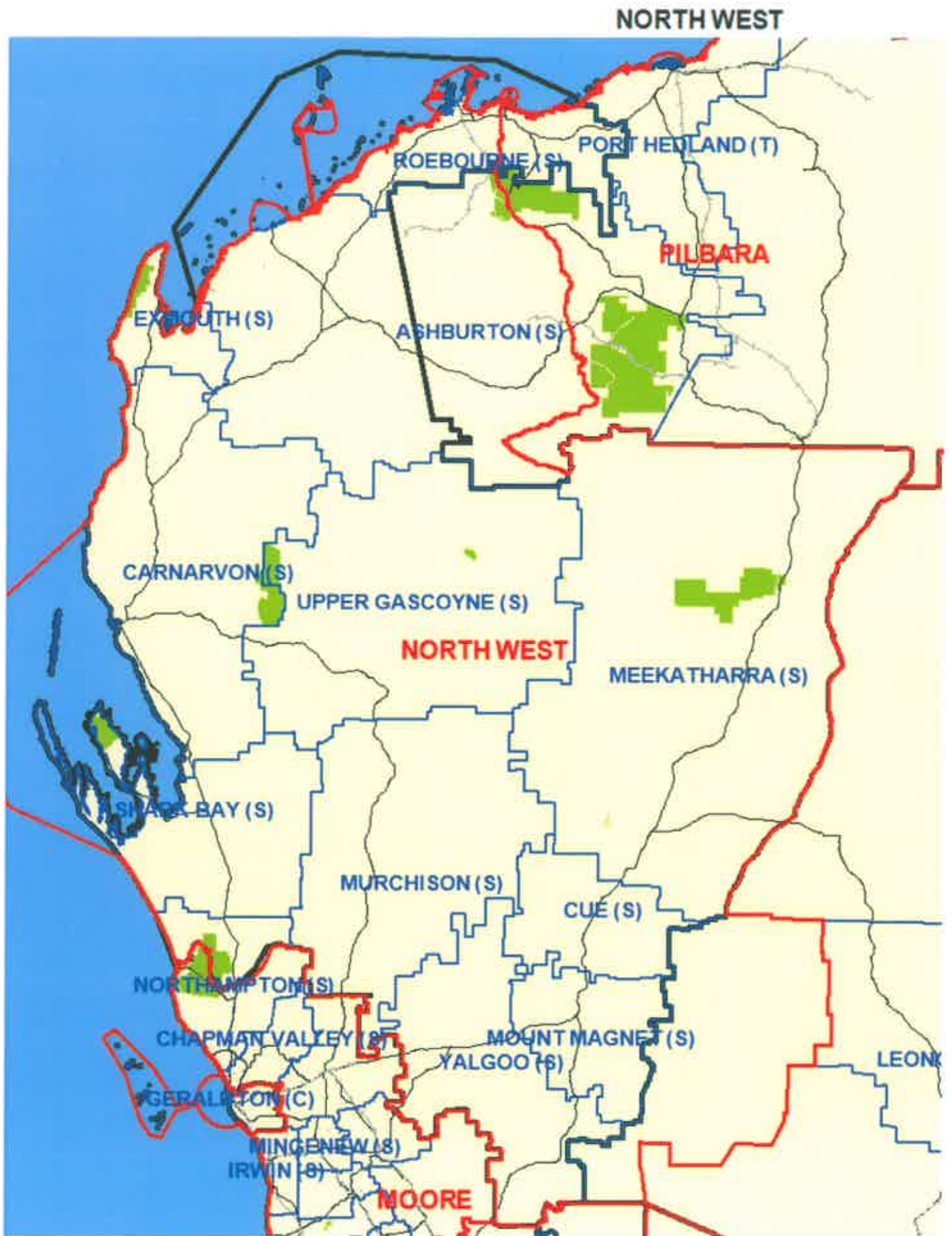
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proposed boundary —  
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Local Government boundaries

proposed boundary   
 current boundary

# OCEAN REEF



proposed boundary ————  
current boundary ————



proposed boundary ————  
 current boundary ————

**PILBARA**



Local Government boundaries

proposed boundary  
current boundary



proposed boundary ———  
 current boundary ———

# ROCKINGHAM



proposed boundary   
current boundary 

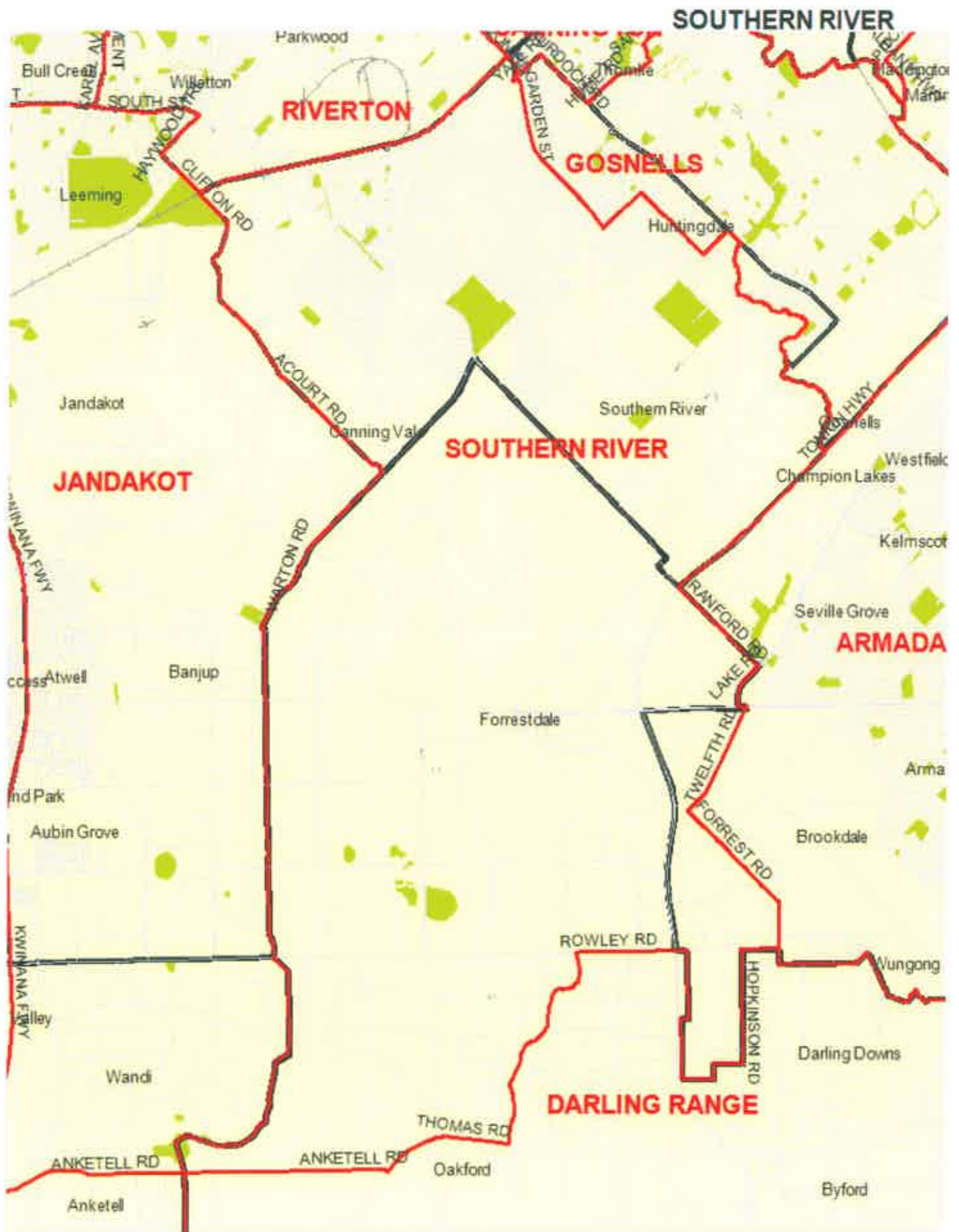


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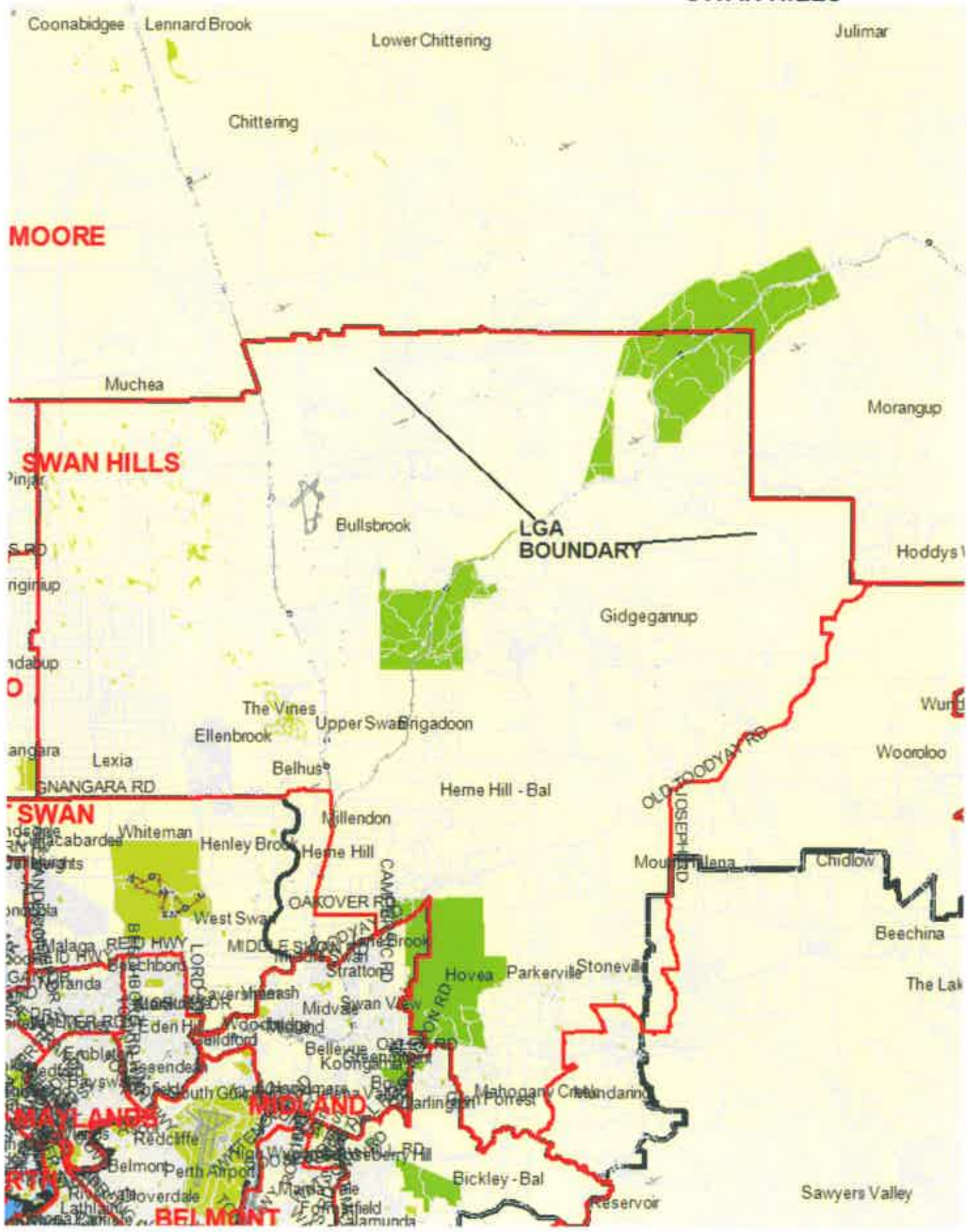






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# SWAN HILLS



proposed boundary   
current boundary 

# VASSE

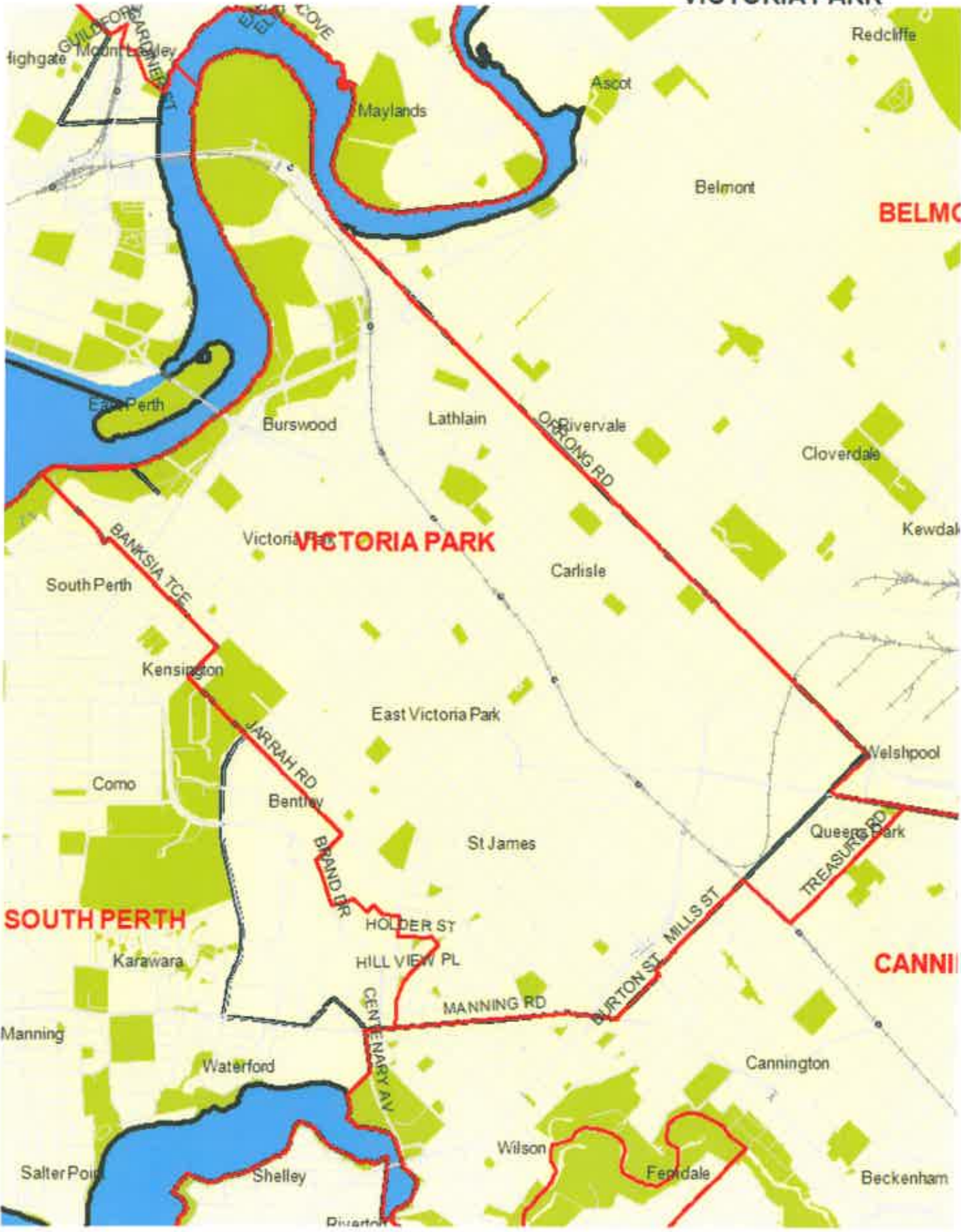


Local Government boundaries 

proposed boundary 

current boundary 

VICTORIA PARK



proposed boundary ————  
current boundary ————



Local Government boundaries ———

proposed boundary ———



current boundary ———



proposed boundary ———  
current boundary ———

# WARNBRO



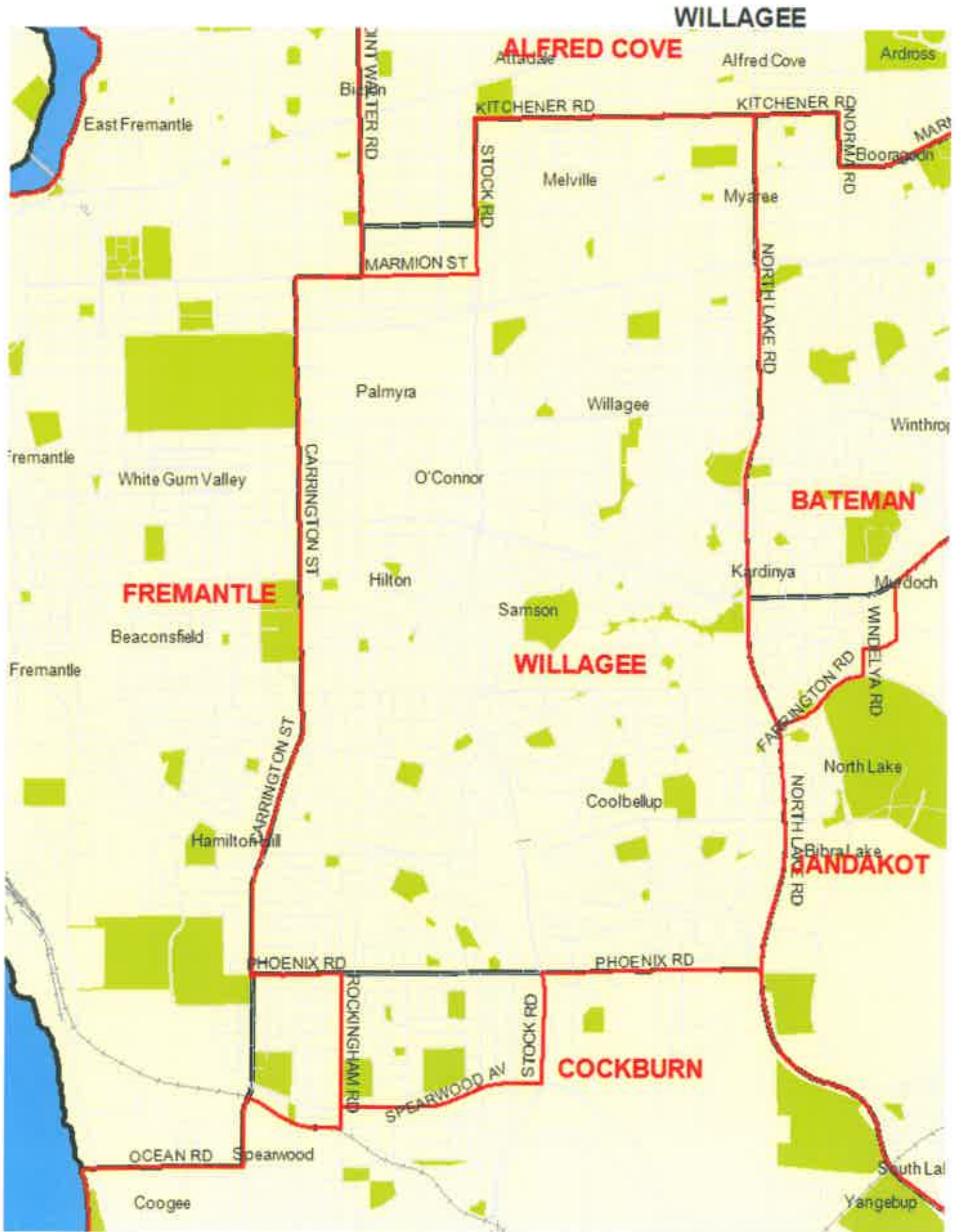
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current boundary 



**WEST SWAN**



proposed boundary ———  
current boundary ———



proposed boundary



current boundary

