



Parliament of Western Australia – Legislative Assembly

Tony Simpson M.L.A.
Member for Serpentine-Jarrahdale

17 May 2007

Office of the Electoral
Distribution Commissioners
GPO Box F316
PERTH WA 6841

Dear Commissioners,

Please find attached my comments regarding the submissions on the redistribution of our State's electoral boundaries.

My comments focus on the redistribution of the boundaries of the existing electoral district of Serpentine-Jarrahdale, which I currently represent in the Western Australian State Parliament.

I have sent my comments via post and email to ensure that you receive them in a timely matter.

Please accept my best wishes in your endeavour to redraw the electoral boundaries in a fair and even way that respects the interests and aspirations of the many communities within our State.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tony Simpson".

Tony Simpson MLA
MEMBER FOR SERPENTINE-JARRAHDALÉ



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**Comments on WAEC redistribution submissions
Serpentine-Jarrahdale**

There is a strong and logical case for maintaining the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale intact as part of a single electorate.

As was mentioned in the original Liberal Party submission on the current redistribution, electoral districts should, as much as is possible, contain entire localities, as opposed to splitting communities that share interests, aspirations and local issues.

The Australian Labor Party's submission proposes to divide the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale on an East-West axis between the district of Darling Range and the newly proposed district of Mundijong. This is clearly a submission designed with the political interests of the ALP at heart and not those of the local community.

There is no compelling reason to cut the communities in question in half down the South Western Highway, which has never been a local border but has instead been a major arterial road used for transport and communication for over century. This move would cut the localities Byford and Serpentine in half, and would sever a collection of towns that have for many decades been a part of the same local government area as well as part of the same State and Federal electorates.

There is also no compelling reason to combine the communities west of the South Western Highway with those on the other side of the Kwinana freeway as the ALP proposes. There is no community of interest between the people of Byford and Mundijong with those of Cooloongup or East Rockingham.

Such a conglomeration would make even less sense than the current formation that makes up the existing seat of Serpentine-Jarrahdale.

Conversely, communities on either side of the South Western Highway share significant interests and have logical reasons for remaining within the same electorate. There is a significant historical tie between the towns of Mundijong, Serpentine and Jarrahdale as well as other nearby localities, which



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are all of a similar rural nature and all have been a part of a single local community since their founding.

Byford and the surrounding communities, which have been a part of the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale for over 30 year, also share many affinities with these towns, retaining a significant rural atmosphere and sharing significant local ties with them.

As Margo Beilby states in her submission, there is also a strong argument for reuniting the locality of Roleystone as part of a single District. The Liberal Party agrees with this assertion. Splitting such a community between two electorates merely confuses the members of the community who are accustomed to being part of a single electorate.

There are strong arguments for combining the locality of Roleystone as part of an electorate also including the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale. Both of these areas are semi-rural in nature and both have many of the same concerns and issues. The locality of Jarrahdale, along with the locality of Bedforddale, are both towns located in the Hills and share a strong community of interest with the locality of Roleystone.

These communities of the Hills, along with the lowland communities of the rest of the Shire, form a fairly strong and cohesive community.

These areas, combining with adjoining localities that share similar issues and interests, such as Forestdale and Baldivis, could make up a viable electoral district that would share a community of interest.