

W A E C
- 7 APR 2015

City of Rockingham Councillor Matthew Whitfield
Baldivis Ward Area

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2nd April 2015

RE: Submission into the 2015 State Electoral Boundary Reviews.

To the Commissioners

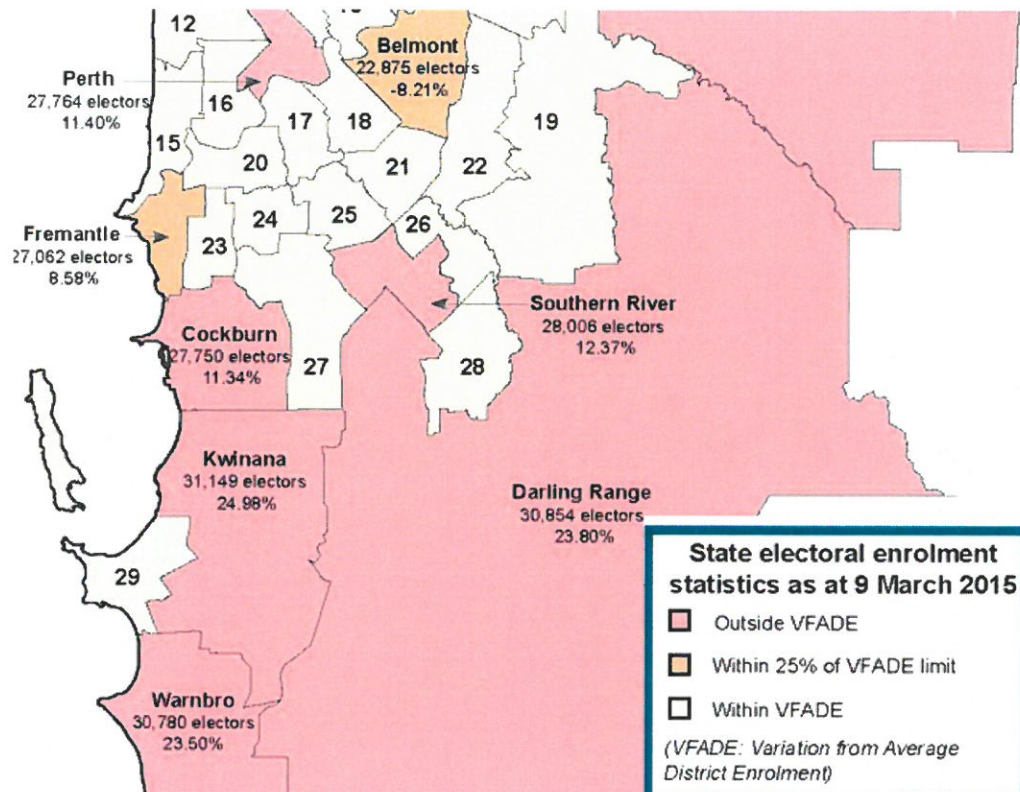
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important matter.

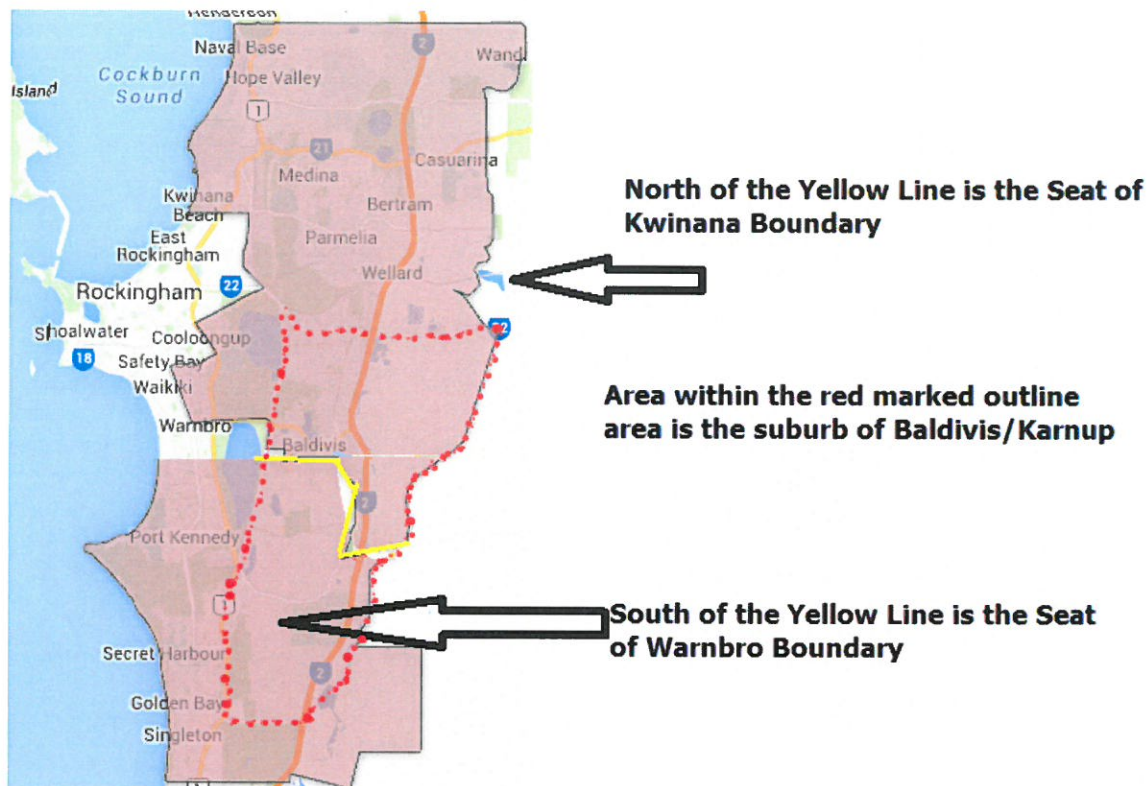
I naturally cannot speak on behalf of the City, nor the Council, of Rockingham and the views and opinions reflected within are purely my own. However Public consultation was sought and this submission was made available for comment from the residents and will have been altered to reflect the general feedback from that consultation.

I can appreciate the task ahead of the commissioners in so much as so many of the outlying suburbs are outside of the Variation from Average District Enrolment which means that any changes to those areas will have a ripple effect on other areas.

That being said though the focus of my submission is upon the southern metropolitan districts and in particular the State Boundaries of Kwinana, Warnbro and Rockingham with a particular emphasis upon the suburb of Baldivis.

Kwinana currently has **31,149 electors** and is **24.98% outside of VFADE**
 Warnbro currently has **30,780 electors** and is **23.50% outside of VFADE**
 Rockingham currently has **25,322 electors** and is easily within the acceptable range at 1.6%





Baldvis is the fastest growing suburb in Australia, growing at approximately 19% per annum with approximately 27000 current residents (census data) and approximately 13700 electors (federal election suburb breakdowns 2015) which is by far the largest elector number when compared with all other neighbouring suburbs (examples of this being that Rockingham has 10500, Warnbro has 6900 and Secret Harbour/Golden Bay combined have 9847) and in 2017 these numbers are estimated to be approximately 33,000 residents and 15,500 electors.

Baldvis is currently split between two Seats with the Seat of Kwinana to the North and the Seat of Warnbro to the South meaning that there is a situation where residents on one side of streets have a different Member of Parliament to those on the opposite side of the street.

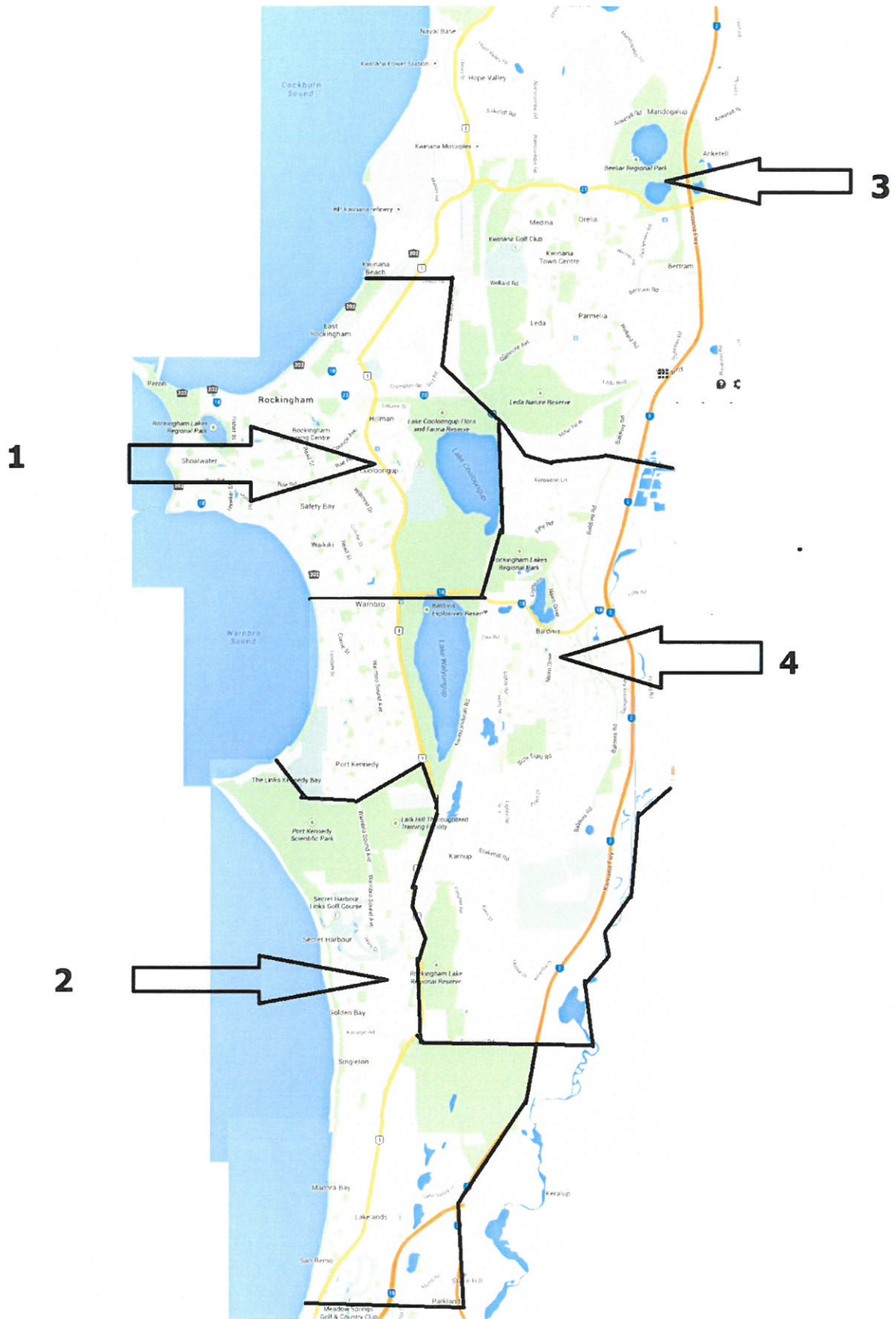
Baldvis is a unique suburb for some of the following reasons:

1. Over 40% of the residents have arrived from another country (forecast ID and Immigration Tool)
2. Baldvis is growing at a rate of 18% per annum making it the fastest growing suburb in Australia.
3. The Suburb is geographically isolated in many natural ways from the actual City it is a part of. These features include a nature reserve which runs parallel along nearly the entire length.

In the Last State Boundary Review the Seat of Kwinana took a portion of Baldivis away from the Seat of Warnbro and it is my submission that those changes are amended and that a seat be abolished elsewhere (namely being in the Mining and Pastoral region) and that a new seat be created, that seat perhaps being named Baldivis/Karnup to reflect the huge growth planned for that central hub.

1. To Reduce the VFADE of Kwinana it is suggested that Kwinana loses part of its southern boundary to now fit within the physical boundary of Mandurah Road (which becomes Kulija Road/Mundijong Road) whilst keeping the current boundary at Office Road. This would drastically reduce the number of electors within Kwinana to well within VFADE at approximately 25,000 electors which would allow the Commissioners opportunities to absorb north of Kwinana perhaps.
2. The State Seat of Rockingham would pick up approximately 2000 electors from Kwinana in terms of the boundary alignment along Mandurah Road. This would take the approximate elector numbers within the permissible range of approximately 27000. The southern boundary of Rockingham could remain in place.
3. Warnbro could lose Karnup and Baldivis and sections of Port Kennedy and Warnbro Entirely (approximately 22000 electors) with the proposed natural boundary now being Port Kennedy Drive to the North, Mandurah Road to the East and Paganoni Road. However Warnbro would pick up Lakelands, San Remo and northern parts of Mandurah thus allowing the commission ample opportunity to reassess Mandurah/Dawesville and Murray-Wellington. There are easily achieved scenarios where Warnbro is back up to 26,000 electors. Should this be achieved a name change would have to be seriously considered as the seat would no longer reflect its true geographical location with Warnbro no longer being a suburb within the Seat itself. (new name of Secret Harbour perhaps)
Dawesville (26507), Mandurah (25298) and Murray (25292) are comfortably within VFADE.
4. The New Proposed seat of Baldivis would take approximately 4149 electors from the boundary change from Kwinana and approximately 22,000 electors from Warnbro taking the total to approximately 26,149.

Proposed New Seat of Baldvis and the reflected boundary changes needed.



1- Rockingham 2 – Warnbro 3 – Kwinana 4 – New Seat

I appreciate that the Commissioners main priority is to ensure an equitable number of electors per seat but there are other matters that are permissible to be taken into consideration and my submission covers some of those:

1. Is this submission in the community interest? The answer is yes, I am not attached to any political party and the pure motivation behind this submission is to try and ensure that a rapidly growing suburb does not become any more fragmented than it already is, the suburb of Baldivis will grow to the point that it will need to have its own seat and mechanisms need to be in place to address this potential shift.
2. The Land use patterns in the north and the south of Baldivis are identical and as such there is no reason for the suburb to be split as it currently is.
3. The existing local government boundaries could be better aligned and reflected through the suggested boundary changes.
4. The Trend of demographic changes means that the recorded number of electors on March 2015 will increase by potentially 10% next year alone again reinforcing the need for change.
5. A glance at the Federal Elector Suburb breakdown shows the following number of electors in each suburb (figures obtained through the Federal election Boundary website as of 2104) listed in numerical order-

Baldivis – 13756 electors

Rockingham - 10558 electors

Secret Harbour/Golden Bay – 9847 electors

Safety Bay – 8272 electors

Port Kennedy – 8139 electors

Waikiki – 7882 electors

Warnbro – 6994 electors

Cooloongup – 6072 electors

This also highlights the fact that Baldivis is central to the area and should no longer be divided between different MPs and it is in a strong enough position to stand alone.

6. In 3 years the anticipated population of Baldivis/Karnup is expected to be 36,000 residents and in 6 years, at the 2021 election there is expected to be approximately 42,000 residents.

I thank the Commission for their time and efforts in dealing with such a complex matter and I hope that my submission is considered.

My submission may differ from that of many other people in so much as I am not attached to any political party and simply seek a fair balance for a very important area in the District.

I understand that the political parties will seek to amend boundaries to suit their political desires but that is not the case here.

Yours faithfully

Matthew Whitfield.