

Ob 72

From: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox
Sent: Friday, 11 August 2023 12:43 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Ob72 - FW: Objection to the proposed Electoral Boundaries -Hillarys
Attachments: SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORAL REVIEW.docx

Objection 72.

From: ken davis [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 11 August 2023 11:51 AM
To: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox <boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au>
Subject: Objection to the proposed Electoral Boundaries -Hillarys

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To Whom it may Concern

Attached is a submission to object to the proposed electoral boundaries for the electorate of Hillarys.

Ken Davis

[REDACTED] Hillarys

Acknowledgement of Country: The Western Australian Electoral Commission acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands on which our electoral activities take place. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

W.A.E.C. RECORDS	
FILE No.	OST 0152
DATE:	11 AUG 2023
ACTION BY:	

SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORAL REVIEW

Ken Davis

Hillarys 6025

I wish to lodge an objection to the proposed redrawing of the boundaries for the seat of Hillarys in the 2023 redistribution.

I would like to submit that the Boundaries Commissioners have inadequately considered the following grounds outlined in Part IIA 16I of the Electoral Act 1907:

1. Community of interest
2. Means of communication and travel
3. Existing boundaries of the electoral district of Hillarys
4. Existing local government boundaries

1. COMMUNITY OF INTEREST

I would submit that there are a number of places in the present electoral district of Hillarys that create a strong sense of community of interest. These include the coastal beaches, the Hillarys Yacht Club, and the Boat Harbour, Whitfords nodes and the Mullaloo Beach area with its surf club. Other features of the present electoral district of Hillarys are the Whitfords Shopping Centre, the Craigie Leisure Centre and the sporting and recreation area at Macdonald Reserve in Padbury.

The coastal strip is not just the preserve of those who live in the narrow coastal area that constitutes the proposed electoral district of Hillarys. The Yacht Club, the boat Harbour and the beaches at Whitfords and Mullaloo attracts the residents of Craigie, Beldon and Padbury just as much as it does those electors who live right nearby those facilities.

Similarly, the Whitfords Shopping Centre which is in the proposed Hillarys electorate also services the nearby suburbs of Craigie, Beldon, and Padbury which, under the proposed distribution would now be in the seat of Padbury.

As with the coastal facilities and shopping centre so it is with sporting facilities. Under the present boundaries of the seat of Hillarys, MacDonald Reserve is the only major sporting ground and so it is a focus for the surrounding suburbs of Craigie and Padbury but also for the Suburbs of Hillarys and Kallaroo. This focal point for these suburbs would, under the proposed redistribution, see a shared community of interest split between the two proposed electorates of Hillarys and Padbury.

To give a personal perspective to this community of interest. My wife uses the Craigie Leisure Centre 3-4 times a week and I play Bridge 3 times a week at the Joondalup Bridge Club which is based at the Fleur Freame Pavilion at MacDonald Reserve in Padbury. Both of these facilities would, under the new boundaries, be outside our electorate but the real point is that our focus in terms of the facilities and infrastructure we might use is on an East-West axis not North-South as would be the axis of the proposed boundaries of Hillarys. I would submit that the East-West focus and community of interest would be shared by most of the residents of the suburbs that constitute the present electorate of Hillarys.

If the Commissioners accept any or all of the above submissions, then it would be hard to create a case that a community of interest exists between the residents of Ocean Reef, at the northern most end of the proposed boundaries for Hillarys and the residents of North Beach and Watermans Bay at the southern end. About the only things these communities would share are an Indian Ocean coastline to their west and Marmion Ave to their east. I would submit that like the present boundaries of Hillarys where the community of interest is an East-West axis, so too would these suburbs at the southern end be more likely to have a community of interest with the residents of suburbs immediately to their east.

2. MEANS OF COMMUNICATION AND TRAVEL

As with the community of interest the transport and travel in the present electorate of Hillarys has an east- west focus. The bus routes link the suburbs of the present Hillarys electorate with the Whitfords and Greenwood Station. The major arterial roads of Whitfords Ave and Hepburn Avenue all run east west linking the suburbs contained in the present Hillarys electorate with the Mitchell Freeway and the Joondalup Railway line. It would seem sensible that these suburbs that share the same transport links and road infrastructure are in the same electoral district.

3. EXISTING ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES OF THE HILLARYS DISTRICT

Whilst a redistribution will always involve minor and sometimes major changes to boundaries in order to keep enrolments within the maximum and minimum limits, radical changes that involve large numbers of electors changing electoral districts are generally avoided. This is to minimise confusion among voters about what electorate they are in and to try and keep some sort of continuity with their elected representatives. If that is a reasonable proposition, then the proposed changes to both boundaries of the present electorate of Hillarys do not meet this at all.

Firstly, the number of people who will be new to the electorate in 2025 will be approximately 50%. This is because the present Hillarys electorate has been chopped in half with Marmion Ave forming its eastern boundary and the suburb of Ocean Reef added in the north and the suburbs of Sorrento, Watermans, North Beach and Trigg added in the south.

Apart from the fact that changing its shape from the longer axis from east to west and destroys the community of interest as outlined above, Only the electorates of Butler and Cottesloe, have similar north-south axis, however, both those electorates are that shape because of existing geography and

population growth. These factors do not apply to the proposed electorates of Hillarys and Padbury.

4. EXISTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARIES

The current electorate of Hillarys is entirely contained within the City of Joondalup. However, under the proposal both the electorates of Hillarys and Padbury would cover two local government areas: Stirling and Joondalup. Wherever possible, electorates should be drawn taking into consideration existing local government areas.

CONCLUSION

Whilst the Commissioners may have met the requirements of the Act with regards to enrolment numbers they have, in my view, failed to give sufficient weight to principle of community of interest. Whilst the principle is only one of many the Commissioners have to take into consideration it should be one of the first that those who draw electoral boundaries in a representative democracy turn their minds to. In the light of the above, I would submit that the Commissioners need to reconsider the proposed boundaries for the electorate of Hillarys, giving greater weight to this principle.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

That the boundaries of the proposed electorates of Hillarys and Padbury be redrawn to be roughly the same as the present electorates of Hillarys and Carine. If enrolment needs to be adjusted then excisions or inclusions of areas on the north or south of the present boundaries of the electorate of Hillarys could be done thereby meeting the obligations of the Commissioners but at the same time maintain the community of interest that presently exists under the present electoral boundaries.