

File: A/3300-011

21 April 2023

For the attention of Electoral Boundaries Commissioners  
Western Australian Electoral Commission  
Level 2  
111 St Georges Terrace  
PERTH WA 6000

Sent by email: [boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au](mailto:boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au)

Dear Sir or Madam

### **SUBMISSION: 2023 DISTRIBUTION OF BOUNDARIES**

In relation to the 2023 Distribution of Boundaries, I would like to suggest that the Seat of Subiaco should be reinstated as a State district.

The Electoral district of Subiaco was a Legislative Assembly electorate in the State of Western Australia. The district was named for the inner western Perth suburb of Subiaco, which was abolished at the 1989 election.

The first holder of the Seat of Subiaco was Henry Daglish and the last holder was former Premier, Dr Carmen Lawrence. Other historical figures include Bartholomew Stubbs who was the first sitting member of the Legislative Assembly to be killed in action while on military service for his country. Dame Florence Cardell-Oliver was the longest-serving female State Parliamentarian in Western Australia, until her record was broken by Elizabeth Constable. Hugh Guthrie was a speaker of the Legislative Assembly and Tom Dadour had a colourful career and is long remembered.

The City of Subiaco (the City) boasts the first female Mayor in Western Australia, Evelyn Helena Parker, who became Mayor in 1975. The City's library is proudly named the EH Parker Library in her honour.

The City's local government area includes the suburbs of Subiaco and Daglish (which takes its name from former Mayor and Legislative Assembly representative Henry Daglish), Jolimont and Shenton Park.

The residential population of the City is almost 18,000 people and around 28,000 workers are attracted each weekday to the estimated 5047 GST registered businesses in the City. Small businesses (between 0 and 19 employees) comprise 97 per cent of all businesses in the City.

The City's population is forecast to grow to 28,592 by 2046. At the same time, residential forecasts predict the number of dwellings will increase from 9316 in 2023 to 14,712 in 2046.

The impending growth in population due, in large part, to the Subiaco East development currently being managed by DevelopmentWA, is expected to cause a growth of eligible electors within any new or existing boundaries.

With the release to market of the first two Subiaco East lots in October 2022, it is expected that there will be more than 300 apartments across the two developments. This will see a significant number of new residents move in to the area in the near future.

This is just the beginning of a process of considerable growth which is likely to result in the creation of more than 2700 new dwellings alongside commercial and community facilities, and the related population expansion.

Subiaco is one of the few WA names recognised across Australia and has a special place in the collective consciousness of many Western Australians. It has a wonderful heritage, with many of its institutions celebrating 125 years in the past two years (City of Subiaco, Subiaco Primary School, Subiaco Hotel and St John of God Subiaco Hospital), and the much-loved Regal Theatre celebrating 85 years.

It is the location for one of the oldest and most highly-regarded schools in Perth Modern (est. 1911), which boasts many notable alumni including former Prime Minister Bob Hawke. Within 300 metres of Perth Modern is the most contemporary high school in WA in Bob Hawke College.

Subiaco is also home to a vibrant coffee and dining scene, including some of the very best hospitality establishments in WA. It has beautiful tree-lined streets, with stunning heritage homes, mixed with contemporary high-rise accommodation along the train line.

Whilst perhaps not a consideration for this review, interestingly the past holders of the Seat of Subiaco were from a broad cross section of the political landscape, from mainstream parties as well as independent, once again demonstrating the seat's diverse history in the Parliament of Western Australia.

I believe that the impending change in demographics and increase in population, together with Subiaco's strong sense of history and community coupled with its contemporary business sector, warrant the reinstatement of the name Subiaco as a State district.

I ask that you consider this name change to strengthen the impact of any changes to the electoral boundaries.

Yours sincerely



**COLIN CAMERON**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**