

C3

From: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox
Sent: Friday, 5 May 2023 3:17 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: 2023 Electoral Boundary Review - Comment (C3)
Attachments: 2023Comment_HaedenMiles.pdf

Comment 3. (C3)

From: Haeden Miles <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, 4 May 2023 2:11 PM
To: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox <boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au>
Cc: Haeden Miles <[REDACTED]>
Subject: 2023 Electoral Boundary Review - Comment

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To whom it may concern,

Please see attached my comment on submissions made for the 2023 Electoral Boundary Review.

Kind regards,

Haeden Miles

[REDACTED] Ballajura 6066
[REDACTED]

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.

4th May 2023

Electoral Boundaries Commissioners
Western Australian Electoral Commission
Level 2, 111 St Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

Sent by email: boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au

Dear Commissioners,

COMMENT: 2023 WA BOUNDARIES REDISTRIBUTION

I'm writing to you as an active community member who has lived in Ballajura for most of my life; within the seat of West Swan. I attended both Primary School and High School here, and now serve as Chair of the Ballajura Community College Board. It is clear that the East Metropolitan Region of Perth is growing rapidly, and with the proposed adjustments in the regions, there will need to be some changes to boundaries in the suburbs surrounding me. I have read through the majority of submissions, and find the discussion on the seat of North West Central and regional representation fascinating. There no doubt needs to be great importance on the voices of regional West Australians, but not at the cost of the voices of metropolitan electors. The population growth points to Perth, especially the Eastern Metropolitan Region, which needs to be responsibly reflected in the boundary changes. I trust the Commissioners will consider the balance of all electors and their communities in deciding the boundaries for 2023

As I have lived and was raised in Ballajura, I feel it is important to highlight some points on the West Swan boundaries and possible flow on adjustments to surrounding seats. The seat was created at the 2008 election and included the whole suburb of Ballajura. In the 2013 election, the portion north of Marangaroo Drive was ceded to the seat of Mirrabooka. This portion remained in Mirrabooka for the 2017 election. This boundary caused great confusion in the community and a disconnect with our representatives. Considering we lived in one electorate and contacted one member, but went to school just down the road where a different member visited our assemblies.

It was welcomed when the Commissioners reunited Ballajura for the 2021 election, connecting a fractured community that has a shared identity. I hope that this will not be reversed in the 2023 redistribution, causing unnecessary confusion and change for electors and MLAs alike. The seat of West Swan has endured significant adjustments with each redistribution, and I acknowledge the nature of the massive growth in the suburbs around Whiteman Park. I stress to the Commissioners that it is essential to keep whole communities within one electorate, to provide for stronger representation and more appropriate boundaries for electors to understand.

WEST SWAN ELECTORATE

2007 Redistribution:

Total Electors at 21,076 | VFADE at -1.28%

The redistribution saw the electorate of West Swan formed from the 2003 electorate boundaries of Bassandean, Ballajura, Swan Hills, and Wanneroo. The seat captured the entire localities of Ballajura, Caversham, Henley Brook, West Swan, Dayton, Bennett Springs, Malaga, and Landsdale. This seat had a strong centering on the east swan valley suburbs and formed a border for the east metro region.

2011 Redistribution:

Total Electors at 24,291 | VFADE at 4.80%

The redistribution brought a large portion of the Ellenbrook locality, and Lexia into the seat of West Swan, whilst also ceding the north portion of Ballajura and all of Landsdale. This split the community of Ballajura and 'Ellenbrook' between two state seats. The suburbs of Aveley and The Vines share commercial precincts, school capture zones, and identity with the suburb of Ellenbrook.

2015 Redistribution:

Total Electors at 24,535 | VFADE at -1.56%

The redistribution saw a significant adjustment to the boundaries of West Swan. The suburbs of Caversham and Ellenbrook were ceded. A large portion of the Swan Valley suburbs of Baskerville, Millendon, Herne Hill, Middle Swan, Upper Swan, and Red Hill were gained. The northwest of the seat extended further, taking in Banksia Grove, Gngangara, Jandabup, Mariginiup, and Wangara. These changes re-connected the locality of Ellenbrook and surrounding suburbs into Swan Hills and merged much of the Swan Valley into one seat.

2019 Redistribution:

Total Electors at 28,723 | VFADE at 4.17%

This redistribution provided another major change to the West Swan boundaries. The suburbs that were west of Alexander Drive or northwest of Gngangara Road were ceded to Wanneroo and Landsdale. Lexia remained, while Ellenbrook (south of The Promenade), Aveley, and Belhus were gained from Swan Hills. The Swan Valley suburbs east of the Swan River were ceded, as well as the locality of Bennett Springs. However, the redistribution brought Ballajura back in totality to West Swan, finally uniting the suburb. Yet, 2019 saw a new divide created between the growing community of Ellenbrook.

2023 Redistribution:

Enrolment levels as of 13 March 2023 for West Swan are 35,412. This reflects a 16.27% variation from the average district enrolment, one of the highest in the whole state. This is a 23% (6.6k electors) growth from the electors as of 2019 for the 2021 election.

An appropriate adjustment would be to cede the remainder of Ellenbrook, Aveley, and Belhus. Either to Swan Hills or create a new seat around this community, as it has been greatly affected by boundary changes in the past. The West Swan boundaries may also be able to gain Beechboro, and/or Caversham depending on the new Ellenbrook seat boundaries to balance the VFADE.

As noted in other submissions, a new seat around Ellenbrook would factor in the considerable growth across these communities and aid West Swan to move within the Average District Enrolment. Necessary adjustments to Kalamunda, Midland, and the former Swan Hills seat would need to occur to cater to that change. I have spoken to community members in Ellenbrook, where I work, who are often confused about who their Member of Parliament is. The electorate office for the Swan Hills MLA is actually located in the West Swan electorate. This leaves one half of Ellenbrook going to each MP, reducing the effectiveness of each MLA to represent their communities and confusing electors. The fact that Swan Hills stretches from Ellenbrook to Sawyers Valley, two drastically different communities, is enough cause for an adjustment to the boundaries. So similar communities of interest are connected and not divided.

The creation of an 'Eastern Hills' seat that is formed from the remainder of Swan Hills, as raised in another submission, would reconnect communities across the Perth Hills that had been divided between seats. These changes would also allow for LGAs to have fewer seats covering their boundaries, and better MP/Elector relations.

Ultimately, I urge the Commissioners to not only consider electoral enrolment data and limited disruptions during this review, but to also prioritise connecting communities of interest - like Ballajura, Ellenbrook and the Perth Hills - to strengthen those voices in our State Parliament.

I hope you may take these comments into consideration, and I appreciate the opportunity to contribute. Please reach out if you have any queries about my submission.

Kind Regards,



Haeden Miles

4th May 2023

