



Parliament of Western Australia – Legislative Assembly

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

12 July 2007

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

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to submit my comments on the Commission's draft electoral boundaries released on the 29th of June 2007.

Overall I must commend the Commission on its impartial redistribution of the State's electoral boundaries. They appear to take into account the borders and interests of the many local communities of Western Australia.

However, there are some concerns with the boundary for the proposed electorate of Darling Range. These are detailed on the following page.

I am sure that whatever final boundary the Commission establishes will be one that makes sense considering all the variables.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Simpson MLA
MEMBER FOR SERPENTINE-JARRAHDALÉ



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Comments on the 2007 redistribution draft boundaries
DARLING RANGE

It is apparent that in the draft boundaries released for the 2007 redistribution, the electorate of Serpentine-Jarrahdale will move northeast, taking in parts of the electorates of Armadale and Darling Range, the name of the latter which it takes on. Most of this new electorate makes up a unified community of interest, that being a string of outer metropolitan/semi-rural towns running along and at the foothills of the Darling Scarp. There seems to be one standout exception to this, however. The inclusion of Kelmscott as far west as the Armadale train line.

This inclusion makes no sense. Kelmscott is a suburban area making up part of the urban core of the City of Armadale. It shares no characteristics or interests with the rest of the proposed electorate. The proposed boundary also acts to split the suburb of Kelmscott in half between Armadale and Darling Range down a completely artificial border.

It would appear to make more sense to include as much of Kelmscott as possible within the electorate of Armadale, with which it makes up a community of interest. To compensate for the transfer of voters between the two electorates, the suburb of Mount Richon could be removed from Armadale to Darling Range. Mount Richon, which sits at the foothills of the Scarp, shares many characteristics and interests with the other towns in the Hills and would fit well within the new electorate of Darling Range.

These changes could be made with only limited alterations to the proposed boundary.

Instead of following the ESL boundary that runs parallel to the South Western Highway - which the local community does not recognise as a boundary of any significance - the new boundary can instead follow the highway northwards. The boundary could then turn east at the Albany Highway to join up with the Commission's proposed boundary until the point where Patterson Road crosses the waterway that runs into the Canning River. From there the boundary can follow the river until it hits the border of Armadale and Gosnells City Councils.

From there the boundary could once again follow that drafted by the Electoral Commission.

Please see the attached maps (sourced from Google Maps) for clarification. The blue border represents that proposed by the WAEC and the red that which I have suggested. The area shaded light blue is that which I would like to see included into



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the electorate of Darling Range and the dark red the area that I would like to see transferred to Armadale. The area shaded dark blue is that area that would remain in Darling Range.

I believe that these proposed alterations would create a border that respects the boundaries of local communities to a greater extent and lead to less confusion amongst voters.

