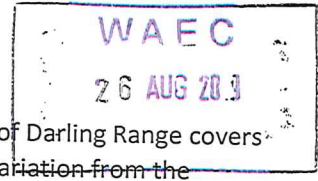




Alyssa Hayden MLA

Liberal Member for Darling Range



As outlined by the Western Australian Electoral Commission (WAEC) the seat of Darling Range covers an extensive and amorphous area. It is also currently oversubscribed, with a variation from the average district enrolment of 19.37% (32,913 electors as at 11 March 2019).

While it is acknowledged that the proposed changes will lower the potential variation to being 5.8% (29,171 proposed electors) over the average, this is based on current population figures and does not account for the significant anticipated population growth in the southern portion of the electorate.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale is the fastest growing local government area in Australia, with more than 1,700 new residents every year. Much of this population is centred in Byford, (9,579 electors as at 13 August 2019), however the Shire's planned future population centre is in Mundijong (809 electors as at 13 August 2019) and Whitby (443 electors as at 13 August 2019) where significant growth is anticipated. Further housing subdivisions throughout the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale will also contribute to a large population increase.

As this growth is expected to outstrip many other surrounding localities such as Armadale (29,460 proposed electors), Baldivis, (29,212 proposed electors), and Kwinana (26,527 proposed electors), it is conceivable that the population of Darling Range will soon overtake these neighbouring electorates. It is likely that by the time of the 2021 election, the electorate of Darling Range will again have one the highest variations in the south eastern corridor.

I therefore request that the proposed boundary change should take into account this growth and create a smaller potential variation by ceding additional localities. The additional localities to be ceded should be in line with the following factors set out by Section 16I of the Electoral Act 1907, which include communities of interest and existing local government boundaries.

The population in the WAEC's proposed Darling Range electorate will be centred on the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale, specifically Byford and surrounding suburbs.

In the WAEC's proposed boundary change, Kelmscott and Baldivis will remain split between Darling Range and the electorates of Armadale and Baldivis respectively. In both instances, the portions of these suburbs have little in common with the population centre of Byford and the future centre of Mundijong.

Baldivis is the only suburb in the City of Rockingham to be included in Darling Range rather than the electorate of Baldivis. Further, many residents are unaware that they do not already belong to the Baldivis electorate. The proposed boundary has just three properties retained within Darling Range, but no enrolled voters, which means the addition of the remaining portion of Baldivis to the electorate of Baldivis will have little effect on the proposed Baldivis boundary. It would therefore be logical that the electorate boundaries reflect the local government boundary and cede the City of Rockingham and this single resident from Darling Range.





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The eastern portion of Kelmscott, which is predominantly within Darling Range has 3,256 electors, with the majority of these residents identifying as Armadale electors. This area of Kelmscott is forecast to grow by just 45 people from 2019 to 2021. By comparison, the suburbs of Mundijong and Byford are forecast to have a combined population growth of 3,584 in the same period. It is acknowledged that ceding the remaining portion of Kelmscott to Armadale would increase the proposed electors in that electorate to 32,716, however this would still be within the allowable limit of 33,330 and would not reduce Darling Range's electors below the limit of 25,915. Further, it would accommodate the significant growth anticipated within the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale.



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