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Executive Officer
Electoral Boundaries WA
GPO Box F316
PERTH WA 6841

Dear Commissioners

I write to comment on behalf of the Hepburn Centre on the suggestion to excise Girrawheen and a portion of Marangaroo from the existing seat of Girrawheen and to move the seat north as far as Wangara.

The Hepburn Centre is based in the South Ward of Wanneroo City Council, formerly known as the Marangaroo Family Centre, it does not identify with one suburb, one age or gender group. It is named after a main road that runs through the south ward of the City of Wanneroo. It was previously called the Marangaroo family centre and has operated since 1995.

It is well known by local people but not tied to one place.

The Hepburn Centre is a Meeting Place which values diversity and actively promotes its core theme of Connecting Communities. The centre is oversighted by a board made up of community members including City of Wanneroo Councillors.

We connect with:

- Individuals and Families with children in the 6064 postcode and surrounding area
- Individuals and families with or supporting people with disabilities
- Individuals or families needing support and referrals to Domestic Violence or Mental Health services
- CALD Individuals and families needing help to find assistance and relevant agencies
- Older residents needing support to access services or a sense of belonging
- Community Groups needing a space to provide social opportunities to local residents

We have been facilitating grass-roots, place-based community development for almost 25 years.

In terms of the redistribution proposal we consider splitting the suburb of Marangaroo will cause confusion and not assist in developing the community cohesion and spirit which we actively work towards.

We also consider that with a large proportion of CALD residents in the area that the splitting of a suburb may well cause confusion both at the ballot box and in accessing their local member.

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Third, some of the users in centre reside in Girrawheen and have much in common with those in Marangaroo neither has any connection or common interests with those north of Gnaragara road as that tends to act of a natural boundary. If anything, focus tends to be South rather than north with Mirrabooka being a centre for many government services like Centrelink and the Department of Housing.

Finally it needs to be said that many of the users of Hepburn Centre are disadvantaged and need great level of assistance in accessing services and finding out about their rights. This means that they need State and local government presence close at hand. It also means greater demand on the service providers like Councillors and Members of Parliament.

Renaming the seat Wangara would not have strong association for residents we interact with especially as Wangara is seen purely as an industrial estate some distance away.

We hope this is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely



Helen Cocks
Centre Manager

