



Mr James Rowe

20 August 2019

WAEC  
Electoral Distribution Commission  
Level 2, 111 St George's Terrace  
Perth WA 6000

To whom it may concern

I have recently heard about proposed boundary changes to the seat of Girrawheen.

My name is James Rowe and I am a long-term resident in the locality of Girrawheen. I was born, educated and have worked in the suburb for a combined 21 years. I am currently studying at the University of Western Australia. Throughout that time, Margaret Quirk has served as the local MP for Girrawheen for 18 years.

Margaret's longstanding affiliation with the seat has allowed residents and community groups to develop strong working relationships with an active MP. By incorporating Girrawheen and Marangaroo into the existing boundaries of the district of Mirrabooka, residents will no longer be represented by Margaret.

This change will affect residents and community groups in a number of ways. For individuals, it will create confusion regarding the identity of their MP. Considerable resources would need to be invested by the WAEC to promote the proposed boundary changes, so that electors are aware of their district and incumbent MP prior to casting their ballot. From the perspective of schools and local groups, changing the electoral boundaries will undermine the long-standing relationship between the member and their community. Schools such as Hudson Park Primary, Marangaroo Primary or Girrawheen Senior High School have been represented by the same MP for almost two decades. It would be disappointing to see the benefits of the sitting MP's longevity lost in the process of an electoral redistribution.

It also seems strange to create additional confusion by putting Alexander Heights into the proposed new seat. An area represented by the Member for Mirrabooka and giving that Member Marangaroo when it is almost certain at next distribution Alexander Heights will be moved again.

Most importantly, the proposed boundaries understate the projected level of growth in the Girrawheen community. In 2017, the City of Wanneroo approved rezoning laws so that land could be developed to accommodate greater numbers of residents. Since this time, construction has commenced on a number of estates and private land packages, including Blackmore and Amble Estate. The increase in medium density housing would ensure that the seat of Girrawheen experiences sufficient growth over the next five years. As such, it would be suitable to maintain the existing boundaries until the next redistribution, at which time the level of population growth would determine whether the seat needs to be shifted north.

I hope you consider these factors when determining the final boundaries for the seat of Girrawheen.

Yours sincerely

James Rowe