



Objection 19

Ron and Annette Rowton

2 pages

To: Australian Electoral Commission

From; Ron and Annette Rowton, [REDACTED]

Regarding; Objection to the Proposed Redistribution; Boundary between Electorates of Canning and Burt

1. Nature of Objection.

We are objecting to the proposed new boundary between the seats of Canning and Burt, which would see the whole of the suburb of Martin transferred into the electorate of Burt and out of the electorate of Canning. We request that the whole of Martin should NOT be so transferred, rather the boundary should be drawn along the top edge of the Escarpment, commencing near the intersection of Mills Road East and Canning Mills Road, such that the part of Martin located ON TOP of the Escarpment remains in the electorate of Canning. Alternatively, if a road boundary is required use Tonkin Highway as the boundary such that the part of Martin to the east remains in the seat of Canning.

2. Reasons for Objection.

2.1 Affinity of Interest.

The area of Martin located on top of the escarpment is primarily a Rural (Orchards) and Special Rural area with large Reserves and National Parkland which has little or no Common Interest or Affinity with the rest of the suburb of Martin / City Of Gosnells located on the “ flat ” at the foot of the escarpment. Similarly, this small area of Rural and Special Rural, Reserves and National Park has no common interest or Affinity with the rest of the largely urbanised electorate of Burt.

However, our area of Martin has significant Affinity and Common Interest with the neighbouring suburbs of Roleystone, Canning Mills, Pickering Brook, Karragullen and Carmel etc., all of which are within the electorate of Canning. All of these Suburbs have a significant rural component of Orchards, National Parks and Reserves etc. with which our area of Martin shares many similar issues.

2.2 Representational Difficulties.

We foresee that if our area is transferred to the electorate of Burt we will have significant representational difficulties due to the lack of affinity and shared interest with the rest of the electorate of Burt. Our issues / area will be swamped by the wider mainly urban electorate of Burt and we are concerned that our voice and concerns on many issues will have difficulty being heard or allocated sufficient weight / time /knowledge by the electorate of Burt.

However, all of the suburbs surrounding our area of Martin on the escarpment, have similar large rural areas, and are all located within the electorate of Canning. Therefore, in this electorate many of our issues/concerns are similarly shared and carry far more weight within the electorate of Canning.

2.3 Representational Stability.

Because we are located on the boundaries of 3 local Government areas, i.e. Gosnells, Armadale and Kalamunda and on the boundaries of 3 suburbs, i.e. Martin, Canning Mills and Roleystone we have already endured far too much previous instability in terms of electoral representation.

For some years our area was in the Electorate of Hasluck, then 2 electoral cycles within the electorate of Canning and now it is proposed we be transferred to the electorate of Burt. Every time we achieve some relationship with our Federal MP in terms of shared knowledge/ issues of concern etc. we are transferred to a new electorate, and have to start again, in our opinion much to our disadvantage!

2.4 Suburban Based Approach.

It appears that the Electoral Commission /Committee works on the basis of Suburban/Local Government boundaries rather than in our case recognising the significant geographical and land use differences between the area atop the escarpment and that on the coastal plain and within the wider urban electorate of Burt. Further, we have had enough of being disadvantaged due to this suburban boundary focussed approach which totally ignores the realities on the ground. We have also endured a transfer from the suburb of Canning Mills to the suburb of Martin which further complicated issues some years ago.

2.5 Enrolment Numbers.

Given the small population in the suburb of Martin on top of the escarpment, or even east of Tonkin Highway, we are confident that the change we request would not substantively alter your future enrolment calculations and hence this should not be a barrier to the change we seek.

Conclusion.

In conclusion, we seek a change in your proposed boundary between the electorates of Canning and Burt such that the area of Martin on top of the escarpment, or if necessary, that east of Tonkin Highway, should remain in the electorate of Canning and NOT be transferred to the electorate of Burt. Due to significant Geographical and Land Use differences we have no Affinity and common interest with the wider electorate of Burt and a total Affinity with a large nearby surrounding area proposed to remain within the electorate of Canning.

We reject the suburban boundary approach adopted as totally disadvantageous to our future representational interests and it fails to recognise the significant geographical realities on the ground. The small change requested should not be a major issue for your future enrolment calculations but it would make a significant difference to us.

You are requested to give full consideration to our objection and requested change to the proposed boundary. We are available to supply any further information required or to meet you on location to inspect the actual situation, at your convenience.