



**THE FEDERAL  
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WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

# Objection 41

Shire of Toodyay

8 pages

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [FedRedistribution - WA](#)  
**Subject:** RE: OCR67049 - Objection  
**Date:** Friday, 28 June 2024 4:15:22 PM

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Hi [REDACTED]

As discussed, the Acting CEO for the Shire of Toodyay is Mrs Tabitha Bateman.

The Council Resolution was passed unanimously by Council.

Kind regards

Mrs Maria Rebane  
**Executive Services**  
Shire of Toodyay  
PO Box 96  
TOODYAY WA 6566

[REDACTED]  
E: [REDACTED]

W: [www.toodyay.wa.gov.au](http://www.toodyay.wa.gov.au)

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Don't just have a good day, have a great day !

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**From:** Maria Rebane  
**Sent:** Friday, June 28, 2024 4:00 PM  
**To:** FedRedistribution-WA@aec.gov.au  
**Subject:** OCR67049 - Objection

Dear Sir / Madam

At an Ordinary Council Meeting held on 26 June 2024, Council resolved as follows:

*That Council requests the Acting CEO make a submission on behalf of Council to the Western Australian Electoral Commission by 28 June 2024, against the naming of the division to Bulwinkel, whilst advocating for the division to be called Beard.*

An extract of the meeting minutes, including the attachments are attached for your perusal.

The Shire wish to advocate for the division to be called Beard.

Kind regards

Mrs Maria Rebane  
**Executive Services**

Shire of Toodyay  
PO Box 96  
TOODYAY WA 6566



E: [redacted]

W: [www.toodyay.wa.gov.au](http://www.toodyay.wa.gov.au)

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### 9.3.2 Proposed Division of Bullwinkel - Submission

Date of Report:	21 June 2024
Applicant or Proponent:	Mr A Henshaw
File Reference:	ICR96156
Author:	M Rebane – Executive Assistant
Responsible Officer:	T Bateman – Acting CEO
Previously Before Council:	N/A
Author's Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Council's Role in the matter:	Advocacy
Attachments:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Bulwinkel information; and</li><li>2. Beard information.</li></ol>

#### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To consider making an official representation to the Australian Electoral Commission to support the name Beard, instead of the name Bulwinkel in the Proposed Federal electoral division.

#### BACKGROUND

On 31 May 2024 the Redistribution Committee for Western Australia published its report proposing names and boundaries for the state's federal electoral divisions.

The Chair of the Committee and Electoral Commissioner, Tom Rogers, said the Western Australian redistribution was required to enable an increase from 15 to 16 federal electoral divisions.

"Under the proposal, the boundaries of all of Western Australia's existing electoral divisions would change and the additional Division of Bullwinkel would be created," Mr Rogers said.

"Ongoing population growth in parts of Western Australia has led the Redistribution Committee to propose a number of substantial changes to the state's electoral division boundaries."

Written objections must be lodged no later than 6pm AWST on Friday 28 June 2024. The best way to submit feedback is online but it can also be submitted via:

Email – [FedRedistribution-WA@aec.gov.au](mailto:FedRedistribution-WA@aec.gov.au)

Post – Australian Electoral Commission (Attn: WA Redistribution Secretariat), Locked Bag 4007, Canberra ACT 2601

## MINUTES

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Fax - 02 6125 9971

In person – Level 1, 15-17 William Street, Perth.

All input received by the deadline will be available for public inspection on the redistributions website and at Level 1, 15-17 William Street, Perth (business hours only) from Monday 1 July 2024. Further comments will then be accepted until 6pm AWST on Friday 12 July 2024.

### COMMENTS AND DETAILS

The Shire received an email on 18 June 2024 from a member of the public requesting that the Shire of Toodyay Council make an official representation to the Australian Electoral Commission to support the name Beard, instead of the name Bulwinkel in the Proposed Federal election division.

The submission received reads as follows:

*Whilst the exploits and life of Vivian Bullwinkel are, indeed, amazing given her serendipitous escape from the massacre at Banka Island in 1942 it should, nevertheless, be acknowledged that she was a born and bred Eastern States lady who, essentially, spent most of her life living and working in the Eastern States only coming to Perth, on marriage, at the age of 62 in 1977.*

*On the other hand, Sister Alma Beard, one those nurses killed at the Banka Island massacre, aged 29, was born and brought up in Toodyay - one of the proposed constituent entities of the proposed new Division - and spent her entire life, until posted overseas in World War 2, in Perth and the immediate surrounding area. <https://honouravenueskingspark.com.au/present/hap-database/1843-sr-alma-beard>*

*I sincerely believe that the name of the proposed new Division would be much more appropriately dedicated to Alma Beard who gave her life for this country.*

*I also believe that the people in the outer areas of the proposed Division; the Shires of Toodyay, Northam, York, and Beverley would welcome the change of the Division's name to Beard and would ask that Council support this change and make an official representation to the Australian Electoral Commission and also to encourage those Shires mentioned to do likewise.*

Information from the AEC regarding their consultation on the proposed federal electoral division is attached relating to Bulwinkel. Information is also attached relating to Beard.

Any submissions can be lodged by any member of the public and must be lodged with the AEC no later with than **6pm AWST on Friday 28 June 2024**.

Council may choose to request the Acting CEO put forward a submission on the proposal and may decide to advocate for a change of name to Beard. However, it is recommended that Council consider how electoral divisions were created at the first election in 1901 and what they were named after (refer to this link: <https://peo.gov.au/understand-our-parliament/your-questions-on-notice/questions/how-were-electoral-divisions-created-at-the-first-election-in-1901-what-were-they-named->



## MINUTES

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### Legal and Statutory:

Nil

### Risk related:

The risk in whether Council decides to advocate for the division option to change from Bulwinkel to Beard is low however this report mitigates the risk.

### Workforce related:

A Shire Officer will upload an extract of the Council Meeting Minutes containing the resolution made by Council as an objection to the federal election division proposal.

## VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

Clarification was sought.  
Cr Prater moved the Officer's Recommendation  
Cr McCormick seconded the motion.  
The motion was put.

### **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION/COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. OCM001/06/24**

**MOVED** Cr J Prater

**SECONDED** Cr S McCormick

That Council requests the Acting CEO make a submission on behalf of Council to the Western Australian Electoral Commission by 28 June 2024, against the naming of the division to Bulwinkel, whilst advocating for the division to be called Beard.

Voted For: Crs R Madacsi, C Duri, S McCormick, M McKeown, S Dival and J Prater

Voted Against: Nil

**MOTION CARRIED 6/0**

## Alma May Beard



Alma May Beard's name is located at panel 96 in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial.

Sister Alma Beard of 2/13 Australian General Hospital is the daughter of Edward and Katherine Beard of Toodyay. She was born at 'Tellmell', the family farm, on 14 January 1913.

She attended the local primary school, then boarded at Mercedes College in Perth for a year.

Alma returned home at the age of 17 before commencing her nursing training at Perth Hospital. She loved to ride horses and entered dressage events at the local show.

Alma was 28 when she enlisted in Perth on 19 June 1941.

Sister Alma May Beard, service number WFX11175 of 2/13 Australian General Hospital, was shot as a prisoner of war at Bangka Island on 16 February 1942. She was 29.



## Vivian Bullwinkel



The proposed new Division of Bullwinkel is named in honour of Lieutenant Colonel Vivian Bullwinkel AO MBE ARRC ED FNM FRCNA (1915–2000).

After surviving the sinking of the SS Vyner Brooke following the evacuation of Singapore, Bullwinkel was the sole survivor of the 1942 Bangka Island massacre and a prisoner of war for three and a half years. Bullwinkel retired from the Army in 1947 and became Director of Nursing at Melbourne's Fairfield Hospital, devoting much of her life to:

- moving Australian nursing education from hospitals to universities,
- working for the recognition of military personnel, especially nurses, and the victims of war crimes,
- honouring those killed on Bangka Island, returning to the Island in 1992 to unveil a shrine to the nurses who had not survived the war, and
- highlighting the treatment of prisoners of war by Japanese soldiers during World War II.

Naming an electoral division after Vivian Bullwinkel recognises her dedication to honouring victims of war crimes and her service to nursing and the community, in both her civilian and military service. This electoral division name also honours the contribution of military medical personnel and recognises those who were prisoners of war.