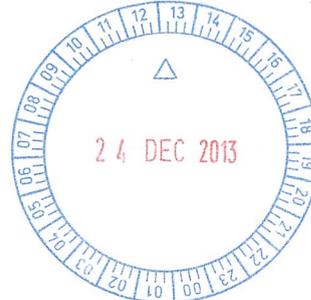


# Hon Kate Doust MLC

Member for South Metropolitan Region  
Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council  
Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations; Commerce; Small Business; Trade;  
Electoral Affairs



20 December 2014

Hon Simon O'Brien MLC  
Chairman,  
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs,  
Parliament House,  
Perth WA 6000

Dear Hon O'Brien,

Petition Number 22 – Opposing Change to Local Government Boundaries.

Thank you for your correspondence inviting me to provide a submission for the above listed petition.

I am very supportive of the request from both Councils, South Perth and Victoria Park, that the Legislative Council of WA oppose the current proposal from the Metropolitan Local Government Reform to remove/excise the Burswood area from the Town of Victoria Park and shift it into the boundaries of the City of Perth.

The proposal presented in the petition that the Swan and Canning Rivers be used as the natural boundary is eminently sensible as the current standard applied by both the State and Federal Electoral Commissions in relation to the river boundary for the seats of South Perth, Victoria Park and Perth and for Swan and Tangney respectively.

Both the City of South Perth and the Town of Victoria Park have been in ongoing discussions about a proposal to merge long before the Robson report was tabled. They appeared to be moving towards a successful outcome until the announcement by the State Government that parts of the Burswood Peninsula would be handed to the City of Perth. The loss of the rates base in Burswood makes the future merger complicated and leaves a significant financial gap for the Councils to manage. As well as the rates loss the Council/s would still have obligations for roads and parking in parts of the Peninsula.

I don't believe the excision had been part of any prior discussion with the Councils and has actually caused a great deal of disquiet and anger in the two communities.

It makes no sense to allow this change and it would be very helpful to have the committee address the electoral boundaries issue as outlined in the petition and hopefully recommend to Government that the proposition for retention of the two rivers as natural boundary lines for electoral purposes be maintained for Local government as well.

I would ask that the committee would enquire into this significant electorate issue in the South Metropolitan Region and make appropriate recommendations to the State Government to find an outcome that will satisfy the communities of South Perth and Victoria Park.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kate Doust', written in a cursive style.

Kate Doust MLC

**Member for South Metropolitan Region**