



TOWN OF VINCENT

**A REBUTTAL OF THE CITY OF PERTH'S
PROPOSAL FOR A PART OF THE
TOWN OF VINCENT**

June 2006

“Enhancing and celebrating our diverse community”



Our youth



Our seniors



Our parks



Our built environment



Our facilities



Our heritage



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Nick Catania, B.Ec., JP



PROPOSED BOUNDARY CHANGE

As you would be aware, the Town of Vincent prides itself on being one of the most highly sought-after and desirable areas for people to live and work in. The Town actively sets out to provide excellent services and maintain and enhance our unique diversity – in our people, our cultures, our buildings, events and places of interest. An independent survey in November 2004 had residents giving the Town an **87%** satisfaction rating for the “*provision of efficient and effective services*”.

With an aim to introduce more logical and practical boundaries, the Town of Vincent submitted a proposal to the Local Government Advisory Board (LGAB) to transfer parts of East Perth and West Perth, Glendalough, Mt Lawley, Menora and Coolbinia into the Town. The request for the realignment of boundaries follows natural/physical borders and will benefit both new and existing ratepayers and residents. Not entirely unexpectedly, the City of Perth submitted a counter proposal to the LGAB to assume that part of Vincent south of Bulwer Street and bounded by Bulwer, Vincent and Loftus streets and down to Newcastle Street, in which you live or own property. The Town believes that the proposal is flawed and lacks merit. The City of Perth proposal completely disregards the future viability and sustainability of the Town.

The Local Government Advisory Board has now commenced their deliberations on the proposed boundary changes initiated by the Town of Vincent. The LGAB will soon be seeking the opinions and views of residents and ratepayers and undertaking extensive community consultation. Obviously we are very keen for you and your neighbours to remain in Vincent and continue to enjoy the benefits and services offered by the Town and seek your support in ensuring that your home or business is not transferred to the Central Business District and Capital City-focussed City of Perth.

I hope you will take the time to get involved with the LGAB process and let your opinions be known as the local government authority that manages your area will make a difference to you, your neighbours and the services and facilities available to you to utilise and enjoy. We believe that Vincent has a lot to offer our ratepayers and residents and we trust that you agree and will oppose any attempt to have a vital and important part of Vincent annexed.

I trust you will take the time to seriously consider the implications of the proposed boundary changes and base your decisions on the facts and your observations about the Town and its operations. We are looking forward to the outcome of the LGAB enquiry and hope to continue to provide you and your neighbours with the services and facilities for which the Town is renowned.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nick Catania".

NICK CATANIA, JP
MAYOR
12 June 2006



TOWN OF VINCENT

Reasons to Oppose the PCC Proposal

The Town’s ratepayers and residents should **strongly oppose the PCC proposal** as it is seriously flawed and without merit – it may even be considered a “*tit for tat land grab*” response to the Town’s recent proposal to realign the Town’s boundary along the Graham Farmer Freeway.

The Local Government Advisory Board will assess the proposal using the following criteria:

1. Matters Affecting the Viability of Local Governments

- The PCC proposal to **annex 14% of the Town (including over 4000 residents and approximately 2600 properties)** will remove over \$3 million of rates income and will make the remainder of the Town **unsustainable and unviable in the long-term**.
- The PCC’s proposal is totally contrary to the principles of the Local Government Advisory Board.
- **It demonstrates a complete disregard for the rest of the Town of Vincent.**

2. Community of Interest

- The PCC proposal to annex the area bounded by Lord, Bulwer, Vincent and Loftus streets **erroneously** assumes that that part of the Town of Vincent has a “community of interest” with the Central Business District and Northbridge.
- Nothing can be further from the truth – the Town’s residents are a part of the residential Precincts of Hyde Park, Cleaver and Beaufort – **not** Northbridge or the Central Business District, which is the entertainment and commercial district for the Capital City.

3. Logical Boundaries

- The PCC proposal does not follow distinctive features or major roads.
- The Town’s proposal to use the Graham Farmer Freeway as the new boundary follows a major artificial feature – and meets the requirements of the Local Government Advisory Board.

4. Demographic Trends

- The demographic trends of this part of the Town of Vincent are **distinctly different** from the business-focussed City of Perth.

5. Economic Factors

- The PCC proposal again erroneously assumes that the Town’s residential areas will follow their Northbridge redevelopment – the Town strongly believes that the **Town’s residential areas must remain predominantly residential and not be amalgamated into a Northbridge-style development.**

6. History of the Area

- Whilst it is correct that this part of the Town was a part of the PCC prior to July 1994, many residents will remember that the **area was previously largely ignored by the business-focussed and controlled PCC Council.** There is a strong chance that this will again occur and is not in the best interests of the Town’s ratepayers and residents.

7. Transport and Communication

- The PCC’s preoccupation with parking is contrary to encouraging better use of public transport. The aspect of the greater use of public transport is strongly supported by the Town.

8. The Effective Delivery of Services

- The Town currently delivers a high standard of service to its ratepayers and residents, as shown in the Town’s last Customer Satisfaction Survey:

Customer Satisfaction Survey
Results of a 2004 survey of Town of Vincent ratepayers

KEY AREA	SATISFACTION RATING
• Weekly rubbish collections	93%
• Maintaining streetscapes, parks and sportsgrounds	91%
• Maintaining Beatty Park Leisure Centre	90%
• Provision of efficient and effective services	87%
• Accessibility of information about Council services	85%
• Graffiti, vandalism and anti-social behaviour control	84%
• Maintaining footpaths and cycle ways	82%
• Consulting the community about local issues	76%
• Building and planning approvals	75%
• Parking control	72%



TOWN OF VINCENT



Some of the benefits you currently enjoy in the Town of Vincent:

- Vincent is a smaller, unified and focussed local council, which is responsive to community sentiment and opinion.
- Vincent offers a more accessible and personal service, with a local focus and is committed to meeting your needs. It is always prompt to respond to your requests.
- Vincent is renowned for community consultation – your views are important to the Town.
- You get to elect your own Mayor and have representation by Elected Members who live in the Town and understand your needs. PCC elections are dominated by business proprietors who form the bulk of the PCC electors.
- You can attend Council Meetings, address the Council and ask questions – something that is not possible in the City of Perth.
- The Town has a proactive approach to heritage management and is committed to promoting and protecting places of cultural significance to the Town. We have dedicated Heritage Officers, awards and incentives and a Heritage Management Plan together with an on-going heritage education program.
- The Town of Vincent Council represents a broad community which is a mix of residents and business proprietors, whereas the City of Perth is focussed predominantly on the Central Business District of Perth.
- You currently enjoy high levels of maintenance and improvements to existing infrastructure and this will continue.
- Vincent has a more holistic and consistent approach to planning – and has won three State Planning Awards for Excellence and a National Merit Award for Community-based Planning.
- The Town offers a concise and co-ordinated approach to local area traffic management issues based on residents' needs.
- Vincent prides itself on our calendar of events which encompasses a diverse range of activities, competitions and involvement in the community that are enjoyed by many including our Visions of Vincent Photographic Competition, Local History Awards, Vincent Art Award, Film Project, Garden Awards, and biennial Building Design & Conservation Awards.

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