

LIBERAL PARTY SUBMISSION TO THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ELECTORAL BOUNDARY REVIEW APRIL 2015

The Liberal Party notes the Preliminary Observations published by the Electoral Distribution Commissioners, and agrees that an approach of minimal change would be inadequate for this distribution. Instead we believe that careful and deliberate incremental change will be entirely sufficient to bring all 59 districts within quota without the abolition of any district, or the transfer of districts between Legislative Council Regions.

In our submission we will maintain the existing northern and eastern boundaries of the Metropolitan area as we agree that these are a natural line of demarcation between urban and rural communities. We fully agree with the following statement by the Commissioners:

If a change is required to the overall boundary of the metropolitan area, the southern boundary appears to be less problematic in that areas on either side of the southern boundary appear to share greater communities of interest than areas either side of the north or east parts of the metropolitan area. In considering a possible extension of the southern boundary, a relevant question might be how far the shared community of interest actually extends, given the spread of high density development well beyond the existing southern boundary.

Accordingly our submission will propose a modest, incremental change to the south-western Metropolitan boundary, to include two localities in the City of Rockingham within the district of Mandurah. This will not involve the transfer of this district from the South West Region. Our submission will maintain the current number of districts within each Region, and the three metropolitan Regions will each continue to comprise 14 districts with comparatively minor changes to the Regional boundaries.

The Liberal Party emphatically rejects the notion that there is any need to abolish a country district. In particular we note that the total enrolment of the Mining and Pastoral Region is just under 109,000, more than sufficient to maintain five districts within this Region without extending its boundaries.

It was the clear intention of Parliament expressed in Section 16G(2) of the *Electoral Act 1907* that both the Large District Allowance and the special minus 20.0% tolerance be used where necessary to preserve the representation of the Mining and Pastoral Region.

The current distribution of federal electoral boundaries in Western Australia has supplied projected enrolment figures that actually indicate steady growth in the divisions of Durack and O'Connor, that cover the Mining and Pastoral Region and the Agricultural Region. There is thus no evidence indicating a significant decline in enrolments in these Regions.

We are proposing an adjustment to the boundary of the Agricultural Region with the South West Region that will have the effect of maintaining all 12 of the districts in these Regions within quota.

In the 2011 distribution the Commissioners at times made extensive use of the tolerance on either side of the Average District Enrolment (ADE) in order to maintain existing districts, to

avoid the splitting of localities, and to enhance community of interest. In this submission we have continued this practice to best achieve these objectives and to avoid unnecessary transfers of electors. Districts that fall within the permitted tolerance have where possible been left unchanged, unless adjustments are necessary to accommodate transfers involving districts that fall outside the permissible limits from the Average District Enrolment.

We reject the notion that districts should necessarily be given enrolments that are close to the Average District Enrolment. At a time when there is a concurrent redistribution of WA federal seats, it is possible that some submissions may be influenced by the requirements of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*, to the effect that enrolments must achieve a tight projected numerical balance. A four year redistribution cycle reduces the significance of anticipated enrolment growth or decline.

MINING AND PASTORAL REGION

The five districts in this Region have logical boundaries and communication links that enhance community of interest. They require only comparatively minor adjustments that should not alter their basic character.

It is recommended that no change be made to the boundaries of Kimberley as its enrolment is well within quota and its the four component shires share a firm and historic community of interest. The 2007 distribution restored Kimberley to these historic boundaries, that should continue undisturbed for the foreseeable future.

The district of Eyre is also comfortably within quota and there is no reason to change its boundaries.

In order to bring the district of Kalgoorlie more comfortably within quota we propose that it regain the Shire of Sandstone, currently within the district of North West Central but formerly included with Kalgoorlie before the 2011 distribution.

It is proposed that the boundary of the district of North West Central be extended to include the town of Newman (the South Ward of the Shire of East Pilbara). Newman was previously included in the same district as Carnarvon from 1989 until 2005. This transfer will significantly increase the number of enrolled electors in this district while bringing it within quota.

There can be no justification to extend the boundaries of North West Central into the major part of Shire of Northampton, a farming area that is integrally part of the Geraldton area and of the Agricultural Region.

No other change is recommended to the boundaries of the district of Pilbara, that would remain well within quota.

AGRICULTURAL REGION

The districts of Geraldton and Moore are both comfortably within quota, and have experienced respective enrolment growth of 5.5% and 4.5% over the last four years. However there has been stagnant enrolment in the districts of Central Wheatbelt and Wagin, causing them to fall below quota.

There is a clear requirement for the transfer of a significant number of electors from the South West Region to bring about a significant increase in the enrolments of these two districts. It is therefore proposed that the Shire of Collie be included within the district of Wagin. Although it has been argued that Collie is linked to Bunbury, the Collie Shire cannot be described as part of Greater Bunbury. It has at times been included with such rural shires as Boddington and West Arthur. From 1965 until 1989 the Shire of Collie was in a different Legislative Council Province to Bunbury and its adjacent districts. From 1990 until 2001 Collie and Bunbury were in different federal divisions.

To offset the addition of Collie to Wagin, it is proposed that the Shires of Wandering, Pingelly, Cuballing, Wickepin and Kulin be transferred to the district of Central Wheatbelt. To further keep the three large agricultural districts in balance, it is proposed that the Shire of Wongan-Ballidu be transferred from Central Wheatbelt to the district of Moore. No change is recommended to the boundaries of the district of Geraldton, as these are co-extensive with the City of Geraldton and as noted the district is within quota.

With these significantly increased enrolments, the districts of Wagin and Central Wheatbelt will be less likely to fall below quota over the next four years.

SOUTH WEST REGION

To balance the removal of the Shire of Collie, it is proposed to transfer the localities of Singleton and Golden Bay from the South Metropolitan Region and the district of Warnbro, to the South West Region and the district of Mandurah.

The districts of Albany, Bunbury and Dawesville are all within quota. Accordingly no change to the well-defined boundaries of these districts is recommended. It is noted that in 2011 the boundaries of Albany and Dawesville were left unchanged.

Enrolment has grown steadily in the City of Busselton and it is recommended that the boundaries of the district of Vasse should contract to the LGA boundary of the City, removing all remaining localities in the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River. This will reunite the town of Margaret River with its eastern hinterland and will allow this large shire to be united once again within the district of Warren-Blackwood, as occurred between 1996 and 2008.

It is proposed that the Shire of Donnybrook be transferred from Warren-Blackwood back to the district of Preston, as Collie-Preston will no longer be an appropriate name for a district that will contain the entire Shires of Capel, Dardanup and Donnybrook. It will be necessary

to include within Preston the eastern section of the locality of Australind, situated between the Brunswick River and the Forrest Highway.

The district of Murray-Wellington would gain additional electors from the localities of Barragup and Furnissdale that are within the Shire of Murray, which would thus be united in the same district. It is also proposed that the locality of Parklands, and the north eastern section of the locality of Lakelands, be included within Murray-Wellington.

The district of Mandurah would now include the localities of Singleton and Golden Bay, which share a community of interest with the adjoining coastal suburbs within the City of Mandurah.

EAST METROPOLITAN

As the district of Armadale is comfortably within quota with well-established boundaries, it is recommended that its boundaries remain unchanged, as also occurred at the 2011 distribution.

It is recommended that the eastern boundary of the district of Bassendean expand to include peripheral sections of the locality of Caversham lying immediately east of Lord Street. This section of Lord Street is not a major road, and these Caversham residents share a community of interest with adjacent Beechboro and Eden Hill. This transfer will reduce the excessive enrolment of the district of West Swan.

The district of Belmont requires a substantial increase in enrolments. We strongly submit that Perth Airport continue as the boundary between the districts of Belmont and Forrestfield, and we consider that communities of interest and communication links were ill served in 2005 when the Belmont district reached across Perth Airport to include the locality of High Wycombe. As there are over 7000 electors in High Wycombe, this locality would need to be split if Belmont were to extend in this direction.

Since Belmont already includes the locality of South Guildford, we propose that it extend north and north-east to include Guildford, Hazelmere and the south western section of Helena Valley. It is noted that in 2007 the Distribution Commissioners initially proposed that Guildford be included in the district of Belmont.

The district of Darling Range is required to contract substantially. With no change to its boundary with the district of Armadale, it would be undesirable to alter its western boundary that follows major roads and an LGA boundary, and also forms the boundary of the East Metropolitan Region. It is therefore proposed to transfer the remaining section of the Shire of Kalamunda, together with the localities of Karragullen and Roleystone, to the district of Kalamunda.

It is proposed that the district of Forrestfield contracts on its southern boundary from the locality of Maddington and part of the locality of Kenwick. The small section of the locality of Forrestfield presently within the district of Kalamunda, lying west of the Mundy Regional

Park, would be transferred to the district of Forrestfield. Forrestfield would also expand to the north east to include the adjacent section of the locality of Gooseberry Hill.

The district of Gosnells would contract southward, losing the north eastern section of Thornlie to the district of Cannington. The section of this Thornlie north of the railway line already falls within this district. Gosnells would lose its current bifurcated shape by gaining that section of Maddington currently within the district of Forrestfield, together with the eastern section of the locality of Huntingdale. The boundary between the districts of Gosnells and Southern River would once again run along Huntingdale Road.

The district of Kalamunda is required to gain a substantial number of electors to reduce the enrolment of Darling Range, as already described. The locality of Roleystone was previously partially included in the same district as Kalamunda/Lesmurdie at the 2005 election. Bickley, Pickering Brook and other small semi-rural localities in the eastern section of the Shire of Kalamunda will now be consolidated in the same district. Apart from those localities to be transferred to the district of Forrestfield as described, the locality of Darlington would be transferred to the district of Midland.

No change is recommended to the boundaries of the district of Maylands, other than the transfer of a small section of Inglewood, bounded by Central Avenue, Carrington Street, Eighth Avenue and Beaufort Street, from the district of Mount Lawley. Most of the suburb of Inglewood already lies within the Maylands district.

The district of Midland is proposed to extend south eastward to include the localities of Darlington and Glen Forrest while losing Guildford, Hazelmere and part of Helena Valley. In 2005 a section of Darlington was included within Midland; in this instance two adjacent localities, closely linked by Great Eastern Highway and by local connecting roads, would be transferred without being bisected.

It is proposed that the northern section of the locality of Dianella be transferred from the district of Mirrabooka to the district of Morley. There would be a net transfer of electors in the locality of Ballajura from the district of West Swan to Mirrabooka. In order to keep Mirrabooka within quota and avoid creating a boundary that runs along minor suburban streets, it is proposed that Malaga and the southern section of Ballajura, south and east of Cassowary Drive and Bellefin Drive, be transferred to Mirrabooka while the north west section of Ballajura will revert to West Swan.

The district of Morley currently has a low enrolment for a metropolitan district. The transfer of the section of Dianella bounded by Reid Highway, Northwood Drive, and Yirrigan Drive would unite natural communities of interest with adjacent sections of Dianella. This large locality would no longer be spread across three separate districts. All other boundaries of this district would remain unaltered.

In order to bring the district of Perth within quota, it is proposed that the district of Mount Lawley cross Walcott Street to include an adjacent section of the locality of Mount Lawley. This section is generally bounded by Norfolk Street, Grosvenor Street, Beaufort Street and

Harold Street. There would be an offsetting adjustment to the boundary with Maylands as described.

The district of Swan Hills can be brought within quota simply through the excision of the locality of Glen Forrest, avoiding the disruption of its north western boundary with the district of West Swan and enabling the other communities in the Shire of Mundaring to remain within the same district.

The district of West Swan will retain its core of Ellenbrook while losing excess enrolments through the adjustment of its boundary with the district of Bassendean and the realignment of its south western boundary with the district of Mirrabooka.

NORTH METROPOLITAN REGION

It is recommended that the locality of Hamersley be united within the district of Balcatta, so that the new northern boundary of Balcatta would run along Beach Road and Wanneroo Road. The Balcatta district would consist of the entire localities of Joondanna, Tuart Hill, Osborne Park, Stirling, Balcatta and Hamersley within the well-defined boundaries of Beach Road, Wanneroo Road, Green Street and the Mitchell Freeway.

We would emphasize that the Mitchell Freeway should continue to be an uninterrupted boundary between several districts, from Cambridge Street to Ocean Reef Road.

In order to bring the district of Butler within quota it is proposed to transfer the entire localities of Clarkson and Tamala Park to the district of Ocean Reef, together with the section of the locality of Quinns Rocks south and west of Tapping Way. It is also proposed to reduce the enrolment of the district of Wanneroo by transferring the northern part of the locality of Carramar, generally north of Golf Links Drive, to the district of Butler.

The district of Carine like many other 'medium suburban' districts requires a net gain of electors. It is proposed therefore to extend its boundary northward to include the locality of Marmion and the adjacent section of Sorrento. The remainder of the locality of Gwelup currently within the district of Carine would be transferred to the district of Scarborough.

Similar modest adjustments are proposed for the district of Churchlands, that would gain the section of the locality of Floreat north of Alderbury Street, that forms an LGA boundary, together with the section of the locality of Scarborough south of Ventnor Street. These would be offset by the transfer of the locality of West Leederville to the district of Nedlands.

No alteration to the boundaries of the Cottesloe district is proposed.

The district of Girrawheen can be brought within quota and achieve more logical boundaries through the excision of the sections of the localities of Warwick and Hamersley that lie west of Wanneroo Road.

The excision of the locality of Marmion will enable the district of Hillarys to move north westward to include the locality of Craigie that formed part of this district prior to 2005.

The new northern boundary of Hillarys would again run eastward along Mullaloo Drive, Craigie Drive, Eddystone Avenue and Ocean Reef Road. The section of the locality of Beldon lying east of Eddystone Avenue would also be included within Hillarys as occurred before 2005.

The boundary of the district of Joondalup would move westward to include the locality of Mullaloo and the section of the locality of Ocean Reef lying south of Hodges Drive. These areas have both been formerly part of the district of Joondalup. The locality of Craigie and an adjacent section of Beldon would be transferred to the district of Hillarys. The northern and eastern boundaries of Joondalup would be unchanged.

With Wanneroo Road forming a continuous western boundary to the district of Girrawheen, the district of Kingsley would again include the entire locality of Warwick. We would note that since its creation in 1989 this district has had well defined and stable boundaries, between the Mitchell Freeway and Wanneroo Road. The localities of Woodvale, Kingsley and Greenwood have provided a constant inter-related core to this district and should continue to do so, rejoined by Warwick.

To provide the district of Nedlands with a net increase of electors, it is proposed to include the remainder of the locality of West Leederville within Nedlands; this locality is currently divided by Cambridge Street. There would be a corresponding adjustment, by a transfer to the district of Churchlands of the section of the locality of Floreat north of Alderbury Street.

It is proposed that the district of Ocean Reef move northwards so that Hodges Drive would be its south western boundary, while including Clarkson and the section of Quinns Rocks south of Tapping Way, both currently within the district of Butler.

In order to least disrupt the communities of interest within the district of Perth it is proposed to retain its existing western boundary, reestablished in 2007 to unite nearly all the City of Perth within the district of Perth, and to put an end to the previous dislocations of the localities of West Perth and Mount Hawthorn. Instead an adjustment of the boundary with the Mount Lawley district has been proposed that will bring the district of Perth within quota, with minimal disruption to locality boundaries.

The district of Scarborough would gain the remainder of the locality of Gwelup while losing to the district of Churchlands the small section of southern Scarborough south of Ventnor Street.

The district of Wanneroo has a particularly well defined southern boundary along Gnangara Road, with the industrial locality of Wangara forming a clear demarcation between the residential suburbs to the north and those to the south within the district of Girrawheen. In order to avoid disrupting these communities of interest a minor adjustment of the northern boundary in the locality of Carramar has been proposed, reducing the enrolment of this district.

SOUTH METROPOLITAN REGION

As with other well established districts, Alfred Cove requires additional electors and it is proposed that the locality of Myaree accordingly be included within this district.

The adjacent district of Bateman also needs a substantial net gain of electors while enabling the districts of Alfred Cove and Riverton to expand. Apart from the excision of Myaree it is proposed that the section of the locality of Bull Creek, lying east of Bull Creek Drive and north of Parry Avenue, be transferred to the district of Riverton. Bateman in turn would move south west to include both the locality of North Lake, and the residential section of the locality of Bibra Lake that are both currently within the district of Jandakot. Its western boundary would extend to include the north western section of the locality of Kardinya, lying north of South Street and south of Garling Street.

The district of Cannington is in a similar situation and needs to transfer a number of electors to allow for the expansion of the district of Victoria Park. As the least disruptive option, it is proposed that the section of the locality of Wilson lying north of Leach Highway be transferred to Victoria Park. Cannington in turn would include the north eastern section of the locality of Thornlie, within the district of Gosnells, and a section of the locality of Kenwick from the district of Forrestfield.

The district of Cockburn is proposed to move generally southward to accommodate the necessary expansion of the district of Willagee, that would gain the locality of Spearwood together with the industrial section of Bibra Lake.

As the entire locality of Coogee is proposed to remain within Cockburn, it is proposed that part of the locality of North Coogee, east and south of the railway line and Rollinson Road, be transferred to Cockburn from the district of Fremantle.

The entire locality of South Lake would no longer be split between two districts but would be located within Cockburn, while Hammond Park and a section of the locality of Success would be transferred to the district of Jandakot. Similar to its boundary in 2005, the southern boundary of Cockburn would run generally along Summerton and Sulphur Roads to include the localities of Medina and Orelia currently within the district of Kwinana.

The district of Fremantle requires a minor adjustment to reduce its enrolment. Rather than disturb the current north eastern boundary, that no longer bisects the localities of Bicton and Palmyra, it is proposed that Fremantle contracts on its southern boundary as described, while still retaining the section of North Coogee that is immediately adjacent to South Fremantle.

The district of Jandakot is proposed to be aligned substantially east of the Kwinana Freeway, based on the localities of Leeming, Jandakot, Atwell and Aubin Grove. It would however cross the Freeway to include the locality of Hammond Park and the major part of Success. These localities share a common interest with Atwell and Aubin Grove, being centered on the new Aubin Grove train station and sharing the same High School, the Atwell Community

College. It is proposed that the southern boundary of Jandakot follow the Freeway southward to Thomas Road to include the localities of Wandi and Anketell.

As already described, the district of Kwinana would contract on its current northern boundary, losing Medina and Orelia to the district of Cockburn, together with the intervening localities of Naval Base, Kwinana Beach, Hope Valley, Mandogalup and The Spectacles. It would also lose Wandi and Anketell to the district of Jandakot. The Kwinana Town Centre and the core localities of Calista, Parmelia, Leda, Bertram and Wellard would however remain in the Kwinana district.

In a rationalisation of its southern boundary, Kwinana would lose the localities of Coo loongup and Waikiki to the districts of Rockingham and Warnbro, while gaining the remainder of Baldivis from Warnbro. The locality of Baldivis would no longer be divided, and Mandurah and Stakehill Roads would provide the south western and southern boundaries of the Kwinana district.

The current north western, northern and eastern boundaries of the district of Riverton are well defined by the natural features of Bull Creek, the lower Canning River, and Bannister Creek, while High Road, the railway line and South Street are strong lines of demarcation. It is proposed to increase the enrolment of this district by the addition of part of the locality of Bull Creek as described earlier.

It is proposed that the locality of Coo loongup be united within the district of Rockingham, as the only change to the boundaries of this district.

The district of South Perth has well defined boundaries but requires additional electors to facilitate the ultimate reduction of enrolments in the outer metropolitan area. It is therefore proposed to restore the boundary prevailing before 2007, so that the entire localities of South Perth and Kensington would be included within South Perth.

As the district of Southern River exceeds the quota, it is proposed to excise the eastern section of the locality of Huntingdale and return it to the district of Gosnells, restoring Huntingdale Road as the boundary that existed in 2007. No other change is required to the boundaries of this district.

The district of Victoria Park would be adjusted by the excision of its current portions of South Perth and Kensington, offset by the gain of part of the locality of Wilson lying north of Leach Highway. An identical boundary between the districts of Victoria Park and Kenwick existed from 1989 to 1996.

It has already been proposed that the district of Warnbro should lose the localities of Golden Bay and Singleton to the district of Mandurah, and the locality of Baldivis to the district of Kwinana. In turn Warnbro would include the section of the locality of Waikiki currently within Kwinana.

In order to achieve a net increase of electors, the district of Willagee, as described earlier, would move southward to include and reunite the locality of Spearwood, while losing the north western section of the locality of Kardinya to the district of Bateman.