



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Suggestion 23

WA Labor

8 pages



Redistribution Committee
Australian Electoral Commission
By Email: fedredistribution-wa@aec.gov.au

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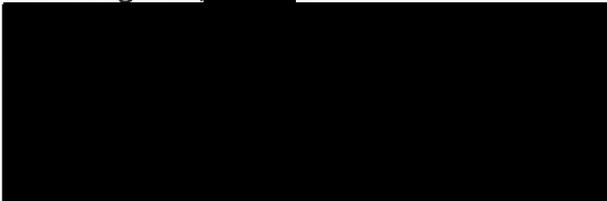
Dear Commissioners,

Western Australian Federal Redistribution 2020

Please find enclosed WA Labor's submission on the Western Australian Federal Redistribution.

If you require further information or clarification, please contact me using the details below.

Regards,


Tim Picton
State Secretary

WA LABOR SUBMISSION ON WESTERN AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL REDISTRIBUTION

The Australian Electoral Commission has determined that Western Australia must lose an electoral division.

WA Labor's submission proposes changes to the redrawing of a number of divisions on this basis.

WA Labor's submission seeks to minimise the movement of as many electors from one division to another as possible. Our proposed changes focus on areas where elector numbers vary most from required quotas, and on better aligning communities of interest as far as is necessary to accommodate a reduction in the number of divisions.

Redrawing of divisions in the north metropolitan area is required for those divisions to meet quota requirements. The divisions of Cowan, Curtin, Perth, Moore and Stirling are all below quota and have low growth projections.

In the east metropolitan area, the Division of Pearce has the highest variation from quota as well as the highest growth projections, while the Division of Hasluck falls below quota. Redrawing of the boundaries in the east metropolitan and surrounding peri-urban areas is therefore inevitable.

In the south metropolitan area, all divisions sit comfortably within quota except for the divisions of Swan and Tangney. Therefore, WA Labor argues that divisions in the south should not be altered other than is required to address the population issues in the divisions of Swan and Tangney. To otherwise alter the divisions in the south would unnecessarily require extensive redrawing of boundaries and movement of electors.

It is, therefore, WA Labor's view that reducing the number of divisions and redrawing boundaries in Western Australia is best achieved by addressing three fundamental issues:

1. the rapidly growing but distinct communities in the Division of Pearce, which is significantly over quota and make the division unsustainable, by separating the two high growth areas, Ellenbrook and surrounds in the City of Swan and the northern suburbs in the City of Wanneroo, into separate divisions;
2. the concentration of under quota divisions in Perth's northern suburbs; and
3. the low population and growth in the Division of Tangney, by expanding this seat east into the City of South Perth.

Many seats are currently drawn on strong boundaries, be that a suburb, geographical feature, or Local Government Area (LGA) borders. Therefore, our submission also outlines subsequent adjustments only where necessary to meet legislative requirements, thereby ensuring minimal disruption to as many electors as possible.

Resolving Pearce's continued and unsustainable growth

The growth suburbs in the northern outer suburban parts of metropolitan Perth have, overtime, seen disparate communities on the urban fringe fall within the Division of Pearce, which has also seen those communities disconnected from their more contiguous urban areas in adjacent divisions. This has resulted in the Division of Pearce becoming significantly over quota, while the other northern and eastern divisions are significantly under quota.

WA Labor proposes that the redrawing of boundaries commence with resolving the difficulties presented by the Division of Pearce and strengthening communities of interest within divisions.

The Division of Pearce spans both Perth's northern and eastern metropolitan suburbs, peri-urban communities and adjacent rural areas. These are three distinct communities that share little community of interest and share few services.

In addition, the Division of Pearce is unique in that it presently contains two rapidly growing urban communities that are clearly distinct in demography and geography, being the northern part of the City of Wanneroo, suburbs from Mindarie and Clarkson up to Two Rocks and Yanchep, and the Ellenbrook area of the City of Swan, as well as a third and distinct rural area that is part of the Western Australian Wheatbelt region.

The Division of Pearce has the highest projected population above permissible levels. Future growth in the suburbs of Yanchep, Alkimos and Two Rocks in the City of Wanneroo, and Ellenbrook in the City of Swan make it unsustainable for these two population areas to remain in a single division.

In addition, there is essentially no community of interest between the coastal northern suburbs from Mindarie and Clarkson up to Two Rocks and Yanchep in the City of Wanneroo and the inland eastern Ellenbrook community in the City of Swan, nor the wheatbelt rural communities in the north and eastern hinterland.

The other northern and eastern metropolitan divisions are all significantly under quota on both current and projected numbers. The combined divisions of Cowan, Curtin, Hasluck, Moore, Perth and Stirling are approximately 10% under quota. These Divisions are all urban metropolitan, except Hasluck which is another peri-urban division with urban, peri-urban, and rural communities, an important consideration with regard to communities of interest.

North and east divisions

Noting the distinct nature of the northern coastal metropolitan communities from those further inland, WA Labor proposes that divisions along the north west coast in the Perth metropolitan area expand and shift north to bring them within the quota requirements and better align communities of interest.

Moore

The Division of Moore can shift to be north of Ocean Reef Road and include as many suburbs from within the City of Wanneroo as possible, such as Mindarie, Clarkson, Alkimos and Yanchep from the Division of Pearce as well as northern suburbs from the Division of Cowan that are also in the City of Wanneroo. This would better align communities of interest within this division.

Stirling

The Division of Stirling can expand up to Ocean Reef Road to include suburbs such as Duncraig, Sorrento and Kallaroo from the Division of Moore, and Greenwood and Warwick from the Division of Cowan. The current division between these suburbs divides these areas which share a strong community of interest.

Ocean Reef Road is a major arterial road and currently serves as a strong natural boundary and the recently completed overpass at the intersection of Ocean Reef and Wanneroo Roads will further distinguish communities of interest to its north and south.

Wanneroo Road could be a strong eastern boundary for the coastal divisions and is also used as a boundary in State electoral districts in the area, as well as a local government boundary south of Ocean Reef Road.

The suburbs of Greenwood, Kingsley, Warwick and Woodvale were united in a single Division until 2016. At the time, Greenwood residents objected strenuously to their inclusion in the redistributed Cowan, on the basis of a lack of commonality with newly added suburbs such as Whiteman and Bennett Springs. The final report of the redistribution committee noted that the split of these suburbs was largely a matter of ensuring each Division had a suitable number of electors, and that there was no appropriate outcome that did not split a community of interest.

Curtin

The Division of Curtin can absorb the southern coastal suburbs of Stirling, including Scarborough and Trigg. Presently, the suburb of Scarborough is split between the Division of Stirling and the Division of Curtin. Realigning these suburbs in to the Division of Curtin would reunify this distinct coastal community that shares a strong community of interest.

Cowan

The suburbs of Balga and Mirrabooka can move from the Division of Stirling into the Division of Cowan. This would allow these two suburbs to be united with suburbs currently in the Division of Cowan with common demography and communities of interest, in particular the suburbs of Girrawheen and Koondoola. The community of interest of these suburbs is likely most popularly

expressed by the recent television series “KGB”, which picks up the local parlance, meaning Koondoola, Girrawheen and Balga.

The suburbs also share access to important services that should be united within one division, including the Edmund Rice Centre which provides important outreach services for refugees and migrant communities. In addition, schools in the area, Mercy College, Emmanuel Christian Community School, Girrawheen Senior High School and Hudson Park Primary School take students from across these suburbs. The North Metropolitan TAFE campus in Balga is a significant education center across the inland northern suburbs.

Mirrabooka Centrelink is a key hub for Government services in surrounding areas and services the four suburbs of Balga, Girrawheen, Koondoola and Mirrabooka. Further, the Mirrabooka Community Centre hosts the Ishar Multicultural Women’s Health Centre, part of the SETS consortium that established the Welcome HUB in that Centre. This hub provides settlement services for local migrants across the northern suburbs and is centrally located to these culturally diverse suburbs.

Hasluck

Electors from south eastern parts of the Division of Pearce, including Ellenbrook and surrounds, should unite with similar peri-urban suburbs in the Division of Hasluck on the eastern fringes of Perth, to form one division – resolving both the growth in Pearce and the low elector numbers in Hasluck.

Perth

To accommodate the merging of the peri-urban electors of the Divisions of Pearce and Hasluck, and to accommodate the need to increase the number of electors in the Division of Perth, the urban electors from Hasluck in the suburbs of Guildford and South Guildford should transfer to the Division of Perth, thereby reuniting these suburbs with the suburb of Bassendean, which better aligns communities of interest.

The Division of Perth is a seat representing north and eastern metropolitan suburbs and has previously had boundaries including Guildford. Until 2001 the seat was built around the two centres of Perth CBD and Midland, and Guildford and South Guildford have previously formed part of the Division of Perth.

Uniting Guildford, South Guildford and Bassendean will recognise the history of these communities. What is now Bassendean was originally West Guildford and was founded in 1829, the same year as the establishment of the Perth Swan River Colony. The community links extend to this time too with farming on both sides of this narrow part of the Swan River.

The community is centred around the Swan River with many community and conservation groups working across both sides of the river. The Railway Museum in Bassendean holds

strong links to the Midland Railway Workshops. Many living in Guildford shop at Hawaiian's Bassendean shopping centre, and the Swan Districts Football Club is based in Bassendean and stretches well into Guildford, South Guildford and Midland.

There are similar demographic characteristics to these communities with Bassendean and Guildford both having older than average populations. Residents across these suburbs rely on the same providers of public services located within the East Metropolitan Health Service, particularly Midland Public Hospital and associated services.

Durack and O'Connor

To resolve remaining parts of the Division of Pearce, the wheatbelt areas in regional Western Australia should be united with other regional wheatbelt towns in the Division of Durack.

Similarly, the rural areas of the Division of Hasluck should be moved to the divisions of Durack and O'Connor, following a similar division between those two divisions as it presently exists beyond Hasluck.

Resolving Tangney and Swan

The Division of Tangney falls significantly below the permissible range of the current and projected quotas. Any new proposed boundaries would have to look to solve this issue by increasing the geographical size of the division.

The Division of Swan is also currently and projected to be below the permissible quota. As previously noted, these are the only divisions south of Perth to be outside of quota.

WA Labor proposes that the divisions of Tangney and Swan should expand and shift east.

Tangney

Tangney can expand across the Canning River to absorb the entirety of the City of South Perth LGA and Swan can expand into the southern urban areas of Hasluck.

This proposal allows the Divisions of Swan and Tangney to gain the required number of electors whilst maintaining strong communities of interest.

The City of South Perth LGA consists of electors who share similar demographic characteristics with the current electors of the seat of Tangney. The residents of both areas are predominantly professionals in their industry of employment, have similar levels of educational qualifications and share almost the same household gross weekly income.

The electors residing in the City of South Perth LGA are connected to the current electors of the Division of Tangney by three bridges on Canning Highway, Kwinana Freeway and Leach

Highway, being major roads that traverse the entirety of these communities. Whilst they may be separated by the Canning River they are not distinctly separate communities.

The residents of the City of South Perth LGA and the current Division of Tangney use a shared train station at Canning Bridge, predominantly shop at the same major shopping centre at Westfield Booragoon and share major Catholic and Anglican secondary colleges in Santa Maria College for Girls, Aquinas College for boys and All Saint's College, as well as enjoying shared amenities across both areas.

It should also be noted that when the Division of Tangney was initially established it also included the southern suburbs of the City of South Perth, with the suburb of Applecross in present Tangney then remaining in the Division of Swan.

Swan

Transferring electors from the division of Swan to Tangney also allows the division of Swan to gain electors from Hasluck. These could include the suburbs of Hazelmere, Maida Vale, Forrestfield, Wattle Grove, Beckenham, Kenwick and Maddington. These suburbs use many of the same amenities and access the same commercial and retail hubs, including shopping centres and schools, with neighbouring suburbs in the Division of Swan including Cannington and High Wycombe. In particular, these suburbs centre on the Cannington metropolitan strategic centre as identified in the Western Australian State Government's *Perth and Peel @ 3.5 million* framework

Maintaining consistency in the remainder of the State

Burt

In 2015, a 16th division was created in Western Australia, the Division of Burt. The creation of a division in the eastern metropolitan corridor allowed for significant population growth in this area. At the time, WA Labor, the Liberal Party of Australia, and The Greens all called for the creation of a new division that encompassed the City of Gosnells and the City of Armadale. The City of Armadale made a particularly strong case for the creation of a seat centred around Armadale.

The enrolment and projected population figures indicate continued need for a division along the south east corridor to accommodate the ongoing growth in this outer suburban area, which is still bound by strong communities of interest. In addition to these socio-economic and demographic similarities, the Division of Burt is connected by civic, commercial and retail hubs located along the Albany Highway in the suburbs of Armadale, Kelmscott and Gosnells.

The Armadale City Centre is one of the five designated Strategic Metropolitan Centres in the Western Australian State Government's *Perth and Peel @ 3.5 million* framework and is the primary centre of the south east region of the metropolitan area. The City Centre is home to the

Armadale Magistrates Court, Armadale Health Service (hospital) and several other government services that serve as hubs for the local community. Areas within the Cities of Gosnells and Armadale are also policed under a unified Armadale Policing District, and fall within the same health, education and Department of Communities districts.

The current boundaries align closely with existing transport links and encompass entire suburbs, as well as most of the populations of the Cities of Armadale and Gosnells.

WA Labor therefore strongly supports retaining the Division of Burt as part of this redistribution.

In any event, any redrawing of boundaries seeking to return the former component parts of the Division of Burt to the divisions of Canning, Hasluck and Tangney would fail to meet the legislative requirements and shift a large number of electors unnecessarily.

Brand, Canning, Forrest and Fremantle

As also indicated above, the divisions of Brand, Burt, Canning, Forrest and Fremantle all meet the legislative requirements without the need for adjustment and therefore should also not be changed.

It should be noted that similar community and strategic centre representation issues arise for the divisions of Brand and Fremantle, centred on the strategic metropolitan centres of Rockingham and Fremantle respectively.

Conclusion

WA Labor's proposal to the AEC allows Western Australia to consolidate its divisions back to 15 with minimal disruption to the majority of electors in the state. It resolves growth in population in the Division of Pearce while also resolving divisions which under quota in the north and east of metropolitan Perth.

We propose to retain the current boundaries of Brand, Burt, Canning, Forrest and Fremantle, which is a preferable outcome given these divisions are all within the permissible elector quota and therefore do not require shifts. Only minimal changes are proposed to the divisions of Curtin, Durack, O'Connor and Perth.

WA Labor's submission better aligns communities of interest in Perth's northern and eastern metropolitan and peri-urban areas, while creating seats that are better able to withstand future growth and therefore minimise the need for further disruption for Western Australian electors.