



**THE FEDERAL  
REDISTRIBUTION  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

# Objection 11

Karyn Connor

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

FedRedistribution-WA@aec.gov.au

**REDISTRIBUTION OF ELECTORATES - SHIRE OF DONNYBROOK-BALINGUP**

Subject: Objection to the Proposed Rezoning of Electorates - Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally object to the Australian Electoral Commission's proposal to move the Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup from the Forrest electorate into the O'Connor electorate.

**1. Unfair and Inequitable Access:**

The proposed change is neither fair nor equitable to regional voters, who will no longer have easy access to their Member of Parliament. If moved to the O'Connor electorate, Balingup residents would have to travel over 700 km to Kalgoorlie, 264 km to Albany, or 200 km to Perth. The significant travel distance, coupled with the high cost of fuel, imposes an unreasonable burden on constituents. Moreover, it is nearly impossible to maintain effective communication solely through phone or email; face-to-face interactions are vital for adequate representation.

**2. Distinct Agricultural and Tourism Economy:**

Balingup is a rural area that relies heavily on agriculture and tourism, distinct from the inland areas of the proposed electorate. Our community has unique needs and priorities that differ significantly from those of the inland regions, which are predominantly non-agricultural. Therefore, I am concerned that our rural areas would not receive the appropriate representation they require in the O'Connor electorate.

**3. Economic Connections to Coastal Regions**

Our regional hospital, higher education facilities, manufacturing, shops, and other essential services are located in Bunbury. These institutions provide significant employment opportunities for residents of the Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup. Historically and economically, our community has been connected to coastal regions rather than inland areas, further underscoring the impracticality of the proposed change.

This proposed change appears to be driven solely by the need to maintain the number of electors within the AEC's formula per electorate. While ensuring each MP represents a similar number of electors is important, it should not come at the cost of equitable access and representation for all constituents.

In conclusion, I strongly urge the Australian Electoral Commission to reconsider this proposal and keep the Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup within the Forrest electorate to ensure fair and effective representation for our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Karyn Connor

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Contact Information]