



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Objection 16

Anonymous 1

2 pages

I would like to make a submission on the proposed redistribution of the Forrest Electorate.

It should be noted the strong historical and social ties that residents of Donnybrook – Balingup have with the main centres in the electorate ie the City of Bunbury and the City of Busselton

A quick perusal of sporting clubs shows that members of clubs in Donnybrook regularly play in Bunbury as part of a local league.

Similarly residents of Donnybrook Balingup are considered part of the health care catchment of the regional hospital in Bunbury and access health care in Bunbury and Busselton

The major shopping centres of Bunbury and Busselton are the areas where Donnybrook Balingup residents drive to meet their needs as well as accessing services such as Centrelink. This should be contrasted with the historical and social ties of residents of Waroona to the districts of Mandurah and southern areas of metropolitan Perth.

Again sporting clubs from this region play in the leagues associated with southern Metro.

It is closer to shop and receive services in Mandurah than in Bunbury

Residents of Waroona are currently not considered part of the health care services agreement catchment area for Bunbury Regional Health services.

With respect to the commission aiming to avoid splitting local government areas, there is an argument to be made that LGA boundaries do not represent “communities” in the Electorate of Forrest. Over half of the Shire of Capel live in Dalyellup, and over half the Shire of Harvey live in Australind. These shires were originally planned with a town has the centre, but since the population growth is only on the edges of Bunbury. It could be the "broader context" here is that these shires don't mark real population boundaries.

In paragraph 108, the report states that Durack and O'Connor should be made as geographically small as possible:

"108. The Redistribution Committee specifically noted the difficulties faced by electors and those who represent them, or seek to do so, as a result of the large geographic area of the Divisions of Durack and O'Connor. Where possible, under this proposal the Redistribution Committee endeavoured to reduce or minimise the size of these electoral divisions to the extent allowed by the Electoral Act."

The proposed changes have taken our already elongated electorate of Forrest , and made it even longer! Our electorate of Forrest has been misshaped, which appears to skew the demographic of the electorate. It's 30 mins to drive across the electorate, but 5 hours to drive along it.

It has also INCREASED the geographical boundary of O'connor.

If implemented ,the people of Donnybrook Balingup will have a round trip of over 400 km to access their elected representative, compared to a round trip of 100 km to Bunbury, where they will likely be able to combine the trip with accessing health care or government services more readily.

Population of the shires

The removal of Donnybrook-Balingup and addition of Waroona is only a net change of 1921 people.

Table: Population of LGAs in the Southwest from 2021

LGA	Pop
Waroona	4234
Harvey	28567
Bunbury	32987
Dardanup	14686
Capel	18175
Donnybrook Balingup	6155
Busselton	40640
Augusta Margaret River	16791
Nannup	1538
Bridgetown-Greenbushes	5238
Manjimup	9093
Boyup Brook	1834
Collie	8812

An alternative more balanced proposition taking into consideration geographical and social communities and linkages would be to remove Harvey (not the LGA, but just the town with a population of 2,700 people, and retain Donnybrook Balingup within the electorate of Forrest.

I look forward to our consideration of my comments.