



**Western Australian Electoral Distribution  
Commission**

**Proposed Boundaries**

**July 2023**

**Written objections close 21 August 2023**

**Final boundaries will be published by 1 December 2023**



## Introduction

---

The *Electoral Act 1907* (the Act) requires that Western Australia's State electoral boundaries be reviewed once in the life of each Parliament.

The distribution process commenced in March 2023 and is being undertaken by the three independent Electoral Distribution Commissioners:

- Hon. Eric Heenan KC, retired Judge of the Supreme Court of Western Australia (Chairperson)
- Mr Tom Joseph, Government Statistician
- Mr Robert Kennedy, Western Australian Electoral Commissioner

The Act requires the Commissioners to determine a "relevant day" at an approximate mid-point between the previous and next State General Election. The Commissioners then undertake their review of the electoral boundaries based on Western Australia's elector enrolment figures as of this date. For the 2023 Distribution the Commissioners selected 13 March 2023 as the "relevant day."

A public consultation process commenced on 1 April 2023 with an invitation for public suggestions published state-wide. To inform this process, enrolment figures, a *Distribution Process Overview* and a fact sheet entitled *Making a Submission* were published on the Electoral Boundaries WA website ([www.boundaries.wa.gov.au](http://www.boundaries.wa.gov.au)). In total, 35 initial suggestions and 96 comments on these suggestions were received. All were carefully considered by the Commissioners.

In developing the proposed boundaries the Commissioners were also assisted by trained cartographers using Geographical Information System software in addition to a MapInfo application called Boundary Maker (developed and kindly made available by the Victorian Electoral Commission). This system is loaded with spatial data sourced from Western Australian State Government agencies and the Australian Bureau of Statistics, supplemented by Western Australian Electoral Commission enrolment data. Available information also allows the overlay of features such as existing State, Local and Federal Government electoral boundaries, rivers and roads, property boundaries, and aerial views to assist the Commissioners in their decision making.

The distribution process prescribed by the Act now provides this opportunity for the public to be informed of, consider, and voice objections, suggestions, improvements or any other comments in relation to the electoral boundaries and district names proposed by the Commissioners. The Commissioners are required by law to consider all comments received through this process.

Anyone wishing to submit an objection to the proposed boundaries must do so in writing by no later than 5:00pm on 21 August 2023. Instructions on how to lodge an objection can be found on the Electoral Boundaries WA website.

The Commissioners will take all objections into account before making their final determination. Once made, that determination is binding and will apply at the next State General Election due to be held in March 2025.

The Electoral Distribution Commissioners



Mr Tom Joseph  
Government Statistician

The Hon. Eric Heenan KC,  
retired Judge of the Supreme Court  
of Western Australia (Chairperson)

Mr Robert Kennedy  
Electoral Commissioner



## The distribution process

---

### LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

The Act requires that Western Australia be divided into 59 electoral districts, with each district electing one member to serve in the Legislative Assembly. The Commissioners do not have the power to change the number of electoral districts in the Legislative Assembly.

Due to the reforms enacted by the *Constitutional and Electoral Legislation Amendment (Electoral Equality) Act 2021*, the entirety of Western Australia will be considered a single electorate for the purpose of electing 37 members to serve in the Legislative Council at the 2025 State general election. This abolishes the role of the Commissioners in determining boundaries that apply to the election of members of the Legislative Council, along with the requirement that a certain number of Legislative Assembly districts be placed within each Legislative Council region.

The reforms also abolish the requirement to maintain a distinction between metropolitan regions and non-metropolitan regions when determining Legislative Assembly district boundaries.

### PRESCRIBED ENROLMENT IN EACH DISTRICT

The Act requires the Commissioners to calculate the Average District Enrolment (ADE) across all Legislative Assembly seats as at the “relevant day” by dividing the number of electors in Western Australia by the number of Legislative Assembly districts. The total number of electors on the State electoral roll as at 13 March 2023 was 1,795,461. Divided by the total number of electoral districts (59), this results in an ADE of 30,432 electors.

With the one exception set out below, the number of electors in each district must be within 10 per cent (plus or minus) of the ADE. For the 2023 Distribution this means that enrolment figures in each district must not exceed 33,475 electors or be lower than 27,389 electors (except for certain very large districts).

The exception referred to above applies to districts which exceed 100,000 square kilometres in geographical area. In accordance with section 16G(3) of the Act, these districts receive a Large District Allowance (LDA), which is calculated as 1.5% of the number of square kilometres in the district. The geographical area of proposed districts was calculated using publicly available data files sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.<sup>1</sup>

The LDA is added to the number of actual electors enrolled in the district to arrive at a notional enrolment figure. In districts that have a LDA, the Commissioners must set boundaries so that the notional enrolment figure is within minus 20 per cent and plus 10 per cent of the ADE. For the 2023 Distribution, the notional enrolment figure for districts that received a LDA must therefore be no less than 24,346 and no more than 33,475.

---

<sup>1</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics – SA1 Statistical Areas Level 1 – 2021 – Shapefile (GDA 2020), *Australian Statistical Geography Standard Edition 3*, reference period July 2021-June 2026, released 20 July 2021, available at <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/standards/australian-statistical-geography-standard-asgs-edition-3/jul2021-jun2026/access-and-downloads/digital-boundary-files>

As of 13 March 2023 there was a total LDA of 36,129 spread across the following six existing electoral districts:

District	Electors	LDA	Total (electors plus LDA)
Central Wheatbelt	26,652	1,532	28,184
Kalgoorlie	20,268	8,332	28,600
Kimberley	16,514	8,032	24,546
North West Central	11,021	12,275	23,296
Pilbara	23,716	4,383	28,099
Roe	25,387	1,575	26,962

A number of suggestions and comments received by the Commissioners proposed a different methodology be used to calculate the appropriate number of electors for non-metropolitan districts. It should be noted that the Act is explicit in its requirements and does not provide the Commissioners with any discretion to depart from the methodology outlined above. Only Parliament could make such changes.

#### OTHER FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED

Section 16I of the Act requires the Commissioners to give due consideration to the following factors when determining district boundaries:

- community of interest;
- land use patterns;
- means of communication, means of travel and distance from the capital;
- physical features;
- existing boundaries of districts;
- existing local government boundaries; and
- the trend of demographic changes.

The Act does not stipulate weightings to be assigned to these factors, nor the ways in which they should inform decision making. In practice they can apply in various ways. For example, major transport routes can serve as a natural boundary in some cases, or a unifying factor in others. Land use patterns may be distinctive or mixed. Local government and locality boundaries, sometimes cited as an indicator of community of interest, may diminish in importance over time through the construction of adjoining housing corridors or transport networks. Even existing State electoral boundaries may become less influential where significant population growth has taken place since the previous distribution.

A factor the Commissioners consciously do not take into consideration is the potential political impacts of the boundaries they propose. The draft proposals have been formulated on an entirely independent basis. Furthermore, no information is available to or used by the Commissioners regarding past voting patterns in any electoral districts or areas of the State. While political organisations and their members are entitled to provide submissions to the Commissioners for consideration, and have done so, the proposed boundaries have been developed on an entirely objective basis by applying only those considerations allowed for by the Act.

In the final analysis, the paramount consideration of the Commissioners is elector numbers. Regardless of any other factors, the total number of electors in any district (or in the case of districts

with a LDA, the total number of electors plus LDA) must be within the permissible limits prescribed by the Act.

#### DETERMINING THE PROPOSED BOUNDARIES

As of 13 March 2023 there are 10 existing districts with enrolment levels outside of the permissible limits and therefore must have adjustments made to their boundaries:

District	No. of Electors	Variation from Average District Enrolment
Armadale	34,151	12.22%
Baldivis	35,906	17.99%
Butler	36,484	19.89%
Jandakot	34,756	14.21%
Mandurah	33,736	10.86%
Midland	33,629	10.51%
Moore	26,976	-11.36%
North West Central <sup>2</sup>	23,296	-23.45%
Perth	33,489	10.05%
West Swan	35,412	16.37%

In the view of the Commissioners, it is important to maintain (as far as is practicable) close comparison between the number of electors within the various districts, both for the purposes of maintaining near parity of voting influence between each district, and to allow for changes in elector population in the period before the next State General Election. This entails keeping variations from the ADE to the lower end of the legally permitted ranges where possible. While the majority of current districts remain within the legal tolerance limits, 17 are close to their applicable margins and are subject to exceeding them through continued population changes in the near future. For this reason, the Commissioners thought it desirable to ensure the variation from ADE for the following districts was reduced:

District	No. of Electors	Variation from Average District Enrolment
Albany	28,540	-6.22%
Cockburn	32,392	6.44%
Collie-Preston	32,331	6.24%
Cottesloe	32,248	5.97%
Darling Range	33,161	8.97%
Dawesville	33,362	9.63%
Forrestfield	28,857	-5.17%
Fremantle	32,955	8.29%
Geraldton	27,893	-8.34%
Kimberley <sup>3</sup>	24,546	-19.34%
Landsdale	32,725	7.54%
Murray-Wellington	32,237	5.93%
Scarborough	32,078	5.41%
Swan Hills	32,081	5.42%
Vasse	33,254	9.27%
Wanneroo	33,152	8.94%
Warnbro	32,891	8.08%

<sup>2</sup> North West Central figure is comprised of 11,021 electors and a Large District Allowance of 12,275.

<sup>3</sup> Kimberley figure is comprised of 16,514 electors and a Large District Allowance of 8,032



The Commissioners are therefore of the view that at least 27 districts require some degree of adjustment to their boundaries. As adjustments in any one district inevitably have a flow-on effect to the boundaries of surrounding districts, the distribution proposal outlined herein sees changes proposed to the boundaries of 53 of the 59 Legislative Assembly districts.

#### NAMING CONVENTIONS

The Commissioners have sought to retain the current names of districts where possible. However, where proposed changes in district boundaries have necessitated a change of name, the Commissioners have resolved to continue the past practice of naming districts after localities. Details of the proposed new or changed names of districts can be found on page 12.





## Apportionment of metropolitan and non-metropolitan districts

---

The legislative imperative is to propose electoral districts which, including LDAs where applicable, are closely comparable as far as practicable, having regard to all the considerations in section 16I of the Act. A major issue to be considered by the Commissioners was whether the existing balance of metropolitan and non-metropolitan districts (43 metropolitan, 16 non-metropolitan) should be maintained or varied. For the reasons set out below, the Commissioners determined that it was appropriate to put forward a proposal that reduced the number of non-metropolitan districts by one and increased the number of metropolitan districts correspondingly.

The proposal to abolish a non-metropolitan district was not made lightly. The Commissioners began the distribution process by considering various approaches that could be taken, including:

- retaining the existing 16 non-metropolitan districts;
- ceding non-metropolitans district to the metropolitan area; and
- creating 'hybrid' districts (districts that included metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas).

The Commissioners' analysis of these approaches and subsequent deliberations were informed by the submissions received during the public consultation process undertaken in April and May 2023, along with population reports sourced from the Western Australian Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage<sup>4</sup>, the Australian Bureau of Statistics<sup>5</sup> and the Australian Government Centre for Population<sup>6</sup>. The Commissioners were cognisant of the impact the COVID-19 pandemic may have had on the accuracy of population forecasts developed prior to 2020, however they were satisfied by the reports produced from 2020 onwards that the pandemic has had a minimal effect on the long-term population trends that were evident pre-pandemic.

After reviewing the approaches in detail, the Commissioners concluded that, while there was no objection to pursuing a course of action that created hybrid districts, factors of community of interest, land use patterns, existing local government boundaries and the physical location of townships and communities weighed in favour of retaining a distinction between metropolitan and non-metropolitan electoral districts. The hybrid approach was consequently discounted from further consideration.

After subjecting the remaining approaches to further scrutiny and alterations, it was the assessment of the Commissioners that maintaining the current number of metropolitan and non-metropolitan districts would result in a significant number of districts being too close to the permitted tolerance limits and therefore susceptible to distortion by elector population changes in the near term. Furthermore, it was recognised that a decision to maintain the current number of metropolitan and non-metropolitan districts would not allow the Commissioners to develop boundaries that

---

<sup>4</sup> Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, *Western Australia Tomorrow Population Report No. 11*, available from <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/document-collections/western-australia-tomorrow-population-forecasts>

<sup>5</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Population Projections, Australia*, available from <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/population-projections-australia/latest-release#western-australia>

<sup>6</sup> Australian Government Centre for Population, *Population Statement (2020, 2021, 2022)*, available from <https://population.gov.au/publications>





adequately reflected the following demographic factors:

- the high rate of population growth occurring in the expanding northern, eastern and southern areas of the greater Perth region (for example, the overall number of electors in the State has grown by 10.37 per cent between the 2019 and 2023 Distributions. By comparison, the elector population of the district of Butler grew by 26.68 per cent, West Swan by 23.29 per cent, Jandakot by 20.68 per cent and Baldivis by 23.13 per cent over the same period);
- the ongoing trend of the elector population located within the metropolitan area growing at a faster rate than the elector population located outside of the metropolitan area (this has emerged as an ongoing trend over the last eight years. Between the 2015 and 2023 Distributions the metropolitan elector population has grown at an average rate of 2.65 per cent per year, whilst the non-metropolitan elector population has grown at an average rate 2.15 per cent per year);
- population reports forecasting the continuation of the above growth trends;
- the total number of electors in non-metropolitan Western Australia (inclusive of LDA figures) currently equalling approximately 26 per cent of the State's total elector population, which proportionately corresponds to 15 Legislative Assembly districts; and
- The LDA having the practical effect of supplementing the total number of electors across districts where it is applied by 36,129. This corresponds to slightly more than the ADE of 30,432.

The Commissioners therefore concluded that the most appropriate course of action would be to propose amalgamating two non-metropolitan districts to allow the creation of a new metropolitan district in a high-growth area. This has in turn prompted a series of cascading changes to the boundaries of surrounding districts.



## Overview - non-metropolitan districts

---

The most significant change proposed by the Commissioners is the amalgamation of two non-metropolitan districts – North West Central and Moore – to accommodate the creation of an additional district in the growing outer metropolitan area.

The decision as to the most appropriate non-metropolitan districts to be amalgamated was the result of a considered process of elimination to identify the least disruptive option affecting surrounding districts.

Since the 2019 Distribution, districts located along the south-western and south coastal area of the State (Mandurah, Dawesville, Murray-Wellington, Collie-Preston, Bunbury, Vasse, Warren-Blackwood, and Albany) have all experienced elector population growth approximately equal to or in excess of the average regional elector population growth over this period.<sup>7</sup> These districts also each contain significant population centres that make it impractical for neighbouring districts to absorb electors without exceeding the legislated limits and creating fragmented communities of interest and land use patterns. Similarly, the district of Geraldton has experienced elector population growth of 7.80 per cent since the 2019 Distribution and contains a significant population centre that can only be distributed by extending the boundaries to some extent into Moore.

In the case of Roe and Central Wheatbelt, the Commissioners formed the view that one option would be for one of these districts to absorb the bulk of the other. Again, this was not possible due to the legislated limitations placed on the number of electors permitted within each district and the dissimilar characteristics of the neighbouring districts that would be required to absorb the balance of electors (with the exception of Moore, discussed in detail further on).

Regarding the districts of Kalgoorlie, Kimberley and Pilbara, the unique character of each district and the compounding effect the LDA would have if significant parts were ceded to neighbouring districts meant that they were not suitable options for combination or elimination.

This left the districts of Moore and North West Central for consideration. The Commissioners were required by the Act to adjust the boundaries of these neighbouring districts in any case to rectify the low elector populations within each. In this regard, the particularly low population of actual electors (rather than actual electors plus LDA) of North West Central (11,021 – the lowest of any district in the State) allowed for an amalgamated district, proposed to be named Mid West, to absorb the majority of electors from the districts of Moore and North West Central.

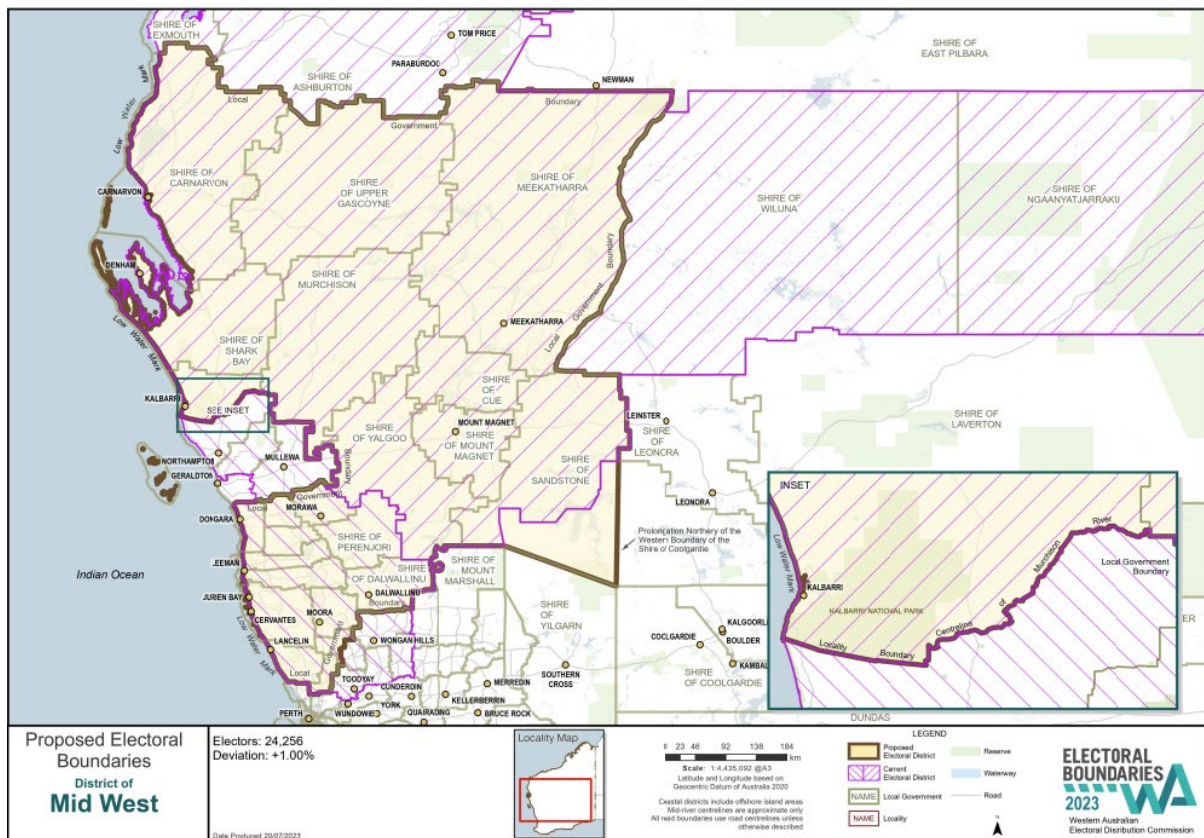
The Commissioners acknowledge that this proposal is contrary to a large number of suggestions and comments received during the public consultation process. Altogether, 12 suggestions and 68 comments submitted that the current 16 non-metropolitan districts should be retained, with a combined 72 suggestions and comments specifically submitting that the district of North West Central should be preserved. A further 6 suggestions and 15 comments noted the disadvantages that arise for electors and members in geographically large electoral districts.

Notwithstanding these consequences, the Commissioners are required by law to take a whole-of-state approach that is driven by elector numbers and the areas of the State in which electors are

---

<sup>7</sup> The district of Albany was the lowest at 7.29 per cent and Mandurah the highest at 14.62 per cent.

enrolled to vote. The Commissioners concluded that transferring the most northern, eastern and south-eastern areas of North West Central and Moore to adjoining districts and then amalgamating the remaining area into a single electorate would create a district that is almost half the size of the current North West Central (431,224 square kilometres compared to 820,591 square kilometres) and contains a significantly more cohesive community of interest by virtue of a predominant primary production industry.

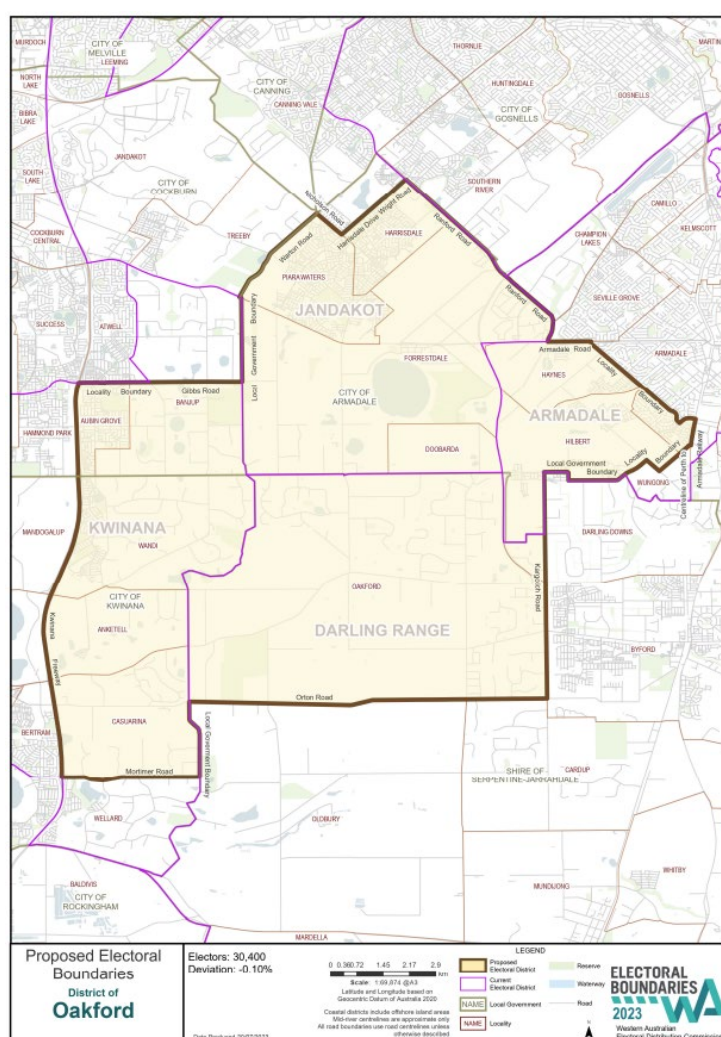


## Overview - metropolitan districts

As outlined above, after careful consideration of the various approaches the Commissioners formed the view that a new electoral district was needed in the outer Perth metropolitan area to accommodate the significant growth in elector population that has occurred since the 2019 Distribution. This level of growth is not a new phenomenon. It is a long-standing feature of Western Australia's demography, and is expected to continue for the foreseeable future.

As with the 2015 Distribution that saw the creation of the district of Baldivis, the Commissioners' attention was again drawn to the disproportionate number of districts in the southern metropolitan and Peel regions that were close to or had exceeded the permitted variation from ADE.

The Commissioners therefore propose to establish a new district, to be known as Oakford, that will incorporate the localities of *Anketell, Aubin Grove, Casuarina, Forrestdale, Haynes, Hilbert, Oakford, Piara Waters, Wandi* and part of *Banjup* to alleviate the immediate elector number pressures in the surrounding districts of Armadale, Baldivis, Darling Range and Jandakot. The placement of a new district in this area would also facilitate a rolling series of boundary adjustments that would enable the Commissioners to bring the existing districts of Butler, Cockburn, Dawesville, Forrestfield, Fremantle, Landsdale, Mandurah, Midland, Perth, Scarborough, Swan Hills, Wanneroo, Warnbro and West Swan within the lower range of the prescribed tolerance limits.





## Overview - new district names

---

The Commissioners have proposed that the names of the following districts be changed to reflect their amended boundaries:

Current district name	Proposed new name
Burns Beach	Mindarie
Carine	Padbury
Mirrabooka	Girrawheen
North West Central	Mid West
Moore	
Swan Hills	Walyunga
Warnbro	Secret Harbour
Willagee	Bibra Lake

The proposed boundary changes that have prompted the need to change the names of these districts are outlined in the following section.



## Proposed boundaries

---

In a report of this nature, it is not practicable to provide detailed reasoning for every proposed boundary change. The Commissioners have therefore focused on providing reasons for the significant alterations being proposed to the following districts.

Comparative tables containing the names, elector populations, geographic area, LDA allocations, and variations from ADE for all current and proposed districts can be found at the end of this section on pages 19 - 21.

### NON-METROPOLITAN DISTRICTS

#### Albany:

To bring the elector population of Albany closer to parity with other districts the Commissioners propose transferring the south-eastern portion of the *Shire of Plantagenet* (including the localities of *Mount Barker, Narrikup, Porongurup, Takalarup* and *Woogenellup*) from Warren-Blackwood to Albany. It is further proposed the remainder of the Shire be transferred to the district of Roe, with which it shares a predominant agricultural industry. While the Commissioners did consider transferring the entire local government area of *Plantagenet* to the district of Albany as per a suggestion received from a local resident, they concluded this would result in an equally unsatisfactory variation from ADE for Albany.


#### Kalgoorlie:

The proposed creation of the district of Mid West requires the most eastern portion of the current district of North West Central (comprised of the shires of *Wiluna* and *Ngaanyatjarraku*) to be distributed to an adjacent electorate. The Commissioners accept views expressed through the public consultation process that electors in both shires have a strong community of interest with the district of Kalgoorlie. However, transferring the entirety of these local government areas with their associated LDA would lead to Kalgoorlie exceeding the permitted variation from ADE.

The Commissioners therefore propose to divide *Wiluna* and *Ngaanyatjarraku* along lines of latitude that would see the elector population within both shires transferred to Kalgoorlie, and the remaining land area assigned to the district of Kimberley. To accommodate this increase in electors and minimise Kalgoorlie's variation from ADE, the Commissioners propose a similar approach be taken in relation to the *Shire of Menzies*, choosing to divide the shire along a line of longitude that would ensure enrolled electors to its east remain within their current district of Kalgoorlie. To the west of this line, a small portion of *Menzies* containing no enrolled electors would then be transferred to the new district of Mid West.

#### Kimberley:

The rolling series of boundary changes required to facilitate the creation of the proposed district of Mid West has the additional effect of enabling the Commissioners to propose boundary changes to Kimberley that would significantly reduce the district's large variation from ADE (currently -19.34 per cent). As noted above, the proposed transfer of electors in the shires of *Wiluna* and *Ngaanyatjarraku* to Kalgoorlie would allow the Commissioners to reallocate the northern sectors of these local



government areas and the associated LDA to Kimberley. Additionally, the proposed movement of the shires of *Exmouth* and *Ashburton* to the district of Pilbara (and the high variation from ADE this would create if Pilbara's boundaries were not altered further) permits the Commissioners to transfer the electors and LDA connected with the eastern portion of the *Shire of East Pilbara* to Kimberley, leaving both districts closer to parity with other electorates.

Mandurah:

While only slightly exceeding the permitted variation from ADE at 10.86 per cent, the Commissioners are nonetheless required by the Act to adjust Mandurah's boundaries to reduce the number of electors within the district. The Commissioners therefore propose to transfer the localities of *Madora Bay* and *Lakelands* to the district of Warnbro ("Secret Harbour") to address the immediate concerns regarding Mandurah's high elector population. The Commissioner's further propose reallocating the locality of *Dudley Park* from the district of Dawesville to Mandurah to facilitate boundary adjustments that will minimise Dawesville's current high variation from ADE (9.63 per cent).

Moore/North West Central ("Mid West"):

With the district of Moore currently 11.36 per cent below the ADE and the district of North West Central (including LDA) 23.45 per cent below the ADE, the Commissioners are legally bound to amend the boundaries of both districts. After considering all suggestions, comments and relevant information, the Commissioners are of the view that the coastal and adjacent inland portions of Moore and North West Central that are predominantly involved in primary production should be combined into a single district to be known as Mid West.

To ensure Mid West's variation from ADE is minimised, and to preserve a cohesive community of interest within the district, the Commissioners propose that the wheatbelt shires of *Toodyay*, *Goomalling*, *Dowerin*, *Wongan-Ballidu* and part of the *Shire of Victoria Plains* be transferred to the district of Central Wheatbelt, and that the northern shires of *Ashburton* and *Exmouth* be transferred to the neighbouring district of Pilbara. Lastly, as noted above, the Commissioners propose to transfer electors residing in the shires of *Wiluna* and *Ngaanyatjarraku* to the district of Kalgoorlie and allocate the residual geographic area of these shires to the district of Kimberley.

Roe:

In addition to transferring the northern and western portions of the *Shire of Plantagenet* from Warren-Blackwood to Roe, the Commissioners also propose to transfer the shires of *Wickepin*, *Kulin*, *Kondinin* and *Cuballing* to Roe from the district of Central Wheatbelt. These boundary modifications would reduce Roe's variation from the ADE (currently -11.39 per cent) without diluting the overarching agricultural character of the district, while also facilitating the creation of the proposed new district of Mid West and the proposed expansion of the district of Albany.



## METROPOLITAN DISTRICTS

### Balcatta:

The Commissioners propose to incorporate the southern part of the locality of *Gwelup* into the district of Balcatta. While this would see Balcatta cross the Mitchell Freeway, the Commissioners are satisfied that this slight deviation from the general western boundary of the district is necessary to allow the districts of Scarborough, Hillarys and Carine (“Padbury”) to maintain acceptable variations from the ADE. The Commissioners also note that all localities within the proposed boundaries of Balcatta are part of the City of Stirling local government area.

### Baldivis:

Significant population growth in the southern section of the metropolitan area has led to Baldivis exceeding the ADE by 17.99 per cent. To bring the district’s voter population back within the allowed tolerance range the Commissioners propose ceding much of the geographic area of the locality of *Baldivis*, along with parts of *Wellard* and *Leda* to the districts of Darling Range and Kwinana, retaining the main population centre of *Baldivis* within its eponymous district. These adjustments would also allow the Commissioners to address the district of Warnbo’s high variation from ADE by transferring the locality of *Warnbro* to Baldivis, and facilitate the changes proposed by the Commissioners to the districts of Mandurah and Dawesville and the creation of the new district of Oakford.

### Burns Beach (“Mindarie”):

To facilitate the boundary adjustment required to address the significant population growth that has occurred in district of Butler, the Commissioners propose to transfer the locality of *Merriwa* and part of *Ridgewood* to the district of Burns Beach. This transfer would then require a subsequent adjustment to the southern boundary of Burns Beach to keep the district’s variation from ADE within the permitted tolerance. To this end, the Commissioners propose to transfer the locality of *Burns Beach*, and part of the locality of *Currambine*, to the district of Joondalup.

The Commissioners propose that the district of Burns Beach be renamed Mindarie to reflect the loss of the locality that currently lends its name to the district and the central location of *Mindarie* within the new district boundaries.


### Butler:

High population growth in the northern parts of the metropolitan area since the 2019 Distribution have resulted in the district of Butler currently sitting 19.89 per cent above ADE, compelling the Commissioners to adjust the boundaries of the electorate. The dense nature of the developed areas of the district means that the Commissioners are able to address this issue and allow for further growth in the elector population by ceding the geographically small locality of *Merriwa* and part of the locality of *Ridgewood* to Burns Beach (“Mindarie”).

### Carine (“Padbury”):

The Commissioners propose to realign the boundaries of Carine to better reflect the community of interest boundaries generally accepted by the electors residing within the districts of Carine and Hillarys. This would entail Carine ceding the localities of *Karrinyup*, *Sorrento*, *Marmion*, *Watermans Bay* and *North Beach* to the neighbouring districts of Hillarys and Scarborough, and gaining the localities of *Beldon*, *Craigie*, *Padbury* and the northern part of *Gwelup* so that Marmion Avenue





forms the district's western boundary and the Mitchell Freeway its eastern boundary. Hillarys in turn would then become a coastal district bound by the shoreline to the west, and Marmion Avenue to the east.

These proposed boundary changes would see the locality of *Carine* moved to the edge of the district, leading the Commissioners to propose the district be renamed Padbury due to the prominence of the locality under the proposed new boundaries.

#### Churchlands:

The proposed changes to Churchlands are necessary to address the district of Perth's excess variation from ADE (10.05 per cent) and implement the boundary adjustments the Commissioners are proposing to the districts of Scarborough, Hillarys and Carine ("Padbury"). Transferring the industrial area of *Osborne Park* out of Scarborough and into Churchlands centres both Scarborough and Churchlands on their dominant physical features (Scarborough Beach and Herdsman Lake respectively) and consolidates the traditional communities of interest that have developed around them. Meanwhile, relocating part of the locality of *City Beach* from the district of Cottesloe to Churchlands would facilitate a cascading series of boundary adjustments in the districts of Cottesloe and Nedlands that are necessary to bring the district of Perth back within the permitted tolerance range.

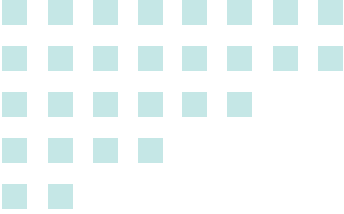
#### Joondalup:

The district of Joondalup sits in between two key areas of change proposed by the Commissioners. To Joondalup's north are the districts of Butler and Burns Beach ("Mindarie"), with Butler requiring boundary adjustments to bring its elector population within the permitted variation range. To the south of the district of Joondalup are the districts of Hillarys and Carine ("Padbury"), which the Commissioners are proposing to realign along more strongly identifiable communities of interest and the recognised boundaries formed by the coastline, Marmion Avenue and Mitchell Freeway. As a result, the proposed adjustments to the district of Joondalup's boundaries are critical to achieving these outcomes.

The Commissioners have therefore proposed adding the locality of *Burns Beach* and the remainder of the locality of *Currabine* to Joondalup from the district of Burns Beach ("Mindarie") to facilitate the adjustments to Butler described above. The Commissioners further propose transferring part of the coastal locality of *Ocean Reef* to the adjacent coastal district of Hillarys to minimise Joondalup's variation from ADE and to allow Hillarys to cede the localities of *Beldon*, *Craigie* and *Padbury* to Carine ("Padbury") and expand southwards to gain *Sorrento*, *Marmion*, *Watermans Bay* and *North Beach* from the district of Scarborough.

#### Mirrabooka ("Girrawheen"):

The proposed addition of *Alexander Heights* to Mirrabooka is a flow-on adjustment from the Commissioner's proposal to adjust the boundaries of the districts of Wanneroo and Landsdale to bring Wanneroo's elector population closer to the ADE. To accommodate the inclusion of *Alexander Heights*, the Commissioners have found it necessary to propose Mirrabooka cede parts of the localities of *Dianella* and *Mirrabooka* to the district of Morley. This in turn has allowed the Commissioners to propose a series of flow-on boundary adjustments in the districts of Bassendean and Maylands to strengthen their respective communities of interest and adopt the Tonkin Highway as a clear western boundary for the majority of Bassendean.



The loss of part of *Mirrabooka* to the district of Morley has prompted the Commissioners to propose changing the name of the district to Girrawheen after the locality around which the new district is based.

“Oakford”:

Due to the high population growth experienced in the southern metropolitan and Peel regions since the 2019 Distribution, the resulting growth of elector populations beyond the permitted tolerance limits in the districts of Armadale, Baldivis, Mandurah and Jandakot, and the high variations from ADE in the districts of Cockburn, Dawesville, Darling Range, Forrestfield, Fremantle and Warnbro, the Commissioners have determined that a new electoral district in the southern metropolitan area is a key component of achieving electoral parity at this Distribution.

The Commissioners therefore propose to establish a new district, to be known as Oakford that absorbs the localities of *Anketell*, *Aubin Grove*, *Casuarina*, *Forrestdale*, *Haynes*, *Hilbert*, *Oakford*, *Piara Waters*, *Wandi* and part of *Banjup* from Armadale, Baldivis, Darling Range and Jandakot. This will create a new district with a distinct community of interest and sufficient capacity to accommodate forecast elector population growth resulting from the pipeline of urban development that will be realised in the coming years, alleviating the immediate population pressures on neighbouring districts. As noted previously, the placement of a new district in this area would also facilitate boundary adjustments to the districts of Butler, Cockburn, Dawesville, Forrestfield, Fremantle, Landsdale, Mandurah, Midland, Perth, Scarborough, Swan Hills (“Walyunga”), Wanneroo, Warnbro (“Secret Harbour”) and West Swan that bring the elector population of these districts within the lower range of the prescribed tolerance limits.

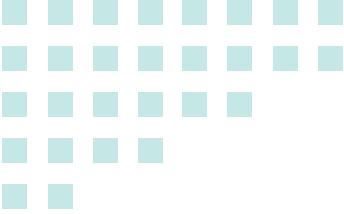
The Commissioners propose to name the new district Oakford in recognition of the prominence of the locality of *Oakford* in the new electorate.

Scarborough:

The Commissioners have proposed changes to the boundaries of Scarborough in order to reduce the geographic spread of the electorate beyond its traditional community of interest and to facilitate the realignment of the districts of Hillarys and Carine along a north-south axis. Significantly, these changes would see Scarborough gain the locality of *Karrinyup* from Carine (“Padbury”), and transfer part of *Osborne Park* to the neighbouring district of Churchlands. This in turn allows a cascading series of boundary changes to the districts of Cottesloe and Nedlands that will permit the Commissioners to bring the number of electors in the district of Perth within the allowable variation from ADE.

Swan Hills (“Walyunga”):

To accommodate the population growth that has occurred since the 2019 Distribution in the district of West Swan, the Commissioners propose to make two key boundary adjustments to the adjacent district of Swan Hills. Swan Hills would cede the portion of the *Shire of Mundaring* currently within its boundaries to Kalamunda, and in turn absorb the more densely populated localities of *Aveley* and *Belhus* from West Swan. These adjustments would bring West Swan’s variation from ADE within the legally permitted range as well as minimising the variation from ADE for Swan Hills.



The proposed loss of *Mundaring* removes much of the ‘hills’ element from Swan Hills. For this reason, the Commissioners propose to rename the district Walyunga after the national park located in the centre of the new electorate.

Warnbro (“Secret Harbour”):

To address the neighbouring district of Mandurah’s excess variation from the ADE, the Commissioners have proposed transferring the localities of *Lakelands* and *Madora Bay* to the district of Warnbro. However, given Warnbro currently has a high variation of 8.08 per cent above ADE the Commissioners further propose transferring parts of the northern localities of *Baldivis* and *Warnbro* to the district of Baldivis for the dual purpose of accommodating the district’s expansion to the south and reducing its variation from ADE to a lower level.

Due to the loss of the locality of *Warnbro* to Baldivis, and the extension of the district south to incorporate *Lakelands* and *Madora*, the Commissioners propose to rename the district Secret Harbour to reflect the central position of the coastal locality in the proposed new district.

Willagee (“Bibra Lake”):

As noted above, the proposed creation of the new district of Oakford has effected a cascading series of boundary adjustments in the metropolitan districts south of the Swan River, including Kwinana, Cockburn, Fremantle, Bicton and Willagee. In relation to the district of Willagee, the Commissioners’ proposal includes transferring the locality of *Willagee* to the district of Bicton. This necessitates a change of district name for Willagee. The Commissioners have proposed Bibra Lake after the prominent wetland area located in the centre of the district.

**Table 1 - Proposed Changes to Electoral Districts Without a Large District Allowance**

Current Name	Current Electors	Current Variation from ADE	Current Area (sq km)	Proposed Name	Proposed Electors	Proposed Variation from ADE	Proposed Area <sup>8</sup> (sq km)
Albany	28,540	-6.22%	4,324	Albany	31,300	2.85%	6,321
Armadale	34,151	12.22%	47	Armadale	31,632	3.94%	40
Balcatta	30,155	-0.91%	20	Balcatta	30,745	1.03%	21
Baldivis	35,906	17.99%	103	Baldivis	29,537	-2.94%	59
Bassendean	30,340	-0.30%	26	Bassendean	31,769	4.40%	26
Bateman	31,019	1.93%	27	Bateman	31,019	1.93%	21
Belmont	31,397	3.17%	70	Belmont	30,344	-0.29%	66
Bicton	29,041	-4.57%	20	Bicton	31,097	2.19%	20
Bunbury	31,873	4.74%	111	Bunbury	31,873	4.74%	110
Burns Beach	31,343	3.00%	40	Mindarie	31,054	2.05%	38
Butler	36,484	19.89%	160	Butler	31,143	2.34%	156
Cannington	30,409	-0.07%	31	Cannington	30,891	1.51%	40
Carine	31,241	2.66%	24	Padbury	32,077	5.41%	27
				Central Wheatbelt	30,324	-0.35%	96,617
Churchlands	29,646	-2.58%	24	Churchlands	31,400	3.18%	30
Cockburn	32,392	6.44%	45	Cockburn	30,775	1.13%	65
Collie-Preston	32,331	6.24%	4,001	Collie-Preston	31,740	4.30%	4,164
Cottesloe	32,248	5.97%	38	Cottesloe	31,292	2.83%	32
Darling Range	33,161	8.97%	1,395	Darling Range	29,772	-2.17%	1,385
Dawesville	33,362	9.63%	66	Dawesville	29,788	-2.11%	122
Forrestfield	28,857	-5.17%	58	Forrestfield	31,196	2.51%	59
Fremantle	32,955	8.29%	46	Fremantle	29,445	-3.24%	41
Geraldton	27,893	-8.34%	4,229	Geraldton	30,380	-0.17%	20,037
Hillarys	30,655	0.73%	25	Hillarys	32,195	5.79%	23
Jandakot	34,756	14.21%	91	Jandakot	29,366	-3.50%	62

<sup>8</sup> Area calculations based on Albers Australia 2020 using Australian Bureau of Statistics – SA1 Statistical Areas Level 1 – 2021 – Shapefile (GDA 2020), *Australian Statistical Geography Standard Edition 3*, reference period July 2021-June 2026, released 20 July 2021, available at <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/standards/australian-statistical-geography-standard-asgs-edition-3/jul2021-jun2026/access-and-downloads/digital-boundary-files>. Excludes area seaward of the low water mark.

Joondalup	29,724	-2.33%	32	Joondalup	32,299	6.14%	34
Kalamunda	30,059	-1.22%	448	Kalamunda	31,873	4.74%	893
Kingsley	30,826	1.30%	27	Kingsley	30,826	1.30%	27
Kwinana	31,420	3.25%	150	Kwinana	30,554	0.40%	104
Landsdale	32,725	7.54%	26	Landsdale	31,179	2.46%	65
Mandurah	33,736	10.86%	50	Mandurah	31,561	3.71%	42
Maylands	30,711	0.92%	21	Maylands	31,360	3.05%	21
Midland	33,629	10.51%	65	Midland	31,432	3.29%	57
Mirrabooka	31,027	1.96%	24	Girrawheen	31,459	3.38%	23
Moore	26,976	-11.36%	77,632				
Morley	30,921	1.61%	20	Morley	31,622	3.91%	21
Mount Lawley	30,263	-0.55%	18	Mount Lawley	31,427	3.27%	18
Murray-Wellington	32,237	5.93%	4,352	Murray-Wellington	31,806	4.52%	4,250
Nedlands	31,557	3.70%	31	Nedlands	30,965	1.75%	23
				Oakford	30,400	-0.10%	143
Perth	33,489	10.05%	24	Perth	31,844	4.64%	20
Riverton	29,596	-2.75%	24	Riverton	31,295	2.84%	23
Rockingham	30,299	-0.44%	49	Rockingham	30,299	-0.44%	49
Scarborough	32,078	5.41%	21	Scarborough	31,360	3.05%	18
South Perth	30,035	-1.30%	27	South Perth	30,035	-1.30%	19
Southern River	31,387	3.14%	35	Southern River	31,387	3.14%	35
Swan Hills	32,081	5.42%	1,334	Walyunga	30,713	0.92%	849
Thornlie	31,197	2.52%	28	Thornlie	31,084	2.14%	69
Vasse	33,254	9.27%	2,643	Vasse	31,255	2.70%	1,611
Victoria Park	29,679	-2.47%	22	Victoria Park	30,732	0.99%	25
Wanneroo	33,152	8.94%	454	Wanneroo	31,341	2.99%	413
Warnbro	32,891	8.08%	93	Secret Harbour	31,689	4.13%	77
Warren-Blackwood	31,822	4.57%	23,045	Warren-Blackwood	29,892	-1.77%	18,230
West Swan	35,412	16.37%	126	West Swan	31,573	3.75%	120
Willagee	29,565	-2.85%	35	Bibra Lake	31,243	2.67%	37
	<b>1,671,903</b>				<b>1,676,659</b>		

Table 2 - Proposed Changes to Electoral Districts with a Large District Allowance											
Current Name	Current Electors	Current LDA	Current Electors + LDA	Current Variation from ADE	Current Area (sq km)	Proposed Name	Proposed Electors	Proposed LDA	Proposed Electors + LDA	Proposed Variation from ADE	Proposed Area <sup>9</sup> (sq km)
Central Wheatbelt	26,652	1,532	28,184	-7.39%	102,127						
Kalgoorlie	20,268	8,332	28,600	-6.02%	555,549	Kalgoorlie	21,057	11,325	32,382	6.41%	754,990
Kimberley	16,514	8,032	24,546	-19.34%	536,571	Kimberley	16,583	12,589	29,172	-4.14%	839,289
North West Central	11,021	12,275	23,296	-23.45%	820,591						
						Mid West	24,256	6,468	30,724	0.96%	431,224
Pilbara	23,716	4,383	28,099	-7.66%	292,570	Pilbara	28,182	3,305	31,487	3.47%	220,327
Roe	25,387	1,575	26,962	-11.39%	104,934	Roe	28,724	1,859	30,583	0.50%	123,906
	<b>123,558</b>	<b>36,129</b>	<b>159,687</b>				<b>118,802</b>	<b>35,546</b>	<b>154,348</b>		

<sup>9</sup> Area calculations based on Albers Australia 2020 using Australian Bureau of Statistics – SA1 Statistical Areas Level 1 – 2021 – Shapefile (GDA 2020), *Australian Statistical Geography Standard Edition 3*, reference period July 2021-June 2026, released 20 July 2021, available at <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/standards/australian-statistical-geography-standard-asgs-edition-3/jul2021-jun2026/access-and-downloads/digital-boundary-files>. Excludes area seaward of the low water mark.



## Conclusion

---

The boundary adjustments proposed by the Commissioners are extensive. The proposed creation of the new districts of Oakford and Mid West, the boundary adjustments required to address excessive variations from ADE, and the cascading impact of these changes on surrounding districts would see 53 of Western Australia's 59 electoral districts with new boundaries at the next State election.

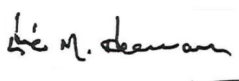
Where possible the Commissioners have sought to maintain clear communities of interest and land use patterns within districts, and to ensure districts have boundaries that are clearly recognisable to electors. However, in some instances these considerations have had to be subordinated to the prevailing statutory requirement to keep elector numbers within the prescribed tolerance limits. Overall, the Commissioners judge this proposal to have struck an appropriate balance between the factors they are required to consider in their decision making and the elector population requirements to which they must adhere.

The Commissioners wish to acknowledge the efforts of the individuals and organisations who have made contributions to the 2023 Distribution process. In particular, the Commissioners are appreciative of the insights provided by those who have taken the time to submit suggestions and/or comments during the public consultation processes undertaken to date.

Interested persons are now invited to lodge objections to or comments on the proposals contained within this paper.

Objections may relate to the proposed boundaries, district names or other relevant matters, and must be made in writing. They should contain clear and concise explanations of the objection and the reasoning behind it. Objections must be received by 5:00pm on 21 August 2023. All objections received will be made publicly available on the Electoral Boundaries WA website and at the premises of the Office of the Electoral Distribution Commissioners after this date.

The Commissioners will consider all objections received before finalising district boundaries. It should therefore be noted that the final boundaries determined by the Commissioners may vary from the proposed boundaries outlined in this document. The final boundaries will be published by 1 December 2023 and will apply at the next State General Election due to be held in March 2025. Importantly, any by-elections that occur before the next State General Election will be conducted in accordance with the current district boundaries as set by the 2019 Distribution.



The Hon. Eric Heenan KC,  
retired Judge of the  
Supreme Court of  
Western Australia  
(Chairperson)



Mr Tom Joseph  
Government Statistician



Mr Robert Kennedy  
Electoral Commissioner

Additional data provided under licence by:



© Western Australian Land Information Authority (Landgate) (2023)