

Submission into the

proposed redistribution of

Electoral Districts for

Western Australia

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| W.A.E.C. RECORDS | |
| FILE No. | DST 0138 |
| DATE | 27 APR 2019 |
| ACTION BY: | |

Author: Jeff Waddell

Disclaimer: Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the data provided in this analysis, there may be unintended instances of calculation or raw data errors. As the author, I make no attempt to intentionally mislead the reader, nor for the reader to draw incorrect conclusions should any error of calculation be found in this analysis. I have performed all calculations in good faith, assuming my work to be 100% correct.

Declaration of interest: The author is a member of Pauline Hanson's One Nation political party

To the members of the Western Australian Redistribution Committee,

Though not a resident of WA, I have been one of literally a handful of regular, private, individual contributors to Electoral Redistributions at both Commonwealth and State/Territory levels since 2013.

This submission draws on those 6 years of experience.

Normally my submissions are detailed, focussing on all elements of a Redistribution – enrolment, District Names and boundaries.

Other priorities have prevented me from being able to dedicate that level of focus for this Redistribution.

However, I do have some comments and suggestions relating to principles which I would like the Redistribution Committee to consider.

On the naming of State Electoral Districts

I propose the Redistribution Committee adopts 2 principles – the first is applied at Commonwealth and at some State levels; the second relates to District Naming.

Principle 1 – The names of State Electoral Districts should not duplicate Commonwealth Electoral Division names.

This is to avoid potential voter confusion especially when both Federal and State elections can be held within a short timeframe.

Should the Redistribution Committee adopt this principle it would have to rename the Districts of Fremantle, Moore & Perth.

Following on from that principle it is also logical to apply the same process to avoid duplicity of State Electoral District and Local Government Area (LGA) names. However, the approach here should simply be not to rename or create any new District with a name identical to a current LGA name.

The second principle has been applied at State level in South Australia for many years and was also adopted by Queensland to a significant extent at their 2016 Redistribution.

The reasoning behind the Queensland Redistribution Committee's decision to move from locality-based District Names to names relating to significant people or landmarks follows on the next page. I encourage the Western Australian Redistribution Committee to consider the logic of their Queensland counterparts.

Principle 2 – Significant Landmarks, Geographical Features or the names of prominent Western Australians who have contributed significantly to the State or Commonwealth should be considered in preference to a locality name whenever a new District name is required.

The *Commission* decided to deviate from the practice of naming electoral districts after towns or suburbs within them, favouring instead the use of the names of significant people or landmarks.

Experience has shown that in time electorates 'move' as their boundaries change, sometimes resulting in a suburb which was formerly central to the district, being outside the electorate, or on its margin. In some of the more densely populated areas, containing several suburbs or localities, it is difficult to see why the name of one suburb should be preferred over that of others.

It is true to observe that landmarks too may cease to be central to an electorate. Where the *Commission* has opted to name an electorate after a landmark, it has done so in the hope that it will be regarded as easily identifiable with most of the electoral district.

The commissioners have named a number of electorates after people who have contributed significantly to the life of the State. This was more readily done where a person had lived in an area within the electorate, or had performed work which supported the area. In the case of some, whose contribution was thought to be to the whole State (or even the country), the commissioners concluded that such a nexus was not necessarily required. The *Commission* decided that they would not consider the names of any living or recently deceased person.

Taken from page 149 of the Queensland Government Gazette; 26th May 2017

Should the Redistribution Committee choose to adopt this principle, there are a handful of names suggested below which the Redistribution Committee could consider as potential Electoral District Names.

Though there are undoubtedly many other names that the Redistribution Committee may also wish to consider.

| District Name | In Honour of | Contribution |
|---------------|---|--|
| Chaney | Sir Fredrick Charles Chaney (1914-2001) | Teacher, Serviceman, Politician |
| Dampier | William Dampier (1651-1715) | First English explorer to discover Australia |
| Giles | William Ernest Giles (1835-1897) | Explorer of SA & WA. 3rd major expedition in 1875 crossed the Great Victoria Desert to WA, returning across the Gibson Desert. |
| Holman | Holman; Mary Alice (May) (1893-1939) | Politician, 1st woman in the ALP, and the second woman to become a parliamentarian |
| Leake | Leake family | Politicians; Justice System |
| Serventy | Vincent Serventy (1916-2007) | Author, ornithologist and conservationist. Made documentary films which led to Australia's first TV environment program, Nature Walkabout (1967) |
| Stone | Sir Edward Albert Stone (1844-1920) | Lawyer, lieutenant governor, politician, 4th Chief Justice of Western Australia |

+++ End of Document +++