

WAEC
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THE NATIONALS *for Regional WA*

2019 Electoral Boundary Review

29 April 2019

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Executive Summary | 3 |
| State Wide Map | 5 |
| MINING AND PASTORAL | 7 |
| Kalgoorlie | |
| Kimberley | |
| North West Central | |
| Pilbara | |
| AGRICULTURAL REGION | 9 |
| Central Wheatbelt | |
| Geraldton | |
| Moore | |
| Roe | |
| SOUTH WEST | 11 |
| Albany | |
| Bunbury | |
| Collie-Preston | |
| Dawesville | |
| Mandurah | |
| Murray-Wellington | |
| Vasse | |
| Warren-Blackwood | |
| CONCLUSION | 15 |

THE NATIONAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA (WA)
SUBMISSION: 2019 ELECTORAL BOUNDARY REVIEW

Executive Summary

The Nationals WA are pleased to present the Electoral Distribution Commissioners with the following recommendations for the Electoral Boundary Review 2019.

The following terms are used in this document:

- Large District Allowance (LDA): The added elector allowance for districts greater than 100,000km². This is calculated by multiplying the area of the electorate by 1.5%.
- Average District Enrolment (ADE): The total number of enrolled electors, divided by the number of Legislative Assembly seats.
For the purposes of the 2019 distribution review, the ADE is calculated to be 27,573.
- Variation from Average District Enrolment (VFADE): The variation from ADE.
- District / Electorate / Seat: Used interchangeably to reference the geographic area associated with enrolled electors, which Members of Parliament represent.
- Local Government Area (LGA): The land permissible to a Shire, City or Municipal Council.

As highlighted in the *Process Overview* document during the snapshot of enrolled electors on the 11 March 2019, the following districts were outside permissible VFADE:

| Electoral District | Number enrolled electors | VFADE | Legislative Council Region |
|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|
| Swan Hills | 34,864 | 26.44% | East Metropolitan |
| Butler | 34,345 | 24.56% | North Metropolitan |
| Baldivis | 33,640 | 22.00% | North Metropolitan |
| Darling Range | 32,913 | 19.37% | East Metropolitan |
| Jandakot | 31,246 | 13.32% | South Metropolitan |
| Dawesville | 31,407 | 12.06% | South West |
| West Swan | 30,513 | 10.66% | North Metropolitan |
| Midland | 30,465 | 10.49% | East Metropolitan |
| Perth | 30,454 | 10.45% | North Metropolitan |
| Moore | 24,206 | (-12.21%) | Agricultural Region |
| Kimberley | 21,590 | (-21.70%) | Mining and Pastoral |

THE NATIONAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA (WA)
SUBMISSION: 2019 ELECTORAL BOUNDARY REVIEW

The Nationals WA have taken these statistics into account when drafting this submission.

Firstly The Nationals WA strongly recommend, following the Electoral Distribution Commissioners' decision in 2015, that no regional district is abolished at this boundary redistribution.

The sheer size of some large districts, particularly in the north of the State, continue to make access to local representation extremely difficult for constituents who are, in some cases, over 2000km by road away from their local representative's office.

This submission provides that all districts in regional WA should be retained.

Secondly, The Nationals WA argue that the current distribution of Legislative Council regions and electors should remain unchanged where possible.

The Nationals WA see no reason to amend the composition of electorates per region and strongly recommend that the Mining and Pastoral Region retains four districts, the Agricultural Region retains four districts, and that the South West Region retains eight districts.

In previous submissions from WA Labor, The Liberals, as well as The Nationals WA from 2011 and 2015 concur with retaining the same number of Legislative Assembly districts within the Legislative Council regions.

Finally, following the redistribution in 2015, in which the commissioners made the decision to abolish one regional district and make substantial boundary changes to neighbouring districts, The Nationals WA submit that the commissioners should be guided by the principle of 'minimal change'.

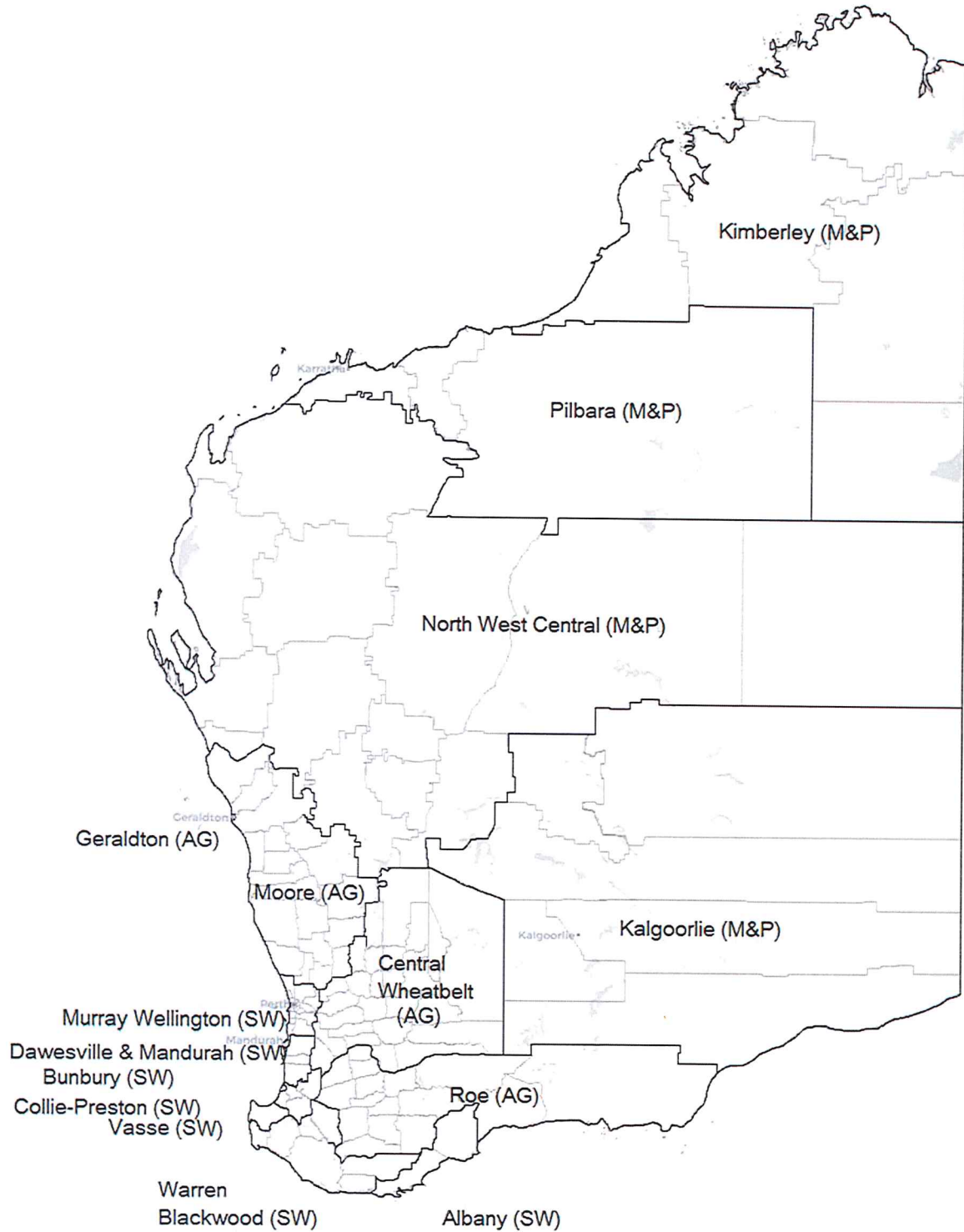
Our submission focusses on regional districts as that is the primary focus of our membership.

The Nationals WA propose the following changes to electoral boundaries:

1. The Shire of East Pilbara is divided along 126.0E meridian. Lands and electors to the east of the 126.0E meridian to the State border are moved to the district of Kimberley. The remainder of the Shire of East Pilbara is retained in the electorate of Pilbara.
2. The shires of Goomalling and Wongan-Ballidu move from the district of Central Wheatbelt to the district of Moore.
3. The shires of Kulin and Wickopin move from the district of Roe to the district of Central Wheatbelt.
4. The electorate of Dawesville is brought within the allowable limit, through minimal boundary change.
5. Metropolitan district boundaries are amended to result in all metropolitan seats pertaining a VFADE of +1.03%.

THE NATIONAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA (WA)
SUBMISSION: 2019 ELECTORAL BOUNDARY REVIEW

Proposed Electorates Map



THE NATIONAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA (WA)
SUBMISSION: 2019 ELECTORAL BOUNDARY REVIEW

Mining and Pastoral Region

The Mining and Pastoral region contains the following electorates:

1. Kalgoorlie
2. Kimberley
3. North West Central
4. Pilbara

It is proposed that four regions remain in Mining and Pastoral, with minor adjustments to improve VFADE within allowable limits.

| ELECTORATE | Electors enrolment 11 March 2019 | VFADE 2019 | Proposed elector enrolment (Incl. LDA) | Proposed VFADE |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------------|--|-------------------|
| Kalgoorlie <i>Actual Electors</i> LDA | 27,954 19,622 8332 | 1.38% | 27,954 19,622 8332 | 1.38% |
| Kimberley <i>Actual Electors</i> LDA | 21,590 15,275 6315 | -21.70% | 24,646 16,932 7714 | -10.62% |
| North West Central <i>Actual Electors</i> LDA | 22,171 9915 12,256 | -19.59% | 22,171 9915 12,256 | -19.59% |
| Pilbara <i>Actual Electors</i> LDA | 27,983 21,885 6098 | 1.49% | 24,997 20,128 4869 | -9.35% |
| TOTAL | 99,698 Ave electors 24,924.5 | -9.61% | 99,768 Ave electors 24,942 | -9.55% |

Kalgoorlie

Due to the VFADE at the March 2019 snapshot data and the substantial boundary changes to the electorate in 2015, The Nationals WA argue it is not necessary to change the electorate border at this boundary review.

Kimberley

The Kimberley currently exceeds the (-20%) VFADE allowable for electorates with LDA.

The Nationals WA propose that the local government area of East Pilbara be partitioned, along the 126.0E meridian. This would increase the LDA of the Kimberley, enough to bring the District back within the required VFADE. This enables the retention of an electorate of somewhat manageable size for one elected Member of Parliament. By moving a section of the Shire of East Pilbara from the

THE NATIONAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA (WA)
SUBMISSION: 2019 ELECTORAL BOUNDARY REVIEW

electorate of Pilbara to the Kimberley, the Mining and Pastoral region is able to retain four Legislative Assembly seats.

While we are hesitant to recommend any boundary changes that split local government areas, there is only one direction for the Kimberley to move. If the entire Shire of East Pilbara is included in the Kimberley, this substantially alters the boundary for the Pilbara District and causes more significant change which must flow on to other districts within the Mining and Pastoral region.

In considering this boundary change, The Nationals WA urge the commissioners to adhere to the principle of 'minimal change', particularly to prevent voter confusion and allow Newman to remain in a true Pilbara District.

Pilbara

The Pilbara loses 74,196km² from the Shire of East Pilbara, reducing the total area of the Pilbara to 297,500km². This division would be achieved by extending the western border of the Shire of Halls Creek southward along the 126.0E meridian. The Pilbara continues to satisfy the criteria for LDA. Existing boundaries otherwise remain unchanged.

North West Central

The Nationals WA propose the electorate of North West Central remain unchanged during this boundary review, in line with the recommended minimal change. North West Central is presently within the VFADE and allows for future expansion of towns in this electorate due to future mining construction and operation expansions.

THE NATIONAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA (WA)
SUBMISSION: 2019 ELECTORAL BOUNDARY REVIEW

Agricultural Region

The Agricultural Region is defined as an area south, southwest of and adjacent to the Mining and Pastoral region and whose land is mainly used for agriculture.

This legislative region comprises four Districts:

1. Central Wheatbelt
2. Geraldton
3. Moore
4. Roe

There is an inability to grow Moore southwards, due to the North Metropolitan Region border. This will have a flow on effect, through to the remainder of electorates in the Agricultural Region.

| ELECTORATE | Electors enrolment 11 March 2019 | VFADE 2019 | Proposed elector enrolment (Incl. LDA) | Proposed VFADE |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------------|--|-------------------|
| Central Wheatbelt <i>Actual Electors</i> <i>LDA</i> | 27,374 25,855 1519 | -0.72% | 26,890 25,344 1546 | -2.48% |
| Geraldton | 25,874 | -6.16% | 25,874 | -6.16% |
| Moore | 24,206 | -12.21% | 25,795 | -6.45% |
| Roe <i>Actual Electors</i> <i>LDA</i> | 27,082 25,486 1596 | -1.78% | 26,009 25,155 1596 | -5.67% |
| TOTAL | 104,536 Ave electors 26,134 | -5.22% | 104568 Ave electors 26142 | -5.19% |

Central Wheatbelt

The Nationals WA propose that, due to the loss of the Shires of Wongan-Ballidu and Goomalling to Moore, that the Central Wheatbelt gains the Shire of Kulin and Shire of Wickepin from Roe. This also allows the retention of LDA for Central Wheatbelt. Both the Shires of Kulin and Wickepin have commonalities with Shires in the Central Wheatbelt. By way of example, Kulin-Kondinin Football Club plays in the Eastern Districts Football League which includes teams in Bruce Rock, Merredin, Corrigin and Narembeen.

Geraldton

As the VFADE is within the allowable limit (-6.15%) there is no need to amend the boundaries of Geraldton based upon the 11 March 2019 snapshot data.

Moore

The electorate of Moore currently has (-12.60%) VFADE, and as such is outside allowable limits by (-2.60%). It is vital that, in order to retain all current regional seats, the VFADE is significantly lowered to allow for further population changes.

Due to Moore bordering the North Metropolitan and Mining and Pastoral Regions, the only possible change without altering Legislative Council Region boundaries is to add electors from Central Wheatbelt. The Nationals WA contend the Shires of Goomalling and Wongan-Ballidu be shifted into Moore. Wongan-Ballidu is closer to Moora than to Northam. The addition of these electors moves Moore to (-6.45%) VFADE, which the best case scenario for lowering VFADE with minimal change.

Roe

The electorate of Roe currently has an acceptable VFADE, but due to changes to Moore and Central Wheatbelt, must lose electors to Central Wheatbelt so the seat can maintain VFADE within acceptable levels.

The current geographic size of the electorate of Roe has resulted due to the previous boundary review. Electors from two districts were combined, resulting in significant change. There are a significant number of towns and local governments within Roe, by transferring electors to Central Wheatbelt this makes it easier for the elected Member of Parliament to accurately service the whole electorate.

THE NATIONAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA (WA)
SUBMISSION: 2019 ELECTORAL BOUNDARY REVIEW

South West

The South West region is defined as the region which includes coastal and forest areas in the south west of the State. The following electorates are located in the South West Region:

1. Albany
2. Bunbury
3. Collie-Preston
4. Dawesville
5. Mandurah
6. Murray-Wellington
7. Vasse
8. Warren-Blackwood

Following the principle of minimal change, The Nationals WA propose to transfer electors from Dawesville to Murray-Wellington.

| ELECTORATE | Elector enrolment 11 March 2019 | VFADE 2019 | Proposed elector enrolment | Proposed VFADE |
|-------------------|--|-----------------------|--|---------------------------|
| Albany | 27,342 | -0.84% | 27,342 | -0.84% |
| Bunbury | 28,274 | 2.54% | 28,274 | 2.54% |
| Collie-Preston | 28,887 | 4.77% | 28,887 | 4.77% |
| Dawesville | 31,047 | 12.60% | 30,000 | 8.81% |
| Mandurah | 30,300 | 9.89% | 30,300 | 9.89% |
| Murray-Wellington | 28,939 | 4.96% | 29,986 | 8.76% |
| Vasse | 29,175 | 5.81% | 29,175 | 5.81% |
| Warren-Blackwood | 27,951 | 1.37% | 27,951 | 1.37% |
| TOTAL | 231,915 Ave electors 28,989.4 | 5.14% | 231,915 Ave electors 28,989.4 | 5.14% |

Albany

No changes to the electoral boundary of Albany are required.

Bunbury

No changes to the electoral boundary of Bunbury are required.

Collie-Preston

No changes to the electoral boundary of Collie-Preston are required.

Dawesville

Due to the population in the City of Mandurah local government area being more than double the ADE, the electors are divided into two electorates. Dawesville will require boundary changes to absorb a growing population. The Nationals WA believe that this can be achieved by minimal change.

Transferring some voters from Dawesville to Murray-Wellington will allow Dawesville to remain within VFADE. This is achievable by dividing the Statistical Area 2 Dawesville - Bouvard into two zones, with the southern zone moving to Murray-Wellington and the northern zone remaining in the district of Dawesville.

Mandurah

No changes to the electoral boundary of Mandurah are required.

Murray-Wellington

By absorbing some voters from Dawesville, Murray-Wellington would remain within VFADE at 8.76%.

Vasse

No changes to the electoral boundary of Vasse are required.

Warren-Blackwood

No changes to the electoral boundary of Warren-Blackwood are required.

Conclusion

In light of the fact there was significant change in electorates in 2017 as a result of the 2015 boundary redistribution, The Nationals WA recommend a minimal change approach for this boundary review. Continued and significant boundary changes erode public confidence and engagement. This scenario should be avoided where possible.

The Nationals WA strongly oppose any proposal that leads to a loss of a regional district to the metropolitan area.

The Nationals WA note that the number of metropolitan electorates already provides an advantage to metropolitan constituents whilst regional Members of Parliament have on average been forced to cover larger electorates. The electorate of Central Wheatbelt, for example, is the size of Portugal. North West Central is the largest seat in Western Australia, stretching from Carnarvon through to the Ngaanyatjaraku lands. It is difficult for one Member of Parliament to accurately represent all towns, cities and peoples within these electorates.

The Nationals WA urge the Electoral Distribution Commissioners to keep the size of regional electorates and the ability for electors to access their Members of Parliament in mind when deliberating any boundary changes.

The Nationals WA submit to the Commissioners that they minimise changes between Legislative Council region boundaries, and suggest a practical way forward for the Electoral Distribution Commissioners to consider in their deliberations on the level of representation in regional WA.

Minimal boundary changes will enable the Electoral Distribution Commissioners to address the factors from the *Electoral Act 1907*, especially communities of interest, land use and existing local government and statistical area boundaries.

The proposed State electoral boundaries in this document allow all electorates to remain within the permitted variations for average district enrolment, maintain communities of interest within electoral districts and better balance representation for regional areas.