



**WA Labor's Comments on Submissions to the
WA Electoral Distribution Committee
2019 Redistribution of Western Australia's
State electoral boundaries**

Overview

While there were only 15 submissions received by the WA Electoral Distribution Commission, many of them contain several common features.

Most submissions agree that no existing districts need to be abolished and therefore very substantial changes are not necessary. In addition:

- Multiple submissions propose to deal with Perth's surplus by moving West Perth west of the Mitchell Freeway to Nedlands;
- Multiple submissions propose to reunite Ballajura into West Swan;
- Multiple submissions propose to move Banksia Grove into Wanneroo.

However, there are aspects of the other submissions which WA Labor does not support.

WA Labor particularly opposes:

- Shire of Collie being separated from the Bunbury area
- Beldon being moved out of Joondalup
- Balcatta moving into Joondalup LGA
- Ellenbrook being split
- The eastern boundary of Bicton being changed
- Lesmurdie being moved into Forrestfield
- Leeming going into Willagee (renamed Bibra Lake)
- Jerramungup LGA remaining in Albany
- Districts being named after individuals rather than localities

These objections are divided up by region.

WA Labor would like to note the continuing disparity between higher average enrolments in metropolitan and lower average enrolments in regional districts. Therefore, WA Labor strongly advocates for crossing existing metropolitan boundaries to solve this disparity.

Agricultural Region

WA Labor opposes Jerramungup LGA being kept with the district of Albany, as the Liberal and National submissions advocate. As the WA Labor and Walsh submissions show, it is both possible and desirable to keep Albany entirely within the boundaries of Albany LGA.

Jerramungup LGA has much stronger community of interest with the district of Roe and the Agricultural region than the Liberals' proposal of including the Shire of Collie in the district of Roe.

South West Region

WA Labor opposes breaking up the current district of Collie-Preston.

The Liberal submission and Gordon submission transfer Collie LGA into Roe and the Walsh submission combines it with Murray LGA. Joining Collie with either the Wheatbelt or communities adjacent to the Peel Inlet would produce a district with much weaker internal communities of interest.

Collie should remain linked to the Bunbury area. At every election since the introduction of one-vote one-value boundaries, this has been the case. The Collie community looks much more to Bunbury than it does to either to the wheatbelt or the Murray region.

WA Labor notes the Nationals' submission that the district of Collie-Preston remains unchanged. During the 2015 Redistribution that Nationals quite rightly noted that *"Collie has an important strategic transportation link to the Port of Bunbury"* and that *"Collie is well positioned to support the growth and development of a number of large industrial sectors due to its proximity to power, water and port facilities"*

The significant points against the transfer of Shire of Collie into the Agricultural Region are well articulated by the Shire of Collie in previous submissions.

In the Shire of Collie's submission to the WAEC on 12 May 2015 they make significant arguments against the transfer of their Shire into the Agricultural Region. The Shire argues that people shop, recreate and send their children to the west of their Shire as well as the fact that *"Being essentially a mining town, the Collie community considers itself to have little in common with Wagin (now Roe) being an agricultural based community"*.

These points are further reiterated in the Shire of Collie submission on 27 April 2011.

"There is a strong community of interest argument for retaining the Shire of Collie in the South West. The community of interest that Collie has with Bunbury and the South West is reflected in a number of organisations at a state and federal level (e.g. the South West Development Commission and Regional Development Australia), the existing administrative regions (e.g. Department of Planning, Department of Environment and Conservation etc.) which are then reflected in a number of key documents that cover the administrative regions in each Department.

The community of Collie also has strong ties with the South West with much movement of people between Collie and Bunbury and its hinterland for employment, regional recreations (e.g. Collie Motorplex), and to access services. Relative to the South West there is very little connection with communities to the east."

WA Labor notes that the Shire of Collie's economic, local government and development commission links are all within the South West Region, rather than the Agricultural Region. Indeed its industry and land use do not fit the statutory definition pertaining to the Agricultural Region.

In consequence, WA Labor argues that the Shire of Collie ought to remain in the South West Region and within the district of Collie-Preston.

The Nationals' submission brings Dawesville back into the permitted range by shedding the Bouvard/Herron area to Murray-Wellington. This contrasts with the solution in the Labor, Liberal, City Of Mandurah and Walsh proposals of making simple adjustments in Dudley Park. By losing the Bouvard/Herron area, the peninsula to the west of the Peel Inlet is split. This area looks very much towards Dawesville to the north rather than Waroona or Harvey to the south.

The City of Mandurah's proposal also suggests transferring part of Dudley Park from Dawesville to Mandurah. However, their proposed suggestion would not produce a clean boundary. Splitting the suburb along Leslie St produces a much neater division of Dudley Park and a much more easily understood boundary.

WA Labor objects to the Walsh submission's proposal to divide the district of Bunbury into two districts, Bunbury East and Bunbury South.

The Walsh proposal effectively replaces the current seats of Bunbury and Collie Preston, thereby severing the community of interest between the localities of Collie and Bunbury. In

addition, the whole of Bunbury is culturally a singular community with a strong identity and strong communities of interest. Splitting the City of Bunbury in half makes no economic, social or electoral sense and will clearly result in confusion about which area is represented by each Member.

South Metropolitan Region

The Liberal submission proposes a new eastern boundary for Bicton. However, the current boundary along North Lake Rd is strong and very clearly identifiable. As other submissions show, it is possible to enlarge Bicton without breaching North Lake Rd. If the Committee chooses to add electors to Bicton, it should do so by moving the district south rather than east, as both the WA Labor and Walsh submissions do.

The residents who live East of North Lake Rd do not frequent services and shopping centres to the west of North Lake Rd. As well as this, Booragoon Primary School and Melville Senior High School share the same natural boundary for school intake areas along North Lake Road.

The flow on effects of moving the district of Bicton east could potentially cause the district of Cockburn to cross the freeway which also would be a risk, the freeway being a strong and identifiable boundary.

In the same way the Liberal submission unnecessarily splits suburbs in the Northern Metropolitan region, it does the same thing here. Notably, it splits Canning Vale three ways between the districts of Jandakot, Riverton and Southern River, and Thornlie three ways between the districts of Cannington, Southern River and Thornlie. Suburb splits in this part of the world should be minimised.

Finally, the Walsh submission crosses the Kwinana Freeway in three different places. It also produces a Bibra Lake district that stretches from Samson to Leeming. Leeming has little connection to the suburbs across the freeway.

East Metropolitan Region

The Liberal submission splits Ellenbrook between the districts of West Swan and Swan Hills. As both the Labor submission and the Walsh submission show, it is straightforward to keep all of Ellenbrook in one district. The Ellenbrook area was previously split in 2013, and it would be highly undesirable to split it again just one cycle after reuniting it.

WA Labor disagrees that it is desirable to split the locality of Ellenbrook into two districts. The Ellenbrook area has a strong community of interest tied to the Ellenbrook Town Centre and the Commission should recognise this and ensure that the entirety of the Ellenbrook LGA is situated inside one district.

The southern part of Ellenbrook has strong links with the remainder of Ellenbrook as well as the localities of Aveley and The Vines. It has very little connection to the locality of Ballajura, which the Liberal submission places it with.

WA Labor's submission dealt with the district of Swan Hills' surplus by tightly drawing the district around the localities of Ellenbrook and Bullsbrook. This fits with the City of Swan adopting a "place-based" governance model which defines the Ellenbrook/Bullsbrook localities as a cogent whole, which access the same common civic infrastructure and are served as a distinct geographically bound area by the City of Swan.

The Walsh submission creates a substantial amount of disruption in this region by abolishing Mirrabooka and creating a new Mundaring district on the other side of the region. As the WA

Labor submission shows, it is possible to deal with the Swan Hills surplus and create a more compact West Swan without moving so many electors.

The Walsh submission also moves the locality of Lesmurdie into Forrestfield. Lesmurdie should remain in the same district as the localities of Kalamunda and Gooseberry Hill rather than being paired with Forrestfield or Kenwick. The proposal to move the locality of Lesmurdie into the district of Forrestfield does not suit community of interests as Lesmurdie is not geographically aligned with the rest of the district of Forrestfield. The locality of Lesmurdie is also separated from the distinct parts of the district of Forrestfield by a National Park.

The Liberal submission also advocates for the district of Mirrabooka to move northwards into the localities of Girrawheen and Marangaroo. WA Labor objects to this proposal. Many of the current localities in the district of Girrawheen are serviced by the Girrawheen hub set up by the City of Wanneroo. Multicultural groups, employment programs and financial counsellors are based at the Girrawheen hub. The Member for Girrawheen's office is also based in the locality of Girrawheen and moving the locality of Girrawheen into the district of Mirrabooka is not sensible. The high levels of disadvantage in the locality of Girrawheen means that residents require a proximate and comprehensive service delivery by their local Member.

Currently the district of Girrawheen has large informality rates. A percentage of this issue is attributed to the prevalence of CALD voters and low English literacy levels. The splitting of suburbs in the district of Girrawheen is likely to cause ongoing informality issues to a greater extent.

North Metropolitan Region

The Liberal submission unnecessarily splits a number of suburbs in this region. While the Labor submission has attempted to reunite suburbs where possible, the Liberal submission creates more suburb splits than it rectifies.

Balcatta would move into Joondalup LGA and create a new, unnecessary split of Warwick. The Liberal submission also creates splits of Padbury, Mullaloo, Hocking and Marangaroo.

Balcatta and Kingsley have very strong existing boundaries and there is no numerical need to tinker with them.

The locality of Warwick has a strong existing community of interest with the Kingsley electorate as Warwick residents will shop, recreate and send their children to schools to the north rather than to the south.

In addition, Beldon has strong links with the Joondalup CBD and should be united into the district of Joondalup. It should not be transferred to the district of Hillarys as advocated in the Walsh and Anson submissions.

The localities of Beldon and Edgewater have strong communities of interest towards the Joondalup CBD locality. It is unnecessary and not suitable for community of interests to move these two localities out of the Joondalup district.

The systematic issue with the Liberals' proposal for the North Metropolitan region stems from the way in which they attempt to deal with the district of Butler's surplus. In their submission they propose moving the locality of Quinns Rocks into the district of Burns Beach.

This attempt at solving the quota issue in Butler leads to the muddled boundaries for the rest of the North Metropolitan region outlined above.

WA Labor's submission deals with the quota issue in the district of Butler by re-drawing the district of Moore which would cross the metropolitan boundary on the northern fringe of Perth and easily absorb Butler's surplus.

WA Labor agrees with the Anson submission that Currambine and the remainder of Joondalup should go into the district of Joondalup. However, this submission produces a district that's over quota and cannot be implemented in full. Iluka will have to stay in the district of Burns Beach.

The Walsh submission to exclude part of North Perth from the district of Perth, but re-include a section of the district of Mount Lawley into the district of Perth is an illogical division of suburbs, and effectively splits town centres.

Firstly, it divides not only the locality of Mt Lawley but the community of interest around the Mt Lawley town centre, which was only reunited in the last redistribution of the district of Mount Lawley. There is a clear and strong community based around the Mount Lawley town centre, which is also reflected in local community organisations, like the Beaufort Street Network.

Secondly, the proposition to split the locality of North Perth via its town centre down Angove Street and Fitzgerald Street both divides a strong community of interest and ignores current and future land use development of the North Perth town centre.

The City of Vincent's Master Plan for the North Perth Town Centre (Fitzgerald and Angove Streets), adopted in February 2013, recognises the critical connection between both Angove and Fitzgerald streets, and their importance as a "major movement spine" to the town centre. As a result, any planning for future land use development and precinct development requires consideration of both streets together. The Master plan also recognised a strong local community of interest, described as "cohesive" and "passionate" for the town centre to succeed. This has now been formalised via the community organisation North Perth Local, representing both the town centre and wider suburb. In addition to this, the intersection of Angove and Fitzgerald Streets is now recognised formally as an integrated District Centre under the City of Vincent's Local Planning Scheme No 2. Accordingly, the proposal to split the locality of North Perth or its town centre makes little sense, given both the strong community of interest for the neighbourhood and strategic long-term land use planning for the suburb as a district centre.

Walsh's proposal would in addition split the strong community of interest based around North Perth Primary School, which has boundaries that span both sides of Angove Street, and Fitzgerald Street.

It is far more logical, as suggested by several submissions, to reduce the number of electors in the division of Perth, by using the physical barrier and division of the Mitchell Freeway, to exclude the locality of West Perth from the district of Perth.

Mining and Pastoral Region

As the Labor, Liberal and National submissions show, it is possible to avoid abolishing a district in this region.

The City of Karratha submission indicates their view that they share "close ties" with Ashburton LGA. This fits with WA Labor's proposal for the district of Pilbara which places Karratha and Ashburton into the same district.

Naming of districts

As indicated in WA Labor's submission and echoed explicitly in the Liberal submission and implicitly in the National and Walsh submissions, districts should only be renamed when necessary as the result of major boundary changes. District names should be based on localities that are significant and/or central to the new district.

Elector confusion should not be increased by changing more district names than is strictly necessary.