



WA Labor's Submission to the
WA Electoral Distribution Committee
2019 Redistribution of Western Australia's
State electoral boundaries

Overview

WA Labor's submission is guided by the following high-level observations:

- Metropolitan districts on average have higher enrolments than regional districts; and
- The imbalance between metropolitan and regional enrolments can be solved by the creation of one or more districts that cross the metropolitan boundary.

Many districts are currently drawn on strong boundaries, be that a suburb, geographical feature or Local Government Area (LGA) borders. Therefore, changes should occur in areas needing to lose or gain electors to meet the legislative requirements.

WA Labor's key proposals include:

- A district should cross the metropolitan boundary on the northern fringe of Perth. That seat should be Moore as it can easily absorb Butler's surplus;
- A district should cross the metropolitan boundary on the southern fringe of Perth. That seat should be Murray Wellington, which can include most of the Serpentine-Jarrahdale LGA;
- Swan Hills should be tightly drawn around Ellenbrook and Bullsbrook. Swan Hills' Mundaring LGA component should be moved to the district of Kalamunda;
- West Swan's surplus should be dealt with by transferring Banksia Grove to the district of Wanneroo;
- The district of Perth's surplus should be dealt with by moving the locality of West Perth to the district of Nedlands;
- Communities of interest in the northern suburbs should be improved by making the district of Hillarys entirely coastal and the district of Joondalup entirely inland;
- A district centred on Byford should replace the current district of Darling Range;
- The district of Baldivis' surplus should be dealt with by moving most of its Kwinana LGA component to the district of Kwinana;
- The Bunbury and outer-Bunbury suburbs, currently split between three districts, should be consolidated into the districts of Bunbury and Collie-Preston as much as possible, facilitated by transferring Donnybrook-Balingup LGA to the district of Warren-Blackwood and Plantagenet LGA to the district of Roe; and
- Jerramungup LGA should be moved from the district of Albany to Roe.

Naming of districts

It is the strong view of WA Labor that the Commission maintain their policy of naming districts after localities.

Because eleven districts are outside the permitted numerical range, the boundary redraw will require significant movement of electors. The absolute priority at the conclusion of this process is to minimise the confusion and maximise awareness of the districts in which electors now fall.

Naming districts after localities that are significant or central to the district will assist electors with understanding how boundary changes have affected them.

Metropolitan/Regional Boundaries

WA Labor proposes that two districts will have to cross the Perth metropolitan boundary.

WA Labor proposes the site of one of these crossings be the northernmost part of Wanneroo LGA.

Butler has a very large surplus. If the Commission attempts to distribute this surplus within the Northern Metropolitan region, it will necessitate a very substantial redraw across the northern suburbs, with major knock-on effects elsewhere.

To avoid the resulting set of significant changes, WA Labor proposes that Butler's surplus be dealt with by moving the localities of Yanchep and Two Rocks to Moore.

This mimics the arrangement of the federal division of Pearce, which also combines northern parts of Wanneroo LGA with the Gingin and Chittering LGAs.

All of the parts of Wanneroo LGA that WA Labor proposes to move to Moore are currently in the federal division of Pearce.

Under this arrangement more local electors would share the same State and Federal representatives. This arrangement also better aligns with local school intake areas.

Moore can take on Butler's surplus if Geraldton absorbs the rest of Greater Geraldton LGA and Nrorth West Central takes some of its northern shires.

The second district WA Labor proposes to cross the metropolitan boundary of is Murray-Wellington. WA Labor proposes that Darling Range transfer as much as possible of Serpentine-Jarrahdale LGA to Murray-Wellington, including the localities of Serpentine and Jarrahdale. Not only does this cater for the growing population in Byford and surrounds by contracting the district, electors in the existing Murray-Wellington suburb of Pinjarra share a strong community of interest with electors in the Serpentine-Jarrahdale area. Both areas are similar in topography and population density and feature large farming properties.

At the previous redistribution, the Commissioners' solution to high growth in the metropolitan area was to abolish a seat in the Mining & Pastoral region and create a new seat in Perth. Crossing the metropolitan boundary in this way means that no regional district needs to be abolished. Further, it allows the Commission to redraw the rest of the metropolitan area in a way that minimises disruption and enhances communities of interest.

North Metropolitan Region

In addition to the changes to Butler detailed above, WA Labor suggests the following for consideration of the Commission that:

- Hillarys become an entirely coastal district and Joondalup entirely inland;
- The locality of Banksia Grove be transferred from the district of West Swan to Wanneroo; and
- The locality of West Perth be transferred from the district of Perth to Nedlands.

Joondalup/Hillarys/Burns Beach

At the last redistribution the district of Joondalup was extended to the coastline. In the previous two sets of boundaries, it was confined to inland suburbs.

The current boundaries split the localities of Beldon, Currambine, and Joondalup between districts. This redistribution is an opportunity for the Commission to draw a clearer set of boundaries within Joondalup LGA.

WA Labor proposes that:

- The localities of Mullaloo and Ocean Reef be transferred from the district of Joondalup to Hillarys;

- Craigie, Padbury and the remainder of Beldon be transferred from the district of Hillarys to Joondalup;
- Burns Beach's share of the locality of Joondalup be transferred to the district of Joondalup; and
- The district of Joondalup's share of the locality of Currambine be transferred to Burns Beach.

This arrangement has the following clear advantages over the status quo:

- No suburbs are split between multiple districts, compared to three suburbs split in the current boundaries;
- The inhabited part of Burns Beach is contained entirely to the west of the Mitchell Freeway;
- Hillarys covers entirely coastal suburbs, while Joondalup covers only suburbs inland from the coast; and
- Electors within the district of Burns Beach can travel to the office of the elected State representative inside the same district.

Wanneroo

The 2011 redistribution separated the locality of Banksia Grove from its neighbouring suburbs and placed it into the district of Butler. In 2015, Banksia Grove was moved into the district of West Swan, whose centre of gravity is well to the south-east. It is now numerically possible to return the locality of Banksia Grove to the district of Wanneroo. WA Labor strongly recommends this to the Commission.

Currently, Banksia Grove residents travel thirty minutes to Malaga, past the office of the member for Wanneroo within the first ten minutes of their trip, to visit the office of the member for West Swan. Residents in Banksia Grove also use amenities in Wanneroo including shopping centres and public transport, and the local school in Banksia Grove, has an intake largely from the district of Wanneroo.

Perth

WA Labor proposes the district of Perth's surplus be dealt with by transferring Kings Park and the locality of West Perth west of the Mitchell Freeway to the district of Nedlands.

This produces a very strong boundary while minimising disruption elsewhere.

The Mitchell Freeway is a key physical division between West Perth and the Perth CBD. Future land use patterns in West Perth forecast a redevelopment of the Subiaco East area around Subiaco Oval, as well as the former Children's Hospital site which will become a new residential and commercial hub. In addition, the Hay Street precinct located in Subiaco and Subiaco East in the district of Nedlands provides critical amenities to West Perth residents such as shopping centres and health services.

Other seats

No changes are proposed to Balcatta or Kingsley. These districts each have strong existing boundaries.

The districts of Balcatta and Kingsley are bound by Mitchell Freeway and Wanneroo Road. The district of Balcatta contains localities entirely within the Stirling LGA and its northern and southern borders overlap Federal division and LGA boundaries. The district of Kingsley contains localities entirely within the Joondalup LGA.

Few changes are needed to the band of the coastal districts from Cottesloe to Carine.

WA Labor proposes to unite the suburb of Gwelup into the district of Carine. This will create a much stronger boundary for the southeast of the district along Karrinyup Road.

District	Total Electors	Quota
Balcatta	28,178	2.2%
Burns Beach	28,699	4.1%
Butler	26,511	-3.9%
Carine	29,237	6.0%
Churchlands	27,203	-1.3%
Cottesloe	27,649	0.3%
Girrawheen	26,621	-3.5%
Hillarys	27,584	0.0%
Joondalup	28,981	5.1%
Kingsley	25,951	-5.9%
Nedlands	29,536	7.1%
Perth	28,313	2.7%
Scarborough	27,472	-0.4%
Wanneroo	29,982	8.7%

East Metropolitan Region

The East Metropolitan Region is affected by substantial surpluses in the districts of Darling Range, Swan Hills, West Swan and Midland.

To address the surplus and enhance communities of interest, WA Labor proposes:

- The district of Swan Hills contract to be based almost entirely on the localities of Ellenbrook, Aveley, The Vines and Bullsbrook;
- The district of Darling Range be centred more clearly on the localities of Byford and Roleystone, and take the name of Byford;
- Excesses of the districts of Swan Hills and Darling Range be transferred into Kalamunda;
- West Swan transfer Banksia Grove to the district of Wanneroo and also absorb the remainder of the locality Ballajura; and
- Morley gain Westminster from Mirrabooka.

Swan Hills

Ellenbrook is not yet big enough for a district to be entirely based on the suburb. This is an option the Commission should explore in the next redistribution.

It is however a large community that can form a significant basis for a seat, and it is the WA Labor's view that community of interest arguments justify this.

WA Labor proposes that to meet quota, the Gidgegannup, Mount Helena, and Wooroloo localities be transferred to the district of Kalamunda. Swan Hills should become a seat based largely on Ellenbrook, Aveley, The Vines and Bullsbrook.

Bullsbrook and Ellenbrook share strong communities of interest as residents in Bullsbrook utilise Ellenbrook amenities to a much greater extent than the residents in the eastern parts of the district of Swan Hills. Bullsbrook residents also have a strong arterial road connection to Ellenbrook.

West Swan/Mirrabooka/Morley

WA Labor proposes that Banksia Grove be transferred into the district of Wanneroo, and that the locality of Ballajura be united in the district of West Swan. Ballajura is currently split between the two districts of West Swan and Mirrabooka.

WA Labor proposes the locality of Westminster be transferred to Morley. More of Morley's northern strong boundary would then run along the Reid Highway.

The Reid Highway is a stronger boundary between Morley and Mirrabooka and this arrangement takes advantage of the natural separation of these two communities. As well as this, Westminster is a feeder area into Dianella College in the district of Morley.

Darling Range

WA Labor proposes Darling Range transfer as much as possible of Serpentine-Jarrahdale LGA to the district of Murray-Wellington, including the localities of Serpentine and Jarrahdale, and its share of Kalamunda LGA to the district of Kalamunda.

WA Labor further proposes that Darling Range lose its incongruent shares of the Kwinana and Rockingham LGAs to the districts of Kwinana and Baldivis.

It then needs to gain only Martin and Orange Grove from Kalamunda. Uniting Martin and Orange Grove with Byford and Roleystone will mean minimising the disruption to the electors within the district of Forrestfield.

This produces a district which is much more clearly centred around Byford, the epicentre of the district's growth.

Kalamunda

Kalamunda is the logical district to absorb the Swan Hills and Darling Range surpluses.

WA Labor proposes that it gain the parts of Mundaring LGA that are in Swan Hills and Darling Range, as well as the Gidgegannup area from district of Swan Hills.

It needs to transfer the localities of Orange Grove and Martin to the proposed district of Byford and the Darlington area to the district of Midland.

Forrestfield

WA Labor proposes Forrestfield gain the remainder of Kenwick from the district of Thornlie. This unites that suburb into one district.

Bassendean/Mount Lawley/Maylands

WA Labor proposes Maylands absorb Bassendean's share of the suburb of Bayswater. This unites Bayswater into one district.

No changes are required to Mount Lawley.

District	Total Electors	Quota
Armadale	29,505	7.0%
Bassendean	29,355	6.5%
Belmont	29,356	6.5%
Darling Range	26,756	-3.0%
Forrestfield	27,172	-1.5%
Kalamunda	29,994	8.8%
Maylands	29,457	6.8%
Midland	29,986	8.8%

Mirrabooka	27,168	-1.5%
Morley	29,499	7.0%
Mount Lawley	28,160	2.1%
Thornlie	30,002	8.8%
West Swan	27,882	1.1%

South Metropolitan Region

Baldivis is almost a quarter of a district over quota. Resolving this issue must be the focus of the Commission in the South Metropolitan Region. WA Labor proposes Baldivis' surplus move mostly into Kwinana.

Baldivis

To bring Baldivis back down to quota and to enable the suburb of Baldivis to remain in a single district, Bertram and Leda in the Kwinana LGA should be transferred to Kwinana.

WA Labor further proposes that Baldivis transfer Cooloongup to the district of Rockingham, which is currently separated from the rest of Baldivis by Lake Cooloongup. Baldivis would then gain the small share of Rockingham LGA currently in the district of Darling Range, reducing the number of districts covering the Rockingham LGA.

Kwinana

The changes required to bring Baldivis to quota mean that Kwinana will need to lose electors. WA Labor proposes that Kwinana transfer as much as possible of its Cockburn LGA component to the district of Cockburn, specifically Hammond Park, Henderson and Wattleup, which have previously been in the district of Cockburn. This means that Kwinana's salient into Cockburn is confined to the east of the Kwinana Freeway and reduces the number of electorates covering the Cockburn LGA.

Willagee and neighbouring districts

This change to Cockburn has knock on effects to Willagee which will also require changes to keep it within quota.

WA Labor proposes the following:

- Fremantle gains Coogee from Cockburn;
- The split of Spearwood becomes east-west rather than north-south. This allows for a strong boundary along Rockingham Rd, with the west side in Fremantle and the east side in Willagee;
- Hilton, the remainder of O'Connor, and the parts of Hamilton Hill east of Carrington St and Rockingham Rd be transferred from Fremantle to Willagee;
- South Lake be united into Cockburn;
- The part of Murdoch north of the university campus be shifted from Willagee to Bateman, which brings that seat back to quota;
- The Murdoch Health Campus remain in the seat of Willagee; and
- The locality of Willagee be moved to Bicton, as well as the remainder of Palmyra.

This arrangement enhances communities of interest for several reasons. It means Fremantle takes in largely coastal suburbs. The industrial area in Bibra Lake is a local employment hub connecting the region. Hilton, O'Connor and the parts of Hamilton Hill east of Carrington St were in the electorate of Willagee until the last redistribution.

As well as this, residents of Hilton and O'Connor regularly shop at Kardinya Park Shopping Centre in the district of Willagee. The Morris Buzacott Reserve in Kardinya is used by sporting clubs with intake from Hilton and O'Connor.

Jandakot and neighbouring districts

Jandakot is well over quota, while Riverton is at almost the very bottom of the allowable range. To help rectify this imbalance, WA Labor proposes transferring the section of Leeming north and east of Melville Glades Golf Course from the district of Jandakot to Riverton. This part of Leeming is somewhat isolated from the rest of Jandakot by the golf course and fits well with Riverton because of similar density, housing and demographics.

Electors in Leeming are separated from other electors in Jandakot by major roads and are likely to seek shops and amenities, attend school and recreational time in the district of Riverton. It is not possible to transfer all of Leeming into Riverton, though this an option the Commission should explore in the next redistribution. In the meantime, this part of Leeming is the most logical segment to transfer.

Further, WA Labor proposes the part of Canning Vale east of Ranford Rd Road be transferred from the districts of Jandakot to Southern River.

District	Total Electors	Quota
Baldivis	29,660	7.6%
Bateman	27,202	-1.3%
Bicton	29,206	5.9%
Cannington	26,031	-5.6%
Cockburn	27,152	-1.5%
Fremantle	27,012	-2.0%
Jandakot	25,657	-6.9%
Kwinana	27,737	0.6%
Riverton	27,228	-1.3%
Rockingham	28,757	4.3%
South Perth	28,582	3.7%
Southern River	29,629	7.5%
Swan Hills	28,088	1.9%
Victoria Park	29,254	6.1%
Warnbro	29,073	5.4%
Willagee	28,028	1.7%

South West Region

This section of our submission is based on two broad principles:

- It is no longer possible to confine Mandurah LGA to two districts; and
- It is desirable to consolidate the suburbs of Bunbury into as few districts as possible.

WA Labor proposes the Commission:

- Shift the district of Murray-Wellington north, and thus move the whole of Australind into the district of Collie-Preston;
- Have Murray-Wellington absorb the surplus from the district of Mandurah;
- Transfer Donnybrook-Balingup LGA from Collie-Preston to Warren-Blackwood;
- Move Plantagenet LGA from Warren-Blackwood to Roe; and
- Shift Jerramungup LGA from Albany to Roe.

Mandurah/Murray LGA

The district of Dawesville is based entirely in Mandurah LGA and is over quota.

It is logical that Dawesville cede part of Dudley Park to the adjoining district of Mandurah and Mandurah cede those parts of the Murray LGA within its boundaries to Murray-Wellington. All of Murray LGA can then be united into the district of Murray-Wellington.

Murray-Wellington could also gain Coodanup from the district of Mandurah.

Serpentine-Jarrahdale

WA Labor also proposes Murray-Wellington gain much of Serpentine-Jarrahdale from the current district of Darling Range.

Bunbury and surrounds

Bunbury and surrounding suburbs are currently split between three districts. It is not possible to get this down to two at this redistribution, but it is possible to consolidate the built-up suburbs surrounding Bunbury except Leschenault into the districts of Bunbury and Collie-Preston.

To achieve this, WA Labor proposes Australind be united into the district of Collie-Preston and Gelorup be transferred into Bunbury. This enhances communities of interest for several reasons, given that many electors who live in the suburbs of Australind work, attend school and recreate in the Collie-Preston district. Similarly, electors in Gelorup share a stronger community of interest with Bunbury and use amenities in the town of Bunbury.

Collie-Preston will have the capacity to absorb the extra electors from Australind if Donnybrook-Balingup LGA is transferred into the district of Warren-Blackwood. Donnybrook-Balingup has moved in and out of the district containing Collie and Warren-Blackwood over previous redistributions, and the area shares stronger community of interest with surrounding towns in Warren-Blackwood such as Bridgetown than it does with towns in Collie-Preston, which are further away.

Albany

WA Labor proposes that Jerramungup LGA be moved from Albany to Roe.

This would mean the district of Albany again mirrors exactly the borders of the Albany LGA, as was the case for the 2008 and 2013 elections.

WA Labor further proposes that Albany move from the South West Region to the Agricultural Region. With the transfer of Plantagenet LGA to Roe, the proposed district of Albany has a very narrow physical connection with the South West Region but a much wider boundary with the Agricultural Region. Further, removing Albany from the South West Region would substantially truncate its current arm along the south coast, and make it a more compact region that ends at Denmark rather than stretching more than 100km further.

Moreover, according to the National Institute of Economic and Industry Research, Albany LGA's biggest shares of exports to areas outside the LGA boundary were in the sector of agriculture, fishing and forestry.

This move will go some way in addressing voting malapportionment and align with common agricultural interests present throughout the Western Australian Wheatbelt Region.

Warren Blackwood/Vasse

To facilitate the transfer of Donnybrook-Balingup to Warren Blackwood, WA Labor proposes that Plantagenet LGA be moved from Warren-Blackwood to Roe.

This consolidates Warren-Blackwood as a district based around the southwest corner of the state and eliminates its unnatural spur into the Stirling Ranges National Park.

No changes are proposed to Vasse.

District	Total Electors	Quota
Bunbury	29,929	8.5%
Collie-Preston	30,026	8.9%
Dawesville	29,282	6.2%
Mandurah	27,549	-0.1%
Murray-Wellington	29,618	7.4%
Vasse	29,311	6.3%
Warren-Blackwood	28,430	3.1%

Agricultural Region

The biggest change in this region is the transfer of the fringes of the district of Butler into the district of Moore, which has been thoroughly discussed elsewhere.

Geraldton

It is now possible to unite Greater Geraldton LGA into Geraldton. However, the district also has room to gain some additional territory. WA Labor proposes Chapman Valley LGA also be shifted from the district of Moore to Geraldton.

Other seats

WA Labor proposes Central Wheatbelt gain Cuballing, Kulin and Wickepin LGAs from Roe. And as discussed previously, WA Labor proposes that Roe gain Platagenet LGA from Warren-Blackwood.

District	Electors	Area (sqkm)	Electors (inc LDA)	Quota
Albany	26,600		26,600	-3.5%
Central Wheatbelt	27,538	109,106	29,175	5.8%
Geraldton	27,517		27,517	-0.2%
Moore	25,110		25,110	-8.9%
Roe	28,123	110,523	29,781	8.0%

Mining and Pastoral Region

WA Labor proposes that:

- The district of Kimberley absorbs the eastern part of East Pilbara LGA, covering the localities of Telfer and Gibson Desert North;
- Ashburton LGA be transferred from North West Central to Pilbara. This concentrates the northwest mining communities more heavily into a single district;
- Newman, Nullagine and Pardoo remain in Pilbara; and
- Kalgoorlie be left unchanged.

There are two main options available to North West Central:

- Gain electors from Kalgoorlie; or
- Gain electors from Moore.

WA Labor therefore proposes to transfer Carnamah, Coorow, Dalwallinu, Irwin, Mingenew, Morawa, Perenjori and Three Springs LGAs from Moore into North West Central. It also proposes to unite Northampton LGA into North West Central.

District	Electors	Area (sqkm)	Electors (inc LDA)	Quota
Kalgoorlie	19,706	555,280	28,035	1.7%
Kimberley	15,567	712,170	26,250	-4.8%
North West Central	13,470	754,212	24,783	-10.1%

Pilbara	24,512	213,831	27,719	0.5%
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