AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY
(WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BRANCH)

2nd Floor
79 Stirling Street
PERTH WA 6000

PO Box 8117
Perth Business Centre
WA 6849

Phone: (08) 9328 7222
Fax: (08) 9227 9585

www.wa.alp.org.au
info@wa.alp.org.au

Mr Warwick Gately
Electoral Redistribution Commissioner
111 St Georges Tce
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Warwick

Re: 2007 Electoral Redistribution

Please find enclosed the comments of the Australian Labor Party (Western Australian Branch) regarding the submission of others to the Electoral Redistribution Commissioners.

I look forward to the opportunity to make further oral submissions at the appropriate time.

If you have any enquiries regarding this submission please contact me on 9328 7222.

Yours sincerely

Bill Johnston
State Secretary

18 May 2007

Encl.

Comments by the Australian Labor Party (Western Australian Branch) on submissions by other parties to the Electoral Redistribution Commissioners in respect of the 2007 redistribution of districts and regions

Overview

The Australian Labor Party (WA Branch) ("ALP") states clearly that the Electoral Redistribution Commissioners are bound to apply the provisions of the Act, specifically Section 16H and 16 I.

In addition, the Commissioners must have regard to common sense and strive for sensible and logical outcomes. This is, of course, no more than stating the obvious.

What the Commissioners should not be attempting is to meet the political needs of any person or organisation. Outlandish and illogical submissions, submissions that ignore their own stated logic and submissions that put political interests above other interests must be rejected.

The ALP's submissions were designed to comply with the Act, and (as stated in the submission), have recommended districts that are:

- Logical and generally compact, as well as providing a sensible transition from the districts created by the 2003 Redistribution
- Geographically sound, relying on important geographic features like roads, rivers and the like, and political boundaries such as Local Government Boundaries and suburb and location boundaries.
    - In some cases, we have needed to rely on Census Collection District boundaries where no other relevant boundary could be relied upon. This is generally in the metropolitan area, and is no more than the cases used by the Electoral Redistribution Commissioners themselves at the 2003 redistribution.
- Comprised of the correct elector enrolments, within the tolerances set by the Act
- Are made up of genuine communities of interests that will be easily recognised by members of the community
- Pay particular regard to community of interests in each district, to ensure that there is a relevant connection between the residents of each district and region.

The ALP is disturbed to see that other organisations, particularly the Liberal Party of Australia and The Nationals Western Australia, have placed a premium on their political needs rather than any logical considerations.

The ALP rejects these approaches, as they are not consistent with the spirit or intentions of the Act.

For example, The Nationals recommends that the Agricultural Region contain less districts than either the Mining & Pastoral Region or the South West Region, even though the Act allows for an equal number of MLC's. This is not logical or consistent, although it clearly meets the narrow, political interest of The Nationals.

Equally, the Liberal Party's submission relies on bizarre reasoning to justify artificial shapes and layouts of districts for their own political purposes.

For example, the proposed District of Belmont excludes High Wycombe on the basis that is "separated from the remainder of the electorate by the airport". While there is perhaps a reason to excise these areas, the Liberal party proposes to add in other suburbs that are **also** separated from the City of Belmont by the airport!

Clearly, this is a political submission and should be rejected.

As another example, the introduction to the Liberal Party's submission states "this submission maintains the practice established over 20 years of maintaining the Swan and lower Canning Rivers as absolute natural boundaries". This is a generally sound submission.

However, when it is politically inconvenient it is jettisoned completely. The Liberal Party submission needs to move additional populations from north east of the Canning River into Riverton for reason of narrow sectional interest, which is what they propose.

The political objective is to allow the creation of fictional "communities of interest" for the proposed Bullcreek and Forrestfield seats. This means that the Liberal Party is prepared to ignore their own submission regarding this "absolute natural boundary" to prosecute their narrow interests.

If the Liberal Party's self-serving proposal to cross the Canning River – which they say is an "absolute boundary" – is rejected (as it should be) then the artificial constructions of the seats of Bullcreek and Forrestfield also must be rejected.

The submission of the Liberal Party is full of these types f narrow suggestions; these are just examples, and more detail will provided below.

Detailed Commentary – The Nationals Western Australia ("The Nationals")

The Nationals submissions are based on a false premise. Even before any detailed examination of the proposed districts is commenced, note has to be drawn to the simple total misunderstanding of the construction of the Act reflected in the submission.

At the end of the page (i) of The Nationals Executive Summary, and onto page (ii), the Nationals set out what they believe to be the principle features of the Act.

The Nationals state that one of these principles is "An *increase* in the number of Legislative Council members in the Mining and Pastoral, Agricultural and South West Region from *5* to *6* and a *decrease* in the number in the 3 Metropolitan Regions from *7* to *6*." [emphasis added]

Of course, this submission is totally incorrect. In the metropolitan area, only the North Metropolitan Region previously enjoyed seven MLC's. The other two Metropolitan Regions had five MLC's, and the amended Act has increased their entitlement from five to six.

Likewise, while there also has been an increase in the number of MLC's in the Agricultural and Mining and Pastoral Regions from five to six, there is a *decrease* in the number of MLC's in the South West Region from seven to six.

This leads to some inevitable consequences. In the Metropolitan area, it means that all Regions will have 14 Districts, while previously East and South Metropolitan Regions had 10 districts.

Likewise, the ALP believes that there should be an "evening up" of the number of Districts in each Region in the non-metropolitan region of the State. This is necessary and desirable.

This fact means that, in the ALP's view, The Nationals submission cannot form the basis of the Commissioner's decision, as it clearly is not based on a proper construction of the Act.

Additionally, The Nationals submission further at page (ii) regarding the size and populations for each Region demonstrates their failure to properly comprehend the Act. As the Act directs the Commissioners to consider "distance from the capital", if the Commissioners believe that there are needs to make special arrangements, the ALP submits that such special arrangements should be granted to the Mining and Pastoral Region, not the Agricultural Region.

This is reflected in our submission that, as it is not possible to divide the non-metropolitan Districts evenly into three regions, it is the Mining and pastoral Region that deserves the slight advantage of having just one less District compared to the two other non-metropolitan regions.

Much of the Agricultural Region is adjacent to Perth. Many residents in the Agricultural Region use Perth as their nearest large service centre (for example, Northam residents shop in Midland for certain items; communities on the coast in the Shires of Gingin and Dandaragan are closer to Perth than to other large regional centres, etc). This is simply not the case for residents in the Mining and Pastoral Region. No one is further from Perth than the residents of Derby, Kununurra and Wyndham!

Mining and Pastoral Region

Firstly, The Nationals' suggested Kimberly District cannot stand.

Adding Halls Creek back into the Kimberly District is probably a desirable objective. However, it does not comply with the Act.

As indicated in The Nationals submission, it would lead to a total elector population (including the "LDA") of 27,890. This is clearly well beyond the allowable tolerances in the Act, and the proposed District cannot be accepted.

This District having failed, it then leads to a sequence of other failures, in addition to other oddities.

The most striking oddity is the proposed District of Mid-North. This is a bizarre construction that ignores any logical boundaries. The ALP submits that it does not comply with the Act.

Further, the proposed District of South East appears on The Nationals calculation to fall below the minimum number of electors, being more than 10% below quota. In addition, this proposed District attempts to put agricultural lands into the Mining and Pastoral Region.

The Nationals may argue that this is needed to keep the population of this District up to quota (which it fails to do in any case). However, this suggestion ignores the fundamental issue that a correct drawing of the Kimberly District will release enough electors (including "LDA") that there is no need to put agricultural lands and populations into the Mining and pastoral Region.

All of these proposed Districts are illogically drawn and ignore any proper examination of community of interest.

Furthermore, the ALP submits that they fail to meet the plain meaning of the Act and cannot be accepted.

Agricultural Region

The Nationals submissions regarding the Districts in this region fail immediately for two connected reasons detailed previously. Leaving aside the ALP's submission that The Nationals submission does not comply with the plain meaning of the Act, it also fails because:

- The populations transferred from the Agricultural Region into the Mining and Pastoral Region in the proposed District of South East must in fact be included in a District in the Agricultural Region as detailed above. For this reason, every one of The Nationals proposed Districts will need to be redrawn to match populations and proper boundaries.
- The Nationals submission is based on the assumption that the Agricultural Region needs to contain fewer Districts than either the South West or the Mining and Pastoral Region. While it may be open for the Commissioners to agree with this assumption, the ALP submits that it should not occur.

Clearly, given these fundamental issues then The Nationals submissions are severely flawed in the view of the ALP.

South West Region

The ALP would first like to make some points regarding Districts The Nationals propose to include in the South West Region that we submit belong in the Agricultural Region.

Without wanting to restate the same argument too frequently, it is of course necessary for the ALP to again point out the same two fundamental failings of The Nationals submission, viz:

- The Nationals submission is based on an assertion that the Agricultural Region needs to contain fewer Districts than either the South West or the Mining and Pastoral Region.
- The Nationals incorrect calculations of populations in Mining and Pastoral Region have consequential impacts through into the South West Region as well.

The ALP notes the decision of the Commissioners in 2003 to move populations from the South West Region and place them into the Agricultural Region along the southern interface between these two regions.

While some may suggest that communities of the South West that are close to Bunbury and Mandurah should be in the Agricultural Region, this is clearly not logical. The logical move is to find populations in the southern area, particularly given the need to place the clearly agricultural service centre of Albany into the Agricultural Region, and the legal requirement for Regions to be made up of "contiguous Districts".

While the ALP accepts that the District of Albany should be formed by the boundaries of the City Albany, this District is in the Agriculture part of the State. It has always been a service centre focused on the agricultural hinterland of the Great Southern, but has been included in the South West Region only while that Region contained seven MLC's compared to other non-metropolitan Region's five MLC's.

It is important to note that Albany falls into the Electorate of O'Connor in the Federal Parliament. Given that the seats in the Federal Parliament have always been drawn to provide generally equal populations, it is to be expected that the Agricultural Region is very similar to this Electorate.

While there may be some superficial reasons to describe a District like the proposed Great Southern, this ignores:

- Our submission that there is a need to include a generally agricultural district like this in the Agricultural Region, not the South West Region; and
- Our submission that there is a need to re-include the Shire of Esperance and other agricultural areas into a logically constructed southern District.

The ALP submits that these issues are fatal for The Nationals suggestions.

Given these issues, it is clear that the ALP's suggested Warren District is superior because:

- It complies with the Act
- It is compact and logical

- Contains distinct and related communities, that share interest; and
- Allows for the necessary balancing of the number of Districts contained in the South West and Agricultural Regions

Now we would like to continue with a discussion of the balance of The Nationals submissions regarding the South West Region.

In the 2003 distribution of Districts, parts of the City of Mandurah were included in the District of Murray. This was done for the very good reason that the Commissioners needed to comply with the Act, and this population needed to be included to give sufficient elector population.

However, it was not actually desirable to split an LGA when there is a clear and simple alternative. In the case of this redistribution, the ALP has logically submitted to re-unite all of the northern part of the City of Mandurah in a single District. That is logical and complies with the plain meaning of the Act.

On the other hand, even though this community can be re-united, The Nationals suggest the "split" continues, and the residents of northern Mandurah suburbs be included in a District principally containing the hinterland of the Murray LGA.

This is not sensible, and in the ALP's submission ignores the clear intention of the Act.

It is also contrary to The Nationals submission in their covering letter that they want to keep LGA's together.

Further, the National suggest a District of Mandurah that principally contains the area readily known as Dawesville. While these southern suburbs may well be in the City of Mandurah, our proposed Mandurah follows the logical boundary of the Mandurah Estuary. This is the same boundary the Commissioners used in 2003, and is the boundary favoured by the Australian Electoral Commission for the boundary between the Electorates of Brand and Canning.

The ALP submits that The Nationals are more concerned with political consequences than the plain meaning of the Act and again The Nationals submission should be rejected.

The ALP's Murray-Collie reflects a clear community interest, in a District of reasonable proportions and in compliance with the Act.

Likewise, the ALP's proposed Dawesville reflects existing Districts and brings together clearly related communities.

Further south, The Nationals proposed Collie comes all the way into the suburb of Australind.

While in a political sense the ALP would be happy with this arrangement, however, it ignores important issues:

- The ALP committed to the people of Bunbury at the 2001 and 2005 election that there should be two Districts based in the "Greater Bunbury Region". This is

reflected in our submission for Bunbury and Capel, two seats clearly centred in this zone, Bunbury/Australind/Capel coast.

- The effect of needing to re-draw the boundary of The Nationals proposed Great Southern and Blackwood to comply with the Act will inevitably require changes in the Bunbury area as well (as The Nationals proposed Blackwood moves east, giving up coastal population in the Shire of Capel, who will need to be included in another District).

Likewise, the proposed District of Vasse will need t take account of these other changes as well.

Metropolitan Regions

We note that The Nationals have paid no regard to the needs of the metropolitan area. However, we note that The Nationals agree with the ALP and with logic and the clear intention of the Act that the metropolitan boundary is the limit of the Metropolitan Regions

Detailed Commentary – Liberal party of Australia ("Liberals")

It is to be expected that political parties would make submissions that meet their own agenda. That is axiomatic.

However, the submissions still must:

- Meet the requirements of the Act;
- Be based in logic and common sense; and
- Not contradict their own stated objectives.

While some of the Liberals submissions manage to meet the requirements of the Act, the ALP submits that they are not based in logic or commonsense, and further they contradict the stated intentions of the submissions.

For example, the ALP has pointed out the Liberals contradict their own view that the Swan and Canning Rivers form "absolute natural boundaries".

Further, the Liberals state "The submission maintains the current metropolitan boundary", and yet they do no such thing.

The Liberals propose to move several thousand metropolitan voters into the South West Region. This is not logical or sensible.

The ALP wonders what members of the community in Busselton or Bunbury would think if they were aware that the Liberals are proposing to have such a large number of metropolitan voters deciding who will sit in the Legislative Council for them.

While there may be an argument that says Regions are not important, the ALP rejects this notion.

The purpose of the Regions is to provide a voice for each part of the State through the Legislative Council. For the Liberals to propose that giving metropolitan voters a say in the affairs of the South West reduce the voice of the South West is very surprising indeed.

Not only is this submission politically misguided, it is against the Liberals stated criteria that the metropolitan boundary provides "a very real demarcation" between city and rural communities.

Additionally, there is no reason in the Act to move populations from the metropolitan area to the regional part of the State. The Commissioners can create 59 seats, all complying with the Act (including the appropriate population variations) without this adjustment.

While there is no legal requirement for regional Districts to be below quota, if the artifice of moving metropolitan voters into regional seats is rejected (as it properly should be), there will tend to be some variation between the general population mean of non-metropolitan and metropolitan Districts. While the ALP rejects this as a policy objective, it may nevertheless occur.

This is very similar to the natural variation in elector populations between Electorates in the Federal Parliament in different States, and is the inevitable consequence of population variations between communities. Over time, as population growth rates continue at their natural variances, this difference will adjust without artificial decisions.

If the Act was read in some way to restrict the Commissioners and force the Commissioners to decide to include metropolitan voters in non-metropolitan Districts then clearly such a decision could be reluctantly contemplated.

However, the ALP submits that the Act requires no such move and it would be courageous for the Commissioners to follow this suggestion.

The ALP will now turn to the detail of the Liberals submissions on each proposed District.

<u>Agricultural Region</u>

The ALP submits that the Agricultural Region should include as near as possible one third of the non-metropolitan Districts, that is, six Districts.

There is no logical or rational reason not to attempt to keep each of the Regions in balance, particularly given the Liberals propose to both add extra voters into the Agricultural Region (Albany) and take them away (Wagin).

The ALP notes that the Liberals list six Districts in Agricultural Region in their index of Districts (Esperance being the sixth District), but no descriptor is provided. It would be interesting to see how this District would have appeared.

Albany

The ALP concurs with this submission, including placing the District into the Agricultural Region.

Avon

This district is largely similar t the ALP's proposed Merredin. We submit that the ALP's proposed Merredin District is a more logical name given the fact that the seat runs further to the east and the north, and we believe that our boundaries are more logical and allow for other Districts to have improved boundaries as well.

Geraldton

It is not surprising that the ALP's suggested Geraldton District is similar to the Liberals proposed district. Like Albany, there are some certainties regarding these major regional centres, where they are surrounded by lightly populated framing districts.

Adding the Shire of Irwin would put the District above quota, which is a significant issue.

Moore

Again, this District is similar to the ALP's suggested Greenough. However, as stated above in discussion of the proposed Avon Dsitrict, our boundaries are superior because they allow better construction of other Districts, particularly in the southern part of the Region, and in the Agricultural Regions boundary with the South West Region.

Roe

The Liberals proposed Roe is similar to the ALP's proposed Roe. However, the difference is that the Liberals proposal is formed to allow the creation of the artificial District of Collie Wagin to be created. For further comments please read further in the South West section.

Mining and Pastoral

The ALP agrees that the Mining and Pastoral Region should include as near as possible one third of the non-metropolitan Districts. Because it is not possible to create 18 genuinely non-metropolitan Districts, we submit that there should be five Districts in the Mining and Pastoral Region.

Boulder Eyre and Kalgoorlie

There is no question that dividing the Goldfields into two Districts requires careful thought. However, the ALP submits that the Liberals thoughts appear to relate to political outcomes and not the requirements of the Act.

While the ALP has thought in detail about how to provide similar number of electors in each District, the Liberals have thought about how to move electors out of the existing

Murchison – Eyre District into the North West Coastal District. This leaves the proposed Boulder Eyre with a very small number of actual electors, and relies on the LDA to populate the District by a ratio of more than 1 LDA to1 elector. No other proposed District exceeds a ratio of 1 LDA to 1.5 electors, and one proposed District is on 1 LDA to 3 electors.

The Parliament has deliberately given discretion to the Commissioners to ensure proper outcomes. These outcomes are not just a mathematical equation; they include wide authority for the Commissioners

The ALP submits that this authority is to be judged by the "common man" concept: would the "common man" make the judgement in this way?

Of course the Liberals can make a submission that meets the mathematical terms of the Act. But if the "common man" does not see logic in the submission, what should the Commissioners do with the submission?

They should reject it.

Gascoyne

Because the Liberals submission is designed to create an unsustainable seat in Boulder Eyre, the consequence is to include a number of Shires into North West Coastal to amend the political balance of the seat, and not to deal with community of interest.

Conversely, the ALP has submitted to include full LGA's to ensure the seat retains its proper character and complies with the strictures of the Act. This will allow the re-uniting of the Shire of Ashburton.

The Liberals submit in their introduction that placing complete LGA's into a District is an important part of the work of the Commissioners. The ALP and the Liberals both acknowledge that this is not always possible in every circumstance. These circumstances are in settled areas of the State, like the metropolitan area and the south west of the State, not usually in the remote corners of the State.

On this occasion it is possible and logical to reunite complete LGA's, and the Commissioners should do so by accepting our submission.

Kimberley

This proposed District is very similar to the ALP's proposed District.

Pilbara

This is a similar District to the ALP's proposed Central Kimberly Pilbara District.

The principle difference is that the ALP has planned for the reuniting of the Shire of Ashburton, a logical and appropriate aim.

In respect to naming the District, we remind the Commissioners that in 2003 the original proposal was for a District named Pilbara. This was subsequently changed to Central Kimberly Pilbara during the review process to reflect the inclusion of Halls Creek.

South West

The Liberals propose to include seven Districts in the Region. The ALP believes this is for two artificial reasons.

The first is that they propose to allow metropolitan voters to vote in the selection of the Legislative Council in the South West. This is illogical and should be rejected.

The second is that the Liberals propose to create an artificial District, which is proposed to include parts of the wheat belt in the South West. This is similar to the proposal the Commissioners rejected in 2003. The ALP's detailed arguments regarding the Liberals proposed Collie Wagin District are included below, and not discussed here.

However, the ALP submits that these two artifices are wrong headed. As there are to be 17 non-metropolitan Districts, we submit that they should be as evenly distributed in each of the Regions to provide for equality of representation in the Legislative Council as is possible.

There should properly be six Districts in the South West Region.

Bunbury

The City of Bunbury is a logical base for a District. Only a small additional population is needed to bring the District to quota. For reasons related to the need to create two seats in the Greater Bunbury area, it is logical to take the additional populations from Eaton rather than having to cut deep into the Shire of Capel.

The Liberals suggestion for a Wellington District, which the Shires of Dardanup and Harvey, would also allow a second District for the Greater Bunbury area. However, this is premised on creating the District of Collie Wagin, which is not a logical District (see below). The Liberals submission does, however, emphasis that LGA's in populated areas some times need to be split, as with our suggestion in regard to a small part of Australind being included with Bunbury.

Collie Wagin

This is very similar to the District submit by the Liberals in 2003 for the previous redistribution under the former terms of the Act. This submission was rejected then, and should again be rejected.

There are no logical connection between the agricultural regions of Wagin and its surround and Collie, much less between Wagin and Murray.

The districts around Wagin are identifiably agricultural, and should be included in the Agricultural Region. It would be interesting to know what members of the community living in Wagin would say if they knew that the Liberal party proposed to have their

Members of the Legislative Council elected by people living in the Perth metropolitan region!

It would be very difficult to for a resident of Wagin to feel that they shared the same land use patterns, means of communications or community of interest with residents in Golden Bay or Busselton, and yet that is the actual proposal of the Liberals.

A further illogical effect of this proposal is to artificially reduce the elector population in the Agricultural Region. The Liberals propose to include Albany in the Agricultural Region, but then propose to remove these electors.

It is very clear that Wagin has better communications with the metropolitan region than with either Collie or Murray. The major highway from Wagin does not lead over the escarpment that divides it from the coast – it heads north to Perth.

There is nothing that marks out Wagin as being part of the South West.

The ALP submits that this is an artificial political construct designed to meet narrow political interests, and nothing else.

Even the shape of the proposed District's outline is illogical. Along with the following prosed Dawesville, it reminds the ALP of the Districts drawn in the United States – Districts that are drawn by politicians, not by respected, neutral Commissioners.

Dawesville

The outline of this District is extraordinary. Shaped like the capital letter "L", it is roughly drawn to fit in around other artificial districts.

The original District that gave the name "Gerrymander" to the political process of drawing Districts to meet narrow political interests in the United States was shaped like a salamander, this proposed District also fails to pass any basic test of logic or common sense.

This proposed District is the result of the Liberals submission for Collie Wagin and Wellington, which divide up previous Districts and various LGA's for narrow interests.

There is clearly a need to create a Dawesville District, but it needs to comply with the "common man" test, and use sensible boundaries.

Mandurah

While the proposed District of Dawesville follows an illogical shape, the proposed District of Mandurah follows deeply illogical reasoning.

Both the Commissioners in 2003 and the Australian Electoral Commission in dividing seats of Brand and Canning have used the Mandurah Estuary as a sensible boundary.

Even reading the Liberals submission at page 1 ("considerable emphasis on maintaining … existing boundaries") demonstrate the lack of logic in reaching across the Estuary to take voters from the Mandurah district when the District itself needs to be enlarged.

Although the Liberals propose to remove electors from this District, it is then proposed to re-unite other residents from the City f Mandurah, while then taking further voters from the metropolitan area, across an LGA boundary and the metropolitan region boundary.

This is neither sensible or logical.

The two suburbs of the City of Rockingham that are proposed to be included in Mandurah clearly have much more in common with their own City then the neighbouring one. The fact that they are closer to the City of Mandurah than the city of Rockingham des not change the facts that:

- ✓ They are in the metropolitan region
- ✓ They are not covered by the Peel Development Commission
- ✓ They are policed in the Rockingham district
- ✓ More workers travel north for work then travel south to Mandurah
- ✓ They have their own, expanding education facilities
- ✓ Health services are provided to them by the expanding Kwinana Rockingham District Hospital

Vasse

The District of Vasse is very similar to the ALP submission.

Warren Blackwood

This is an artificial District that is created to solve a political problem.

Because further to the north, the Liberals have included electors from the wheat belt into the South West, and then created artificial boundaries for Collie Wagin, Wellington and Dawesville, they have been left with electors from the former District of Capel, who closely relate and share a community of interest with Busselton and Bunbury, but with no District that they can be included.

For this reason, the Liberals have been forced to make a submission that the urbanising coastal strip of Capel, between Busselton and Bunbury, facing the grand sweep of the Indian Ocean, has to be joined with the rural communities of the hinterland.

While the balance of the District of Warren Blackwood follow rural and primary industry pursuits (potato farming, timber industries, etc), the coastal strip shares much in common with the rest of the coast, viz: high population growth, urban-style projects, close communication with Bunbury, etc.

This is a miss-match.

Wellington

This is another political inspired proposal, that attempts to construct an artificial argument to answer the question of why the electors of Wagin need to be included in the South West, to vote in the same region as electors in the metropolitan area.

The Liberal submission notes that the Eaton and Australind are distinct from the "remaining areas of the Shires of Dardanup and Harvey", then proceeds to place them in a District that does not include their near neighbours in either Bunbury or Collie, but rather includes parts of the more distant of the Shire Capel.

This is not logical.

East Metropolitan Region

Armadale

Clearly, there needs to be a District based on Armadale. The Liberal submission is similar to the ALP submission.

Bassendean

The excision of electors from Bassendean on the northern part of it's eastern boundary is not logical. While sometimes there is a need to carefully draw boundaries, they still need to have logical reasoning, and that is not true in this situation.

The ALP submission is more logical, and better reflects the local communities of interest.

Bayswater

Creating the District of Bayswater is at the expense of the District of Ballajura. The Liberals propose to place the suburb of Ballajura into the District of Ellenbrook.

Ellenbrook and Ballajura, while in the same LGA, do not share any community of interest. In deed, satellite earth stations, parks and bushland separate them. There are no logical links between the two communities.

This is illogical, and so the proposed Bayswater District cannot stand.

Belmont

The ALP has earlier drawn attention to the illogical manner of the drawing of this District.

The ALP believes that it is more appropriate to take this District south into contiguous suburbs than north into suburbs that are still separated by the airport.

Darling Range

The ALP believes that this seat should include all the suburbs and localities in the Darling Range. Rather than seeping westward into the settled lowlands, all of which are similar

to each other and not similar to the Hills, it should head south to unite all the distinctive hills communities that exist in the east of the City.

There is no doubting the similar interests and nature of the communities in the hills.

Further, the ALP's proposed boundaries follow major natural boundaries, such as rivers, creeks and the South Western Highway. It is a logical and sensible boundary.

Ellenbrook

There is no doubt that the growth centre of Ellenbrook is the appropriate centre of a new District.

However, while it might be politically advantageous to the ALP to join Ellenbrook with Ballajura, this is not logical.

As stated previously, there are no communities of interest between the suburb of Ballajura and the growth centre of Ellenbrook. Further more, there are significant natural boundaries between the two distinct communities.

Further more, as Ellenbrook grows, the District will need to be reduced in size incrementally. Combining the growth centre of Ellenbrook with the suburb of Ballajura can't do that. Including parts of the related town of Midland can only do this.

Ellenbrook shares communities of interest with Midland, which is the existing regional centre, and also in the same LGA. As Ellenbrook grows, it can incrementally withdraw from this area.

Forrestfield

It is kind that the Liberals say that a future MP can establish their office in Forrestfield. This proposed District is five times longer from north to south than its width from east to west.

There is no logical community of interest linking together High Wycombe and Welshpool. There are no logical connections between these communities.

Clearly there will be a new District alongside Belmont and Victoria Park, particularly because these LGA's are seeing increasing amounts of urban infill.

However, the only logical boundary for the southern end of this District is the Canning River. As the Liberal submission says, "this submission maintains the practice established over 20 years of maintaining the Swan and lower Canning Rivers as absolute natural boundaries".

This also means that High Wycombe can continue to be part of the Midland District, which is its regional centre.

Kenwick

The ALP would have no political objection to the District of Kenwick, however it can only take its suggested form by allowing the District of Forrestfield, which is not a logical District.

Maylands

The shape of the Liberals proposed Maylands relate to the Liberals proposal to abolish the District of Ballajura. The ALP believes that Ballajura should remain, which flows on to impact on this District.

Further, whatever boundaries are needed, major roads should be followed in preference to separating individual CCD's.

Midland

Midland is a well-established District based on a long established regional centre. The question of its boundaries directly related to the Districts surrounding it.

Mundaring

The ALP has proposed a District of Swan Hills that equates to this District.

To create this District as submitted by the Liberals, the District of Ballajura will need to be abolished, and the suburb of Ballajura placed in the new District of Ellenbrook, with the District built around the growth centre of Ellenbrook. As described previously, the ALP does not support these other actions, and therefore there is no proper construction for this District.

Nollamara

When creating Districts, the Commissioners should have proper regard for logical constructions and sensible communities.

This proposed District does not meet those requirements.

While in regional areas there is need to put together varying communities to create the necessary populations, this is not normally required in the metropolitan area.

This District does not adhere to any identifiable community, and is not in a logical form.

Serpentine Jarrahdale

This District is the result of the Liberals decision to put metropolitan voters into the South West Region.

There are not many electors living between the Freeway and the South West Highway. In fact, they are approximately the same number as living in the suburbs f Rockingham that the Liberals propose to include in the South West Region.

Once those electors are returned to the metropolitan area, then the only logical boundary becomes the one suggested by the ALP for Mundijong.

Once the District of Mundijong is drawn, then the remaining parts of this proposed District, being the eastern hills communities, logically fit together with the other hills communities of the east of the City to form a contiguous hills seat.

Yokine

The boundaries of the District of Yokine are effected by the surrounding Districts. The final form will depend on those other Districts.

North Metropolitan Region

Balcatta

The surrounding Districts affect the boundaries of the District of Balcatta. The final form will depend on those other Districts. However, the inclusion of small groups of CCD's from one suburb to another should be avoided if possible.

Carine

The surrounding Districts affect the boundaries of the District of Carine. The final form will depend on those other Districts.

A serious question will arise for the Commissioners as they move up through the North Metropolitan Region regarding the use of the Freeway as an "inviolable" boundary.

Given the constraints in the east of the north metro area (that is, Cullacabardee, Gnangara, etc), Districts will be "squeezed" more and more the further north the drawing is done, between the Freeway in the West and these areas in the East. The ALP responded to this by proposing that one District cross the Freeway, the proposed District of Gwelup.

The alternative may well be to abolish a large number of northern Districts and create completely new Districts.

The ALP believes that is a problematic response.

The Liberal submission solves this dilemma by abolishing the District of Ballajura and connecting the suburb of Ballajura to the growth centre of Ellenbrook in a new Ellenbrook District. This submission is not logical, and requires two distinct communities, with no connections, to be joined together, across not just a large road, but rather an expansive area of bush and specialist land uses.

The more sensible solution, in the opinion of the ALP, is to cross the Freeway at some point, and the ALP suggests that Carine is the point to do this.

To do this further north will be increasingly difficult, firstly because of the desirability to keep a seat focused on Joondalup; secondly, because of the LGA boundary between the Cities of Joondalup and Wanneroo.

Cottesloe

This submission is very similar to the ALP's.

Floreat

This submission is very similar to the ALP's.

Girrawheen

The surrounding Districts affect the boundaries of the District of Girrawheen. The final form will depend on those other Districts. However, the inclusion of small groups of CCD's from one suburb t another should be avoided if possible.

This proposed District does not have logical boundaries, and it is affected, and affects, the proposed neighbouring Districts of Nollamara and Balcatta.

Hillarys

The surrounding Districts affect the boundaries of the District of Hillarys. The final form will depend on those other Districts. However, the inclusion of small groups of CCD's from one suburb t another should be avoided if possible.

Joondalup

The ALP submits that it is essential to maintain a District based on the City of Joondalup. The Liberals submission does not follow a logical shape for its boundary.

Kingsley

This submission is very similar to the ALP's.

However, this is the seat that will probably need to be abolished if the Commissioners are not minded to accept the ALP's submission to cross the Freeway.

Mindarie

This proposed District is the equivalent to the ALP's proposed Butler. It is based on illogical boundaries being drawn for Joondalup and Mullaloo, as proposed by the Liberals.

Mullaloo

These proposed boundaries completely lack logic. They are five times longer from north to south than they are across from east to west.. They do not even keep full suburbs together.

This proposed District again is affected by any decision not to cross the Freeway, but to keep a District focused on Joondalup. It will also be affected by not crossing from the Joondalup City Centre into the original Wanneroo town centre.

This is another point at which the Commissioners might be minded to cross the Freeway.

Nedlands

This submission is very similar to the ALP's.

Perth

The surrounding Districts affect the boundaries of the District of Perth. The final form will depend on those other Districts. However, the inclusion of small groups of CCD's from one suburb t another should be avoided if possible.

Scarborough

This is equivalent to the ALP's proposed District f Woodlands. The surrounding Districts affect the boundaries of this District. The final form will depend on those other Districts. However, the inclusion of small groups of CCD's from one suburb to another should be avoided if possible.

Wanneroo

The
ALP submits that it is essential to maintain a District based on the City of Joondalup. The ALP also submits that it is essential to maintain a District based on Wanneroo

South Metropolitan Region

Alfred Cove

For a range of political reasons, the Liberal Party suggest that the District of Alfred Cove be cut off on its southeastern side. There is no logic to this submission.

This occurs because the Liberals want to create a number of other Districts to the immediate south of this District.

Rather than drawing all Districts from a single point (say, Fremantle), the Liberals submission draws a number of Districts, then fits the remainder into a District with out regard to community of interest, logical boundaries or any other matter. The ALP's submission is superior.

Bull Creek

The boundaries of proposed Bull Creek are affected by the illogical submission of the Liberals for Riverton to cross the Canning River.

The creation of a District of Mt Pleasant, as suggested by the ALP, would solve these problems.

By creating a District along the River, it allows a more logical construction for this District and for the District of Riverton.

Canning Vale

The ALP has also suggested a District of Canning Vale. However, the ALP District runs across the Kwinana Freeway, which has not been used as a boundary for existing Districts in this area.

Once again, the ALP recommends against individual CCD's being moved from one District to another. In this case the Liberals can't argue that the Freeway is the boundary, and then actually cross it!

Further, the inclusion of metropolitan voters into the South West affects this District. In common with all other Districts in the southern metropolitan zone, the proposed District needs to be amended to take account of that issue.

Cockburn

The Liberal proposal for Cockburn is another bizarre submission. They acknowledge that the District is in fact centred on Kwinana, not Cockburn. Their submission for the District's northeastern boundary is particularly unsound.

Further, the fact that the Liberals submission suggests that the old Rockingham township should be split in two is unsustainable. It one thing to suggest that outer suburbs of Rockingham, such as Hillman or Cooloongup, are separated from the original town site area, but it is not creditable to split the old town site itself.

What argument is presented by the Liberals to say that Rockingham, Kwinana and Cockburn should be in one District? None at all!

The ALP submits that this boundary is unsustainable and needs to be rejected.

Fremantle

This is equivalent to the ALP's proposed District of the same name. However, the inclusion of small groups of CCD's from one suburb to another should be avoided if possible, and our southern boundary is superior.

Murdoch

This District is suggested by the Liberals in alternative to our Mt Pleasant. However, to create this District the Commission would have to split suburbs and follow small suburban streets for almost its entire northern boundary. The ALP submits that this should not be done.

In addition, as commented above, it creates unsustainable boundaries for the District of Alfred Cove by forcing the District of Murdoch north.

Peel

The proposed District of Peel does not have sustainable boundaries. It seems to be the pieces left over in the southern suburbs. For example, despite proposed Rockingham ceding part of the old Rockingham town site to Cockburn, this District loses individual CCD's to the District of Rockingham on its northern boundary.

Further, the District is proposed to be robbed of two suburbs to be included in the proposed South West Region.

None of these suggestions are sensible.

The Peel District has been moving towards the southern Rockingham suburbs for many years, as the population of this area continually increases. The ALP submission recognises this and rewards this community by creating a compact set f boundaries containing just one community, and naming the District Warnbro.

Our submission is sensible and logical, and should be preferred.

Riverton

The southern boundary of the Liberals proposed District of Riverton is unsound. It also has an unsound eastern boundary. In addition, as stated above, the Liberals submissions for the adjoining seats are also unsound.

On the other hand, the ALP has suggested a solid northern boundary based on major road, eastern boundary of a river, and other boundaries that are effective, compact and logical.

The ALP submission should be preferred.

Rockingham

As stated above, the Liberal submissions on this District are unsustainable. It is one thing to place the outer fringe of Rockingham into a neighbouring District, it is another thing entirely to ignore community of interest and the need to provide logical boundaries and split a community into two.

The Liberal submission should be rejected.

South Perth

There is very little flexibility in the drawing of this District. The ALP proposed boundaries not substantially different.

Thornlie

There is quite some similarity between the Liberals submission in respect of Thornlie and those of the ALP. The principle difference is that the Liberals propose to push the District to the east to accommodate the artificial boundaries of Yangebup. As Yangebup is not a sound District, there will be an impact in this region as well.

Victoria Park

The significant difference between the Liberal and ALP submission in respect of Victoria Park is that the ALP aims to achieve a compact boundary for the proposed District of Belmont, where as the Liberals are proposing that Belmont spread in an illogical northerly expansion.

That submission by the Liberals leads to unsustainable boundaries for their proposed Forrestfield and Riverton.

To ensure that the surrounding Districts conform to logical boundaries, are compact in size and shape, and recognise proper community of interest, it is a superior suggestion to "shave" a small number of Victoria Park residents into Belmont than to take the District of Belmont towards the separate community of Midland. For this reason, the ALP's submission is superior.

Willagee

There are very few variations between the submission of the Liberals and the ALP. To the extent that there are differences, this is because the ALP does not support taking individual CCD's from one area and attaching them to another. Our suggested boundaries are more robust.

Yangebup

This suggested District is illogical, and forces even further illogical boundaries on to surrounding Districts.

Firstly, creating this District would end the community of interest enjoyed by the Cockburn District. It would, in the submission of the Liberals, force Cockburn to extend right into the old township of the City of Rockingham, and divide that community.

It would not follow any proper boundary on its western side, and would extend up into the seat of Murdoch to its north, forcing this proposed District to impinge on a sensible boundary for the District of Alfred Cove.

Further, because it assumes the Freeway is as a boundary, even though the Commissioners have not done so in the past, it limits the ability to create a District like our proposed Canning Vale. This has the effect of pushing the Liberals proposed Riverton across the Canning River.

Further, despite the Liberals submitting that the Freeway should be the District's eastern boundary, it still crosses the Freeway to pick up a single CCD to make its population.

The ALP submits that this is not a sensible proposal.

Detailed Commentary – Australian Democrats (WA Division)

The Democrats are to be commended for making a submission on every aspect of the State, given that they have such a small membership and they receive such a small share of the vote. At the 2005 State Election the Democrats did not nominate any candidates in the Legislative Assembly and having received 0.93% of the vote in the Legislative Council.

The ALP does not intend to comment on every element of their submission. It would be resource intensive for us to map these results onto the software provided by the Commission. However, it does appear that the Democrats submission has not got the population balance correct in a number of its proposed Districts, particularly in relation to remote areas.

Further, they do not appear to have paid proper regard to the need to keep Local Government Authorities united where possible.

Detailed Commentary – Greens WA

The Greens WA have only submitted a note regarding the general requirements of the Act. The Alp only makes two additional submissions:

Firstly, while acknowledging the "State Senate" argument put forward, the ALP does not accept that this was the purpose of the Act. While recognising that there is unequal voting strength in the Legislative Council between metropolitan and non-metropolitan WA, this is not an argument in support of unequal representation within the metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas themselves.

Further, the ALP accepts as correct the comment that the Act does not prohibit the inclusion of Districts that are physically north of the Swan River into the South Metropolitan Region. In deed, the ALP believes that this is appropriate, to allow the 14 most northerly Districts in the metropolitan area to constitute the north metropolitan region.

Detailed Commentary – Colin Barnett MLA

The ALP does not make any extensive commentary on this submission, other than to note:

- Colin Barnett is a member of the Liberal Party; and
- He has only submitted on his own District, while the ALP submits that all seats need to be drawn in the context of every other District.

Detailed Commentary – Elizabeth Constable MLA

The ALP does not make any extensive commentary on this submission, other than to note:

- Dr Constable has only submitted on a small number of District, while the ALP submits that all seats need to be drawn in the context of every other District; and
- Dr Constable's proposals are not dissimilar to those of the ALP.

Detailed Commentary – Terry Redman MLA

The ALP does not make any extensive commentary on this submission, other than to note:

- Terry Redman is a member of the The Nationals;
- He has only submitted on his own District, while the ALP submits that all seats need to be drawn in the context of every other District;
- The submission is the same as his party's submission; and
- The submission ignores the important reasoning set out by the ALP early in this submission.

Detailed Commentary – Local Government Authorities

A range of Local Government Authorities have made submissions. Noting that all of these submissions are made by instruments of the State Government, the ALP is not intending to make extensive commentary, other than to say that they all focus on the detail of individual boundaries, and ignore that the Commissioners are required to create 59 Districts for the entire State.

Commentary – Individual Members of the Public

The ALP does not intend to make any commentary regarding submissions of individual members of the public, save to note:

- It is a welcome part of this State's democracy that individuals can make submissions on such an important issue as the drawing of electoral Districts and Regions; and
- Individuals do not represent others, only themselves, and their submissions should be judged strictly on that basis