

18 May 2007

Secretary
Office of the Electoral Distribution Commissioners
Level 11, 111 St Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

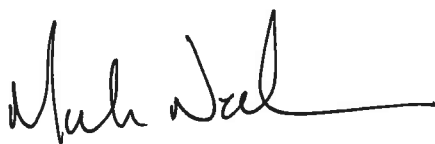
Dear Justin

2007 Electoral Distribution – Written Comments

Please find enclosed the Liberal Party's written comments on the written submissions to the Electoral Distribution Commissioners.

Should you require any clarification or further information on these comments please let me know.

Yours sincerely



MARK NEEHAM
State Director

COMMENT ON WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS LODGED WITH REDISTRIBUTION COMMISSIONERS 2007

The Liberal Party will comment in detail on the 38 written suggestions from other political parties, Members of Parliament, local governments and individuals, under the headings of the six Legislative Council regions.

Some general comments first can be made. Five submissions cover the whole State and another from the Nationals has proposals for all 17 non-metropolitan seats. Three other submissions from individuals relate to general issues.

There is a considerable degree of convergence in the major submissions. The Liberal Party, the Australian Labor Party, the Nationals, the Australian Democrats and Mr Michael Proud maintain the existing metropolitan boundary either intact or with a minor variation. Similarly the Liberal Party, the Australian Labor Party and Mr Proud generally advocate the continuation of the current boundary of the Mining and Pastoral Region. Within the Regions there are also some notable points of agreement, such as the use of the Mitchell Freeway as a boundary.

The Liberal Party considers that no case can be made for the inclusion of any part of the present Agricultural Region in the Mining and Pastoral Region – irrespective of whether such a variation might well create some electoral advantage for the Liberal Party. The Electoral Distribution Act 1947 and the Electoral Act as amended in 2005 both state unequivocally that “the land use is primarily for mining and pastoral purposes” within this Region.

To this end the initial boundary of the Region was drawn most carefully and deliberately by the Redistribution Commissioners in the original 1988 distribution, even to the extent of splitting the Shires of Yilgarn and Northampton in order to differentiate between pastoral leases on the one hand and broad acre farming, including cropping, on the other. This boundary was unaltered in the 1994 redistribution and changed only slightly in 2003 when the Yilgarn Shire ceased to be divided.

The predominant land use in the Shires of Esperance and Ravensthorpe is agriculture, including cropping. This is clear from the land use layer in the software supplied from the Western Australian Electoral Commission for the preparation of submissions. No quantity of exports through the port of Esperance can change this inescapable fact, or somehow prove that the three previous electoral distributions have been fundamentally mistaken.

There appears to be an implied consensus between the Liberal, Australian Labor Party, Australian Democrat, and National submissions, together with that of Mr Proud, that enrolments of the 59 Legislative Assembly districts should freely depart from rigid numerical equality and sometimes extend to the limits of the allowable tolerance. We would suggest that this conforms to the spirit of an amended Electoral Act that creates both the Large District Allowance and a four-year distribution cycle – obviating the need to project enrolment numbers three to four years ahead.

In regard to particular districts high variations may need to be justified, but in general it is preferable to depart from the statewide quota to avoid splitting local communities. Those submissions that maintain the current metropolitan boundary, or excise only a small number of current metropolitan electors, are in effect creating a slightly higher average enrolment for the 42 metropolitan districts. We would consider that it is only fair in this distribution to limit the disappearance or dilution of the remaining districts in the Agricultural and South West Regions.

It is regrettable that the submission of the Australian Labor Party fails to provide enrolment figures for any district. Nor are the proposals for any individual districts supported by argument and evidence.

Note should be taken of the submissions from Mr Noel Klopper and Mr Walter MacMillan that express concern at the prospect of the diminution of country representation, given the difficulties faced by primary producers and other rural people. These are not isolated sentiments.

On the other hand the submissions of the Greens, Mr Graham Hawkes and Dr Charles Richardson advocate a strict adherence to equality of enrolments. In this important respect, these submissions are seriously flawed. Mr Hawkes advocates an artificial shrinkage of the current metropolitan area, reduced to 39 districts. Dr Richardson explicitly proposes several such excisions, to the detriment of long-established boundaries.

The effect of these suggestions would impose significant metropolitan communities upon non-metropolitan districts and regions, diluting country representation. The Electoral Act clearly does not remotely support equality of enrolments in the Legislative Council and neither does the provision for the Large District Allowance.

Mr Hawkes does however make a valid suggestion that the Large District Allowance should be spread among all districts in the Mining and Pastoral Region rather than be concentrated over perhaps two districts. This is a matter of equity and common sense and the Liberal Party submission provides a substantial LDA in each of the five districts in this Region.

Mr Malcolm Mummery appears to advocate that the Redistribution Commissioners discount submissions from political parties. We trust however that all submissions will continue to be assessed on the merit of their argument and that in their Reports the Commissioners will continue to raise any matters they see fit without such prompting.

The Liberal Party appreciates the concerns of Mr Cameron Schuster and acknowledges that in some parts of the metropolitan area (such as the south eastern boundary of the City of Melville) subsequent development has rendered local government boundaries obsolete. However there are many more instances in both rural and metropolitan areas where local authority boundaries enhance community of interest.



AGRICULTURAL REGION

Submissions differ as to the relative number of districts that should comprise this Region relative to the South West Region. The Nationals, the Australian Democrats and Mr Proud advocate a 4:8 split that could be considered disproportionate when all Regions will now return 6 MLCs. Furthermore three of these four districts as proposed by the Nationals have notably low enrolments.

The Australian Labor Party and Dr Richardson propose a 6:6 split that has the effect of removing a considerable section of forested and south west coastal areas from the South West Region, contrary to its description in the Electoral Act. The Liberal Party can only suggest that its proposed 5:7 split best meets these requirements while balancing enrolment equity with physical size in the Legislative Council.

The question of the boundary between the Agricultural and the Mining and Pastoral Regions has already been raised. We reiterate that this boundary has been carefully maintained on the principle of land use and should not be varied. The Merredin seat as proposed by Dr Richardson, combining well-established agricultural Shires with the desert areas of the Shires of Menzies and Laverton, is extremely questionable and violates the requirements of the Electoral Act in an unnecessary quest for enrolment equality.

While the Nationals on the other hand have carefully argued why this boundary should be varied, we cannot agree that the Esperance port or mining at Ravensthorpe negates the fact that land within these Shires continues to be used in broad acre farming, including cropping. Neither can we support the contention that the Yilgarn Shire (other than its agricultural segment) or the wholly pastoral Yalgoo Shire should be included within the Agricultural Region. It would seem however that the proposed Great Southern district more properly belongs in the Agricultural Region than the South West Region.

The Liberal Party strongly queries the boundaries of the proposed Mid-West district that separates the Shires of Chittering and Toodyay from such related Shires as Gingin, while at the same time extending eastward to Mount Marshall and the non-agricultural Shire of Yalgoo. The displacement of Toodyay in this way may fulfil a political objective but does not enhance community of interest.

It is notable that with the exception of Dr Richardson all submissions agree that Northam and Merredin naturally belong in the same east-west rural district, whether it is named Avon or Merredin.

While the Australian Labor Party generally seeks to preserve the boundary with the Mining and Pastoral Region, its submission somewhat inexplicably divides the two small Wheatbelt shires of Mukinbudin and Mount Marshall between the two Regions. Community of interest would not be well served by this excision.

Under the Australian Labor Party submission, the proposed Geraldton district does not include all of the Shire of Greenough, leaving this district with an enrolment nearly 8% below the quota, for seemingly no reason other than to justify naming the surrounding district Greenough as opposed to Moore. Because the Shire of Toodyay

has been excluded from this district, this Greenough/Moore seat is required to move eastward into such Shires as Mukinbudin that have a more natural affinity with Merredin.

The proposal of Mr Proud for the district of Geraldton has merit in that by extending to Northampton it obviates the requirement of the Moore district to surround Geraldton: however according to current enrolment figures this would require the excision of part of the Shire of Greenough to maintain Geraldton within the upper 10% limit from the quota. Indeed, prior to the 1960s Geraldton reached north to the Murchison River.

It is noted that the Liberal Party is in agreement with Dr Richardson as to the boundaries of the Geraldton district. Both Dr Richardson and Mr Proud propose retaining the Shire of Toodyay in the Moore district.

The district of Albany is included in this Region in the submissions of the Liberal Party, the Australian Labor Party and Dr Richardson and it is notable that all but one submission follows the proposal of the City of Albany to make its municipal boundaries co-extensive with the new district boundaries. Mr Sounness in his submission appears to be of the same opinion.

The National Party in its submission fails to justify why the western portion of the City of Albany with 1199 electors is not included in the proposed district of Albany. Despite the wealth of detail that Mr Terry Redman MLA provides as to the City of Albany in his submission, nowhere is it explained how this westernmost part of the City so differs from the remainder of Albany that it ought be placed in another district. This clumsy and pointless excision takes Albany below quota, and there is no justification why the sound argument put forward by the City of Albany should be disregarded in this way.

In her submission Anne Gadsby notes that as a Bremer Bay resident she and others look to Albany as their regional centre. This supports the Liberal Party submission that brings the Roe district immediately north and east of Albany.

The submission of the Shire of Gingin expresses its affinity to coastal and related Shires as opposed to the Wheatbelt. The Shire of Perenjori expresses a wish to be incorporated in Greenough, and the Shires of Broomehill and Tambellup both desire to be in the same district.

The Liberal Party notes that its submission removes the enlarged Moore district from the north-eastern Wheatbelt, includes Perenjori in this seat, and includes both Broomehill and Tambellup in the proposed Roe district. As stated we cannot agree with the Esperance Shire Council that the Shire be removed from the Agricultural Region.

MINING AND PASTORAL REGION

There is a considerable measure of agreement between the submissions of the Liberal Party and the Australian Labor Party in regard to this Region. Apart from the

inclusion of parts of two agricultural Shires referred to earlier, both submissions respect the existing boundary of the Region and both seek a reasonable balance between actual electors and LDA.

Both submissions also seek to minimise any major change to the boundaries of the Kimberley district in an identical proposal, also supported by Mr Proud's submission. The alternative put forward by the Nationals, the Australian Democrats and by Dr Richardson, that includes Halls Creek Shire in Kimberley, pushes the enrolment close to the upper 10% limit in a district where the trend of demographic changes suggests that a lower figure is more appropriate.

The Liberal Party differs from the Australian Labor Party and other submissions in seeking to retain the existing boundary between the current Northwest Coastal and Central Kimberley-Pilbara seats so that the towns of Paraburdoo, Pannawonica and Tom Price remain in the latter district. Otherwise this seat will have an excessive proportion of LDA over actual electors. Under the ALP proposal the Northwest district would have 16,853 actual electors compared with only 10,266 in Central Kimberley-Pilbara. This departs from other aspects of a submission that appears to balance LDA with actual voters.

The Nationals submission for these northern districts also has LDA markedly outnumbering electors in the proposed Mid-North seat, where the portion of East Pilbara Shire has only a tenuous affinity with the Gascoyne area. This point is taken up in the submission of Mr Fullarton who notes that Newman has little in common with Carnarvon.

The Liberal Party is attracted to the concept proposed by Mr Fullarton for an essentially Carnarvon-based district but consider that the need for some balance of enrolment makes it likely that the Roebourne Shire must be included. For the same reason that Esperance and Ravensthorpe ought not be included in this Region, we cannot agree that Kalbarri should be split from the Shire of Northampton (the current split in the Shire leaves all but 5 of its electors in the Agricultural Region).

Mr Fullarton's proposal would seem to be endorsed in general terms by the Carnarvon Shire. While the Liberal Party has proposed the revival of the name Gascoyne for this district we would not oppose the use of Carnarvon as part of an alternative name.

Mr Proud's proposed seat of Giles with 4410 actual voters fails on the grounds of extreme enrolment inequity compared with the 18,646 in Kalgoorlie.

We commend the Australian Labor Party submission for essentially sharing both urban Kalgoorlie-Boulder and large sparsely populated Shires between two Eastern Goldfields based districts. Ngaanyatjarraku, Dundas, and Coolgardie are a natural fit with Boulder while Kalgoorlie can expand to its north and west. This proposal shows a firmer understanding of real community of interest than that of the Nationals which mistakenly tacks Ngaanyatjarraku to a Kalgoorlie rather than a Boulder-based district. We would suggest however that the urban boundary between Kalgoorlie and Eyre (or Boulder-Eyre) should be drawn further south than in the Australian Labor Party submission so that the Kalgoorlie district need not extend so far north.

SOUTH WEST REGION

There are substantial points of agreement in respect to the districts of Vasse, Bunbury and Dawesville between the written submissions.

The Liberal Party, the Australian Labor Party and the Australian Democrats all agree that the Vasse district should consist of the intact Shire of Busselton together with the northern, Margaret River, section of the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River. Indeed the Liberal and ALP submissions are identical. They recognise that it is more appropriate to divide a Shire that comprises two distinct communities rather than the Shire of Busselton that has a natural unity; its current split between Vasse and Capel is unpopular with many electors. This unity is maintained in Mr Proud's proposal for Geographe that combines Busselton with the major part of the Capel Shire.

The Nationals on the other hand propose an unjustifiable excision of some eastern CCDs from the Shire of Busselton, sacrificing community of interest so that a 'Cape to Cape' district will fall within the upper quota limit. Dr Richardson's submission ignores both Shire boundaries and community of interest in relation to Vasse and other South West districts.

Apart from Dr Richardson's proposal to split the City of Bunbury and combine its northern section with Australind-Eaton, submissions agree that the City of Bunbury should be united as the basis for the Bunbury district. The Liberal Party disagrees with the Nationals and the Australian Democrats inasmuch as their proposals would leave this compact district appreciably below quota. With consideration of the trend of demographic changes under Section 16I(g) of the Electoral Act, a number of rapidly growing areas lie outside the City of Bunbury and it makes sense to include one such area in the Bunbury district. Mr Sounness notes the need to provide for the future expansion of Bunbury and Busselton.

The Australian Labor Party proposes to augment the enrolment of Bunbury by excising part of Eaton and creating a poorly defined boundary that cuts through a residential community along back roads. In contrast Mr Proud's submission coincides with that of the Liberal Party in proposing the addition of Dalyellup: an area of growth potential, clearly separated from other communities by the Bussell Highway, and looking entirely to Bunbury for shopping and educational facilities.

Eaton as noted previously forms a distinct sub-regional centre with Australind. Electors in this locality have educational, leisure and other community facilities within this core of the current Leschenault district and do not need to access them in the City of Bunbury – in contrast to Dalyellup electors.

There is an effective consensus in all submissions other than that of Mr Proud that the current Dawesville district continue as the core of an expanded district named either Dawesville or Mandurah. All but one of the submissions avoids any division of those southern suburbs of the City of Mandurah contained south and west of the Mandurah Estuary-Peel Inlet-Harvey Estuary and enjoying an obvious community of interest. The actual suburb of Dawesville, once semi-rural, now has the same high-growth suburban character of Erskine, Falcon and Halls Head.

The Australian Labor Party and the Liberal Party agree on the maintenance of separate Dawesville and Mandurah districts, but the ALP submission loses credibility by attaching to Dawesville a section of the Murray Shire lying east of the Harvey Estuary and entirely disconnected from the current district of Dawesville. The Mandurah seat would lie across the only road communications between the two parts of Dawesville. Moreover this proposal would divide the Murray Shire and link it to the City of Mandurah, contrary to the submission of the Murray Shire. It then makes little sense for the Australian Labor Party to propose a Murray-Collie district from which a large part of the Murray Shire has been removed.

The Nationals proposal for the Mandurah and Murray districts places them both close to the upper 10% tolerance from the quota, unjustifiable given the high growth in the City of Mandurah. The Dawesville-based district designated as Mandurah includes an excessive number of electors drawn from the current Mandurah district including the city centre that more logically belongs in a district based on the northern half of the City of Mandurah. There is an obvious contrast with the relatively low enrolments that the Nationals submission proposes for Albany, Bunbury and Geraldton. This is not justified by any supporting argument.

The Nationals have proposed a seriously flawed argument for the seat of Blackwood, aside from the fact that the Shires of Nannup and Bridgetown-Greenbushes are artificially separated from the quintessentially South Western Shire of Manjimup. Pages of description of the character of the suggested Blackwood ignore the fact that its largest population centre is the urban district of Eaton (4873 electors) that is well understood to have a far greater affinity with Australind than with the remainder of Dardanup Shire, let alone with Nannup or Bridgetown. The submissions of the Australian Democrats, the Australian Labor Party and Dr Richardson all recognise the symbiosis of Eaton with Australind.

Similarly the Nationals submission for the proposed Great Southern district glosses over the fact that the Shires of Manjimup and Boyup Brook are not part of the Great Southern Region and have no affinity with Gnowangerup and Jerramungup. The submission of the Shire of Boyup Brook should be noted for its argument that it has a serious community of interest with the rural shires to its west rather than the Great Southern shires that lie eastward. The Donnybrook-Balingup Shire makes it equally clear that it has a community of interest with rural Capel and with the adjoining Shires of the current Warren-Blackwood district, as opposed to Collie.

The wish of the Capel Shire to remain undivided is appreciated, but its disparate character, combining suburbs of Bunbury with some remaining rural areas, lends itself to the three-way division that previously occurred in the 1994 redistribution.

The request of the Boddington Shire to be included with Pinjarra if not Waroona accords with the Liberal Party submission. Although the Shire of West Arthur does not wish to be included with Collie, this Shire would be part of a substantial rural component in the Collie-Wagin seat proposed by the Liberal Party.

Dr Richardson also proposes to include Collie in the substantially agricultural district of Avon, extending as far eastward as Cunderdin and Quairading. While we have

criticised this submission for too often ignoring rural shire boundaries, in this case the proposed district comprises whole shires with a reasonable community of interest. Mr John Bird in his submission appears not to suggest the inclusion of Collie in any larger South West based district.

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Before discussing the details of submissions under the headings of the three metropolitan regions, it is necessary to express strong opposition to the proposal of the Australian Labor Party that the South Metropolitan Region should cross the widest section of the Swan River to include the proposed districts of Nedlands and Cottesloe. This reconfiguration also involves the removal of South Perth and Victoria Park from the South Metropolitan Region where they have also been placed since the Regions were first created in 1988, and the removal of Ballajura from the East Metropolitan Region.

The word “generally” is often used in legislative drafting and would cover such anomalies as Rottnest that strictly speaking is neither north or south of the Swan River. It requires a leap of the imagination to treat it as an exhortation to ignore common understanding and long established boundaries by ignoring the natural boundary of the Swan River. Most electors understand “South Metropolitan” as lying south of the river. Indeed, the fact that the characteristics of the three metropolitan regions were defined for the first time in 2005 could be taken as Parliament’s expression of the view that these Regions should continue on the same broad basis first established in 1988.

The proposal of the Australian Labor Party in regard to urban Legislative Council Regions is not supported by the submissions of the Australian Democrats, the Liberal Party, Mr Proud or Dr Richardson. There is a broad agreement in these submissions that the eastern section of the North Metropolitan Region should be transferred to the East Metropolitan Region that in turn should surrender parts of the Cities of Canning and Gosnells to the South Metropolitan Region.

The motivation of the Australian Labor Party appears to be the maximisation of its potential electoral support across the three Regions by artificially removing two strongly conservative-voting districts from the North Metropolitan Region while ‘burying’ the South Perth district in the East Metropolitan Region.

EAST METROPOLITAN REGION

There are three substantial points of agreement in those submissions covering the districts of this Region (the Australian Democrats appear not to have fully considered this Region).

- Apart from Dr Richardson’s submission there are similar proposals for a new district lying substantially between Perth Airport and the Escarpment suburbs, whether named Forrestfield, High Wycombe or Queens Park.

- The Liberal Party, the Australian Labor Party and Mr Proud all agree that the Armadale district should retain its core identity with the deletion of some suburbs east of Albany Highway.
- These three submissions generally support the splitting of the northern and southern sections of the current district of Ballajura, whether the northern part is named Ballajura, Whiteman or Ellenbrook.

It is noted that Mr Proud submits almost identical proposals to those of the Liberal Party for the districts of Maylands, Yokine and the district designated either as Morley or Bayswater. Equally his proposed Balga district bears a major similarity to Nollamara as proposed by the Liberal Party, facilitating the transfer of this part of the current North Metropolitan Region to the East Metropolitan Region.

The Liberal Party disagrees however with the Australian Labor Party proposal for a Ballajura district that extends into Mirrabooka while following minor roads along its southern boundary rather than use the unpopulated suburb of Malaga as a more natural boundary. The proposed Morley has a narrow elongated shape whereby community of interest is subordinated to the apparent objective of diluting the votes of electors in the suburb of Dianella, once again dispersed over three different electorates.

It is noted also that in regard to the Midland area, the Australian Labor Party splits the related Swan View/Stratton localities three ways between the proposed districts of Midland, Ellenbrook and Swan Hills, again running along minor roads. It is inconsistent to respect the Mundaring Shire boundary when it runs along these back streets, and then in the same submission arbitrarily split the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale.

In general it appears that the proposed Midland is taken even further south into High Wycombe, Maida Vale and Gooseberry Hill so that localities more closely related to Midland can spill over into the districts of Swan Hills and Ellenbrook, to the likely political advantage of the Australian Labor Party. As localities Maida Vale and especially Gooseberry Hill merge naturally with Kalamunda/Lesmurdie. With more metropolitan seats and lower quotas it should be possible for community of interest to prevail and unite them in the same district rather than continue an artificial division.

The removal of Maida Vale and Gooseberry Hill from the Darling Range district, that is then pushed southeast into the City of Armadale and the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale, again appears to aim for the political objective of merging the only two Liberal-held seats in this Region into one district. High Wycombe would once more be an appendage of a Midland-based district and separated from Forrestfield, just as Gooseberry Hill would be cut off from Kalamunda.

There is no case for splitting the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale, either on the east-west basis proposed by the Australian Labor Party or the north-south axis proposed by Dr Richardson, whose submission incidentally would create two districts dominated by the present core of the Armadale seat. This Shire has 8296 electors, all but 22 of who fall within the current district that takes its name from the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale. Such a Shire is small and cohesive enough to be treated as an entity but

large enough to combine with much of the City of Armadale to form a clearly defined district.

The Liberal Party is fully in sympathy with the submission from Margo Beilby requesting that the suburb of Roleystone be united in the one district and we note that the splitting of such a distinct community causes confusion and a degree of alienation.

While all submissions respect the centrality of the City of Belmont to their proposals for the district of Belmont, those of Mr Proud and Dr Richardson allocate additional electors from Guildford and South Guildford rather than extend the seat southeast. The effect of the Australian Labor Party proposal of including a section of Bentley would be to leave this as an isolated residential enclave separated from the remainder of Belmont by a commercial/industrial area.

The Liberal Party strongly opposes the proposals of Dr Richardson for the removal of part of the City of Swan to the rural Moore district, and part of the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale to the Murray district, fracturing a long established unity and community of interest in both cases. We also disagree with Mr Proud in respect of his proposed splitting of the related communities along Great Eastern Highway in the Shire of Mundaring.

NORTH METROPOLITAN REGION

There are a number of points of agreement across the submissions:

- The Mitchell Freeway as far as Ocean Reef Road is treated as a definitive boundary, with the exception of the Australian Labor Party submission.
- A new district is proposed for the Scarborough-Innaloo area, whether it would be known as Scarborough, Innaloo or Woodlands.
- Another new district is proposed for the City of Joondalup, whether named Mullaloo, Currambine, Craigie or Padbury.
- The Australian Labor Party and the Liberal Party have identical proposals for the district of Kingsley.
- The Wanneroo district would essentially contract to the Wanneroo and Central wards of the City of Wanneroo.
- The districts of Cottesloe and Nedlands would contract southward and the seat of Churchlands (alternatively named Floreat or Herdsman) would be based on the Town of Cambridge.
- The district of Perth would contain the entire Town of Vincent as its major component.

The Australian Labor Party offers no explanation for crossing the Mitchell Freeway to create the hybrid district of Gwelup. There may be a strong political motive to include the suburb of Balcatta in a highly marginal district, as geographic logic and community of interest would lead to the creation of a Balcatta district bounded by the Freeway and Wanneroo Road.

The flow-on effect of this proposal is to require the new district of Currambine to straddle the Cities of Joondalup and Wanneroo, gaining the suburb of Clarkson. Once

again the addition of this suburb (rather than adjacent Mindarie with its almost identical enrolment but differing socio-economic and political character) would tip the political balance in this district.

As noted earlier, the proposal to remove the districts of Nedlands and Cottesloe from this Region almost defies common sense. Even under the district boundaries proposed by the Australian Labor Party, with Nollamara straddling Wanneroo Road, it would be more logical to remove the seats of Girrawheen and Ballajura from the North Metropolitan Region and thus restore the Swan River as the natural regional boundary.

The northern metropolitan area is composed of large suburbs that are both defined and linked by a network of major roads. This gives rise to possible different combinations of suburbs as the basis for electoral districts. We would observe however that Mr Proud's submission for these districts display a firmer sense of community of interest than that of Dr Richardson or much of the submission of the Australian Labor Party. The ALP submission fails to justify why the suburb of Mullaloo should continue to be divided along minor residential streets.

Dr Richardson excises the Yanchep-Two Rocks section of the City of Wanneroo in the quest for numerical purity that consequently results in a Mindarie district straddling the two local governments of Joondalup and Wanneroo. The Liberal Party notes carefully and commends the submission from City of Wanneroo Councillors Goodenough and Roberts. This presents a very strong case for a district based entirely on the coastal section of the City of Wanneroo, unrelated to the Joondalup City suburbs. Their submission demonstrates the absurdity of separating Yanchep and Two Rocks from the Quinns area, and the desirability of combining the suburbs of Butler, Quinns, Merriwa, Ridgewood, Clarkson and Mindarie in the one district.

The Liberal Party agrees with Hon Colin Barnett MLA that while the northern boundary of the district of Cottesloe must contract, the eastern boundary should remain undisturbed. We accept that in 2003 the Redistribution Commissioners made a deliberate decision to incorporate all of the Town of Claremont within the district of Cottesloe. We therefore disagree with Dr Elizabeth Constable MLA for a transfer of electors to Nedlands as part of a proposal that would retain south City Beach in Churchlands: it is preferable to unite nearly all of the Town of Cambridge in the one district.

Neither should the new Scarborough seat extend east and south into the localities of Wembley and Glendalough. It is far more logical to maintain these areas in Churchlands rather than as an awkward salient of Scarborough. Retaining Wembley and Glendalough within Churchlands would avoid the bisection of Woodlands that should remain entirely within the Scarborough (or Woodlands) district. Other submissions do not agree with Dr Constable in this regard.

SOUTH METROPOLITAN REGION

Within this Region there is a consensus among submissions to leave such established districts as South Perth, Victoria Park, Fremantle and Rockingham substantially

unchanged. The proposed boundaries of South Perth submitted by the Liberal Party and the Australian Labor Party are identical and by removing part of Kensington rather than Waterford, best meet community of interest criteria.

Again, there is broad agreement among the submissions of the Liberal Party, the Australian Labor Party, and Dr Richardson that the general configuration of the districts of Willagee and Alfred Cove should remain. Apart from the proposal of the Australian Labor Party to radically alter the boundaries of the South Metropolitan Region, all other submissions merely extend these boundaries to include such major localities as Thornlie, Canning Vale and Atwell.

There is however a strong divergence in regard to the use of the Kwinana Freeway as a natural boundary. The submission from Diana Miu Wan Yung as a resident of Bull Creek makes a clear and sensible request for it to be used as a dividing line. The Liberal Party has generally sought to do this, as has Mr Proud. Dr Richardson and the Australian Labor Party have ignored it, and the latter submission continually crosses it for no discernible reason other than partisan advantage.

The proposed district of Mount Pleasant as proposed by the Australian Labor Party gathers in a number of suburbs that give consistent electoral support to the Liberal Party, including Rossmoyne-Shelley where the ALP drew its lowest support for the current Riverton district in 2005. The boundaries of Mount Pleasant would therefore have a major political impact on those of the proposed Riverton.

Adjoining Mount Pleasant to the south, the proposed Canning Vale district forms a long arrow-shaped strip of territory that cuts successively through Kardinya, Winthrop-Murdoch, and Bull Creek, often following obscure and convoluted CCD boundaries. There can be no justification for dismembering the suburb of Bull Creek in this jigsaw fashion, and the seat actually splits the suburb of Canning Vale for which it is named. Further west the boundary runs along Crossland Street in Kardinya rather than the more appropriate line of Somerville Boulevard. Such a proposed district might well be drawn across the Freeway like Mount Pleasant in order to corral areas of potential Liberal support.

The proposed district of Jandakot ranges across the Freeway apparently in order to incorporate the suburb of South Lake (voting 71% in favour of the ALP in 2005) into a district that might otherwise be marginal. Mundijong is a misleading name for a proposed district that stretches right across into southern Kwinana and such Rockingham suburbs as Hillman and Cooloongup. These combined suburbs would in fact form the population core of a district to which the remnants of the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale would be an isolated and politically irrelevant appendage. Once again this underscores the unjustifiable splitting of a Shire that has consistently been treated as an entity in previous redistributions.

In considering the districts within the East Metropolitan Region, it was noted that the Australian Labor Party submission splits a small section of Bentley from the Victoria Park district and places it awkwardly in Belmont. Again the suburb of Wilson is proposed to be split between the districts of Victoria Park and Queens Park, with a few isolated CCDs removed from the remainder of Wilson. This is a clumsy and confusing arrangement.

Mr Ian Tait's request that Lynwood be combined at least with Ferndale has been accommodated in all submissions. Mr Proud's proposed boundaries for Riverton have a sound community of interest, as does his use of the Kwinana Freeway as a boundary – albeit at the cost of splitting the suburb of Canning Vale. His proposal for a Bicton district has merit, but the Liberal Party would consider that the east-west orientation of the Alfred Cove district is a settled question and ought not be revisited. Mr Proud's suggested boundary between Rockingham and Kwinana is a most reasonable alternative to that suggested by the Liberal Party.

Apart from the Mundijong and Jandakot seats proposed by the Australian Labor Party, and aspects of Mr Proud's submission, there are few major differences between the submissions as regards the proposed districts in the local governments of Fremantle, Cockburn, Kwinana and Rockingham. The southern boundary of Cockburn as submitted by the Australian Labor Party cuts awkwardly through the suburb of Parmelia and again calls into question the opportunistic boundaries of the proposed Mundijong district.

The Liberal Party would reiterate that the tidiest reduction in numbers for the district of Fremantle would be the removal of the 3775 electors in Bicton and Palmyra contained within the City of Melville, as the City and suburb boundaries coincide.

Note should be taken of the submission from the Peel Development Commission that the continued use of 'Peel' as the name of a district within the City of Rockingham causes confusion for the actual Peel region. This emerged during the 2006 Peel by-election. Accordingly the Liberal Party would support the Australian Labor Party proposal for the Peel district to be renamed Warnbro.

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