

LIBERAL PARTY COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS ON PROPOSED ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES

The Liberal Party supports the overall approach that has been taken by the Electoral Distribution Commissioners in formulating the proposed electoral boundaries for Western Australia. We are proposing only one change of significance regarding the proposed districts of Morley and Mirrabooka, for which we consider there are strong arguments of community of interest.

We acknowledge that these proposed boundaries have been developed after considerable initial consultation, especially in regard to non-metropolitan communities.

The earlier submissions from the Liberal Party, the Nationals and the Australian Labor Party have all essentially recommended the incremental approach taken by the Commissioners. It is entirely appropriate that only four years after the sweeping 2007 redistribution, change should be minimised so that no seats have been abolished or created, 12 are entirely unchanged, and 90.0% of Western Australian electors remain within the same district.

The Commissioners should be applauded for using the 10.0% tolerance from the quota to enhance community of interest rather than aim for a pedantic equality of enrolment. The underlying principle of a four-year redistribution cycle is to avoid the need to project future enrolments, and thus facilitate logical and well-defined boundaries.

AGRICULTURAL and MINING and PASTORAL REGIONS

The Liberal Party fully accepts and endorses the proposed boundaries for the Agricultural and the Mining and Pastoral Regions. The most significant change involves the adjusted boundary of the Pilbara and North West Central districts that preserves the community of interest of the Roebourne Shire and recognises its affinity with Port Hedland.

Equally there is a strong commonality between Exmouth, the Gascoyne, the Murchison and the inland mining towns of the Ashburton Shire that comprise the redrawn North West Central. The Liberal Party had previously criticised submissions that, in proposing such a district, overrode community of interest either by splitting the Gascoyne or by extending into the Eastern Goldfields. The small communities within this district will no longer be numerically dominated by a major population centre. It is also desirable that the Shires of Ashburton and Ngaanyatjarraku should no longer split between different electoral districts.

The proposed boundaries within the Mining and Pastoral Region provide a fair balance between actual enrolment and the Large District Allowance. It is fully acceptable that the district of Pilbara should have a higher actual enrolment than North West Central, when its electors are concentrated in three major centres as opposed to 12 separate Shires.

The Liberal Party endorses the inclusion of the Westonia Shire in Eyre and the retention of Ngaanyatjarraku in Kalgoorlie, in accord with local opinion.

The Commissioners are commended for the minimal changes made to the outer boundaries of both these Regions. The inclusion of the Albany district within the Agricultural Region would not enhance community of interest and its retention in the South West Region is welcomed.

SOUTH WEST REGION

The Liberal Party accepts the decision of the Commissioners to retain the Shire of Collie within the South West Region in this redistribution, and indeed endorses all proposed district boundaries within this Region. The splitting of the Shires of Harvey and Augusta-Margaret River cannot be avoided, and there is absolute logic in combining the two major centres within the latter Shire in the one district of Warren-Blackwood. It is far preferable to split these two large and partly urbanised Shires than a smaller Shire like Donnybrook.

The Liberal Party acknowledges community disquiet at the inclusion of the district of Mandurah in the South Metropolitan Region. Equally it is understood that this decision accords with the incremental change model of the Commissioners. The original Liberal Party submission did not advocate this change. We are aware of local concern that alteration of the boundary between Legislative Council Regions could affect funding for the Peel Region. Such funding, however, is based upon the continued definition of the Metropolitan Area that remains unaffected by changes to electoral boundaries.

Given that the inclusion of Dawesville in the South Metropolitan Region is incompatible with an incremental change model, it is inevitable that the final boundary between these two Regions cannot fully coincide with local government boundaries. The alternative, should the Mandurah district remain in the South West Region, is for part of the City of Rockingham to be included in that same Region. In any case the proposed boundaries of Mandurah and Warnbro are geographically logical, recognise community of interest and locality boundaries, and should not be changed.

Within the metropolitan area, the Liberal Party supports the same incremental approach that has been adopted, with the emphasis on respecting locality boundaries where practical.

EAST METROPOLITAN REGION

The Liberal Party supports both the adjustment of the southern boundaries of the district of Mount Lawley and also its north-eastward extension that utilises Morley Drive as a firm natural boundary. We do, however, object to the north western boundary of the Morley district and make an alternative suggestion.

The proposed district of Morley is particularly narrow and elongated, separating the northern section of the locality of Dianella ("St Andrews") from its natural communities of interest. We would instead advocate that these 2064 electors residing south of Reid Highway, east of Northwood Drive and north of Yirrigan Drive be included within the district of Morley. To retain numerical balance, it is proposed that the section of the locality of Nollamara east of Flinders Street and north of Nollamara Avenue (with 2003 electors) be

retained within the renamed Mirrabooka district. The revised boundary between Mirrabooka and Morley would run along major suburban roads.

The St Andrews area of Dianella is patrolled from the Morley Police Station. Containing no state public schools, it falls within the catchment of the Morley Senior High School, situated close by. That part of the St Andrews area east of Broadmoor Avenue falls within the catchment of the North Morley primary school; the remainder of St Andrews lies within the catchment of Dianella Heights primary school. All three of these public schools are situated within the proposed district of Morley. Conversely, the Hellenic Retirement Centre and the St Andrews independent Primary School are accessed mainly from the Greek-descended population of the Morley district.

The locality of Dianella is currently spread across three separate electoral districts. While it is impractical to unite this large suburb in one seat, the newer section of Dianella lying north of Morley Drive has a basic community of interest that, if possible, should be contained within one electoral district. The overall numbers of electors displaced into new districts will remain the same.

In the outer areas of this Region, there is good sense in contracting the Darling Range district from the Shire of Mundaring and enabling most of the communities along Great Eastern Highway to be consolidated within the district of Swan Hills. The Liberal Party supports the inclusion of Ellenbrook in the West Swan district and the withdrawal of West Swan from the City of Wanneroo, giving this district greater definition and no longer extending it so far on an east-west axis. We would reiterate that Morgan Fields, a part of the overall Ellenbrook urban development lying south of Gnangara Road, was already included within West Swan.

We request that the Commissioners give consideration to a relatively minor adjustment of the boundary between West Swan and Swan Hills, currently running north-south along the Swan River. Electors living on rural properties between West Swan Road and the Swan River consider that they share a greater community of interest with Swan Valley localities to their east. It would be desirable for all of the Swan Valley, as described in the *Swan Valley Act 1995*, to be included in the district of Swan Hills so that the boundary would run generally along West Swan Road. It is not possible to state the number of electors that could be involved, as all relevant CCDs overlap West Swan Road.

We have expressed strong reservations regarding an eastward extension of the Belmont district into the locality of High Wycombe, as this locality has little commonality with the City of Belmont compared with localities such as Guildford and Hazelmere. However, we accept that the proposed boundary does follow major roads and confines changes to the undersized Belmont and oversized Forrestfield districts, thus avoiding any consequential changes to the boundary of the Forrestfield and Kalamunda districts.

NORTH METROPOLITAN REGION

The Liberal Party endorses all proposed boundaries for the districts within the North Metropolitan Region, recognising the emphasis on major roads and locality boundaries. The

transfer of the locality of Mindarie to the district of Ocean Reef accords with the submissions of both the Liberal Party and the Australian Labor Party.

In particular, we support the use of locality boundaries used in defining the south eastern boundary of the district of Butler. The locality of Banksia Grove originated as a separate development, at that time some distance removed from the Wanneroo urban area. It can therefore more appropriately be transferred from the Wanneroo district. The locality of Carramar with its greater numbers of electors would need to be split, should it have been transferred to the Butler district.

With the northward movement of the district of Girrawheen, the actual locality of Girrawheen is now situated in the south east corner of the proposed district. We suggest that consideration be given to a new name for this district that better reflects its changed character. The name of "Kingsway" has been put forward but this would create inevitable confusion with the neighbouring district of Kingsley. The former name of the Girrawheen district from 1989 to 1996 was Marangaroo, and the locality of Marangaroo now forms the centre of the redrawn district and is its most populous locality.

The reuniting of the suburb of Duncraig within the Carine district is welcomed, and it is appreciated that where such localities as Kinross, Hamersley, Warwick and Gwelup are unavoidably split, major roads have been used as boundaries.

SOUTH METROPOLITAN REGION

The Liberal Party welcomes the rationalisation of the boundary between the Fremantle and Alfred Cove districts, so that the localities of Bicton and Palmyra are no longer split between two or more districts, and the boundary now runs along major roads. The use of locality boundaries to adjust the district boundary between Southern River and Gosnells also enhances the community of interest of both these districts.

The decision to transfer the localities of Golden Bay and Singleton from the Warnbro district obviates any need for the southward movement of the districts of Cockburn and Jandakot, and minimises boundary changes throughout this Region. The unchanged boundaries of the South Perth, Victoria Park and Cannington districts are welcomed.

While local government boundaries do not always coincide with subsequent urban development, they can also demarcate community of interest. Hence the boundary between the City of Cockburn and the Town of Kwinana continues as an appropriate boundary for three electoral districts, while the boundary between the districts of Bateman and Riverton will now follow the eastern boundary of the City of Melville, leaving both districts entirely within a major local authority. The transfer of 2159 electors in Rossmoyne to the Riverton district reunites the locality of Rossmoyne within the one district, besides enhancing its natural links with the localities of Shelley and Riverton.

The Liberal Party looks forward to meeting with the Commissioners to further discuss these proposals.