

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN STATE REDIVISION 2015: SUGGESTIONS

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WAEC
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Introduction:

I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the Western Australian state redivision. I am an independent person with no affiliation to any political party, or any interest in manufacturing a partisan outcome. While I have never been a resident of Western Australia, I have contributed to many state and federal redistributions over the years, including for WA. I hope that Submissions by independent people like myself will be of benefit to the Committee in their deliberations.

General Strategy:

Enrolment projections continue to show strong growth in metropolitan Perth and some parts of the South-West, and relative decline in rural Western Australia. Combined, the enrolments of Agricultural and Mining/Pastoral Regions are almost a full District under quota, even with the benefit of the Large District Allowance. In contrast, ten Perth Districts are above the 10% tolerance, and another two are approaching it.

At the last redivision, the Committee decided against Fundamental Change, reasoning that only minor adjustments should be made after the substantial redrawing of 2007. However, I don't believe the Committee can ignore Fundamental Change on this occasion; the sheer number and concentration of over-quota Districts in Perth makes it almost impossible to construct logical Districts within quota.

Essentially, I am proposing something very similar to what I proposed at the 2011 redivision, and the rationale is the same that given in my 2011 Suggestions. Briefly, I propose addressing the imbalance between Perth and rural WA by:

- a) Creating a new seat in Northern Metropolitan, based on Wanneroo Council. This neatly soaks up the large excess in Butler and Wanneroo.
- b) Transferring the suburb of Balga from Eastern Metropolitan Region to Northern. This brings Eastern Metropolitan back to quota.
- c) Placing the southern parts of Rockingham Council (Singleton, Golden Bay, and Secret Harbour) in South-West Region. This addresses the excess in Southern Metropolitan.
- d) Amalgamating the Districts of Kalgoorlie and Eyre, and transferring Esperance and Ravensthorpe to top up Agricultural Region
- e) Placing the Shire of Denmark in Agricultural Region, both to reduce numbers in South-West, and facilitate Albany's transfer from South-West to Agricultural.

More detailed explanation is given in the description of each Region.

Boundaries:

I have tried to draw strong and coherent boundaries that will be easily understood and accepted. In rural areas, I have generally followed LGAs wherever possible, and tried to unite areas of common interest. In metropolitan Perth, I have used major roads and natural features as much as possible. Suburb and LGA boundaries in urban areas can make good boundaries where they coincide with major roads, but I have tried to avoid following suburb boundaries along minor back streets.

I have made three major changes between Regions;

- (a) South-West takes in parts of Rockingham from Southern Metropolitan
- (b) Esperance and Ravensthorpe return to Agricultural Region.
- (c) The District of Albany is transferred from South-West to Agricultural Region.

I have also proposed two more minor adjustments between Agricultural and Mining/Pastoral Regions, exchanging Northampton for Westonia and Yilgarn.

Quota:

I have made maximum use of the enrolment tolerances in order to obtain the clearest boundaries possible. With redivisions every 4 years, and no need to meet a quota at a future projection time, there is greater flexibility to make use of the 10% tolerance. I have generally tried to set very rapidly growing Districts such as Butler at the lower end of tolerance, and declining Districts at a higher end, but this is not always possible.

District Names:

I have retained the vast majority of the existing District names, although I have suggested a couple of changes. "Kalgoorlie-Eyre" seems a logical name for the amalgamated District in Mining and Pastoral, while both "Carramar" and "Pearsall" are appropriate for the new northern and southern Wanneroo Districts. The southward movement of Wagin makes "Stirling" (or "Roe") an alternative name, and I still believe "Serpentine-Jarrahdale" is a more appropriate name for the existing District of Darling Range.

Political Implications:

The 2013 election resulted in a large but very inconsistent swing to the Liberals/Nationals, and it is difficult to assess the underlying margin of Districts, so I have made no attempt to analyse the partisan impact of my proposals. That said, I cannot see anything obvious in my boundaries that gratuitously favours either side of politics.

Many of my suggestions have been proposed by one or the other (or both) of the major parties at previous redivisions.

NORTHERN METROPOLITAN

The existing excess plus the transfer of the suburb of Balga from Eastern Metropolitan provide sufficient electors for a new District in this Region. Since the adjoining Districts of Butler (+33.58%), Wanneroo (+9.69%), and Girrawheen (+14.35%) are the most over-quota, it seems logical to create a new District in this area, effectively turning these three Districts into four.

By contracting Butler right up to the coastal suburbs and dragging Wanneroo and Girrawheen southwards, a new District can be created based on the northern parts of Wanneroo council, incorporating everything north of Wanneroo itself.

Creating a new seat in a region of high growth means that the remainder of this Region requires only minimal change. In theory, everything from Ocean Reef southwards could be left unchanged, but I have proposed a series of minor adjustments to straighten a few boundaries, and to allow Nedlands to absorb the excess from Perth.

Girrawheen:

I am proposing that Girrawheen shift southwards to gain Balga and Westminster from the District of Mirrabooka. This provides an appropriate number of electors to support Northern Metropolitan gaining a new seat, and these suburbs have strong connection and similar community of interest to Girrawheen.

These gains allow Girrawheen to shed all of Madeley, Darch, and Lansdale to the current District of Wanneroo, returning the boundary to Hepburn Avenue. These three suburbs were only added at the last redistribution, and their connection to Girrawheen is not as strong as other suburbs in the District.

This brings Girrawheen within tolerance, but I suggest the opportunity be taken to tidy up its western boundary. I propose all of Hammersley be united in Girrawheen (gaining ~2260 electors from Balcatta), and all of Warwick be united in Kingsley (transferring ~2600 electors). These changes balance well, and make greater use of major roads and suburb boundaries.

Girrawheen would have an enrolment of 23,937 (-0.8%).

“Pearsall”:

Wanneroo is dragged significantly southwards with the gains from Girrawheen, gaining around half a quota worth of electors, and needing to make significant losses to the north.

I suggest adopting Dundobar Road as the new northern boundary, transferring Carramar, Tapping, Ashby, Sinagra, Mariginiup, Jandabup, and a small part of Wanneroo itself to a new District. Wanneroo becomes a District based clearly on the southern parts of Wanneroo Council, incorporating suburbs such as Madeley and Darch that were part of Wanneroo before the last redivision.

As the District has lost parts of Wanneroo itself, I suggest it adopt a new name. “Pearsall”, after a suburb near the centre of the seat, seems a logical choice.

Pearsall would have an enrolment of 26,484 (+6.3%).

Butler:

Butler is well over quota, and needs to lose a significant number of electors.

I suggest the logical thing to do is to contract Butler right up to the coastal suburbs; Clarkson, Quinns Rocks, Merriwa, Ridgewood, Jindalee, and Butler itself. Everything north and east of this, including Banksia Grove and the semi-rural parts of Wanneroo Council, can be shed to the new District. Butler would retain a strong community of interest based on a patch of fairly self-contained suburbs, becoming much more compact in nature.

Butler would have an enrolment of 23,170 (-7.0%).

“Carramar”:

The remaining electors from Wanneroo and Butler are sufficient to allow the creation of a new District, extending from just north of Wanneroo into the suburban and semi-rural areas beyond.

I suggest this District be named “Carramar”. It would include Two Rocks, Yanchep, Alkimos, Carramar, Banksia Grove, Tapping, and Ashby. Wanneroo Road would form a strong communication link between the north and south of the District.

Carramar would have an enrolment of 24,482 (-1.8%).

Perth:

Perth is over quota and needs to lose electors. Its boundaries coincide with municipal borders, and in the north and east it is difficult to find an alternative boundary. However, a very neat adjustment can be made in the west by following the Mitchell Freeway in its entirety, transferring most of West Perth plus Kings Park to Nedlands.

West Perth is currently linked with the western suburbs in the Federal Division of Curtin, and the freeway is used as the boundary for part of the way at federal level.

Perth would have an enrolment of 25,859 (+3.8%).

Nedlands:

Nedlands is pushed towards the higher end of tolerance with the gains from Perth, and could be left without further change. However, I recommend a minor adjustment to unite all of the suburb of Floreat within the District of Churchlands. Underwood Avenue and Selby Street would be clear boundaries in the area, and the loss balances the gain of West Perth almost exactly.

Nedlands would have an enrolment of 25,097 (+0.7%).

Cottesloe:

I recommend Cottesloe be left unchanged. It is well within tolerance, and its boundaries with Churchlands and Nedlands are clear.

Cottesloe would have an enrolment of 25,651 (+2.9%).

Churchlands:

The gain of Floreat means Churchlands needs to lose electors. Realistically, this can only be to Scarborough. I suggest transferring the suburb of Woodlands, bringing the boundary back to follow Pearson Street and Hale Road. Woodlands has previously been part of Scarborough, and The Hale School would provide a clear divide between the two Districts in the local area.

Churchlands would have an enrolment of 25,550 (+2.5%).

Scarborough:

Scarborough can in turn be very neatly brought back within tolerance by transferring the balance of Gwelup to the District of Carine, bringing the boundary back to Karrinyup Road. This leaves Scarborough at the higher end of tolerance, but within limits.

Ideally, most of Trigg would be transferred also, allowing the use of Trigg Bushland as a very clear boundary, and reducing Scarborough's enrolment. However, this would likely take Carine outside tolerance.

Scarborough would have an enrolment of 27,005 (+8.4%).

Carine:

Gaining the balance of Gwelup rounds out Carine's southern boundary, and leaves the District well within tolerance. I suggest no further changes.

Carine would have an enrolment of 26,059 (+4.6%).

Hillarys:

Close to quota and with clear boundaries, Hillarys can remain unchanged.

Hillarys would have an enrolment of 24,619 (-1.2%).

Ocean Reef:

Given Ocean Reef is towards the higher end of tolerance and Joondalup at the lower end, I suggest the remainder of the suburb of Currambine be transferred to Joondalup. This unites the suburb in Joondalup, and allows use of the strong boundary of Burns Beach Road between the two Districts.

Ocean Reef would have an enrolment of 23,873 (-4.2%).

Joondalup:

Joondalup is within tolerance with the gain of Currambine, and given its strong remaining boundaries, no further changes are needed.

Joondalup would have an enrolment of 26,546 (+6.5%).

Kingsley:

Kingsley gains the balance of Warwick from the District of Girrawheen, straightening the southern boundary to run along Beach Road. No further changes are needed.

Kingsley would have an enrolment of 26,192 (+5.1%).

Balcatta:

The loss of Hammersley straightens Balcatta's northern boundary and leaves the District well within tolerance. All of its remaining boundaries are straight and clear, so I recommend no further change.

Balcatta would have an enrolment of 23,326 (-6.4%).

EASTERN METROPOLITAN

Transfer of Balga and Westminster allows Mirrabooka to gain Ballajura, leading to a general movement south-east of the Districts in this Region. The existing excess in Districts such as West Swan and Darling Range is sufficient to compensate the slower-growing parts of this Region.

Mirrabooka:

Mirrabooka sheds Balga and Westminster to the District of Girrawheen, providing enough electors for Northern Metropolitan to gain an extra District.

This loss allows Mirrabooka to gain all of Ballajura (plus the mostly unpopulated Malaga) from West Swan. Ballajura is currently split between these two Districts, and it seems sensible to unite the suburb with its neighbours in Mirrabooka.

I also recommend an adjustment in the south with Morley to allow the use of Reid Highway as the boundary. All of Mirrabooka's share of Dianella plus a small part of Mirrabooka itself are transferred, leaving Mirrabooka almost exactly on quota.

With significant changes and the loss of part of Mirrabooka, the Committee may wish to consider a name change for this District. Perhaps a revival of the name "Ballajura" might be appropriate.

Mirrabooka would have an enrolment of 24,790 (-0.5%).

"Noranda":

Gains from Mirrabooka push Morley to the top of tolerance, but given its strong and clear boundaries with Maylands and Mount Lawley, I suggest no further changes.

With the suburb of Morley split across four different Districts, I suggest "Noranda" would be a more appropriate name for this District.

Morley would have an enrolment of 27,193 (+9.1%).

Mount Lawley:

Slightly above quota, I recommend a small adjustment for Mount Lawley, straightening the boundary with Maylands to follow Walter Road West and Central Avenue. This unites the populated parts of Inglewood in Maylands, and leaves Mount Lawley almost exactly on quota.

Mount Lawley would have an enrolment of 24,944 (+0.1%).

Maylands:

I suggest the opportunity be taken to move Maylands' eastern boundary to Tonkin Highway, which is a clearer boundary than the minor streets used as the existing suburb/LGA based boundary. Around 990 electors are transferred to Bassendean, balancing almost exactly the gain of Inglewood from Mount Lawley.

Maylands would have an enrolment of 25,850 (+3.7%).

Bassendean:

Gaining the small number of electors from Maylands leaves Bassendean well within tolerance, as well as allowing the use of Tonkin Highway for the entire western boundary. The remaining boundaries are strong, so I suggest no further changes.

Bassendean would have an enrolment of 26,327 (+5.6%).

West Swan:

In its current form, West Swan is a District in two distinct parts; Ballajura and Ellenbrook. These areas are separated from each other by parkland and unpopulated areas, and have little connection with each other. The removal of Ballajura allows the District to adopt a far more coherent character, based entirely on the Ellenbrook suburban area.

With Ballajura transferred to the District of Mirrabooka, I suggest that West Swan gain all of The Vines, Henley Brook, and Aveley from Swan Hills. This unites all of the Ellenbrook suburban area in West Swan, with surrounding semi-rural communities, forming a very strong community of interest.

West Swan would have an enrolment of 24,993 (+0.3%).

Swan Hills:

Swan Hills is outside tolerance, but the significant losses to West Swan means it needs to gain electors.

I suggest a very logical gain is the suburb of Darlington. This area forms an awkward "finger" to the District of Kalamunda, having much stronger links to its east and west than to the south. Darlington is part of Mundaring Shire, most of which is currently in Swan Hills, and would fit very well with the other Great Eastern Highway communities in this District. Making this change would also reduce the number of Districts into which Mundaring is split.

Like West Swan, the District of Swan Hills would become more coherent with this change, losing much of its Swan Valley component and become a more clearly "Hills" District.

Swan Hills would have an enrolment of 23,986 (-3.8%).

Midland:

Midland is within tolerance, but in order to facilitate changes further south, I suggest it gain South Guildford from Belmont. South Guildford has a clear affinity with Guildford and Hazelmere, already within the District of Midland.

The northern and eastern boundaries form a fairly clear divide between the “suburban” area surrounding Midland, and the semi-rural Hills and Valley communities beyond. I recommend no changes to these boundaries.

Midland would have an enrolment of 26,799 (+7.5%).

Belmont:

Belmont is at the lower end of tolerance and needs to make gains. Bordered by the Swan River, the airport, and industrial areas, I submit the most practical gain is to the south, from Victoria Park. (Transferring High Wycombe from Forrestfield would have been one alternative option, but contains too many electors).

I suggest the southern boundary move from Orrong Road to the railway line, transferring all of Lathlain and Carlisle. This transfers the right number of electors, and the railway line provides a clear boundary in the area.

Belmont would have an enrolment of 26,970 (+8.2%).

Kalamunda:

Loss of Darlington takes Kalamunda below tolerance, but it can logically make gains in the east and south. Firstly, I suggest the balance of Kalamunda Shire be gained from Darling Range (a large area but with only ~700 electors). Secondly, I recommend uniting all of Maddington and Orange Grove within this District, transferring ~1400 electors from Forrestfield.

The District retains its clear focus on Kalamunda Shire, shedding its last remaining share of Mundaring. The very strong southern boundary along Canning River is maintained.

Kalamunda would have an enrolment of 24,204 (-3.6%).

Forrestfield:

At the higher end of tolerance, the loss of Orange Grove and Maddington bring Forrestfield almost exactly on quota. Its remaining boundaries are strong and clear, and no further changes are needed.

Forrestfield would have an enrolment of 25,096 (+0.7%).

Gosnells:

Gosnells has strong and clear boundaries, utilising rivers and major roads, and is close to quota. I recommend no changes.

Gosnells would have an enrolment of 25,334 (+1.7%).

Armadale:

Armadale is within tolerance, but I suggest a very minor change to incorporate all of Mount Richon and Wugong into this District. This transfers only a small number of electors (~400) from Darling Range.

Armadale would have an enrolment of 26,202 (+5.1%).

“Serpentine-Jarrahdale”:

Well over quota, the small losses to Kalamunda and Armadale are not enough to bring Darling Range back within tolerance. One option could be to remove rural parts of Serpentine-Jarrahdale and contract the District right up to the metropolitan area. However, this would result in an oddly-shaped District of two halves with only a narrow strip of territory connecting them.

I suggest instead that the entire suburb of Harrisdale be removed and placed in Southern River. This area is contiguous with the suburb of Southern River, and would fit well in the District. The adjacent suburb of Piara Waters would also fit well with Southern River, but the numbers do not permit this.

With further loss of “hills” territory, and covering only a part of the Darling Range, I still think “Serpentine-Jarrahdale” is a more appropriate name for this District.

Serpentine-Jarrahdale would have an enrolment of 26,626 (+6.8%).

SOUTHERN METROPOLITAN

Southern Metropolitan Region is around ¾ of a District over quota. Having already created a new District in Northern Metropolitan, the only way to address the excess is to transfer some electors to a different Region.

Most of the excess is bottled up in a few Districts in the south and west of the Region; Warnbro, Kwinana, Cockburn, Fremantle, and Southern River. Combined with the fact that there is no room in any Metropolitan Region to take more electors, the only available transfer is to South-West Region.

To this end, I recommend the southern parts of Rockingham City (Singleton, Golden Bay, and Secret Harbour) be placed in South-West. While this does cause the unfortunate flow-on effect of splitting Mandurah into three Districts (discussed below), it is the only realistic place that this Region can lose electors. Leaving these suburbs in Warnbro would result in very messy and confusing boundaries throughout Rockingham and Kwinana, with splits of Baldivis and Kwinana itself, and at least one District being dragged south or west to take in bits and pieces of these two Councils.

The continued strong growth between Rockingham and Dawesville means that the current pattern of seats cannot be sustained even in the short/medium term. It seems likely that Mandurah will need to be split three ways, with a District straddling northern Mandurah and southern Rockingham in the near future. I suggest it might as well be now.

Warnbro:

Well over quota, the loss of around 10,000 electors to Mandurah leaves Warnbro below tolerance. I suggest adopting Safety Bay Road as the new northern boundary, allowing a much cleaner split of Baldivis, and transferring just under 4000 electors from over-quota Kwinana.

Warnbro remains a District based clearly on southern Rockingham, becoming entirely urban in nature by shedding Singleton, Golden Bay, and Secret Harbour.

Warnbro would have an enrolment of 24,661 (-1.1%).

Kwinana:

The loss to Warnbro leaves Kwinana at the very top of tolerance. Given its strong growth, and Rockingham's capacity to gain some more electors, I suggest it shed further territory. The suburb of Cooloongup (~1600 electors) is a logical deletion, being cut off from the rest of Kwinana by lakes and parklands, and very close to Rockingham itself.

For quota purposes, a part of Waikiki needs to remain in Kwinana despite being a much better fit in Rockingham. Growth patterns suggest the last parts of this suburb can be removed from Kwinana at the next Redivision.

Kwinana would have an enrolment of 25,667 (+3.0%).

Rockingham:

Rockingham remains within tolerance with the gain of Cooloongup, and requires no further change. Apart from Waikiki, the fairly self-contained patch of suburbs immediately surrounding Rockingham are united in this District.

Rockingham would have an enrolment of 26,927 (+8.0%).

Fremantle:

Fremantle is at the top of tolerance, and given the static growth further east in this Region, it makes sense for it to lose some electors.

A very logical deletion is Fremantle's share of the City of Cockburn. This provides the right number of electors, and removes the extended southern 'tail' on Fremantle. I recommend that the balance of Coogee be placed in Cockburn, while the suburbs of Spearwood, North Coogee, and Hamilton Hill be united in the District of Willagee. This makes sense since Cockburn is already over quota and cannot accept a large number of electors.

Fremantle would have an enrolment of 23,335 (-6.4%).

Cockburn:

Already outside tolerance, the gain from Fremantle means Cockburn needs to lose electors. The strong southern boundary with Kwinana (incorporating the Naval Base and unpopulated commercial/industrial areas) means that any losses must be to Willagee and/or Jandakot.

I recommend an exchange with Willagee, transferring all of Spearwood (uniting the suburb within Willagee with the transfer from Fremantle), and in turn gaining all of Willagee's share of Bibra Lake. This transfers a net ~2500 from Cockburn, unites these two suburbs, and provides a clear boundary in the area.

I also suggest the small part of South Lake currently in Cockburn be placed in Jandakot, uniting this suburb in one District.

Cockburn would have an enrolment of 25,390 (+1.9%).

Willagee:

Willagee has gained the balance of Spearwood, North Coogee, and Hamilton Hill from the Districts of Fremantle and Cockburn, and has shed its share of Bibra Lake to Cockburn. This leaves it over quota, but it can conveniently lose electors to Alfred Cove in the north.

A very logical boundary is to align to the Leach Highway, transferring Melville into Alfred Cove. Melville is part of the federal Division of Tangney, which incorporates much of the District of Alfred Cove, and the Leach Highway is a very clear boundary in the area.

These gains leave Willagee at the higher end of tolerance, but given the remaining boundaries with Alfred Cove and Bateman are clear, I suggest no further changes.

Willagee would have an enrolment of 26,903 (+7.9%).

Alfred Cove:

In addition to the gains from Willagee, I also suggest Alfred Cove gain the balance of Melville plus a part of Myaree from Bateman. The new boundary would extend along Leach Highway to North Lake Road, before meeting the existing boundary at Kitchener Road. This gain unites Melville in Alfred Cove.

The boundary with Bateman can then be moved northwards to follow Davy Street, Almondbury Road, Coomooro Road, and Reynolds Road. This transfers the remainder of Booragoon plus a further small part of Mount Pleasant to Bateman.

Alfred Cove would have an enrolment of 26,743 (+7.3%).

Bateman:

The exchange with Alfred Cove boosts Bateman's numbers by ~800 electors, bringing it closer to quota. No further changes are needed.

Bateman would have an enrolment of 24,093 (-3.3%).

South Perth:

Close to quota, constrained by the Swan and Canning Rivers, and with clear boundaries, South Perth can be left unchanged.

South Perth would have an enrolment of 24,663 (-1.0%).

Victoria Park:

Victoria Park loses Carlisle and Lathlain to the District of Belmont, bringing the north-eastern boundary back to the railway line. Assuming the boundary with South Perth is maintained, Victoria Park can only gain electors from Cannington.

I suggest the entire suburb of Wilson be transferred, bringing the boundary up to the Canning River. Wilson is linked with the remainder of Victoria Park in the Federal Division of Swan, with the Leach Highway providing a strong link in the area. Around 3500 electors are transferred.

Victoria Park would have an enrolment of 23,806 (-4.5%).

Cannington:

Loss of Wilson requires Cannington to gain electors, and logically these can only come from Riverton in the west. I suggest the entire suburb of Parkwood be placed in Cannington. Parkwood has links with other parts of Cannington west of the river, and in fact shares the same postcode as Lynwood (currently in Cannington). This gain places Cannington almost exactly on quota.

Growth patterns suggest Cannington will be gradually drawn west of the Canning River over time, as coastal Districts need to shrink, so adding further areas on the west bank of the river is consistent with this.

Cannington would have an enrolment of 24,898 (-0.1%).

Riverton:

Riverton can be compensated for the loss of Parkwood by pushing southwards to the municipal boundary (Nicholson Road), taking in all those parts of Canning Vale in the City of Canning. This provides the right number of electors, reduces the pressure on over-quota Southern River, and provides a clear new southern boundary in the area.

Splitting Canning Vale is not ideal, but it is a large suburb that has previously been divided at state and federal level. Ranford Road would provide the main link between Canning Vale and the remainder of Riverton.

Riverton would have an enrolment of 26,524 (+6.4%).

Southern River:

The exchanges with Riverton and Darling Range (gaining Harrisdale but losing the City of Canning) leave Southern River well within tolerance. No further changes are needed.

Southern River would have an enrolment of 24,615 (-1.2%).

Jandakot:

Uniting South Lake takes Jandakot to the higher end of tolerance, but the remaining boundaries are clear, so I recommend no further changes.

Jandakot would have an enrolment of 26,657 (+7.0%).

SOUTH-WEST REGION

Districts within this Region are within tolerance, and the Region overall is very close to quota. However, flow-on effects from both Southern Metropolitan (over quota) and Agricultural (under quota) mean that this Region must undergo change.

The main change is the addition of southern Rockingham, which is necessary to relieve population pressure on Southern Metropolitan. The flow-on effect is that Mandurah becomes split three ways instead of two. The strong suburban growth throughout the Cities of Mandurah and Rockingham makes it unlikely that the Mandurah urban area will be contained in only two Districts in the future.

Flow-on effects from Mandurah result in Districts moving generally north-west under my proposals. In some ways, there is a return to the pattern of seats that existed before 2007.

I suggest that Albany be moved from this Region and placed in Agricultural Region. Albany has clear links to the north and east, and this change results in a better balance between the three rural Regions (7-5-4 versus 8-4-4).

Mandurah:

The gain of Secret Harbour, Golden Bay, and Singleton results in this District going well outside tolerance. Given Dawesville in the south is toward the higher end of quota, I suggest a deletion to the District of Murray in the east.

The starting point should be the remaining ~1500 electors in the Shire of Murray, uniting the shire in the District of that name. I also recommend that the suburbs of Coodanup and Greenfields be transferred. While obviously part of suburban Mandurah, these suburbs have links to the semi-rural areas immediately to the east, and currently in Murray. Mandurah Road and Gordon Road would be strong and clear boundaries between the two Districts.

Mandurah would have an enrolment of 24,482 (-1.8%).

Dawesville:

Dawesville is within quota and has clear boundaries, entirely contained within the City of Mandurah. I suggest no changes are needed.

Dawesville would have an enrolment of 26,507 (+6.4%).

“Murray”:

The gains from Mandurah mean Murray-Wellington needs to lose electors. Logically, this can only be in the south to Collie-Preston or Bunbury.

I suggest that all of Leschenault and Australind, plus Brunswick and Roelands, be removed and placed in Collie-Preston. The District of Collie-Preston already contains parts of suburban Bunbury in the Shire of Dardanup (e.g. Eaton and Millbridge), and much has been made at previous state and federal redistributions about the strong links between Australind and Eaton.

With the northward movement and clear consolidation on Mandurah and Murray, it may be appropriate for the “Wellington” component to be dropped from the District name.

Murray would have an enrolment of 27,173 (+9.0%).

Collie-Preston:

In its current form, Collie-Preston is a seat in three distinct parts: the town of Collie in the east, suburban areas of Bunbury to the west, and rural Capel Shire to the south. I suggest this District be consolidated on Collie and the outer suburbs of Bunbury, with the bulk of Capel shed to Vasse.

To this end, I suggest uniting all of Leschenault (from Murray) and Australind (from Murray and Bunbury) in this District. Rural areas that serve as a link between Australind and Collie, including Roelands and Brunswick areas, are also included. With this change, Bunbury no longer needs to take in any part of Harvey Shire, and can be confined south of the Leschenault Estuary and City of Bunbury boundary.

This takes Collie-Preston over quota, so I recommend shedding all of Capel Shire in the south. Urbanised parts of Capel, including Dalyellup and Gelorup, are placed in Bunbury, while the remaining parts of the Shire are transferred to Vasse. While this splits Capel Shire, there is a difference between the northern part of Capel, which is essentially part of suburban Bunbury, and the remainder of the Shire.

I submit this is the most logical arrangement for the Collie seat. An alternative arrangement linking Australind and Capel has merit, but would require Collie itself to be removed to an Agricultural District, which I do not support.

Collie-Preston would have an enrolment of 26,521 (+6.4%).

Bunbury:

The exchange of territory with Collie-Preston results in a more coherent District that no longer needs to make an awkward intrusion into Australind. Instead, Bunbury would push southwards to gain Dalyellup and Gelorup, two parts of Capel Shire that are geographically close to Bunbury and effectively part of its urban area. This change has been proposed by several suggestions at previous redivisions.

With my proposed changes, the urban area of Bunbury is split between only two Districts (Bunbury and Collie), instead of three.

Bunbury would have an enrolment of 27,108 (+8.8%).

Vasse:

Vasse is almost exactly on quota, but flow-on effects require it to push northwards to gain the rural part of Capel Shire (~3700 electors). These areas are a good fit with Busselton Shire, with the Bussell Highway forming a strong link throughout this region. Capel Shire was linked with large parts of Busselton Shire in the former District of Capel.

The gain of Capel takes Vasse over quota, but it can very neatly be brought back within tolerance by shedding the balance of Augusta-Margaret River to the District of Warren-Blackwood. At the last redivision, there was some objection and debate to the splitting of this shire, so it clearly benefits community of interest to unite it in a single District.

Vasse would have an enrolment of 26,955 (+8.2%).

Warren-Blackwood:

With the gain from Vasse, Warren-Blackwood can be brought back within tolerance by shedding the Shire of Denmark to Wagin. Unlike the other shires within Warren-Blackwood, Denmark is not part of the South West Region; it is part of Great Southern and a better fit with similar shires in the existing District of Wagin.

With the loss of Denmark to an Agricultural District, Albany is now completely cut off from the remainder of South-West Region. Therefore, it is logical to remove Albany from South-West and place it in Agricultural Region.

Warren-Blackwood would have an enrolment of 24,111 (-3.3%).

MINING AND PASTORAL REGION

This Region and neighbouring Agricultural Region combined are around a whole District under quota, and would be even more if not for the Large District Allowance. With the creation of a new District in metropolitan Perth, one District will need to be abolished.

I recommend amalgamating Kalgoorlie and Eyre into a single District, with Esperance and Ravensthorpe transferred to Wagin to address the deficit in Agricultural Region. These two shires are agricultural in nature, where previously part of Agricultural Region, and there was considerable objection to their being placed in Mining and Pastoral Region in 2007.

I am also recommending the Shires of Yilgarn and Westonia be placed in Agricultural Region. Westonia is very much part of the Wheatbelt, and was part of Agricultural before 2007. Yilgarn is something of a “transitional” shire, functioning as a gateway to both the Wheatbelt and the Goldfields. Both shires are broadly agricultural in nature, and both fit very well with Merredin. The Great Eastern Highway provides a strong communication link to areas further west.

The two main difficulties with this Region are:

- (a) The deficit is entirely contained in the south (North West Central, Kalgoorlie, and Eyre). The northern Districts of Pilbara and Kimberley are only slightly under quota, and both contain a large number of “real” electors.
- (b) All Districts are anchored by population centres, meaning the only transfers available are large, sparsely populated shires dominated by LDA electors.

These two factors are significant issues to address even if all five Districts in this Region were maintained.

Of particular concern is North West Central. It is over 20% under quota even with the LDA, and only contains ~9600 “real” electors. Adding large unpopulated desert shires just further exacerbates the problem, as LDA electors provide no potential for real enrolment growth. The challenge is to give North West Central a greater number of “real” electors, and a potential for a genuine population increase.

To this end, I am recommending transferring the balance of Northampton Shire into North West Central. While this area may be more agriculturally focussed, part of Northampton is already included in this Region (albeit a handful of voters). Towns like Kalbarri would not be out of place with other coastal communities in the Gascoyne Region, with communities of interest revolving around tourism and associated services. For example, Kalbarri is marketed as part of the “Coral Coast” tourism region, which includes Carnarvon, Exmouth and Shark Bay (currently in North West Central).

Having made these adjustments between the two Regions, construction of the four Districts is relatively straightforward. Each District has a clear focus: Kimberley, Pilbara, the Gascoyne region, and Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

“Kalgoorlie-Eyre”:

I suggest this District consist of:

- The City of Kalgoorlie/Boulder
- The Shire of Coolgardie
- The Shires of Dundas and Menzies
- The Shires of Laverton and Leonora

The District would unite Kalgoorlie-Boulder and include most of the surrounding shires that clearly look to Kalgoorlie as their major centre. All the Shires are very clearly focussed on mining and pastoral activities, with the more agriculturally-focussed shires of Esperance, Ravensthorpe, Yilgarn, and Westonia transferred to Agricultural Region.

I am proposing that the Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku be placed in the District of North West Central. I acknowledge that Warburton has a much stronger link to Kalgoorlie than to the Gascoyne region, but its sheer size produces a large number of LDAs, and make it difficult to be placed in a Kalgoorlie based District. Ngaanyatjarraku has previously been placed in Pilbara or Gascoyne based Districts, and it would fit with the remote eastern parts of the existing North West Central.

Kalgoorlie-Eyre would have an enrolment of 27,010 (+8.4%), including a LDA of 8337.

North West Central:

The gain from Kalgoorlie provides a large number of LDAs but little actual increase in population. However, uniting Northampton Shire in this District provides a clear boost in the number of “real” electors, as well as some growth potential.

In the future, growth in tourism and associated industries should give North West Central a more stable population base, allowing it to shed some of the remote inland Shires and become a more focussed Gascoyne-based District. For now, however, it still needs to include vast tracks of sparsely populated inland territory.

North West Central would have an enrolment of 25,075 (+0.6%), including a LDA of 12,259.

Pilbara:

Pilbara is close enough to quota, has a high proportion of “real” electors, and boundaries that clearly align to the Pilbara region. I recommend no further changes.

Pilbara would have an enrolment of 23,905 (-4.1%), including a LDA of 6063.

Kimberley:

Kimberley is well within tolerance, and has very clear boundaries that align to the Kimberley Region. No changes are needed.

Kimberley would have an enrolment of 23,159 (-7.1%), including a LDA of 6291.

AGRICULTURAL REGION

This Region is around half a District under quota, but the gains from Mining and Pastoral Region provides sufficient electors to bring all Districts within tolerance. The transfer of Esperance and Ravensthorpe to the existing Wagin means that all Districts in this Region move in a southerly direction.

As mentioned, Albany is completely cut off from South-West Region with the transfer of the Shire of Denmark, so needs to be placed in this Region. Even if the Committee did not choose to transfer Denmark, I would still recommend Albany be placed in Agricultural Region. Much of Albany's "hinterland" is now within Agricultural Region, and Albany City is part of the Great Southern area, not the South West.

Albany:

Apart from shifting Regions, Albany undergoes no change. Its boundaries coincide with the City of Albany, forming a very clear community of interest.

Albany would have an enrolment of 24,302 (-2.5%).

"Stirling":

The existing District of Wagin gains Esperance and Ravensthorpe from Eyre, and the Shire of Denmark from Warren-Blackwood. This places it well over quota, and it can use its new excess to compensate under-quota Districts further north.

I suggest the Shires of Pingelly, Cuballing, Wickepin, Kulin, Boddington, Wandering, Williams, Narrogin (including Town of Narrogin), Wagin, Dumbleyung, and Lake Grace all be transferred to the District of Central Wheatbelt. These areas all fit well with Central Wheatbelt, with many of the Shires having previously been part of Avon Valley or other Wheatbelt based Districts.

With the loss of the Shire of Wagin, a name change is needed for this District. I suggest a revival of the name "Stirling", which was the name for the former District surrounding and immediately north of Albany. The District would be quite similar to the combined former Districts of Stirling and Roe, and form a clear community of interest based on the Great Southern Region.

Stirling would have an enrolment of 26,001 (+4.3%).

Central Wheatbelt:

Central Wheatbelt makes the above gains from Wagin, with the Great Southern and Albany Highways providing strong links to the new areas. It then needs to shed electors in the north to Moore. Much of Central Wheatbelt is characterised by sparsely-populated rural shires, meaning a geographically large part of the existing District must be transferred.

To provide a clear and easily understood boundary, I suggest aligning the boundary with Moore to the Federal boundary between Durack and O'Connor. The Shires of Merredin, Kellerberrin, Tammin, Cunderdin, and everything north of this would be removed and placed in Moore.

While this splits Merredin from Northam, it does provide for a very neat split of the Wheatbelt area identical to that drawn at federal level; a District based on Northam and areas south/east, and a District based on Merredin and areas north/west. This is also a (loosely) similar arrangement to the Districts of Avon and Merredin before 2007.

Central Wheatbelt would have an enrolment of 26,035 (+4.5%).

Moore:

Changes to Moore have been previously described: it gains Yilgarn and Westonia from the District of Eyre, a large number of Wheatbelt shires from Central Wheatbelt, but sheds the balance of Northampton to North West Central. This leaves it outside tolerance, and in the context of all my other proposals, it can only shed electors to Geraldton.

I suggest that the Shires of Irwin and Chapman Valley, and the balance of the City of Greater Geraldton, be transferred. All three of these areas are a good fit with Geraldton itself, and it is logical to unite the City of Greater Geraldton in the District of that name. These changes also mean that Moore would no longer need to extend to the north of Geraldton. In the context of the gains in the south, these changes result in Moore retreating from the Mid-West Region and becoming more of a Wheatbelt-focussed seat.

Moore would have an enrolment of 25,544 (+2.5%).

Geraldton:

The gains from Moore leave Geraldton at the high end of tolerance, but unite all of the shires surrounding Geraldton itself in the District of that name.

Geraldton would have an enrolment of 26,969 (+8.2%).