



# AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY (WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BRANCH)

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

Dear Warwick

**Re: 2007 Electoral Redistribution**

Please find enclosed, in printed and electronic form, the submission to the Electoral Redistribution Commissioners by the Australian Labor Party (Western Australian Branch)

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

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

Yours sincerely

Bill Johnston  
State Secretary

4 May 2007

Encl.

**Submission by the Australian Labor Party**  
**(Western Australian Branch)**  
**to the Electoral Redistribution Commissioners**  
**for the 2007 Redistribution of Electoral Districts and Regions.**

This submission is made on behalf of the Australian Labor Party (Western Australian Branch) ("ALP") to the Electoral Redistribution Commissioners in respect of the 2007 Redistribution of Electoral Districts and Regions for Western Australia.

**Districts**

In preparing the submission of the ALP, we have paid careful attention to the criteria established by Section 16I, viz:

- Community of interest
- Land use patterns
- Means of communication and distance from the capital
- Physical features
- Existing boundaries of districts and regions
- Existing local government boundaries; and
- The trend of demographic changes

All of our proposed districts comply with these criteria.

Specifically, we have attempted to recommend Districts that are:

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

In the remote parts of the State, there has been some careful construction of boundaries to deal with the "large district allowance" provided by the Act. As an example, this is the case in respect of the Kimberley District.

In this example, CCD number 5010713 has been included in the Kimberley District rather than the Central Kimberley Pilbara District to balance the area of each District. This provides an unusual boundary in this situation, but it does not move any enrolled electors from one District to the other, and permits boundaries that are very similar to the current boundaries of these Districts.

There are some other limited situations that we have had to create boundaries that cross major roads, the Freeway, Local Government Authority boundaries, etc, to ensure that populations are correctly balanced. However, in no situation have we ignored community of interests or other relevant factors.

### **Regions**

In addition to dividing the State into 59 districts, the Electoral Redistribution Commissioners are also required to divide the State into six Regions, viz:

- North Metropolitan
- South Metropolitan
- East Metropolitan
- South West
- Agricultural
- Mining & Pastoral

Metropolitan regions will each have 14 Districts, to reflect the amendments to the Act granting each region the same number of MLC's. In non-metropolitan parts of the State, we suggest an "evening up" of the number of districts to reflect the equivalent change to the representation of the regions, while still being consistent with the Act.

Our submission suggests that the South West Region and the Agricultural Region contain six Districts each, and the Mining & Pastoral Region contain five Districts. This is as near to one third of the non-metropolitan districts in each Region as is possible.

It is appropriate that the Region with slightly less than one third of the districts is the Region most distant from Perth, particularly as the Act directs the Electoral Redistribution Commissioners to consider this matter in exercising their authorities.

Further, it also means that the three Regions are similar to the three Federal Electorates that do not contain any of the Perth Metropolitan area, that being Kalgoorlie, O'Connor and Forrest.

In the Metropolitan area, we suggest that the North Metropolitan Region contain the 14 Districts in the most northerly part of the area, the South Metropolitan Region then include the 14 Districts south of the North Metropolitan Region, and the East Metropolitan Region contain the 14 districts east of the other two Regions. This is a logical construction of the intentions of the Act.

These proposals comply with the provisions of Section 16H of the Act. In particular, we note that the Act provides that the “North Metropolitan Region” is to be “a region that is *generally* north of the Swan River” and the “South Metropolitan Region” is to be “a region that is *generally* south of the Swan River” (our emphasis added).

The Act does not prohibit the Regions crossing the Swan River, and our proposal ensures that the North Metropolitan Region is comprised of the 14 most northerly Districts from the MSRA boundary, excluding those that are connected to the “hills and the foothills of the Darling Escarpment”, and the South Metropolitan Region is the equivalent 14 southerly Districts.

The ALP recommends that each region be comprised of the following districts:

#### East Metropolitan

- Armadale
- Bassendean
- Belmont
- Darling Range
- Ellenbrook
- Gosnells
- Maylands
- Midland
- Morley
- Queens Park
- South Perth
- Swan Hills
- Victoria Park
- Yokine

#### North Metropolitan

- Ballajura
- Butler
- Carine
- Churchlands
- Currambine
- Girrawheen
- Gwelup
- Hillarys
- Joondalup
- Kingsley
- Nollamara
- Perth
- Wanneroo
- Woodlands

### South Metropolitan

- Alfred Cove
- Canning Vale
- Cockburn
- Cottesloe
- Fremantle
- Jandakot
- Mount Pleasant
- Mundijong
- Nedlands
- Riverton
- Rockingham
- Thornlie
- Warnbro
- Willagee

### Agricultural

- Albany
- Geraldton
- Greenough
- Merredin
- Roe
- Warren

### Mining & Pastoral

- Central Kimberley Pilbara
- Eyre
- Kalgoorlie
- Kimberley
- Northwest

### South West

- Bunbury
- Capel
- Dawesville
- Mandurah
- Murray Collie
- Vasse

**Submission Format**

At the request of the support staff of the Electoral Redistribution Commissioners, the ALP has used the electronic systems to complete our redistribution submission. This software has been very helpful, particularly in dealing with the very large electorates and the issues for these electorates.

The ALP would like to thank the staff of the WAEC who support the Electoral Redistribution Commissioners. They have been very professional, and the software has been invaluable to our work.

Because the ALP has used this software, we are providing our submission in the form of maps of the proposed Districts for the first time. For this reason, we are not providing the usual written descriptions of the districts, but trust that the maps and the electronic files supporting the submission will provide adequate description of our proposed districts.

**Conclusion**

The ALP is pleased to provide this submission to the Electoral Redistribution Commissioners and looks forward to the opportunity to make oral submissions.