

From: Lex Fullarton [mailto:afu90304@bigpond.net.au]
Sent: Saturday, 30 June 2007 9:41 AM
To: 2007 Electoral Distribution
Cc: Ray Fidock
Subject: Boundary redistribution - North West

30th June 2007

Secretary to the Electoral Distribution Commissioners,

Sir,

I have examined the proposed boundary for the seat of North West of which I am an intended Independent Candidate. Unlike the major parties which are obliged to consider every seat in Western Australia, my primary focus is on that electorate alone. It is perhaps trite to mention that an Independent represents only the electors of a single electorate and not the respective party to which she or he belongs.

I respect the political parties views and appreciate that their people had a huge task is assessing the entire State of Western Australia. In particular the two major parties carried out a mammoth assessment and submission. They are to be congratulated for the manner and quality of their submissions. Not only did they prepare and submit large submissions but they also carried out comprehensive comments on the overall submissions.

I note the tone of the comment of the ALP's written comment in Part 1 which tends to reflect an outright criticism of the Liberal and National parties submissions more along the lines of political dogma rather than a critique of those submissions in accordance with the guidelines set out to the Commissioners. Secondly in Part 2 of the comment I note the words 'Individuals do not represent others, only themselves, and their submissions should be judged strictly on that basis.' and preceded by 'The ALP does not intend to make any commentary regarding submissions of individual members of the public.'

As an Independent Candidate in the previous elections I managed a respectful percentage of primary votes which increased in the respective elections. Many Independent members now influence and are representing their electorates in State and Federal Parliaments. Many of these have been elected by the people and are not merely ex members of political parties who have been expelled or resigned from those parties for a number of reasons.

It may be pertinent to mention that particularly to the upper houses of which members are chiefly elected on party representation, that parliamentarians who withdraw from representing their particular parties, perhaps should also withdraw from the Parliament as the auspices on which they were elected has also changed. In which case I submit that a by-election should be held and that person could re-nominate as an Independent not simply serve out the term. It is also noted that many such persons are not re-elected, which tends to substantiate that view. I submit that, that view of the ALP is incorrect and could be viewed as condescending and offensive.

Nonetheless the overt criticisms of the major parties of each other as outlined above demonstrates the difficulties that the Commissioners' had in putting together this proposed distribution. I believe they have carried out the task with a great deal of logic and respect to the electorate generally. They have faithfully followed the guidelines set out by the enabling legislation and have tried as best they can to carry out those task without undue political influence.

In particular, as to the seat of North West, it appears as though some of my suggestions have been considered. I note that the new boundary does not precisely follow any submission thereby indicating the true independence of the Commissioners' decisions. No one in society can keep every person happy and there will always be some disagreement and for what it is worth I also would had preferred a slightly different outcome. I believe the new distribution to be fair and challenging to all intended candidates. It reflects the true nature of our democratic government and I congratulate the Commissioners' and their staff on a job well done.

Yours faithfully,

A R (Lex) Fullarton
Independent Candidate
North West.