

201 Ob

From: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox
Sent: Monday, 21 August 2023 11:39 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 201 Ob - FW: Objections - 2023 Proposed Redistribution of Western Australian Electoral Boundaries
Attachments: 18082023 Liberal Party Objections FINAL.pdf

From: Simon Morgan [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, 18 August 2023 3:03 PM
To: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox <[REDACTED]>
[REDACTED] Wotton [REDACTED] >; Jeremy Buxton [REDACTED]
Subject: Objections - 2023 Proposed Redistribution of Western Australian Electoral Boundaries

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Good afternoon

On behalf of the Liberal Party of Australia (WA Division), please find attached our objections to the *2023 Proposed Redistribution of Western Australian Electoral Boundaries*.

Please feel free to contact me should you require any additional information.

Kind regards

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Acknowledgement of Country: The Western Australian Electoral Commission acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands on which our electoral activities take place. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

OBJECTIONS TO THE 2023 PROPOSED REDISTRIBUTION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES

LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA (WA DIVISION)

The Liberal Party thanks the Electoral Distribution Commissioners for their efforts in complying with the requirements of the *Electoral Act 1907* while seeking to maintain logical boundaries with appropriate communities of interest.

The decision to abolish the district of North West Central is most regrettable in the context of diminished representation for the former Mining and Pastoral, and Agricultural Regions. The significant communities that comprised the former district will now be appendages of more populous electorates, and the proposed district of Mid West - reaching from Guilderton to Coral Bay - combines remote pastoral Shires with what might be described as peri-urban communities.

Mid West may not be the State's geographically largest district, but it is by far the most disparate. Although the Liberal Party recognises the constraint placed on the Commissioners by the facts of electoral enrolment, we share the deep concerns that have been expressed by non-metropolitan electors about the loss of a further rural/remote district.

We would therefore request that this decision be reviewed, to ensure those living in rural and remote areas are represented fairly, and their electorates are characterised by appropriate communities of interest.

The Commissioners, however, have very wisely refrained from extending any rural or regional district across the current boundary of the Metropolitan area. This boundary has only been altered in respect of the south west corner of the Metropolitan area, an action foreshadowed in previous distributions. The district of Secret Harbour crosses the Metropolitan boundary where urban coastal development creates a shared community of interest. The ceding of the northern localities of the City of Mandurah to this new district avoids the alternative of extending the district of Murray-Wellington into parts of Mandurah.

The Liberal Party notes that the Commissioners have carefully sought to avoid the bisection of localities, and wherever possible to follow the boundaries formed by major roads. Canning Highway for example now forms a clear boundary between the districts of Bicton and Fremantle.

One locality that has been divided along relatively minor suburban streets is Ridgewood, split between the proposed districts of Butler and Mindarie. We formally submit that the 1582 electors in the southern section of the locality of Ridgewood should remain within the district of Butler, so that Lukin Drive, Connolly Avenue and Hester Avenue – all major roads – constitutes a more definitive boundary between Mindarie and Butler.

To keep the districts of Butler and Mindarie within an equivalent balance of enrolment, we submit that the southern part of the locality of Jindalee be ceded by the district of Butler to the district of Mindarie. There are 1419 electors within the three SA1s (5110542, 5110545,

5110547) in that part of Jindalee adjacent to the locality of Quinns. A substantial nature reserve separates this section of Jindalee from the remainder of the locality. By way of comparison, the locality of Marangaroo is proposed to be divided between the districts of Landsdale and Girrawheen by the Marangaroo Conservation Reserve.

This would leave the proposed district of Butler with an enrolment of 31,306 (+2.87% above VFADE) and Mindarie with 30,891 (+1.51% above VFADE).

In addition, the three following representations have been made to the Liberal Party to bring to the attention of the Electoral Distribution Commissioners:

- 1) Concern has been raised at the splitting of the locality of Ocean Reef along Hodges Drive, between the proposed districts of Hillarys and Joondalup. Residents in the southern section of this locality also consider that they have a far stronger community of interest with the adjacent localities in the district of Joondalup than with the district of Hillarys.

It is however appreciated that Hodges Drive as a dual carriageway is a definitive boundary, and that the Electoral Distribution Commissioners have made considerable efforts to avoid the bisection of other localities in the districts within the Cities of Joondalup and Stirling.

- 2) A suggestion has been raised that the locality of Wembley Downs has an increased affinity with the localities of Doubleview and should therefore be included within the proposed district of Scarborough. The localities of Wembley Downs and Scarborough share the same postcode. There are 4692 electors in the locality of Wembley Downs, who can be offset by 4391 electors in the northern section of the locality of Innaloo, keeping both proposed districts within quota.
- 3) A further suggestion has been submitted regarding the names of the proposed districts of Kalamunda and Darling Range. Now that the Kalamunda district includes all the eastern section of the Shire of Mundaring, and loses another part of the City of Kalamunda, it increasingly reflects the boundaries of the former district of Darling Range that existed prior to 1977 and from 1989 to 2008. It was also noted that the current/proposed district of Darling Range extends even further west across the Swan coastal plain, into the City of Rockingham.

Consideration might therefore be given to renaming Kalamunda as Darling Range and reviving the name Serpentine-Jarrahdale (or a major locality name) for the district of Darling Range.

We do however note that in this distribution the boundary between these two districts is proposed to remain unchanged, so that a transfer of names could be confusing. The Liberal Party has previously submitted that districts only be renamed when required by a removal of an eponymous locality, and the Electoral Distribution Commissioners have followed this course in 2023.

The abolition of the North West Central district aside, the Liberal Party broadly accepts the proposed redistribution, subject to the comparatively minor considerations that we have raised.

We would welcome any further opportunity to elaborate on these matters in a future meeting with the Commissioners.

