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**From:** Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 22 August 2023 10:59 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Ob 224 - FW: WA Labor Submission - Comments on proposed 2023 boundaries  
**Attachments:** WA Labor Submission - Comments on proposed 2023 boundaries.pdf

**From:** Tom Beyer [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, 21 August 2023 3:53 PM  
**To:** Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox <boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Lauren Cayoun [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** WA Labor Submission - Comments on proposed 2023 boundaries

**[External Email]** This email was sent from outside the organisation. Be cautious, particularly with links and attachments.  
All SPAM emails must be reported using the instructions on the intranet.

Good afternoon,

Please see attached WA Labor's submission on proposed 2023 boundaries.

I would be grateful if receipt of this submission could be provided ahead of the 5pm deadline.

Kind regards,

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**Tom Beyer**  
**A/Assistant State Secretary**  
**WA Labor**

*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.*

W.A.E.C. RECORDS	
FILE No.	DST 0152
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## WA Labor

# Comments on 2023 Proposed Boundaries

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### Introductory Comments

WA Labor thanks the Commissioners for the opportunity to provide comments on the 2023 proposed boundaries, published on 20 July 2023.

WA Labor broadly agrees with the Commission's approach to this redistribution, which recognises and responds to high population growth in the northern, eastern and southern areas of the greater Perth region.

### District Names

WA Labor notes that Commissioners have sought to retain the current names of districts in most instances, and where changes have been made, retained the important convention of naming districts after localities. Having said this, WA Labor proposes further consideration by the Commission on several district names, including:

#### 1. Swan Hills/ Walyunga

The district should retain its existing name to provide continuity for electors, many of whom have lived and voted in the Swan Hills district since its creation in 1989.

Walyunga National Park is not a prominent park to the majority of electors in the district, and there is little to no identification with this name.

#### 2. Hillarys/ Sorrento

Proposed Hillarys and proposed Padbury each comprise approximately half of the current Hillarys and Carine districts. In the case of proposed Padbury, the Commission has appropriately put forward a new name, given the district is fundamentally different to any current district. The same approach should be taken with proposed Hillarys.

Just as the name 'Padbury' reflects a central locality within the proposed new district, we believe proposed Hillarys should be named 'Sorrento' to reflect the prominence of the Sorrento locality within the proposed new district.

#### 3. Bibra Lake/ Coolbellup

WA Labor agrees that the name of the Willagee district must change. Commissioners have proposed 'Bibra Lake', however we believe 'Coolbellup' is more suitable.

Willagee is a Noongar name, whereas the Bibra Lake name comes from Benedict von Bibra who settled the lakes area in the 1800s, displacing the local Beeliar people. Naming the district 'Bibra Lake' effectively swaps an Aboriginal name for an early settler name. WA Labor feels it important to retain an Aboriginal name and proposes 'Coolbellup', the Beeliar name for what we know as North Lake.

Coolbellup adheres to the Commission's naming convention, representing a central locality within the new district boundaries.

#### 4. Oakford/ Harrisdale

While the locality of Oakford is geographically central in the new district, it is home to a small number of electors and there is little to no broad identification with this name across the proposed district.

As the major population centre of the district is Harrisdale and surrounding suburbs, the district should be called Harrisdale. This adheres to the Commission's naming convention, representing a key locality within the new district boundaries.

### Suggested Boundary Adjustments - Regional WA

#### Geraldton

The proposed boundaries split the Shire of Northampton across two districts. We believe Shire of Northampton communities should be united in the Mid-West District.

The current Geraldton district is within the permissible limits and does not require change, except to balance elector numbers in a neighbouring district.

Uniting areas in the City of Greater Geraldton LGA within the Geraldton District is the most logical way to achieve this. The Commission could stop there, creating a boundary that mirrors the LGA boundary while still leaving both Mid-West and Geraldton within permissible limits. Adding the Shire of Chapman Valley to the Geraldton District brings elector numbers closer to the ADE, though again, is not necessary to remain within permissible limits.

Splitting the Shire of Northampton by including part within the Geraldton district fractures a clear community of interest. Shire of Northampton communities are centred around agriculture and tourism and are all serviced by the Shire of Northampton. There is no requirement to split the Shire to bring either Geraldton or Mid-West within the permissible limits. The Shire should be united within Mid-West, where its characteristics are most similar to the wider district.

	<b>Proposed Geraldton District</b>	<b>Proposed Mid-West District</b>
Proposal for current Geraldton District <b>plus</b> remainder of City of Greater Geraldton LGA	28,442 electors -6.5% deviation from ADE	25,789 electors (+ LDA)
Proposal for current Geraldton District <b>plus</b> remainder of City of Greater Geraldton LGA <b>plus</b> Shire of Chapman Valley	29,356 electors -3.5% deviation from ADE	24,875 electors (+ LDA)

#### Albany

The current Albany District is within the permissible limits and does not require change. It mirrors the City of Albany's LGA boundary and has done so for many years. We do not believe the district boundaries need to change, however understand that the Commission is seeking to bring Albany closer to the ADE.

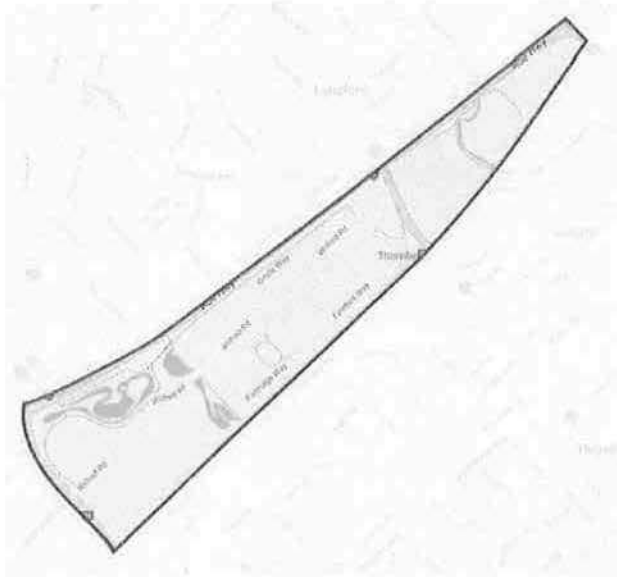
We suggest that the Mount Barker townsite be included within the Albany District boundaries, but that agricultural communities in the north of the proposed Albany boundaries be instead included in the Roe electorate, which shares their agriculturally based land uses and patterns.

### Suggested Boundary Adjustments – Metropolitan WA

### **Cannington/ Thornlie**

The boundary between the Cannington and Thornlie districts should remain Roe Highway, and not the railway line as proposed in the new boundaries. The current boundary is sensible, given Roe Highway creates a strong boundary separating two distinct communities.

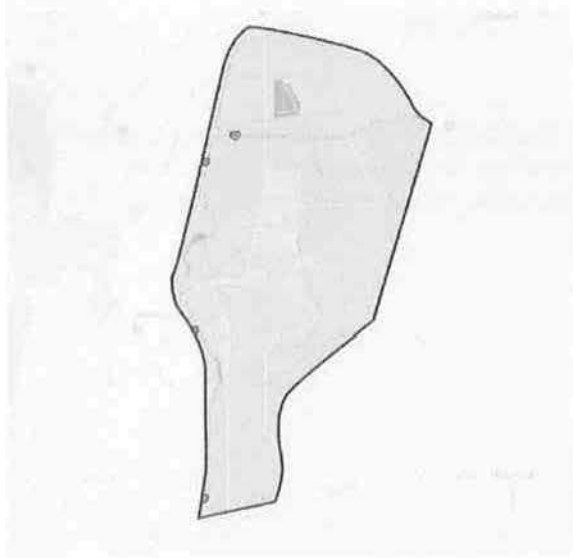
Electors living in the area shown in red on the map below, live in the locality of Thornlie, which the Thornlie district is named for. They identify as Thornlie residents and access services in the Thornlie area, rather than crossing Roe Highway to access services in Langford.



The area contains a small number of electors (approximately 1,072), and maintaining them in the Thornlie District will not result in either Cannington or Thornlie being outside of the permissible limits.

### **Baldivis/ Kwinana/ Darling Range**

The part of the locality of Baldivis that has been included in the proposed Darling Range District boundaries (see area in red on map below), should be maintained in the Baldivis District.



The main population centre of the Darling Range District is the growing Byford Town Centre, which shares no community of interest with Baldivis and is a 30 minute drive.

Electors living in the east of Baldivis identify with their locality name, which is shared with the Baldivis District. They travel west to access amenities and services in Baldivis.

There are approximately 500 electors in the area shown in red on the above map. Maintaining this relatively small number of electors in the Baldivis District would not impact the ability to keep either Baldivis or Darling Range's elector numbers within the permissible limits.

In addition to the part of the locality of Baldivis, east of Kwinana Freeway, more of the north of the locality of Baldivis should be included in the Baldivis District, rather than the Kwinana District as proposed by the Commission.

Residents of the Baldivis locality have a strong community of interest, sharing shopping facilities, community amenities and school intake areas. While it's recognised that the large population of the locality means it is difficult to encapsulate it entirely in the Baldivis District, the Commission should consider including as much as possible, up to the permissible limit.



The red area in the map above shows a collection of SA1s that could be included in Baldivis (rather than Kwinana as proposed by the Commission), and still maintain each district within 10% of the ADE.

### **Balcatta**

The southern part of Gwelup, shown in red on the map below, should remain in the Scarborough District and not move to the Balcatta District as proposed. Maintaining these electors in Scarborough would provide them with continuity and retain the Mitchell Freeway as a strong boundary between districts.



Electors living in the red area on the map travel west to access services and amenities in the Karrinyup town centre. Further, communities living between the coast and the Mitchell Freeway share distinct commonalities. This is recognised elsewhere, with the Mitchell Freeway forming a clear boundary between districts to the north and south.

Crossing the Mitchell Freeway in the case of proposed Balcatta is neither beneficial to the Gwelup community nor necessary to keep Balcatta's elector numbers within permissible limits.

**Churchlands/ Scarborough**



Residents in the area in red are proposed to move from the Churchlands District to the Scarborough District, whereas residents in the area in blue are proposed to do vice-versa. Keeping both areas in their current districts (area in red to remain in Churchlands and area in blue to remain in Scarborough), creates minimal disturbance to electors while still ensuring both districts are within the permissible limits.

	<b>Proposed Churchlands District</b>	<b>Proposed Scarborough District</b>
Proposal to keep red area in Churchlands District and blue area in Scarborough District	31,916 electors 4.8% deviation from ADE	32,712 electors 7.4% deviation from ADE

Residents north of Scarborough Beach Road also share a strong community of interest with the Scarborough. They are within the Innaloo locality and access services and amenities in Innaloo and the Karrinyup town centre, both north of Scarborough Beach Road.

### **Forrestfield**

The district of Forrestfield has, since its creation in 2008, been centred around localities in Perth's east at the base of the Darling Scarp. These localities form a distinct community of interest.

To shift the boundaries of Forrestfield to include localities up in the Perth hills, such as Gooseberry Hill, would effectively create a hybrid district with two geographically and culturally distinct areas that have negligible communities of interest. Gooseberry Hill belongs in the Kalamunda District, which is made up of localities in Perth's hills along the Darling Scarp.

To facilitate the movement of Gooseberry Hill back into the Kalamunda District, a number of localities to the north-east of proposed Kalamunda could be moved to Central Wheatbelt, including Bailup and Wooroloo.

This proposal retains Forrestfield's character as a predominantly foothills community, while ensuring Forrestfield, Kalamunda and Central Wheatbelt districts are all comfortably within the permissible limits.

	<b>Proposed Forrestfield District</b>	<b>Proposed Kalamunda District</b>	<b>Proposed Central Wheatbelt District</b>
Proposal to move Gooseberry Hill locality from Forrestfield District to Kalamunda District and Bailup and Wooroloo localities into Central Wheatbelt District	29,359 -3.5% deviation from ADE	33,252 9.2% deviation from ADE	31,044 2% deviation from ADE

We acknowledge that this proposal results in the crossing of the metropolitan boundary, however note that the Commission has done so elsewhere, where it deemed it necessary, specifically in the case of Secret Harbor where the localities of Madora Bay and Lakelands are included within the proposed Secret Harbour boundaries.