



Shane Love MLA Member for Moore



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The Executive Officer Western Australian Electoral Distribution Commission
Via email: boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au

Dear Commissioners

OBJECTION TO BOUNDARIES

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed 2019 electoral boundaries as released. I wish to make objection with respect to the proposal for the Electorate of Moore within the Agricultural Region.

The proposal to transfer the township of Kalbarri from Moore to the North West Central electorate will leave Kalbarri isolated from the other communities of the Shire of Northampton. It is true that the 2015 boundaries have an area of this shire lying in the seat of North West Central, but this is predominantly bushland and contains no settlements. The 2019 proposal will not only sunder the largest town in the Shire of Northampton from its neighbouring towns and its administration in the town of Northampton, but it will remove it from the Agricultural Region which includes the City of Geraldton.

Removal from the Agricultural Region will disadvantage this community. Kalbarri receives many state services via Geraldton. Kalbarri lies on the south bank of the Murchison River and is geographically isolated from the seat of North West Central and any of the communities in that electorate by the river (the nearest bridge over the Murchison is 70kms upstream) and bushlands for several hundred kilometres.

Power, Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions, Health and Aged Care, Education, Transport, Community Services, Fisheries, Police and emergency services are all examples of services provided through or in conjunction with Geraldton. Placing Kalbarri in a district, North West Central and a region, Mining and Pastoral which have little other connection to the city will diminish its representation.

The redistribution will require the elected members who find themselves representing Kalbarri to familiarise themselves with a range of issues and providers that they do not currently deal with. For example, I believe it would be the only community in their electorate whose electricity providers are Western Power and Synergy. As Kalbarri, alone in the proposed electorate, is part of the South West Interconnected System. Power supply issues have been a key item of advocacy over recent years.



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Fishing both professional and recreational is an important industry in Kalbarri. Management of the fishery will be of vital concern to whoever represents it. If accepted the proposals will mean Kalbarri is the only fishing community in its new electorate and region to lie in the West Coast Bio Region. The Bio Region as defined and managed by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, includes the coastal waters from just north of Kalbarri all the way south along the west coast to Augusta. Again this will disadvantage Kalbarri and place added responsibility upon the elected members.

Another example of the importance of connection to Geraldton and the rest of the Agricultural Region is the provision of ABC radio services into Kalbarri. Because of the coastal geography, direct broadcast of ABC radio into Kalbarri from Geraldton is not possible. Consequently, rebroadcast of the signal is necessary. For technical reasons the ABC rebroadcast the North West service from Karratha into the town for many years. This was a point of contention for residents who were of the view this did not suit their needs, due to their connection to Geraldton and lack of connection to the North West.

The issue was ventilated at a House of Representatives Standing Committee hearing held in Geraldton in 2001 ¹ where after discussions the Chair concluded *..” I think we have got that message about regionality. We will certainly raise the Kalbarri thing, both from an ABC and a commercial viewpoint.”*

Recently on the same topic, in a letter attached to this objection, the Kalbarri Development Association wrote to the leader of the Nationals in the following terms...” *Geraldton which is the region town for the Midwest is only 155 kms away and is the town we most visit for shopping, medical appointments, and entertainment activities so it would be more appropriate for us to receive radio from this area.*

By receiving broadcasts from Geraldton we would also receive regular weather reports and updates, which we do not currently get along with fire ban warnings for this area” ²

Happily, the rebroadcast was recently changed from ABC North West and now the ABC Midwest and Wheatbelt service is received in Kalbarri, linking it to the rest of the northern part of the Agricultural Region.

I could list many other examples of connection between Kalbarri and other communities in the Agricultural Region for example in the management of its National Park, a vital contributor to its tourism industry. I think the key point is that shifting Kalbarri from Moore removes it from the Agricultural Region and therefore sunders it from the communities and the Region it has connection with.



Enrolments inclusive of LDA in electorate of North West Central as of March 2019 while low, are not outside the acceptable level of $\pm 20\%$. No adjustments to expand the Mining and Pastoral Region are needed to ensure every district is within the acceptable range.

I note in the publication of the proposed boundaries the Commissioners discuss community of interest for seats within the Mining and Pastoral area, for example at page 8 of its *Overview and Reasons* document *"Two suggestions proposed that the localities of Laverton and Leonora be transferred to North West Central, but these localities appear to share a greater affinity with Kalgoorlie. The Commissioners also were not persuaded by a proposal to add to Kalgoorlie the shires of Yilgarn and Westonia, considering that those shires share a stronger community of interest with the district of Central Wheatbelt."*

I believe that it is disappointing that Kalbarri has had its community of interest overlooked when the legislation does not require any change for North West Central.

The loss of Kalbarri from Moore with 989 electors and the inclusion of Jerramungup into Roe with 742 is actually a net loss to the Agricultural Region when all four seats are already below the state average.

Ceding Kalbarri when Moore is already at an unacceptably low enrolment level accentuates the 'knock on' effect to both Central Wheatbelt and Roe. This in turn adversely affects the interest of many shires and communities.

In 2015 the Commission proposed placing the Shires of Wongan Ballidu, Goomalling, Koorda and Dowerin in Moore, a measure which prompted objections.

In the Final Boundaries report 2015 commentary regarding the Agricultural Region by the Commissioners noted

"A number of objectors opposed the inclusion of the Shires of Dowerin, Goomalling, Koorda and Wongan-Ballidu in the district of Moore rather than in the district of Central Wheatbelt. For example, the Shire of Koorda indicated that it was a member of a number of regional organisations all of which involved other shires to its east (and situated in Central Wheatbelt) and it was closely aligned to the regional centre of Northam (again, in Central Wheatbelt). Further, Moore included a substantial coastal area and shires with coastal towns. The Shire of Koorda indicated that the issues facing it were 'not similar in any way to the coastal plains'.

The Commissioners were persuaded of the merit of the community of interest arguments expressed or implicit in the objections and have decided to leave the Shires of Dowerin, Goomalling, Koorda and Wongan-Ballidu in Central Wheatbelt rather than transfer them to Moore"

....."The community of interest arguments put in objections, particularly concerning the splitting of the Shire of Esperance and the location of the Shires of Dowerin, Goomalling, Koorda and Wongan-Ballidu were compelling and the Commissioners believe they ought to be adopted"



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It is accepted that there must be an adjustment to Moore. If Kalbarri was not ceded the inclusion of one extra shire, Wongan Ballidu, would bring Moore to an acceptable level while limiting the disruption to other communities.

Splitting Kalbarri from the rest of the population centres in the Shire of Northampton and from the Agricultural Region in which it properly belongs, adversely affects it and the Shire. This will flow on to cause unwelcome disruption to the Central Wheatbelt shires of Goomalling and Dowerin as well as to shires in Roe.

I respectfully request the ceding of Kalbarri from Moore and the Agricultural Region be reconsidered and reversed.

Shane Love MLA
Member for Moore
2/29 Moreton Terrace Dongara WA 6525

1. *Hansard HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT AND THE ARTS Reference: Adequacy of radio services in non-metropolitan Australia MONDAY, 12 MARCH 2001 GERALDTON*
2. *Letter from Kalbarri Development Association November 2018*



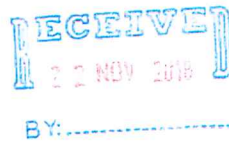
Shane Love MLA Member for Moore

Kalbarri Development Association
P.O. Box 6
Kalbarri W.A
6536.



20th November 2018

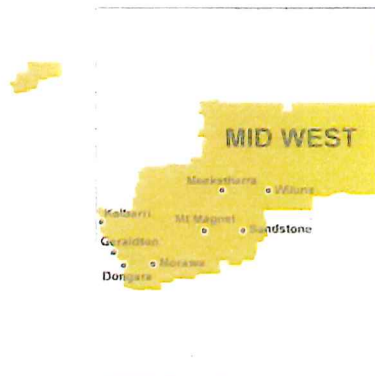
Leader of National Party
Hon Mia Davies
Parliament House
Perth.



Dear Ma'am

RE: Radio Broadcasts into Kalbarri

Kalbarri is a coastal town 570kms from Perth, 155kms from Geraldton and 1076kms from Karratha, at the mouth of the Murchison River and with the Shire of Northampton. We are designated as being on the northern edge of the Midwest Region according to the WA Department of Regional Development.



All correspondence to: PO Box 216 DONGARA WA 6525 Phone: 08 9927 2333
Email: MooreElectorate@mp.wa.gov.au



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On behalf of the community we are writing to request consideration be given to changing our FM Radio broadcasts stations from the Pilbara/Northwest Region to the Midwest Region of WA. Currently we received both ABC and Commercial broadcasts from Karratha or other centres in the Pilbara and Kimberly regions. None of these areas are close to us and the information that they broadcast is mostly applicable to their areas and is not common to our community. Currently the only local Midwest broadcasts we can receive are on the AM band and that is the ABC and it is only if you have a radio that will pick it up or are travelling in your car.

Geraldton which is the region town for the Midwest is only 155kms away and is the town we most visit for shopping, medical appointments and entertainment activities so it would be more appropriate for us to receive radio from this area.

By receiving broadcasts from Geraldton we would also receive regular weather reports and updates, which we do not currently get along with fire ban warnings for the area. This would enable the locals and visitors to choose the appropriate times to go boating or to visit the gorges in the National Park. This would improve the safety for these people and the local volunteer rescue groups.

More importantly, emergency broadcasts for our area we would expect to be given to Midwest Radio stations as we are considered part of the Midwest and as things currently stand, we would not receive this important information. We are surrounded by ocean on the west and National Park to the east with only two main roads leading in and out of the town. If there was a major fire or cyclone alert or other disaster our understanding is that the ABC in Geraldton would be the station broadcasting any emergency warnings, but as we cannot receive this, thus it would not do us any good.

We are aware that emergency services and weather reports are now using the internet and social media to broadcast warnings as well as SMS in some areas but not everyone has access to these or utilise this technology. Also as not everyone listens to the ABC radio station we need the commercial stations to broadcast from our local area.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Eastland, Chairperson.
Kalbarri Development Association





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CC:

The ABC Board of Management,
Acting Managing Director of the ABC
Spirit Radio Perth, General Manager

Federal Minister for Regional Services
Federal Minister for Regional Development
Melissa Price MP, Member for Durack

WA Minister for Regional Development
WA Minister for Emergency Services

Parliamentary Members:

Ian Blayney

Shane Love

The Hon Mia Davies Leader of the National Party

The Hon Jim Chown

Laurie Graham
Martin Aldridge
Rick Mazza
Darren West
Colin de Grussa

