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Terry Redman MLA

Member for Warren-Blackwood

Our Ref: DR 1535-34

20 August 2019

Western Australian Distribution Commission
Electoral Boundaries WA
GPO Box F316
PERTH WA 6841



E-MAILED
22-8-19

Via email: boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au

Dear Commissioners

**2019 WA Distribution -
Comment on Proposed Boundaries for Warren-Blackwood**

I have reviewed the recommendations and rationale as outlined in 'Proposed Boundaries by District and Region' released in July 2019 and wish to submit the following comments.

Firstly, I wish to congratulate you for your considered approach to regional districts, understanding and aligning land use patterns and communities of interest where possible. The retention of all regional districts is important for regional people who often live long distances from their Local Member and other services and appreciate a minimalist approach to boundary changes. I am pleased to see all regional districts remain and that a seat has not been lost from a country region.

Secondly, although the majority of districts have had some change, it is pleasing to see minimal changes to current boundaries in regional areas. This is particularly important for towns such as Mount Barker in the Plantagenet Shire which has moved between districts for the last few elections. This makes it difficult for a Local Member to build relationships with the community and to develop an understanding of the issues facing that community.

Although it is not ideal to split a Local Government area between two or more State Government districts, in the case of Warren-Blackwood, the split of Balingup and Donnybrook is not likely to cause any issues as the towns each have their own separate identity.

It is more stable for Donnybrook to remain in the district of Collie Preston as they have moved in and out of Warren-Blackwood in the last three elections.

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THE NATIONALS *for Regional WA*

Balingup has a strong affinity with all surrounding communities, including those in the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, so the addition of Balingup and surrounding localities of Southampton and Mullalyup will likely have minimal impact against "community of interest" criteria.

Likewise, the constituents in the locality of Cundinup are closely aligned to the community of Nannup, so to be represented by the same Local Member is advantageous.

I am pleased to see no proposed changes to the Margaret River area as this community has already experienced a number of electoral boundary changes.

The Warren-Blackwood electorate (3.48%), and the surrounding ones of Vasse (6.22%), Collie-Preston (7.31%), Roe (-5.27%) and Albany (-3.53%), all remain within acceptable and permitted variations for average district enrolment.

I therefore support the proposed minor boundary change for Warren-Blackwood regarding not ceding any areas and gaining the localities of Southampton, Balingup, Mullalyup and a portion of Cundinup

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Terry Redman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Terry Redman MLA
Member for Warren-Blackwood