



2023 REVIEW OF WESTERN AUSTRALIAN STATE ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES

WA LABOR COMMENTS ON SUGGESTIONS

Introduction and Summary

WA Labor acknowledges the high volume of submissions made to the 2023 Review of Electoral Boundaries. The widely divergent views expressed in the submissions demonstrate the complexity of the task for the Commissioners.

Thank you again for the opportunity to make comments on suggestions made to the review.

We note that several submissions refer to the 2022 electoral reform of the Legislative Council.

The review of Legislative Assembly electorates is undertaken with clearly defined parameters. These parameters are outlined in the Electoral Act, and do not include any reference to electoral equality in the Legislative Council. Submissions making such references are, in our view, not within the scope of the boundary review and are inconsistent with the Electoral Act.

WA Labor does not believe it is appropriate for submitters to this review to attempt to revisit or undermine decisions of the Western Australian Parliament.

As is noted in our initial submission and as is acknowledged in several other submissions, the gap in enrolments between metropolitan and regional WA is growing and our view is that there is no option but to resolve this disparity in this review.

We reiterate the position in our initial submission; that there be minimal redrawing of boundaries, so that boundaries be changed only where it is required to bring districts back within the permissible range. A small number of submissions propose changes in districts that are within the permissible range and therefore do not require change. A number of proposals are made without reference to communities of interest arguments and suggest the exchange of suburbs across two districts without need or justification. WA Labor opposes the unnecessary transferring of electors proposed in these submissions.

WA Labor wishes to express our strong opposition to three specific suggestions: first, the proposal to separate the Shires of Leonora and Laverton from the rest of the Goldfields in the district of Kalgoorlie; second, the proposal to separate the Shire of Yalgoo from other Murchison communities; and third, the proposal to separate the town of Collie from the broader South West community.

We note support across several submissions for a number of suggestions in our original submission, including a district focused on the growing population centre of Ellenbrook, the transfer of the eastern parts of the Shire of East Pilbara into Kimberley, parts of Wellard from Baldivis to Kwinana, Donnybrook-Bailingup from Collie-Preston to Warren-Blackwood, Jindalee from Butler to Burns Beach, West Perth from Perth to Nedlands, and Gracetown from Vasse to Warren-Blackwood.

Central Western Australia Districts

WA Labor strongly opposes the suggestion from the WA Liberal and National parties to separate the Shires of Leonora and Laverton from the district of Kalgoorlie. We believe that the Shires of Leonora and Laverton should remain in Kalgoorlie, united with other gold mining communities.

Residents in both Leonora and Laverton travel to the Kalgoorlie town centre to access services, amenities and recreation facilities and there are strong shared communities of interest between Kalgoorlie and these shires.



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We also oppose the suggestion to separate the Shire of Yalgoo from other Murchison communities, and advocate strongly that these communities remain within the same district.

South West Western Australia Districts

WA Labor strongly opposes the suggestion from the WA Liberal Party that the town of Collie be transferred to Roe. This proposal separates Collie from the broader South West community where much of its community, sporting, economic, industry, social, local government and development commission links lie.

There are strong community of interest arguments for Collie to remain in a district with other South West communities. Residents in the town of Collie access services, amenities, medical services and recreation, employment and training in Eaton and Australind, as well as other towns in the South West. Similarly, many people who work in Collie live in the broader South West region.

At every election since the introduction of one-vote one-value, Collie has been in a district with other South West communities, and we firmly believe this should remain the case.

We note the strong arguments in the submission from the Shire of Collie and Mr Ian Miffing and support their comments on this proposal.

In other parts of the South West, WA Labor also opposes the suggestion to transfer the Shire of Jerramungup to Albany. The Shire of Jerramungup has a much stronger community of interest with Roe and shares similar land use patterns and physical features with other agricultural towns in that division.