



Comments by WA Labor in response to the proposed electoral boundary changes submitted by the Electoral Redistribution Commissioners



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These comments are made on behalf of WA Labor to the Electoral Redistribution Commissioners in respect of the proposed 2019 Redistribution of Electoral Districts and Regions for Western Australia.

WA Labor would like to thank the Electoral Redistribution Commissioners for their incremental change approach to addressing the “substantial population growth at the northern and southern fringes” of Perth. We appreciate the work that the Commissioners have undertaken in addressing this continuing issue.

The Commissioners’ Boundary suggestions deal with the obligations and responsibilities under the Act, while providing minimal impact on Western Australian electors. However, there are two issues with the proposed electoral boundary changes that WA Labor draws to the Commissioner’s attention.

1. Proposed changes to the district of Joondalup can be improved with a small number of boundary adjustments to better satisfy the community of interest requirement.
2. The creation and naming of the new district of Kingsway, the effect it has on community of interests and the opportunity that it creates for the Commissioners to name districts around population centres that better satisfy the community of interest requirement.

Proposed changes to the district of Joondalup

WA Labor’s submissions to the Electoral Redistribution Committee set out a clear and concise method for drawing a set of boundaries that would be congruent with the boundary of the Joondalup LGA.

In this initial submission, we proposed that Joondalup remain an entirely inland district as it had been in the previous two sets of boundaries (2011 and 2007) and that the district of Hillarys become an entirely coastal district.

WA Labor now proposes that the localities of Beldon and Craigie be transferred from the district of Hillarys to the district of Joondalup, the locality of Ocean Reef be transferred from the district of Joondalup to Hillarys and the entire locality of Currambine be transferred into Joondalup. We also propose that the locality of Iluka be transferred back into the district of Burns Beach.

Our proposed arrangement would ensure that no localities are split between districts and that the community of interest requirement is met. Moreover, it unites the suburb of Currambine which in the draft boundaries was split between the districts of Burns Beach and Joondalup.

WA Labor strongly rejects the transfer of the locality of Beldon out of the district of Joondalup into the district of Hillarys.

Since 2003 the locality of Beldon has been situated inside the district of Joondalup. Beldon residents have a strong community of interest with the Joondalup Town Centre and have long had strong connections with the Joondalup district.

Transferring the locality of Beldon into the district of Hillarys would disrupt the affinity that Beldon residents naturally have with the district of Joondalup and create unnecessary confusion.

As well as this, Belridge Secondary College is in the locality of Beldon and the local area intake begins in the locality of Craigie and heads north to the locality of Currambine.

Local primary schools in the locality of Craigie are feeder schools to Belridge Senior High School and it fits community of interest requirements that these schools should all be within the district of Joondalup.

As well as this, the residents of the localities of Craigie and Beldon primarily utilise sporting and shopping facilities in the district of Joondalup.

The creation and naming of the new district of Kingsway

WA Labor objects to the name of the new district of Kingsway due to its geographical closeness to the district of Kingsley and the similarity between the two district names. WA Labor instead suggests the name of Landsdale, the locality which contains the most electors of any suburb in the new district.

Another possibility is for it to adopt the name of Madeley as a suburb close to the geographic centre of the district. However WA Labor would oppose this name because of its similarity to the name of the district of Morley.

WA Labor also objects to the Electoral Redistribution Commissioners' position that "The district name of Girrawheen will be retained but will be allocated to the district immediately to the south (formerly known as Mirrabooka)".

WA Labor would like to note that Mirrabooka is acknowledged as a town centre in State Planning documents and fits the characteristics of a "Secondary Centre". The Mirrabooka town centre also contains the District Police Centre, Library, Community and Recreation Centre for residents. WA Labor would therefore like to propose that the new district named Girrawheen (formerly Mirrabooka) is named Mirrabooka to reflect the fact that the locality of Mirrabooka is the town centre within those localities which make up this new district.

WA Labor has been modest in its objections and concentrated on where boundaries and district names can be improved. WA Labor does not propose wide ranging changes to draft boundaries particularly to the East Metropolitan region with the acknowledgement that future redistributions contain greater challenges for Electoral Redistribution Commissioners.

In closing, WA Labor would once again like to thank the Electoral Redistribution Commissioners for their time and effort in this process and submits these comments for your review.

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