



2023 REVIEW OF WESTERN AUSTRALIAN STATE ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES WA LABOR SUBMISSION

Introduction and Summary

WA Labor thanks the Commissioners for the opportunity to make a submission to the 2023 Electoral Boundary Review.

Our submission is **guided by the principle of minimal change**, with a view to providing stability to as many Western Australian voters as possible.

Most districts are currently drawn on strong boundaries. **We propose limiting the redrawing of boundaries to instances where it is required to bring districts back within the permissible range.**

To that end, our submission proposes no changes to the districts of Albany, Balcatta, Bassendean, Bateman, Belmont, Bicton, Bunbury, Cannington, Carine, Churchlands, Cockburn, Cottesloe, Fremantle, Forrestfield, Geraldton, Hillarys, Joondalup, Kingsley, Landsdale, Maylands, Mirrabooka, Morley, Mount Lawley, Rockingham, Scarborough, South Perth, Southern River, Thornlie, Victoria Park, Wanneroo, Warnbro and Willagee.

This is more than half of all districts (32), and approximately 70% of all metropolitan districts.

However, as has been identified by the Distribution Chair, lower elector numbers in districts in northern Western Australia must be addressed. It is our view that it is not possible to remedy this by moving significant numbers of electors around Western Australia into under-populated districts.

We note that the Kimberley has a distinct community of interest with a unique history, rich Aboriginal culture and unique challenges; Pilbara is characterised by its central industry, mining and resources, and its boundaries should recognise and acknowledge the mining-focus of its communities; Central Wheatbelt communities have a proud 100+ year history of wool and wheat production and these communities should remain at the heart of the district; and Kalgoorlie has a strong gold mining identity, history and culture that sets these communities apart from other areas in regional WA.

It is on that basis that we argue communities currently in the district of North West Central are most appropriate to be redistributed into neighbouring districts of Kimberley, Pilbara, Kalgoorlie, Moore and Central Wheatbelt.

The significant number of metropolitan districts with higher-than-average enrolments also needs to be remedied. We therefore recommend the creation of an additional district in eastern metropolitan Perth, which would result in the redrawing of the boundaries of Darling Range and Swan Hills to create three districts, with new names, that look notably different to existing districts: Byford, Ellenbrook and Eastern Hills.

Byford and Ellenbrook are two major town centres with significant future growth projections, and therefore these population centres should be the central focus of districts that can contract towards their town centres as their populations continue to grow. This then allows the redrawing of a peri-urban district that wraps around the eastern metropolitan area stretching from Bindoon and Chittering in the north, to Marradong and Quindanning in the south.

Our submission also proposes boundary changes in other districts where it is required to facilitate the redrawing outlined above, where it is necessary to resolve enrolment numbers in districts outside legislative limits or as a flow on from remedying these issues.



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WA Labor continues to strongly support the Commission’s convention of naming districts after localities. In keeping with the principle of minimal change, district names should not change except where boundary changes are significant, providing continuity to electors. We therefore propose only three new district names, all locality-based, as outlined above.

Proposed New Metropolitan District

Darling Range and Swan Hills to become Byford, Ellenbrook and Eastern Hills

WA Labor proposes the creation of a new district in Perth’s east, which would involve significant redrawing of the boundaries of Darling Range and West Swan as well as some flow on in surrounding districts.

Firstly, we propose a district of Byford comprising several south-eastern outer metropolitan localities including the Byford town centre.

We suggest Byford include the localities of Banjup, Haynes, Hilbert, Brookdale, Wungong, Darling Downs, Byford, Mundijong, Oldbury, Casuarina, Anketell, Wandi and Oakford, and part of the localities of Forrestdale (south of Armadale Road), Cardup (west of South Western Highway), Whitby (west of South Western Highway), Wellard (east of Kwinana Freeway). We propose it be bordered by clear and logical boundaries - Armadale Road and Eighth Road to the north, the Wungong/Byford/Mundijong locality boundaries to the east, Mundijong Road to the south and Kwinana Freeway to the west.

The proposed Byford district is a combination of outer metropolitan suburban areas focused on growing town centres such as the Byford town centre, and those that share similar land use patterns like acreage and hobby farms to the west of the Byford town centre.

Significant population growth, urban development and the future METRONET Byford Rail Extension mean Byford is the logical focal point for an outer metropolitan district.

Secondly, we propose a district of Ellenbrook centred on the Ellenbrook and Aveley localities.

We propose it also include The Vines, Brigadoon and Upper Swan, with its southern border being Gngangara Road - a major arterial road and a logical boundary with West Swan.

Ellenbrook and Aveley are large, connected population centres. They share a postcode, are within the intake area for Ellenbrook Secondary College, are within the Pearce Ward of the City of Swan and typically access services and amenities in the Ellenbrook town centre; we therefore propose they be united in the same district.

Thirdly, we propose a district of Eastern Hills - a peri-urban seat that wraps around the eastern outer metropolitan area from Bindoon and Chittering in the north to Marradong and Quindanning in the south.

We propose this district comprise of strong boundaries that include whole Local Government Areas (LGAs), whole localities and whole Statistical Areas (SA1s). We propose Eastern Hills include the entirety of the Shires of Chittering, Wandering and Boddington and the entire localities of Bullsbrook, Avon Valley National Park, Malyunga National Park, Gidgegannup, Chidlow, Bailup, Mount Helena, Beechina, Clackline, Baker’s Hill, Wundowie, Copley, Woottating, The Lakes, Gorrie, Sawyer’s Valley, Reservoir, Malmalling, Mount Observation,



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Talbot, Flynn, Lesley, Pickering Brook, Martin, Roleystone, Ashendon, Bedforddale, Karrakup, Flint, Marradong, and Quindanning.

The proposed Eastern Hills boundaries unite more peri-urban and semi-rural communities on the outskirts of the metropolitan area in a single district. These communities share significant communities of interest and commonalities, including relative distance from the Perth CBD, low density residential patterns and acreage, peri-urban and semi-rural land uses such as hobby farms and growers, and are serviced by mainly small, rural local government authorities.

Other Eastern Urban Districts

Midland and West Swan

The surplus in West Swan is remedied by our proposal to move the portions of the Ellenbrook and Aveley localities currently in West Swan into the proposed district of Ellenbrook along with Belhus and Lexia. This will reduce growth pressures on West Swan.

To address the surplus in Midland, we propose that Caversham move from Midland to West Swan. Caversham was part of the original boundaries of West Swan upon its inception in the 2007 distribution and remained in West Swan until the 2015 distribution. The Swan River forms the south-eastern Caversham locality boundary, producing a disconnect with the remainder of Midland. Caversham is well connected to the Dayton locality in West Swan by the recently constructed Arthur Street bridge, with communities of interest across the localities including the Kiara College school intake boundaries. Returning Caversham to West Swan would unite most of the Swan Valley wine region in West Swan.

Further, we propose the localities of Baskerville, Millendon, Herne Hill, Middle Swan and Red Hill should move to West Swan, again uniting most of the Swan Valley wine region in West Swan.

Kalamunda

We propose that the localities of Reservoir, Pickering Brook and Canning Mills, along with the parts of the localities of Martin and Orange Grove currently in Kalamunda, move to the proposed district of Eastern Hills. These communities align closely with other localities in that district, comprising hobby farms, small growers, peri-urban land uses, low density housing and acreage.

Armadale

Armadale's surplus can be remedied by moving the entire localities of Haynes, Hilbert and Brookdale to the proposed district of Byford. These areas are similar in density and land use to neighbouring Darling Downs to the south and Oakford and Forrestdale to the west.

The locality of Kelmscott is currently split between the districts of Armadale and Darling Range. Our proposal is that it be wholly within Armadale. Kelmscott residents access services in the Kelmscott Town Centre along Albany Highway and share communities of interest including the Kelmscott Senior High School intake area. The Kelmscott locality is within the City of Armadale LGA and has land use features and residential density trends similar to the suburban district of Armadale.

Northern Urban Districts

Burns Beach and Butler



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We propose Butler's surplus be remedied by moving the southern portion of the locality of Jindalee into Burns Beach. Residents in the southern portion of Jindalee are separated from those in the northern portion by Eglinton Hill. They share commonalities with neighbouring Quinns Rocks in Burns Beach – it is serviced by the City of Wanneroo LGA and is located within the Butler College intake area.

The surplus of electors in Butler is further remedied by moving the locality of Two Rocks into Moore. At almost 70km away from the Perth CBD, the community of Two Rocks has different servicing requirements and modes of transportation to much of Butler which, in some parts, is only 38km from the CBD. Two Rocks also shares similarities with other coastal towns in Moore, servicing a combination of residential and tourist populations.

Southern Urban Districts

Jandakot and Riverton

Riverton is slightly under the average district enrolment and neighbouring Jandakot is significantly over. Moving a northern portion of the locality of Leeming from Jandakot to Riverton will go some way in remedying Jandakot's surplus. This portion shares several commonalities with the portion currently in Riverton. It is located within the intake zone for Leeming Senior High and is in the City of Melville LGA.

The surplus in Jandakot can be further remedied by moving the portion of the locality of Forrestdale south of Armadale Road into the proposed district of Byford, with Armadale Road creating a strong boundary. This portion of the Forrestdale locality is within the City of Armadale LGA, as is much of the proposed district of Byford, and would be bordered to the west, south and east by areas within the proposed district of Byford.

Kwinana and Baldivis

We propose that the boundary of Kwinana shift west, so that the Kwinana Freeway makes up the bulk of the eastern boundary - except for Aubin Grove which we propose remain in Kwinana. This would produce a strong, natural separation between two distinct communities.

We propose the localities of Banjup, Wandi, Anketell and Casuarina as well as the portion of the Wellard locality east of the Kwinana Freeway, move to the proposed district of Byford. These localities share similarities with areas in the west of Byford like Oldbury and Oakford, including demographics, property ownership patterns, dwelling type and land uses.

To remedy the surplus in Baldivis, we propose the portion of Wellard west of Kwinana Freeway move to Kwinana. Residents in this portion of Wellard share a strong community of interest with Kwinana. They are separated from the remainder of Baldivis by the Leda Nature Reserve and largely access services and amenities around the Kwinana town centre. This portion of Wellard is the only part of Baldivis within the Town of Kwinana LGA, with the remainder in the City of Rockingham LGA.

Central Urban Districts

Perth and Nedlands



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The locality of West Perth, currently split across the Perth and Nedlands districts, should be united in Nedlands to remedy Perth's surplus. Residents in this area are more likely to access services in Nedlands and share a strong sense of identity with the West Perth locality.

Central Western Australia Districts

Moore and Central Wheatbelt

To resolve Moore's low elector numbers, we propose it gain the Shires of Exmouth, Carnarvon, Upper Gascoyne, Meekatharra, Shark Bay, Murchison, Cue, Yalgoo, Mount Magnet and the remainder of the Shire of Northampton.

Communities in and around Dowerin, Goomalling and Toodyay have strong cultural links to those in Central Wheatbelt such as Northam, York and Beverley; they have similar history and land uses related to their significant wheat and wool production. To unite these communities within one district, we propose the entirety of the Shires of Dalwallinu, Moora, Wongan-Ballidu, Dowerin, Goomalling, Victoria Plains and Toodyay be moved from Moore to Central Wheatbelt.

As outlined earlier in this submission, we propose several communities currently in Central Wheatbelt move to the proposed Eastern Hills district to better align with land use similarities and resolve quota issues. We also propose the Shire of Chittering move to Eastern Hills and the locality of Two Rocks move from Butler to Moore, which as outlined above, helps to resolve the surplus in Butler.

Kalgoorlie

We propose the entirety of the Shires of Sandstone, Wiluna and Ngaanyatjarraku move to the Kalgoorlie District.

Northern Western Australia Districts

Pilbara and Kimberley

We propose the Shire of Ashburton move into Pilbara, creating a district encompassing the mining and resources-centered townships of Onslow, Tom Price, Parabadoo, Karratha, Port Hedland and Newman. Uniting these communities in a single district recognises the shared interests and characteristics and unique challenges faced by WA's northern mining and resource communities.

Further, we propose the bulk of the east of the Shire of East Pilbara move to Kimberley, including the whole SA1's containing Marble Bar and Nullagine and the whole SA1 containing Jigalong. This maintains the entirety of the Town of Port Hedland LGA within Pilbara.

South West Western Australia Districts

Dawesville and Mandurah

A collection of SA1s on the border of Mandurah and Dawesville could be moved from Mandurah to Dawesville to bring both electorates within permissible limits, resolving the surplus in Mandurah without significant change in these and surrounding districts. If necessary, a northern part of the Mandurah District could be transferred to Warnbro.



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Murray-Wellington and Collie-Preston

As a flow on from our proposal for the districts of Byford and Eastern Hills, we propose Murray-Wellington move north to include part of the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale, including the localities of Mardella, Hopeland, Keysbrook, Serpentine and Jarrahdale.

The locality of Australind is currently split between Murray-Wellington and Collie-Preston, and we propose as much of it as possible be united in Collie-Preston. This acknowledges residents' strong locality-based identity and shared communities of interest, including use of the same shopping, employment and economic links, shared recreational amenities, the Australind Senior High School and Australind Primary School intake areas and coverage by the Shire of Harvey LGA.

To offset the gain in electors in Collie-Preston, we propose the Donnybrook-Balingup LGA be united in the Warren-Blackwood District. The Donnybrook-Balingup LGA has historically moved between the Collie-Preston District and the Warren-Blackwood District and is currently split across both. As well as being in the same LGA, the area shares a strong community of interest with towns such as Bridgetown, with notable similarities in physical features such as forests and in its agriculture, food and farming industries.

The eastern border which is made up of the boundary between the Collie LGA and the Williams and West Arthur LGAs should be maintained. This clear boundary will continue to be a strong border, as the Commissioners have acknowledged in the past, and provide continuity for electors in the east of the district.

Roe, Vasse and Warren-Blackwood

To address the deficit in enrolment numbers in Roe, we propose the entirety of the Shires of Plantagenet and Boyup Brook move from Warren-Blackwood to Roe, recognising their similarities with other inland South-West agricultural communities. This will provide stability to Roe's enrolment numbers given its limited population growth.

This proposal sees Warren-Blackwood become a district with stronger shared communities of interest, becoming a coastally focused electorate. This could be furthered by transferring the locality of Gracetown, west of Caves Road and south of the City of Busselton LGA boundary, from Vasse to Warren-Blackwood.

As previously mentioned, the entirety of the Donnybrook-Balingup LGA should be united in Warren-Blackwood.