



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Comment on objections 14

Liberal Party of Australia (W.A. Division)

4 pages



12 July 2024

Redistribution Committee for Western Australia
C/- Australian Electoral Commission
Level 1, 15-17 William St
PERTH WA 6000

via email: FedRedistribution-WA@aec.gov.au

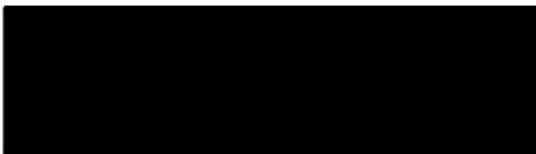
Dear Committee Members,

Liberal Party of Australia (W.A. Division) – Objections to the proposed Western Australian Federal Redistribution

The Liberal Party of Australia (W.A. Division) appreciates the opportunity provide written comments on objections relating to the Redistribution Committee for Western Australia's proposed redistribution.

Please find attached our comments on the objections received, which we submit for the Committee's consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Simon Morgan
State Director

LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA (WA DIVISION)

COMMENTS ON OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSED WESTERN AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL REDISTRIBUTION 2024

There are three major aspects of the 42 actual objections published by the Redistribution Committee for Western Australia.

- Neither the WA Division of the Liberal Party, WA Labor, Mr Darren McSweeney (OB 30) and Mr Jeff Waddell (OB 35), who had all previously submitted comprehensive proposals, are seeking major revisions.
- Seven objections relate to the proposed boundaries of the division of Forrest.
- There are 22 objections regarding the name of the division of Bullwinkel.

Clearly the overall redistribution has been well accepted, and any demands for substantial revision would be presumptuous and impractical.

The Liberal Party does not support those Objections (1, 3, 4, 7, 9 and 42) that seek to confine the 16th division to the metropolitan area through convoluted and extensive redrawing of boundaries.

- We reaffirm that there is nothing unusual regarding a federal division combining rural Shires with metropolitan localities, and that this has caused no detriment to adequate representation of electors.
- James McLaughlin (OB 14) is mistaken in alleging that the Town of Bassendean would become part of a division with a “rurally driven community mindset” or that its voting patterns are relevant. Logically it cannot remain within the division of Perth.

The Objection from the Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup (33), concerning its proposed transfer to the division of O’Connor is well argued, and is supported by five others (6, 11, 12, 16 and 28). The Liberal Party also respects OB 31 from the Shire of Waroona, requesting to remain within the division of Canning.

Any such adjustments, however, should not proceed if they necessitate the revision of other divisional boundaries, since O’Connor would fall below the minimum projected quota limits should the transfer of Donnybrook-Balingup Shire be reversed. Inevitably the division of O’Connor now includes a substantial part of WA’s South West, with Shires such as Manjimup and Collie firmly integrated into this division.

WA Labor (OB 36) is mistaken in its contention that the Shire of Beverley has a lesser connection with the remainder of the proposed division of Bullwinkel, in comparison to the Shires of Toodyay, Northam and particularly York.

- The Shire has an easy road communication with outer metropolitan centres via the Brookton Highway.
- There is a symbiosis between the Shires of Beverley and York, that together form an SA2 and have for decades until 2022 both been included in the same division, forming part of semi-urban division of Pearce from 1998 to 2022.

- In this wider context, the current inclusion of Beverley with O'Connor is an aberration.

Councillor Jennifer Spanbroek (OB 40) as the local representative of the Leeming community concurs with the Liberal Party Objection that this locality should not be divided along the line of a Local Government boundary.

- We emphasise that this modest adjustment can be made with the involvement of only two adjacent divisions.

Consideration might be given to some minor changes as proposed by Mr Darren McSweeney regarding the boundaries of the proposed division of Hasluck as these would involve a minimal number of electors.

- The Reid Highway could form a stronger boundary between Hasluck and Cowan, should the generally unpopulated industrial locality of Malaga remain in the proposed division of Cowan.
- There seems to be no compelling reason why the localities of Lexia and Melaleuca should remain within the division of Pearce rather than be combined with Ellenbrook in the City of Swan, and in the division of Hasluck.

The Liberal Party reaffirms our acceptance of the decision to choose the name Bullwinkel for the 16th WA division. The Redistribution Committee has very correctly followed the AEC Guidelines for naming divisions: "*In the main, divisions should be named after deceased Australians who have rendered outstanding service to their country.*" (Emphasis added).

With respect to the Shire of Toodyay (OB 41), the Beard family (OB 34) and others who have advocated the names of Alma Beard, Marjorie Lyon (OB 10) or Minnie Hodgson (OB 37), it must be restated that Vivian Bullwinkel is not simply being honoured for her wartime bravery but equally for her subsequent lifetime career of outstanding service to the people of Australia.

- Sadly, a person who died tragically young, albeit in wartime service, does not fulfil the same criteria.
- Divisional names should not in fact commemorate "local heroes" who may not have such national significance, no matter how deserving otherwise.

Neither should divisional names be closely linked to specific localities that could well be transferred to another division in future redistributions. The Shire of Toodyay may not always remain within the proposed division of Bullwinkel.

- For example, there is no part of the proposed division of Canning that has constantly remained within the boundaries first created in 1948.

The Liberal Party commends OB 5 from the WA Branch of the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation in acknowledging Vivian Bullwinkel's dedicated leadership.

- As a person of national significance, it should be irrelevant that she was born in South Australia, educated and trained in New South Wales, and worked in Victoria before a significant period of residence in Western Australia.
- Her memorable State Funeral was held in St Georges Cathedral in Perth.

The Objections by Professor Peter Hancock (9, 19 and 29) denigrating Vivian Bullwinkel as “*a military officer, a significant symbol of oppression*” are deeply offensive, and undeserving of any serious consideration.

In summary, The WA Liberal Party again thanks the Redistribution Committee for its careful and balanced proposals and request the Augmented Electoral Commission to maintain these, subject only to minor adjustments.

We also consider most strongly that the name of Bullwinkel should be confirmed for the 16th WA division.