



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Comment on suggestion 05

David Lumsden

2 pages

Fremantle Redistricting

I agree with the submission of Felicity, in that Fremantle would be a more coherent seat with a clearer community of interest, if it comprised the Local Government Areas of Fremantle, East Fremantle, Melville, and perhaps even Mosman Park.

As I argued in my own submission, the combination of Fremantle and Cockburn is now too large to fit into one electoral division. My submission perhaps placed undue weight on the advantage of maintaining coherent LGAs within electoral divisions. I think that Felicity's submission does that much more neatly. Splitting Cockburn between two electoral divisions should be avoided, if possible.

Most submissions that discussed Fremantle suggested that it should maintain its broad contours, while donating enough of Cockburn to either Burt or Brand to keep Fremantle within its quota. This approach has the disadvantage of fragmenting Cockburn between electoral divisions. Presumably, as Cockburn's population increases, this seemingly easy fix will continue to progressively divide Cockburn between the electoral division of Fremantle and its neighbouring electoral divisions. I would argue that this outcome would be as disadvantageous for Cockburn as it is for Fremantle. Cockburn is large enough to be the centre of its own seat. Fremantle, as a LGA is different and independent enough from Cockburn to express its community of interest with its much closer neighbour: Melville.

I hope that this does not delve too deeply into a politically-based rationale, but Fremantle's overwhelming "Yes," vote at the recent referendum cut a sharp contrast with Cockburn's strong "No," vote. These communities are different in so many ways. When Fremantle residents visit the shopping mall, they go to Garden City (in Melville), rather than Phoenix. Our public transport systems are almost totally independent of each other. Our cities are separated by a string of lakes. The only thing that Fremantle and Cockburn share in common is that they are in the same electoral division.

Cropping off the edge of Cockburn is a short-term solution that does justice to neither Cockburn or Fremantle. At best, it would maintain an electoral division with a tenuous community of interest. At worst, it would compromise the

coherence with which different levels of government can coordinate their representation of Cockburn residents.

Regards,

David Lumsden