



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Comment on suggestion 07

WA Labor

5 pages



WA Labor Submission to the
Redistribution Committee
Comments on Redistribution Submissions

Introduction

WA Labor thanks the Redistribution Committee for the opportunity to respond to submissions made as part of the 2023/2024 WA Federal Redistribution process.

In assessing the range of submissions, we acknowledge the similar approach taken in almost all substantial submissions to the creation of a new division. Specifically, multiple suggestions to redraw Hasluck to create an Ellenbrook-Midland based division, allowing the creation of the new division in the outer east along the Darling Scarp.

Submissions S6, S7, S9, S12, S14, S16, S18 and S21 favour the creation of an additional electoral division north-south along the Darling Scarp (to varying degrees), including both the Liberal and Labor submissions. To accommodate this new division, submissions S6, S7, S9, S12, S14, S16, S18 and S21 call for Hasluck to be centered around the Midland and Ellenbrook town centres – again, including both the Liberal and Labor submissions.

New Division

As noted above, the approach taken to redraw Hasluck and create a new outer eastern division is shared in several submissions, however there are differences in the way it has been constituted. In the Liberal submission, the proposed new division includes localities such as Forrestfield and Maddington which are under 20km from the Perth CBD, along with localities such as York and Beverley which are 90 to 100km from the Perth CBD.

These are significantly different communities with different servicing requirements, land uses, communities of interest etc. The Shires of York and Beverley for example, comprise several wheatbelt communities which are most appropriately located within the regional division of O'Connor, alongside other Shires with similar demographics, land uses and historical connections (eg. neighbouring Beverley, Quairading, Cunderdin and Goomalling). Similarly, the Shire of Northam should be united with similar neighbouring communities in the Durack Division, for example the Shire of Toodyay with which it shares strong communities of interest.

The more compact Farmer Division set out in WA Labor's submission respects communities of interest, uniting those in outer urban and peri-urban communities along the Darling Scarp, without the need to include agricultural and wheat based regional communities in the Shires of York, Beverley and Northam.

Further, we maintain that the Commission should consider naming the new division Farmer for the reasons outlined in WA Labor's submission. However, should the name Farmer not be accepted by the Commission, we also note the merits of Peter Kennedy's suggestion in S15 of naming the new division 'Walsh'. 'Walsh' would be fitting recognition for Senator Peter Walsh's immense contribution to the Federal Parliament and the nation as a long serving Western Australian Senator and Minister.

Northern Metropolitan Area

We acknowledge a number of similarities in submissions around northern metropolitan boundaries, with many taking a modest approach to redrawing boundaries, displacing minimal electors. We broadly agree with this approach, noting that with a new division located in the east, flow-on effects can be largely accommodated elsewhere. In assessing submissions around the northern metropolitan area, we note the following:

- (i) **Curtin** – Several submissions propose to maintain Curtin's southern and eastern boundaries, redrawing only the northern boundary to resolve quota issues. Submissions S7, S9, S12, S14, S21 (including that of Kate Cheney, Member for Curtin), propose Karrinyup Road as the most appropriate northern boundary; the Liberal submission is an outlier in suggesting otherwise. We reaffirm the view shared between our submission and many others, that Karrinyup Road is the logical and appropriate northern boundary. We

also note S10 suggests transferring Mosman Park from Curtin to Fremantle, however given Mosman Park's strong links with Peppermint Grove, Cottesloe and Claremont, we believe it is important to maintain the locality in Curtin.

- (ii) **Perth** – We note the large volume of submissions (including submissions S7, S9 (part), S18 and S21) that align with our view that Tonkin Highway should form the eastern boundary of the Perth Division, and we reaffirm our view that the localities currently in Perth to the east of Tonkin Highway, be transferred to Hasluck. We also note the many submissions that align with our view that Morley Drive should be maintained as the boundary between Perth and Cowan (including submissions S7, S9, S12, S16, S18 and S21).
- (iii) **Moore** – Most submissions seek to retain the boundary between Moore and Pearce, which is largely comprised of Wanneroo Road and Lake Joondalup (including S7, S9, S12, S14, S18, S21). We echo this view, and firmly believe that the Kingsley and Woodvale localities should remain in the Moore Division, with which they share strong and cohesive communities of interest.
- (iv) **Hasluck** – WA Labor's proposed Hasluck contains the Swan Valley wine region in its entirety, uniting an important tourism precinct and established viticulture-based communities that have a shared history going back nearly 200 years. The Liberal proposal to use the Swan River as part of the division's boundary effectively splits the Swan Valley wine region in two, dividing a strategically important community of interest. Further, we feel strongly that the localities of Alexander Heights, Ballajura, Malaga and Mirrabooka should not be separated from Balga, Marangaroo, Nollamara and Noranda, with which they share longstanding communities of interest. These communities should all be united within the Cowan Division, rather than transferred to Hasluck as proposed by the Liberals. The Tonkin Highway north of the Swan River serves as a clear and consistent western boundary for Hasluck with Perth, Cowan and Pearce.

Cowan

The way in which WA Labor has redrawn Cowan not only retains communities of interest within Cowan, but minimises the movement of electors. Given the significant disruption to Cowan electors in the last redistribution, this is particularly important for Cowan electors. The version of the Cowan Division put forward in the Liberal submission on the other hand, does not appropriately respect communities of interest, historical connections or transport corridors in this part of metropolitan Perth.

It would be nonsensical for Mirrabooka to be removed as the central anchor of the Division of Cowan. The Mirrabooka town centre is an important hub for local electors in terms of its major shopping centre, access to services, multicultural centres, public and private schools, major bus station, and other amenities. Electors in the localities of Alexander Heights, Balga, Girrawheen, Koondoola, Marangaroo and Mirrabooka share important demographic similarities, including socioeconomic patterns, high rates of people born overseas and high rates of languages other than English spoken at home etc – these communities should be retained in a single division with the Mirrabooka town centre at its core.

We also note that local transport routes are stronger east-west than they are north-south, with Cowan therefore more logically drawn east-west. Further, Mitchell Freeway, Karrinyup Road/Morley Drive and Tonkin Highway are all major arterial routes that would form clear and logical boundaries for the west, south and east of Cowan respectively. We maintain that major roads are more appropriate boundaries than locality boundaries, and more recognisable and identifiable for local electors.

We note the synergy between WA Labor's submission and numerous others when contemplating the Cowan boundaries, including the following:

- (i) There is no strong community of interest between the Kingsley and Woodvale communities (proposed by the Liberals to be transferred into Cowan), and the remainder of the Cowan Division. This view is echoed in submissions S9, S12, S14 and S21, which propose boundaries for Cowan that do not include Kingsley.
- (ii) To resolve quota issues resulting from neighbouring division changes, we have proposed that Cowan include communities to the north of its current Hepburn Avenue boundary. Along with our submission, S7, S9, S12, S14 and S21 propose Cowan include the Landsdale locality.
- (iii) Almost all submissions that contemplate the Cowan Division, include within its boundaries the localities of Alexander Heights, Koondoola, Malaga and Mirrabooka. Unique to the Liberal submission is the exclusion of these localities, proposing that they instead be transferred to Hasluck. The Liberals have also proposed transferring the locality of Ballajura from Cowan (where it sits alongside similar communities) to Hasluck, where it shares no community of interest with the Ellenbrook or Midland population centres. We note that the localities of Koondoola, Alexander Heights, Malaga and Ballajura have all been within the Cowan Division in 2004, 2007, 2010, 2013, 2016, 2019, and 2022 (and Koondoola in 2001 also).

South Metropolitan Area

We reiterate our view that in the south metropolitan area, the ocean and the Swan River provide a strong natural boundary for much of the seats of Fremantle, Tangney and Swan, and that while some movement of electors is required to bring divisions within permissible limits, these divisions should largely retain their current structure.

In relation to submissions on south metropolitan Perth, we note the following:

- (i) **Burt** - WA Labor's submission retains the entire locality of Kelmscott (including the Kelmscott hills) in the Burt Division. We maintain that this is the most appropriate arrangement, given the strong community of interest across the suburb of Kelmscott on both sides of the Albany Highway and both sides of the Canning River. In particular, all parts of Kelmscott access their shopping on both sides of Albany Highway, public and private high schools in Kelmscott, as well as the major train and bus interchange in Kelmscott and the current Member of Parliament's office is situated on the eastern side of Albany Highway (between the Highway and the River). We note that submissions S12, S14, S18 also maintain the entirety of Kelmscott in Burt.
- (ii) **Brand** - WA Labor's submission maintains the Kwinana strip in the Brand electorate, whereas the Liberal submission does not. The Kwinana Industrial Area shares a unique historic connection to the Kwinana Town Centre, as they were developed together to support BP's oil refinery from the 1950s. Moreover, approximately 20,000 of the 30,000 workers on the strip live within 15km of the area. To separate the Kwinana industrial strip from the Kwinana townsite, would divide a clear community of interest. Given the small population living within the industrial area, we suggest that transferring it to another electorate would have limited ability to resolve quota issues, and so it should remain in the Brand Division, where it has strong historical connections.

Fremantle and Tangney

There is strong community of interest in the current Fremantle Division, covering the three Local Government areas of Fremantle, East Fremantle, Cockburn which share significant historical, cultural and geographic links. Fremantle also encompasses the whole of Fremantle Port and Jandakot Airport, both strategically significant pieces of transport infrastructure. WA Labor's

proposed boundaries seek to address quota issues with a modest boundary adjustment in the division's south-east, maintaining these important communities of interest and infrastructure pieces within the division.

A number of submissions (including S7, S9, S12, S14) take a different approach to resolving Fremantle's quota issues, retaining the majority of the Fremantle-Tangney boundary, but with minor elector transfers at the northern most part of the boundary from Fremantle to Tangney. The transfer of electors in this area would have consequences for Tangney, requiring it to lose electors elsewhere. This could be achieved in one of two ways:

- (i) By Tangney ceding the Canning Vale locality to Burt; or
- (ii) By Tangney ceding parts or all of the Wilson, Ferndale, Parkwood and Lynwood localities to Swan.

Should the Commission favour adjustments to the northern part of the Fremantle-Tangney boundary, with Tangney then needing to cede electors elsewhere to satisfy quota requirements, it is our view that the most appropriate adjustment would be transferring the Canning Vale locality to Burt. Canning Vale has been in the Burt Division previously, and its electors have little community of interest with Willetton to its north, given the separation created by the Canning Vale industrial area. If required to offset the transfer of Canning Vale and satisfy quota requirements, Tangney could also gain the Langford locality.

Conversely, there is a strong community of interest between Ferndale, Parkwood and Lynwood and their adjacent suburbs within Tangney, these localities also all being part of the City of Canning local government area, and utilising the Riverton shopping centre.

Regional Western Australia

As above, we are firmly of the view that localities such as York and Beverley which are approximately 90-100km from the Perth CBD, should remain in a regional division, and not be transferred to a division that also incorporates communities based under 20km from the CBD (as is proposed in the Liberal division of Court). Again, these communities along with other parts of the Shire of York, Northam and Beverley, are significantly different communities with different servicing requirements, land uses, communities of interest etc.