



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Objection 28

Iain Massey

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Australian Electoral Commission
(Attn: WA Redistribution Secretariat)

BY WEB SITE UPLOAD

24th June 2024

REDISTRIBUTION OF ELECTORATES - SHIRE OF DONNYBROOK-BALINGUP

I am an enrolled voter in the current Commonwealth division of Forrest, and a resident of Balingup within the Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup.

I object to the Australian Electoral Commission proposal to move the Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup from the division of Forrest into that of O'Connor, for the following reasons:

- Currently, I only need to travel 60km to Bunbury to see my Commonwealth MP. In the O'Connor division, I would have to travel either 744km to Kalgoorlie, 264km to Albany or 200km to Perth. This is neither fair nor practical. Representative democracy cannot work unless representatives are in close contact with their electors.
- I fear that the quality and vigour with which our local issues are represented in Canberra would be impacted. We have little in common, economically or socially, with the vast inland areas of the Division of O'Connor. By contrast, we share with the LGAs to our north, west and south many issues, including:
 - Water security and equity of water access;
 - Forest health;
 - Local food production and food security (we have no broadscale cropping or grazing, but we have many diverse producers of foods, wines and fibres);
 - Pest species management (blackberry and pigs, to take two examples, are very different problems here than in the wheatbelt);
 - Emergency management structures (including the Blackwood regional bushfire response structures);
 - Urban incursion on agricultural land.
- Our regional hospital, higher education institutions, manufacturing, shops and other services are in Bunbury and employ significant numbers of our Shire's residents. We have always been economically connected to the coast, not to the inland areas.

I note that your report says no change is actually required for either the Forrest or O'Connor divisions. I ask that you put the practical interests of electors, and their access to their representatives, ahead of numerical formulas.

Iain Massey

