



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Suggestion 02

Frank Collins

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WA FEDERAL REDISTRIBUTION

Suggestion re new 16th seat

Please forgive a lack of structure in this suggestion. The one and only theme is a plea that the electoral commissioners base their decisions on an understanding of the realities of Australia.

Australia is a huge land where its population spread is completely non-homogenous. 65.5% of its 26.5 million people are clustered in each State or Territory's capital cities. Western Australia – a third of the nation's area – is the extreme example: 74% of its population is clustered in the greater Perth metropolitan area. Under that population imbalance across such a vast spread, representative democracy cannot flourish by the numbers alone. Economic influences, and the concentration of jobs, opportunities, and comforts have combined the world over to hollow out the core, and this drift can only be accelerated by authorities not appreciating the circumstances that prevail outside the population centres.

National wealth comes in several forms, two that come to mind are from its people, and from its hard work. While redistributions are largely a numbers model, electoral commissioners, in their deliberations, should consider both,. In Western Australia – as in the whole of Australia - it could be argued that the wealth from hard work, in dollar terms, is generated in the regions and consumed in the cities. Goods that have their source in the regions appear on supermarket shelves, and are often purchased without much thought for where they came from, or the costs and risks of production. Our schools are not much help in this regard, and produce children without much realisation of the realities that make Australia tick. Political decisions are made by majority-urbanised politicians for majority urban electorates. The golden egg that the goose lays is gladly accepted, but the goose itself is taken for granted and shunned. At a federal level, Australia has the Senate that addresses this geographic factor; WA once had a Legislative Council for the same reasons, but that no longer exists as originally intended.

After its people, Australia's monetary wealth comes from mining and agriculture exports, and that is where the new real dollars come from. The cities are service-based, where those new dollars are circulated and recirculated creating a wealth and credit of their own, but second in terms of creation.

With that in mind, I suggest that the 16th WA seat be rural-based, with tendrils into the outer Perth metropolitan, and major regional centres. The boundaries of existing seats would need to be adjusted accordingly. I suggest it be centred in Geraldton, at the northern extremities of the agricultural regions, the southern extremities of the iron mining regions, the western extremities of the gold mining regions, and the eastern extremities of the fishing industry. Names are difficult, but I suggest it be called Endeavour.

For your consideration,

Frank Collins