



Objection 22

WA Labor

3 pages



Redistribution Committee
Australian Electoral Commission
By Email: fedredistribution-wa@aec.gov.au

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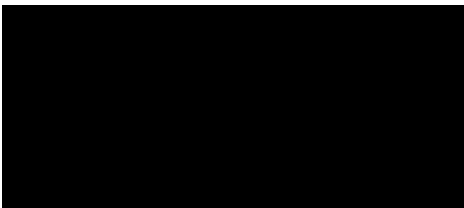
Dear Committee

Western Australian Federal Redistribution: Proposed Boundaries

Please find enclosed WA Labor's submission of objections to the proposed Western Australian Federal Redistribution.

If you require further information or clarification, please contact me using the details below.

Yours Sincerely,



Tim Picton
State Secretary

WA LABOR SUBMISSION OF OBJECTIONS TO PROPOSED WESTERN AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL REDISTRIBUTION

WA Labor acknowledges the significance of the task undertaken by the Committee in abolishing a Division in Western Australia. In our initial submission WA Labor outlined a series of key issues for the Committee to address.

WA Labor believes the Committee has met many of these challenges and supports many of the changes proposed.

WA Labor accepts the Committee's proposal to abolish the Federal Division of Stirling as well as the significant but necessary redrawing of the Divisions to the north and east of Metropolitan Perth to meet legislative requirements and unite communities of interest.

The proposed boundaries for the Divisions of Pearce and Hasluck better align strong communities of interest within these divisions.

The proposal also limits change to most electors across WA. WA Labor believes this is a good outcome, and we commend the Committee for limiting disruption where it was not necessary.

However, WA Labor objects to several small aspects of the Committee's proposal, and therefore proposes minor changes to the proposed boundaries, which would better align communities of interest within some divisions. WA Labor proposes as follows:

- Suburb of Bennett Springs to remain in the Division of Cowan;
- Suburb of Stirling to be transferred to the Division of Curtin;
- Parts of the suburb of Karrinyup be transferred to the Division of Moore;
- Suburb of Maida Vale to remain in the Division of Hasluck; and
- Suburbs of Orange Grove and Martin to remain in the Division of Canning.

Cowan

Significant redrawing of the boundaries is required in the north metropolitan area of Perth if the Division of Stirling is to be abolished. As part of this redrawing, the Committee has proposed to transfer electors in the suburb of Bennett Springs from the Division of Cowan to the Division of Hasluck. WA Labor objects to this transfer and instead proposes the suburb of Bennett Springs remain in the Division of Cowan.

Bennett Springs is separated from the vast majority of the District of Hasluck by Whiteman Park. Therefore, it shares no common amenities, school catchments or community services, and has limited means of accessible travel between the suburb and the remaining proposed Division of Hasluck. Electors in this suburb largely access services in the neighbouring suburbs of Malaga and Beechboro, currently in the proposed Division of Cowan. These suburbs also share demographic and area similarities.

To accommodate this, WA Labor proposes to transfer the suburb of Stirling, South of Karrinyup Road, to the Division of Curtin. To accommodate these additional numbers in Curtin, Northern parts of the suburb of Karrinyup could be transferred to the Division of Moore.

Hasluck and Swan

The Committee has proposed a significant redrawing of the boundaries to the Division of Hasluck, and minor changes to Swan. WA Labor largely supports the proposed boundaries.

WA Labor objects to the transfer of the suburb of Maida Vale to Swan, and argue it remain in the Division of Hasluck, to better align communities of interest. Maida Vale is separated from neighbouring suburbs in the proposed Division of Swan by Roe Highway, a main road. Residents in the suburb are likely to use amenities and services in nearby Kalamunda and Gooseberry Hill, in the proposed Division of Hasluck. It also allows more of the City of Kalamunda to be within the Division of Hasluck, where most of that Local Government area remains.

Burt and Canning

The Committee has determined that to compensate the Division of Burt for the loss of electors from the movement of Canning Vale from Burt to the Division of Tangney that the suburbs of Martin and Orange Grove be transferred from the Division of Canning to the Division of Burt.

WA Labor objects to this proposal on communities of interest and physical features grounds and proposes that the electors in Orange Grove and Martin to the east of Tonkin Highway, remain in the Division of Canning.

This change to the Committee's proposal maintains the status quo and would save unnecessarily transferring over 800 electors to a different Division, and keeps rural and hobby farm areas in Martin, to the east of Tonkin highway, and Orange Grove in the same Division as similar adjacent areas in the Division of Canning. These areas do not share strong links to the urbanised suburbs the City of Gosnells that they would join in Burt.

These changes still enable all numerical requirements for the redistribution to be complied with and provide a better grouping of communities of interest together in each relevant division, as well as reducing the number of electors that are required to change divisions as a consequence of the redistribution.

Conclusion

WA Labor thanks the Australian Electoral Commission and the Committee for the opportunity to make comments throughout the redistribution process and looks forward to seeing final boundaries.

WA Labor acknowledges the challenges that come with the task of abolishing an electoral Division and commends the Committee for a proposal which largely maintains strong communities of interest across Western Australia and has limited movement of the majority of electors across the state.