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# Objection 12

Balingup Progress Association

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# Balingup Progress Association

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Australian Electoral Commission  
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## PROPOSED INCORPORATION OF SHIRE OF DONNYBROOK-BALINGUP INTO ELECTORATE OF O'CONNOR

Reference A: Proposed redistribution of Western Australia into electoral divisions MAY 2024

At a meeting of Balingup Progress Association held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024, it was resolved that a submission be made regarding the Australian Electoral Commission proposal to make changes to federal electoral boundaries in Western Australia. One proposal is to move the Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup from Forrest into O'Connor electorate and we object to this proposal for the following reasons:

- Currently, a resident of Balingup has to make a short 60km trip into to Bunbury to see their MP. If the Shire is incorporated into O'Connor, a resident will have to travel either 744km to Kalgoorlie, 264km to Albany or 200km to Perth. This is neither fair nor equitable and does not comply with paragraph 108 of reference A where the *'Redistribution Committee specifically noted the difficulties faced by electors and those who represent them, or seek to do so, as a result of the large geographic area of the Divisions of Durack and O'Connor'*. Para 108 goes on to say that *'where possible, under this proposal the Redistribution Committee endeavoured to **reduce or minimize the size** of these electoral divisions to the extent allowed by the Electoral Act.'*
- Forrest is an already elongated electorate and the change would make it even longer and more narrow. This may unintentionally skew the demographic of the electorate as it removes the agricultural and forested Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup.
- In the past 20 years, Balingup has re-positioned itself to take advantage of the growing tourist sector. With events such as the Medieval Carnivale, Small Farm Field Day and Telling Tales, the community has little in common with broad acre farming and mining. There is genuine concern that our needs will not be understood and our voices will not be heard.

Reference A (Table F) states that no change is required for Forrest or O'Connor electorates:

- para 175 states that the population of Forrest is *'within the numerical requirements of the Electoral Act'*
- para 205 states that *'O'Connor is within the numerical requirements of the Electoral Act'*.

It appears that the proposed change is a purely for numerical purposes and not based on the needs of the community or best practice representation.

We understand the importance of having clear boundaries but we ask that an alternative be found to simply using LGA boundaries. For example, Dalyellup and Australind are considered satellite suburbs of Bunbury but over half of the Shire of Capel live in Dalyellup, and over half the Shire of Harvey live in Australind.

Your consideration of this submission would be much appreciated.

J.Hornum  
President

7 June 24