



**THE FEDERAL  
REDISTRIBUTION  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

# Comment on suggestion 06

Liberal Party of Australia (W.A. Division)

5 pages



1 December 2023

Redistribution Committee for Western Australia  
C/- Australian Electoral Commission  
Level 1, 15-17 William St  
PERTH WA 6000

via email: [FedRedistribution-WA@aec.gov.au](mailto:FedRedistribution-WA@aec.gov.au)

Dear Committee Members,

**Liberal Party of Australia (W.A. Division) – Comments on Suggestions to the  
Redistribution Committee for Western Australia**

The Liberal Party of Australia (W.A. Division) welcomes the opportunity to make comments on suggestions provided to the Redistribution Committee for Western Australia for the current Western Australian Federal Redistribution.

Please find our comments attached.

Yours sincerely,



**Simon Morgan**  
State Director

## **LIBERAL PARTY COMMENTS ON SUBMISSIONS TO THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL REDISTRIBUTION 2023-24**

The Liberal Party of Australia (WA Division) appreciates the opportunity to comment on all submissions. We note that the 21 submissions fall into three categories:

- Eight proposing the redistribution of all 16 Western Australian divisions, seeking to comply with enrolment projections;
- Seven referring to the boundaries of a limited number of divisions; and
- Six confined to suggestions for a name for the 16<sup>th</sup> Western Australian division.

### **STATEWIDE SUBMISSIONS**

Of the eight statewide submissions, there is a clear consensus that the 16<sup>th</sup> division should be formed on the eastern fringe of the Metropolitan area, with its major component coming from the existing division of Hasluck. In general, there has been a welcome avoidance of gratuitous reengineering of existing divisions.

It is very difficult to evaluate the proposals of Mr Ben Close (S8), partly on account of his use of numbers rather than names for the SA2s that are the building blocks for federal distributions, and a general lack of description. Nonetheless it appears that he also advocates a substantial change to the division of Hasluck, in order to facilitate creating a new division.

The proposal from WA Labor (S 18) for the new division has the awkward effect of leaving the metropolitan suburb of Bullsbrook within the vast regional-based division of Durack and avoiding any retreat of this division from near-metropolitan LGAs. In contrast, the remaining submissions all suggest a combination of the excision of Bullsbrook, or the Northam, York, or Toodyay Shires from Durack.

We would also query why the proposed division of Burt in WA Labor's submission needs to extend as far south as Byford, while surrendering the core localities of Thornlie and Gosnells to the new division.

- Other submissions do not take the 16<sup>th</sup> division so far westward.
- If not remaining within Canning, Byford would more logically form part of an outer eastern division.

At the same time, WA Labor's submission proposes extensive and unnecessary changes to the boundaries of Canning, Forrest, and O'Connor, seemingly designed to place the regional town of Collie in the part-metropolitan division of Canning.

As well as giving rise to potentially negative impacts in terms of community of interest within Canning, this change would also result in a projected enrolment for Forrest close to the lowest possible figure.

It is worth observing that none of the remaining wholistic submissions advocate the transfer of Collie to Canning, and indeed six of them propose that this regional town remains within the country division of O'Connor.

We note however a significant point of agreement between the submissions of both major parties: that it is reasonable on the grounds of road, SA2 and LGA boundaries, to divide the locality of Canning Vale.

Similarly, both parties support the cession of parts of the Fremantle division from east of the Kwinana Freeway, whether north or south of Armadale Road. Both the Liberal or WA Labor submissions also avoid bisecting the localities of Madeley, Darch and Landsdale.

Mr Darren McSweeney is to be commended for the detail and presentation of his submission (S 9), and we note that his proposal for the 16<sup>th</sup> division is broadly like that of the Liberal Party, including as it does the Northam, York, and Beverley LGAs.

We do, however, disagree with his suggestion that the division of Cowan should move west of the Mitchell Freeway to include the Karrinyup-Gwelup-Carine SA2 from the divisions of Curtin and Moore. We consider that long standing communities of interest are better served by incorporating this entire SA2 in the division of Moore while reuniting the Kingsley and Woodvale SA2s with the Greenwood SA2 in the division of Cowan.

Neither do we support the suggestion of Mr McSweeney and Mr Waddell (S 7) that the Madeley-Darch and Landsdale SA2s be divided between the divisions of Cowan and Pearce along the east-west line of Kingsway. Rather than splitting three localities, either of these SA2s should be wholly transferred from Pearce to Cowan.

Mr Martin Gordon (S 12) notably proposes a 16<sup>th</sup> division including the Northam, York and Beverley LGAs and advocates the transfer of the localities of Wilson, Ferndale, and Lynwood from the division of Tangney to the division of Swan.

Both Mr Gordon and Mr McSweeney advocate no change to the boundaries of the division of Forrest. This approach is certainly preferable to the large scale, unnecessary changes suggested by others including WA Labor.

The Liberal Party strongly disagrees with the proposal of Mr Waddell that the division of Canning extend from a substantial southern part of the City of Rockingham as far as the locality of Australind, causing major unnecessary adjustments to the boundary of Forrest with O'Connor. The Australind SA2 is part of Greater Bunbury and for reasons of community of interest, it should remain in the division of Forrest.

Equally, we disagree with the proposal of Dr Mark Mulcair (S 14) that would see the Shire of Collie be added to the division of Forrest, that in turn would cede the entire Harvey SA2 to the division of Canning. This would cause needless confusion and disruption to community of interest, with the main road connecting Collie with Bunbury passing awkwardly in and out of the division of Forrest at various points along the route.

Mr Luke Dixon (S 21) also advocates a 16<sup>th</sup> division extending beyond the metropolitan area, in this instance including Bullsbrook, together with the Toodyay and Northam LGAs.

## **SUBMISSIONS LIMITED TO ADJACENT DIVISIONS**

Ms Kate Chaney MP (S 17) reinforces a strong consensus that the division of Curtin be brought within quota by ceding electors in the Karrinyup-Gwelup-Carine SA2, and the Trigg-North Beach-Waterman's Bay SA2. The only point of difference is whether the northern boundary of Curtin should be formed by Karrinyup Road, or by locality/SA2 boundaries.

The Liberal Party considers that it is desirable to follow these locality boundaries to remove a somewhat larger number of electors, recognising that the division of Curtin has at 8.35% the highest projected growth of all current divisions. This reverses previous trends where Curtin had relatively static enrolment growth. The Liberal Party's suggestion also ensures the locality of Trigg remains united in the one division.

The submissions of Mr David Lumsden (S 10) and of Felicity (S 20) advocate a radical reconfiguration of the division of Fremantle, a proposal not reflected in any wholistic submission, and lacking in merit.

The City of Cockburn has been continually based within the division of Fremantle since 1977 and has an enduring community of interest with the City of Fremantle. Mr Lumsden admits that his suggestion "*would constitute the biggest modification to the Fremantle electorate in living memory*". The Liberal Party considers that there is no need for such a drastic change that would disrupt established boundaries.

Mr Frank Collins (S 2) proposes a new rural 16<sup>th</sup> seat which cannot be justified by enrolment data. Indeed, the City of Geraldton already forms the core of the current division of Durack.

Suggestions 13 and 19 are both anonymous and concern the division of Forrest.

- S 13 makes a valid argument for extending this division into the Manjimup and Pemberton SA2s, but this change could be impractical in the overall context of this redistribution.
- S 19 seeks the reincorporation of the Shire of Collie into Forrest, claiming that it is "incongruent" with the division of O'Connor. This comment is mistaken.
- O'Connor has since 2009 been a partly 'South West' division, while the Collie LGA is not part of Greater Bunbury and has been outside the division of Forrest from 1989 to 2000, and again since 2016, with no detriment to its representation.

## **SUGGESTED NAMES FOR THE 16<sup>th</sup> DIVISION**

The WA Liberal Party welcomes the suggestions from Mr Peter Stewart (S 6) and from Mr Luke Dixon that this division be named Court to commemorate Sir Charles Court. We maintain that this is the most pertinent choice of name.

- We respect the suggestion from WA Labor that the new division be named Farmer, honouring a notable Indigenous Western Australian sportsman, but consider that he has already been deservedly recognised through the Graham Farmer Freeway. This freeway was constructed and named by the government of Premier Richard Court and opened to traffic in April 2000.
- Indeed, it could be argued that this freeway looms larger in public consciousness than does the name of a federal parliamentary division.
- We however disagree with the unsubstantiated argument of Professor Peter Hancock (S 3) that the name Farmer is somehow “divisive”, and with Loon Yeang (S 5) who states that no eminent sportsperson should be honoured.
- Indeed, it is the suggestion of Mr McSweeney (S 9) to adopt the name Bates that would be problematical, since the Australian Dictionary of Biography entry for Daisy Bates concludes that her achievements are the “subject of sustained controversy”.

We consider that the suggestions of Mr Martin Gordon and Mr Peter Kennedy (S 15) to adopt the names of Holman (also cited by Mr Jeff Waddell) and Walsh both recognise eminent Western Australians who have served in Parliament. These suggestions would merit serious consideration should the name Court not be adopted for the 16<sup>th</sup> Division.

Regarding other suggested divisional names, the Liberal Party appreciates the proposal of Mr Waddell to honour the late Sir Frederick Chaney but considers that the timing is inappropriate, since his granddaughter Ms Kate Chaney MP is currently serving in Federal Parliament as the Member for Curtin.

The WA Liberal Party is pleased that there have been no suggestions to rename any existing Western Australian divisions. All these divisional names have major historical significance, and the three Federation divisions with geographic names (Perth, Fremantle, and Swan) appear set to continue to be based on their eponymous cities and river.