



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Suggestion 15

Peter Kennedy

1 Page

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15 November 2023

Redistribution Committee for Western Australia

AEC

Locked Bag 4007

Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Commissioner

Re name of new federal electorate (WALSH) in Western Australia

The names of the current 15 federal electorates in WA are drawn from geographical locations and people who have made a major contribution to the State. These include prominent political figures, pioneers and families. I would recommend that this trend be continued in the naming of the state's sixteenth seat.

On that score I would urge the Redistribution Committee to name the state's new seat WALSH, after the late Hawke Government Finance Minister Senator Peter Walsh.

Mr Walsh was a farmer from the WA Wheatbelt region of Doodlakine before his election as a Labor Party senator in 1974. He served in the Senate for the next 19 years and made a vital contribution as Minister for Finance in the Hawke Government between 1984 and 1990.

It was in this role that he is seen to have played a significant part in helping push through the major economic reforms initiated by Bob Hawke as Prime Minister and Paul Keating as Treasurer which are considered to have been so crucial to an extraordinary period of sustained economic growth in Australia.

In fact a political opponent - and subsequent Liberal Party Finance Minister - Mathias Cormann, described Peter Walsh as a "real pillar of the Hawke Government". He set the benchmark as to how the job should be done.

Although it is now 30 years since Mr Walsh stepped down from the ministry, and more than eight years since he died, his contribution is still identified as having set the benchmark – with a combination of spending discipline and commitment - for finance ministers in Canberra.

It is for this reason that I urge the Redistribution Committee to settle on "WALSH" as the name for WA's new electorate. I am sure that such a decision would be well received across the board in recognition of Peter Walsh's distinguished public service to WA and the nation.

Yours faithfully

Peter Kennedy