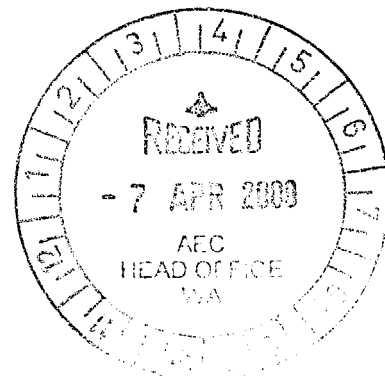




AUSTRALIAN
LABOR
PARTY

Western Australian Branch

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Mr Andrew Moyes
Australian Electoral Officer
for Western Australia
Australian Electoral Commission
28 Thorogood St
Burswood WA 6100

Dear Sir

Pursuant to the provisions of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918, I submit the Australian Labor Party's comments on suggestions to the Redistribution Committee.

The comments are in compliance with the criteria set out in section 66 (3) of the Act.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Bill Johnston'.

Bill Johnston
ASSISTANT STATE SECRETARY

7 April 2000



**Australian Labor Party
(WA Branch)**

**Comments on Suggestions
to the Redistribution Committee
for Western Australia**

7 April 2000

Introduction

The Australian Labor Party has noted all submissions received by the Australian Electoral Commission.

The Australian Labor Party's comments have been made with specific criteria in mind, namely;

- community of interest within the proposed Electoral Division, including economic, social and regional interests;
- means of communication and travel within the proposed Electoral Division;
- the physical features and area of the proposed Electoral Division;
- the boundaries of existing Divisions in the State or Territory.

The Australian Labor Party has not included comment on naming the new Division, aside from in our original suggestions. The Australian Labor Party contends that the issues of community interest, physical features, means of communication and existing boundaries are more important than further comment on the naming of the new Division.

The Australian Labor Party argues that the submission of the Liberal Party (WA Division) Inc. has missed the opportunity to tidy up the existing boundaries with minimal disruption to electors. In almost every Division the Liberal Party has paid scant attention to local government areas, existing boundaries and the issue of split localities.

The Liberal Party has stated in their submission that only minimal change is necessary outside the metropolitan area. This policy results in some massive changes to existing boundaries in the more metropolitan Divisions.

As the Committee will have noted, the Australian Labor Party proposed minimal change in the metropolitan area. The Australian Labor Party's submission created the new Division in the south east of the state.

The Liberal Party's proposal for a new metropolitan Division overlooks the growth outside the metropolitan area – such as in Forrest and Brand. The number of electors displaced in the Liberal Party's submission has been excessive due to their overt concern with political outcomes, whilst ignoring some of the key criteria used in a redistribution.

The Liberal Party's proposed Divisions of Stirling and Canning are blatant attempts at changing the political complexion of a the Divisions. Their proposal ignores existing boundaries, local government areas, means of transport, physical features, not to mention the strong community of interest shared by the electors in each of the current Divisions.

The Australian Labor Party will comment on the suggestions received for each Division.

BRAND

The Australian Labor Party notes the submission of the Liberal Party (WA Division) Inc. with respect to the Federal Division of Brand.

The Australian Labor Party concurs with the Liberal Party (WA Division) Inc. where it states that, "only its southern boundary requires alteration".

The Australian Labor Party agrees with the Liberal Party (WA Division) Inc. where it states, "The Division of Brand would remain based on the upon the Town of Kwinana and the City of Rockingham with a major if reduced portion of Mandurah".

The Australian Labor Party argues that the Mandurah Estuary should be the southern boundary, with only Eskine and Halls Head removed from Brand. A Division of Brand without the localities of Eskine and Halls Head would fulfill the statutory criteria with regard to the quotas.

The added removal of Coodanup from Brand ignores the extensive community of interest Coodanup shares with Mandurah. The people of Coodanup would be much better served by being in the same electorate as the people in the locality of Mandurah.

The removal of Coodanup from Brand also ignores the strong boundaries of the Serpentine River and the local government boundary to the east.

CANNING

To the extent that it is noteworthy at all, the Australian Labor Party notes the submission of the Liberal Party (WA Division) Inc. with respect to the Federal Division of Canning.

The Liberal Party submission is errant in regard to the Division of Canning. The Division of Canning only included some of the Shire of Mandurah following the last redistribution.

The Liberal Party submission has not taken the opportunity to make Canning an outer metropolitan electorate only. The opportunity exists to make Canning a seat based on the local government areas of Armadale and most of Gosnells.

The City of Gosnells and the City of Armadale share much in common. The main arterial highway runs right through both communities. The Albany Highway is not just an important transport link, but is also a community of interest. Albany Highway as it runs through the Cities of Gosnells and Armadale also provides for most of the commercial sites in the area. Albany Highway and its immediate surrounds are where most of the people in the area access goods and services.

The Liberal Party submission for Canning includes rural shires such as Collie, Williams, Wandering, Waroona and Boddington with only part of the metropolitan locality of Canning Vale.

Their submission for Canning leaves the Division a hybrid mess, with little community of interest. The rural shires added to Canning lessens the community of interest rather than enhancing it.

The Liberal Party submission also overlooks the extensive community of interest the Shire of Collie shares with the City of Bunbury as pointed out by the Shire of Collie itself.

COWAN

The Australian Labor Party notes the submission of the Liberal Party (WA Division) Inc. with respect to the Federal Division of Cowan.

The Australian Labor Party concurs with the Liberal Party's submission that the northern boundary of the Division should not change.

The Australian Labor Party disagrees strongly with the Liberal Party's suggestion of major change for Cowan. The Liberal Party's suggestion that the four localities of Greenwood, Warwick, Kingsley and Woodvale be added to Stirling, whilst the localities of Balga, Mirrabooka, Nollamara and Dianella be given to Cowan, is simply change for change's sake.

The Divisions of Cowan and Stirling have had a strong east-west axis since Cowan's inception at the 1984 redistribution. The use of Beach Road as the boundary between Cowan and Stirling was one of the strengths of the last redistribution. Beach Road also serves as the northern boundary for the City of Stirling and should not be crossed in this redistribution process.

The Australian Labor Party argues that Beach Road is a strong established boundary from the coast all the way to the locality of Malaga.

The Liberal Party submission appears ignorant of the fact that the current Division of Cowan contains only about 200 electors from the City of Stirling. It would be ludicrous to suggest that Division of Cowan should be the recipient of thousands of electors who currently reside in the City of Stirling.

The Australian Labor Party argues that changes proposed by the Liberal Party are nothing but an attempt to alter the political complexion of Cowan and Stirling. It would be an act of stupidity to displace tens of thousands of electors in Cowan and Stirling in order to satisfy the political hunger of the Liberal Party. Changes between the Divisions of Cowan and Stirling should be kept to a minimum if required at all. The Liberal Party does not pay any regard to the strong existing boundaries in the area.

CURTIN

The Australian Labor Party notes the submission of the Liberal Party (WA Division) Inc. with respect to the Federal Division of Curtin.

The Australian Labor Party concurs with Liberal Party's submission in so far that the Division of Curtin only need alter the northern boundary with the Division of Stirling.

The current boundary of Brighton Road and Ewen Street leaves the localities of Scarborough and Doubleview split between two Divisions. The Australian Labor Party would argue that these localities should be reunited wholly within a Division.

The Australian Labor Party would contend that where possible locality boundaries be used to divide electoral Divisions. Hence, reuniting the whole of Scarborough within the Division of Stirling and the whole of Doubleview within the Division of Curtin would be a stronger boundary between Curtin and Stirling.

FORREST

The Australian Labor Party notes the submission of the Liberal Party (WA Division) Inc. with respect to the Federal Division of Forrest.

The Australian Labor Party agrees that the Division of Forrest should lose the City of Albany and gain the Shire of Harvey.

The Australian Labor Party notes the submission of the Shire of Collie with respect to the Federal Division of Forrest.

The Australian Labor Party agrees strongly with the submission put forward by the Shire of Collie. It is a most worthwhile contribution.

The inclusion of Harvey and Collie into Forrest would mean that the Division would have to lose more than just the City of Albany. Further shires in the south of the Division should be removed where necessary.

FREMANTLE

The Australian Labor Party notes the submission of the Liberal Party (WA Division) Inc. with respect to the Federal Division of Fremantle.

The Australian Labor Party concurs with the Liberal Party submission in regard to the southern boundary with the Division of Brand.

The Australian Labor Party concurs with the Liberal Party in so far that the Division of Fremantle must lose electors to the Division of Tangney.

The Liberal Party submission completely disregards the community of interest shared by the people within the City of Melville. Their submission does not look to reunite the split localities of Alfred Cove and Myaree within the Division of Tangney in the north eastern part of the Division.

The Liberal Party submission does not pay due regard to local government boundaries in the south eastern part of the Division. The removal of more of the City of Cockburn to Tangney does not enhance the community of interest shared by the people living there.

KALGOORLIE

The Australian Labor Party notes the submission of the Liberal Party (WA Division) Inc. with respect to the Federal Division of Kalgoorlie.

The Australian Labor Party agrees with the Liberal Party that the Division of Kalgoorlie requires minimal disruption. Kalgoorlie is one of the five original Western Australian Divisions.

The Australian Labor Party contends that Kalgoorlie should lose the Shires of Mullewa, Northampton and Chapman Valley. These shires were added to the Division of Kalgoorlie at the last redistribution.

The Australian Labor Party notes the submission of Senator Alan Eggleston with respect to the Federal Division of Kalgoorlie and disagrees strongly with his views that the Division be abolished.

Contrary to Senator Eggleston's assertion, there is substantial community of interest between the eastern goldfields and the north west due to the following commonalities:

- Both are remote areas - admittedly the north-west is more further from Perth, however both areas face similar challenges due to their remoteness;
- Both are substantially mining and pastoral areas;
- Both are very sparsely populated; and
- Both face similar infrastructure challenges in areas like communications, roads and transport, and the provision of essential services.

These southern agricultural shires have very little commonality of interest with the goldfields, with the exception of the Shire of Esperance, where there are historically shared interests which are recognised by a range of Local, State and Federal government bodies and manifested by the Esperance - Eastern Goldfields ward of the Country Shire Councils Association; the Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission; and the Goldfields-Esperance Area Consultative Committee.

MOORE

The Australian Labor Party notes the submission of the Liberal Party (WA Division) Inc. with respect to the Federal Division of Moore.

The Liberal Party submission is correct where it states Beach Road would constitute a clear demarcation between the Divisions of Stirling and Moore. Beach Road is also the boundary between the City of Stirling and the Cities of Joondalup and Wanneroo.

The Australian Labor Party argues that Beach Road is a strong established boundary from the coast all the way to the locality of Malaga.

The Liberal Party submission overlooks the community of interest shared by many of the localities in the suburbs north of Burns Beach Road. The Australian Labor Party contends that the localities of Merriwa, Quinns Rock, Clarkson and Mindarie should all be within the one Division as they share a very strong community of interest. These localities also share the same means of transport in order to get into the city.

O'CONNOR

The Australian Labor Party notes the submission of the Liberal Party (WA Division) Inc. with respect to the Federal Division of O'Connor.

The Australian Labor Party disagrees with the assertion made by the Liberal Party that the Division of O'Connor requires only minimal change.

The Australian Labor Party concurs with the Liberal Party submission that Shire of Collie should be removed from the Division, however there is significant disagreement as to which Division it should be given to.

The Liberal Party submission has not looked to address the issue of the size of Western Australia's large non-metropolitan Divisions. The creation of a new southern wheatbelt Division would have addressed this problem adequately.

PEARCE

The Australian Labor Party notes the submission of the Liberal Party (WA Division) Inc. with respect to the Federal Division of Pearce.

The Australian Labor Party contends that the localities of Merriwa, Quinns Rock, Clarkson and Mindarie should all be within the one Division as they share a very strong community of interest. These localities also share the same means of transport in order to get to the city.

The Liberal Party's suggestion for the Division of Pearce would make it very difficult for any Member of Parliament to service. It would be a Division without a centre or focal point, let alone any sense of community.

PERTH

The Australian Labor Party notes the submission of the Liberal Party (WA Division) Inc. with respect to the Federal Division of Perth.

The localities of Midland, Caversham, Guildford, Midvale, Viveash, Bellevue, Middle Swan and West Midland have a community of interest with the Division of Perth as reflected by previous decisions of the Commissioners in particular, boundaries for the 1990, 1993, 1996 and 1998 elections. Indeed, the most recent redistribution reaffirmed that community of interest.

Midland and surrounds are joined to the Division of Perth by road (Guildford Road – major link), by rail (Perth-Midland suburban railway line) and river (Swan River & Helena River).

Midland and surrounds have a community of interest with the Division of Perth as reflected by the Shire of Swan boundary. The Shire of Swan includes Midland, part of Midvale, West Midland, Guildford, Caversham, Viveash, Beechboro, Lockridge and Kiara – all of which are in the Division of Perth.

The Midland Town Centre is the centre and focal point of the surrounding localities.

The Australian Labor Party strongly contends that Midland and surrounds should remain in the Division of Perth.

The Liberal Party submission does not strengthen the boundary between the Divisions of Perth and Cowan. The Australian Labor Party argues that the current boundary of Morley Drive, or our proposed boundary of Walter Road would provide for a simpler, stronger boundary.

STIRLING

To the extent that it is noteworthy at all, the Australian Labor Party notes the submission of the Liberal Party (WA Division) Inc. with respect to the Federal Division of Stirling.

The Australian Labor Party disagrees strongly with the Liberal Party's suggestion of major change for Stirling. The Liberal Party's suggestion that the four localities of Greenwood, Warwick, Kinglsey and Woodvale be added to the Division, whilst the localities of Balga, Mirrabooka, Nollamara and Dianella be given to Cowan, is simply change for change's sake.

The Division of Stirling has had a strong east-west axis since its was proclaimed in 1955. The use of Beach Road as the boundary between Stirling and Cowan was one of the strengths of the 1996 Redistribution. Beach Road also serves as the northern boundary for the City of Stirling and should not be crossed in this redistribution process.

The Australian Labor Party argues that Beach Road is a strong established boundary from the coast all the way to the locality of Malaga.

The Australian Labor Party argues that changes proposed by the Liberal Party are nothing but an attempt to alter the political complexion of Stirling. It would be an act of stupidity to displace tens of thousands of electors in Cowan and Stirling in order to satisfy the political hunger of the Liberal Party. Changes between the Divisions of Cowan and Stirling should be kept to a minimum if required at all.

The Australian Labor Party concurs with the suggestion of the Liberal Party to remove the locality of Marmion and that part of the locality of Sorrento currently within the Division of Stirling, and add those electors to the Division of Moore.

SWAN

The Australian Labor Party notes the submission of the Liberal Party (WA Division) Inc. with respect to the Federal Division of Swan.

The Liberal Party submission ignores the ease at which the Division of Swan could reduce its number of electors and maintain the Division's strong boundaries. The current Division of Swan is bounded by two rivers and the Roe Highway

The Australian Labor Party argues that the Liberal Party submission is correct in removing High Wycombe but it is ignoring the other additions from 1996, South Guildford and Hazelmere. By removing only High Wycombe and adding Guildford, from the Division of Perth, we are then faced with a Division that in effect is joined by the airport. The Liberal Party submission states elsewhere that the Perth airport, 'creates a major physical barrier'.

The Australian Labor Party would contend that the airport would make a good physical boundary. The Committee should note that the City of Belmont boundary also ends at the north eastern side of the airport.

In the south eastern part of the Division the Liberal Party submission splits the locality of Beckenham where it need not be split into two Divisions. The Australian Labor Party holds the strong view that where possible localities should not be split into more than one Division.

TANGNEY

The Australian Labor Party notes the submission of the Liberal Party (WA Division) Inc. with respect to the Federal Division of Tangney.

The Australian Labor Party concurs with the Liberal Party submission that the Division of Canning should not move in an easterly direction to gain any further electors.

The Liberal Party submission with does not enhance the community of interest for the people of Tangney. The Division of Tangney is situated on the Canning and Swan Rivers and should not add electors from the City of Cockburn. The City Cockburn only provides about 1500 electors to Tangney. The City of Cockburn is predominately a coastal local government area.

The Australian Labor Party contends that it would be in the interest of the electors in the City of Melville if more of this local government area were added to the Division of Tangney.

New Division

The Australian Labor Party notes the submission of the Liberal Party (WA Division) Inc. with respect to their proposed new Federal Division of Hasluck.

The assertion by the Liberal Party that, 'Hasluck would have a clear community of interest in uniting the outer eastern metropolitan suburbs, with the Roe and Tonkin Highways forming a north-south spine', is very false.

The Liberal Party's proposed new Division would contain two distinct communities based upon Midland and Gosnells.

As has been pointed out earlier in this document, Midland clearly has a strong community of interest with the Division of Perth. Midland is the eastern focal point for the Division of Perth.

The City of Gosnells has had a long standing relationship with the Division of Canning. The Cities of Armadale and Gosnells share a much greater community of interest than the City of Gosnells and the Shire of Swan. These two local government areas are separated by three other local government areas.

The Liberal Party's new Division would contain four separate local government areas, none in their entirety. This highlights the lack of community of interest thrown up in their proposed new Division.

The 'spine' of Roe and Tonkin Highway does not add to the community of interest of Gosnells and Midland. This 'spine' is almost purely an arterial road. There is only minimal commercial and residential activity along these highways. The Australian Labor Party contends that this 'spine' does little to enhance community of interest in the proposed new Division.