



The Federal Redistribution 2008
Western Australia



Public Comment on Objection Number 6

**Mr Ben Morton, State Director, Liberal Party of Australia
(Western Australia Division)**

4 pages



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Redistribution Committee for Western Australia
Level 3
111 St Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

RE: COMMENTS ON OBJECTIONS TO THE 2008 PROPOSED REDISTRIBUTION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Dear Commissioners

Please find enclosed the Liberal Party's written comments on the objections to the 2008 proposed redistribution of Western Australia's Federal Electorate boundaries.

Should you require any clarification or further information on these comments, please let me know.

Yours sincerely

Ben Morton
State Director

LIBERAL PARTY COMMENTS ON OBJECTIONS TO THE 2008 PROPOSED REDISTRIBUTION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Although 22 objections have been made to the proposed redistribution, 12 of these relate to two specific matters, the detachment of the Shire of Manjimup from the division of Forrest, and the suggested renaming of the proposed divisions of Kalgoorlie and O'Connor.

In general the number and nature of the objections would indicate a broad acceptance of the general thrust of the proposed redistribution. Mr Tim Gartrell on behalf of the Australian Labor Party [21] expresses opposition to the revision of the boundaries of the O'Connor and Kalgoorlie divisions, but does not put forward an alternative. Indeed their objection notes that in other recent redistributions in New South Wales and Queensland there has been a similar reduction in the size of very large divisions.

The Liberal Party notes the objection of Mr Clinton Strugnell on behalf of the Shire of Dandaragan [22] to the proposed boundary of O'Connor on the grounds of size, communications and community of interest. However such objections could be made with equal validity by similar local governments on the margins of the present division of Kalgoorlie, where these factors apply even more strongly. There are a considerable number of local governments affected by this aspect of the redistribution, and the silence of other Shire councils and of resident electors suggests that the change has not aroused concern or opposition.

Mr Barry Young [14] also objects to the realignment of O'Connor and Kalgoorlie on the basis of community of interest. The Report of the Redistribution Committee however makes a strong argument that community of interest is not simply a matter of industry and land use, but should relate more to links between regional centres and the areas that they service, and catchments for regional health services. We would now consider that the proposed boundaries provide a far better long term alignment of these two divisions than the original submissions of both the Liberal Party and of the Australian Labor Party.

Both Mr Martin Gordon [4] and Mr David Smith [17] express support for the realignment of Kalgoorlie and O'Connor.

It is noted that the objections of Hon Wilson Tuckey MP [3], Mr Hatton [5], Mr Barry Haase MP [6], Hon Wendy Duncan MLC [10], Mr Peter Clarke on behalf of the Shire of Yilgarn [11], and 16 electors of O'Connor [15] all support the renaming of the proposed divisions of Kalgoorlie and O'Connor.

The Liberal Party however does not agree that any adjustment should be made to the proposed boundary between Pearce and O'Connor. Such a transfer of electors is unnecessary and we fully support the comments of Hon Judi Moylan MP [8] that the proposed boundary of Pearce is highly satisfactory, as it maintains the longstanding core of this division.

Mr Jeremy Hubble on behalf of the Shire of Manjimup [16] presents a most comprehensive objection to the removal of this Shire from the division of Forrest. In particular Manjimup is linked to regional organisations at state and local government level that are integrally part of the South West rather than the Great Southern. The South West Development

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Commission and the South West Area Health Service are pertinent examples of the integration of the Shire of Manjimup with Bunbury-based administrative structures alongside sporting and economic links.

This submission is supported by the objections of Mr Michael Mackay-Blair [1], Mr Finlay Osborne [2], Mr Andrew and Ms Maureen Roberts [13] and Hon Robyn McSweeney MLC [19] who as a parliamentary representative for both the south west and south coast of Western Australia, draws a distinction between Manjimup and Albany. Mr David Smith [17] argues a contrary view but we would reiterate that Collie is no more closely linked to Bunbury than is Manjimup – as is shown by their respective electoral histories.

The objections from Dr Dennis Jensen MP [7], Mr Keith Ellis [20] and in particular from Mr Anthony York, Ms Helen Dyer, Ms Diane Van Gent and Ms Gertrude Aquilina [9] all support the retention of the current boundary between the divisions of Tangney and Swan. This view is supported by Mr Martin Gordon [4]. The Liberal Party considers that these arguments lend weight to our suggested revision of the boundaries of Tangney, Swan and Hasluck although we disagree with Mr Gordon as to the desirability of making changes to the divisions of Fremantle and Brand.

The Liberal Party strongly disagrees with the objection from the Australian Labor Party to realign the boundary of the divisions of Stirling and Curtin so that the section of the Town of Vincent east of the Mitchell Freeway is transferred to Stirling while the north western boundary of Curtin would move up to Huntriss and Karrinyup Roads.

This is an ill-considered proposal that confuses community of interest with electoral voting patterns. It appears to be designed to consolidate Liberal-voting localities within the division of Curtin in order to improve the electoral prospects of the Australian Labor Party in the division of Stirling. A map of this proposal would show that the division of Stirling would stretch as far south as the suburb of West Perth, touching Northbridge and the Perth CBD. The boundary between Stirling and Perth would run up Charles Street and down Walcott Streets, so that the section of the locality of North Perth between Charles and Walcott Streets would form a grotesque spike of Perth electors with parts of Stirling on either side.

Clearly the Australian Labor Party does not advocate that the Mitchell Freeway is an inviolable boundary like the Swan River, as Stirling would continue to straddle it to the north of Scarborough Beach Road. There is no basis for the assertion that the Freeway is a greater physical barrier at its southern end. In fact the Freeway can be crossed by five bridges and underpasses as it progresses through the division of Curtin. These occur more frequently than in the northern suburbs where it forms an appropriate boundary between the divisions of Moore and Cowan. It stretches credibility to suggest that the Mitchell Freeway seriously restricts the shopping and social interactions of inner city residents.

The suburb of Leederville (east of the Freeway) has been contained within the division of Curtin since its inception in 1949, as have been sections of North Perth. The suburb of Mount Hawthorn has remained within Curtin from 1974 and West Perth was transferred from the division of Perth from 1990. The locality of Mount Hawthorn has not been

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included in Stirling since 1974 and the other localities have never been previously connected to Stirling. They have a strong and continuing affinity with the remainder of the inner suburban division of Curtin. The fact that polling booths in this section of the division of Curtin at least marginally favour the Australian Labor Party does not negate this community of interest – a concept which is not a matter of socio-political homogeneity.

The sections of Scarborough and Doubleview north of Scarborough Beach Road, together with the parts of Trigg and Karrinyup that would be split in this proposal, have never previously formed part of the division of Curtin. Indeed, these localities along with adjacent Innaloo constitute the sole area that has consistently been included within Stirling since the creation of the division in 1955.

In contrast to this objection, Mr Barry Young has now proposed that Joondanna, adjacent to Mount Hawthorn, should remain within the division of Curtin. This suggestion should be considered. There are no other objections, from individual electors or local governments, which support this proposal of the Australian Labor Party.

Essentially this objection from the Australian Labor Party proposes that a total of 17,500 electors be unnecessarily displaced from these two divisions. Such a proposal runs counter to the approach taken by the Redistribution Committee, and should be rejected.