

Barton Deakin Brief: Western Australia Federal Electoral Boundaries

1 December 2015

The Electoral Commission for Western Australia recently announced the outcome of its deliberations on the names and boundaries of the federal electoral divisions in Western Australia (**WA**).

This Barton Deakin Brief outlines the changes.

Background

In November 2014 the Australian Electoral Commission (**AEC**) announced that a redistribution process will be required for the federal electoral boundaries in WA. This announcement was made on the basis of population increases, meaning the number of federal electorates in Western Australia will increase from 15 to 16.

The total number of federal electorates in Australia will remain at 150, with New South Wales (**NSW**) decreasing from 48 to 47 federal electorates.

A significant part of the redistribution processes is the deliberation of boundary changes to accommodate the additional electorate, and the selection of the electorate name.

The last Federal redistribution in WA took place in 2008.

Key Changes

After receiving submissions from interested parties, the new 16th electorate was named the Division of Burt. It is to be located in the Armadale and Gosnells area of the south-eastern Perth metropolitan region.

When applying the voter pattern from the 2013 election to the redistributed electoral divisions, the two-party preferred pendulum shows that 13 seats will be held by the Liberal Party compared to 3 seats held by the Labor Party.

The creation of Burt requires significant changes to be made in all other divisions.

The changes to the electoral boundaries include:

- The Division for Burt takes in Gosnells and Thornley from the Division of Hasluck, Armadale from the Division of Canning and Canning Vale from the Division of Tangney;
- Strong Labor voting areas around Beechboro and Lockridge are transferred from the Division of Perth to the Division of Cowan;
- The balance of the Mandurah Council area is transferred from the Division Brand to Canning; and
- The Darling Range suburbs along the Great Eastern Highway are transferred from the Division of Pearce to Hasluck.



Summary of Changes to Electorates and Margins

The table below is extracted from Antony Green's [analysis](#) of how the redistributions will affect the electoral margins.

Electorate	Old Margin %	New Margin %	Effect
Burt	(New)	LIB 5.2	Marginal Liberal seat based on 2013 results.
Perth	ALP 4.4	ALP 2.7	Weakened for the Labor Party. Perth gains West Perth and parts of Leederville from Curtin. Loses Dianella to Stirling and Beechboro to Cowan.
Cowan	LIB 7.5	LIB 4.0	Liberal margin halved. Gains Whiteman and Bennett Springs from Pearce, and Beechboro, Kiara and Lockridge from Perth. Loses Kingsley and Woodvale to Moore.
Canning	LIB 11.8	LIB 12.7	Slightly strengthened for the Liberal Party. Canning loses the areas around Armadale to the new seat of Burt but gains the balance of the Mandurah Council area from Brand.
Brand	ALP 2.9	ALP 3.8	Becomes marginally safer for Labor. Brand loses the rest of the Mandurah local government area to Canning. Becomes an entirely Perth metropolitan seat.
Hasluck	LIB 4.9	LIB 5.9	Strengthened for the Liberal Party. Hasluck loses Gosnells and Southern River to the new seat of Burt. Gains all of the Darling Range suburbs along the Great Eastern Highway from Pearce. Loses High Wycombe to Swan.
Pearce	LIB 8.1	LIB 9.6	Strengthened for the Liberal Party. Pearce loses the Darling Range suburbs to Hasluck. Gains Carramar and Mindarie from Moore.

The names and boundaries of the federal electoral divisions for WA will apply from 19 January 2016 when a notice of determination will be published in the Commonwealth Government Notices Gazette.

Federal general elections for which the writ is issued after this date will be contested on the new boundaries.

Further Information

To access the media release from the Australian Electoral Commission, click [here](#).

To view the Australian Electoral Commission's report on the Proposed Redistribution, click [here](#).

To view Barton Deakin's WA Managing Director Eacham Curry discussing business opportunities in WA, click [here](#).

For further information, please contact [Eacham Curry](#) on +61 8 9213 5207, or [Christopher Reside](#) on + 61 400 829 933.

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