

ELECTORAL ROLLS — MAINTENANCE

**834. Hon NEIL THOMSON to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Electoral Affairs:**

I note positive reports of an increasing number of Aboriginal people on the electoral roll as a result of the Voice campaign. I also note the answer to Hon Tjorn Sibma's question without notice 740 on 22 June 2023, which confirmed that 18 514 Aboriginal people of eligible voting age are not enrolled.

- (1) What date of electoral enrolment did the Western Australian Electoral Distribution Commission use to assess the recommended boundary distributions that have been published for community consideration?
- (2) Given the huge underestimate of eligible voters on the roll previously, will the Electoral Distribution Commission update the calculation of variations on average district enrolment prior to finalising boundary distributions?
- (3) How can the Cook Labor government support the removal of parliamentary representation from seats with a high proportion of Aboriginal people while it simultaneously claims to support improving Indigenous representation?

**Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following response, which I provide on behalf of the parliamentary secretary, has been provided by the Minister for Electoral Affairs.

- (1) The date was 13 March 2023.
- (2) No. The determination of the relevant day is set out in section 16E of the Electoral Act 1907, which states that the state must be divided into districts as soon as practicable after the day that is two years after polling day for each general election for the Assembly. The roll closure for the distribution took place on the relevant day, which was 13 March 2023, in accordance with the act.
- (3) The member's question is ill-conceived. The decision of where seats will be and where electoral boundaries are drawn is determined by the Western Australian Electoral Distribution Commission. The commissioners are entirely independent of government and government has no influence over the final determination of electoral boundaries.

Several members interjected.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order, members! Can we have some quiet while the member asks his question. Hon James Hayward has the call.