



Shire of
Collie

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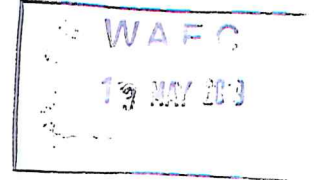
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13/5/19

The Electoral Commission
PO Box 7081
Cloisters Square PO WA 6850



Dear Sir / Madam

Objection to the WA Liberal Party proposal to realign the Shire of Collie into the Roe electorate for the next State election.

Shire of Collie would like to make an objection to the Liberal party's proposal on the following grounds.

Importance of Collie to the Bunbury Geographe Economy

The Collie Local Government Area (LGA) is a major economic hub of the South West region, accounting for a significant portion of the SW region's Gross Regional Product. Its main industries comprise coal mining, alumina production and power generation.

This economic activity hasn't translated into significant economic growth or population expansion for Collie itself in recent times despite being a major employment region for the Bunbury Geographe area. This is reflected in a study commissioned by Council in 2012 *Mitigating the impacts of DIDO and unleashing Collie's true potential* which identified that 57% of the 4,304 available jobs in Collie LGA were taken from drive in drive out (DIDO) workers who predominantly reside in the Collie-Preston and Murray-Wellington electorates.

The Collie LGA has a very important role to play in the future of water supply for industrial and agricultural purposes in the South West region as the Collie LGA hosts the largest inland water body in the South West in Wellington Dam. Recognising this importance, the State government has established the Water for Food Myalup Wellington Project which will explore the salinity treatment of water from the Wellington weir for use in irrigated agriculture and industry. Agricultural areas which stand to benefit from the program are located in the electorate of Murray-Wellington.

Regional Partnerships

Collie as an LGA has historically been part of the Bunbury Geographe Group of Councils and to this end has shared resources and partnerships with its neighbouring shires. Examples of this are the Bunbury-Geographe Economic Alliance, Bunbury Geographe Regional Tourism Strategy and the Bunbury Geographe Regional Waste Project. The Shire of Collie does not form any partnerships with other LGAs located in the electorate of Roe.



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Social Links

Whilst there is a strong "shop local" ethos in Collie, local residents regularly shop in Bunbury, Eaton and Treendale for goods that are unavailable in Collie. This is particularly so for specialist medical services, entertainment and even government services such as Centrelink and Department of Transport Services. Recognising the use of regional facilities by its residents, the Shire of Collie provides financial contributions to not for profit organisations including the Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre (\$6,000 p.a), and the South West Academy of Sport (\$1,500 p.a.).

In terms of education, many Collie students travel to Bunbury to attend both secondary and tertiary education on a daily basis. This includes attendance at Manea College, South West Institute of Technology (Bunbury Campus), Edith Cowan University (Bunbury Campus) and Bunbury Catholic College. From a sporting perspective Collie has long been involved in South West regional competitions. Collie currently has representative teams in the Bunbury and Districts Hockey Association (both men and women), South West Football League, South West Cricket Association and South West Soccer Association as examples.

Collie hosts many natural and manmade attractions which offer recreation opportunities for the greater Bunbury Wellington population including Wellington Dam, Stockton Lake, Glen Mervyn Dam, Lake Kepwari and the Collie Motorplex. The regional significance of these areas is recognised in the South West Development Commissions and Regional Development Australia's South West Regional Blueprint 2014 document in which they are identified as opportunities for future development. Investment in these areas will play an important part in ensuring the South West region achieves the vision which has been set in this strategic document.

The above issues demonstrate the tangible social links to the Collie-Preston electorate which simply do not exist with any community located in the seat of Roe.

Access to elected representative

Collie faces significant challenges with its major industries and the Council considers it imperative to have frequent access to its elected representative. This individual will have a key role in shaping Collie's future and this task is made much more difficult if the Shire of Collie is reallocated into the electorate of Roe due to the sheer size of the Roe electorate.

In summary, for economic, social and logistical reasons and for the facilitation of existing partnerships and projects the Shire of Collie considers that Collie should be retained as an important part of the Collie-Preston electorate as part of the Commission's review.

Please call me if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "David Blurton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping line extending from the end of the name.

David Blurton
Chief Executive Officer