



Office of the ELECTORAL DISTRIBUTION COMMISSIONERS

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WA ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES TO BE REVIEWED

The Western Australian Electoral Distribution Commissioners have announced that an electoral distribution will be carried out shortly to determine the electorates for the next State General Election. The six-month process will commence on February 5, 2003, with the final boundaries being determined on August 4, 2003.

An electoral distribution is the process of adjusting electoral boundaries in line with local population changes, to ensure that electorates do not have disproportionately large or small elector numbers. The *Electoral Distribution Act 1947* stipulates that a distribution should be carried out one year after every second State General Election – that is, approximately every eight years. The last distribution took place in 1994.

A distribution was due to commence earlier this year, but was delayed pending resolution of the litigation regarding the "One Vote, One Value" legislation. While this has been the subject of an application for special leave to the High Court which has not yet been heard, the current legislation requires the Electoral Distribution Commissioners to commence a distribution so that new boundaries are in place for the next State General Election due in late 2004 or early 2005.

The Electoral Distribution Commissioners are:

The Chief Justice (Chairman) –	The Hon. David K. Malcolm AC, C1T. WA
The Electoral Commissioner –	Ms Lyn Auld
The Government Statistician –	Mr Colin Nagle

WA Electoral Commissioner, Lyn Auld, said that the timetable for the distribution had been finalised.

"The initial advertisement, which will signal the start of the process on February 5, 2003, will invite written suggestions to be lodged with the Electoral Distribution Commissioners by March 7, 2003, after which the public are invited to make written comments on these suggestions. Written comments must be lodged by March 21, 2003," said Ms Auld.

"The Commissioners will consider the initial suggestions and subsequent comments when they draw up their proposed electoral boundary changes, which are due to be published in the form of a booklet and circulated widely by May 2, 2003. The public will then be invited to lodge with the Commissioners written objections to the proposed boundaries. Written objections must be lodged by June 3, 2003," she said.

"Finally, the Commissioners will consider any objections raised and make their final electoral boundary determination. Final boundaries are due to be published in the form of a booklet and circulated widely by August 4, 2003," she said.

An information kit to assist the public in the preparation of written suggestions will be available in the New Year on the Electoral Distribution website: www.boundarieswa.com. Further information will also be available on the website as the distribution progresses.

Electoral Distribution Act 1947

Timetable for the 2003 Electoral Distribution by the three Electoral Distribution Commissioners

