



The region contains 7 districts as follows:

- **Avon**
- **Geraldton**
- **Greenough**
- **Merredin**
- **Moore**
- **Roe**
- **Wagin**

Population growth in the region is in decline, relative to the growth of the State as a whole, with uncertain prospects for a reversal of this trend. Adjustments to region boundaries have been necessary to ensure the retention of the existing number of seven districts within the region. Despite this, it is noted that all the districts within the region will be under quota at the mid-point. Unless there is a significant reversal of the population decline, it is likely that the next division of the State of electoral boundaries will need to consider a reduction of the number of districts in the region.

The Commissioners had proposed to move the Shires of Bridgetown-Greenbushes and Boyup Brook from the South West Region into the Agricultural Region. Prior to making this proposal, the Commissioners had very carefully reviewed the alternatives. Although it was anticipated that this would raise objections, the proposal was adopted because it was considered to be the most suitable way of finding an appropriate balance in elector numbers as between electorates in the Agricultural Region and the South West Region, this being the primary requirement for the Commissioners to achieve. It was also one of the very few ways of achieving balance that did not

require a number of local government areas to be split between two or more electorates. The current Electoral Distribution Commissioners, and their predecessors, have traditionally been reluctant to split country local governments between electorates, except where special or exceptional circumstances require.

Representations were made in opposition to the proposal for the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes to be moved into the Agricultural Region and a range of options were explored with representatives of that community. A proposal emerged from local representatives as part of those discussions, which has been adopted in this determination. This is for the East Ward only of the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes to be included in the Agricultural Region district of Wagin.

While this departs from the traditional reluctance to split country local governments, it has been adopted as being the least disruptive means of retaining a link between Bridgetown and the South West and has the endorsement of local representatives, as being the best that can be achieved given the legislative constraints.

The Commissioners note, however, that population trends are such that, at the time of the next division of the State, a more desirable solution may be possible within the legislative constraints.

Because of the requirements to balance elector numbers, it has been necessary for the Shires of Boyup Brook and Tambellup to be moved from the South West Region to the Agricultural Region district of Wagin. It has also been possible to retain the Shire of Dumbleyung in the district of Wagin.

Elector statistics for the Agricultural Region districts

District	Elector Enrolment 11/2/02	Deviation from 2002 Quotient	Projected Enrolment 11/2/07	Deviation from 2007 Quotient
Avon	13,349	-2.81	14,135	-7.87
Geraldton	14,193	3.33	14,598	-4.86
Greenough	13,021	-5.20	14,721	-4.05
Merredin	14,244	3.71	14,171	-7.64
Moore	12,873	-6.28	14,786	-3.63
Roe	13,498	-1.73	14,037	-8.51
Wagin	13,699	-0.26	13,722	-10.57
Total	94,877	-1.32	100,170	-6.73
Average	13,554		14,310	



ELECTORAL DISTRIBUTION COMMISSIONERS

ELECTORAL DISTRICTS FOR AGRICULTURAL REGION

WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Determined on 4 August 2003

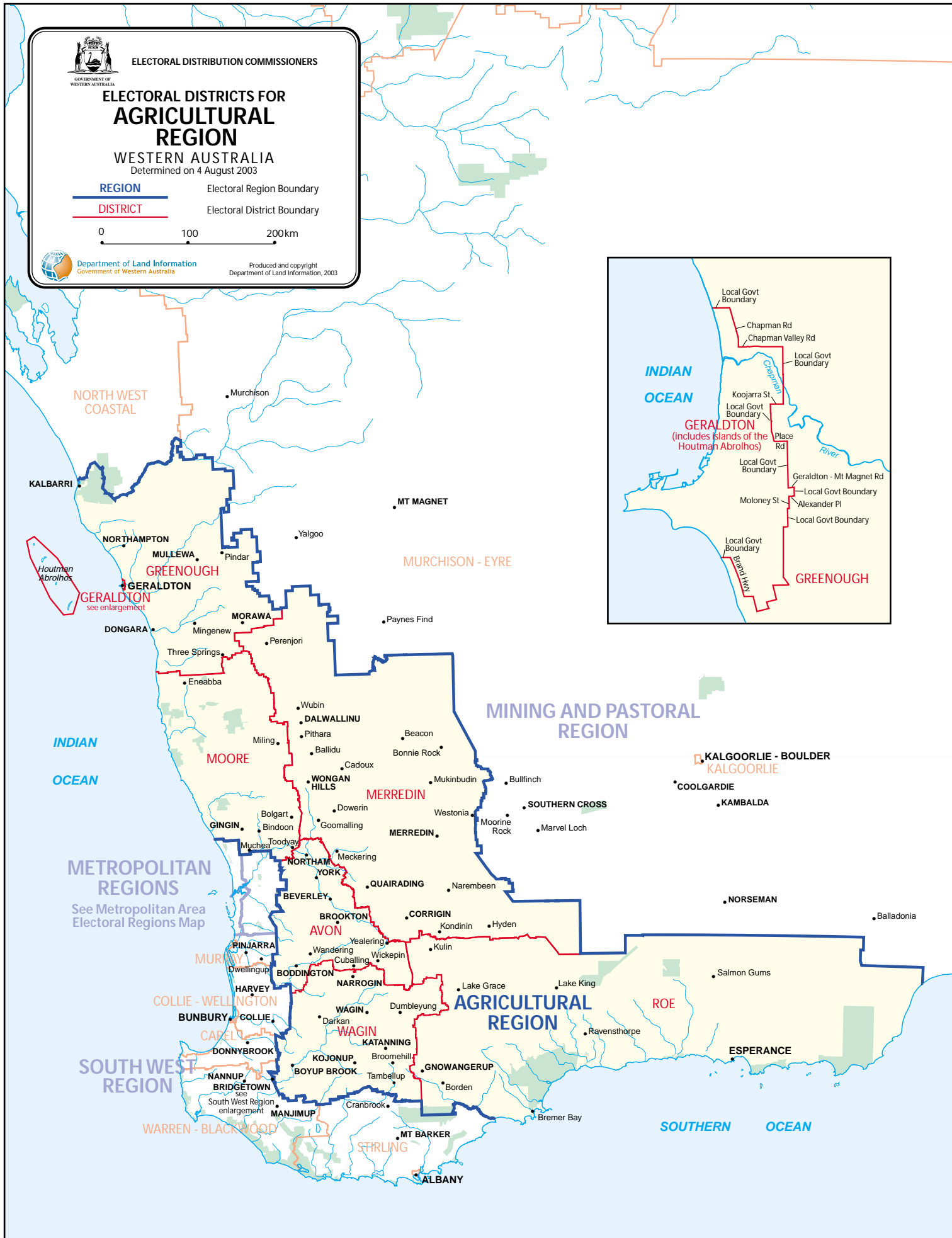
REGION Electoral Region Boundary

DISTRICT Electoral District Boundary

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Department of Land Information
Government of Western Australia

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Department of Land Information, 2003





The region contains 5 districts as follows:

- **Central Kimberley-Pilbara**
- **Kalgoorlie**
- **Kimberley**
- **Murchison-Eyre**
- **North West Coastal**

There is insufficient population to sustain the current six districts in the Region. It was therefore necessary to establish boundaries to divide the region into five districts. A minor adjustment to the boundary with the Agricultural Region has also been made.

The distinct nature of the Kimberley area and its geographical separation from areas to the south, together with the need to ensure that all districts are within the permissible range of $\pm 15\%$ of quota at the mid-point led to challenges in the establishment of boundaries. The proposals included a further reduction in the area covered by the district of Kimberley, with the removal of the area surrounding Fitzroy Crossing from the district. This met with strong and impassioned objections about cultural links across the entire Kimberley area and about Fitzroy Crossing's central role as the cultural heart of the Kimberley.

The Commissioners acknowledge the importance of these links to the indigenous population of the Kimberley and sincerely regret that the legislation does not allow them the flexibility required to leave the current electorate of Kimberley as it stands. Put simply, under the existing legislative formula, the Kimberley area is too big for one electorate and too small for two.

Growth projections are strong, however, and it seems likely that the population will be such that, at the time of the next division of the State, a more desirable solution may be possible within the legislative constraints.

With regret, the Commissioners have determined that their proposal for the electorate of Kimberley must stand, with the removal of the southern portion of the Shire of Derby-West Kimberley including Fitzroy Crossing.

Representations were also received about the proposals made for the Pilbara area. As a result of these objections, a further option was developed from discussions with objectors and is now included in this determination. This includes a revised coastal district of North West Coastal extending from the Murchison River to Onslow and on to the Shire of Roebourne. A revised district of Central Kimberley-Pilbara is also created to the north-east, which includes the iron ore towns of Tom Price, Paraburdoo and Pannawonica, together with Port Hedland and the central Kimberley.

This revision to boundaries ensures that local government boundaries are observed to a greater degree.

A new name of Murchison-Eyre has been determined for the proposed district of Eyre in order to more correctly describe the area concerned.

Some further small adjustments have been made to the boundary between Kalgoorlie and Murchison-Eyre to better balance elector numbers.

Elector statistics for the Mining and Pastoral Region districts

District	Elector Enrolment 11/2/02	Deviation from 2002 Quotient	Projected Enrolment 11/2/07	Deviation from 2007 Quotient
Central Kimberley-Pilbara	12,601	-8.26	13,531	-11.81
Kalgoorlie	13,414	-2.34	13,688	-10.79
Kimberley	12,797	-6.83	17,062	11.20
Murchison-Eyre	15,174	10.48	13,666	-10.93
North West Coastal	14,570	6.08	16,142	5.21
Total	68,556	-0.17	74,089	-3.42
Average	13,711		14,818	



ELECTORAL DISTRIBUTION COMMISSIONERS

ELECTORAL DISTRICTS FOR MINING AND PASTORAL REGION

WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Determined on 4 August 2003

REGION Electoral Region Boundary

DISTRICT Electoral District Boundary

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TIMOR SEA

WYNDHAM
KUNUNURRA

KIMBERLEY

DERBY

BROOME

FITZROY CROSSING

HALLS CREEK

NORTHERN TERRITORY

INDIAN OCEAN

PORT HEDLAND

DAMPIER

WICKHAM

KARRATHA

ROEBOURNE

Marble Bar

CENTRAL KIMBERLEY - PILBARA

ONSLOW

PANNATONICA

Telfer

EXMOUTH

TOM PRICE

PARABURDOO

NEWMAN

CORAL BAY

NORTH WEST COASTAL

MINING AND PASTORAL REGION

Kumarina

CARNARVON

Monkey Mia

DENHAM

MEEKATHARRA

Wiluna

MURCHISON - EYRE

Murchison

Cue

MT MAGNET

LEINSTER

Laverton

KALBARRI

NORTHAMPTON

GERALDTON

MULLEWA

MORAWA

Paynes Find

LEONORA

INDIAN OCEAN

OCEAN

Perenjori

Wubin

Beacon

Mukinbudin

Westonia

MERREDIN

Narembeen

Hyden

KALGOORLIE

see enlargement

KALGOORLIE - BOULDER

COOLGARDIE

Bullfinch

SOUTHERN CROSS

Marvel Loch

KAMBALDA

NORSEMAN

Balladonia

GREAT AUSTRALIAN BIGHT

BUNBURY

AGRICULTURAL REGION

ROE

Salmon Gums

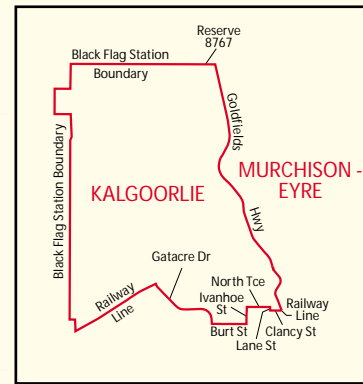
ESPERANCE

ALBANY

SOUTHERN OCEAN

AUSTRALIA

SOUTH





The region contains 11 districts as follows:

- **Albany**
- **Bunbury**
- **Capel**
- **Collie-Wellington**
- **Dawesville**
- **Leschenault**
- **Mandurah**
- **Murray**
- **Stirling**
- **Vasse**
- **Warren-Blackwood**

Significant population growth is projected for the coastal strip from the City of Mandurah to the Shire of Busselton, with more modest population growth projected for the remainder of the region. A district,

named Capel, has been added to the region with significant alterations to boundaries to achieve this.

An adjustment has been made to the boundary with the Agricultural Region, to assist with the balance of elector numbers in that region.

The impact of changes to the boundary following the objection period on the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes has been discussed in the earlier section on the Agricultural Region. For the South West Region, the determination now includes the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes (with the exception of the East Ward) in the district of Warren-Blackwood. It has also been necessary to retain the South Ward of the Shire of Manjimup in the district of Stirling, with the Shire of Tambellup being removed from that district to the Agricultural Region district of Wagin.

Electors statistics for the South West Region districts

District	Electors Enrolment 11/2/02	Deviation from 2002 Quotient	Projected Enrolment 11/2/07	Deviation from 2007 Quotient
Albany	14,396	4.81	16,064	4.70
Bunbury	14,709	7.09	16,344	6.52
Capel	14,110	2.73	16,528	7.72
Collie-Wellington	15,060	9.65	16,204	5.61
Dawesville	12,804	-6.78	16,074	4.76
Leschenault	12,104	-11.87	15,975	4.12
Mandurah	13,857	0.89	16,019	4.41
Murray	13,488	-1.80	16,288	6.16
Stirling	13,843	0.79	15,729	2.52
Vasse	12,788	-6.89	16,184	5.48
Warren-Blackwood	15,335	11.65	17,240	12.36
Total	152,494	0.93	178,649	5.85
Average	13,863		16,241	

ELECTORAL DISTRIBUTION COMMISSIONERS

ELECTORAL DISTRICTS FOR SOUTH WEST REGION

WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Determined on 4 August 2003

REGION Electoral Region Boundary

DISTRICT Electoral District Boundary

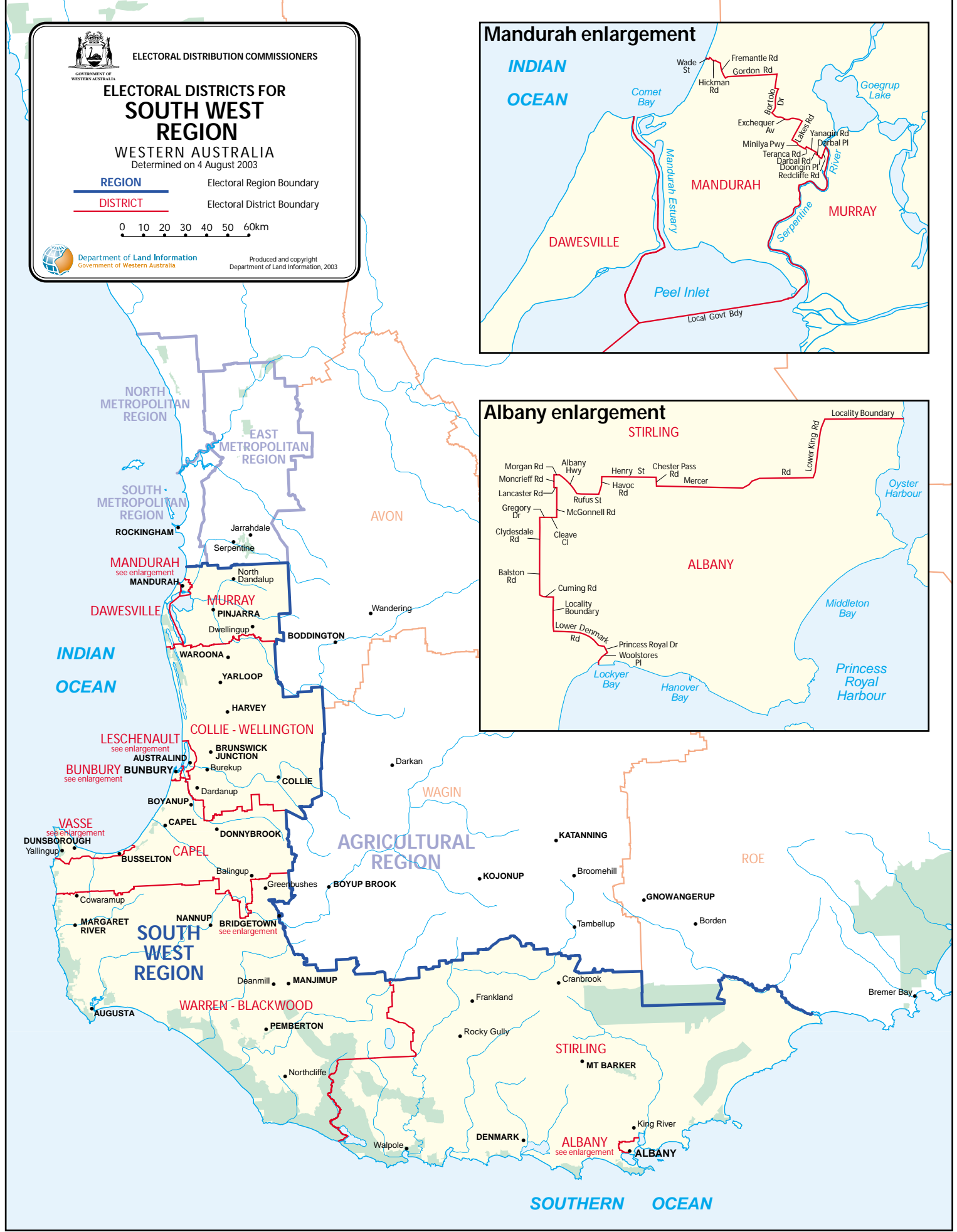
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Department of Land Information
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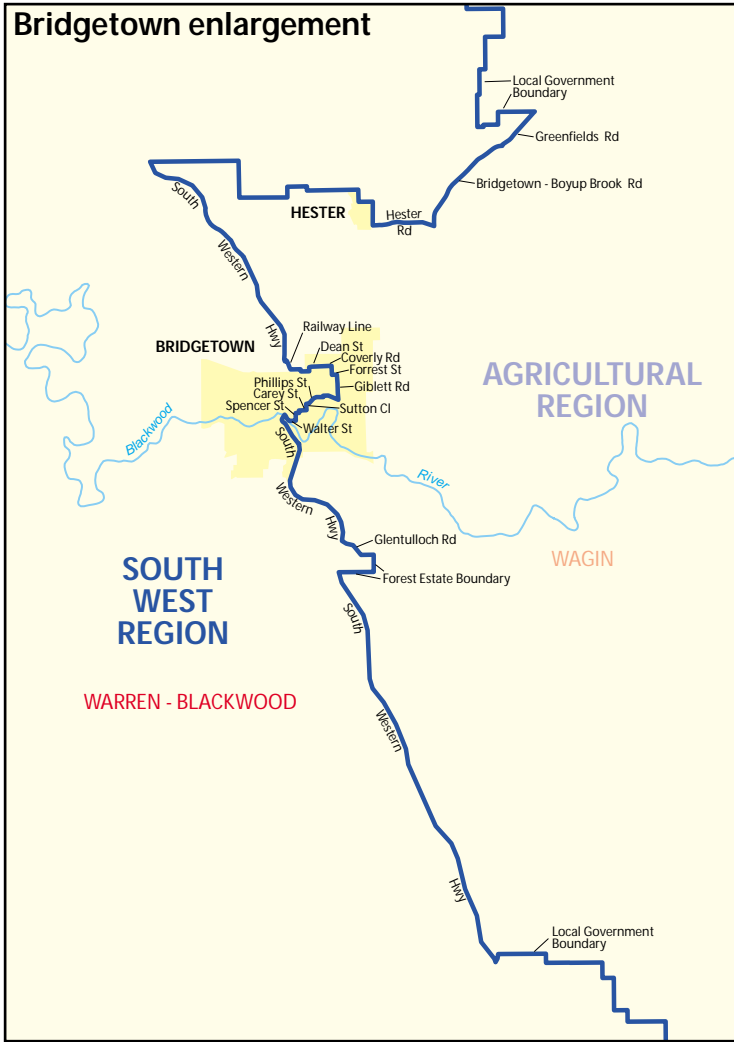
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Mandurah enlargement

Albany enlargement



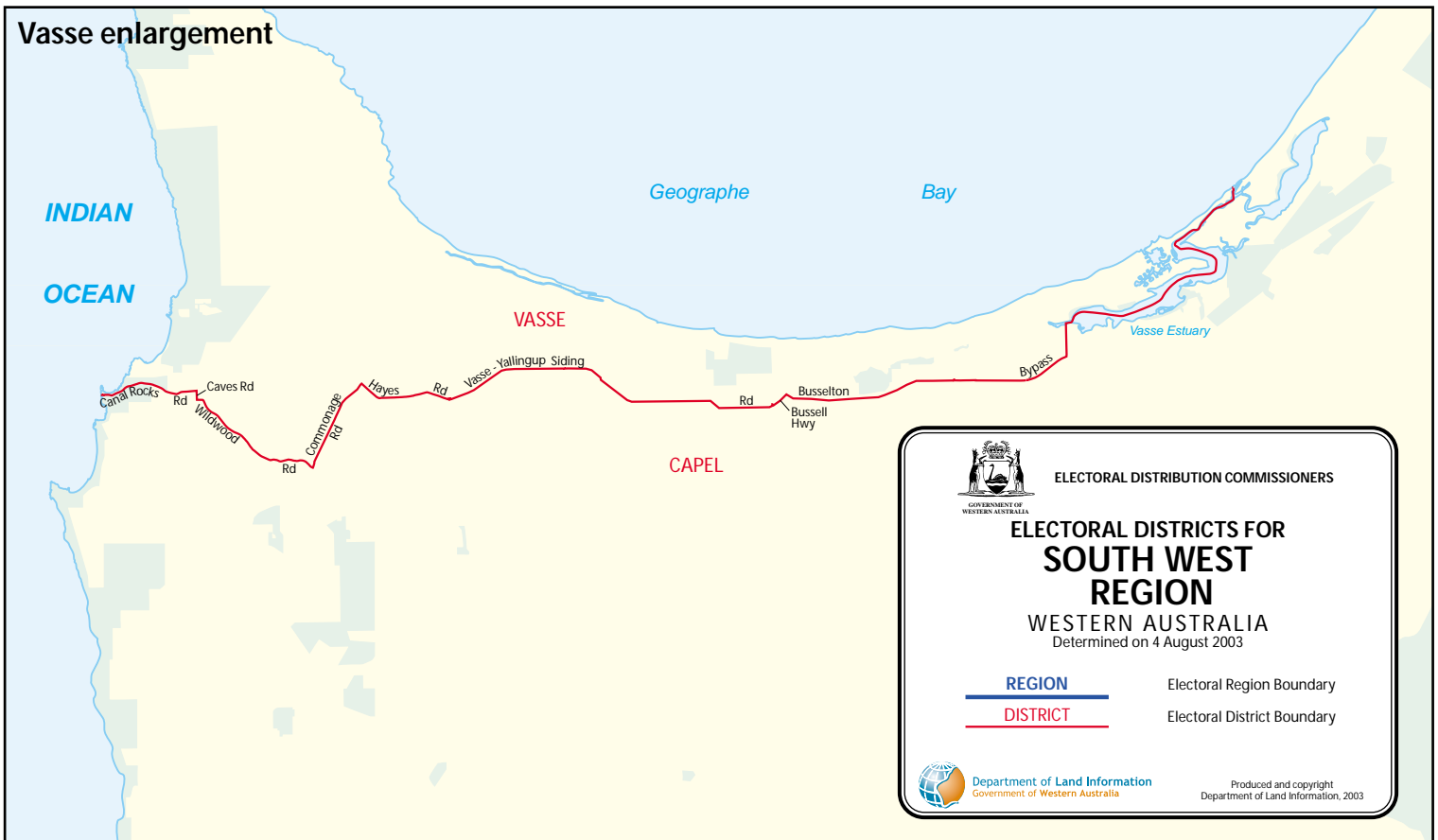
Bridgetown enlargement




Bunbury and Leschenault enlargement




Vasse enlargement




ELECTORAL DISTRIBUTION COMMISSIONERS
ELECTORAL DISTRICTS FOR SOUTH WEST REGION
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
 Determined on 4 August 2003

REGION Electoral Region Boundary
DISTRICT Electoral District Boundary

 **Department of Land Information**
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The current legislation was implemented as part of a package of legislative reforms in 1987 and this division of the State is the third conducted in that period of 16 years. The legislation requires a sound process of consultation with the public and while many of the participants are political parties and local governments, the legislation allows members of the public to have their say about the boundaries. It was pleasing that a number made use of the opportunity. The requirement for wide public consultation is a strength of the current legislation.

It was apparent to the Commissioners in conducting this division of the State, that it would be timely to review the legislation. There has been significant population movement in Western Australia in the 16 years since the legislation was last reviewed. A number of issues arise from this shift in population, which would benefit from review. In addition, some administrative issues could also benefit from attention.

THE COUNTRY AREA

Section 9 of the *Electoral Distribution Act 1947* describes one of the Legislative Council regions in terms of land use. That is, the Mining and Pastoral Region must comprise complete and contiguous districts where the land use is primarily for mining and pastoral purposes. The Agricultural Region must then consist of districts to the south or south and west of that. Although the legislation is silent on this point, by implication, at least from its name, the Agricultural Region should be primarily agricultural in its land use. The remainder of the country area is then the South West Region. The shifts of population away from the Mining and Pastoral Region and the Agricultural Region will continue to present a significant challenge to the setting of boundaries that comply with land use descriptions. The appropriateness of the land use descriptions for the regions should be given consideration.

The fact that the country population is increasing strongly in the essentially urban areas on the South West coast from Mandurah to Busselton, and is in significant decline in both the Mining and Pastoral Region and the Agricultural Region, meant that on this occasion, one electorate was transferred into the South West from the Mining and Pastoral Region.

A significant adjustment also occurred in the Agricultural Region boundary. At the next division of the State, further boundary adjustments and transfers to the South West Region are likely to be needed. The population movement means that country urban representation will grow at the expense of genuinely rural and remote representation. If some form of vote weighting is to continue, as the current legislation contemplates, consideration needs to be given to the basis on which country representation should be allocated as between urban and remote/rural areas. For example, in response to this issue, some suggestions have been made to the Commissioners that there should be some kind of differential treatment of urban centres in the country compared to genuinely remote and rural areas. These are matters that could be considered in any review of the legislation.

THE METROPOLITAN AREA

The Metropolitan Area is defined in section 1A of the *Electoral Distribution Act 1947* as being that area, as at 1 January 1987, that was described in the Third Schedule of the *Metropolitan Region Planning Scheme Act 1959*, together with Rottnest Island. The Commissioners must then divide this area between the three metropolitan regions and the 34 metropolitan districts. Much has changed in Perth since 1987, however, particularly in relation to the coastal development from Perth to Mandurah and beyond, which is now almost continuous. This will lead to increasing pressure in terms of articulating why an urban area such as Mandurah receives additional representation by comparison with its neighbour at Rockingham. Consideration should be given to the manner in which the metropolitan area boundary is defined and in particular as to whether this is still an appropriate definition given the development in the adjacent areas.



THE DATE FOR CALCULATION OF THE QUOTIENT

Section 2A(2) of the *Electoral Distribution Act 1947* requires the quotients to be calculated one year and one day after a State general election and a division of the State to then commence. This timing was appropriate to a three-year Parliamentary term, but appears to have been overlooked when Parliament moved to a four-year cycle. One consequence is that out-of-date elector statistics must form the basis of decision-making in the division of the State.

It would be preferable to use later statistics to better inform the process, particularly in areas with high growth. This could be done by calculating the quotients and commencing a division of the State two years and a day after a State general election, with the determination being published around 18 months before the next State general election. This would still allow adequate time for election preparations. While this year’s division of the State followed this kind of timeline, it was based on information that was one year out of date at commencement because of these provisions.

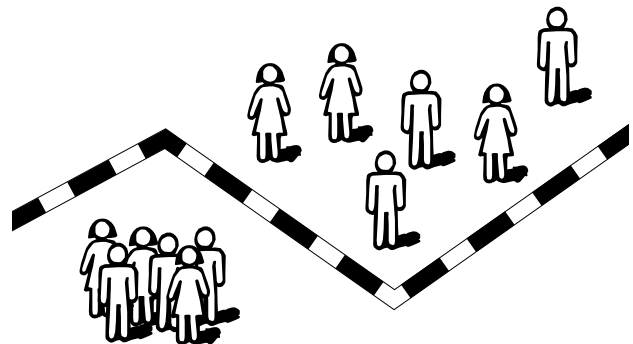
This change in the distribution cycle was recommended by the Commission on Government and has been adopted in the ‘One Vote, One Value’ legislation presently before the High Court. It has not, however, been included into the legislation currently in force.

THE LEGISLATIVE TIMELINE FOR A DIVISION OF THE STATE

Section 3 (2) of the *Electoral Distribution Act 1947* requires the Electoral Distribution Commissioners to complete the division of the State within a fixed timetable.

The Western Australian legislation is the only piece of parliamentary boundary legislation within Australia that charges the Electoral Distribution Commissioners with the task of finishing by a date fixed once the commencement date is fixed. While it is acknowledged that this is an important task about which there must be certainty and which it is preferable to have concluded in a timely manner, the legislative approach elsewhere allows Commissioners some discretion to extend the timeline, for example, to allow for appropriate consultation with those who have expressed an interest and to thoroughly consider their decisions.

On this occasion, the Commissioners had adequate time for the task, but were acutely conscious of the limited time within which they had to make their decisions. It would be preferable to charge the Commissioners with the task of proceeding with all speed, but allowing some discretion to extend the timeline in a limited way were this required for more adequate public consultation and to properly consider all of the matters required to form their views.





Acting under the provisions of the *Electoral Distribution Act 1947*, we the undersigned Electoral Distribution Commissioners, publish our division of the State into electoral regions and districts.

Unless special circumstances arise, the division of the State determined in this publication applies for the next two general elections for the Legislative Assembly.

The changes to the boundaries of electoral regions and districts are substantial and it is important that electors study this material carefully.

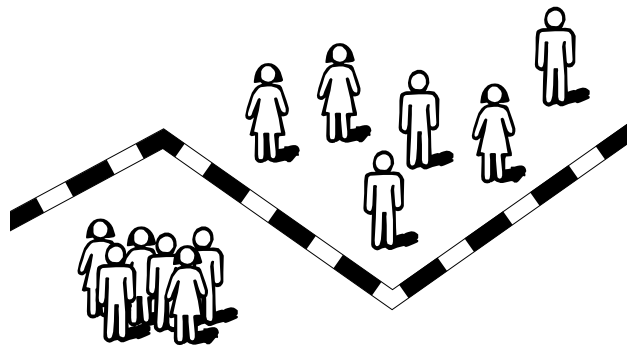
This publication is available for download on the Electoral Distribution website: www.boundarieswa.com
The website can also be accessed via www.waec.wa.gov.au

If you require further information, please call 9214 0400 (country callers 13 63 06).

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AC, CIT. WA
Chief Justice of Western Australia
Chairman

Ms Lyn Auld
Electoral Commissioner

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Printed by PMP Limited, 51 Miguel Road, Bibra Lake, WA 6163 ABN 76 051 706 499