

WAEC

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Mr Warwick Gately
Electoral Redistribution Commissioner
111 St Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Warwick

RE: 2007 Electoral Distribution – Liberal Party WA Submission

Further to Council's previous submission on the WA Electoral Boundary Review Council is concerned at a number of inaccuracies in the Liberal party's submission in regards to the Capel district and as a result would like to provide the following comments.

1. Page six of their submission infers that *'it is more appropriate to divide a Shire that comprises two distinct communities rather than the Shire of Busselton that has a natural unity'*. This statement clearly alludes to the Shire of Capel.

Clearly this statement is politically motivated as there is no natural unity at Busselton as Busselton and Dunsborough clearly see themselves as separate entities. Capel on the other hand is a number of communities (six I would suggest) but they all see themselves as an important part of the Shire of capel. Dalyellup residents continually remind us that they want to be viewed as part of the Shire of capel and not the City of Bunbury.

The Liberal Party also in the second last paragraph when comparing Dalyellup to Eaton infer that it does not have any educational, leisure and other community facilities and therefore access them from the City of Bunbury. This is at its best a serious lack of knowledge on their part as to what facilities are available at Dalyellup and at its worst a blatant lie made for political purposes to support their case for a redistribution of the existing electorate of Capel and to shore up support for their sitting member in Bunbury.

2. Page seven of their submission states that *'The wish of the Capel Shire to remain undivided is appreciated, but its disparate character, combining suburbs of Bunbury with some remaining rural area, lends itself to the three-way division that previously occurred in the 1994 redistribution'*.

The Shire of Capel has no desire to return to the situation where it is represented by three members of Parliament and as I have stated in point one above Dalyellup (which is the area inferred by the Liberal Party is a suburb of Bunbury) is not a



suburb of Bunbury it is in fact is an important major urban area of the Shire of Capel and its residents strongly see themselves in this context and not as a suburb of Bunbury. Again Council considers that this is a blatant misrepresentation of the truth that has been made for political purposes only.

3. Page twelve of their submission when referring to their proposal to add Dalyellup to the district of Bunbury states '*Dalyellup has no high school or major shopping centre (unlike Eaton-Australind) and its residents look to the City of Bunbury*'.

Again as previously stated a blatant lack of research at its best and a blatant political lie at its worst that has been made to justify its proposal in an endeavor to shore up additional support for its sitting member in Bunbury.

For your information Dalyellup does in fact have a high school, albeit a private school (Lutheran Community College) catering from K4 to year 12, currently has a primary school with 600 students, expanding by approximately 80 to 100 students each year and a further primary school planned in the next 5 years. In addition a middle school will be opened at the start of 2009.

There is currently a local shopping centre with some specialty shops, whilst a major district centre with a 15000m² commercial area planned to be completed in the next 3-5 years.

Council currently provides a number of recreation ovals for the various sports and community centre and branch library, with an additional community facility, large library and Shire administration centre planned as part of the district centre

Whilst there is no doubt that Dalyellup residents do look to the City of Bunbury for some of their needs, no different to Eaton and Australind residents as Bunbury is the regional centre and there is no desire by the surrounding local governments to duplicate these facilities. However the Shire of Capel is working very hard to provide a number of facilities for its Dalyellup residents and as additional facilities are provide the residents will less and less '*look to the City of Bunbury*' for a majority of their needs.

4. Whilst it has been indicated that there is not sufficient numbers in the seat of Capel to justify its retention, by including the Shires of Capel (including Dalyellup), Dardanup and Donnybrook – Balingup into the seat of Capel there will be more than sufficient numbers at the next redistribution in four years time to support the retention of the seat, based on the current growth rate. So why divide it now and possibly have to revisit it in four years time?

Finally as I have indicated a number of occasions above Council views this submission by the Liberal party of WA as nothing more than a politically motivated one that is designed to shore up additional support for selected current sitting members of Parliament that will be to the detriment of the electors of the Shire of Capel. Council would therefore urged you to reject their proposal in regards to the dividing up of the

Shire area and would request that you ensure that the entire Shire of Capel remains with one electoral district and preferably the seat of Capel.

Thank you in anticipation of your consideration of this submission.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'P F Sheedy'.

PF SHEEDY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

30 May 2007