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☎                            Ron Van Delft 9374 9022

27 April 2011

Secretary to the Electoral Distribution Commissioners  
GPO Box F316  
PERTH WA 6841

Dear Sir/ Madam

### **2011 Electoral Distribution**

The Shire of Collie would like to respond to suggestions made in the first phase of public consultation by a submitter that the Shire of Collie should be transferred from the district of Collie Preston to the district of Wagin. Wagin is an agricultural district.

Based on consideration of the matters that should be considered pursuant to section 16H and 16I of the *Electoral Act 1907*, the Shire considers that Collie should remain in the South West region, and not be combined with the agricultural district of Wagin to the east or central wheatbelt to the north east.

There is a strong community of interest argument for retaining the Shire of Collie in the South West. The community of interest that Collie has with Bunbury and the South West is reflected in a number of organisations at a state and federal level (e.g. the South West Development Commission and Regional Development Australia), existing administrative regions (e.g. Department of Planning, Department of Environment and Conservation etc.) which are then reflected in a number of key documents that cover the administrative regions of each Department.

The community of Collie also has strong ties with the South West with much movement of people between Collie and Bunbury and its hinterland for employment, regional recreation (e.g. Collie Motorplex), and to access services. Relative to the South West there is very little connection with communities to the east.

In terms of land use, the Shire of Collie does not fit well with the Agricultural Region as defined in Section 16 H (c) of the Act because land use (and Collie's economy) is not primarily agricultural. The Australian Bureau of Statistics identifies that in 2006 only 67 (1.5%) of the 4,487 people in the workforce were employed in agriculture, forestry and fishing. Manufacturing and mining are the dominant employment areas in Collie, reflecting the importance of the South West in these areas.

Rather, Collie fits in the South West Region "*being a region that includes coastal and forest areas in the south-west of the State*" (Section 16 H (d) of the *Electoral Act 1907*). About 80% of the Shire of Collie is State Forest.

In conclusion, the existing community of interest, state government administrative regions and the nature of the Shire of Collie all suggest that under *the Electoral Act 1907* Collie should remain in the South West Region.

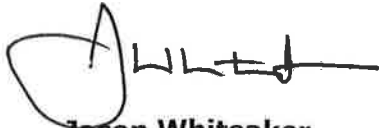
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All communications to be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact the Shire's Executive Manager Development Services, Mr Ron Van Delft who can be reached by telephone on 9734 9022, via e-mail to [ron.vandelft@collie.wa.gov.au](mailto:ron.vandelft@collie.wa.gov.au) or by facsimile on 9734 4072.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Whiteaker', with a large loop at the beginning and a horizontal line extending to the right.

**Jason Whiteaker**  
**Chief Executive Officer**