

Shire of Manjimup

Our Ref: CNL6, CNL2
Enquiries: Vern McKay

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The Secretary
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Dear Sir

Review of State Electoral Boundaries – Comment on Submissions

The Shire of Manjimup has reviewed the various submissions on new WA electoral boundaries and makes the following comments on submissions relevant to our local government area, which is predominantly located within the Warren Blackwood Electorate.

The Nationals Western Australia Submission

The Nationals proposal to place the whole of the Shire of Manjimup in a "Great Southern" electorate which extends from Manjimup in the west to the Shire of Jerramungup in the east and includes the Shires of Boyup Brook, **Broomehill, Cranbrook**, Denmark, Gnowangerup, **Kojonup, Jerramungup**, Manjimup, **Plantagenet** and **Tambellup** and part of the **City of Albany** is **strongly opposed**.

The Australian Labor Party Submission

The Australian Labor Party's proposal to place the whole of the Shire of Manjimup in a "Warren" electorate which includes the Shires of Boyup Brook, Bridgetown-Greenbushes, **Broomehill, Cranbrook**, Denmark, **Kojonup**, Manjimup, **Plantagenet** and **Tambellup** and part of the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River is **opposed**.

The Liberal Party Submission

The Liberal Party's proposal to retain a Warren-Blackwood electorate which would include the Shires of Boyup Brook, Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Nannup, Manjimup, Denmark and Donnybrook-Balingup and parts of Augusta-Margaret River and Capel Shires is **supported**.

Comment

The inclusion of the Shire of Manjimup in a proposed electoral district which includes the Shires of Boyup Brook, Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Nannup,

Manjimup, Denmark and Donnybrook-Balingup and parts of Augusta-Margaret River and Capel Shires, more appropriately meets the various criteria and other matters that the Commissioners are required to consider than any other proposal.

In this regard:

Our community of interest is overwhelmingly to the west and north with Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Nannup and Augusta-Margaret River areas and Bunbury. Very few of our residents or businesses would deal with other communities to the east and north-east. Our township of Walpole may be an exception as it has sporting links with Denmark, but a significant amount of the Walpole community's business and shopping is in Manjimup.

Our community of interest does not lie with Broomehill, Cranbrook, Gnowangerup, Kojonup, Jerramungup, Plantagenet, Tambellup or Albany. In fact we have little if any involvement with these as a local government or community.

We have strong established links with Boyup-Brook, Bridgetown-Greenbushes and Nannup through the **Warren-Blackwood Strategic Alliance** and involvement in the **Lower South West Football League**. Our alliance with these three local government areas, as well as Augusta-Margaret River, Capel and Donnybrook-Balingup, is also reinforced through the **South West Zone of the WA Local Government Association**.

Manjimup is also a service centre for Nannup, Bridgetown-Greenbushes and Boyup Brook and our sporting teams and competitions, cultural backgrounds and family ties have been retained, and link more to the areas west and north.

Our land use patterns and physical features (forests, national park, similar agriculture, horticulture and viticulture, tourism) have more in common with shires to the north and west than those to the north-east and east.

Communication and links to Bunbury (our regional centre) and Perth are via the South Western Highway and Perth to Bunbury highways. Radio and television communication for the area is generally broadcast from Bunbury. The major local newspaper (Manjimup-Bridgetown Times) is distributed from Manjimup, and the regional paper (South West Times) is distributed from Bunbury. Very little radio, TV or press coverage about Manjimup emanates from Albany.

As a local government we are on the verge of significant development more closely experienced by our south west neighbours.

Manjimup is located wholly within and serviced by several South West (Bunbury) based not Great Southern (Albany) based State Government districts and regions including:

- Department of Agriculture & Food
- Department for Community Development

- Department of Education and Training (Warren-Blackwood District Education Office)
- Department of Environment & Conservation (Warren Region)
- Department of Health
- Department of Housing & Works
- Department of Sport and Recreation
- Main Roads WA
- South West Development Commission
- Tourism WA
- Water Corporation
- WA Police Service
- South West Catchments Council
- South West Zone of the WA Local Government Association

The Shire notes that some major changes are proposed for the Warren-Blackwood Electoral District to achieve the required quota of electors and strongly urge the Commissioners to ensure that all other criteria and matters are given due and proper consideration before final boundaries are redrawn.

On balance, the Shire of Manjimup supports the Liberal Party proposal as the one which will most closely mirror and strengthen the working relationships between Local Government Councils and State Departments and agencies. It is the most sympathetic option that is culturally, financially and economically sustainable for these communities.

The Shire opposes the proposals submitted by both the Labor Party and Nationals, which threatens to dilute existing working alliances and relationships, and distract Local Government with a wide range of diverse issues that are difficult to manage.

Yours sincerely



VERN McKAY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER