



The Secretary  
Office of the Electoral Distribution Commissioners  
GPO Box F316  
PERTH WA 6000

## Shire of Boyup Brook

Dear Sir/Madam

### **2011 Proposed Electoral Boundaries for Western Australia**

At its June meeting Council resolved to lodge an objection to the proposed boundary changes as they affect the Shire of Boyup Brook.

The current position is that the Shire of Boyup Brook is in the Blackwood-Stirling district of the South West Region and Council sees this as good fit in that the community aligns more with South West than it does with the Agricultural Region. Also, as the Blackwood River is a significant feature in the Shire being in the Blackwood-Stirling district is appropriate.

As will be appreciated, Local Government Council's reflect community sentiment and Council believes that the community would prefer to remain in the South West Region. Whilst broad acre farming is a significant land use in the Shire smaller holdings used for grape, olive and other such production are also significant. Local wine and olive oil producers are well recognised in Australia with some having won awards. Some producers export their products and at least one exports a significant percentage of his production. There is also growth in the "life style" type of land use, all of which aligns with the South West more than the wheat belt.

There is more of a community of interested with the South West than with the Agricultural Region. Boyup Brook sporting clubs (football, cricket etc) are part of a South West grouping and Boyup Brook's two schools interschool sports activities are conducted with other South West schools. There is more interaction generally, for such activities as shopping, leisure and entertainment, with the South West than there is with the Agricultural Region. It would be fair to say that the community sees Boyup Brook as being very much a part of the South West and not a part of the wheat belt.

The new district of Warren Blackwood is a better fit than the Wagin district for Boyup Brook because the Shire has long been associated with the Warren Blackwood sub region of the South West. The Blackwood River is a significant feature in the Shire and the town of Boyup Brook was developed adjacent to it. The river features permeant pools in and near to the town and so the river is important. The Shire was originally named the Upper Blackwood Road Board (1898 to 1961) then the Upper Blackwood Shire (1961 to 1969) and so it is more fitting that Boyup Brook is in the Warren Blackwood district than perhaps the Denmark Shire that has no association with those rivers.

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Boyup Brook is in the Nelson Location (the State's land tenure system) along with the other Warren Blackwood sub region shires of Bridgetown/Greenbushes, Manjimup and Nannup. It is noted that all of Denmark is in the Hay Location. Boyup Brook is in the South West region for Government agencies such as FESA, Police and Regional Development.

It is appreciated that electoral boundaries have and will be shifted to accommodate elector limits for districts but the impact of including the Boyup Brook Shire's 1177 (Electoral Roll supplied for the 2009 Local Government Election) electors to the Warren Blackwood district would be minimal. Government population growth predictions indicate minimal (if any) growth for most of the Shires in the Warren Blackwood district and so whilst adding Boyup Brook would increase the number of electors to more than 25,000, and so giving it the largest number of electors in the South West Region, the predicted low growth rate of the district compared to the expected higher growth rates of other districts in the region should, in time, moderate the revised enrolment deviation. It is noted, from the proposed electoral boundaries publication, that there are a number of districts in the metropolitan area that have more than 25,000 elector enrolments. It is also noted that moving Boyup Brook from the Wagin district would reduce the elector enrolment number to 22,028 which would not be the lowest number in the region. The Wagin district includes Boddington which may continue to cause abnormal growth in population there are in surrounding localities. The southern part of the Wagin district's proximity to the Wellstead mining development, which has been in the wings for a number of years and may become operational in the foreseeable future, should see increased population numbers when the mine comes into operation. The Jerramungup Shire's population should increase due to the mine and, depending on the financial climate, the "discovery" of its coastal community at Bremer Bay.

In summary then, Council, as the elected representatives of the community, objects to the proposed boundary change that would see the Shire move from the South West to the Agricultural Region. History and communities of interest align better with the South West and more particularly with the Warren Blackwood. It is suggested that including the Shire of Boyup Brook in the Warren Blackwood district would have minimal affect on elector statistics in either the Warren Blackwood or Wagin district.

Yours sincerely



**ALAN LAMB**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

7<sup>th</sup> July 2011