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Sent: Thursday, 23 June 2011 9:25 AM
To: 2011 Electoral Distribution
Subject: Objections to Electoral Boundaries - June, 2011

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Date: 23rd June, 2011

Secretary
Office of the Electoral Distribution Commissioners
Level2, 111 St Georges Tce,
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Secretary,

Objection to Proposed Electoral Boundaries for WA – June, 2011

My objection relates to the proposed boundaries of the six regions for the Legislative Council, and in particular the proposed new boundary between South Metropolitan Region and South West Region.

The city of Mandurah has been placed in the South Metro Region, dramatically increasing the number of electors in that region and thus devaluing their vote.

The vague concept of “community of interest” is used to justify this move. The Metro Boundary has been ignored in defining the South Metro Region. This concept of community of interest can thus be used in the future to expand the metro regions further and produce an even more undemocratic Legislative Council. It should not take precedence over the fundamental right of all electors to be equally represented. In other boundary changes, the commissioners have split contiguous areas (eg Margaret River from Busselton), so the concept is clearly not essential to drawing boundaries.

The imbalance between the number of electors in the proposed regions of South Metro and Mining and Pastoral is now nearly five to one, which is in complete opposition to the intent of the democratic reforms of 2005 for the Legislative Assembly.

Do the commissioners intend to expand the metropolitan boundaries further, thus reducing the value of votes for these electors? What safeguards do West Australian voters have against this process, which undermines the democratic values of our electoral system.

Yours faithfully,

Gordon Payne