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W.A.E.C. RECORDS
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DATE **16 APR 2007**
ACTION BY *J. Harbord*

WAEC
16 APR 2007



Our Ref:
Your Ref:
Enquiries: Fullarton

Secretary to the Electoral Distribution Commissioners
GPO Box F316
PERTH WA 6000

13 April 2007

Dear Sir,

2007 Electoral Redistribution.

Please find enclosed submission in accordance directions as per your web page.

I trust this is satisfactory to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact the writer.

Yours faithfully

A R (Lex) Fullarton



Submission – Electoral Boundaries in Western Australia 2009

Lower North West

**A R Fullarton
FPNA FTIA AIMM AREI CD**

Independent Candidate North West Coastal

13th April 2007.

Proposed Electoral Boundary

It is proposed that the seat be known as **Lower North West** to reflect its geographic position.

The proposal is that an area bounded by the Murchison River and including the Town of Kalbarri in the south to the Shires of Mt Magnet and Meekatharra in the east to the Shire of Ashburton in the north. The coastline from Kalbarri to the Ashburton boundary in the north forms the western boundary.

Community of Interest

The community consists of the residents of the area known generally as the Murchison, Gascoyne and Ashburton in the lower North West of Western Australia. The area consists of farming, pastoral, fishing and mining industries and their supporting services. With the exception of Exmouth and Paraburdoo and Tom Price the towns in the regions have been settled since the 1880s. The focus is on primary industry from Salt and Iron Ore mining in the north to grain farming in the south with the pastoral and fishing industries in the hinterland and along the coast.

The area has a large Aboriginal population as well as descendants of Colonial Europeans and European and Asian migrants attracted to the regions agricultural and mining industries. It is indeed a very multicultural community bonded together by the remoteness and harshness of the environment in which they live.

The region is sparsely populated and the Large District Allowance (LDA) as prescribed has been calculated as in the table below.

Large District Allowance (LDA)

Local Authority	Current Area Sq Kms	Electors		
Ashburton	101,011	3,126		
Carnarvon	47,534	3,435		
Exmouth	6,956	1,295		
Meekatharra	100,184	590		
Mt Magnet	13,858	405		
Murchison	45,047	88		
Shark Bay	25,630	557	Pt Northampton	
Upper Gascoyne	57,817	203	*Kalbarri	959
Yalgoo	27,946	139	North East	147
Northampton*		1,106		1106
	425,983	10,944	No LDA calculated	
LDA	1.5% x 425,983 = 6,389 + 10,944			
	= 17,333			
	Lower Limit = 17,074			
	Upper Limit = 23,477			

Land Use Patterns

The southern section of the region consists of marginal wheat and sheep undulating pasture at the northern edge of Western Australia's agricultural region known as the 'wheat belt'. It is directly south and bounded by the 'rabbit proof fence'. The pastoral region of the Murchison boundaries that farming land from light mallee scrub in the west to hard gibber plain in the east. Mixed mining exists in association with the pastoral industry in the south east from Yalgoo and Mt Magnet to Meekatharra.

The Iron Ore mines and town centres of Tom Price, Paraburdoo and Pannawonica bound the north with subtropical pastoral areas predominantly former sheep stations converted to beef cattle production. Along the coastline the communities of Onslow, Exmouth, Carnarvon, Denham and Kalbarri are engaged in various fishing activities. The area is referred to as the fruit bowl of WA. Carnarvon also has a large irrigated horticultural industry.

Tourism is a key industry throughout the region and forms an important form of income to all shires.

Means of Communication and Distance from the Capital

Apart from private charter there are no commercial air services connecting the townships within the region. A commercial air service connects the coastal communities of Kalbarri, Denham, Carnarvon and Exmouth. Paraburdoo also services Tom Price but connecting flights must be routed through Perth. Servicing the region via commercial aircraft is not a viable option.

However the region has very good road connection services, whilst most internal roadways are suitable for 4WD access, particularly the remote Aboriginal communities and pastoral properties. All major towns have all weather highways connecting them via the North West Coastal and Great Northern Highways. The Butchers' track can be used as direct access from the coast to Mt Magnet weather permitting in the south and a sealed highway connects Tom Price to Onslow in the north. Sealed access connects Mt Magnet to Geraldton if the Butchers' track is inaccessible.

Refer map attached. The map overleaf is the Hema WA A4. It is reproduced with kind permission of HEMA maps Pty Ltd and is available wherever maps are sold.

Kalbarri is situated on the coast some 600 kms north of Perth accessed via the North West Coastal Highway and Tom Price is around 1 600 kms either by way of the North West Coastal Highway or the Great Northern Highway.

Daily mail services exist to all major towns and weekly mail runs service the remote pastoral, mining and Aboriginal camps and communities. The entire region is covered by good telephone and fair internet networks.

The major physical are the Murchison River in the South to the Ashburton River in the north with the Gascoyne River in the central area rising from just west of

Meekatharra to Carnarvon on the coast. The southern end of the Hamersley Range dominates the north and large sections of desert land predominate from the stony plains of the east to coastal scrub from Exmouth to Denham. The proposed seat includes the two major gulfs of Exmouth and Shark Bay so vital to our fishing and tourism industries. The Ningaloo reef bounds the coastline from just north of Carnarvon to the top of North West Cape.

Existing Boundaries of Regions and Districts.

The proposed seat is contained almost entirely within the Mining and Pastoral Region with the exception of the town of Kalbarri and a relatively small area from the Murchison River to the agricultural boundary. It is considered that the physical demarcation of the river forms a recognisable boundary in preference to the 'rabbit proof fence'. Kalbarri has been included in preference to Newman to incorporate a maximum number of electors within serviceable reach. It is considered that Newman has more in common with, and more readily serviced, as part of the Central Pilbara Electorate.

The proposed seat is largely a rationalisation of the previous seats of Northern Rivers, Ningaloo and North West Coastal. The hinterland of the Murchison has been incorporated with the coastal regions of the Gascoyne and Ashburton. This moves back to the more traditional regional approaches to Parliamentary representation permitted by the provision of Large District Allowances.

Existing Local Government Boundaries.

The incorporation of entire local authority boundaries of Ashburton, Carnarvon, Exmouth, Meekatharra, Mt Magnet, Murchison, Shark Bay, Upper Gascoyne, and Yalgoo makes for consistent and uniform communication between local government and State parliamentary representation. Unfortunately the Shire of Northampton will have different State representation of its northern ward to the rest of its jurisdiction. However, overall, the proposed seat generally alleviates splitting local and state government representation.

The Trend of Demographic Changes.

Despite general population growth of the Western Australian population the proposed seat is relatively stable without any significant demographic changes. Rural/urban drift of the population is a significant problem for the region as well as government and professional services.

Given that this phenomena is common to the entire region it is considered to be a significant demographic binding agent for uniform parliamentary representation. The northern towns of Onslow, Pannawonica, Paraburdoo and Tom Price have the influence of major mining projects but the population generally faces the same social problems of the rest of the proposed seat.

IIMA
Maps

Western Australia

LEGEND

- Main Highway
- Main Road
- Major Road
- Transport Routes Numbered
- State Route Number
- National Park
- Aboriginal Land
- 1:250,000 Contour Lines

ISBN 2-81500-177-5



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Scale: 1:250,000

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Cartography: Raytheon

