

OUR REF: A.2.24
CODE:
YOUR REF: DST 063
ENQ: Dean Freeman

Electoral Commissioner
Officer of the
Electoral Distribution Commissioners
GPO Box F316
Perth WA 6841

Dear Sir,

New Western Australian Electoral Boundaries

Thank you for your letter dated 30th March 2007 advising of the commencement of the redistribution process and offering the opportunity for input on behalf of the Shire of Capel.

It is the belief of this office that the interests of the Capel community would be best served if the local government district of Capel is wholly contained within the one State Government Electorate.

This belief is based on the benefits of having a common representation in Parliament as well as having a single focus point for lobbying and relationship building between the Council and our representative in the State Parliament.

If the Local Government district of Capel were split over 2 or more State electoral districts, the possibility could arise where conflicting representations could be made effectively leaving the Capel district without effective representation at a State level.

It is acknowledged that portion of the current seat of Capel comprises portion of the City of Bunbury local government district. From data supplied by your office, it appears that if that portion of the Capel and Leschenault electorates resident within the City of Bunbury was redistributed to the Bunbury electorate, then this would achieve the required number of electors to fill the quotient within the tolerance of 10%.

While such an action would leave the Capel electorate under the required quotient, a further distribution along the local government district lines to embrace the Shires of Donnybrook-Balingup, Dardanup and Bridgetown Greenbushes would see the quotient for the Capel electorate being achieved.

In addition to achieving the required quotient, these 3 local governments would also benefit from the unified representation for their communities as identified previously.



The Shire of Capel also has strong community of interest ties with these Councils through similar land uses, satellite communities and development pressures. There is also much State Government infrastructure which is common to these 3 Councils. The Greenbushes - Bunbury railway line is one example and as such, united representation would be both beneficial as well as logical.

In respect to community of interest, it is acknowledged that the existing seat of Capel contains a significant portion of the land area of the Shire of Busselton. It is submitted that the portion of the local government district of the Shire of Busselton that is currently situated within the Capel state electorate would, for reasons of community of interest and united representation be best served as being part of the Vasse electoral district.

I would like to thank the Commissioners for the opportunity of making this submission.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Ross

Acting Chief Executive Officer.

3 May 2007