

Shire of Coolgardie

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19 February 2003

Secretary of the Electoral Distribution Commissioners
Level 11, 111 St Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Sir or Madam

RE: ELECTORAL DISTRIBUTION

Please find enclosed a submission from the Shire of Coolgardie in relation to the above issue.

Thankyou for the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely

Peter Kocian
Manager Corporate Services

**SUBMISSION BY THE SHIRE OF COOLGARDIE TO THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
ELECTORAL COMMISSION ON ELECTORAL DISTRIBUTION**

BACKGROUND

Under the Electoral Distribution Act 1947, the State of Western Australia is to be divided into six (6) regions and 57 districts or electorates. The three (3) metropolitan regions (North, South and East) are to contain 34 districts and the three (3) country regions (Mining and Pastoral, Agricultural and South-West) are to contain 23 districts.

The Shire of Coolgardie is included in the Mining and Pastoral Region because the area meets the criteria of being remote from the capital and where the land use is primarily for mining and pastoral purposes. Within this region, the Shire of Laverton is included in the Eyre District. This district is currently comprised of the following local governments and enrolments:

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder | 4043 |
| Shire of Coolgardie | 2240 |
| Shire of Dundas | 707 |
| Shire of Laverton | 502 |
| Shire of Leonora | 873 |
| Shire of Menzies | 240 |
| Shire of Yilgarn | 758 |
| Total for Eyre | 9363 |

It is relevant to note that the number of electors in the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder and the Shire of Yilgarn are split between two State electoral districts.

A more thorough breakdown of the Eyre District by community is provided below:

| | | | |
|---------------|------|-----------------|-----|
| Agnew | 2 | Kookynie | 50 |
| Balladonia | 10 | Kurnalpi | 1 |
| Bandya | 42 | Laverton | 383 |
| Bardoc | 6 | Leinster | 343 |
| Boorabbin | 1 | Leonora | 518 |
| Boulder | 2349 | Madura | 4 |
| Broad Arrow | 5 | Malcolm | 3 |
| Broadwood | 149 | Marvel Loch | 107 |
| Bullabulling | 5 | Menzies | 73 |
| Bullfinch | 38 | Mount Burges | 60 |
| Bulong | 5 | Mt Burges | 4 |
| Caiguna | 1 | Mt Monger | 2 |
| Cocklebidy | 8 | Mullingar | 1 |
| Coolgardie | 608 | Mundrabilla | 7 |
| Corinthia | 6 | Norseman | 644 |
| Cosmo Newbery | 77 | Ora Banda | 6 |
| Cundeelee | 100 | Plumridge Lakes | 101 |
| Davyhurst | 3 | Rawlinna | 24 |
| Dedari | 1 | Somerville | 92 |
| Emu Flat | 8 | South Boulder | 829 |
| Ennuin | 1 | Southern Cross | 562 |
| Eucla | 32 | Spargoville | 3 |
| Forrest | 7 | Turkey Hill | 14 |
| Fraser Range | 1 | Ularring | 11 |
| Ghooli | 25 | Victory Heights | 184 |
| Gwalia | 8 | West Kalgoorlie | 15 |
| Higginsville | 3 | Widgiemooltha | 13 |
| Kalgoorlie | 19 | Williamstown | 239 |
| Kambalda | 1542 | Yarri | 1 |
| Kanowna | 2 | Yellowdine | 5 |

The Electoral Distribution Act states that "the number of enrolled electors comprised in any district in that area must not be more than 15% greater, or more than 15% less, than the quotient obtained by dividing the total number of enrolled electors in the area by the number of districts into which the area is to be divided". Given a total country enrolment of 315,927, and the requirement that the 'country area' is to be divided into 23 districts, a quotient of 13,725 is obtained. This means that all country electorates must have between 11,675 and 15,795 enrolments.

Due to the above legislative requirements, the electoral boundaries of the Eyre District will change, as the number of total enrolments (9,363) is less than the stipulated quota. A further 2,312 electors is required as a minimum to meet the quotient. A maximum of 6,432 electors can be added to the district.

PROPOSAL

It is proposed that the following local government areas be included in the Eyre District:

| | |
|--------------------------|------|
| Shire of Meekatharra | 805 |
| Shire of Wiluna | 320 |
| Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku | 1062 |
| Shire of Mount Magnet | 493 |
| Shire of Sandstone | 75 |
| Shire of Cue | 210 |

Total Enrolments **2965**

By including the above local government areas in the Eyre District, the number of enrolments will total 12,328, thereby meeting the quotient for country electoral districts. This arrangement will also have the least impact on the electoral boundaries, with only the Northern and Western boundaries subject to change (see-attached map).

The criteria for electoral distribution are addressed below.

1. Community of Interest

Community of interest includes similarities in the characteristics of the residents of communities and similarities in the economic activities. This factor can be applied to all of the local government areas mentioned above, as they are predominantly mining communities with very similar social demographics. The district is rich in resources, and the distribution of community assets and infrastructure such as road networks is significant given the remoteness of communities.

2. Means of Communication

Information technology and communications have become more accessible for regional and remote areas; however, there does exist a large deficiency between metropolitan and country areas. The remoteness of many communities in the Eyre District restricts the level and extent of communications. Costs are prohibitive.

3. Physical Features

The local government areas mentioned are all similar in their physical and topographical features. The district can be described as an arid environment where rainfall is low and very erratic, and the landscape is very similar and characterised by alluvial plains and spinifex grasslands and sandplains. Predominant land uses include mining and pastoral activities, as well as Aboriginal lands.

4. Existing Boundaries

The inclusion of the six local government areas listed above into the electoral district of Eyre will have a minimal impact on the existing boundaries, as only the Northern and Western boundaries will be affected. As can be seen on the attached map, expanding the electoral boundaries to

encompass the surrounding local government areas consolidates the Eastern and Northern Goldfields into the one district.

The proposal does not affect the regional boundaries.

5. Existing Local Government Boundaries

The proposal does not affect existing local government boundaries.

6. Trend of Demographic Change

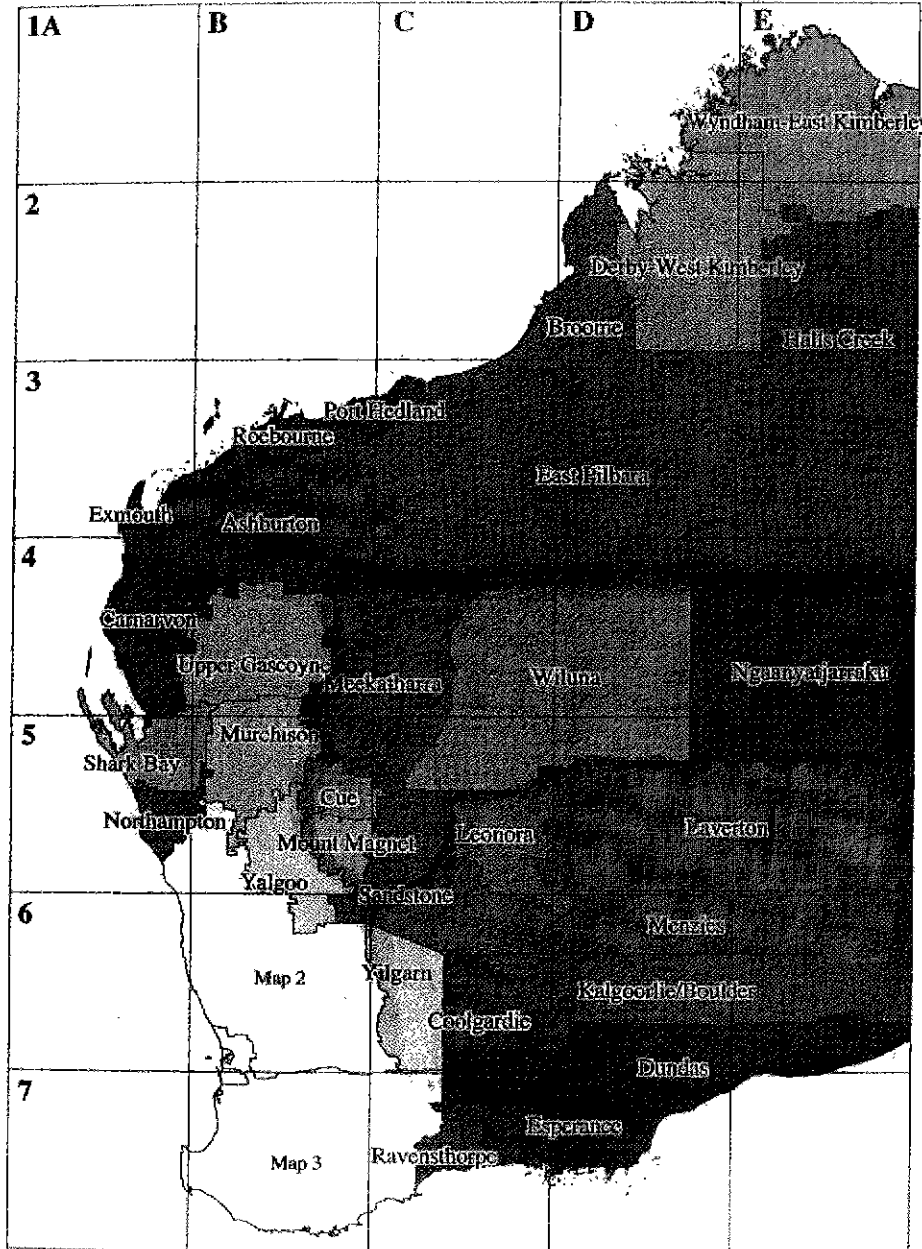
Projected enrolments at 11/02/2007 by local government areas are included in the following table:

| Local Government | Percentage Change 2002-2007 | Projected Enrolment |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder | 2.08% | 4127 |
| Shire of Coolgardie | -24.24% | 1697 |
| Shire of Laverton | 16.33% | 584 |
| Shire of Dundas | -21.22% | 557 |
| Shire of Leonora | -37.69% | 544 |
| Shire of Menzies | -2.50% | 234 |
| Shire of Yilgarn | -20.80% | 601 |
| Shire of Meekatharra | -29.81% | 565 |
| Shire of Wiluna | -33.13% | 214 |
| Shire of Mount Magnet | 7.30% | 529 |
| Shire of Sandstone | 0.00% | 75 |
| Shire of Cue | -21.43% | 165 |
| Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku | 12.15% | 1191 |
| | TOTAL ENROLMENTS 2007 | 11,083 |

Even though the projected total enrolment for the Eyre District in 2007 is below the minimum quota for country electorates, an argument can be made that the enrolment figures in the above local government areas do not accurately reflect the true resident population, in particular those communities with fly-in, fly-out mining operations. In fact, both the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Western Australian Grants Commission are reviewing their methodology for calculating population figures. It is envisaged that in 2007 there will be some recognition of fly-in, fly-out employees in resident population data.


HJ FRASER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Map 1



EXISTING
BOUNDARY

- | | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| ■ 3B Ashburton | ■ 6D Dundas | ■ 5D Laverton | ■ 4D Nganyatjarraku | ■ 5A Shark Bay |
| ■ 2C Broome | ■ 3C East Pilbara | ■ 5C Leonora | ■ 5A Northampton | ■ 4B Upper Gascoyne |
| ■ 4A Carnarvon | ■ 7C Esperance | ■ 4C Meekatharra | ■ 3C Port Hedland | ■ 4C Wiluna |
| ■ 6C Coolgardie | ■ 3A Exmouth | ■ 6C Menzies | ■ 7C Ravensthorpe | ■ 1E Wyndham-East Kimberley |
| ■ 5B Cue | ■ 2E Halls Creek | ■ 5B Mount Magnet | ■ 3B Roeibourne | ■ 5B Yalgoo |
| ■ 2D Derby | ■ 6D Kalgoorlie/Boulder | ■ 5B Murchison | ■ 5C Sandstone | ■ 6C Yilgarn |