



Submission to Government of Western Australia

2007 Electoral Distribution

Shire of Esperance

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PREAMBLE

At this stage of the 2007 Electoral Boundary review the Shire of Esperance has elected not to submit a submission which prescribes specific boundaries and electorate catchments. Rather, it has based its submission on the premise that the determination of any electoral boundary should be fundamentally based on community of interest principles, taking into account such factors as social, cultural and economic links, as well as the delivery of state government services.

It is considered that it would also be more appropriate for the Shire to provide comment at a later stage in the review process, once the electorate boundaries have been published for public consideration and comment.

The Shire believes that the electorate catchment within which Esperance is included should be aligned to a Goldfields – Esperance model, due to the obvious links between the two regions. It is considered that the same linkages do not exist with respect to models that propose either a catchment based on a southern coastal region linking Esperance to Albany; or the central/eastern wheatbelt region.

SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC LINKS

3.1 Social and cultural

Esperance has enjoyed a long standing social and cultural history with the Goldfields regions. This history dates back to the development of Esperance as a supply port for the goldfields in the late 1800s.

Anecdotal evidence suggests a strong tendency for people in the Goldfields to move to Esperance on retirement for the perceived lower living costs and coastal lifestyle. Esperance is also a significant holiday destination for people living in the Goldfields. Hence, there are strong family and community ties between the Goldfields and Esperance.

3.2 Economic

The Goldfields and Esperance are inextricably linked from an economic perspective dating back to the establishment of the Esperance port as the supply and export port for the region. Several long term projects currently under consideration point to this relationship developing further into the future.

It should be noted that the State and Federal Government undertake economic and strategic decision making on the basis of the current Goldfields – Esperance Region. This is highlighted by:

- recent economic and strategic studies undertaken by the Goldfields – Esperance Development Commission,
- the Goldfields Esperance Regional Planning Strategy and Goldfields – Esperance Land Transport Study completed by the Department for Planning and Infrastructure
- Southern Cross – Esperance Regional Minerals Study completed by the Commonwealth Department of Resources

Export Gateway for the Goldfields Region

The Esperance port serves as the major export gateway for mining product from the Goldfields.

6.3m tonnes of mining product were exported through the port in 2006. In addition, 284,000 tonnes of petroleum product was imported for use in the goldfields region.

A number of additional projects are expected to be operational including a nickel mining venture proposed by Heron Resources' which is currently undergoing feasibility. The KNP is a potential 100 year project producing 50,000 tonnes of nickel per annum.

Golden West Resources Ltd is currently investigating the possibility of exporting iron ore product from their proposed Wiluna West mine via Esperance. The company has entered into an option agreement with the Esperance Port Authority to lease an area for the construction of an iron ore shed with 300,000 tonnes capacity. Golden West propose to initially export up to 1,000,000 tonnes per annum, increasing to 10,000,000 tonnes when the mine commences full production. At this stage no timeframe has been set for the commencement of mining operations.

Further mining projects are currently undergoing preliminary studies.

Proposed Desalination Plant to Supply Bulk Potable Water to Goldfields Region

There is currently a proposal by United Utilities Australia Pty Ltd (UUA) to construct a desalination plant in Esperance to supply the goldfields region with bulk potable water. A proposal which would also resolve the current water quality issues in Esperance.

The project aims to provide water for communities and industries throughout the Goldfields and Esperance region. It will enable mines wanting to increase production to secure new water and will offer better quality water to those currently using hyper-saline groundwater supplies.

It is understood that UUA proposal would also provide economic development opportunities in the Esperance – Goldfields corridor within which the pipeline will be laid, including:

- Agribusiness opportunities will increase along the pipeline by providing the potential for intensive feedlots and high quality irrigated cropping, due to the facility to reticulate/irrigate.
- Drought proofing through the provision of high quality water for use in crop sprays, protection against livestock losses and eliminating the need to truck water to communities and farms during periods of drought.
- The provision of large volumes of high quality water to the Shark Lake Industrial Park would provide the opportunity for a diverse range of downstream processing and manufacturing.

THE DELIVERY OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES

At present State Government service delivery, with the exception of two agencies, is undertaken on the basis of a Goldfields – Esperance model, including:

- Department of Health – including the delivery of dental and specialist care, with the Kalgoorlie health facilities being also designated as the Regional Health Facility for the Esperance Region. The Country Health Service, which is responsible for the administration of health services in Esperance, is also based in Kalgoorlie.
- Goldfields – Esperance Development Commission – responsible for encouraging and promoting economic and social activity in the Goldfields-Esperance region of Western Australia. The Commission is based in Kalgoorlie, with a regional office located in Esperance.
- Department for Planning and Infrastructure (DPI) – the delivery of services by DPI in the Goldfields – Esperance region is based on the same regional boundary as the Development Commission from their regional office in Kalgoorlie. DPI is responsible for the delivering the following services in Esperance:
 - Licensing Services
 - Statutory and Strategic Planning
 - Land and Air Transport Strategic Planning and Policy
 - Marine Safety
 - Management of Coastal Facilities
 - Administration of grant funding for airports and coastal facilities.
- Main Roads Western Australia (MRWA) – the co-ordination of construction and maintenance of all roads under the responsibility of the State Government in the Esperance region is undertaken from the Kalgoorlie office the MRWA.
- Department of Sport and Recreation (DSR) – the DSR currently deliver all services relating to sport and recreation from its Kalgoorlie office. DSR does not currently maintain a regional office in Esperance.
- Department of Housing and Works (DHW) – the DHW currently co-ordinate the supply of public housing in the Esperance area from their Kalgoorlie office – DHW maintain a small regional office in Esperance which reports to the Kalgoorlie office.
- Department of Corrective Services (DCS) – all matters relating to the custody, home detention and administration of crime related penalties are co-ordinated from the Kalgoorlie office of the DCS.

Not all State Government agencies have been listed, however, the aforementioned agencies provide a very clear indication of the current services delivery model implemented by the State Government.