



SHIRE OF PERENJORI

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Your Ref :- DST 063
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Enquiries :- Stan Scott, CEO

23 April 2007

Mr Warwick Gately
Office of the Electoral Distribution Commissioners
GPO Box F316
PERTH WA 6841

Dear Mr Gately

New Western Australian Electoral Boundaries

Thank you for your letter of 30 March 2007 and the opportunity to provide input to the 2007 review of Western Australian Electoral Boundaries.

Council considered the matter at its April Ordinary Meeting and indicated a strong preference for the Shire of Perenjori to be included in the Greenough Electorate.

This preference is based on the following considerations:

Community of Interest

Perenjori's community of interest is with neighbouring Shires. The bulk of the Shire of Perenjori is drought affected and has this in common with its Northern neighbours of Morawa and Mullewa (exceptional circumstances), and Western neighbours of Coorow, Carnamah, Three Springs and Mingenew (State Drought Assistance). Sporting and social ties are with the North Midlands which includes all of the shires listed above.

Land Use Patterns

In the Northern Agricultural Region farms are larger and drier, and hence farming methods are adapted to these climate differences. Perenjori, Morawa and Mullewa and in the early days of a potential Midwest mining boom, which does not at this stage extend South of Perenjori. All ore for the proposed iron ore projects will be transported by truck and rail to Geraldton Port for export. Project proponents are represented by the Geraldton Iron Ore Alliance.

Means of Communication and Distance from the capital

The Regional Centre for services to Perenjori is Geraldton. Power and Water are distributed from Three Springs and Arrowshot respectively. Telephone infrastructure is provided by Telstra Country Wide Mid West.

Existing boundaries of regions and districts

Perenjori is in the Mid West Development Commission Region and Northern Agricultural Region. These are in common with the Greenough electorate, and we are the only Shire in the Merredin electorate that falls in the above regions.

Local Government Boundaries

Perenjori is in the Northern Country Zone of the WA Local Government Association. This is in common with the other Shires in the Greenough electorate. None of the other Shires in the Merredin electorate are in this zone. Perenjori, together with its neighbouring shires in the North Midlands (Coorow, Carnamah, Three Springs, Mingenew, Morawa and Mullewa) have formed a Regional Local Government for the purpose of improved efficiency and resource sharing. All bar Perenjori have a shared MLA.

Trend of Demographic Changes

Perenjori's association is with Geraldton. There is considerable migration to and from Geraldton, many students attend school in Geraldton, and many older Perenjori residents retire near Geraldton. There is little if any association with the bulk of the Merredin electorate.

Conclusion

Historically Perenjori has been used to balance the numbers between the electorates and has bounced between Merredin and Greenough. Perenjori's community of interest and economic ties are with Geraldton and its neighbours to the North and West. There are almost no ties with the Merredin electorate. As a result it makes it difficult for the Merredin MLA to adequately service Perenjori.

If the numbers and tolerances allow Perenjori and its 500 odd electors should be included in the Greenough electorate and remain there. If it is necessary to split a community from its neighbours to balance the numbers it is someone else's turn.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding the foregoing.

Yours faithfully



Stan Scott
Chief Executive Officer