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21 May 2007

Mr Warwick Gately AM  
Electoral Commissioner  
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 regarding the 2007 Electoral Distribution. The Council has discussed the matter and resolved at its meeting held on 15 May 2007 to make a submission to the Electoral Distribution Commissioners on the State Electoral District of Perth.

The Council understands that this is the first Distribution carried out under the one-vote-one-value legislation. All the Districts within the Metropolitan Area will be reduced from the number of electors they now contain, as all State Districts will be required to fall within plus or minus ten percent of the average district enrolment (with special provisions applying in very geographically large districts). Consequently there will be a significant change of boundaries throughout the State.

Currently the City of Perth Local Government District is divided between the State Electoral Districts of Nedlands and Perth, with Crawley and West Perth being in the District of Nedlands and Northbridge, the CBD and East Perth being within the District of Perth. This has come about because the boundary between those two State Districts is the Mitchell Freeway.

The City would like the Commissioners to consider drawing the boundaries for the State District of Perth so that all of the Local Government District of Perth is contained within it.

We are aware that two of the parameters the Commissioners must consider are community of interest and existing local government boundaries.

Having the City divided between two State Electoral Districts does not satisfy the community of interest test in the Council's view. The principal reason for this is to be found in the City Planning Scheme No 2 which describes West Perth as a secondary business area adjacent to the City with Plot Ratios identical to the other inner City areas of Northbridge and parts of East Perth. This is different to Subiaco with which West Perth is currently aligned. The current State boundary also places the historic



Parliament Hill area in the State Electoral District of Nedlands when it should be located in Perth. The City submits that West Perth has more in common with East Perth, Northbridge and the CBD than with Subiaco, and so, along with Crawley should be located in the same State Electoral District as the rest of Perth.

With regard to Local Government boundaries, the current boundary between the City of Perth and the City of Subiaco runs along Thomas St and Winthrop Avenue. If the boundary between the State Electoral Districts of Nedlands and Perth was moved westwards at least to this Local Government boundary, all of the City would be within the State Electoral District of Perth. We assume that the Swan River will remain as the Eastern and Southern boundaries of the State Electoral District of Perth and therefore the State Electoral District of Perth could be decreased in size by moving its current northern boundary southwards.

The advantage to the City being within one State Electoral District is that all representation to the State Government could be channelled through the one member, who would be well informed about City priorities and feel more responsible for representing the City's position on various matters as the member in whose District the City of Perth was located. Further the City's community of interest would be united rather than divided as it is presently.

The Council would be pleased if its suggestion was implemented in the current Distribution and commends the suggestion to the Commissioners.

Yours sincerely



FRANK EDWARDS  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER