

Our Ref. BM 547/Sub-34

April 12, 2011

Mr Justin Harbord
Secretary to the Electoral Distribution Commissioners
GPO Box F316
PERTH WA 6841

Dear Mr Harbord

This submission is confined to brief comments in reference to the potential impacts of the 2011 electoral redistribution on the electorate of Blackwood-Stirling, as it exists currently. This submission also supports the broader and more detailed submission made by The WA Nationals.

It is acknowledged that addressing the boundaries of the 12 electoral districts currently calculated to be outside allowable enrolment limits, may well also necessitate some adjustment to the boundary of the Blackwood-Stirling electorate. However, one purpose of this submission is to highlight that the scale of the 2007 redistribution, which created the Blackwood-Stirling electorate from the former Warren Blackwood and Stirling electorates, was very substantial and resulted in significant voter, local government and other agency impact. Therefore, for the purposes of continuity for electors, local government authorities and other relevant agencies, it would be preferable if the changes to be made as part of the 2011 redistribution were able to be at the minimal end of the scale.

Clearly, it would be highly desirable in the interests of continuity for both the Boyup Brook and Cranbrook Shires to remain within the Blackwood-Stirling boundary. However it is acknowledged, as highlighted in the WA Nationals' submission that adjustments necessitated elsewhere may ultimately result in a decision by the Commissioners to retain only Cranbrook in Blackwood-Stirling, with Boyup Brook reincorporated into the Wagin district.

The Commissioners have noted the necessity to address the Vasse district's + 11.19% variation from average district enrolment. This appears likely to result in some adjustment between the Vasse and Blackwood-Stirling electoral boundaries. At the 2007 redistribution, the Commissioners noted that the Vasse district reflected the existing community of interest between the townships of Busselton, Margaret River and Dunsborough.



In order to retain those existing township linkages, a strong case can be made for merging the upper portion of the Leeuwin Ward and a significant rural portion of the North Ward of the Augusta-Margaret River Shire (AMRSC) into Blackwood-Stirling, whilst retaining the Margaret River town site within Vasse. This proposal is detailed in the submission by the WA Nationals.

The upper Leeuwin Ward and nominated areas of Augusta-Margaret River Shire's North Ward are comprised to a large extent of rural communities centred on similar agriculturally based production and industries to those undertaken in the existing Blackwood-Stirling district. A similar synergy exists between both areas in relation to tourism based industry. As such, communities including Witchcliffe, Rosa Brook, Rosa Glen and Redgate share strong community of interest and land use commonalities with the neighbouring Shire of Nannup and also with other shires in the Blackwood-Stirling electorate such as Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Denmark, Plantagenet and Manjimup. Locating those areas of the North Ward and the upper Leeuwin Ward within Blackwood-Stirling would also reunite them with the Augusta, Karridale, and Kudardup areas of the Augusta-Margaret River Shire that are already sited within the Blackwood-Stirling district.

I thank the Commissioners for their consideration of this submission.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Terry Redman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

TERRY REDMAN MLA
Member for Blackwood-Stirling