



**Office of the Chief Executive
File Code GV.BOU**

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**Electoral Boundaries WA
Office of the Electoral Distribution Commissioners
Level 2
111 Saint Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6000**



Dear Commissioners

2015 REVIEW OF WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to your deliberations over the 2015 review of Western Australia's electoral boundaries.

Shire of Mundaring

Shire of Mundaring is the third-largest (644 sq km) local government area in metropolitan Perth. It is situated on the eastern boundary of metropolitan Perth, extending in a roughly triangular shape from the suburbs of Midvale and Bellevue in the west, to the locations of Wooroloo and Bailup in the north east, to the locations of Malmalling and Sawyers Valley in the south east. The Estimated Resident Population is 40,046 (2014).

Shire of Mundaring spans three electoral Districts in the East Metropolitan Region.

Approximately 35% of the Shire population live in the predominantly suburban residential areas of Greenmount, Helena Valley, Boya, Midvale (part), Bellevue (part) and Swan View (part). These suburbs make up the south eastern portion of the District of Midland. Approximately 10% of the population live in the adjoining suburb of Darlington, which is the northern extremity of the District of Kalamunda. These predominantly suburban areas to west of the Darling Escarpment contain approximately 45% of the Shire population and consist of approximately 5% of the total area of the Shire.

The other 55% of the population lives in the smaller villages and the rural and rural residential areas to the east of the Darling Escarpment. This area contains substantial conservation estate and water catchment. It is approximately 95% of the total area of the Shire, and makes up the south eastern portion of the District of Swan Hills.

Comments on Suggestions

I have reviewed the Suggestions made to the 2015 Electoral Boundary Review, and note that the following Suggestions directly relate to Shire of Mundaring residents:

- Dr Mark Mulcair suggests transferring the suburb of Darlington from the District of Kalamunda to the District of Swan Hills. This would result in the Member for Darlington no longer being a Local Member for Shire of Mundaring, and *ceteris paribus*, Shire of Mundaring would only have two Local Members of the Legislative Assembly compared to the current three.
- Suggestion S-009 entails transferring several eastern suburbs from the District of Swan Hills to the District of Darling Range, and transferring several adjoining suburbs from the District of Swan Hills to the District of Kalamunda. This would result in the Member of Swan Hills no longer being a Local Member for Shire of Mundaring, and the Member for Darling Range again being a Local Member. Shire of Mundaring would continue to enjoy three Local Members of the Legislative Assembly, and the suggested changes would “even out” the ratios of population in the Districts in Shire of Mundaring from the current 55%,35%,10% to a suggested 35%, 28%, 37%.
- The Liberal Party of Australia (WA Division) suggests expanding the District of Midland eastwards to include the suburb of Darlington (from the District of Kalamunda) and the suburb of Glen Forrest (from the District of Swan Hills). It further suggests that an imprecisely specified portion of the suburb of Helena Valley (total suburb population slightly in excess 3000 and growing) is transferred from the District of Midland to the District of Belmont. This would result in the Member of Kalamunda no longer being a Local Member for Shire of Mundaring, and the Member for Belmont becoming a Local Member with a small number of constituents in the Shire. Shire of Mundaring would continue to enjoy three Local Members of the Legislative Assembly, but with further fragmented ratios of population in the Districts in the Shire from the current 35%,55%,10% to a suggested 48%, approximately 48%, approximately 4%.

Electoral Boundary Review

I recognise that all Districts on the northern, eastern and southern extremities of the metropolitan area including Swan Hills, and the adjoining Districts of Kwinana, Cockburn, Southern River and West Swan, are outside the Variation From Average District Enrolment and therefore adjustments are required under current legislation.

I am also cognisant of the preliminary observations made by the Commissioners - in particular that:

- the size and spread of the Districts outside permissible limits is such that....implementing a minimal change approach would be difficult.
- the realities ...are such that ...the electoral map reflecting the results of 2015 distribution is likely to be quite different from the one that applies at present

- if a change is required to the overall boundary of the metropolitan area, the southern boundary appears to be less problematic.... thanthe north or east parts of the metropolitan area.
- the discussion.... raises as one possibility a reduction in the number of country Districts with a corresponding increase in Districts in the metropolitan area.

I understand that the legislation requires that the East Metropolitan region includes the hills and foothills of the Darling Escarpment and that each metropolitan region is required to contain approximately the same number of Districts.

I further understand that in addition to the numbers of electors, the Commissioners may, to the extent that the enrolment numbers allow, take into consideration:


- community of interest
- land use patterns, means of communication; means of travel and distance from Perth
- physical features
- existing boundaries of regions and districts
- existing local government boundaries
- the trend of demographic changes.

I urge the Commissioners to consider these factors in the context of the two distinct settlement patterns in Shire of Mundaring – the more densely settled suburban areas close to Midland in the west of the Shire, and the relatively sparsely settled villages and semi-rural areas to the east. 45% of the Shire's population lives in the western 5% of the Shire's area, and 55% of the population lives in the eastern 95% of the Shire's area. These areas lie on either side of the Darling Escarpment.

I further urge the Commissioners to define Districts, as far as they are able, to include larger rather than smaller proportions of the population of the Shire. A Local Member with a substantial proportion of constituents in a local government area is likely to be able have a more engaged and effective relationship with the local government than a Local Member with only a few constituents in that local government area.

I have some understanding of the complexities of the task before the Commissioners and look forward to being appraised of the proposed boundaries in due course.

Yours sincerely



Jonathan Throssell
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER