

WAEC 2015 State Electoral Boundaries Review

City of Mandurah submission
May 2015

WAEC
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The City of Mandurah is pleased to provide a submission to the Western Australian Electoral Commission's 2015 Review of State Electoral Boundaries. The City's submission will endeavour to respond to suggestions already made that have implications for Mandurah's existing electoral boundaries.

As identified by the WAEC, the City of Mandurah's existing State Electoral Districts, Mandurah and Dawesville, are both currently within the average district enrolment (ADE) tolerance level (plus or minus 10% of ADE). The adjoining District of Murray-Wellington, to the east of Mandurah, is also within the ADE tolerance level. All three Districts lie within the South West Region.

However, the District of Warnbro, to the north of Mandurah, is currently well outside the ADE tolerance level. Warnbro lies within the South Metropolitan Region.

In responding to the 2015 request for submissions, it should be noted that the City's position on electoral boundary reform remains consistent with its previous position during the 2011 State Electoral Boundary Review.

The City's submission lists suggestions already made by others, followed by the City's response to each suggestion.

- **Suggestion:** Transfer the Mandurah and Dawesville electorates from the South West Region to the South Metropolitan Region.
- **City's response:**

The City of Mandurah is strongly opposed to the proposed transfer of the Mandurah electoral district and/or the Dawesville electoral district from the South West Region to the South Metropolitan Region. The City's position remains unaltered from that put forward at the 2011 Review.

The City of Mandurah is Western Australia's largest regional city, incorporated within the *Peel Region Scheme* under the *Regional Development Commissions Act 1993*. The City of Rockingham, on the other hand, is located within the Perth Metropolitan Region under the *Metropolitan Region Scheme*. Mandurah is located within Western Australia's Peel Development Commission boundary, as well as the Australian Government's Regional Development Australia (Peel) boundary.

Although Mandurah is part of Perth's long-term urban expansion solution, it is not part of the Perth Metropolitan Region. As the capital of the Peel Region, Mandurah has a growing service-city function to the region, which is currently WA's third-largest mining region, and also an expanding agricultural region.

As the Peel Region's capital, the City of Mandurah is an active regional participant. The City is a member of the Peel Regional Leaders Forum (PRLF), the region's peak leadership body. The PRLF is comprised of the Peel local government areas of Mandurah, Murray, Serpentine-Jarrahdale, Waroona and Boddington, as well as the Peel Development Commission (PDC), Regional Development Australia (Peel), the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council (PHCC) and the Peel Community Development Group (PCDG).

The PRLF, which commenced operation in February 2011, has several key objectives, including:

- Determining strategic regional priorities for the Peel Region;
- Determining regional funding priorities at the State and Commonwealth level;
- Facilitating the economic development, ecological integrity and social wellbeing of the Peel Region.

As an active PRLF member, the City of Mandurah has assumed a leading role in regional issues, particularly from a funding perspective. The City currently provides approximately 95% of Peel Region local government funding for the regionally based tourism organisation, Mandurah and Peel Tourism Organisation (MAPTO). It is also a major financier of the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council, and is a significant financial contributor to the PRLF.

Any attempt to integrate Mandurah within Perth Metropolitan Region boundaries would result in a loss of Mandurah's regional identity and autonomy, as well as its community of interest. Furthermore, it could also potentially render Mandurah ineligible for State and Federal regional funding.

The City of Mandurah is one of nine regional cities recently invited to participate in Phase Two of the Department of Regional Development's *Regional Centres Development Plan* (RCDP). The RCDP is a *Royalties for Regions* initiative that aims to set the broad strategic direction for sustainable growth of WA's Regional Centres and Super Towns identified in the *State Planning Strategy*.

The City is also eligible to participate in the *National Stronger Regions Fund* (NSRF). The NSRF is an initiative of the Australian Government Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development, and is currently providing \$1 billion over five years to fund priority infrastructure in regional communities. Round One NSRF funding is due to be announced this month.

The City of Mandurah remains firmly opposed to the proposed transfer of the Mandurah electoral district and/or the Dawesville electoral district from the South West Region to the South Metropolitan Region.

- **Suggestion:** Relocate the localities of Secret Harbour, Golden Bay and Singleton from the Warnbro electorate to the Mandurah electorate.
- **City's response:**

The City of Mandurah is not necessarily opposed to the proposed transfer of Golden Bay and Singleton from the Warnbro District to the Mandurah District.

However, the City's preference would be for these two localities to remain within the Warnbro District to align electoral district boundaries with LGA boundaries.

The City does not support the proposed transfer of Secret Harbour from the Warnbro District to the Mandurah District. As well as being one of Rockingham's largest and fastest growing localities, Secret Harbour's community of interest lies predominantly with Rockingham rather than Mandurah.

- **Suggestion:** Relocate the localities of Furnissdale and Barragup from the Mandurah electorate to the Murray-Wellington electorate.

- **City's response:**

The City of Mandurah is not opposed to the proposed transfer of Barragup and Furnissdale from the Mandurah District to the Murray-Wellington District, as this would align electoral district boundaries with local government area boundaries. The Barragup and Furnissdale localities currently lie within the Shire of Murray LGA.

- **Suggestion:** Relocate the locality of Parklands and the north-eastern section of the locality of Lakelands from the Mandurah electorate to the Murray-Wellington electorate.

- **City's response:**

The City of Mandurah is opposed to the proposed transfer of the locality of Parklands and the north-eastern section of the locality of Lakelands from the Mandurah electorate to the Murray-Wellington electorate.

The City's preference is to align electoral district boundaries with LGA boundaries wherever possible, and it therefore seeks to retain each of Mandurah's 18 localities within its local government area.

- **Suggestion:** Relocate the localities of Coodanup and Greenfields from the Mandurah electorate to the Murray-Wellington electorate;

- **City's response:**

The City is opposed to the proposed transfer of the localities of Coodanup and Greenfields from the Mandurah District to the Murray-Wellington District. The City's preference is to align electoral district boundaries with LGA boundaries wherever possible, and it therefore seeks to retain each of Mandurah's 18 localities within its local government area.

- **Suggestion:** Relocate the southern section of Coodanup and a portion of central Mandurah from the Mandurah electorate to the Dawesville electorate;

- *City's response:*

The City does not support the proposed transfer of the southern section of Coodanup and a portion of central Mandurah from the Mandurah electorate to the Dawesville electorate.

The City's preference is that, as far as practicable, the Peel Inlet and Mandurah Estuary should form a natural boundary between the electoral districts of Mandurah and Dawesville.

Whilst it is acknowledged that the locality of Dudley Park was transferred from the Mandurah to the Dawesville District following the 2011 Review, it is not considered necessary to transfer additional localities from Mandurah to Dawesville, given the latter's larger elector population (26,507) and ADE variation (+6.36%).

The need to retain Coodanup and central Mandurah within the Mandurah District would become even greater if Barragup and Furnissdale were to be transferred from the Mandurah District to the Murray-Wellington District, in order to prevent Mandurah from exceeding ADE variation tolerance levels.

- *Suggestion:* Retain the electorates of Mandurah and Dawesville in their current form within the South West Region;

- *City's response:*

The City of Mandurah's preference is that its existing electoral district boundaries remain unaltered, notwithstanding its in-principle support for the proposed transfer of Barragup and Furnissdale from the Mandurah District to the Murray-Wellington District, in order to align electoral district boundaries with LGA boundaries.

As previously outlined, the City remains firmly opposed to the proposed transfer of the Mandurah electoral district and/or the Dawesville electoral district from the South West Region to the South Metropolitan Region.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Western Australian Electoral Commission's 2015 Review of State Electoral Boundaries.

Mark R Newman
Chief Executive Officer