



WAEC
13 MAY 2015

A Co-operative venture of the municipalities of:
Cockburn, East Fremantle, Fremantle, Kwinana, Melville & Rockingham

Date: 13 May 2015
Contact: Mick McCarthy (08) 9364 0631
Reference: Submission on WA Electoral Boundaries Review – May 2015

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

Dear Sir/Madam

**REVIEW OF WA ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES – SOUTH WEST GROUP
SUBMISSION**

The South West Group has an interest in the review of WA Electoral Boundaries in the lead up to the State election on 11 March 2017.

The public submission has been prepared taking into account the relevant factors, particularly communities of interest, physical features, existing boundaries of regions and local government boundaries.

The South West Group, formed in November 1983, is a Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils (VROC) comprising the Cities of Cockburn, Fremantle, Kwinana, Melville, and Rockingham and the Town of East Fremantle.

The South West Group is managed by a Board consisting of the Mayors and CEOs of its member local governments.

The South West Group works with the six local governments to enhance economic growth and attract investment in infrastructure and services for the benefit of the region.

In reviewing the suggestions registered to date regarding electoral boundary adjustments or whole electoral district changes, there appears to be support for an additional electorate division or electorate divisions in the Perth Metropolitan Area to reflect population growth and to address those electorates well above tolerances for average district enrolments (ADE).

South Metropolitan Region has been identified in a number of the suggestions as a region where an additional electoral district is recommended.

The South West Group's geographic area covers the member Councils listed above and is known as the South West Metropolitan Region.

The South West Metropolitan Region boundary currently has a direct correlation to the boundaries of the following South Metropolitan Region electoral districts (refer to Figures 1 and 2 below):

- Fremantle
- Willagee
- Alfred Cove
- Bateman
- Cockburn
- Jandakot
- Kwinana
- Rockingham
- Warnbro

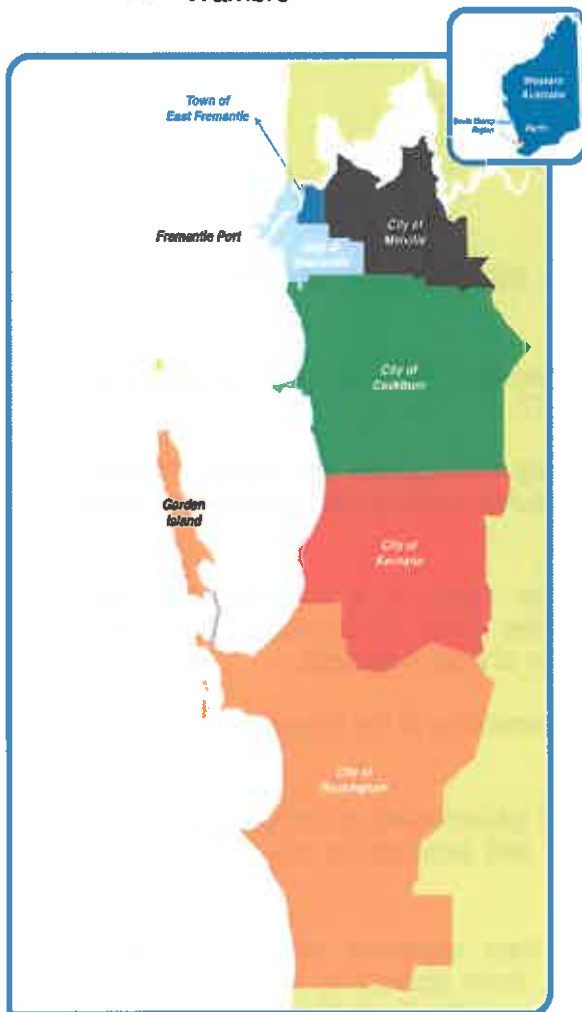


Fig 1: South West Metropolitan Region

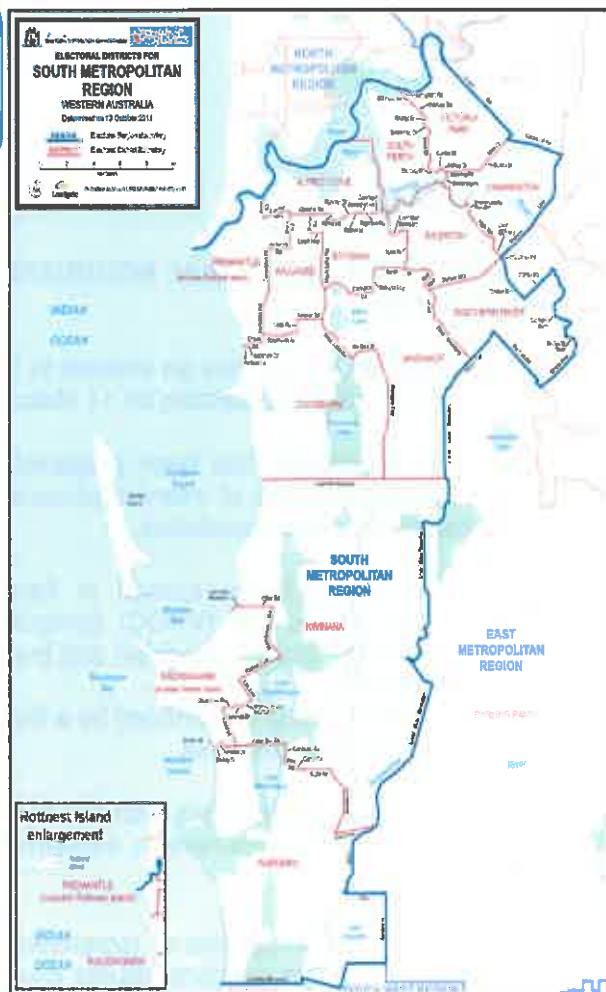


Fig2: South Metropolitan Region

The exception is the suburb of North Fremantle, which is located within the Cottesloe electoral district.

3.

The South West Group Board considers the alignment of current electoral boundaries and their associated communities of interest as beneficial to the South West Metropolitan Region, the member local governments and their constituents.

Changes to electoral districts that detract from the current alignment may dilute the strongly aligned representation and as a consequence be a disadvantage to the region.

On this basis, the South West Group supports minor changes in electoral boundaries as far as practicable.

It is however recognised that adjustments will be required to accommodate those electoral districts outside of the variation from ADE such as Kwinana, Warnbro and Cockburn. In such cases, it is recommended that geographic features (e.g. Swan River, coast), local government boundaries and/or well recognised man-made features (e.g. Kwinana Freeway, rail lines, highways) be used in setting boundaries rather than arbitrary boundaries to achieve acceptable tolerances based on current variations.

Adjustments should also take into account the ongoing urban development in growth areas within the South Metropolitan Region that will continue to attract electors at a much higher rate into the future.

I trust that these comments are useful in decision making regarding the review of electoral boundaries. The South West Group would be pleased to provide a presentation to the Electoral Distribution Commissioners should the opportunity arise.

If have any queries or require further information regarding this submission, please contact the Director South West Group (Mick McCarthy) on (08) 9364 0631, mob 0478 325 469 or email director@southwestgroup.com.au

Yours sincerely



Mayor Jim O'Neill
Chair South West Group