

**OFFICE OF THE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Our Ref: G/E/6
Enquiries to: Ray Tame

12 May 2015

Office of the Electoral Commissioners
GPO Box F316
PERTH WA 6841
E: boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

**COMMENTS ON THE PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS ON STATE ELECTORATE
BOUNDARIES FOR THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN 2015 REDISTRIBUTION**

The City of Armadale strongly believes that fundamental change for this distribution is desirable on the basis that a reduction in the number of districts in several regions and a corresponding increase in others, coupled with changes to regional boundaries, will reduce some of the more extreme differences in enrolment numbers in electoral units across the State as a whole. In doing so, the change will provide a sound framework for the 2017 and future elections.

The City wishes to make the following Comments on the Suggestions received by the Commissioners.

1. The City considers that implementing incremental change at this redistribution, as advocated by some submitters, is not appropriate given the unprecedented rate of population growth in the metropolitan regions that has already occurred and is forecast to continue.
2. The most substantial population growth is concentrated in the outer metropolitan districts meaning that, to ensure equity of elector representation, there must be change in regional boundaries and an increase in the number of lower house metropolitan seats.

While the Act directs that the boundaries of the three metropolitan regions, when viewed as a whole, should be *generally co-extensive* with the metropolitan area of Perth, there is some flexibility to adjust the outer perimeter of the metropolitan regions along different lines. Indeed, in each of the three metropolitan regions the existing boundaries are being rendered obsolete as the pace of urban development outstrips tradition.

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Armadale considers that the Act is deliberately non-specific in defining the boundary of metropolitan Perth specifically to allow the Commissioners flexibility in determining the most suitable model for ensuring fair elector representation in situations such as the one being faced in this Review – that of massive population growth as the majority (75.02%) of the State’s population chooses to reside in the metropolitan area.

3. The WA Planning Commission’s Draft [Perth and Peel@3.5Million](#) confirms that the Perth metro area will house 90% of the State’s population by 2050 so it is inevitable that representation of the three Metropolitan Regions must change if equitable representation of electors is to be achieved. The process of adjustment is already overdue and fundamental change is required now.
4. The EDC’s Fact Sheet 1 states that “the overriding consideration in any distribution is elector numbers”. It is for this reason the City has submitted that fundamental change is overdue. If the principle of three ‘metropolitan’ and three ‘non-metropolitan’ regions is to remain, then clearly the number of lower house districts in the three metropolitan regions must change.

Given that 75% of the State’s population already resides in the metropolitan area, and this number will increase to 90% by 2050, it is apparent that the State’s population distribution is already outstripping anticipated trends. Fundamental change cannot be deferred further.

5. Under ‘Matters to be considered in a division’ the EDC has referred to Section 161 and other criteria that may be given due consideration, namely:
 - a) Community of interest
 - b) Land use patterns
 - c) Means of communication; means of travel and distance from Perth
 - d) Physical features
 - e) Existing boundaries of regions and districts
 - f) Existing local government boundaries
 - g) The trend of demographic changes

The City respectfully submits that those submissions advocating incremental change are overplaying factor (c) to the detriment of equity of the electoral representation. In this modern age of electronic communication ‘means of communication; means of travel and distance from Perth’ should not be the justification for continued inequity in representation of electors.

It is therefore contended that the 10 submissions citing incremental change are overlooking the inequity already created by metropolitan Perth’s rapid and continuing growth, it is time for fundamental change. Any further deferral will only heighten the inequity readily observed in Table 1 of the EDC’s Fact Sheet 3.

6. The City reinforces the comment made in its original submission that the boundaries of the electoral district of Armadale should remain unchanged in anticipation of rapid projected growth (estimated at over 20% in the next 15 years) in the localities of Haynes and Hilbert.

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That rapid growth will enable Armadale's area to diminish in the future as the urbanisation of rural pasture land proceeds.

The City of Armadale urges the Redistribution Commissioners to look favourably on these proposals supporting fundamental change, as proposed in its original submission.

Should you have any queries or require further information regarding this submission, please do not hesitate to contact me at the City on 93990101.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'R S TAME', written over a circular stamp or seal.

**R S TAME PSM
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**