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Sent: Wednesday, 13 May 2015 3:35 PM
To: 2015 Electoral Boundaries Review
Subject: 2015 electoral redistribution submission



Dear Commissioners,

2015 ELECTORAL REDISTRIBUTION

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to comment on submissions received made recently to the 2015 WA Electoral Redistribution.

I am concerned that the submission by the Liberal Party of Western Australia, where the Shire of Collie be transferred to the Agricultural region, that continues to show Menzies House's lack of understanding of the Collie-Preston electorate.

The submission makes arguments based on historical arrangements and boundaries that cannot be sustained and should be thrown out, as the Act and composition of the Legislative Council was vastly different between 1965 and 1989 than under the current Act.

The Shire of Collie shares many communities of interest with coastal areas like Bunbury which it does not share with areas to the east of its boundary, for instance:

- The South West Health Region of the WA Country Health Service;
- WA Local Government Association – South West Zone;
- The South West Development Commission;
- The Bunbury Wellington Economic Alliance; and
- The Bunbury Wellington Group of Councils;

These are not exhaustive, and is aside from the official definitions and regions of State and Federal Government agencies like the Department of Planning, Centrelink and Department of Education.

A further point is that mining makes up a large portion of the Shire of Collie's Economy, and very much exhibits a drive in – drive out culture, with over 30% of Collie's mine workers living on the coastal strip to the west of the Shire.

I also note that in the 2011 Census, only 31 people over 15 years of age (0.5%) were employed in agriculture, forestry or fishing in the Shire, from a workforce of over 5600. From this statistic alone, it is clear that the Shire of Collie does not have any community of interest with the Agricultural region.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment, and again, I urge you to keep the Shire of Collie in the South West Region.

Yours sincerely

Mick Murray MLA
Member for Collie-Preston