
From: Peter Foster <peter_a_foster@bigpond.com> on behalf of peter.foster@ashburton.wa.gov.au
Sent: Sunday, 16 August 2015 10:25 AM
To: 2015 Electoral Boundaries Review
Subject: Submission into proposal Electoral Boundaries redistribution

WAEC
17 AUG 2015

Importance: High

Dear Electoral Boundaries Commissioners,

My name is Councillor Peter Foster and I'm an elected member representing the ward of Tom Price, in the Shire of Ashburton.

I'm making a submission on my own behalf.

I object to the de-distribution of North West Central.

I reside in, and am part of, the Shire of Ashburton, which is situated inside the current boundary of North West Central.

I believe that the Shire of Ashburton should be situated inside the electoral district of Pilbara.

My reasoning is that the Shire of Ashburton has much more in common with the City of Karratha, Town of Port Hedland, and Shire of East Pilbara, which currently make up the electoral district of Pilbara, then the Shires of Exmouth, Carnarvon, Upper Gascoyne, Wiluna, Shark Bay, Murchison, Cue, Mt Magnet and Sandstone.

I believe the Pilbara can absorb Ashburton's 2,967 voters.

I note that there has been minor decreases in population in Shire of Ashburton, and similarly in Shire of East Pilbara, as mining sector has contracted.

The Shire of Ashburton consists of Tom Price, Paraburdoo and Pannawonica – which all have strong connections to the iron ore industry, and Onslow, which has connections to salt and gas extraction and production, similar to those found within East Pilbara, Karratha and Hedland. We all share connections to miners such as Rio Tinto, BHP, FMGL and others.

We are also home to many pastoral stations, similar to that in Shire of East Pilbara, Town of Port Hedland and City of Karratha.

We are all members of the Pilbara Development Commission (PDC) and also members of the Pilbara Regional Council (PRC) and are part of the Pilbara Cities vision of the State Government.

The four local government districts already work together with sharing of resources and expertise, and are working together for a common future for the district.

We work together on combined tourist strategies, combined economic strategies, and the schools work together on combined Pilbara education strategies.

I understand that this will potentially leave the North West Central district short a few thousand voters, and suggest that perhaps these voters can be found from the Kalgoorlie electoral district.