



August 17 2015

Electoral Distribution Commissioners
GPO Box F316 PERTH WA 6841

Dear Commissioners,

I write to register my objection to the proposed new electorate boundaries which would form a new Collie-Capel electorate to replace the existing Collie-Preston. The proposed boundaries would group Collie and Dardanup – two communities with broadly shared interests – together with a large section of Greater Busselton, whose population finds little common ground with Collie/Dardanup on significant economic, political, and social issues. As such, the proposed boundaries would make it unreasonably difficult for an elected member to accurately advocate on behalf of his/her constituents. It is my firm belief that significant adjustments must be made to the proposed boundaries to ensure an elected member is able to properly represent his/her electorate. I have outlined below the principle reasons underpinning my opposition.

- Collie and Dardanup's industrial economic base and its inherent relationship with the coal industry is fundamentally different to Busselton's tourism-centric economy, where retail trade, food and accommodation services dominate the economic mix. The potential for conflict between the localities' dominant economic bases would make accurate representation unreasonably difficult for the elected member. The member would be expected to "serve two masters", whose views towards for land use, the environment, mining, and a host of other factors would regularly be in opposition with one another.
- Similarly, the lack of commonality in where people residing in these communities find employment makes their grouping together illogical. The coal and coal-dependent industries located in the Collie region – including Worsley Alumina (2000 employees), the Griffin and Premier coal mines (650), and the power stations (400) – employ a large proportion of their workers from the Collie and Dardanup areas, but only a very small proportion from the Busselton region. Similarly, very few people residing in the Dardanup and Collie regions are employed in the Busselton region. This lack of shared employment interests is further evidence of the lack of commonality between these communities.
- The lack of shared community 'hubs' – such as schools, shopping centres, or entertainment venues – between the Collie/Dardanup and Busselton communities reflects the localities' lack of commonality. This lack of shared social space is further evidence that it would be unreasonable to group these communities together in a new electorate.
- The dominant political and social ideologies within each of the Collie/Dardanup and Busselton communities is also too disparate to allow for a member to fairly represent his/her constituents. Views on the environment, the future of the coal industry, trade unions, and social policy, among many others, are far too starkly opposed to reasonably group the regions together within one electorate. The Busselton section of the proposed Collie-Capel electorate has a dominant political and social ideology which runs far more appropriately in line with those present in the Vasse and Warren-Blackwood electorates, so this section of the population would be much more appropriately grouped within one or both of these electorates. Further, moving these electors would work towards balancing out numbers in the Warren-Blackwood electorate.

- The proposed boundaries would split central Busselton into two electorates, presenting a situation where a major regional city would be represented by two MPs. There is little sense in splitting a community such as Busselton only to group one section with separate communities with which there is little common interest.

Taking account of the changes in elector numbers in Collie-Capel and surrounding electorates, there is evidence that sections of the population can be shifted between various electorates without significant impacts on elector numbers. Collie-Capel's 8.1 per cent increase in elector numbers is higher than any surrounding electorate, and provides room to move some sections of the proposed Collie-Capel into other surrounding electorates. In the proposed new boundaries, Murray-Wellington, Vasse, and Bunbury all have lower elector volumes (~25,000-26-0000) than Collie-Capel (~27,000) and all increased by a smaller percentage than Collie-Capel (1.49%-4.24% compared to Collie-Capel's 8.1%).

By moving the Busselton section of Collie-Capel back into Vasse and replacing it with the Roelands area north up to the Brunswick River from Murray-Wellington, similar elector volumes would be maintained and communities with shared interests would be more appropriately grouped together.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Borlini', with a long, sweeping underline.

John Borlini
Collie Shire Councillor