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24 AUG 2015

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Our document ref:



CEO Department - 9734 9000

24/8/15

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

Dear Sir

**Submission in regards to proposed Electoral Boundaries 2015**

At its meeting on 18th August 2015 the Shire of Collie Council considered the proposed electoral boundaries for the 2017 State election. Of particular interest to the Council is the proposal to alter the boundaries of the current seat of Collie-Preston.

The Council would like to make an objection to the proposed seat of Collie-Capel. Reasons for the objections are identified below;

**Communities of Interest**

The Collie Local Government Area (LGA) is a major economic hub of the South West region, accounting for almost a third of the SW region's Gross Regional Product (GRP) in 2010-11. Its main industries comprise Coal mining, power generation and bauxite refining.

A growing trend in recent years is for employees to commute to work from nearby coastal communities rather than reside in the Collie LGA. Recognising this as an issue, the Council commissioned *AEC Economics* in 2012 to undertake research into the impacts this was having on the Collie Community. The study showed that 57% of the 4,304 available jobs in Collie LGA were taken from drive in drive out (DIDO) workers with residents from the Shires of Harvey, Dardanup, Capel and Bunbury the most represented. Residents from Busselton were under represented in this assessment.

With the exception of the northern portion of Australind, the proposed seat of Collie-Capel excludes the Shire of Harvey. Many residents in areas including Roelands, Brunswick, Leschenault and the northern part of Australind (1023 people) were identified in the 2012 study as working in the Collie LGA.

Given their work commitments, Council is of the opinion that these people are more invested in the Collie region than the Murray-Wellington district in which they have been allocated as part of the boundary review process.

The proposed seat of Collie-Capel represents varied communities of interest in terms of economic drivers and ideologies, particularly with regard to the Collie and Busselton localities and this would represent a challenge for a local member to fully represent the views of the electorate.

An example of differing ideologies is the carbon capture and storage project (geosequestration) which is located in the Shire of Harvey. There is strong opposition to this proposal within the Busselton community due to fears about groundwater contamination, whereas Collie, Dardanup's and Harveys historical relationship with heavy industry make those regions' populations more welcoming to further development of these technologies. This opposition to mining and heavy industry by the Vasse community generally was demonstrated in 2012 when all pending applications for coal exploration near the Margaret River Community was terminated by the Minister for Mines due to public pressure.

Collie as an LGA has historically been part of the Bunbury Wellington Group of Councils and to this end has shared resources and partnerships with its neighboring shires including Dardanup, Harvey and Capel and Bunbury. Examples of this are the Bunbury - Wellington Economic Alliance, Bunbury Wellington Regional Tourism Strategy and the Bunbury Wellington Regional Waste Project. The Collie Council also contributes to the Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre and the SW Institute of Sport. The Shire of Collie does not form any significant partnerships with the City of Busselton to this extent.

Busselton's economy is based on Tourism, Viticulture, Dairying, Market Gardening, Manufacturing, Creative Industries and whilst this has some synergies with the Shires of Dardanup and Capel it is not consistent with the main land use patterns of Collie being mining, power generation and .bauxinte refining.

From a community perspective, it is Councils view that the localities of Roelands and Brunswick represent a greater community of interest for the remainder of the proposed seat of Collie-Capel than the localities of Geographe, Reinscourt, Yalyalip, Yoongarillup, Sabina River, Hithergreen, Abba River, Ruabon, Wonnerup, Tutunup, Yoganupa and Jarrahwood.

### Alternative Option

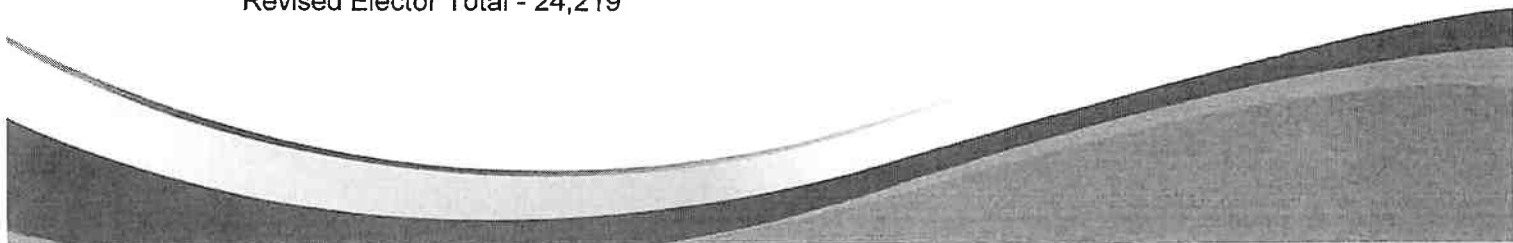
For the reasons indicated above and in consideration of the Electoral Commissions Average district enrolments requirements the Shire of Collie proposes the following amendments to the seats of Collie-Capel, Vasse, Murray Wellington and Warren Blackwood.

### Collie-Capel

Gains - Roelands, Brunswick

Cedes - Geographe, Reincourt, Yalyalup, Yoongarillup, Sabina River, Hithergreen, Abba River, Ruabon, Wonnerup, Tutunup, Yoganup, Jarrahwood

Revised Elector Total - 24,219



**Murray-Wellington**

Gains - N/A

Cedes - Roelands, Brunswick

Revised Elector Total - 23,992

**Vasse**

Gains - Geographe

Cedes - Redgate, Boranup, Witchcliffe, Rosa Glen, Bovell, Kalgup, Ambergate

Revised Elector Total - 27,303

**Warren Blackwood**

Gains - Redgate, Boranup, Witchcliffe, Rosa Glen, Bovell, Kalgup, Ambergate, Acton Park, Chapman Hill, Walsall, Baudin, Treeton, Reincourt, Yalyalup, Yoongarillup, Sabina River, Hithergreen, Abba River, Ruabon, Wonnerup, Tutunup, Yoganup, Jarrahwood  
Cedes - N/A

Revised Elector Total - 27,401

The Council would also like to express its concern at the proposal to abolish the country seat of Eyre in the 2017 elections. The Council understands that this reflects changes to the Electoral Act due to the introduction of one-vote one-value legislation however the Council is of the view that the current methodology does not represent the most appropriate method of determining electoral districts in Western Australia.

Please call me if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely



**David Blurton**  
Chief Executive Officer

