



20 August 2015

WA Electoral Commission
GPO Box F316
PERTH WA 6841

To whom it may concern

SUBMISSION - Objection to the 2015 proposed electoral boundary changes

On behalf of the members of the Nationals WA Esperance Branch, I seek to voice an objection to the dramatic electoral boundary changes that will abolish the district of Eyre.

The proposal to abolish Eyre and split the Shire of Esperance between Wagin (to be renamed Roe) and Kalgoorlie will dilute the political representation of Esperance region residents.

Moving the eastern section of the Shire of Esperance into the Kalgoorlie electorate while placing the central and western area into the new electorate of Roe is impractical and will separate existing communities of interest.

We appreciate that the Electoral Commissioners feel that there must be adjustments to boundaries but it is absolutely fruitless and damaging to section off the eastern part of the Esperance Shire and believe that it can be reasonably serviced by the Member for Kalgoorlie. Further, it is difficult to see how the central and western areas can be adequately represented in an electorate stretching across to Narrogin. The Esperance region is unique and does not fit well, politically or economically, with the Wheatbelt.

The Nationals WA made a submission to the WA Electoral Commission that would have allowed the Electoral Commissioners to meet the requirements of the Act that involved minimal change. The Nationals WA Esperance Branch asks the Commission to re-examine this submission and ensure that the current number of country seats (17) is maintained.

The Nationals WA propose that the district of Eyre should retain its current boundaries as drawn in the 2011 Distribution. This proposal is consistent with The Nationals WA overall approach to make only minimal changes to balance the Average District Enrolment (ADE) between electoral districts and to maintain the connection of the current communities of interest. The Nationals WA believe that in their current form, the communities within these districts have clear and identifiable binding characteristics; that they are provided with the means of effective parliamentary representation and that their ADE is within the permissible limits as defined by the Act. As a district entitled to a Large District Allowance (LDA), Eyre's current ADE of -12.99% falls within permissible limits and does not require significant adjustment.

If significant boundary changes are to be made, the Nationals WA Esperance Branch requests that Shire of Esperance not be split between different electorates. The Shire of Esperance should remain as a single unit within both Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council electorates to reflect communities of interest and ensure effective and consistent governance.

In conclusion, the Nationals WA Esperance Branch opposes the recommendation to abolish Eyre as we feel it will dramatically reduce our region's political representation and fragment existing communities of interest. We are also opposed to any move to split the Shire of Esperance between different electorates. We believe the electoral boundary status quo should be maintained.

Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely

Colin de Grussa

President
Esperance Branch
The Nationals WA