

**Rev. Wesley H. Hartley**  
 B.A., B.D.(Hons.)

WAEC  
 24 AUG 2015

**SUBMISSION TO THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSIONERS  
 RE: PROPOSED BOUNDARY ALTERATIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SEATS  
 OF VASSE AND COLLIE-PRESTON (COLLIE-CAPEL)**

My name is Rev. Wes Hartley. I am a former Councillor and immediate past Shire President (2007-2009) of the City (then Shire) of Busselton and a Uniting Church Minister (now retired), having served in the Parish of Busselton from 2001-2011, encompassing the City of Busselton, the Shires of Capel and Nannup, in addition to parts of the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River.

As such I maintain a deep awareness and appreciation of the local community of interest, particularly in the growing communities of the City of Busselton and the Shires of Capel and Augusta-Margaret River. In reviewing the proposed alteration to the boundaries of the existing electorates of Vasse and Collie-Preston, the important matter of community of interest must be raised.

It is recognised the Commissioners in the proposed boundary alterations have paid particular attention to an equitable balance of the number of electors in the proposed altered boundaries.

It is also recognised that in reference to community of interest, the City of Busselton and the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River share much in common, including a combined tourism structure, key assets, such as the Busselton Airport, in addition to expanding agricultural and viticulture interests. These are also part of important developing tourism and export industries, which are matched to demographic and population interests, in respect of educational and employment opportunities.

As such, no objection is raised to the proposed incorporation of the Margaret River town-ship and the designated communities of the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River into revised boundaries for the electorate of Vasse. It can be clearly demonstrated that there is an active and developing community of interest, which will be ongoing.

However, deep objection needs to be raised concerning the proposed division of the City of Busselton, excising the existing localities of Geographe, Reinscourt, Yalyallup and Yoongarillup, pivotal in the future development of the City of Busselton, placing them into the proposed Collie-Capel electorate, as the community of interest cannot, in my opinion, be adequately demonstrated.

To the average observer, endeavouring to create an electorate based on coal mining and related employment interests and blending it into a strong existing environmentally-sensitive region, with its long history dedicated to tourism, export agriculture and viticulture, cannot be adequately demonstrated.

There is a strong degree of common interest in coal and mineral sands mining in the Shires of Collie and Capel, allied with the detailed infrastructure around roads, rail, heavy industry areas and the significantly expanded Port of Bunbury. These shared interests within the City of Bunbury and Shires of Collie, Capel and Dardanup, stand in stark contrasts to the vastly different community of interest existing in the City of Busselton and the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River.

Concern must also be raised in regard to Parliamentary representation by Members of the Legislative Assembly.

The Legislative Council Regions are designed around broad communities of interest and the South West Region has six elected representatives, currently drawn from three major political parties, representing the broad community of interest that is the nature of the region.

However, under the proposed redistribution for the Legislative Assembly seats of Vasse and Collie-Preston (Collie-Capel), the community of interest, as proposed, is significantly disturbed. It can be convincingly demonstrated that there is no service connection between, for example, the electors of Collie and the electors of Wonnerup and Geographe, whose Local Government and community of interest is clearly Busselton.

Under the proposed redistribution for the seat of Collie-Capel, the ability of the Elected Member to be able to adequately represent the diverse and potentially conflicted community of interest, between, for example, coal mining and environmentally sensitive agriculture and viticulture, would be extremely difficult.

For these reasons alone, I urge the Electoral Commissioners to apply stringently the community of interest criteria in their recommendations concerning the Legislative Assembly seats of Vasse and Collie-Preston (Collie Capel).

Yours sincerely,

**WES HARTLEY**

24 August 2015