

WAEC  
24 AUG 2015

August 24 2015

Electoral Distribution Commissioners  
GPO Box F316 PERTH WA 6841

Dear Commissioners,

RE: OBJECTION TO PROPOSED COLLIE-CAPEL BOUNDARIES

As a long-term Collie resident, former Collie Shire Councillor, and current member of the Collie Weeds and Waterways Committee, I write to object to the proposal to group significant sections of the Busselton region alongside the Collie community in the new Collie-Capel electorate. The Collie and Busselton regions find little common ground in their economic and employment bases, with Collie's coal and heavy industry-focused economy contrasting with Busselton's dominant tourism, wine and agriculture businesses. There is significant potential for conflict between these industries, with questions of land use, amenity, and environment, among others, having the potential to divide the electorate.

I find it difficult to imagine how an elected member would form policy positions representative of the electorate when he/she would have to consider the preferences of two such diametrically opposed economies. I am a passionate local environmentalist with a strong interest in the health of the Collie River, but I am also practical about the importance of supporting our local coal industry. I have noticed a distinct difference between environmental groups based in the coal basin and those closer to the coast. I find these groups' objections to coal and associated industries extremely strong and I believe it would be near-impossible for any elected member to bring the communities together under a unified position on coal and the environment.

The fact that very few people who live in the Busselton region are employed in Collie is also cause for concern. Collie finds shared interest with Dardanup, Bunbury, Roelands, and Brunswick as a result of the amount of people who live in these localities but work in the Collie region. As a result, the Roelands and Brunswick communities would be more appropriately included in the Collie-Capel electorate due to the economic, employment and social aspects those localities share. I suggest the Collie-Capel boundaries be amended for them to closer reflect the relationship between Collie and the Dardanup and Harvey regions.

Please give strong consideration to the arguments I have raised.