



Shire of Ravensthorpe

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Executive Officer
Office of the Electoral Distribution Commissioners
Level 2, 111 St Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Sir

2015 Proposed Boundaries – Western Australia

Council has discussed the proposed boundary changes for the Western Australian parliament and wishes to voice its concerns.

We are currently in the seat of Eyre and the proposal is for Ravensthorpe to be included in the seat of Wagin (to be re-named Roe).

The Shire of Ravensthorpe:

1. Is opposed the abolishment of the Electoral District of Eyre;
2. Is opposed to any reduction of the number of Electoral Districts in the regions, outside the Metropolitan Area.
3. Requests a review of the proposed split of the Shire of Esperance between the Electoral Districts of Kalgoorlie and Wagin (Roe), considering the factors for consideration, as outlined in Section 16I, Electoral Act 1907; and
4. Supports maintaining the current State Electoral Boundaries within the Goldfields Esperance Region.

Based on Section 16I, the Electoral Act 1907, the Commissioners are required to consider the following factors in determining Regions and Districts:

1. community of interest;
2. land use patterns;
3. means of communication, means of travel and distance from the capital;
4. physical features;
5. existing boundaries of regions and districts;
6. existing local government boundaries; and
7. the trend of demographic changes.

We believe that in addressing these criteria Ravensthorpe and our neighbours in Esperance are best suited by having the seat of Eyre retained.

The Shire of Ravensthorpe has a strong community of interest with Esperance with that being our nearest major town and there is a strong bond between the Shires of Esperance and Ravensthorpe through membership of the Goldfields Esperance Development Commission and our local government alliance of the Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils. The splitting of Esperance between two electorates and moving Ravensthorpe to Roe will weaken that alliance. Further it will link us with other local governments with who we do not have a strong community of interest.

As a small rural local government we at times depend on the support and voice of our local member to deliver messages to government on our behalf and act as conduit in getting things done for our community. It is our belief that should we move to the seat of Roe this linkage and voice will be severely weakened if not lost altogether. The loss of a "country seat" would adversely affect the voice of the rural community in the state parliament and it must be noted that a great deal of our states wealth comes from the rural areas whether it be mining, pastoral or agriculture.

We believe that as a minimum a better and fairer option for rural Western Australia is for the existing number of seats to be retained and boundaries adjusted to meet the number of electors requirements.

The Shire of Ravensthorpe is opposed the abolishment of the Electoral District of Eyre and urges the Commission to retain the status quo.

Should you have any queries about any of the above information please contact me on 08 9839 0000 or ceo@ravensthorpe.wa.gov.au

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ian Fitzgerald', written in a cursive style.

Ian Fitzgerald
Chief Executive Officer

24th August 2015

