

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

Dear Sir

### **WA STATE ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES REVIEW 2011**

Council notes from the information provided on the Boundaries website that the Electoral District of Collie-Preston has a 10.73% plus variation from the average district enrolment of 23,178 electors. As this exceeds the 10% plus or minus range in which a district is required to fall, it is the Shire of Capel's understanding that an amendment to the Collie-Preston electoral boundary must be undertaken to ensure it falls within the required range.

Whilst Council appreciates that an adjustment has to occur it wishes to strongly oppose any adjustment that would result in part of the existing Shire of Capel being transferred to another electoral district. In past years the Shire of Capel was part of two electoral districts and it raises a number of ongoing administration issues that should be avoided wherever possible.

In considering the matters that the Commissioners are required to consider in determining the boundaries, the following comment is provided:

1. Community of Interest

Within the existing Collie-Preston electoral boundary all the communities with the exception of Dalyellup relate to towns and localities that currently fall within the Collie-Preston district. The locality of Dalyellup, on the Shire's northern boundary due to its size (currently 6,500 residents) is developing its own community of interest and residents within the estate relate very strongly to that locality and very much see their community of interest as Dalyellup and not Bunbury even though many of them do access services and facilities in Bunbury. They also continually express a strong desire to remain aligned to the Shire of Capel and not the City of Bunbury.

2. Land Use Patterns

Whilst there will remain strong residential development in the northern part of the Shire at Dalyellup, it is expected that strong residential growth will also take place in the towns of Capel and Boyanup over the next 5-10 years. Council has recently completed the development of townsite strategies for both towns which will encourage higher density development and increased interest in currently undeveloped residential areas in both towns.

3. Physical Features

The main physical features that are relevant to the current Collie-Preston electoral boundary within the Shire of Capel is at the northern end where Centenary Road is the current Shire and electoral boundary. It is also proposed that in the near future, the Ocean to Preston Regional Park will be proclaimed with part of its southern boundary also being along Centenary Road.

4. Existing Local Government Boundaries

Currently the electoral district of Collie-Preston aligns with the boundaries of the Shires of Capel, Collie and Dardanup and as indicated at the start of this letter, every effort should be taken to ensure that when any changes are made, that where possible electoral district boundaries align with local government boundaries.

5. Trend of Demographic Changes

Over the five year period 2003-2008 the Shires of Capel and Dardanup residential population aged 18 years+ growth has ranked in the top ten in Western Australia at number 4 and 6 respectively and an average annual growth rate of 7.33% and 6.76% respectively.

Council is of the belief that this trend has continued over the last two years and will continue in the long term given that both local governments have large areas of undeveloped residential land, are located in close proximity to the regional centre of Bunbury, are also located on or in close proximity to the coast, and are in close proximity to major employment opportunities (Worsley in Collie, Fly in/Fly out opportunities from Busselton and Bunbury).

Given this expected long term strong growth prediction any minor adjustment to the Collie-Preston Electoral District by transferring part of either local government's area will not solve the ongoing imbalance and further adjustments will have to continue to be made at each Electoral Distribution Review. A perusal of the Country Enrolment Statistics indicates that the Central Wheatbelt electoral district variation is minus 10.78% thus requiring an adjustment. Given that an adjustment is required to the Collie-Preston electoral district as it exceeds the 10% average variation and the fact that Council strongly opposes any minor boundary adjustment that would see part of its local government area included in another electoral district, Council would submit that consideration be given to move the whole of the Shire of Collie into the Central Wheatbelt district.

Finally should the transferring of the whole of the Shire of Collie not be acceptable or result in the variation for the existing Collie-Preston or Central Wheatbelt districts not falling within the plus or minus 10% then Council would suggest that the Bunbury elector district boundary be amended to the east (as shown on attached plan). This would impact on a lesser number of residents than any change to the Shire of Capel's northern boundary.

Council trusts that the Commissioners will take into consideration the above comments and support the retention of the whole of the Shire of Capel into one electoral district.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me on 9727 0222 or email me at [info@capel.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@capel.wa.gov.au).

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P F Sheedy'.

**PAUL F SHEEDY**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

21 March 2011

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Office of the  
ELECTORAL DISTRIBUTION COMMISSIONERS  
**ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF  
BUNBURY**  
SOUTH WEST REGION  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
Determined on 29 October 2007

**REGION** Electoral Region Boundary  
**DISTRICT** Electoral District Boundary  
**Local Authority** Local Authority Boundary



Western Australian Land Information Authority 2007

