

The logo features the text 'THE NATIONALS' in large, bold, yellow capital letters on a dark green background. Below it, 'Western Australia' is written in a smaller, yellow, sans-serif font. A faint map of Western Australia is visible in the background of the green bar.

THE NATIONALS
Western Australia

Submission for
Western Australian Electoral Commission
Boundary Redistribution 2007

Submitted on 26th April 2007



Hon Wayne Martin
Chairman
West Australian Electoral Commission
111 St George's Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

26th April 2007

Dear Mr Martin

Western Australian Electoral Commission Boundary Redistribution 2007

The Nationals WA are pleased to offer the accompanying submission for your consideration during your deliberations on new boundaries in accordance with section 16F of the Electoral Act 1907 which was amended in 2005 by the Electoral Amendment and Repeal Bill 2005.

The Nationals' submission focuses on electoral districts contained within the three Legislative Council regions outside the metropolitan area of Perth - Mining & Pastoral, Agricultural and the South West.

The Nationals WA propose that the:-

- Mining and Pastoral Region should consist of 5 electoral districts of Pilbara West, Kimberly, Goldfields, South East and Mid North
- Agricultural Region should consist of 4 electoral districts of Great Southern, Wheatbelt, Mid-west, and Geraldton
- South West Region should consist of 8 electoral districts of Albany, Blackwood, Bunbury, Central Lakes, Collie, Mandurah, Murray, and Vasse.

These new boundaries have been formed in accordance with the electoral legislation that states "that the commissioners shall divide the State into regions so that those regions generally reflect the recognised communities of interest and land use patterns in the State".

In accordance with the legislation, The Nationals have given due consideration to the following parameters:

- Maintaining a community of interest within each electorate
- Land use patterns

- Means of communication and distance from the capital
- Physical features within each electorate
- Existing boundaries of regions and districts

These parameters, in addition to the imperative created by the *Electoral Amendment and Repeal Bill 2005* (one vote one value), provide the basis of The Nationals WA submission.

A key focus of The Nationals WA submission is to group Local Government Authorities with clearly demonstrable social and economic links together. In effect this has led to the creation of electorates that are compact and are designed to enable constituents greater access to their local Member of Parliament. Consideration was also given to major commercial and population centres in each electorate to ensure residents maintained a connection with those centres they traditionally gravitate to for services, recreation and access to Government Departments.

In addition to the comprehensive research undertaken to form the submission, The Nationals WA carried out a consultation process that included advice and input from Nationals' Members of Parliament, Executive members and members of the party organisation, a number of Local Government representatives and community members. The final submission reflects the contribution and comments of these groups and individuals.

In closing, I acknowledge with thanks the assistance provided by Justin Harbord and his staff at the Western Australian Electoral Commission in the training and use of the mapping software used to prepare this submission.

Yours sincerely

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State Overview

Executive Summary

Statewide map indicating proposed Legislative Assembly electorate boundaries

Statewide map indicating proposed Legislative Council regions

Electoral Design Summary

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Nationals WA submission was compiled in accordance with section 16F of the *Electoral Act 1907* which was amended in 2005 by the *Electoral Amendment and Repeal Bill 2005*.

Electoral Legislation

The *Electoral Amendment and Repeal Bill 2005* originated from the *One Vote, One Value Bill 2005* when there was a "Bill Title Change" on 17 May 2005 in the Legislative Council and endorsed by the Legislative Assembly on the same day.

The Nationals WA submission on the boundaries and areas of the Legislative Council focuses on the three Legislative Council regions outside the metropolitan area of Perth - Mining and Pastoral, Agricultural and South West.

The submission takes into consideration the legislative processes of the parliamentary debate and committee deliberations in the passage of the *Electoral Amendment and Repeal Bill 2005* through the Western Australian parliament in 2005.

When the original *One Vote One value Bill 2005* was introduced into the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council the second reading speeches recognised that "the bill takes into account and expressly provides for the interests of Western Australian voters in the state's remote and regional areas".

In particular, the bill provides that in other than five seats in the Mining and Pastoral Region, all Legislative Assembly seats will have approximately the same enrolment of votes, allowing for a ten per cent variation. This will provide the Assembly with a one vote, one value electoral system.

In the second reading of the *One Vote One Value Bill 2005* to the Legislative Council, the Hon Kim Chance stated,

"...the bill takes into account and expressly provides for the interests of Western Australian voters in the state's remote and regional areas.

In particular, the bill provides that in other than five seats in the Mining and Pastoral Region, all Legislative Assembly seats will have approximately the same enrolment of votes, allowing for a 10 per cent variation. This will provide the Assembly with a one vote, one value electoral system. The provision for five Assembly seats in the Mining and Pastoral Region takes into account the needs, requirements and interests of our geographically remote and regional citizens. It recognises not only the unique geographic remoteness and vastness of the region of the state, but also its sparse population."

During the extensive debate and committee process of the Legislative Council, Section 16G and 16H of the *One Vote One Value Bill 2005* relating to the details of the rationale and mechanisms for distribution of parliamentary seats in the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council was substantially changed.

These changes focused on increasing the provision for the interests of voters living in rural and remote areas principally by decreasing the number of votes required to elect a parliamentarian.

This was achieved by the introduction of:

- A “large district allowance” into the calculation of the number of voters in an electoral district covering a large area.
- An increase in the number of Legislative Council parliamentarians in the Mining and Pastoral, Agricultural and South West Regions from 5 to 6 and a decrease in the number in the 3 Metropolitan Regions from 7 to 6.

The legislation which resulted from these changes is shown in the abstracts from the Part IIA of the *Electoral Act 1907* which sets out the mechanisms for the electoral distribution.

The Nationals WA submission proposes that the boundaries and areas of the three non-metropolitan regions result in a decreasing number of voters required to elect a member of the Legislative Council as the area becomes more rural and remote. This is consistent with the intent of the legislation to make provision for the interests of voters living in rural and remote areas.

Quotas to elect Legislative Council Members

Agricultural Region, being comprised of four (4) electorates with total electors of 78,543 (excluding notional voters of 1,834) requires a quota of 13,090 voters to elect each of six (6) Legislative Council members.

South West Region, being comprised of eight (8) electorates with total electors of 171,728 requires a quota of 28,621 voters to elect each of six (6) Legislative Council members.

Mining and Pastoral Region, being comprised of five (5) electorates with a total number of electors of 71,030 (excluding 33,203 notional voters) requires a quota of 11,838 voters to elect each of six (6) Legislative Council members.

It should be noted that the Perth metropolitan area is comprised of three (3) electoral regions with a total of forty two (42) electoral districts and a total of 938,364 voters, with a quota of 52,131 voters required to elect each of 18 Legislative Council members.

Land areas for each Legislative Council region

The Nationals WA propose the Agricultural Region contain four electorates with a total of 78,543 electors and a land area of 250,815 square kilometres. Our submission includes a large district allowance (LDA) of 1,834 electors for the Mid-West (-10.7%).

The proposed South West Region contains eight seats with 171,728 electors and a total land area of 57,320 square kilometres.

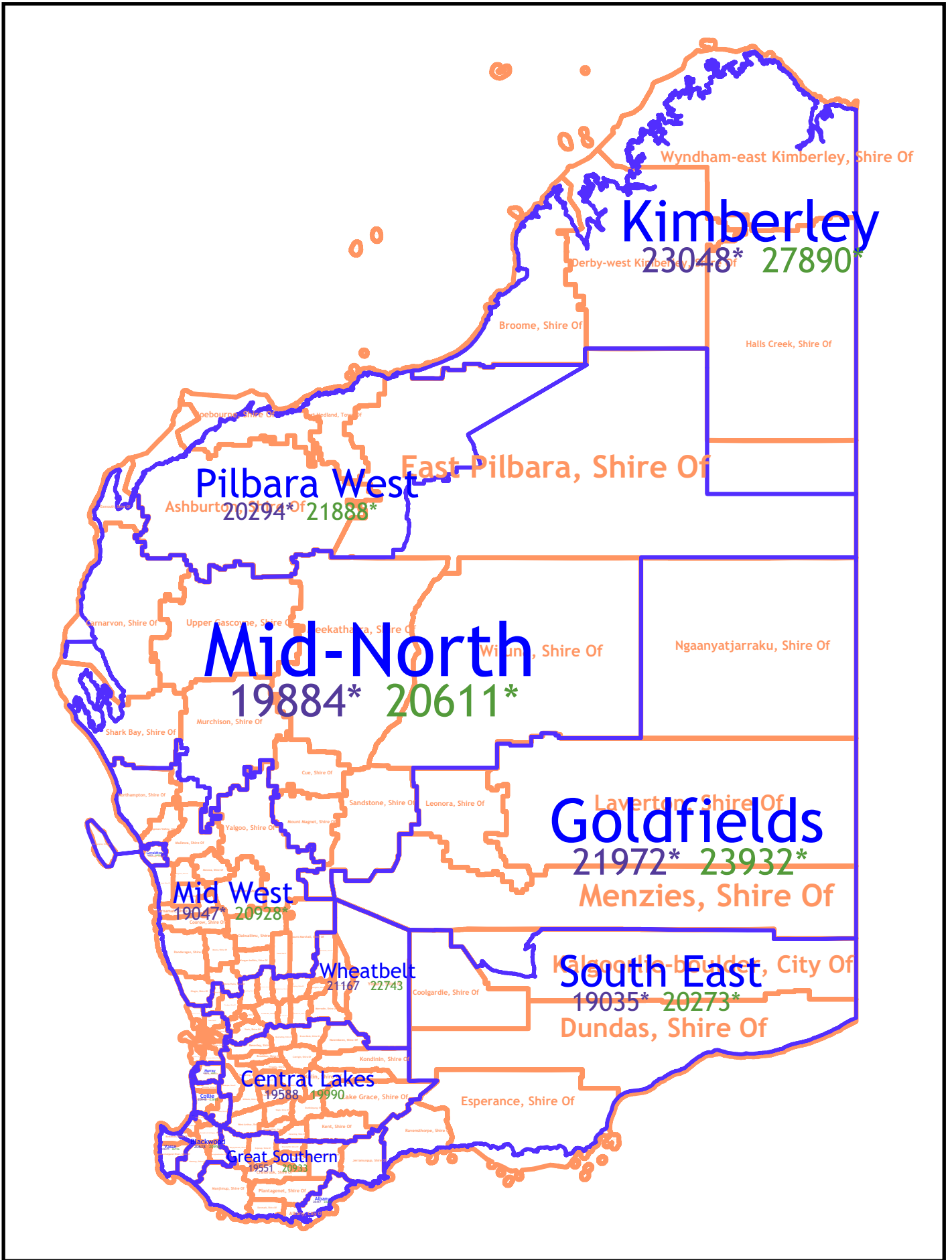
The proposed Mining and Pastoral region contains 71,030 electors and a total land area of 1,951,499 square kilometres. The Mining and Pastoral Region has a large district allowance in all five seats with 33,203 notional voters.

The Nationals submit that these Legislative Council Regions fulfill the legislative requirements and the intent of the Parliament when the legislation was passed, particularly within the following parametres:

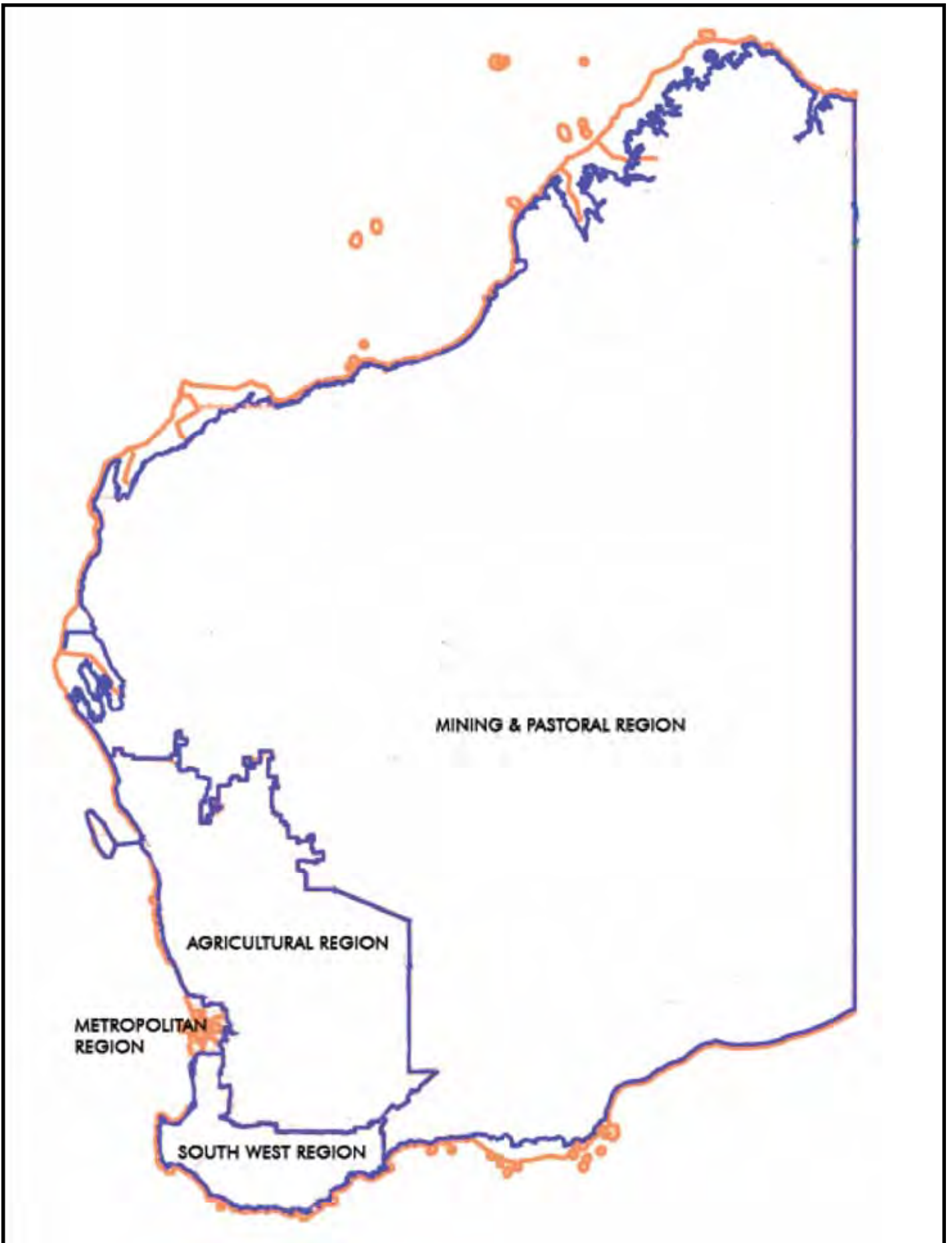
- a requirement for the Mining and Pastoral region to be composed of five (5) electoral districts and to consist of complete and contiguous districts that together form an area that is remote from Perth and in which the land use is primarily for mining and pastoral purposes;

- a requirement for the Agricultural region in Section 16I (1) (c) to be one region, to be known as the Agricultural Region and consist of complete and contiguous districts that together form an area that is generally south, or south and west, of and adjacent to the Mining and Pastoral Region and in which the land use is primarily for agricultural purposes;
- a requirement for one region, to be known as the South West Region that includes coastal and forest areas in the south-west of the State consisting of complete and contiguous districts, of which The Nationals propose include the major urban and coastal centres of Mandurah, Bunbury, Busselton and Albany; and
- the intent of the legislation to recognise that a decreasing number of voters be required to elect a member as the area becomes more rural and remote.

The Nationals WA trusts that the proposed boundaries of the electoral districts and regions will be acceptable to the Electoral Commissioners as fulfilling the legislative requirements and the intent of the parliament when the legislation was passed.



Map 1: Statewide map indicating proposed 2007 Legislative Assembly electorate boundaries



Map 1(a): Statewide map indicating proposed 2007 Legislative Council regions

Electoral Design Summary (from EDC)

Scenario name: nats7

Print time: Mon 23rd April, 16:07:34 2007

Number of seats: 59
Percentage tolerance for quotas: Current 10
Date of this distribution: Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Elec ID	Electorate Name	Current	Total	LDA	Area	VFQ%
ELEC0008	Albany	20417	20417		3548.50	- 4.37
ELEC0012	Blackwood	20638	20638		7427.33	- 3.33
ELEC0013	Bunbury	20185	20185		65.63	- 5.46
ELEC0007	Central Lakes	19588	19588		67040.62	- 8.25
ELEC0016	Collie	20948	20948		4269.36	- 1.88
ELEC0005	Geraldton	20575	20575		1795.84	- 3.63
ELEC0011	Goldfields	14358	21972	7614	507618.57	+ 2.91
ELEC0009	Great Southern	19551	19551		36940.53	- 8.43
ELEC0001	Kimberley	16236	23048	6812	454161.81	+7.95
ELEC0015	Mandurah	23448	23448		129.19	+9.83
ELEC0004	Mid West	17213	19047	1834	122312.47	-10.79
ELEC0002	Mid-North	8313	19884	11571	771454.37	- 6.87
ELEC0014	Murray	23070	23070		1754.27	+8.06
ELEC0003	Pilbara West	17020	20294	3274	218266.72	- 4.95
ELEC0010	South East	15103	19035	3932	262152.33	-10.84
ELEC0017	Vasse	23471	23471		3185.36	+9.93
ELEC0006	Wheatbelt	21167	21167		59666.23	- 0.86
ELEC0000	Available Electors	938364	938364		5420.00	
Total		1259665	1294702	35037	2527209.15	

Agricultural Region

Central Lakes
Geraldton
MidWest
Wheatbelt

ELECTORATE: Central Lakes
REGION: Agricultural

Total electors: 19,588
Land area: 67,040.62 square kilometres

General

The Nationals WA propose that an electorate be formed in the central south region of Western Australia, comprising local government entities currently in the Avon, Merredin, Wagin and Roe electorates. The electorate, provisionally named Central Lakes, contains the following shires:

- Beverley
- Boddington
- Brookton
- Bruce Rock
- Corrigin
- Cuballing
- Dumbleyung
- Katanning
- Kent
- Kondinin
- Kulin
- Lake Grace
- Narambeen
- Narrogin Shire
- Narrogin Town
- Pingelly
- Quairading
- Wagin
- Wandering
- West Arthur
- Wickepin
- Williams
- Woodanilling

The Nationals WA propose that the electorate be named Central Lakes to reflect the physical location of the electorate within the State and in recognition of the series of lake systems and waterways across the landscape.

The economy of the proposed electorate has traditionally been based on agriculture, which remains the most dominant industry in the region today. Agricultural activities are dominated by wheat and wool production but also include other grains, oil seeds, legumes, and the raising of livestock.

The main regional centres traditionally support this industry, with associated manufacturing, business and service providers located in and around the towns of Beverley, Narrogin, Wagin and Katanning.

There are also rapidly expanding agricultural export industries. For example, export quality hay is now produced across the region and transported into and out of major processing plants at Williams, Narrogin and Brookton.

The Nationals WA have endeavoured to construct the electorate in a compact form to better facilitate access to the local Member of Parliament, especially for those constituents residing in the eastern shires of Kulin, Kent and Lake Grace. Currently these shires are in the electorate of Roe, however they have very little connection with the eastern end as their port zone is Albany or Kwinana, their main commercial centres are Narrogin, Wagin, Katanning or Perth, and they are difficult to reach from Esperance.

There are many State Government departments with regional offices based in Narrogin and Katanning, including the Department for Community Development, Disability Services Commission, Fire and Emergency Services, Housing and Works, Education and Training, Sport and Recreation, Main Roads WA and the Department of Environment and Conservation.

The Department of Agriculture has regional offices in Narrogin and Katanning with a purpose-built facility at Katanning in addition to a research station servicing the agricultural industry. There is an agricultural research station at Newdegate and a proposal to establish a wing of the Narrogin Agricultural College as part of that site.

The southern regional office of the Wheatbelt Development Commission, based in Narrogin, promotes economic development advocacy across the proposed electorate, assisting business, industry, local government and communities groups in the shires of Brookton, Corrigin, Wandering, Pingelly, Cuballing, Wickepin, Narrogin, Williams, West Arthur, Wagin, Dumbleyung, Kulin, Kondinin and Lake Grace.

Community of interest

The proposed electorate has been formed around the major central southern regional centres of Narrogin and Katanning, encompassing communities to the north, east and west of these centres.

There is clearly a demonstrable social and economic orientation from the northern and eastern communities of Cuballing and Pingelly, Wickepin, Dumbleyung, Kulin, Kondinin, Corrigin and Lake Grace to Narrogin and from the communities of Lake Grace, Nyabing and Pingrup (Shire of Kent) to Katanning. Communities to the west of Narrogin, ie Williams, Wagin, Darkan, Boddington, Wandering are also oriented to Narrogin.

There are strong education, health provision, government, tourism and sporting links across the proposed electorate.

Education: Education is now the third major employer in the region after agriculture and the retail trade (Wheatbelt Fact Sheet - Wheatbelt Development Commission). Narrogin is fast developing as an education precinct for the region and the NUa committee has been the NU State Government is currently undertaking a feasibility study into the establishment of a university annexe to deliver a range of programs to residents living throughout the central region.

The Narrogin education district comprises pre-primary, primary, independent Catholic schools, district high and senior high schools in Beverley, Brookton, Yealering, Corrigin, Pingelly, Wandering, Kulin, Kondinin, Boddington, Williams, Narrogin, Wickepin, Tincurrin, Dumbleyung, Kukerin, Kulin, Kondinin, Lake Grace, Darkan (Shire of West Arthur), Wagin, Woodanilling, Katanning, and Pingrup (Shire of Kent).

School buses transport students from Boddington, Williams, Pingelly, Wickepin and Wagin to the

Narrogin Senior High School and from outlying communities to Katanning Senior High School. These communities also make up the catchment area for the residential colleges attached to Narrogin Senior High School and Katanning Senior High School.

The intake for the WA College of Agriculture at Narrogin is from across this region. Parents transporting students to and from the residential colleges in Narrogin and Katanning and the WA College of Agriculture access businesses, banks, doctors, accountants and government agencies, for example, Centrelink in the regional centres of Narrogin and Katanning when delivering their children to and from school.

CY O'Connor College of TAFE Narrogin Campus is the primary administration and academic centre for the southern region. This region covers 14 shires: Brookton, Corrigin, Cuballing, Dumbleyung, Kondinin, Kulin, Lake Grace, Narrogin, Pingelly, Wagin, Wandering, West Arthur, Wickepin and Williams. In addition to the Narrogin campus, the region has satellite centres at Kondinin and Pingelly (2002-2006 CY O'Connor College of TAFE <http://cyoconnor.tafe.wa.edu.au>).

The Katanning campus of Great Southern TAFE provides training in rural operations, supporting the farming community through flexible training options. It also offers a wide range of other vocational programs in business, information technology, trades, community services, art and general education. The campus also works in partnership with the Gnowangerup Training Centre, where it offers a number of courses to accommodate client's needs and requirements, including onsite training, short courses and formal certificates.

In 2007, Narrogin became one of the sites to host medical students as part of the Rural Clinical School, a collaboration between the University of Western Australia and the University of Notre Dame.

Health: The WA Country Health Service manages health services across the proposed electorate incorporating the Wheatbelt and Great Southern health regions. The Narrogin Regional Hospital provides an acute service to Narrogin and its surrounding districts. This consists of a 24-hour emergency department, a six bed obstetric unit, a four-bed paediatric unit, a 30-bed acute surgical, medical and psychiatric unit (also includes rehabilitation patients), a two-bed 'rooming in' (psychiatric) unit and a nine-bed day surgery unit. The pharmacy department supplies the entire Wheatbelt region with both clinical pharmaceutical and supply services.

The Workforce Development Unit provides graduate nurse and graduate midwifery programs, student placements from tertiary institutions, training programs for Narrogin Regional Hospital and surrounding units, and secondary school work experience students.

Katanning Hospital provides services to communities to the east, west and south in including a birthing centre, extended care, home and community care, inpatients-medical, acute and obstetrics, outpatients, palliative care, pathology, radiology, respite care, day and general surgery.

There are two doctor's clinics and a resident private surgeon centrally located in Narrogin and the on-site doctor's clinic at Katanning Hospital provides one-stop-shop for residents in the communities surrounding Katanning.

Many local people choose to retire to one of the nearby towns so as to remain close to family and retain links to their communities. The larger towns all have aged-care facilities ranging from independent living units to hostel and nursing home accommodation.

Sport: The sporting links across the Central Lakes are very strong and are extremely important to the social fabric of the region. There are many inter-district and regional competitions held in a wide variety of sports. For example, the teams that comprise the Upper Great Southern Football League are drawn from the communities of Brookton, Wandering, Pingelly, Cuballing, Boddington, Williams, Narrogin, Wickepin, West Arthur, Wagin, Woodanilling and Katanning.

Tourism: Tourism WA actively promotes the region as Farmstay Country, part of WA's Golden Outback. Tourism WA lists the communities of Arthur River, Corrigin, Cuballing, Darkan, Dryandra, Dumbleyung, Hyden, Kondinin, Kukerin, Lake Grace, Lake King, Narrogin, Naremben, Newdegate, Pingelly, Popanyinning, Quairading, Wagin, Wandering, Wickepin and Williams as being part of the farmstay network.

Other iconic tourist landmarks are Wave Rock, near Hyden in the Shire of Kondinin, Lake Dumbleyung, the largest permanent nature stretch of water in Western Australia and the venue for Sir Donald Campbell's attempt on the world water speed record, and the 27,000 hectare Dryandra State Forest, an important wildlife sanctuary and recreational area west of Cuballing.

The Newdegate Field Days are a significant annual event, as is Wagin Woolorama.

Land use patterns

The shires listed above have a strong commonality of land use patterns with mixed cropping/wheat and sheep farming the major agricultural activity. This is supported by light industrial and manufacturing, mostly in industrial precincts linked to the major towns. There is also mining to the west at Boddington and on a smaller scale on the salt flats at Lake Magenta, near Lake King, and the proposed kaolin mine at Wickepin.

Physical features

The proposed electorate forms part of the catchment for both the Hotham and Blackwood Rivers. The Blackwood River Basin covers the catchments of the Blackwood, Margaret and Scott Rivers, including the Beaufort, Arthur, Chapman and Buchanan Rivers – an area of 28,000 square kilometres from Kukerin in the east, to the Hardy Inlet at Augusta.

The Blackwood Basin Group coordinates environmental management within the Blackwood River Catchment. The catchment is divided into nine Landcare zones and the natural resource management activities undertaken in these zones are coordinated by Natural Resource Management Officers in collaboration with community groups and landholders.



Means of communication and distance from capital

The proposed electorate is linked north-south by the Great Southern Highway that extends from down through Beverley, Brookton, Pingelly, Narrogin, Wagin and Katanning, joining the Albany Highway south of Cranbrook. Albany Highway extends from Perth to Albany down the western side of the electorate through the Shires of Wandering, Boddington, Williams, and West Arthur.

The major tourist route to Wave Rock at Hyden, gateway to the central wildflower country of the Golden Outback, is a major arterial road that extends from Perth through Brookton and Corrigin. This is also one of the main west-east routes from Perth to Esperance. Another major west-east arterial road extends from Albany Highway at Arthur River to Wagin through Lake Grace and Newdegate, joining Great Southern Highway at Ravensthorpe. An alternative major route is via Narrogin-Harrismith-Lake Grace.

The main north-south railway freight line runs along Great Southern Highway from Perth to Albany via Beverley, Brookton, Pingelly, Narrogin, Wagin, and Katanning.

Transwa provides public coach services from Perth to Albany via Albany Highway and the Great Southern Highway and from Perth to Esperance via towns on the Great Southern Highway and then to Hyden and also through Wagin and Kukerin.

In addition to The West Australian, the Countryman and Farm Weekly, the weekly regional newspaper, the Narrogin Observer, covers Narrogin and the surrounding districts, and the Wagin Argus is a much-valued local news source.



Similarly, the weekly regional newspaper, the Great Southern Herald, covers Katanning and the areas of Broomehill, Dumbleyung, Gnowangerup, Jerramungup, Kojonup, Kukerin, Lake Grace, Newdegate, Nyabing, Ongerup, Pingrup, Tambellup, Wagin and Woodanilling.



Electronic media: Radio West broadcasts from regional offices at Narrogin and Katanning to communities across the proposed electorate. ABC Local Radio and 6GS Wagin broadcast into the region from Wagin. GWN TV broadcasts from Bunbury and WIN TV has coverage across the entire region.

Existing boundaries of regions and districts

The suggested electorate retains the existing boundaries of the following Shires: Beverley, Boddington, Brookton, Bruce Rock, Cuballing, Dumbleyung, Katanning, Kent, Kondinin, Kulin, Lake Grace, Narembeen, Narrogin, Pingelly, Quairading, Wagin, Wandering, West Arthur, Wickepin, Williams, Woodanilling and the Town of Narrogin.

The Shires of Beverley, Brookton, Corrigin, Cuballing, Dumbleyung, Kulin, Lake Grace, Narrogin, Pingelly, Quairading, Wagin, Wandering, West Arthur, Wickepin, Williams and the town of Narrogin comprise the central country zone of the WA Local Government Association.

Trend of demographic changes

Although the estimated resident population aged 18 and over by local government area (as at the 30 June 2006 for the region) shows the population growth as basically static, anecdotally and more recently there are many indicators of continued growth across the region.

House and land prices have risen substantially over the past 12 months in line with property prices generally in WA and there is an urgent need for residential and industrial land developments in most shires.

Tree-change and bush-change as well as rising property prices in the Perth metropolitan area have seen an increase in the demand for lifestyle blocks and residential housing in many of the communities across the region.

Other factors that would verify the growth in population include the development of the Boddington Gold Mine in the west and BHP Billiton's Bauxite Mine at Boddington.

Boundary overview

The suggested electorate of Central Lakes does not split any local government boundaries.

Total electors: 19,588

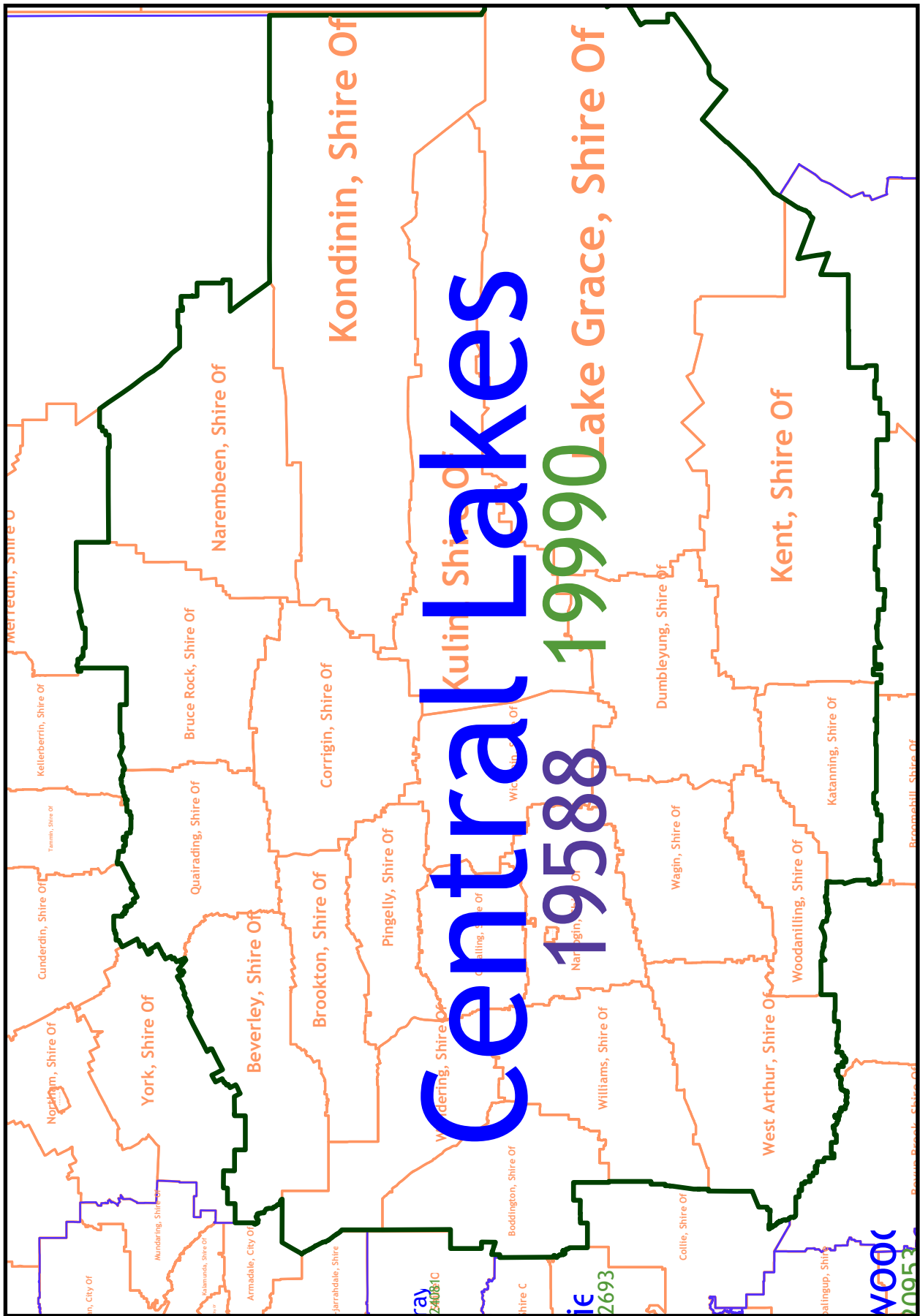
Total area: 67,040 square kilometres.

Community consultation

The Member for Wagin, Terry Waldron MLA, carried out the following community consultation:

- Shire of West Arthur, Shire of Williams (11 April 2007)
- Shire of Katanning, Shire of Broomehill, Shire of Tambellup (12 April 2007)
- Shire of Narrogin, Town of Narrogin, Shire of Cuballing, Shire of Wandering (23 April 2007).

NB – The Shires of Broomehill and Tambellup advise that they are currently investigating amalgamation and welcome The Nationals WA proposal to locate them together in the proposed Great Southern electorate.



Map 3: Proposed electorate of Central Lakes

ELECTORATE:	Geraldton
REGION:	Agricultural
Total electors:	20,575
Total area:	1795 square kilometres

General

The Nationals WA propose that an electorate to be named Geraldton including the following shires be formed:

- Geraldton
- Greenough

The Nationals WA believe that the local government areas contained in the proposed electorate of Geraldton have a clearly demonstrable social and economic orientation towards agricultural, fishing and small business centred in the urban area of Geraldton.

Community of interest

Nearly all services used by the electors of Greenough are located within the City of Geraldton, including all government agencies, small businesses, schools, hospitals, port, service industries, sport and recreation, restaurants and accommodation, churches and shopping centres.

The historical link between these communities is strong, having started in the 1850s with the Port of Champion Bay (Geraldton) and the farming of the Greenough Flats. Geraldton Port is the major export centre for the hinterland industries of mining and agriculture.

The proposed electorate is an expanding tourism and holiday destination with such major attractions as the Abrolhos Islands, the HMAS Sydney Memorial, the Greenough River, wind, kite and wave surfing opportunities, fishing, boating, the Sunshine Festival within Geraldton and Greenough providing rich heritage areas, newly developing wine and olive industries, eco-tourism and farm stays – all adding diversity to the electorate's tourism potential.

Land use patterns

Geraldton is an urban centre, with all land release potential fully realised. Population growth has moved from Geraldton to the surrounding shire of Greenough.

Greenough is a semi-rural shire with expanding land releases for residential development to the north, south and east of Geraldton. It also contains most of Geraldton's light and heavy industrial areas.

Physical features

The terrain within the proposed electorate of Geraldton is predominantly flat, leading to the coast, with some rolling hills to the north-east.

Existing local government boundaries

The boundary of the proposed electorate of Geraldton incorporates the existing boundaries of the City of Geraldton and the Shire of Greenough.

Means of communication and distance from capital

Geraldton is located 422 kilometres north of Perth, with surrounding towns within the Shire of Greenough varying in distance only marginally.

As a major regional centre, Geraldton enjoys all means of communication available to a city, with two newspapers, GWN and WIN television bases, and three radio stations.

The main road link between Geraldton and Perth is the Brand Highway. This links into the North West Coastal Highway, allowing access to towns located to the north of the proposed electorate. There is a daily commercial air service between Geraldton and Perth.

Trend of demographic change

The population of Geraldton has reduced over the past few years with people moving into the Shire of Greenough – mainly because Geraldton has realised any large-scale land release potential. Population growth within the Shire of Greenough has occurred to the south, east and north of Geraldton.

The mining boom has resulted in an increase in the demand for skilled labour and growth of associated industries to service the mines. Most of these industries are located within the Shire of Greenough, which incorporates the light industrial areas of the electorate.

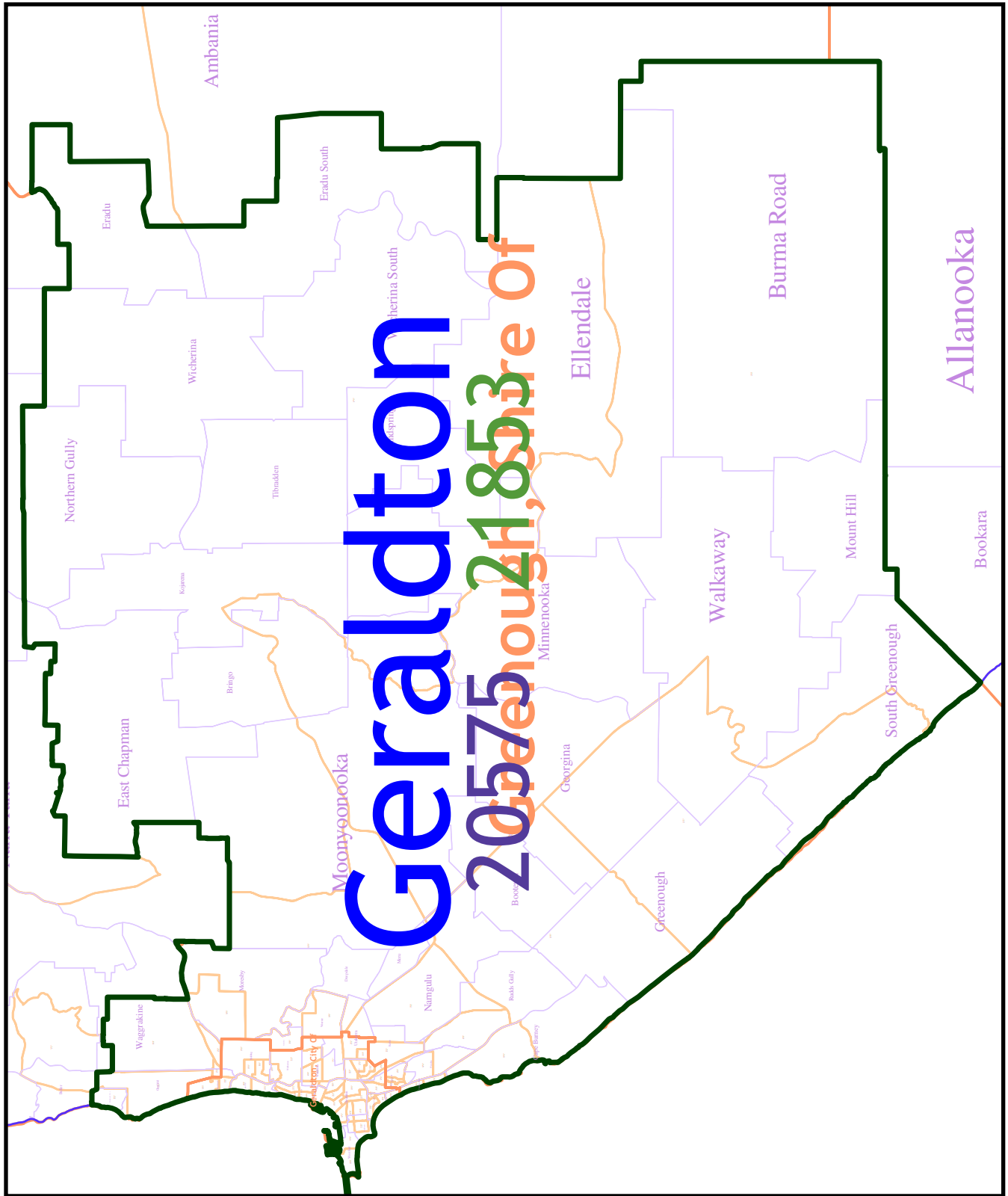
Boundary overview

The Nationals WA boundary submission follows the natural progression of the development and population of the region and complements the recent approval of the amalgamation of the City of Geraldton and Shire of Greenough.

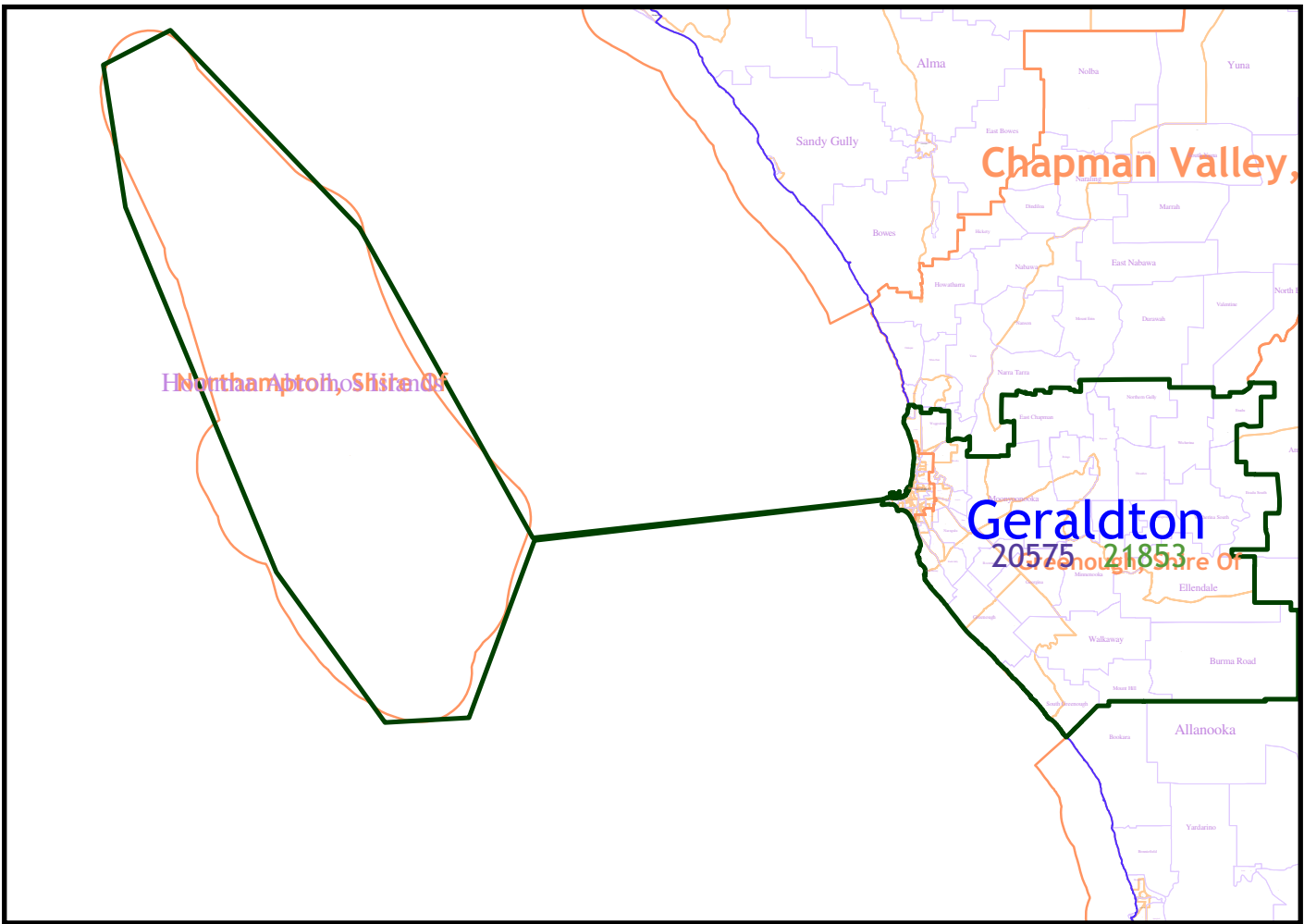
The boundary for the proposed electorate incorporates the existing electorate of Geraldton and includes the traditional local government boundary of the Shire of Greenough.

Community consultation

Grant Woodhams MLA and Murray Criddle MLC have consulted with both the Shire of Greenough and the City of Geraldton and many constituents within these two boundaries about this proposal.



Map 4: Proposed electorate of Geraldton



Map 4(a): Proposed electorate of Geraldton showing Abrohos Islands

ELECTORATE:	Mid-West
Region:	Agricultural
Total electors:	19,047 (1,834 notional voters)
Total area:	122,312 square kilometres

General

The Nationals WA propose that an electorate to be named Mid West include the following Shires:

- Northampton
- Chapman Valley
- Mullewa
- Yalgoo
- Morawa
- Mingenew
- Irwin
- Three Springs
- Perenjori
- Carnamah
- Coorow
- Dalwallinu
- Mt Marshall
- Koorda
- Wongan-Ballidu
- Moora
- Dandaragan
- Gingin
- Victoria Plains.

The Nationals WA boundary submission links communities of common interest, incorporating them in the Mid-West electorate. These interests include mining, fishing, broadacre cropping, cattle and sheep grazing, horticulture, aquaculture, viticulture, olive groves, abattoirs, horticulture, tourism and small business.

Community of interest

The Nationals WA believe that the shires therein have a clearly demonstrable social and economic orientation towards agricultural, fishing, mining and pastoral communities and towns within the Mid-West region.

The towns of this region, which include Kalbarri, Northampton, Mullewa, Yalgoo, Morawa, Perenjori, Mingenew, Three Springs, Dongara, Carnamah, Coorow, Moora, Jurien Bay, Leeman, Greenhead, Dandaragan, Eneabba, Gingin, Koorda, Wongan Hills, Ballidu, Bencubbin, Cadoux, Dalwallinu, Kalannie, Pithara, Calingiri, Yerecoin, Piawaning, Miling, Bindi Bindi, and Watheroo, are linked by common themes such as small business and service industries, primary industry (farming and fishing), tourism and mining.

Given that there is no large regional centre within this electorate, these towns have recognised similar needs, particularly pertaining to health and education requirements and a range of government services.

The 49 primary and district high schools across the region are focussed on small communities and the education requirements of the students within these communities. The secondary agricultural colleges at Morawa and Tardun provide specialised educational opportunities for students interested in agricultural and mining careers. Moora, Tardun and Morawa provide residential accommodation for students, Moora being the only dedicated mainstream secondary college in the electorate.

These towns are historically linked together by substantial road and rail networks to enable the movement of bulk commodities such as grain, talc, ore, livestock, coal and mineral sands. These towns are connected to the South West Interconnected System, which, along with the Dampier to Bunbury gas pipeline, provides power to these communities.

There are major tourism and holiday destinations within the region including the wildflower belt, several national parks, Monsignor John Hawes Heritage Trail, the Moore River, New Norcia, Wongan Hills, the coastal appeal of towns such as Kalbarri, Horrocks, Port Gregory, Jurien, Dongara, Cervantes, Green Head and Leeman, the uniqueness of the Pinnacles, ecotourism and the developing wine industry.

Land use patterns

The proposed electorate contains shires that are reliant on a range of industries and practices, the most common being broadacre farming including wheat, barley, lupins, sheep and cattle and also some oaten hay for export. Mining in commodities such as iron ore, coal, mineral sands, talc, zinc, copper carbonate, and gold/silver concentrate is expanding.

Means of communication and distance from capital

The proposed electorate is traversed by the sealed Brand Highway and North West Coastal Highway linking Gingin in the south to Kalbarri in the north, and the Geraldton-Mt Magnet Road links the east to the west via the Great Northern Highway and traverses part of the electorate.

The major rail links through this electorate are Geraldton-Mullewa-Morawa-Dalwallinu-Goomalling back into the mainline to Perth, and also from Goomalling eastwards back through to Merredin. Another rail line runs on the coast from Geraldton to Eneabba and branches from Dongara to Mingenew and down through the Midlands to Perth.

The Mid West electorate varies in distance from Perth, being 575 kilometres from Kalbarri in the north, 524 kilometres from Yalgoo to the north-east, 320 kilometres from Beacon in the east and 84km from Gingin to the south.

There is a daily air service between Geraldton and Perth.

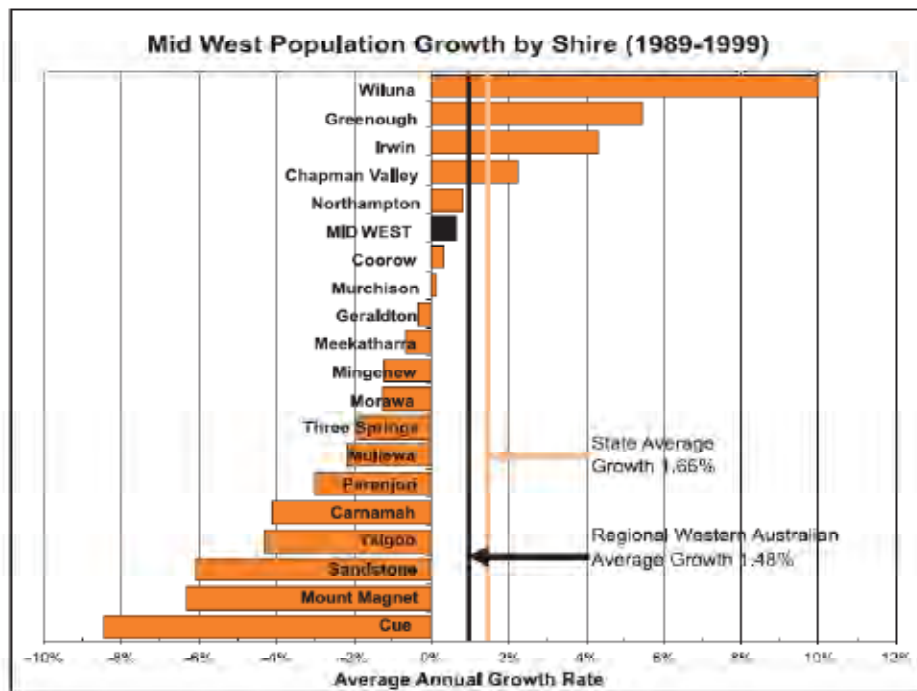
Physical features

The terrain of the Mid West electorate is predominately rolling hills and extended plains to the east, ending in coastal communities to the west. Included in the electorate are the Moore, Hill, Irwin, Bowes, Chapman, Buller, Hutt and Murchison Rivers with a range of salt lakes features to the east.

Existing local government boundaries

The 19 shires in the proposed electorate remain intact. Ten shires fall within the WA Local Government Association northern country zone, two within the Great Eastern country zone, six within the Avon-Midland country zone and one within the Murchison country zone.

Between 1989 and 1999 the region's population growth has been greatest in the inland shire of Wiluna and the coastal shires of Greenough, Irwin, Chapman Valley and Northampton. Most of the other shires in the region and the City of Geraldton experienced population declines in the past 10 years.



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics Estimated Resident Population 1989 and 1999 (preliminary data).

Trend of demographic change

The most recent study of population in the Mid-West predicts very little change in the majority of shires within this region (see attached graph). Any significant changes to populations of the inland shires are likely to be as a result of the current mining boom.

Boundary overview

The boundary broadly follows the existing agricultural region with the Murchison River to the north, pastoral country to the east and the central Wheatbelt to the south.

The suggested new electorate should be re-named from Greenough and Moora to the Mid-West to better represent communities of the region. The new electorate includes the complete shire boundaries of Northampton, Chapman Valley, Mullewa, Yalgoo, Morawa, Mingenew, Irwin, Three Springs, Perenjori, Carnamah, Coorow, Dalwallinu, Mt Marshall, Koorda, Wongan-Ballidu, Moora, Dandaragan, Gingin and Victoria Plains.

The small land holdings and agricultural/horticultural pursuits of Chittering and the historical links of Toodyay to the Avon Valley define the placement of these two shires in the electorate of the Wheatbelt. This allows the inclusion of the shires of Yalgoo, Perenjori, Dalwallinu, Wongan-Ballidu, Koorda and Mount Marshall into the Mid-West seat making it a much more homogenous electorate.

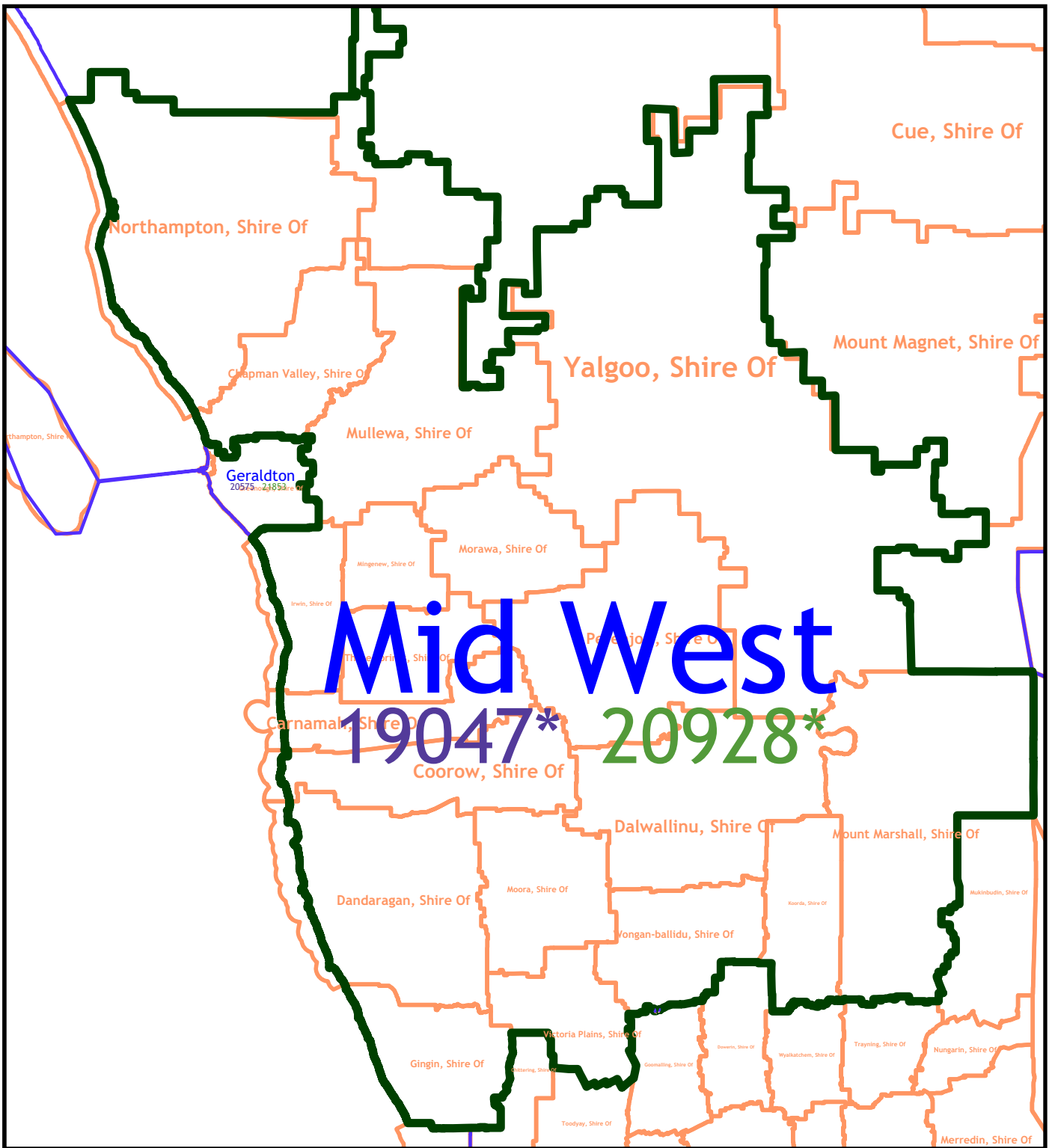
The Shire of Yalgoo is included in the Mid-West because it is historically connected to the shires of Mullewa, Morawa and Perenjori. It is serviced by these adjoining shires, towns and communities. Furthermore, the majority of business conducted by people within the Shire of Yalgoo is done in these neighbouring shires.

The natural focus of the Shire of Yalgoo is to the west, not the east. The vast majority of economic,

social, educational and recreational requirements of the Shire of Yalgoo are associated with the provisionally named Mid-West electorate. In addition, the provision of State Government services to the Shire of Yalgoo is and will continue to be from the Mid-West and Geraldton, not the Eastern Goldfields.

Community consultation

Grant Woodhams MLA has spoken to the Shires of Northampton, Chapman Valley, Mullewa, Morawa, Mingenew, Irwin, Three Springs, Perenjori, Coorow, Wongan-Ballidu directly about the impact of what the new electorate will be and to gauge their support.



Map 5: Proposed electorate of Mid West

ELECTORATE:	Wheatbelt
REGION:	Agricultural
Total electors:	21,167
Total area:	59,666 square kilometres

General

The Nationals WA propose that an electorate to be named Central East, including the following shires, be formed:

- Yilgarn
- Westonia
- Mukinbudin
- Nungarin
- Trayning
- Wyalkatchem
- Dowerin
- Goomalling
- Toodyay
- Chittering
- Northam
- York
- Cunderdin
- Kellerberrin
- Tammin
- Merredin.

Boundary overview

The boundaries of all shires remain intact under this proposal. In past distributions the Shire of Yilgarn has been split, dividing the community into two broad regions – one predominantly based on agriculture, the other on mining and exploration.

Community of interest

The areas within the proposed electorate have strong economic and social links – the towns and surrounding communities have historic and current links to agriculture. The demographics of these towns are intrinsically linked to the consolidation of many farming businesses in the region and have led to innovative economic solutions, including tourism based on both the natural environment (wildflowers, granite outcrops) and the historical settlement and development of the region.

There are a number of shires with that enjoy a balanced economy – agriculture and mining, light industry and business co-existing and complementing each other. The Shire of Yilgarn (known as the gateway to the Wheatbelt and Goldfields) is an example of a mixed mining and rural economy (gold, gypsum, salt and iron, plus grain, wool, sheet and cattle).

The Shire of Chittering is a combination of both rural farming land and small subdivisions where tourism, light industry (Tiwest Joint Venture mineral sands processing plant) and agriculture provide a stable economic base. The two major centres of Merredin and Northam are the commercial hubs for the proposed electorate.

Northam has been established by the State Government as a regional centre, resulting in many government departments strengthening their regional presence in the town. In addition, Merredin is the largest regional centre in the eastern Wheatbelt.

The proposed electorate is linked to the major transport route of the Great Eastern Highway – used by intra-state and inter-state road haulage companies, residents and tourists. For example, the Golden Pipeline Tourist Trail is a scenic and historic route based on attractions adjacent to the Great Eastern Highway.

According to the WA Planning Commission's Avon Arc Sub-region Strategy, five out of seven shires in the proposed electorate are zoned in the Avon Arc sub-region (Shire of Toodyay, Town of Northam, Shire of Northam, Shire of York, Shire of Chittering).

In addition to this, five of the seven shires that have formed the North East Wheatbelt Regional Organisation of Councils (NEWROC) are contained in the electorate – Shires of Nungarin, Wyalkatchem, Mukinbudin, Trayning and Westonia.

NEWROC has developed a strong network, sharing information, equipment and resources. The Shires of Koorda and Mount Marshall fall into the proposed neighbouring electorate of Mid-West and are further removed from the major transport route linking the electorate shires.

Land use patterns

The proposed electorate contains shires that are predominantly reliant on broadacre farming and agriculture practices as the primary and secondary sources of income.

Small business, light industry and small-scale mining activity are also prevalent throughout the region. Non-agricultural land use includes eco-tourism, air sports and air training.

Means of communication and distance from capital

The proposed electorate is linked (west-east) by the major arterial weather-sealed road, the Great Eastern Highway. Those shires that are not serviced by the highway are linked by sealed roads.

The Prospector Train links the communities by rail – East Perth through to Kalgoorlie. The Avon Link service links the communities by rail, running twice daily from East Perth through to Merredin.

Regional newspapers provide local news coverage, adding to the coverage provided by The West Australian:

- Merredin Wheatbelt Mercury (servicing Merredin, Kellerberrin, Trayning, Southern Cross, Kulin, Quairading, Cunderdin, Tammin, Westonia, Wyalkatchem, Hyden, Kondinin, Koorda,
- Mukinbudin, Bencubbin, Beacon, Corrigin, Narembeen and Nungarin)
- Avon Valley Advocate (servicing Northam, Toodyay, York, Beverley, Meckering, Cunderin and Quairading)
- York and Districts Community Matters (covering York, Northam, Beverley, Quairading and Cunderdin)
- Farm Weekly
- Countryman

The region is serviced by two regional television stations, GWN and WIN, which both provide local news services.

Physical features

The proposed electorate falls within the Avon and Yilgarn catchment areas – two of the Avon River Basin catchment areas – managed by the Avon Catchment Council, a formal regional partnership between the community, government and industry, existing to provide leadership and direction for sustainable natural resource management. Each shire is therefore a participant in the Avon Investment Plan.

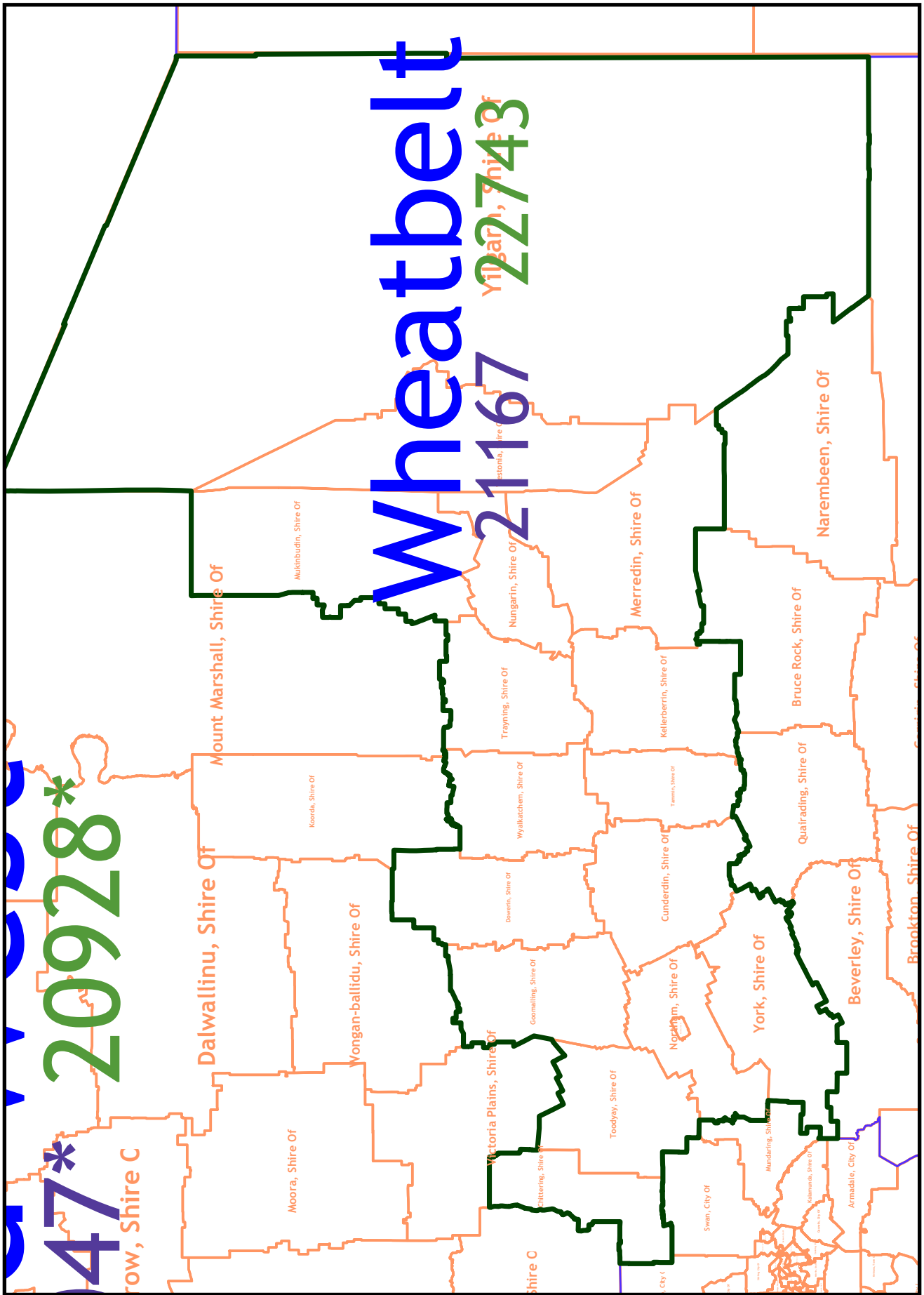
Natural bushland, granite outcrops and vast patches of wildflowers provide a strong and growing basis for eco-tourism in the region.

Existing boundaries of regions/district

The 17 shires in the proposed electorate remain intact. The proposed electorate contains 11 of the 16 shires in the Great Eastern WA Local Government Association country zone (Bruce Rock, Cunderdin, Dowerin, Kellerberrin, Kondinin, Koorda, Merredin, Mount Marshall, Mukinbudin, Narembeen, Nungarin, Tammin, Trayning, Westonia, Wyalkatchem and Yilgarn).

Trend of demographic change

A recent State Government study predicts a rise in the population of the Avon River Basin – which encompasses the proposed electorate – by 2031 as Perth's population expands into the Avon Arc. There is also anecdotal evidence of an increasing trend that more people are seeking lifestyle changes/a more relaxed lifestyle over the pressures of high-income employment and city living.



Map 6: Proposed electorate of Wheatbelt

Mining and Pastoral Region

Goldfields
Kimberley
Mid North
Pilbara West
South East

ELECTORATE:	Goldfields
REGION:	Mining and Pastoral
Total electors:	21,972 (7,614 notional voters)
Total area:	507,618 square kilometres

General

The Nationals WA propose the creation of a new electorate to incorporate the City of Kalgoorlie and the local government boundaries of Menzies, Laverton, Leonora and Ngaanyatjarraku into a new electorate be named Goldfields. The shires are:

- City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder (excluding Boulder municipality)
- Menzies
- Leonora
- Laverton
- Ngaanyatjarraku.

The suggested new electorate contains the major population centres of:

- Kalgoorlie city
- Menzies
- Leonora
- Laverton.

The Nationals' proposed electorate uses historical boundaries to split the community of Kalgoorlie-Boulder with the northern component (Kalgoorlie) being placed into the new electorate of Goldfields and Boulder into the proposed new electorate of South-East.

Historically, the Kalgoorlie electorate has comprised the CBD and urbanised area of the city, making a small 'doughnut' electorate within the broader electorate of Murchison-Eyre.

This large electorate stretched from Gascoyne Junction to the South Australian border and lacked real community of interest.

Community of interest

The proposition of creating a new electorate of Goldfields is based on what The Nationals believe to be overwhelming community of interest in the historic eastern Goldfields shires.

Kalgoorlie is the regional service hub for the shires of Laverton, Leonora and Menzies. Mining, exploration, tourism and pastoral pursuits are the common activities.

The exploration and mining sector in this part of the eastern Goldfields is based on the specific gold and nickel-bearing rock-types, of the greenstone belts, which stretch from north of Wiluna, passing through the Kalgoorlie region.

The historic mining centres of Menzies, Leonora, Laverton and Wiluna are linked by the Goldfields Highway (Laverton by a 125-kilometre sealed spur) and use Kalgoorlie as their regional centre.

Aboriginal people living in the proposed electorate belong to a number of tribal groups. They are

represented in all communities and live in urban situations or indigenous community groups. For example, 2000 Aboriginal inhabitants live in the Ngaanyatjarra region centred around Warburton, an area spanning 159,948 square kilometres. This community considers Kalgoorlie as its major regional centre and traverse the area via Laverton, Cosmo Newberry, Leonora, Menzies and Kalgoorlie.

Kalgoorlie represents the nearest point for most government services and amenities. It has the nearest regional hospital, nearest major high school and nearest university campus (WA School of Mines).

Kalgoorlie provides the nearest transit point for regular commercial flights to and from Perth.

Exploration and mining is the lifeblood of the five shires included in the proposed electorate of Goldfields and operators throughout the region mostly rely on Kalgoorlie for associated services such as analytical laboratories, geological and drilling expertise, and earthmoving services.

Although the outlying shires comprise a large, sparsely-populated area, communities look to Kalgoorlie as a social centre. The characteristics of Leonora, Laverton and Menzies are little different to those of the much larger regional city.

Land use patterns

The five shires have identical land use patterns with a mix of mining, exploration and pastoral. Historic and current mining operations dot much of the landscape especially around the historic towns, which were once thriving centres.

There are many ghost towns and abandoned workings through the five shires (to a lesser extent within the Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku which incorporates the major Aboriginal community of Warburton and associated traditional land).

The old mining centres now form part of the Goldfields tourism industry.

Physical features

Geophysically, the shires comprise large tracts of open plains with occasional rises and hills and a proliferation of salt lake systems. The land expanses vary little in character and vegetation.

Existing local government boundaries

The proposed electorate of Goldfields includes the entire local government boundaries of Menzies, Leonora, Laverton, Ngaanyatjarraku and the municipality of Kalgoorlie.

The boundary split of the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder follows the historic electorate boundary, with the community of Boulder being placed into the proposed electorate of South East.

Means of communication and distances from capital

The regional centre of Kalgoorlie is located 596 kilometres by road (Great Eastern Highway) from Perth and is serviced by daily commercial flights from the capital. It is located 400 kilometres from the Port of Esperance.

The five shires for the suggested new electorate of Goldfields are linked by major community and transport routes, for example the Goldfields Highway to Leonora-Wiluna and a sealed spur to Laverton. The shire of Ngaanyatjarraku (Warburton) is reached by the spur and then by unsealed road to the South Australian border.

Warburton is situated approximately 1500 kilometres from Perth by road, travelling via Kalgoorlie, Leonora and Laverton rather than as the crow flies. It is a desert area between the Gibson Desert to the north-west and the Great Victoria Desert to the south-east.

The proposed electorate of Goldfields and its towns, communities and mine sites are linked by a network of graded lateral gravel or graded roads. The electorate has a well-developed network of sealed airstrips with pilot-activated lights and is serviced by charter companies operating out of Kalgoorlie or Perth.

The proposed new electorate has a media-rich hub at Kalgoorlie, with ABC TV and radio based in the city, along with GWN TV and WIN TV. The region is serviced by the Kalgoorlie Miner newspaper, which publishes each weekday.

Trend of demographic change

Some basic demographic information has been provided from the Australian Bureau of Statistic's website below.

Area of land (local government boundary): 95,575.7 square kilometres

Population (City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder)

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total - all persons	30,359	30,016	29,651	29,464	29,648
Aged 14 years and younger	7,657	7,596	7,517	7,439	7,426
Aged 15 years to 44 years	16,441	16,038	15,625	15,422	15,321
Aged 45 years to 64 years	4,861	4,986	5,102	5,208	5,454
Aged 65 years and over	1,400	1,396	1,407	1,395	1,447
Population Density	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Persons/km²					
Births June 30	632	310	596	591	524
Deaths June 30	163	142	137	147	129

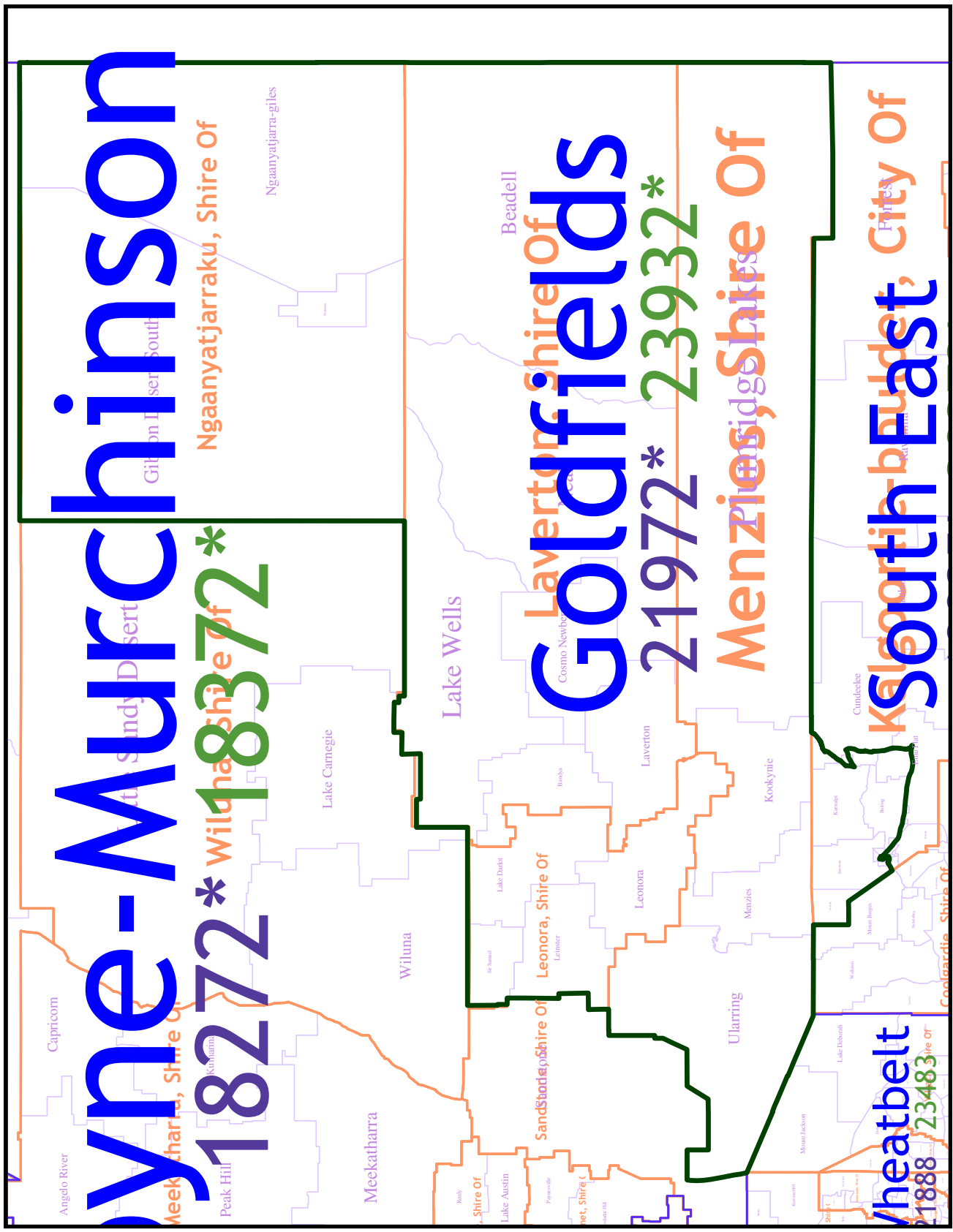
Boundary overview

The Nationals' proposed electorate of Goldfields brings five common-interest local government areas into a single electorate. It dispenses with the 'doughnut' electorate concept, which, prior to the electoral reform legislation, served one homogeneous group (Kalgoorlie City electors).

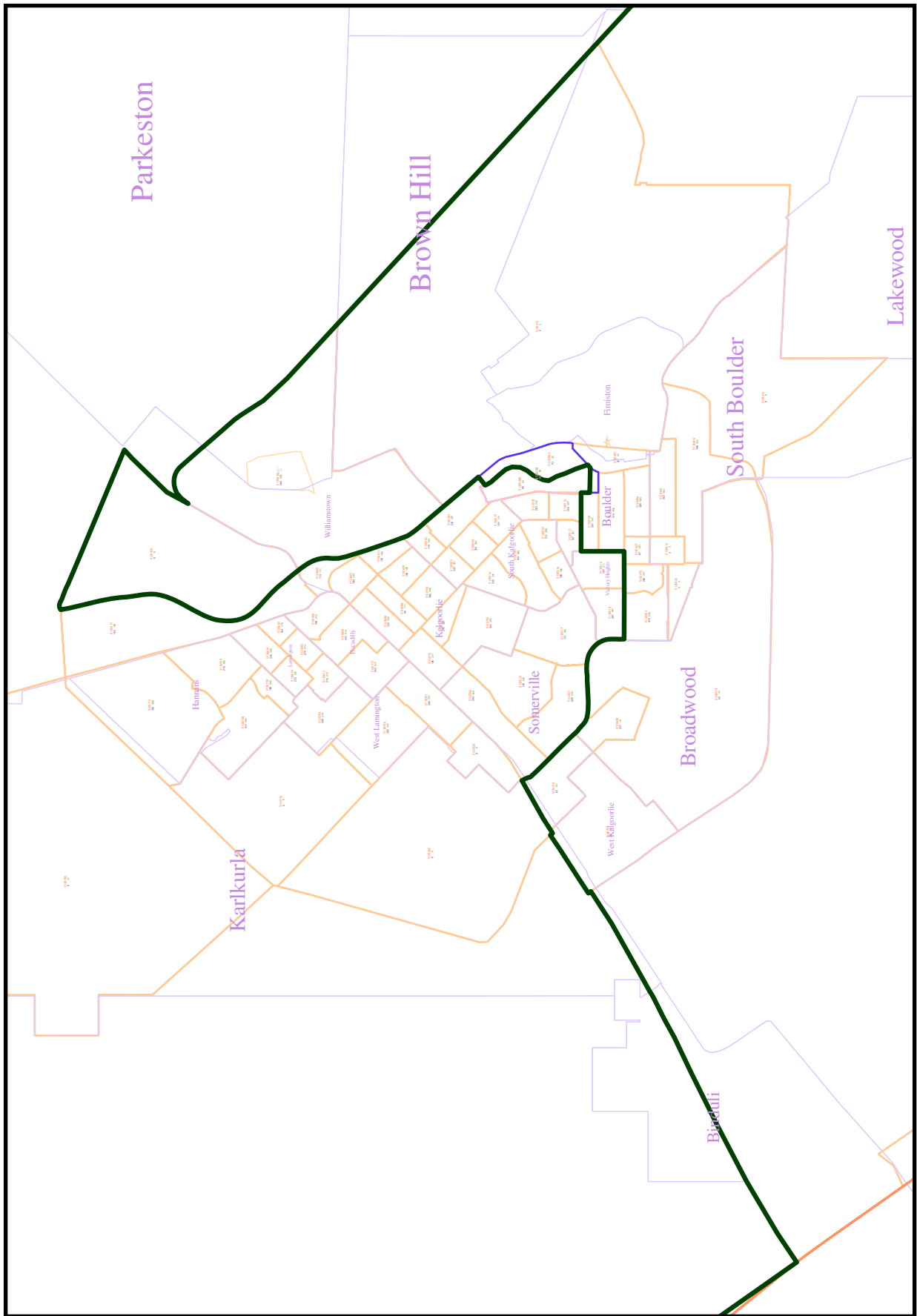
The economic, social, and cultural influence of Kalgoorlie extends far beyond the confines of urban Kalgoorlie and in our view should be linked to the historic mineral fields to the north and east of the regional centre.

Strong community of interest, a common land use and an economic synergies combine to create an electorate of Goldfields that is a true representation of the region.

The current 'doughnut' electorate of Kalgoorlie makes little sense in the vast mining and pastoral region. The only concession to pastoral activity in the current seat is the inclusion of the Black Flag pastoral lease. The suggested electorate of Goldfields includes a larger spread of station country, which is typical of the Goldfields region.



Map 7: Proposed electorate of Goldfields



Map 8: Focus on proposed electorate of Kalgoorlie

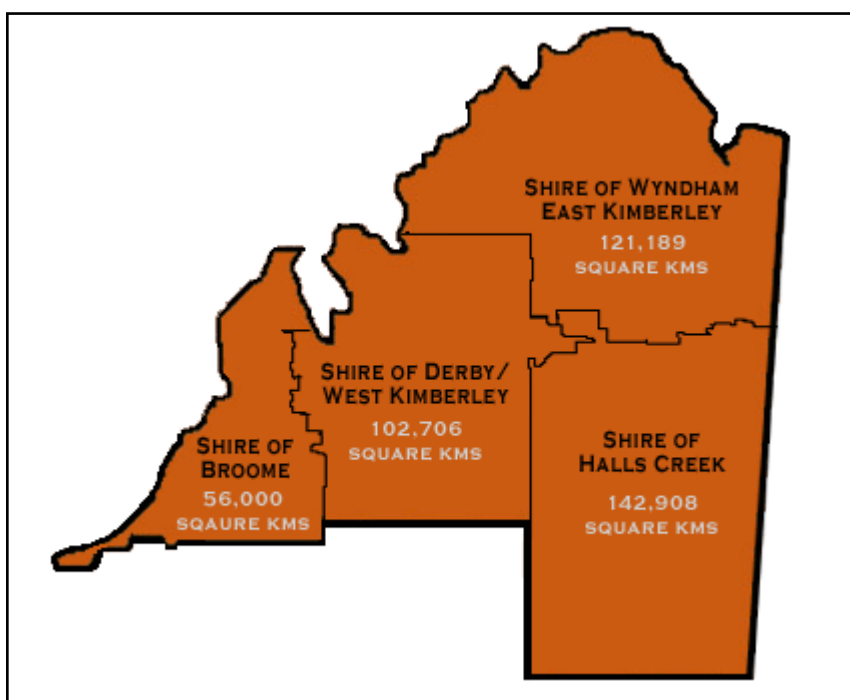
ELECTORATE: Kimberley
REGION: Mining and Pastoral

Total electors: 23,048 (6,812 notional voters)
Total area: 454,161 square kilometres

General

The Nationals WA propose an electorate called Kimberley that embraces the complete local government boundaries of the eastern and western Kimberley shires. The shires are:

- Broome
- Derby-West Kimberley
- Wyndham-East Kimberley
- Halls Creek.



The Kimberley region contains a proliferation of Aboriginal communities and five main towns:

- Broome
- Derby
- Kununurra
- Fitzroy Crossing
- Halls Creek
- Wyndham.

The Nationals' proposed Kimberley electorate rolls the vast diversity of the region into a single unit. This is important because 34 indigenous languages are spoken in the region and the four Kimberley shires contain more than 200 Aboriginal communities.

Note: The current electoral boundaries, through necessity, have split the important town of Fitzroy Crossing and many Kimberley-oriented Aboriginal communities into the electorate of Central Kimberley-Pilbara.

The Nationals believe it is of utmost importance to restore community of interest to the six major towns and the indigenous communities and outlying camps within a single electorate.

Population structure and characteristics

The Estimated Resident Population (ERP) of the Kimberley in 2005 was 35,748. It currently has two per cent of the State's population and seven per cent of regional Western Australia's population. From 1995 to 2005, the Kimberley's average annual growth rate was 3.6 per cent, making it the second fastest growing region in the State.

Population distribution

The Shire of Broome is the region's largest population centre with 40.6 per cent of the region's population in 2005, followed by the Shire of Derby-West Kimberley with 25.5 per cent, the Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley with 21.7 per cent and the Shire of Halls Creek with 12.2 per cent.

Boundary overview

The proposed electorate creates an electorate that contains all of the distinct characteristics of the Kimberley region, its natural features and unique social make-up.

Communities throughout the West and East Kimberley regions often rely on indigenous radio out of Broome and Halls Creek for local news.

The Nationals' proposed electorate follows precisely the local government boundaries and those of the Kimberley Development Commission, which plays a role in the region's economic and community well-being.

Community of interest

The Nationals' proposed electorate of Kimberley incorporates four complete local government boundaries that embrace the economic, social, cultural and geophysical make-up of the Kimberley region.

The Kimberley is a unique part of Western Australia with an estimated 47.3 per cent of the region's population being Indigenous Australians, significantly higher than the statewide representation of 3.5 per cent (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2001).

Within the region, Indigenous Australians comprise 84 per cent of the population in the Shire of Halls Creek, 57.2 per cent in Derby-West Kimberley, 37.3 per cent in Wyndham-East Kimberley and 35.7 per cent of the population of the Shire of Broome.

The proposed boundaries link the major towns of Broome, Derby, Fitzroy Crossing, Halls Creek, Wyndham and Kununurra and most of the Indigenous communities into a true Kimberley electorate.

The inclusion of the complete local government boundary of the Shire of Derby-West Kimberley into the re-configured electorate results in the important town of Fitzroy Cross and outlying communities joined into a single Kimberley electorate.

The Kimberley region is promoted as a domestic and international tourism destination, with the region attracting up to 300,000 visitors a year. The tourism industry is a major employer of indigenous residents and an important lifestyle feature for people residing in the region.

Many Indigenous communities from Broome to Kununurra have a connection to the tourism industry. Many tourism-related enterprises, including fuel outlets and hospitality enterprises, are operated by Indigenous groups or individuals, including the Fitzroy Crossing Lodge, which is a major tourist facility of the central region.

The Indigenous pastoral industry is an important component of the broader Kimberley community, with 30 per cent of establishments operated by Indigenous people.

Derby is the main Kimberley base for the Royal Flying Doctor Service, which services pastoral stations, remote communities and outlying towns. Major hospitals and specialist medical services exist in Broome, Derby, Halls Creek, Fitzroy Crossing, Wyndham and Kununurra.

The scenic attractions of the Kimberley are many and varied and range from inland excursions to places like Tunnel Creek and Windjana Gorge in the central region to Broome in the west and the Mitchell Plateau and the Bungle Bungle Range (Purnululu) in the eastern region.

There are cultural and social connectivities between family clans and communities of the various sub-areas of the Kimberley. Major sporting and cultural events such as the Garnduwah Festival in Fitzroy Crossing attract thousands of Indigenous people from right across the Kimberley.

Land use patterns

Geophysically, the Kimberley is dominated by the King Leopold Ranges that run from Kununurra to approximately Halls Creek and Fitzroy Crossing in the south and then in a north-westerly direction towards Kulin Island on the coast. This is known as the Kimberley Orogen.

The Kimberley is traversed by major river systems such as the Fitzroy and the Ord, whose catchments and river valleys wind through rugged hills and vast plains. Land use is a mix of pastoral, mining and exploration and, to the east (Ord), irrigated horticulture and agriculture.

Cattle stations are spread across the length and breadth of the region to take advantage of the fertile plains of such as the huge Fitzroy River Valley, near Fitzroy Crossing.

Pastoral station activity is dominant and integrates effectively with tourism ventures throughout the region. Pastoral activity and tourism co-exist in many parts of the Kimberley with traditional Aboriginal land-use areas such as Windjana Gorge and Tunnell Creek.

Existing local government boundaries

The Nationals' submission includes the entire boundaries of the Shires of Broome, Derby-West Kimberley, Wyndham-East Kimberley and Halls Creek.

Means of communication and distance from capital

The proposed electorate is traversed by the sealed Great Northern Highway linking Broome to Kununurra and by the iconic east-west Gibb River Road. Aboriginal communities scattered throughout the entire region are linked by lateral graded roads and tracks to these major arteries.

Broome and Kununurra are linked by regular daily air services from Perth while a commercial air

service also links Broome and Derby.

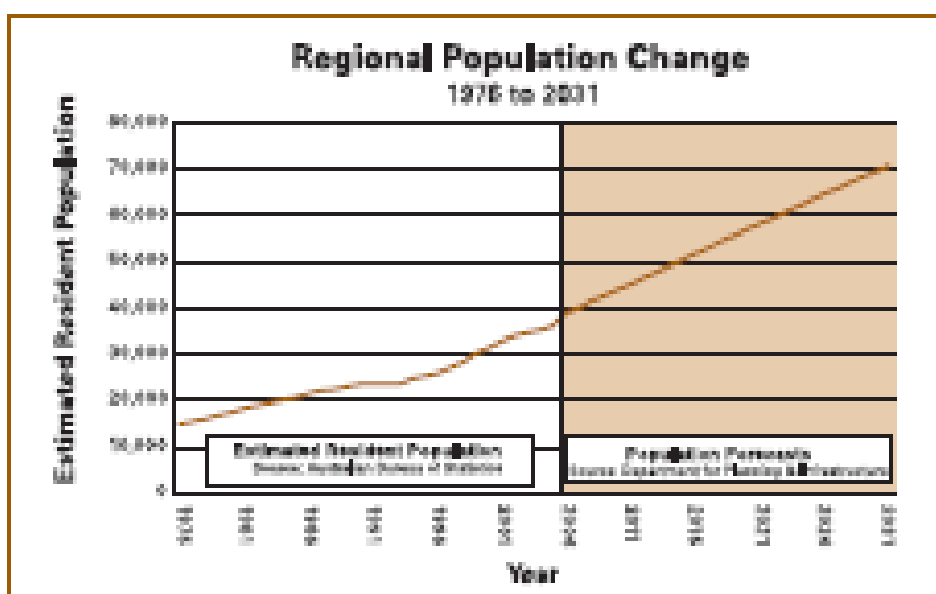
The Kimberley region is serviced by ABC radio and TV and regional television stations WIN TV and GWN, which have staff and facilities based in Broome. Both stations traverse the Kimberley for local-interest stories and features. The West Australian newspaper, Kimberley Echo (Kununurra), and Broome Advertiser (Broome) service the region.

Indigenous radio stations Radio Goolari (Broome) and PRK Radio (Halls Creek) provide an essential local news and information service right across the region with listeners in Aboriginal communities and the five major towns of the region.

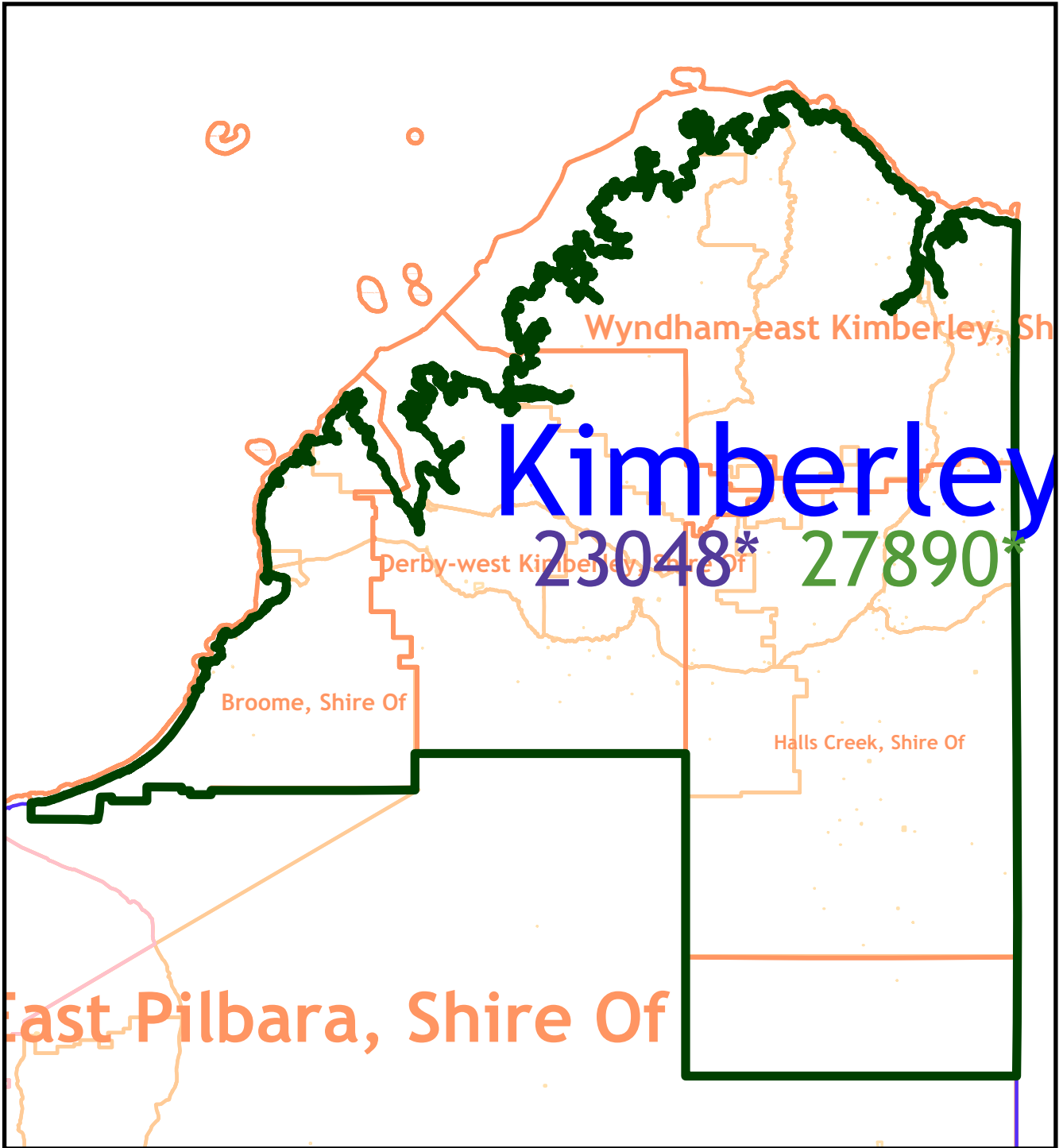
The region is remote from major Australian capital cities, with Broome and Kununurra being 2213 kilometres and 3205 kilometres respectively by road from Perth. Road distances between the six main regional centres are large. For example, the distance between Broome and Derby is 220 kilometres and it is approximately 1100 kilometres between Broome and Kununurra.

Trend of demographic change

The Kimberley is expected to continue as one of the fastest growing regions in Western Australia. The Department of Planning and Infrastructure projects an annual growth rate of 2.7 per cent until 2021 and will see the region's population grow from 36,000 in 2006 to 57,900 in 2021 and 70,000 by 2031.



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics and Department for Planning and Infrastructure.



Map 9: Proposed electorate of Kimberley

ELECTORATE:	Mid North
REGION:	Mining and Pastoral
Total electors:	19,884 (11,571 notional voters)
Total area:	771,454 square kilometres

General

The Nationals WA propose that an electorate to be named Mid North be formed comprising the shires of:

- Carnarvon
- Cue
- Part of East Pilbara
- Exmouth
- Meekatharra
- Mount Magnet
- Murchison
- Sandstone
- Shark Bay
- Upper Gascoyne
- Wiluna.

Encompassing a region known as the Gascoyne-Murchison, this new electorate draws together shires that have strong geographic and social and economic links.

Shire of Carnarvon: The Shire of Carnarvon controls an area of approximately 53,000 square kilometres, and the town of Carnarvon is the major centre of the shire. The shire is renowned for its horticultural plantations and its fishing industry, but the Gascoyne is also home to a large area of pastoral stations producing mainly meat and wool. Carnarvon's additional industry of salt and gypsum mining occurs 65 kilometres north of Carnarvon at Lake MacLeod, which occupies 2072 square kilometres.

Shire of Cue: The Shire of Cue is a relatively small shire in the Murchison region, covering 13,716 square kilometres. Its main industries are agriculture and mining, a common pairing in this region. Cue was one of the original 'gold rush towns' founded in the 1890s.

Shire of East Pilbara: When two shires were amalgamated in 1972 to form the Shire of East Pilbara, it became the largest shire in the world, covering an area of 379,571 square kilometres. The main townsites are Newman, Marble Bar and Nullagine, with Newman the host to the shire's administration centre. There are also numerous Aboriginal communities in the East Pilbara. The main industries are mining, pastoral and tourism.

Shire of Exmouth: The Shire of Exmouth covers an area of 6261 square kilometres situated on the tip of the North West Cape, 1270 kilometres north of Perth. Exmouth was established as a support town for the US Naval Communications Station and supports a population of 2400 people, which can rise to 6000 in tourist season. Tourism is a significant part of the make-up of this area, in conjunction with the fishing industry.

Shire of Meekatharra: The Shire of Meekatharra is 764 kilometres north of Perth and spans over

99,973 square kilometres. Mining is the most prevalent industry in Meekatharra. The town of Meekatharra exists today as a centre for pastoral stations, established mines and mineral exploration companies in the area. Meekatharra is home to a significant Indigenous population.

Shire of Mount Magnet: The Shire of Mount Magnet is among the smaller shires in the proposed electorate at just 13,887 square kilometres, situated 562 kilometres north of Perth. The mining and pastoral industries form the economic base of the shire, with tourism growing as an important contributor to the region.

Shire of Murchison: The Shire of Murchison is dedicated to the pastoral industry, with 29 stations in the shire and a population up to 160. The shire spans 43,800 square kilometres in size. The Murchison Shire is often referred to as the 'shire with no town', as no gazetted townsite exists within the shire, the only shire in Australia where this exists.

Shire of Sandstone: Agriculture and mining are the main industries in the Shire of Sandstone, which is 724 kilometres north of Perth and covers a landmass of 28,218 square kilometres.

Shire of Shark Bay: The Shire of Shark Bay is made up of two peninsulas on the western most point of Australia, 1500 kilometres of coastline, together with some 25,000 square kilometres of hinterland. The town of Denham, the main settlement within the shire, is 833 kilometres north of Perth. The major industries of Shark Bay are agriculture, aquaculture, fishing, mining and tourism.

Shire of Upper Gascoyne: The Shire of Upper Gascoyne covers an area of 46,602 square kilometres, and is 979 kilometres north of Perth. Gascoyne Junction is the crossroads of stock routes of the past and where the Gascoyne and Lyon Rivers meet. It is located on the main road to Mt Augustus, Meekatharra, Murchison and Mullewa.

Shire of Wiluna: The Shire of Wiluna is the second largest shire in the proposed electorate covering a land mass of 184,000 square kilometres. The main industries are the mining and pastoral industries. The shire is home to a large population of Indigenous Australians and several mining villages, which are run mainly on a 'fly-in fly-out' basis.

Boundary overview

The proposed electorate has strong economic and social links through shared industrial bases of mining, pastoral and tourism activities. There is mining throughout the region, from salt and gypsum mining in the west to gold and iron ore mining in the east, while pastoral stations take up much of the land mass from the hinterland of the coastal towns to the far east of the proposed electorate.

Socially, the western coastal towns serve as the holiday towns for those in the eastern areas, and have well-developed tourism activities. In the east of the proposed electorate, tourism is developing with great potential.

These areas are linked by their remoteness to Perth and to large regional centres. There are four major populations centres in the proposed electorate:

- Carnarvon
- Exmouth
- Newman
- Meekatharra.

The Nationals WA propose that two electorate offices would be located in this electorate due to its large geographical area. Electorate offices would be located in the largest centres of Carnarvon and Newman representing an office for the western and eastern areas of the electorate.

Community of interest

The region is inextricably linked through its main industries of mining and pastoral activities. This is joined by the dynamics of a strong fishing industry on the coast, a horticultural industry, and coastal and inland tourism.

The potential for tourism development is wide across the region, with the opening up of the inland areas through the Gascoyne Murchison Outback Pathways and the growing opportunities for 'station stays'. There is also a growing eco-tourism industry with the Kennedy Ranges 163 kilometres east of Carnarvon, and Mount Augustus, 450 kilometres east of Carnarvon, which is twice the size of Ayres Rock.

Socially the region is linked by similar community issues including the impact of fly-in-fly-out workers, participation of the local Indigenous people in the economy, and access to ongoing funding for infrastructure to support the impact of population growth associated with mining and tourism. In addition, the areas are geographically remote to the capital city of Perth and face similar problems in accessing services and expertise in many key areas.

Land use patterns

While the land use ranges from coastal areas featuring the Ningaloo Reef and the Shark Bay World Heritage Property to the Kennedy Ranges and Mt Augustus to the east, land use patterns throughout the proposed electorate consist of the mining, fishing and pastoral industries.

Horticulture is strong in western areas with plantations in Carnarvon, while in the east the pastoral stations account for much of the land use. Mining activities range from salt and gypsum mining in the west of the region, to iron ore and gold in the east of the region.

The region is connected via the North West Coastal Highway, Great Northern Highway and a network of sealed and unsealed roads, while airports are located at Carnarvon, Shark Bay, Learmonth and Newman with regular passenger services to Perth, and a range of airstrips service charter air services.

Several newspapers, including Coastal Happenings, the Midwest Times, Northern Guardian, Exmouth Expression, Geraldton Guardian and the North West Telegraph, service the region. It is also serviced by the ABC in the north-west and GWN and WIN television also transmit into the major towns. There are telecentres located in Exmouth, Shark Bay, Cue, Meekatharra, Nullagine and Marble Bar.

Existing boundaries of regions/districts

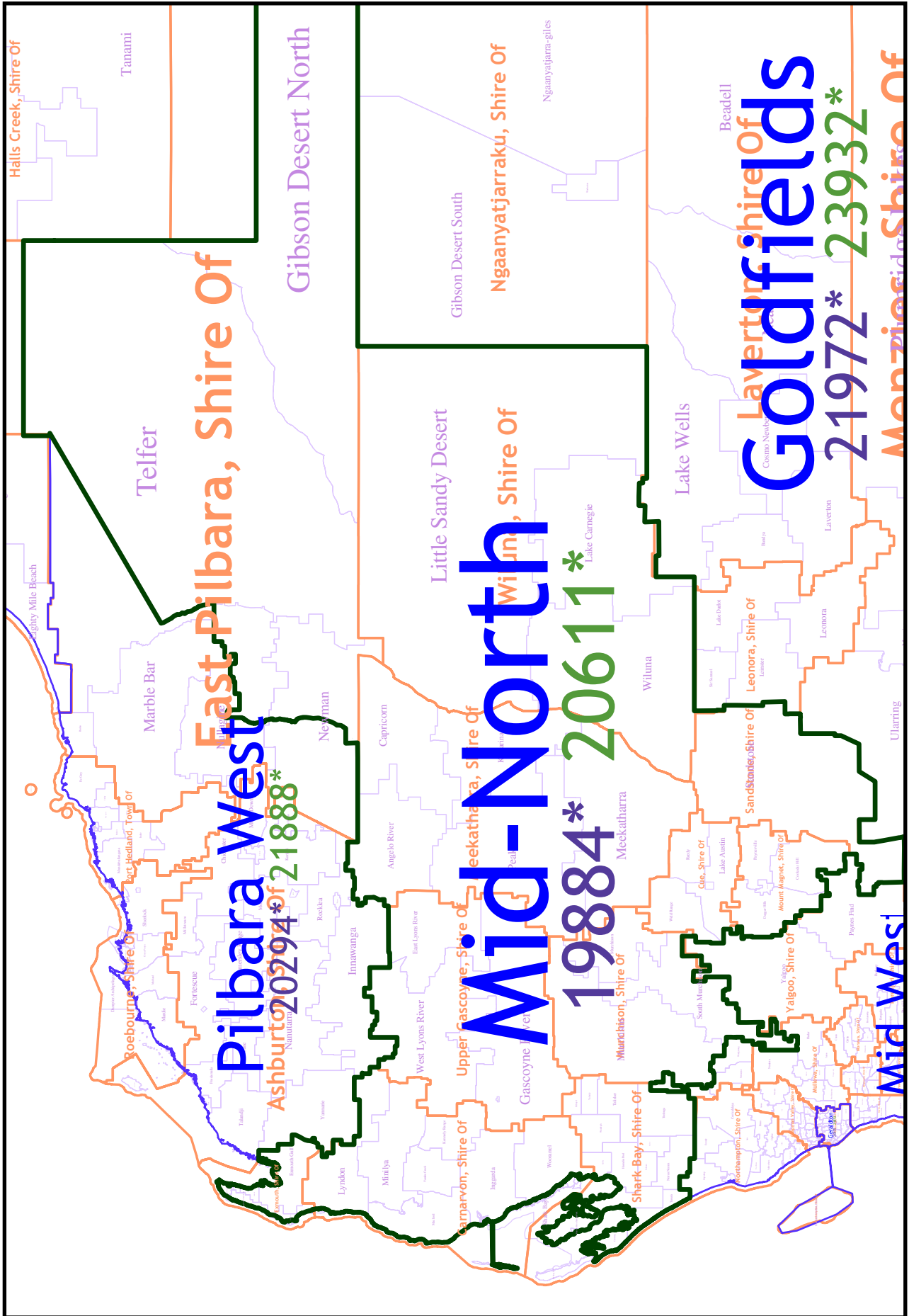
The proposed electorate takes in significant parts of the electorates of Murchison-Eyre, Kimberley-Pilbara, and North-West Coastal.

Existing local government boundaries

The proposed electorate ensures that local government boundaries are adhered to in determining this electorate.

Trend of demographic change

While population is growing in coastal areas, it remains sparse in eastern parts of the region, reflecting the nature of the land use for pastoral stations and mining communities consisting of a fly-in-fly-out workforce. Population is also seasonal with a large influx of transient population in coastal areas during tourist season.



Map 10: Proposed electorate of Mid-North

ELECTORATE:	Pilbara West
REGION:	Mining and Pastoral
Total electors:	20,294 (3,274 notional voters)
Total area:	218,266 square kilometres

General

The Nationals WA propose that an electorate to be named Pilbara West be formed comprising:

- Shire of Roebourne
- Shire of Ashburton
- Town of Port Hedland
- Part of the Shire of East Pilbara.

Encompassing a region known as the Pilbara West, this new electorate draws together shires that have strong geographic and social and economic links.

Shire of Roebourne: The Shire of Roebourne controls an area of approximately 15,197 square kilometres and has its offices in the township of Karratha, a modern town that is recognised as one of the major centres of the Pilbara. The shire contains another five townsites. These are the industry-based Dampier and Wickham, the historic towns of Roebourne and Cossack, and the coastal retreat of Point Samson. All of these townsites are located within a 50 square kilometre radius. The major industries in the shire include iron ore export, oil, natural gas, salt, nickel, fishing and tourism.

Shire of Port Hedland: The Town of Port Hedland is the smallest of the four Pilbara local government authorities in area, being only 11,844 square kilometres. The two main residential centres are Port Hedland and South Hedland. The remainder of the population lives on pastoral stations located throughout the area. The main industries are iron ore processing and export, salt production from extensive evaporation ponds for export, shipping of manganese and other minerals and livestock production (mainly cattle). The port is one of the world's largest in tonnage terms, with over 70 million tonnes of product worth more than \$3 billion shipped each year.

Shire of Ashburton: The Shire of Ashburton, at nearly half the size of Victoria (105,647 square kilometres), boasts some of the world's largest open cut mines, pastoral leases and cattle stations, and a thriving fishing industry. Residents of the shire are employed in a variety of industries, including oil, gas, mining, cattle, fishing and tourism. The shire also has an established salt industry, based at Onslow Salt. The majority of the area of the Shire of Ashburton is divided into pastoral properties. Spread amongst these sprawling pastoral stations are the towns of Onslow, Pannawonica, Paraburdoo and Tom Price. The majority of the shire's population lives in these four towns. A number of Aboriginal communities reside in the shire.

Community of Interest

The shires of Ashburton and Roebourne and Town of Port Hedland have links through the key driver of their economies – mining and exploration.

The area covered by the three shires is typically referred to as the Pilbara West, which has a clearly demonstrable community of interest through mining and exploration. The main industries are iron ore processing and export, salt production from extensive evaporation ponds for export, shipping of manganese and other minerals.

The social and economic impact of major mining activity in the region is far reaching – with the three shires facing similar issues managing these issues. Examples are the impact of fly-in-fly-out workers, participation of the local Indigenous people in the economy, and access to ongoing funding for infrastructure to support the impact of population growth associated with mining and tourism. Each shire/town is intrinsically linked to the coast and the industry associated with it. There are established fishing operations located in Onslow, Dampier, Port Samson and Port Hedland.

Land use patterns

Land use throughout the proposed electorate is uniform across the region and includes mining and exploration for iron ore, oil and natural gas (off-shore), salt and nickel, pastoral stations running livestock (mainly cattle), fishing ports, and eco-and historically based tourism.

Means of communication and distance from capital

Karratha is 1535 kilometres north of Perth and Port Hedland is 1763 kilometres north of Perth (approximately two hours' drive north of Karratha). Both centres are serviced by regular commercial flights to Perth. The two main roads in the region are the Great Northern Highway, which links Port Hedland to Newman and other inland centres further south, and the North West Coastal Highway, which runs along the Pilbara coast.

There are two newspapers providing local content - the North West Telegraph (Port Hedland and Newman) and The Pilbara News (Karratha, Dampier, Roebourne, Wickham, Tom Price, Paraburdoo, Pannawonica).

ABC North West Radio, based in Karratha, broadcasts several local programs in addition to the State and national news, and ABC television is transmitted throughout the region via the Homestead & Community Broadcasting Satellite Services (HCBSS) using the AUSSAT satellite system. GWN and WIN television also transmit into the major towns.

Each major town is connected to the internet – and one of three telecentres in the wider Pilbara region is located in Onslow (the other two are located in Nullagine and Marble Bar).

Existing boundaries of regions/districts

The proposed electorate falls within the tourism region known as the North-West of Western Australia. It contains three of the five local government areas in the Pilbara local government zone (Ashburton, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, East Pilbara, Port Hedland, Roebourne).

Existing local government boundaries

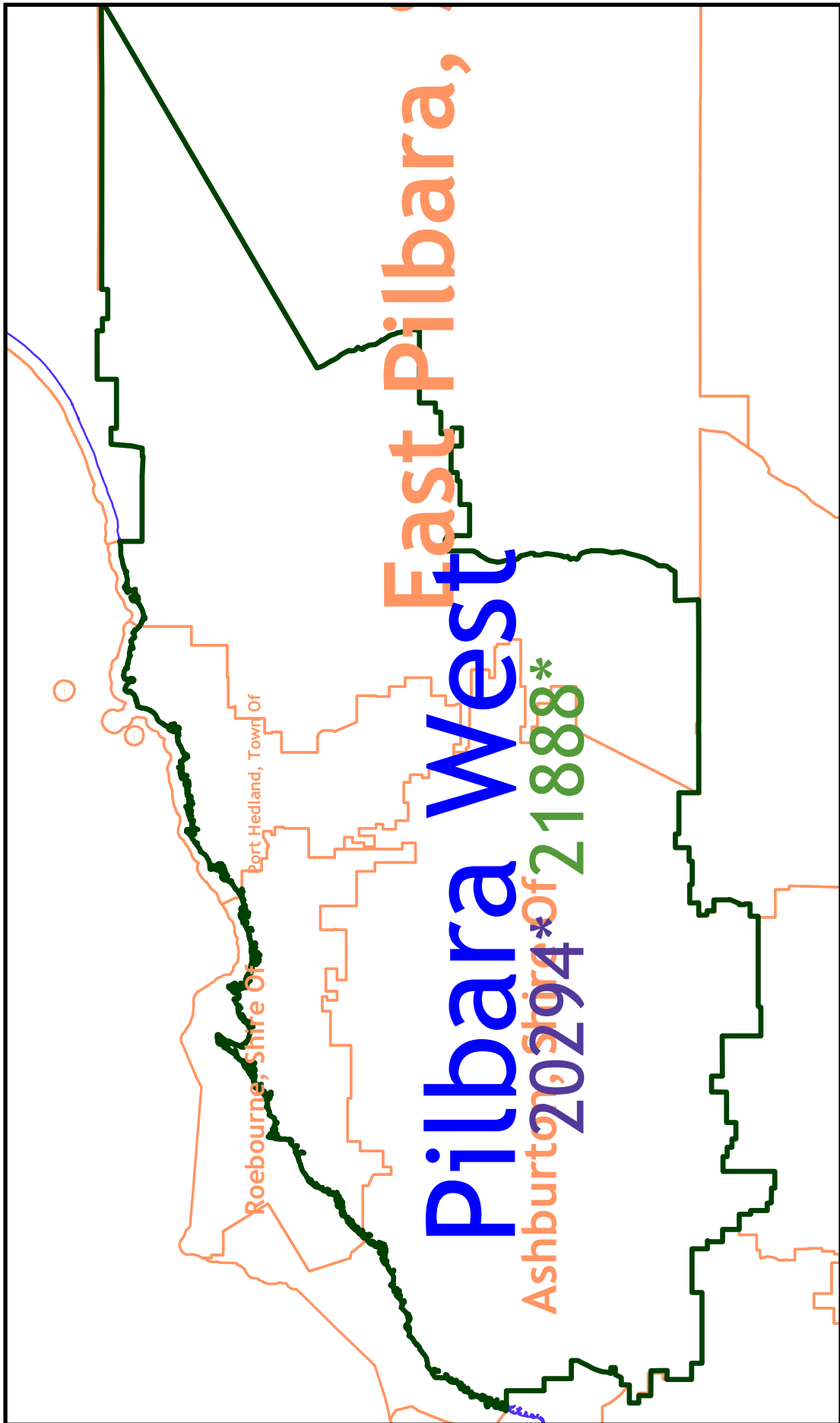
The electorate entirely encompasses the Shires of Roebourne and Ashburton and the Town of Port Hedland. The Shire of East Pilbara is a notable exclusion – and while it does share the mining and pastoral focus of the other shires, the enormity of the Pilbara region separates the communities of Newman, Marble Bar and Nullagine and surrounding Aboriginal communities (Jigalong) from their coastal neighbours by sheer distance.

Trend of demographic change

It is predicted that the towns of Port Hedland and Karratha will all experience high population growth, particularly as a result of demographic shift of Aboriginal communities into major regional centres. This trend has been documented in research commissioned by Rio Tinto Iron Ore and conducted and published in an Australian National University Research Monograph, Indigenous People and the Pilbara Mining Boom.

Boundary overview

It is recommended that the new electorate be named Pilbara West to better represent the communities and geography of the region. The new electorate includes the complete shire boundaries of Roebourne, Ashburton and the Town of Port Hedland. The exclusion of part of the Shire of East Pilbara makes provision for the growth the three local government areas are predicted to experience in the next four to eight years and draws together three local government areas with strong similarities.



Map 11: Proposed electorate of Pilbara West

ELECTORATE: South East
REGION: Mining and Pastoral

Total electors: 19,035 (3,932 notional voters)
Total area: 262,152 square kilometres

General

The Nationals WA propose that the Shires of Esperance and Ravensthorpe (currently part of the Agricultural region) be incorporated into the Mining and Pastoral region. The effect would be an electorate, provisionally named South East, made up of the following shires:

- Esperance
- Ravensthorpe
- Boulder
- Coolgardie
- Dundas.

The Nationals WA believe Esperance and Ravensthorpe have a clearly demonstrable social and economic orientation towards mining and pastoral communities to the north, namely Norseman, Kambalda, Kalgoorlie, Boulder, Coolgardie and to a lesser extent, Leonora.

Port of Esperance

The Port of Esperance is an important shared infrastructure facility that in many ways cements the community of interest between the Esperance-Ravensthorpe region and Kalgoorlie and the Goldfields.

Trade at the Port of Esperance (2006 annual report) includes:

- Iron ore 5,998,309 tonnes (up 11 per cent)
- Petroleum products 284,474 tonnes (up six per cent)
- 86,262 tonnes of lead concentrate exported in 2006 for the first time, via road and rail from the Magellan Metals Mine at Wiluna
- Nickel 213,110 tonnes (down four per cent)
- Grain 213,000 tonnes (down 8.4 per cent)
- Phosphate/fertiliser 80,854 tonnes (down 27 per cent)

New mining-related infrastructure built or under construction at the port includes: additional iron ore storage shed (\$14 million), gantry and storage for nickel containers (\$12 million), and sulphur storage facility (\$19 million).

Ravensthorpe nickel

The Ravensthorpe Shire will be further oriented into the mining sector with the start-up of the Ravensthorpe Nickel Mine in 2008. It will have a projected life of 20 years and be intrinsically linked to the Port of Esperance and exploration services and providers in the Eastern Goldfields.

BHP Billiton will begin annual importation of 500,000 tonnes of bulk sulphur from Canada and 40,000 tonnes of magnesium oxide in containers from Queensland for the Ravensthorpe Nickel Mine.

The Ravensthorpe operation will export 220,000 tonnes of nickel hydroxide through the port in containers when the nickel mine begins operations. The project's proposed 200-strong permanent refinery workforce will reside in Ravensthorpe, the coastal town of Hopetoun and some in Esperance.

Up to 80 per cent of the tourism into the towns of Esperance and Ravensthorpe comes from within Western Australia and 40 per cent of these visitors come from within the region (Source: Tourism Research Australia: National Visitors Survey (visitors aged 15+ years, Year Ending Dec 2005)).

Esperance is also the preferred location for retirees from the Goldfields. The town has five retirement villages, and an aged-care facility that provides both hostel and nursing home accommodation. A large proportion of the residents in these facilities are from Ravensthorpe, Norseman, Kalgoorlie/Boulder, Coolgardie and the hinterland.

Boundary overview

The suggested new electorate should be re-named South East to better represent communities of the region. The new electorate includes the complete shire boundaries of Esperance, Dundas, Ravensthorpe, and the Boulder locality of the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder (refer to proposed Goldfields electorate) and Coolgardie.

The inclusion of the Esperance and Ravensthorpe shires into the Mining and Pastoral region re-orientes these communities away from the current Agricultural region, with which they have less affinity.

The suggested South East electorate allows for the re-direction of the principally farming and grazing Shires of Jerramungup and Ongerup into a new electorate of Great Southern, where they more naturally belong.

Community of interest

The Nationals WA boundary submission re-orientes the Esperance-Ravensthorpe shires towards Kalgoorlie and the Eastern Goldfields.

Many government departments, including health, main roads, tourism, community development, planning and infrastructure, sport and recreation and Centrelink, which serve the requirements of both Esperance and Ravensthorpe shires are located in the regional centre of Kalgoorlie.

The Port of Esperance remains pivotal to both the Goldfields and Esperance-Ravensthorpe communities for the export of minerals, including nickel ore, iron ore (from Koolyanobbing) and sundry bulk minerals. Esperance is the major gateway for the importation of petroleum products (diesel fuel) for the eastern Goldfields region.

The Esperance port zone for the export of grain will be almost entirely represented in the proposed new electorate of South East. The previous electorate of Roe contained many towns that had no link to Esperance and their regional centre and port zone was Albany.

The connectivity between Esperance and the Goldfields is further underlined by the planned construction of the United Utilities of Australia desalination plant on land adjacent to the Port of Esperance.

Supported by the Shire of Esperance and the community generally, the desalination project will have the capacity to treat and pipe an addition 20 million litres of potable water each day to Goldfields consumers.

Esperance is a primary seaside holiday destination for Kalgoorlie-Boulder and Goldfields residents, workers and their families.

Another strong link between Esperance and the mining and pastoral regions is that it is the home for many of the workforce that services the region. Mining and service contractors reside in Esperance and drive in/drive out to their places of employment not only at the Ravensthorpe Nickel Mine but also to Norseman, Forrestania, Kambalda and others areas.

Large haulage contractors also base their businesses in Esperance and haul ore from the Dundas region into the Esperance port along routes that are not serviced by the railway.

The only residential accommodation for high school students in the region is at the Esperance Residential College. There is no residential accommodation for high school students in Kalgoorlie/Boulder. This creates another important link with the Mining and Pastoral region as the Esperance Residential College provides accommodation for students from throughout the region including Ravensthorpe, Norseman, Eucla, the pastoral industry and indigenous communities.

The residential college is adjacent to the combined educational facility that is made up of the Esperance Senior High School, Curtin University and the Vocational Training and Education Centre. These educational facilities attract students from throughout the mining and pastoral region.

Shared infrastructure for the Esperance-Goldfields region includes:

- Goldfields-Esperance standard gauge railway
- Kambalda-Esperance natural gas pipeline
- Coolgardie-Esperance Highway transport route
- Port of Esperance.

Land use patterns

While Esperance and Ravensthorpe conduct coastal and hinterland grazing and cropping activities they also share a common and growing interest with the mining and exploration sector. Pastoral, mining and exploration activities co-exist in Esperance, Ravensthorpe, Norseman, Kalgoorlie, and Boulder.

Existing boundaries of regions and districts

The proposed South East electorate broadly follows the Esperance-Goldfields Development Commission operational boundaries. The shires of Esperance, Ravensthorpe, Dundas, Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Coolgardie, Laverton, Leonora, Menzies, Ngaanyatjarraku, and Wiluna currently make up the Goldfields-Esperance country zone of the WA Local Government Association.

Existing local government boundaries

The Nationals' submission incorporates the complete shire boundaries of Esperance, Ravensthorpe, Coolgardie and Dundas. It teases out the municipality of Boulder and places it into the electorate of South East using the historical boundary.

Means of communication and distance from capital

Esperance is located 720 kilometres south-west of Perth and 369 kilometres by road from Kalgoorlie. Esperance has a daily commercial air service from Perth (flight duration 1 hour, 15 minutes).

The sealed Kalgoorlie-Coolgardie road provides easy access between Esperance and Kalgoorlie for all types of traffic, including heavy haulage.

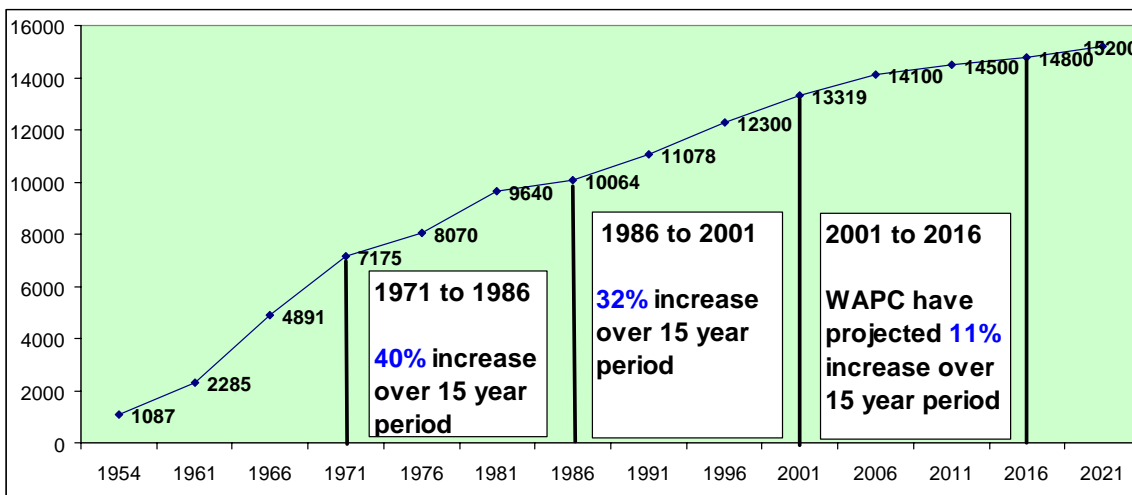
Ravensthorpe is 188 kilometres east of Esperance and is reached by the sealed South Coast Highway, which continues to Albany. There is no commercial air service between the coastal centres of Esperance and Albany.

The local ABC radio station is based in Kalgoorlie and services the Nullabor, Dundas, Esperance and Ravensthorpe areas. The regional television stations of WIN TV and GWN have staff and facilities based in Kalgoorlie, which serve the Esperance-Goldfields region with local news. Two key newspapers serve the area – the Kalgoorlie Miner (daily) and the Esperance News.

Trend of demographic change

The population of the south-east region has steadily increased over recent years with the town of Esperance now the eighth largest town outside the Perth/Peel region in Western Australia, behind Bunbury, Kalgoorlie, Geraldton, Albany, Busselton, Karratha and Broome. The Shire of Ravensthorpe is experiencing unprecedented growth related to the Ravensthorpe nickel project and the Shires of Coolgardie and Dundas have stable to slightly increasing populations. These population trends are difficult to statistically substantiate as the 2001 census is out of date and the outcomes of the 2006 census are not yet available.

However, the following data and anecdotal evidence indicates that Esperance will develop as a regional centre for the south-east and there is a great likelihood that the electorate of South East will consolidate around that focal point.



Esperance: The population of Esperance has increased steadily since 1954 as the town changed from an agricultural service centre to a more broadly based economy built on the additional activities of the port, tourism, fishing and retirees. The graph indicates little change in trend in the population growth for the Shire of Esperance.

In its publication “Western Australia Tomorrow” produced in October 2002, the WA Planning Commission predicted the population of Esperance in 2016 using different growth rate scenarios. Under the medium growth rate scenario, the projected population for Esperance is 18,500 in 2016.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that using the medium to high growth rate scenario is not unrealistic for Esperance. The demand for both industrial and residential land, as well as rental properties, has been extremely high. For instance, many of the residential blocks released for sale during 2005-06 were sold prior to being developed. One major development took the unprecedented steps of resuming lots it had sold conditionally (prior to title being issued and the sale completed), and resold to the original conditional owners at a significant premium (Source: Shire of Esperance).

Ravensthorpe Nickel Operation has leased 45 existing and new houses in Esperance and is constructing five new dwellings. The final requirement is estimated to be closer to 60 or 70 dwellings.

Enquiries with real estate agents indicate that the occupancy rate for rental properties currently stands at approximately 99 per cent. Esperance has also experienced the highest percentage increase in property prices in regional Western Australia over the last quarter. Residential housing prices increased by 25 per cent in the quarter ending December 2006, compared to the rest of regional Western Australia, which increased three per cent during the same period. All indications are that growth is ramping up as a result of Western Australia's strong economy (Source: Esperance real estate agents).

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure has projected a population growth of 11 per cent during a period which will see a residentially-based work force accompany the new Ravensthorpe Nickel Mine, proposals for further mining development to the north of Esperance, proposals to develop industries to support the mining sector in the Ravensthorpe, Esperance and Goldfields region, lifestyle migration from the west coast to the south coast, the further development of tourism in the region, the expansion of the Esperance Port to cater for increased throughput, and the development of the plantation timber industry.

Ravensthorpe: The Shire of Ravensthorpe has a population of 1600, with approximately 450 in Ravensthorpe. The other principal townsite of the shire is Hopetoun, with an estimated population of 450, although this number swells to over 2000 during the summer holiday period.

Rapid growth is taking place in association with the Ravensthorpe nickel project with population forecasts expected to reach nearly 3000 by 2010 (Department of Industry and Resources, 2006). LandCorp and Ravensthorpe Nickel have built 54 two- and three-bedroom chalets in the Hopetoun Residential Village. In addition, 36 new houses are being built in Hopetoun itself (Source: Ravensthorpe Nickel Operations), with some predictions that Hopetoun will reach a population of 2000 during the life of the nickel mine.

Dundas: The Shire of Dundas has the town of Norseman as its main population centre. The shire extends out along the Eyre Highway and takes in Eucla on the Western Australian border.

The population of the town of Norseman is in the vicinity of 900 with another 200 on pastoral stations, mine sites and in Eucla. In the period between 1995 and 2005, the shire had an annual average growth rate of minus four per cent, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics. With increased mining activity, the town has a considerable population of fly-in, fly-out workers, but also is serviced by labour from Esperance and Kalgoorlie/Boulder on a drive- in, drive-out regime. According to the Shire of Dundas, the population has stabilised.

Coolgardie: The Shire of Coolgardie encompasses an area of 30,400 square kilometres and includes the towns of Coolgardie, Kambalda East, Kambalda West, Widgiemooltha and Kurrawang. The Shire of Coolgardie estimates that currently 5900 people live in the shire. It was noted that the 2001

Census was taken at a time when Western Mining was closing down its nickel operations throughout the region and a sharp drop in population was experienced.

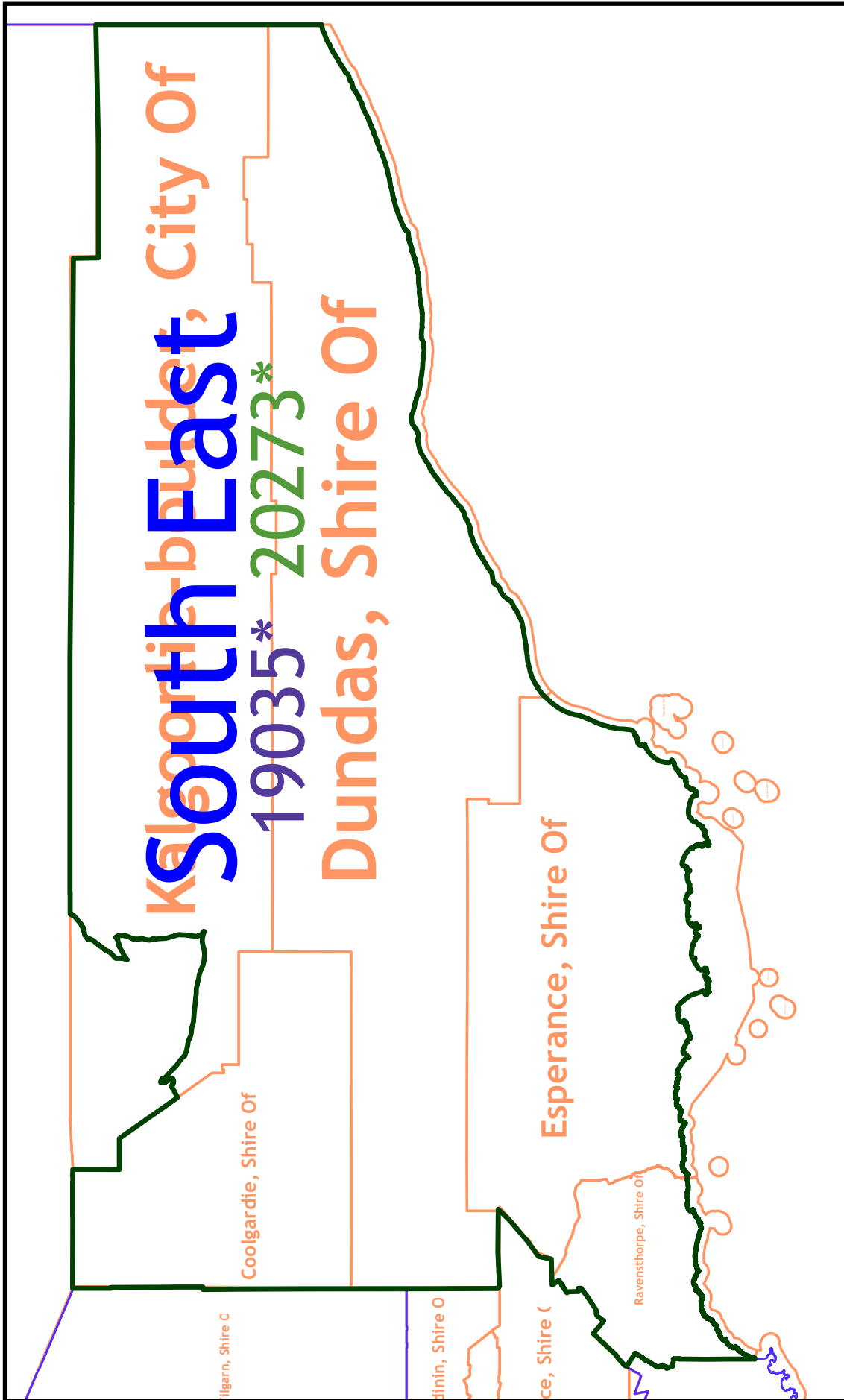
ABS statistics indicate that the local government region of Coolgardie had a population of 4170 in 2002 and is experiencing an average annual growth rate (1998 to 2003) of minus four per cent. However, according to the Shire of Coolgardie, with the resources boom and the movement of many single people to the area taking advantage of job opportunities, the population of the area is stable to increasing.

Community consultation

The Nationals WA State President Wendy Duncan, State Director Mia Davies and Parliamentary party leader Brendon Grylls MLA visited Esperance and Ravensthorpe to present the party's proposal to the respective Shire Presidents, CEOs and Councillors.

The Shire of Ravensthorpe was supportive of The Nationals' proposal and the Shire of Esperance advised that it would formally comment to the WA Electoral Commission following the publication of all political party submissions.

- Shire of Esperance (presentation at Esperance, Monday, Feb 26, 2007)
- Shire of Ravensthorpe (presentation at Ravensthorpe, Monday Feb 26, 2007)
- Shire of Dundas (provided with draft copy of submission)
- Shire of Coolgardie (provided with draft copy of submission).



Map 12: Proposed electorate of South East

South West Region

Albany
Blackwood
Bunbury
Collie
Great Southern
Mandurah
Murray
Vasse

ELECTORATE:	Albany
REGION:	South-West
Total electors:	20,417
Total area:	3548 square kilometres

General

Situated 403 kilometres south of Perth, Albany is recognised as the economic and entertainment centre of the Great Southern region.

Albany is a thriving port city, with fishing and agriculture the main industries of the local economy. The city hinterland blends into the local farming areas, which use Albany as a regional centre.

The Nationals WA propose that the electorate of Albany, which currently takes in 43 square kilometres and 14,396 electors (based on 11 February 2002 data), increase in size to meet the aims of the 2007 electoral distribution.

Boundary overview

The proposed electorate envisages the boundaries of the City of Albany would be taken into account so that all of the city suburbs and the majority of the outer localities would be returned to the Albany electorate.

Under the party's proposal, the electorate would extend north, east and west to take in parts of the current Stirling electorate that have a more natural affinity with Albany.

Localities or suburbs included in the proposed electorate include Gnowellen, Wellstead, Kojaneerup South, Green Range, South Stirling, Cheynes, Manypeaks, Palmdale, Kalgan, Napier, Nanarup, Green Valley, Torndirrup, Willyung, King River, Lower King, Warrenup, McKail, Gledhow, Robinson, Cuthbert, Elleker, Big Grove, Little Grove, Frenchman Bay, Mettler, Sandpatch, Goode Beach, Vancouver Peninsula and Walmsley.

Existing local government boundaries

The electorate currently includes the suburbs/towns of: Albany, Bayonet Head, Centennial Park, Collingwood Heights, Collingwood Park, Emu Point, Lockyer, Middleton Beach, Mira Mar, Mt Clarence, Mt Melville, Orana, Port Albany, Seppings, Spencer Park, Yakamia, and parts of Gledhow, McKail and Milpara.

Trend of demographic changes

City of Albany population figures have risen every year since 1996, with an estimated population of 33,364 in 2006. Greater Albany accounts for nearly 60 per cent of the population for the Great Southern region.

Community of interest

The localities that The Nationals propose to add to the Albany area from the current Stirling electorate have a strong affinity with the current Albany electorate.

The Great Southern region is the second largest producer of agricultural commodities in WA, particularly in broadacre cropping, livestock and more recently in timber plantations. Albany is the major regional centre on the south coast for these industries in both the provision of agricultural

products and as a supply point for those commodities via the Albany Port.

In 2002/03 agricultural production in the Great Southern was valued at \$726.6 million comprised of crops (\$373.0 million), livestock (\$173.9 million), and livestock products (\$179.7 million). Manufacturing, tourism and fishing make up the other key features of this region.

Albany is also a holiday town for much of the Great Southern region, with the community of interest relevant across the Great Southern agricultural region.

Land use patterns

Albany was once most well-known as a service centre for the agricultural industry but has been transformed in recent years to a lifestyle-driven major city.

Means of communication and distance from the capital

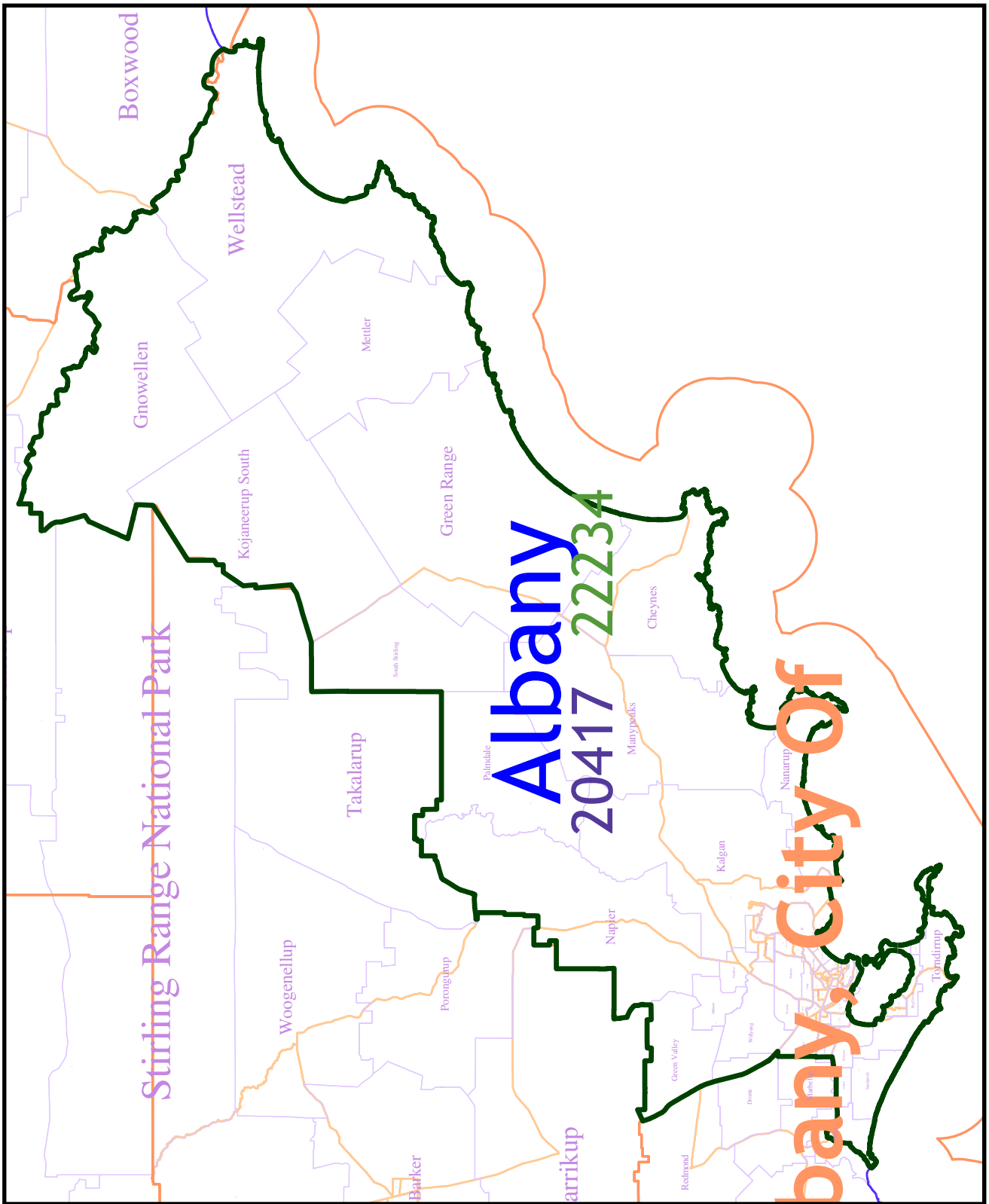
Albany is 403km south of Perth and is accessible via the Albany Highway. It is well serviced by an extensive road network, and is serviced by a regular air service between Perth and Albany Airports.

Albany Port handled 2.66 million tonnes of product across the wharves in the 2005/2006 financial year, with an increase in grain and woodchips export. Further capital works ensure that the port's throughput will continue to grow.

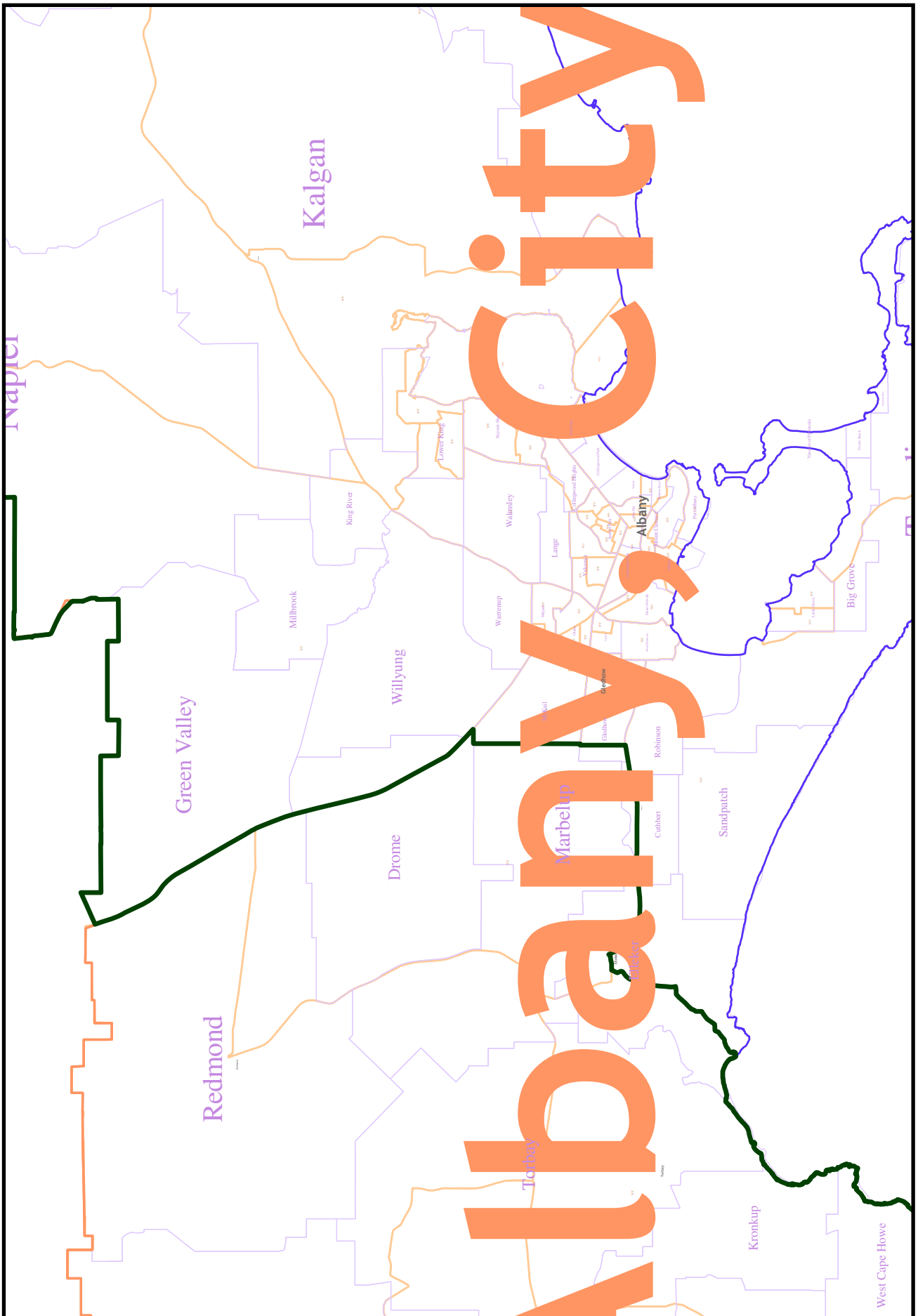
The electorate is well-serviced by media outlets with an Albany base, including the ABC, and new personnel from GWN TV and WIN TV based in the city. The Albany Advertiser newspaper and a number of community newspapers and publications provide regional and local news.

Physical features

The King George Sound, Princess Royal Harbour and the Southern Ocean are important identifying features of Albany.



Map 13: Proposed electorate of Albany



Map 13(a): Focus on proposed boundary of Albany and Great Southern

ELECTORATE: Blackwood
REGION: South-West

Total electors: 20,638
Total area: 7427 square kilometres

General

The Nationals WA propose the creation of an electorate in the South-West region that comprises parts of the former electorates of Capel and Warren-Blackwood, to be named Blackwood and consist of the following shires:

- Dardanup
- Capel
- Donnybrook-Balingup
- Bridgetown-Greenbushes
- Nannup

The suggested new electorate should be named Blackwood because at its centre is the world-famous Blackwood River Valley.

Community of interest

The suggested boundary configuration restores the currently split Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes into a common electorate. The previous electoral redistribution that placed part of Bridgetown into the electorate of Wagin was not an option favoured by the town because its orientation is to the South-West provinces and not the Wheatbelt (agricultural region).

The suggested new electorate contains communities of common interest through land use patterns dominated by mixed farming, horticulture, viticulture and forestry.

The Nationals' suggested change links the northernmost dairy, small farming and lifestyle shires of Capel, Dardanup and Donnybrook-Balingup with the burgeoning lifestyle shires of Bridgetown-Greenbushes and Nannup. Communities within The Nationals' suggested electorate of Blackwood also have lifestyle, conservation and nature-based tourism as a major theme.

The communities of Capel and Dardanup are now major growth centres and host numerous hobby farms and lifestyle endeavours, and have a demonstrable link with people living similar lifestyle patterns in the Donnybrook-Balingup and Bridgetown-Greenbushes shires.

Communities within The Nationals' suggested electorate of Blackwood also have lifestyle, conservation and nature-based tourism a major theme.

Many in this electorate choose the area as a lifestyle choice synonymous with the cultural themes in Nannup, Donnybrook and Bridgetown. Although quite close to a major regional centre (Bunbury) many enjoy the rural and semi-rural lifestyles on small landholdings.

Nannup is a large shire in the area and encapsulates the heart of the Blackwood Valley. It is noted for its proliferation of forest and nature-based destinations, Nannup is part of the outstanding Balingup/Nannup/Bridgetown tourist drive, one of the most popular destinations in the State.

Land use patterns

Mining: The proposed seat of Blackwood encompasses a significant portion of the mining activity in the region with mineral sands and tin being a focus. Mine sites include Jangardup and Jangardup South in the Nannup Shire, Greenbushes tantalum mine, Yoganup and Yoganup West mineral sands in Capel, proposed Gwindinup mineral sands mine near Balingup also in Capel shire and the Dardanup mineral sands mine in Dardanup shire. The Tutunup mineral sands mine is also in the proposed electorate of Blackwood, and is in the eastern wards of the shire of Busselton. With mineral sands mining and processing valued at \$239.7 million (South West Economic Perspective page six), it is a significant contributor to the region and therefore merits unified political representation.

Softwood: A total of 76 per cent of the State's softwood plantation timber production comes from the South-West region with one of the largest integrated softwood milling and processing plants in Australia located in the proposed electorate of Blackwood near Dardanup. A significant proportion of the softwood growing areas lie in the proposed Blackwood electorate.

Forestry: This seat also falls predominantly in the regional forest management plan 2004-2013 South-West region, uniting common forest types and management strategies (quite distinct from the karri forests of the Manjimup/Walpole/Denmark areas). With the region having undergone significant changes in recent years with a move away from old-growth logging, the importance of managing native forest logging, especially Jarrah forests (predominant in this proposed seat), becomes critical to the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the area.

Tourism: Nannup is a large shire in the area, encapsulating the heart of the Blackwood Valley. It is noted for its proliferation of forest and nature-based destinations. Nannup is part of the outstanding Balingup/Nannup/Bridgetown tourist drive, one of the most popular destinations in the State. Nature tourism-based enterprise is a common theme throughout the South-West with popular destinations all along the South Western and Vasse Highways.

Environmental: A strong environmental theme exists in the proposed electorate, not the least of which is evidenced by the recent focus on the Blackwood River Valley in the context of the Water Corporation's proposal to draw 45 gigalitres of water from the Yarragadee aquifer. This proposed electorate is central to the South-West forests, which are world-renowned as biodiversity and environmental hotspots.

It is also noted that the recent environmental debate on the Yarragadee aquifer highlights the focussed impact of global warming on this region.

Undulating terrain typifies much of the suggested new electorate, especially through the Donnybrook-Balingup, Bridgetown and Nannup town precincts, making the countryside ideal for small farming, lifestyle pursuits, and environmental tourism.

The new electorate boundaries are in a common rainfall range (800mm per annum), making it ideal for plantation timber, especially softwoods. Large old-growth Jarrah forests are also prevalent from Dardanup to Nannup.

Means of communications and distance from capital

The suggested new electorate shares well-developed transport infrastructure with its northern boundary linking to the City of Bunbury (230 kilometres from Perth) and WA's southern coastline

forming the southernmost boundary.

- South-West Highway (passes through Dardanup, Donnybrook, and Bridgetown)
- Brockman Highway (Bridgetown to Nannup)
- Bunbury to Bridgetown railway.

The Brockman and South Western Highways provide coastal access for communities in the Bridgetown-Greenbushes Shire, while Donnybrook-Balingup is linked to the coast via South Western Highway (Bunbury) or the Goodwood Road to Capel. The Brockman, South Western and Vasse Highways provide coastal access for all communities in the proposed Blackwood seat.

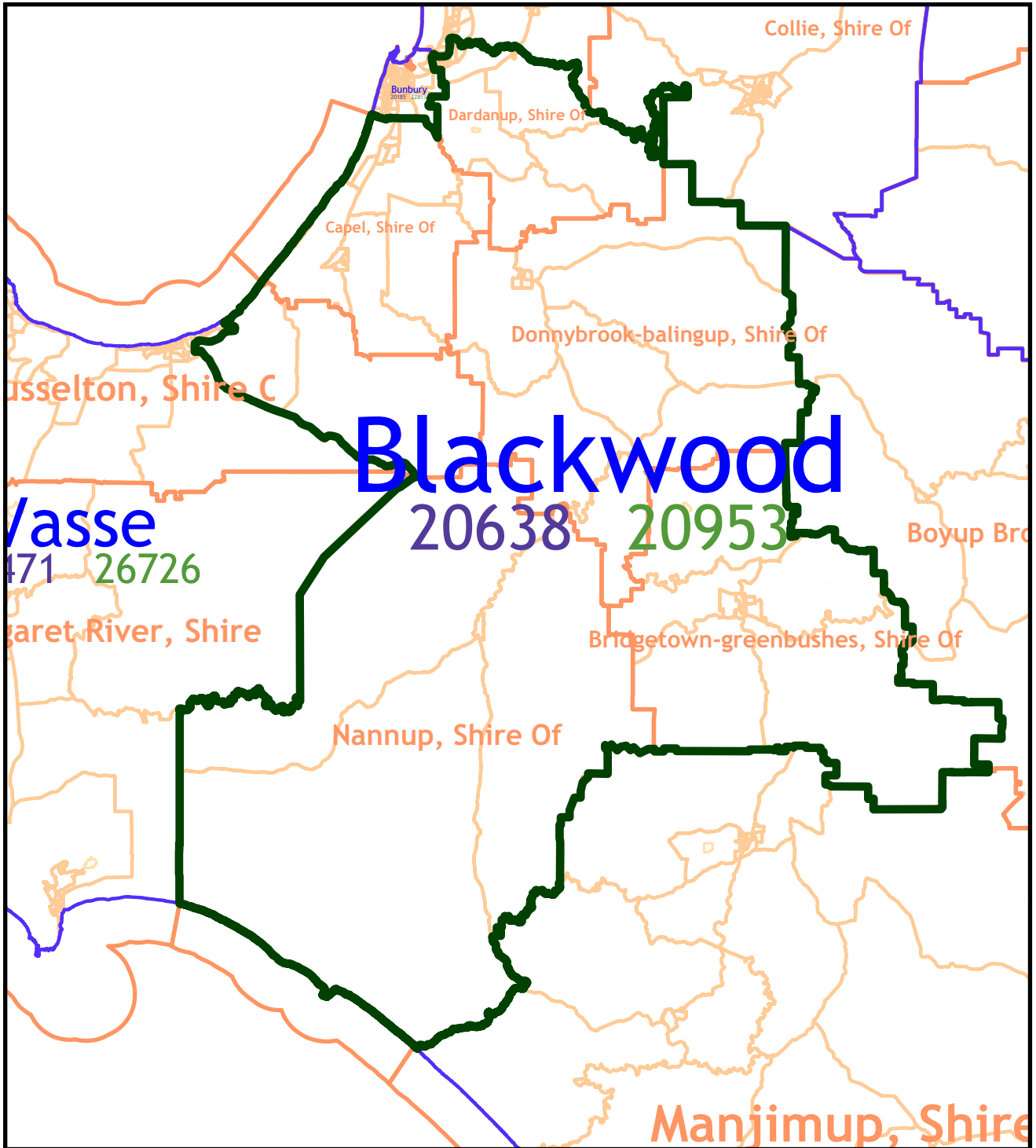
Road maintenance and development is a key issue in State politics, and not the least of which is a focus for this area where there is increasing use through tourist, timber and domestic activity. The region is well-served by local newspapers of the South Western Times Group along with ABC radio and TV. The broadcast footprint of regional commercial television stations WIN TV and GWN provide local news content.

Existing local government and existing boundaries

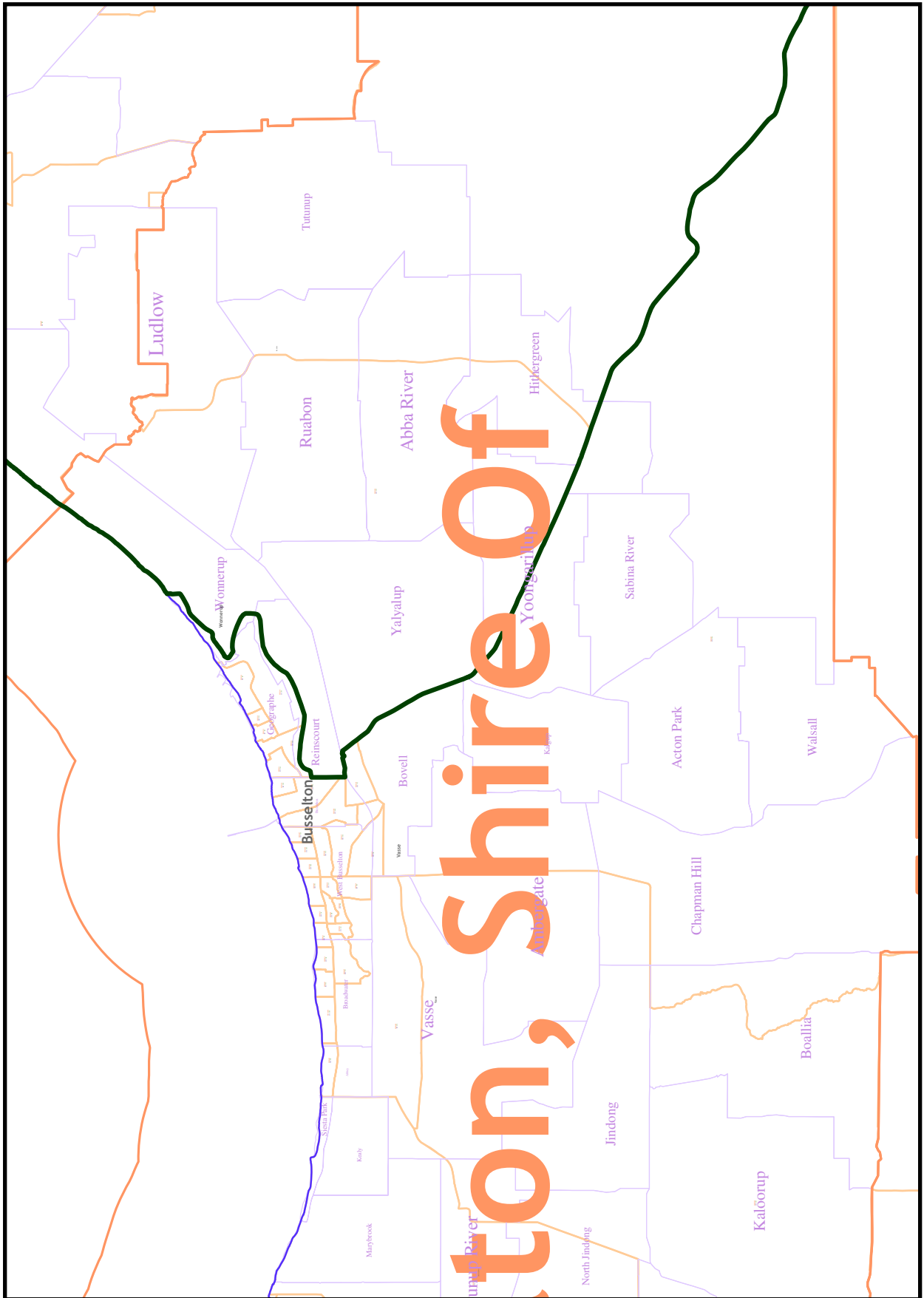
The new electorate includes the complete shire boundaries of Capel, Dardanup, Donnybrook-Balingup, Bridgetown-Greenbushes and Nannup, with the two east wards of the Shire of Busselton.

Boundary overview

The main economic bases for most of the larger towns within the electorate are agriculture and tourism, the latter relying on safe and efficient transport links to metropolitan Perth. The suggested boundaries also offer communities well-developed roads neighbouring the centres of Albany, Bunbury, Manjimup, Busselton and Margaret River.



Map 14: Proposed electorate of Blackwood



Map 14(a): Focus on proposed electorate boundary of Blackwood and Vasse

ELECTORATE:	Bunbury
REGION:	South-West
Total electors:	20,185
Land area:	65 square kilometres

General

Bunbury is a thriving port city, which, according to the City of Bunbury, moves more than 12 million tonnes of cargo each year – mainly alumina and wood chips.

Mining extraction, processing and manufacturing contribute \$1.85 billion per annum into the area's economy.

About 175km south of Perth, Bunbury is recognised as the economic and entertainment centre of the south-west region.

The Nationals WA propose that the electorate of Bunbury, which currently takes in 24 square kilometres and 14,709 electors (based on 11 February 2002 data), increase in size to meet the aims of the 2007 electoral distribution.

Boundary overview

Under the party's proposal, the electorate would retain the borders of Geographe Bay and Koombana Bay but extend south and east to take in parts of the current Capel and Leschenault electorates.

This change would increase the number of electors to 20,185 and the size of the electorate from 24 square kilometres to 65 square kilometres.

The electorate would retain the suburbs/localities of Vittoria, Bunbury, East Bunbury, Carey Park and South Bunbury, and add, from the current Capel electorate, Withers, Usher, College Grove and Davenport, as well as Glen Iris, Picton and Pelican Point from the current Leschenault electorate.

Existing local government boundaries

The City of Bunbury comprises the localities of Vittoria, Bunbury, East Bunbury, Carey Park and South Bunbury.

Trend of demographic changes

City of Bunbury population figures have risen every year since 1996. Population growth in the Greater Bunbury area (the City of Bunbury and adjacent suburban areas that form parts of the shires of Capel, Dardanup and Harvey) was 1.3 per cent between 2001 and 2006. These adjacent suburban areas have grown at a faster rate than the City of Bunbury over the 10-year period to 2005.

Greater Bunbury accounts for nearly 40 per cent of the total south-west population.

Community of interest

The localities that The Nationals propose to add to the Bunbury area from the current Capel and Leschenault electorates have a strong affinity with the current Bunbury electorate.

Bunbury is one of two major commercial centres in the south-west, catering for the needs of industries such as mineral extraction, processing and associated manufacturing, tourism, building and construction, agriculture, fishing and plantation timber.

Higher education is a large attraction. Bunbury features the South West Regional College of TAFE and an Edith Cowan University campus, which offers courses in business, nursing, education, computing, fine arts, technology, language studies and humanities.

The South West Health Campus in Bunbury is the region's major medical centre and the town offers comprehensive private and public health care.

The city centre is the region's major entertainment hub, and includes a cinema complex, the Bunbury Entertainment Centre, a major regional art gallery and a new waterfront precinct offering restaurants and a tavern.

Land use patterns

Bunbury was once most well known for its industrial centre but has been transformed in recent years to a lifestyle-driven major city.

Means of communication and distance from the capital

About 175km south of Perth (a two-hour drive), Bunbury is regarded as the economic and entertainment centre of the south-west region.

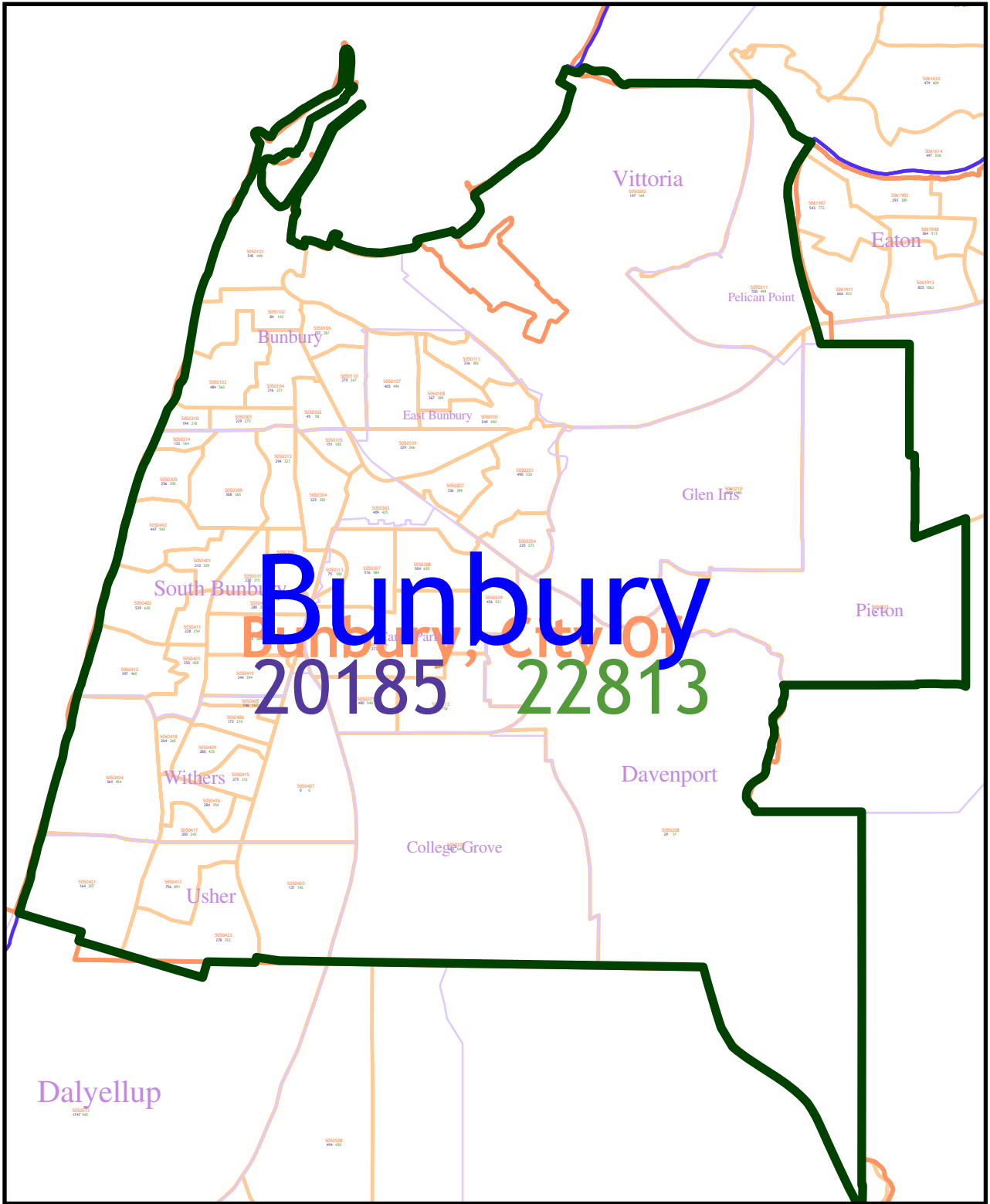
Several industries in the nearby Kemerton Industrial Park use the deep water Port of Bunbury, which operates seven days a week, consists of six berths and can be expanded as industry in the region develops.

The port is linked by major road corridors to Perth (Old Coast Road and the South West Highway) and the Kemerton Industrial Park, and direct rail services are also available. According to the South West Development Commission, the Greater Bunbury Region Plan incorporates a Bunbury outer ring road, which will connect the five major roads that lead into Bunbury - the Australind Bypass, South Western Highway, Picton-Boyanup Road, North Boyanup Road and Bussell Highway. This will accommodate increasing volumes of commuter, tourist and commercial traffic coming to Bunbury, and travelling to areas further south.

Bunbury is also serviced by an airstrip.

Physical features

The Leschenault Estuary, the deep water port, Koombana bay, a protected boat harbour and the Indian Ocean are important identifying features of Bunbury.



Map 15: Proposed electorate of Bunbury

ELECTORATE:	Collie
REGION:	South-West
Total electors:	20,948
Land area:	4269 square kilometres

General

The current electorate of Collie-Wellington comprises the Shires of Waroona and Collie and parts of the Shires of Harvey and Dardanup.

The electorate's largest town is Collie but the towns of Harvey and Waroona are also important service centres for a diverse range of industries including beef, sheep and dairy farming, earthmoving, horticulture, engineering and mining. The electorate is popular with tourists exploring State forests, beaches and a variety of natural and man-made waterways.

Boundary overview

The Nationals WA suggest that the electorate of Collie-Wellington be renamed Collie and expanded to include the electorate of Leschenault (and thus the town of Australind), but exclude the shire of Dardanup, therefore neatening the shape of the electorate and using the Collie River as a new border.

This would take the electorate from its current size of 4724 square kilometres to 4269 square kilometres and increase the number of electors from 15,060 (11 February 2002 figures) to 20,948.

The new electorate would then take in the shires of Harvey, Waroona and Collie.

It would include the towns/localities of: Allanson, Australind, Benger, Binningup, Brunswick, Buckingham, Cardiff, Collie, Collie Burn, Collie Cardiff, Cookernup, Hamel, Harvey, Hoffman, Lake Clifton, Leschenault, Mornington, Muja, Mungalup, Myalup, Parkfield, Preston Beach, Roelands, Shotts, Uduc, Wagerup, Warawarrup, Waroona, Wokalup, Wellesley, Worsley, Yarloop, Lyalls Mill, Yourdamung Lake, Nanga Brook, Harris River, Preston Settlement, Palmer and Beela.

The Nationals believe that all of the shires within the proposed new electorate of Collie have a strong community of interest based upon semi-rural and rural lifestyle opportunities, tourism, and agriculture as well as solid road and rail transport networks.

Means of communication and distance from capital

Collie is strategically and conveniently located only 60 kilometres from the regional Port City of Bunbury and 200 kilometres from Perth. Although some of the smaller towns in the electorate are limited in their access to services, Collie has retained many government offices and agencies and is a major hub in the electorate. It is well-appointed to accommodate major industrial development, given its proximity to the Port of Bunbury and ease of access to both road and rail.

The townsite of Waroona, which has a population of about 2500 people, is situated on South Western Highway, 107 kilometres from Perth. It can be reached by road from Perth via Mandurah or Armadale and is a 1.5 hour drive from the city centre.

The Shire of Harvey is approximately 140 kilometres south of Perth and features about 43 kilometres of coastline. The shire is bordered by the Shire of Waroona, the Murray River (with the Shire of

Boddington), the Shire of Collie), along the Collie River with the Shire of Dardanup, and to the south-west by the City of Bunbury.

Community of interest and land use patterns

Mining, manufacturing and retail are significant contributors to local employment in the Collie, Harvey and Waroona areas.

Collie has changed its focus in recent years from coal to also include horticulture, viticulture, tourism, power production, bauxite and light industry. It has power stations to the east of the townsite and a significant natural water resource and tourist attraction in the form of the Wellington Dam. Griffin Coal and Wesfarmers Premier Coal are major employers, as are the Muja Power Station and Worsley Alumina.

The principal employer in the Waroona Shire is Alcoa Australia, which operates an alumina refinery and minesite just south of the town, employing nearly 800 people. Stock transporters and earthmoving contractors also employ significant local labour.

Physical features

The Collie electorate is set amongst State forest and boasts several natural and man-made tourist attractions, such as the picturesque Collie River Valley, Wellington Dam, Harris Dam, Collie River, Lake Preston and Lake Clifton.

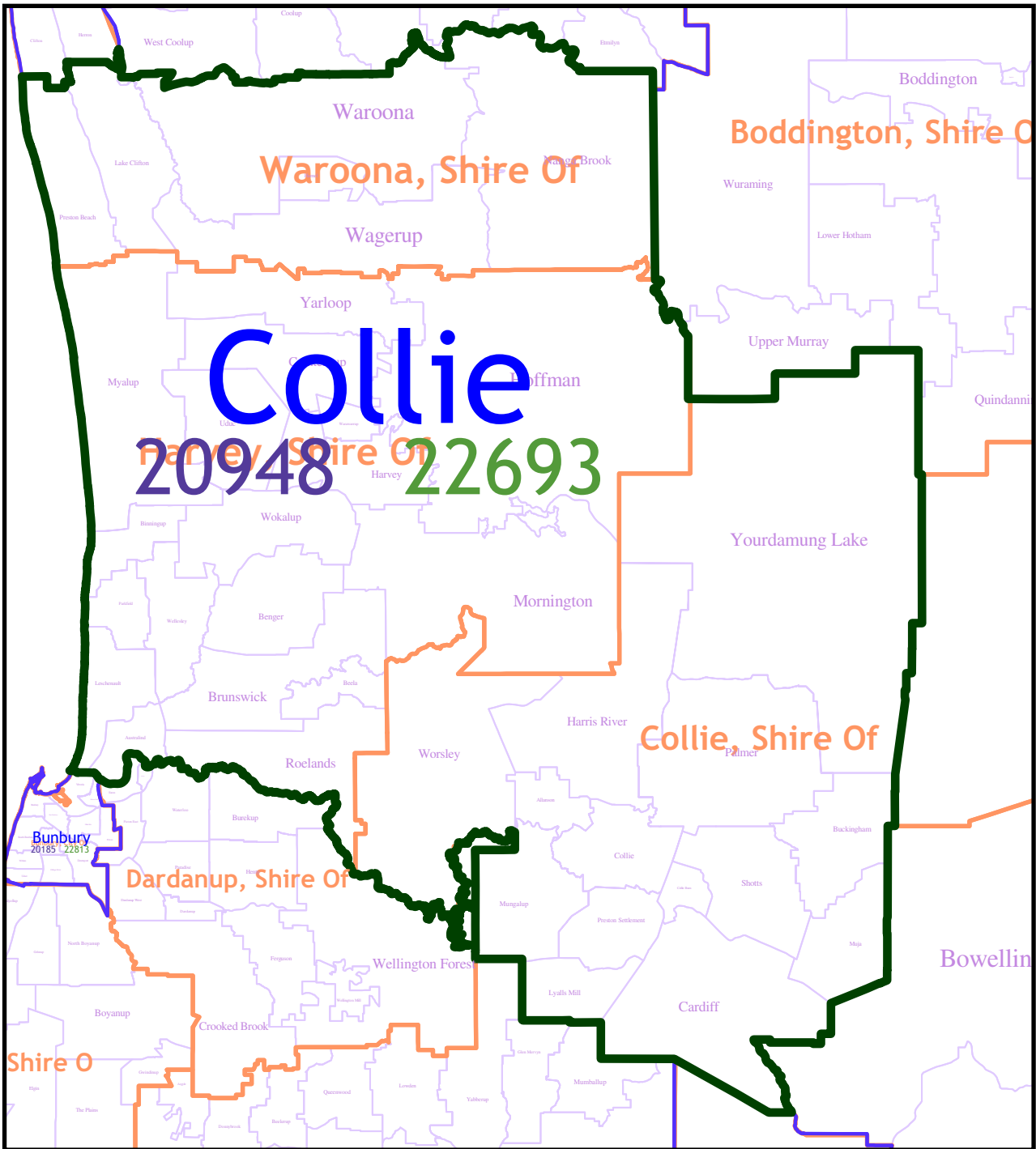
The Nationals' proposal will add the Leschenault Estuary to this list of features, adding to the affinity that electors in the region feel for the coast.

Existing local government boundaries

The Nationals WA proposal follows existing local government boundaries.

Existing boundaries of regions and districts

The Shire of Collie mentioned in its submission to the WA Electoral Commission, during the last electoral redistribution, that it aligned itself to areas west of the township, in the South-West region, rather than to areas to the east, within the Wheatbelt.



Map 16: Proposed electorate of Collie

ELECTORATE: Great Southern
REGION: South-West

Total electors: 19,551
Total area: 36,940 square kilometres

General

The Nationals WA propose that an electorate embracing local government boundaries with common links to plantation timber, olives, vineyards, aquaculture and tourism be incorporated into an electorate of Great Southern. The effect of this proposal would be an electorate, to be incorporated into the south-west region, made up of the following shires:

From the current Agricultural region and Wagin electorate

- Kojonup
- Boyup Brook
- Broomehill
- Tambellup

And

From the current Roe electorate

- Jerramungup
- Gnowangerup.

The Nationals further propose that these shires be combined with Plantagenet, Denmark and Cranbrook (currently Stirling electorate), and Manjimup (currently Warren-Blackwood). It is also proposed that part of the Albany Shire be incorporated, as it has historically been delineated between the electorates of Albany and Stirling.

The Nationals WA believe that there are clearly demonstrable grounds for the incorporation of the shires of Denmark, Manjimup, Cranbrook, Plantagenet, Jerramungup, Gnowangerup, Tambellup, Kojonup, Broomehill, Boyup Brook and Albany into a single electorate of Great Southern.

Community of interest

Officially, the Great Southern administrative region includes the nine local government areas of Broomehill, Cranbrook, Denmark, Gnowangerup, Jerramungup, Kojonup, Plantagenet, Tambellup and Albany.

The links between these shires are intrinsic and historical, and The Nationals contend that there are also inherent links between these shires and those of the neighbouring shires of Manjimup and Boyup Brook.

Single government and representative bodies across a broad range of operations have historically serviced the combined requirements of the majority of shires within the proposed Great Southern electorate.

The Great Southern Development Commission services nine of these 11 designated shires, as does the Great Southern Area Consultative Committee. Departments and groups as diverse as the Heritage Council of Western Australia and the Local Farmer Group Networks incorporate at least

nine of these nominated shires within their designated Great Southern regions.

The Great Southern police district incorporates the majority of these shires, as does the Great Southern education district.

The Australian Government's Wine and Brandy Corporation states that the geographical indication Great Southern has been entered in the Register of Protected Names. It is stated in the register to encompass an area bounded by Lake Muir (in Manjimup Shire) to the west and Pallinup River near Jerramungup to the east, named as Great Southern and designated to be within the broader geographical indication of south-western Australia.

A commonality of interest between the nominated shires and their communities has deepened over recent years, as economic, environmental and industry changes have significantly impacted on land use.

This has led to an increasing trend away from traditional farming practice into sectors such as plantation timber and olives, vineyards, aquaculture and tourism. This changing economic landscape has resulted in the acknowledgement that representative industry and business groups across these shires must place an ever-stronger emphasis on working cohesively to maximise the region's potential.

The result has been a move towards much more vigorous regional branding of the Great Southern entity.

Amalgamating this historically entrenched union of shires with the two neighbouring and closely aligned shires of Manjimup and Boyup Brook provides a natural and logical transition to a new Great Southern electorate, meeting all of the quota and other requirements for defining an electoral boundary.

There are strong bases for amalgamating the six shires of Boyup Brook, Kojonup, Broomehill, Tambellup, Gnowangerup and Jerramungup (currently in the Agricultural region) into the South-West region.

The shires of Boyup Brook and Tambellup were both previously sited within the South-West region and this proposal would enable their return.

The district of Walpole is currently split between the electorates of Stirling and Warren-Blackwood. Under this proposal the district as a whole would be located in the Great Southern electorate.

The region already known as Great Southern serves as an innate template, with the addition of the bordering Manjimup and Boyup Brook shires, for the creation of a new electorate of Great Southern, within the South-West region.

The Nationals WA boundary submission re-orientates the Shires of Jerramungup, Broomehill, Gnowangerup, Tambellup, Kojonup, Boyup Brook and Manjimup towards a centralised Great Southern focus. We believe there are compelling grounds to support this proposal.

The common histories, industries, sporting and social links between these towns results in a shared interest and a mutual understanding and empathy. There are innumerable demonstrations of this, ranging from sporting participation to emergency services.

At the other end of the spectrum, the recent Porongurup bushfires which burned around 5000 hectares, including much of the national park, saw the involvement of volunteer fire units from around the region including Mt Barker, Cranbrook, Walpole, Denmark and Albany, with aid from Manjimup and offers of assistance from Kojonup and other towns. This is a simple demonstration of the bonds that exist between communities across the proposed electorate.

In the sporting domain, a high level of interaction occurs between these communities, an example of which is the Lower Great Southern Football League, which comprises teams from Denmark/Walpole, Mt Barker, Kojonup, Tambellup and Albany. There is also considerable inter-town competition among the bowling, golf, swimming, cricket and rifle clubs. This significant level of inter-community travel also has flow-on effects in terms of social and commercial interactions, which reinforces existing ties.

Land use

Forestry: It is clear that economic, climatic and environmental factors in recent years have brought about land use changes across these shires, resulting in some shift away from traditional farming to timber production. While the Manjimup Shire has historically been centred on timber production, plantations are also now entrenched alongside the more traditional agricultural land uses in the Plantagenet, Denmark and Cranbrook and Albany shires.

A dominant industry within each of these shires is now plantation timber production. In terms of plantation and native forest management, the Conservation Commission of Western Australia's Forest Management Plan 2004-2013, designates forests from Manjimup through to Mt Barker as being within the one overall forestry sector.

The focus on forestry and timber products also extends to incorporate the shires of Tambellup, Boyup Brook, Kojonup, Broomehill and Jerramungup.

The Forest Products Commission's Tree Farming and Industry Development Plan has earmarked those areas as part of its Central South West Recovery Catchment area, with a 20-year plan for significant plantings of eucalypt, sandalwood and pine, both for harvesting and salinity management. A total of 218,000 hectares of land within this sector has been identified as suitable and likely for the planting of eucalyptus.

The Boyup Brook Shire also has significant areas of State forest and bluegum plantations, and Bremer Bay, in the Shire of Jerramungup, has very sizeable bluegum plantations.

Wine: While broadacre cropping, wool and livestock remain industries of vital importance to the Great Southern, wine production has become an area of significant growth, a common denominator with the neighbouring Manjimup and Pemberton wine regions.

In the 10 years to 2003-04, Great Southern vineyards expanded from 490 hectares to 3591 hectares, and the region's share of the State's production grew from 13.3 per cent to 22.4 per cent. While the Great Southern's vineyards are mainly concentrated in the Mt Barker, Porongurup, Denmark, Frankland River and Albany sub-regions, they are also scattered in other locations at Cranbrook, Broomehill and as far east as Borden.

Frankland River is one of the State's fastest growing production areas and is home to some of Australia's largest vineyards. Its location between Mt Barker and Manjimup provides a natural link

between the two wine regions, which will result in increasing tourism, and commercial interaction between the two.

Tourism: Over recent years the Great Southern brand has been vigorously promoted and is now associated across the State and the country with the natural attractions and the wines of this region. Organisations such as the Great Southern Region Marketing Association and the Great Southern Wine Producers Association, and government instrumentalities such as the Great Southern Development Commission have lifted the profile of the shires within the region as a combined entity.

Industry: The expansion of the plantation timber industry in the region has facilitated similar growth in the companion industries of timber transport and processing. Facilities constructed at the Albany port have the capacity to export 1.5 million tonnes of woodchips annually. A timber-processing precinct north of Albany provides for current and future value-adding industry, including the construction of the world's first timber stranding plant producing timber products from processed eucalyptus trees. Logs from the region's bluegum plantations and from forest residues at Manjimup and Pemberton will be trucked to the plant for processing.

Historical: The descendents of the region's original inhabitants are resident in towns across these 11 shires today. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2001 Population and Housing Census, Aboriginal people comprised between two and 17 per cent of the population of nearly all towns in the region from Manjimup to Gnowangerup. Many towns in the region have Indigenous populations well above the State's average of 3.6 per cent. These include Mt Barker, Tambellup, Kojonup and Gnowangerup.

A University of WA report commissioned by the Forest Products Commission, which interviewed Indigenous groups from around the Great Southern and across to Manjimup, found that a high value was placed on the South-West forest by Noongar people of the Great Southern and that they strongly identified with sites of heritage value within the South-West forests.

There are also very strong historical associations of European settlement between all of the 11 shires encompassed by this proposal. Two pioneering families, the Muirs and the Hassells, were especially instrumental in the early development of the area and their stamp is still evident in place names across the region.

Muir Highway is the transport link between Manjimup and Mt Barker. Lake Muir is located between Frankland and Manjimup and the Muirs Corella is a protected bird species, which has traditionally been found from Manjimup to Broomehill. The Hassells explored Boyup Brook, Denmark and Walpole and Albany to the west. To the east, Cranbrook, Kendenup, Mt Barker, Jerramungup and Kojonup all have localities named after the Hassell family.

From Manjimup, Pemberton and Walpole through Mt Barker and across to Broomehill and Jerramungup, there is also a shared history based on the Group Settlement and War Service Land Settlement Schemes which provided much of the impetus for early development in these areas.

Physical features

The area encompassed by these shires is considered to be one of the world's most bio-diverse, and is dominated by its internationally renowned flora.

The proposed Great Southern electorate is home to some of Western Australia's most important

national parks and State forests including the Walpole Wilderness Area, Warren, Porongurup, Beedelup, Shannon and Stirling Range National Parks, and part of the Fitzgerald River National Park.

The Porongurup Ranges are believed to be among the world's oldest, while the Stirling Range has one of the world's most diverse collections of native flora. The Fitzgerald River National Park is a UNESCO sanctioned biosphere and the Walpole Wilderness Area is the State's most significant wilderness area. The Shannon National Park exhibits some of Western Australia's most magnificent karri forest.

Karri dominates in the western areas of the proposed electorate from Manjimup and Walpole through Denmark to the Porongurup Range, as distinct from the jarrah dominant forests further to the west and north. The Tree Top Walk at Walpole is now one of WA's premier tourist attractions. The Walpole community is essentially divided into two local government wards. The Nornalup ward is under the jurisdiction of the Denmark Shire while the Frankland ward is in the Manjimup Shire, providing yet another example of the links between these two shires and their respective communities.

The relatively untouched nature of the region's natural attractions is a point of difference with the more populous areas closer to the west coast.

Means of communication and distance from capital

The Nationals' proposed geographical layout of this electorate delivers the best formula for manageability of physical access to their elected representative, for constituents living within these shires. With increased electorate sizes, constituent access must be carefully considered and The Nationals have placed a high priority on this in formulating the party's submission.

The proposed Great Southern electorate is bisected by Albany Highway, which runs from Albany in the south to Kojonup in the north and passes through the shires of Plantagenet and Cranbrook.

Although distance remains a significant issue for regional electorates, all the centres within these shires, from Manjimup and Boyup Brook to the west and Gnowangerup and Jerramungup to the east, can be accessed from highways and major roads leading off the central Albany Highway corridor. Muirs Highway is the major east-west transport artery of the proposed Great Southern electorate.

There is a daily commercial air service between Albany and Perth.

The electorate is well-serviced by media outlets with an Albany base, including the ABC, and new personnel from GWN TV and WIN TV based in the city. The Albany Advertiser newspaper and a number of community newspapers and publications provide regional and local news.

Boundary overview

The Nationals have suggested that the new electorate should be named Great Southern to best represent its geographical and historical basis. Nine of the shires in this model – Denmark, Gnowangerup, Plantagenet, Kojonup, Cranbrook, Jerramungup, Tambellup and Broomehill and Albany – already constitute the region historically, governmentally and commercially known as Great Southern.

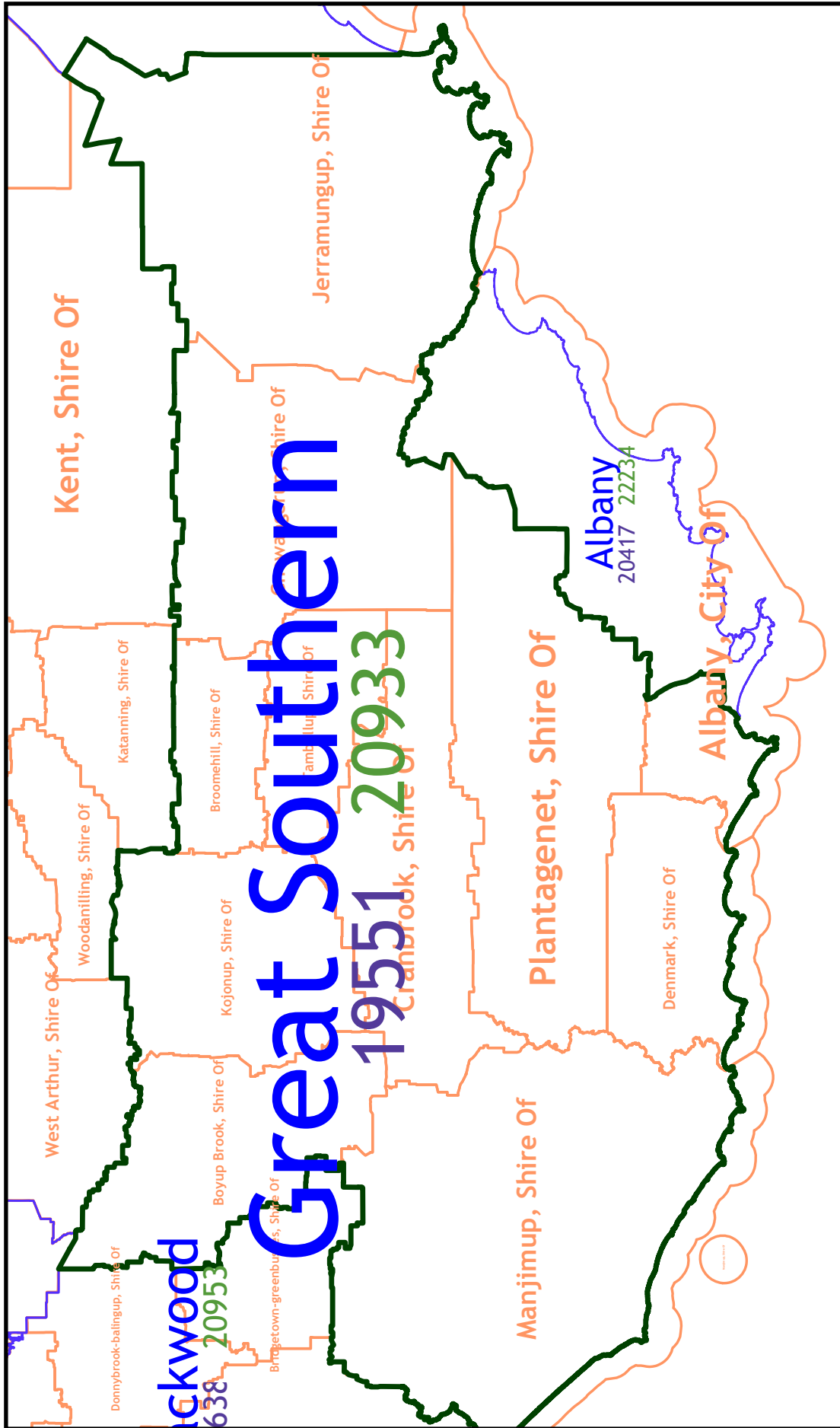
Community consultation

The Nationals WA Member for Stirling, Terry Redman MLA, met with the President and CEO of the

Plantagenet Shire to present the party's proposal for an electorate of Great Southern within the South-West region.

Mr Redman has also had one-to-one discussions with numerous individuals on the issue of boundary re-alignment, and the suggested position of The Nationals, including many shire councillors in his electorate.

NB – The Shires of Broomehill and Tambellup advise that they are currently investigating amalgamation and welcome The Nationals WA proposal to locate them together in the proposed Great Southern electorate.



Map 17: Proposed electorate of Great Southern

ELECTORATE:	Mandurah
REGION:	South-West
Total electors:	23,448
Land area:	129 square kilometres

General

The current electorate of Mandurah covers 25 square kilometres and comprises 13,857 electors (11 February 2002 figures). It takes in the suburbs of Coodanup, Dudley Park, and Mandurah, and parts of Silver Sands and Greenfields.

Considered the gateway to the south-west, Mandurah features a mix of coastal, bushland and inner-city lifestyles and is also home to a large industrial centre. It has experienced significant population growth in recent years – the current rate is 5.9 per cent (as at June 2005, according to the City of Mandurah website).

Boundary overview

The Nationals WA propose that the electorate of Mandurah be altered to delete the suburbs of Dudley Park and Greenfields, and add the electorate of Dawesville. Therefore, the suburbs to be included are Halls Head, Erskine, Falcon, Wannanup, Dawesville, Bouvard, Clifton and Herron. The electorate would retain Mandurah, Coodanup and Silver Sands.

This change will increase the number of electors to 23,448 and the size of the electorate to 129 square kilometres.

Trend of demographic changes

Mandurah is the fastest growing regional city in Western Australia. Mandurah is recognised nationally as a council experiencing significant growth, with a five-year average growth rate of six per cent.

Community of interest

The Nationals believe that all of the suburbs that will come together by effectively merging the current electorates of Dawesville and Mandurah share a strong bond based on their links to the Old Coast Road and the area's tourism precinct.

The current electorates of Dawesville and Mandurah are the coastal component of the Peel region, which also includes the shires of Boddington, Murray, Waroona and Serpentine-Jarrahdale.

Means of communication and distance from capital

Approximately 74 kilometres south of Perth, about an hour's drive from the city, Mandurah is a popular tourist destination and is considered the gateway to the south-west region.

Its location means that it boasts linkages to major arterial road networks and easy access to major ports and airports. Additional freeway extensions as well as the new Perth-Mandurah rail project will provide alternative transport options for both visitors and residents. A local bus service also offers travel around the city centre. Residential canal developments have provided boat access to the Peel Inlet and the marina complex is expanding.

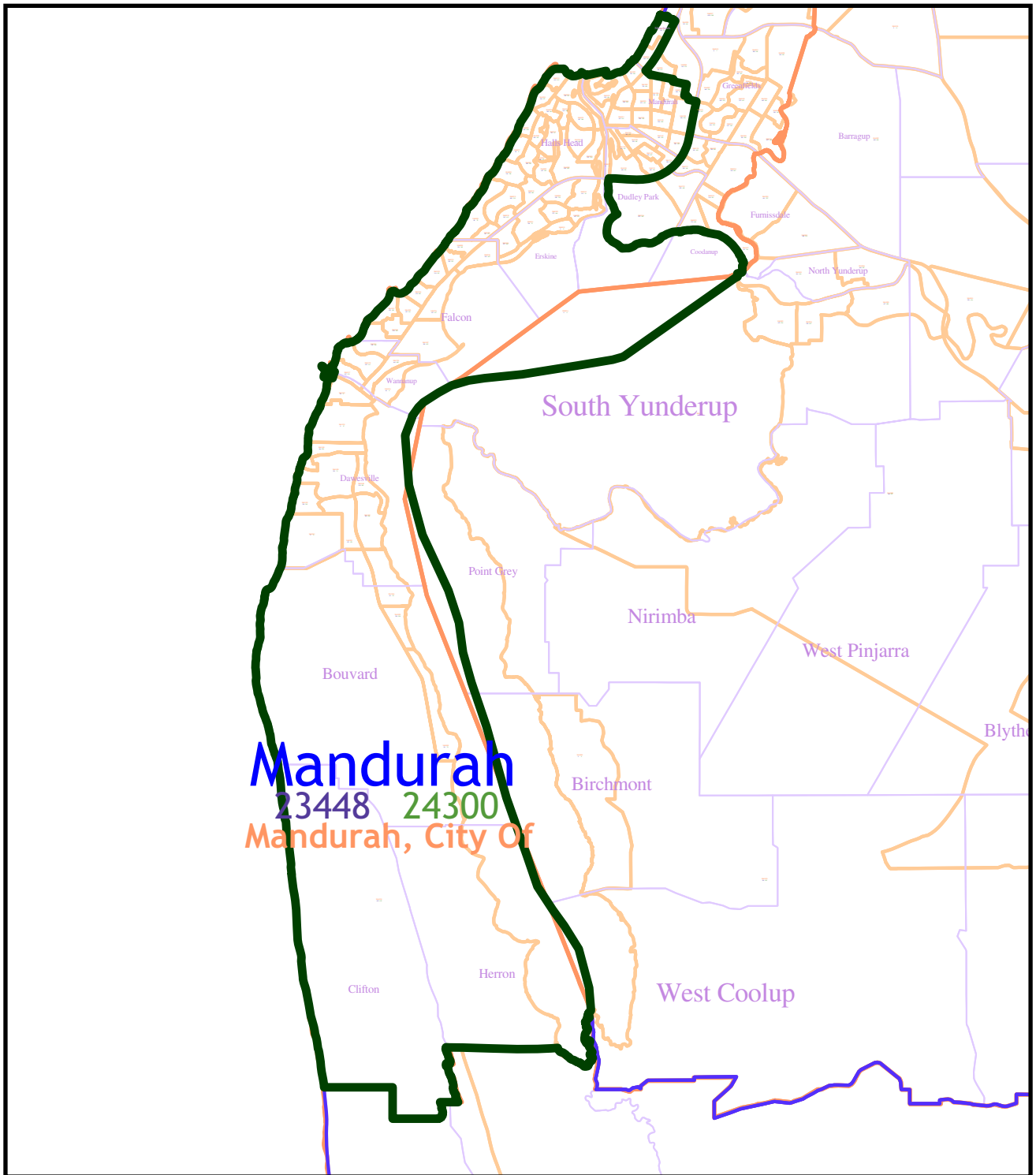
Land use patterns

Mandurah blends a mix of residential and industrial development and the economy is driven by manufacturing, building and construction, retail and tourism.

Its new marina is rapidly developing and Mandurah's waterways also offer unlimited fishing, crabbing, swimming, recreational cruising and waterskiing opportunities.

Physical features

Mandurah is flanked by the Indian Ocean and the Peel-Harvey Estuary. Under The Nationals' proposal, the electorate will be bordered at its southern end by the new electorate of Collie.



Map 18: Proposed electorate of Mandurah

ELECTORATE: Murray
REGION: South-West

Electors: 23,070
Land area: 1754 square kilometres

General

The electorate of Murray, about one-hour's drive south of Perth along the South West Highway, boasts the tourist attractions of boating, bush-walking, heritage sites and wineries as well as rural and semi-rural lifestyle opportunities, while still being conveniently located close to several large urban centres.

The major hub is the town of Pinjarra and a significant feature is the Murray River, which starts in the hills of Dwellingup and flows down through Pinjarra, Ravenswood and Yunderup to the Peel-Harvey Estuary.

Boundary overview

The seat of Murray currently covers an area of 1738 square kilometres and comprises 13,488 electors.

The Nationals WA propose that the electorate remain largely unchanged in the 2007 electoral distribution. Under the party's submission, the electorate would be slightly altered to take in part of the current Mandurah electorate, namely the localities of Dudley Park and Greenfields.

Under The Nationals' plan, Murray would include the localities of Banksiadale, Barragup, Birchmont, Blythewood, Coolup, Dwellingup, Fairbridge, Furnissdale, Greenfields, Holyoake, Inglehope, Madora Bay, Marrinup, Meadow Springs, Meelon, Myara, Nambeelup, Nirimba, North Dandalup, North Yunderup, Parklands, Pinjarra, Point Grey, Ravenswood, San Remo, South Yunderup, Stake Hill, Teesdale, West Coolup, West Pinjarra, Whittaker, Yunderup, Lakelands, Dudley Park, Etmlylin, Solus and Oakley.

The trend of demographic changes

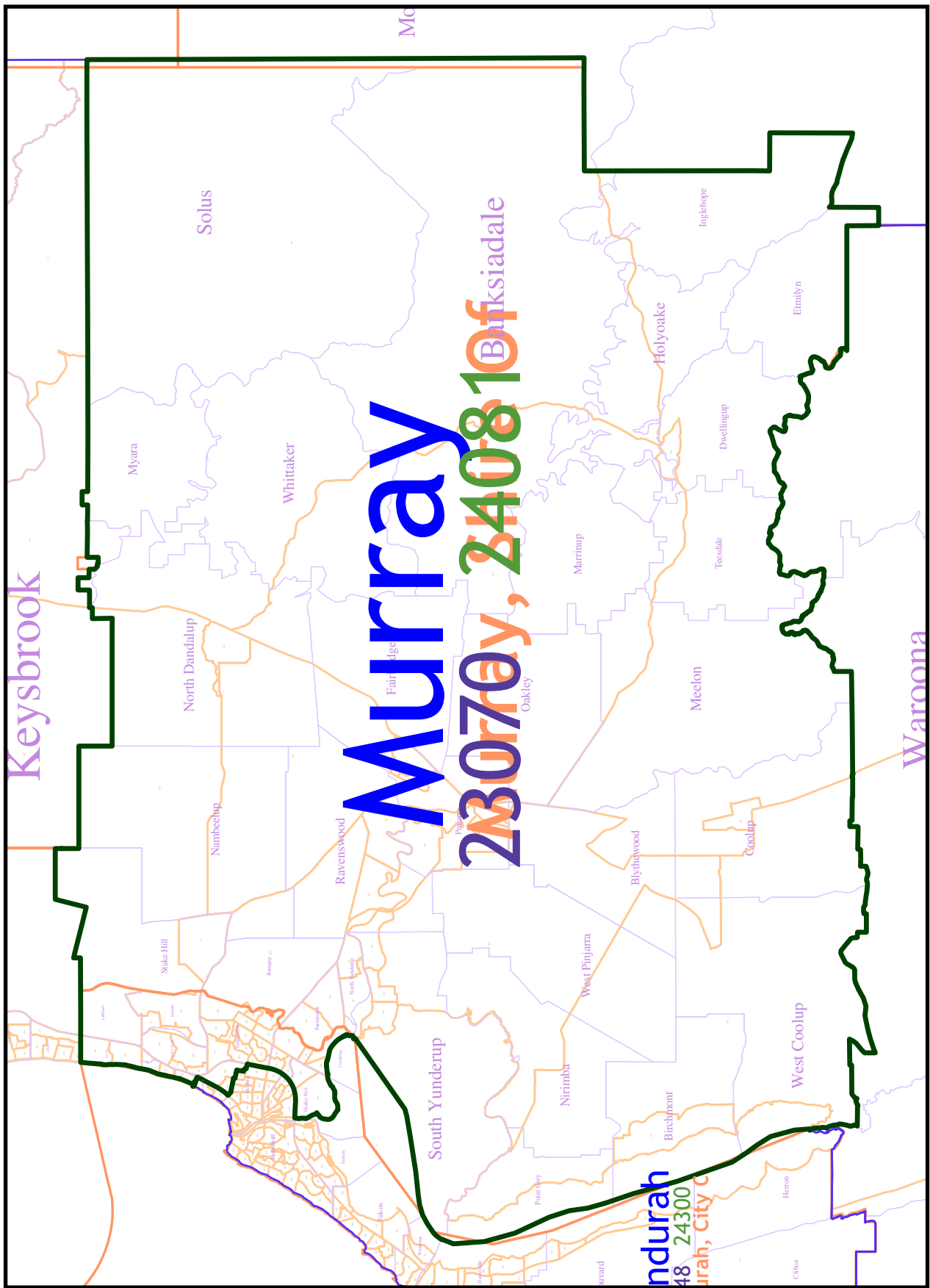
The Nationals' proposal recognises the increasing population within the Mandurah electorate and so takes slightly from that electorate by shifting the border slightly west.

Means of communication and distance from the capital

The Murray district is located about 86kms south of Perth. The electorate is largely based on a semi-rural lifestyle, although its western edge faces urban pressures such as significant traffic congestion at peak times as a result of through traffic travelling south to Mandurah and Bunbury. Pinjarra is the largest town in the electorate and the major service point for those who do not travel to the city of Mandurah.

Community of interest and land use patterns

The Dudley Park and Greenfields localities, which are currently included within the Mandurah electorate, are shifted into the Murray electorate under The Nationals WA proposal to reflect their community of interest with the semi-rural lifestyle (large lots size) offered by the Murray district.



Map 19: Proposed electorate of Murray

ELECTORATE: Vasse
REGION: South-West

Total electors: 23471
Total area: 3185 square kilometres

General

The Nationals WA propose that the Augusta-Margaret River region and the greater part of the Busselton Shire be incorporated into the expanded electorate of Vasse and that it become an integral part of the South-West region. It would be made up of the following shires:

- Shire of Augusta-Margaret River (complete shire boundary area)
- Shire of Busselton (western half of the shire including Busselton township).

The Nationals believe the Shires of Busselton and Augusta-Margaret River are intrinsically linked through viticulture, tourism and lifestyle activity.

We suggest a Cape-to-Cape configuration (Cape Naturaliste to Cape Leeuwin) that also embraces the famous coastal strip and many small hamlets and towns of the hinterland, which have clear community of interest.

The Nationals' boundary configuration splits off the eastern portion of the Shire of Busselton and links it into the Capel region in our proposed neighbouring electorate of Blackwood. Blackwood includes dairy farms and agricultural pursuits.

The eastern portion of Busselton is largely a plains and coastal environment with grazing and dairying a common pursuit.

The suggested Vasse electorate includes the township of Busselton with the boundary split with the neighbouring electorate of Blackwood following the Census Collection District. This line runs in a south-westerly direction from the north-eastern perimeter of the Busselton township (Geographe locality) and links to the Augusta-Margaret River Shire's northern boundary.

The proposed electorate contains three main population centres of:

- Busselton
- Margaret River
- Augusta.

The three centres are the main holiday and tourism towns of the Cape-to-Cape region and are promoted with that commonality. They are linked by two major roads – Bussell Highway and Caves Road, which traverse undulating countryside and world-renowned vineyards of the Margaret River appellation.

Community of interest

Areas within the proposed electorate have strong historic, economic and social links.

Various Busselton-Margaret River-Augusta websites and publications promote those coastal towns as a base from which to explore the coastal attributes and the broader Margaret River wine region,

which extends from Busselton in the north to Augusta in the south.

Over the last 20 years the region's wine industry has boomed, with the establishment of many vineyards that produce award-winning, premium table wines. These enterprises now supplement the traditional dairying, cattle, sheep and crop-farming industries.

The proposed electorate contains a proliferation of vineyards, large and small, and links two of the State's premier wine regions – Vasse (Geographe) and Margaret River. The proposed electorate includes a subtle mix of urban, small farms, dairying, horticulture, and plantation forestry, and contains important contiguous jarrah forests and reserves and sections of iconic karri country to the south.

The shires of Busselton and Margaret River share common philosophies in planning and development, in particular sustainable coastal development and lifestyle values.

Both shires have a common interest in hinterland development, where community of interest is visibly apparent in the lifestyle nature of the towns and outlying special interest rural developments.

Land use patterns

The boundary configuration forms a wedge, embracing the iconic wine coast and the hinterland region of the Shire of Margaret River's wine-growing region.

There are literally hundreds vineyards and farmlets scattered along the coastal strip through the inland hills, river valleys and plains country.

Both Busselton and Augusta-Margaret River Shires and community interest groups such as grower associations, tourism promotion groups and lifestyle groups develop and adhere to local government and community-driven policies catering for a sustainable balance between urban and rural demands.

Environmental sustainability of the agricultural and coastal strip, rivers and their catchments and forests is a major community driver in the proposed new electorate.

There is strong community interaction between people living in the Augusta-Margaret River area and its environs and those in the Busselton Shire. Both local government areas contain iconic scenic attractions that are at the heart of State Government tourism promotions.

These include world-famous vineyards, eco-tourism opportunities, surfing, camping, forest walks and arts and crafts.

Means of communication and distance from capital

The region is located approximately 260 kilometres south of Perth and has excellent road and rail access. All-weather airstrips are located at Busselton and Margaret River but currently there is no commercial air service linking metropolitan Perth to the region.

Key roads traversing the proposed electorate include:

- Bussell Highway – linking Busselton, Margaret River, Karridale and Augusta
- Caves Road – linking linking coastal communities and the coastal wine enterprises
- Sues Road – bisecting the hinterland and linking Bussell Highway ((east of Busselton town) to the east-west Brockman Highway
- Brockman Highway – linking Augusta-Karridale to Vasse Highway, Nannup.

The proposed electorate of Vasse is a media-rich area, serviced by a number of local newspapers of the South Western Times Group. Neighbouring Bunbury features the headquarters for GWN TV and is also a base for WIN TV. ABC Radio and TV has a base in Bunbury and covers the entire boundary of the proposed electorate.

Physical features

The region features the undulating countryside of the Whicher Range near Busselton/Yallingup and rolling hills and forest/parks hugging the coast from Cape Naturaliste to Cape Leeuwin. The proposed electorate boundary includes the Scott National Park and Hardy Inlet near Augusta.

River systems running through the proposed Vasse electorate include:

- Margaret River
- Carburnup River
- Blackwood River.

Existing boundaries of regions and districts

The proposed Vasse electorate boundaries follow the complete Augusta-Margaret River local government boundary and the most of the western and southern portion of the Busselton Shire.

Boundary overview

The suggested Vasse electorate includes the main towns of Busselton, Margaret River and Augusta and a proliferation of small towns and hinterland communities, including Jindong, Treeton, Cowaramup, Osmington, Mowen, Witchcliffe, Alexander Bridge, Karrivale and Kudardup.

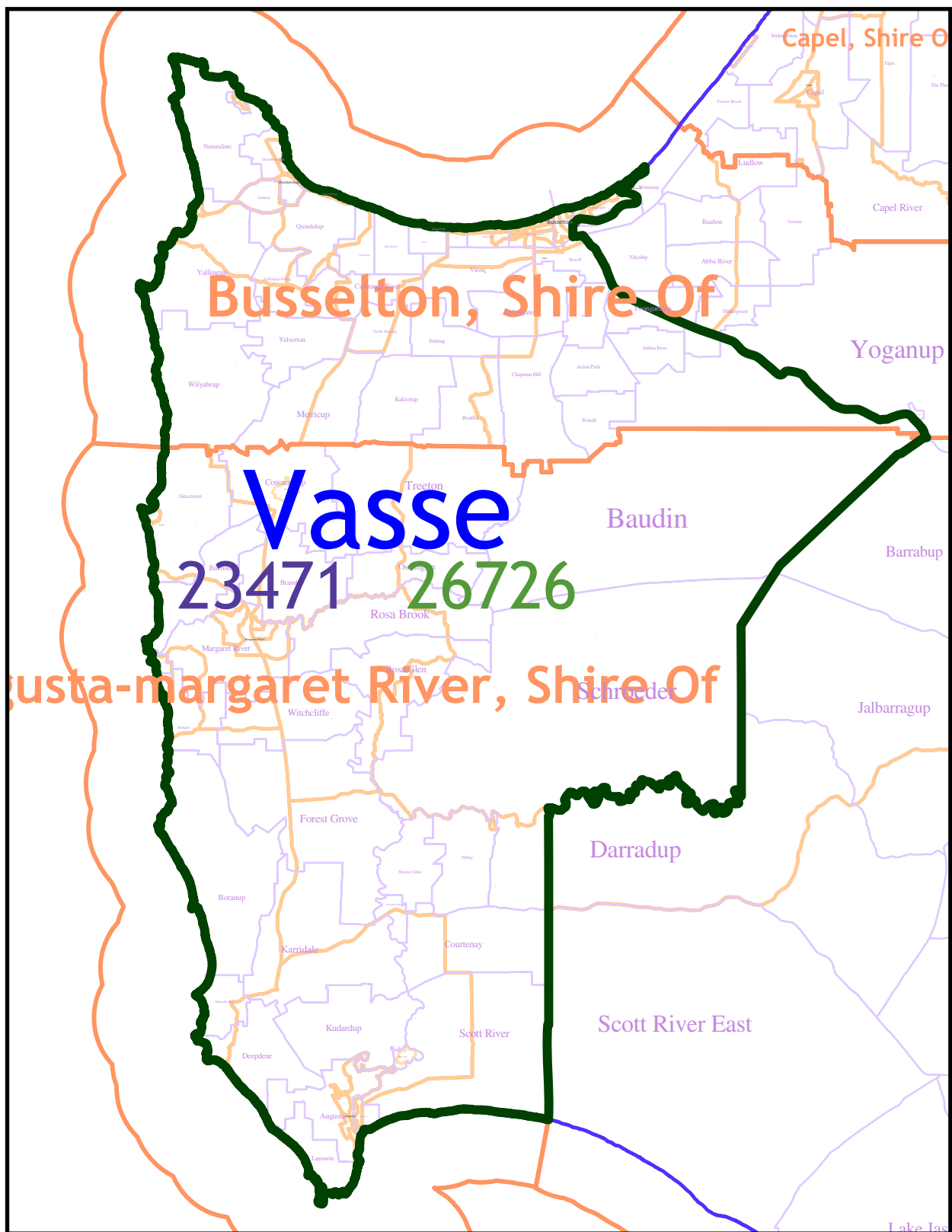
These communities have natural links to the bigger proposed Vasse electorate towns of Margaret River, Busselton and Augusta for shopping, government services and healthcare.

The suggest electorate boundary covers communities along the coastal strip and includes the entire local government boundary of Augusta-Margaret River, much of which was in the former electorate of Warren-Blackwood.

The new legislation intrinsically links the communities of Augusta-Margaret River to Busselton where there is an obvious community of interest through land use, tourism and hospitality.

Previously there was little community of interest between this coastal region and the inland communities of Nannup, Pemberton, Bridgetown and Manjimup.

The Nationals believe it is important for the entire shires of Augusta-Margaret River and Busselton and their immediate hinterland environs to be locked into a common-interest electorate.



Map 20: Proposed electorate of Vasse