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28 April 2023

Mr Rober Kennedy
Electoral Commissioner
Western Australian Electoral Distribution Commission
By email – boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au

Dear Mr Kennedy,

Submission Regarding Electoral Boundaries

I write on behalf of the Shire of Augusta Margaret River (**Shire**) to in response to your letter calling for suggestions about future State electoral boundaries.

Council's suggestion

On 26 April 2023 the Augusta Margaret River Council resolved to request that I prepare a submission to you *"in support of including the entire Shire local government district within the Warren-Blackwood [Electoral] District"*.

Existing distribution

The Shire local government district area is currently represented by two State Legislative Assembly Electorates:

- Vasse, which includes: the entirety of City of Busselton district; a very small portion of the Shire of Capel south of Capel River and the norther portion of the Shire Augusta Margaret River district. Vasse has a population of 33254 electors (9.27% above VFADE), with the following break down by local government:
 - City of Busselton 30,640
 - **Shire of Augusta-Margaret River 2,516**
 - Shire of Capel 98
- Warren-Blackwood, which includes: all of local government districts of – Boyup Brook, Bridgetown Greenbushes, Denmark, Manjimup, Nannup and Plantagenet; and portions of the local government districts of – Augusta Margaret River, Donnybrook Balingup, Gnowangerup. Warren-Blackwood has a population of 31,822 electors (4.57% above VFADE), with the following break down by local government:
 - **Shire of Augusta-Margaret River 9,581**
 - Shire of Boyup Brook 1,290
 - Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes 3,828
 - Shire of Denmark 4,871
 - Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup 607

○ Shire of Gnowangerup	2
○ Shire of Manjimup	6,684
○ Shire of Nannup	1,121
○ Shire of Plantagenet	3,838

The Shire has a total elector population of 12,097. As you can see from the above break down approximately 80% of the Shire's elector population is within the Warren Blackwood Electorate.

Justifications for suggestion

Under the existing distribution the elector population of the City of Busselton is 208 electors over the Average District Enrolment of 30,432, justifying it's own electoral district.

An amendment to the electoral district boundary of Warren-Blackwood to:

- Include the whole of the Shire of Augusta Margaret River area;
- Excise a local government such as the Shire of Plantagenet into the or Roe Electoral Boundary

Would result in the following electoral populations for each electoral district:

- Roe – 30,800 (from 26,962)
- Vasse – 30,738 (from 33,254)
- Warren Blackwood – 30,500 (from 31822)

Such a realignment would bring all three districts closer to the average district enrolment and in the opinion of the Council, allow for the communities of interest to be consolidated into a single electoral district.

Community Support

This suggestion has resulted from a resolution of Council. As the statutory roles of Councillors is to 'facilitate communications between community and the Council' and 'represent the interests of electors, rate payers and resident in the district' it is implicit in the resolution that Councillors are satisfied that they are representing the interests of the broader community in relation to this proposal.

While no formal community consultation was undertaken by the Shire, the decision made on 26 April included the following resolution:

"[request that the CEO] Gives local public notice informing the community that once submissions have been collated and published on the Distribution website, there will be a 15 day opportunity for the public to read other's submissions and suggestions, including any made by the Shire, and make comment on them".

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully



Stephanie Addison-Brown
Chief Executive Officer