



MEDIA STATEMENT

NEW ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Following a comprehensive seven-month planning and community consultation process, the Electoral Distribution Commissioners have determined new electoral boundaries that will apply at the next State general election, due in 2009.

Throughout the process the Commissioners considered public submissions at each stage, including objections that were raised in submissions following release of the proposed electoral boundaries in June.

Commenting today on the changes, spokesman for the Electoral Distribution Commissioners WA Electoral Commissioner Warwick Gately said that the responses received had been very positive and the proposed electoral boundaries changes generally regarded as fair and equitable.

“The Commissioners were required to consider all matters provided in the legislation in assessing objections and determining the new electoral boundaries,” Mr Gately said.

“Whilst we have been able to accommodate many of the objections received in July, assessing each submission against stipulated criteria and other submissions has meant that not all requests for changes could be accommodated.”

The new boundaries are final and not subject to any further review.

A booklet containing all the new boundaries and information about the process will be included in the Saturday edition of *The West Australian* on 3 November and will be posted on the boundaries web site (www.boundarieswa.com).

Ends/.

29 October 2007

Changes to the boundaries proposed in June include:

METROPOLITAN AREA

The boundaries around 19 districts were amended.

All names proposed for metropolitan area districts have been retained.

East Metropolitan Region

A number of objections were raised in relation to a number of communities of interest in the East Metropolitan Region. In seeking to address these concerns the Commissioners have made changes to the boundaries of nine of the fourteen districts in this region.

- The suburbs of Gooseberry Hill and Darlington sit completely in the Kalamunda district. The removal of Darlington from the Midland district provided for the return of the suburb to the Midland district in line with 2003 boundaries. This has reduced elector numbers in the Belmont district but better addressed community of interest concerns.
- A number of objections were received about the suburb of Kelmscott being split between two districts. The Commissioners have added central Kelmscott to the Armadale district. This increase in elector numbers has been offset by adjusting the boundaries in the suburbs of Brookdale, Wungong and Mount Richon in the Armadale and Darling Range districts.
- Following an oversight in the proposed boundaries, the Gosnells town centre has now been included in the Gosnells district.
- The boundaries between the East Metropolitan and North Metropolitan Regions has been adjusted along Walcott Street to move the remaining portion of North Perth from the proposed Mount Lawley district to the Perth district in the North Metropolitan Region.

North Metropolitan Region

- The boundaries between Churchlands and Cottesloe districts were amended to follow more recognisable local boundaries.
- The boundary for the Perth district was amended to include all of North Perth in the district by following Walcott Street.

South Metropolitan Region

- In response to objections, boundaries were amended to include all of the Port Coogee development area in the Fremantle district, add East Rockingham to the Rockingham district and include the entire suburbs of Leeming and Riverton in the Jandakot and Riverton districts respectively.

COUNTRY AREA

The names of three districts and the boundaries around four districts were changed.

Agricultural Region

- The proposed Merredin district has been renamed Central Wheatbelt.

Mining and Pastoral Region

- The proposed Goldfields district has been renamed Kalgoorlie.
- The boundaries between Pilbara and Kalgoorlie districts have been amended to recognise the connection of electors in the Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku with the Kalgoorlie district.

South West Region

- The proposed Murray district has been renamed Murray-Wellington.
- The boundaries between Mandurah and Murray-Wellington have been amended to include North Yunderup with South Yunderup in the Murray-Wellington district.