



## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **‘ONE VOTE, ONE VALUE’ ELECTORAL BOUNDARY REVIEW BEGINS**

The electors of Western Australia have three chances to have their say on new electoral boundaries for the State starting from next month.

According to the Electoral Distribution Commissioners spokesman, Warwick Gately, once the process begins on 4 April the first opportunity is for written submissions to be received one month later by 4 May.

He said the seven month process would adjust electoral boundaries in line with population changes to ensure no one electorate was too large or too small and that elected members of parliament would therefore administer similar sized electorates, with an average of 21,350 electors.

‘The process will determine the boundaries for the next State general election, due in 2009, and will be based on one vote, one value principles,’ he said.

‘The initial suggestions will be made available for public comment and then proposed boundaries published in a booklet and circulated throughout the State. Written objections to the boundaries can then be made by 30 July, with the Commissioners making the final boundary determination which will be published and circulated by early November.’

‘The process started in February when a snapshot of the State electoral roll was taken. At that time there were 1,259,665 electors on the State electoral roll.

‘Interestingly this was a similar figure to that at the 2005 State general election when the last roll close occurred and at a time when development in the State was at its greatest,’ Mr Gately said.

‘The reasons for this are many. However electors need to understand the importance of changing their details if they move, or enrolling if they are eligible. But it does indicate an increase of 44,288 electors on numbers from the 2003 Electoral Distribution, Mr Gately said.

He said legislation now required distributions to take place every four years, after each State general election, instead of every eight years and there will also be an increase of two members of Parliament for the Legislative Assembly to 59 and for the Legislative Council to 36.

‘The numbers in each region will also change,’ he said.

Other changes to the legislation will mean that land use patterns and forest areas in the State’s South West must be considered in determining the new boundaries.

As an initiative and for greater transparency, the Commissioners will make public all submissions made during the process.

The distribution is conducted by the three Electoral Distribution Commissioners who are:

The Chief Justice (Chairman)  
The Electoral Commissioner  
The Government Statistician

The Hon. Wayne Martin  
Mr Warwick Gately AM  
Mr Michael Tindall

The boundaries will be redrawn based on the average district enrolment and other factors including:

- community of interest
- means of communication and distance from the capital
- physical features
- existing regional and district boundaries
- existing local government boundaries
- trend of demographic changes

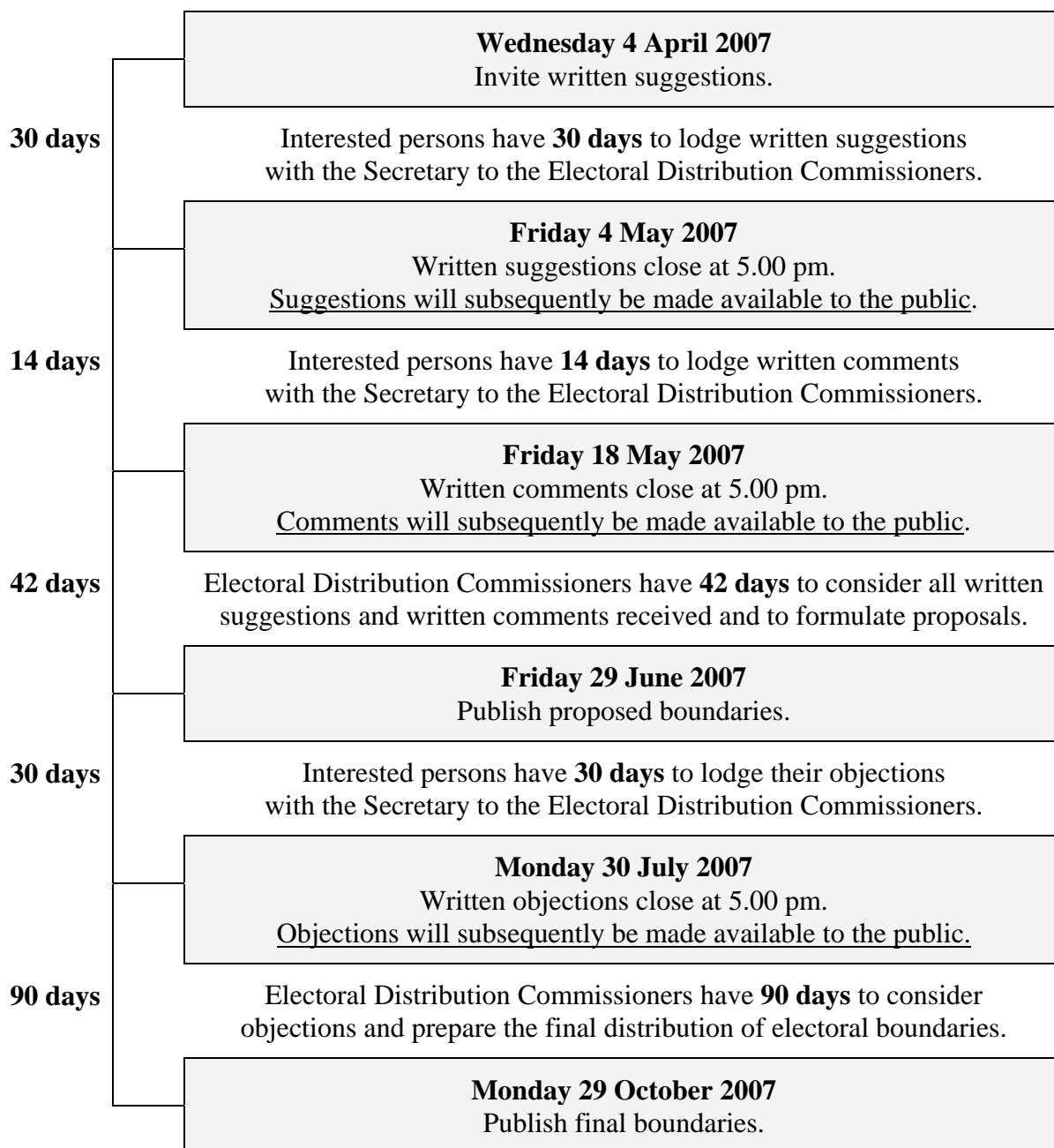
For information on the boundary distribution process visit [www.boundarieswa.com](http://www.boundarieswa.com), or call the Office of the Electoral Distribution Commissioners on 9214 0450.

Ends

16 March 2007

## Timetable for the 2007 Electoral Distribution

In accordance with section 16F of the *Electoral Act 1907*, the Electoral Distribution Commissioners will follow this timetable when carrying out the distribution process.



Please note that copies of all media releases, submissions and publications relating to the determination of electoral boundaries will be available on the [www.boundarieswa.com](http://www.boundarieswa.com) web site. Notices will be published in the *Government Gazette* and metropolitan, regional and community newspapers. Proposed and final boundaries will be published in the *Government Gazette* and the following Saturday edition of *The West Australian*.