

SETTING THE ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES

Following this division, subsequent divisions of the State will generally occur each four years. Previously, where this interval was eight years, the Commissioners sought to achieve equality of elector numbers in each district at the mid-point, taking into account projected demographic changes in subsequent years. Under the current legislation the permitted variation in elector numbers as between districts is specified by reference to enrolment as at the relevant date being, in the case of this distribution, 26 February 2007. The Commissioners have taken into account all factors specified in section 16I, including the trend of demographic changes, to produce proposals that fall within the permitted range.

In developing proposed districts it was evident that in defining and adjusting particular district boundaries the consequent effect on adjacent boundaries was significant. No one boundary could be dealt with in isolation. The Commissioners' proposals should therefore be evaluated not only by reference to the particular district but also by reference to the effect that a different proposal might have on adjoining districts.

METROPOLITAN REGIONS

During the 2003 Electoral Distribution the Commissioners noted that the elector population in the East Metropolitan Region had grown more rapidly than in the North Metropolitan and South Metropolitan Regions. This trend has persisted and is expected to continue, particularly in areas such as Ellenbrook, Canning Vale and Forrestdale. In order to reflect this growth and accommodate the changes in the average district enrolment, an adjustment to region boundaries is proposed between the East Metropolitan, North Metropolitan and South Metropolitan Regions.

While changes to the legislation mean that boundaries are now permitted to be 'generally coextensive' with the Perth metropolitan area (rather than adhering strictly to that boundary), the Commissioners have not considered it necessary to propose any districts that span the Perth metropolitan area boundary. As shown in the summary below, the Commissioners have proposed 42 districts in the metropolitan area, each with an effective average enrolment of 22,274. Most proposed districts in the metropolitan area have enrolments above the average district enrolment of 21,350. This is in large part due to the need to increase the elector numbers in districts which are not subject to the large district allowance, as a result of the lower elector numbers in those large area electorates. However, the number of electors enrolled in each district falls within the limits prescribed by the *Electoral Act*.

Further adjustments have been made to the existing region boundaries to take account of the additional eight districts proposed for the metropolitan area as a result of the 2005 legislative changes. These adjustments have also factored in the legislative requirement that each region in the metropolitan area has an approximately equal number of districts.

Metropolitan Area Summary

Metropolitan Regions	Legislative Council Members	Legislative Assembly Districts	No. of Electors 2007
East Metropolitan	6	14	311,674
North Metropolitan	6	14	312,282
South Metropolitan	6	14	311,583
Total	18	42	935,539


Office of the
ELECTORAL DISTRIBUTION COMMISSIONERS

**PROPOSED ELECTORAL REGIONS FOR
METROPOLITAN AREA**

Determined on 29 June 2007

REGION Electoral Region Boundary
DISTRICT Electoral District Boundary

0 5 10 15 20
Kilometres

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