

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

Mia Davies
State Director
The Nationals WA

P: 08 9480 0481
F: 08 9321 0320
E: info@nationalswa.com

Suite 14, Amberley Business Centre
L3 / 1060 Hay Street
West Perth WA 6005

All correspondence to:
PO Box 1395
West Perth WA 6872

TABLE OF CONTENTS

State Overview

Executive Summary	i
Map indicating proposed Legislative Assembly electorate boundaries	iv
Map indicating proposed Legislative Council regions	v
Electoral Design Summary	vi

Agricultural Region

Central Lakes	2
Geraldton	9
Mid West	13
Wheatbelt	18

Mining & Pastoral Region

Goldfields	23
Kimberley	28
Mid North	33
Pilbara West	38
South East	42

South West Region

Albany	50
Blackwood	54
Bunbury	60
Collie	63
Great Southern	66
Mandurah	73
Murray	76
Vasse	78

Maps of proposed electorates:

Statewide	ii
Central Lakes	8
Geraldton	11
Mid-West	17
Wheatbelt	21
Goldfields	26
Kimberley	32
Mid North	37
South East	41
Pilbara West	48
Albany	52
Blackwood	57
Bunbury	62
Collie	65
Great Southern	72
Mandurah	75
Murray	77
Vasse	81

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.

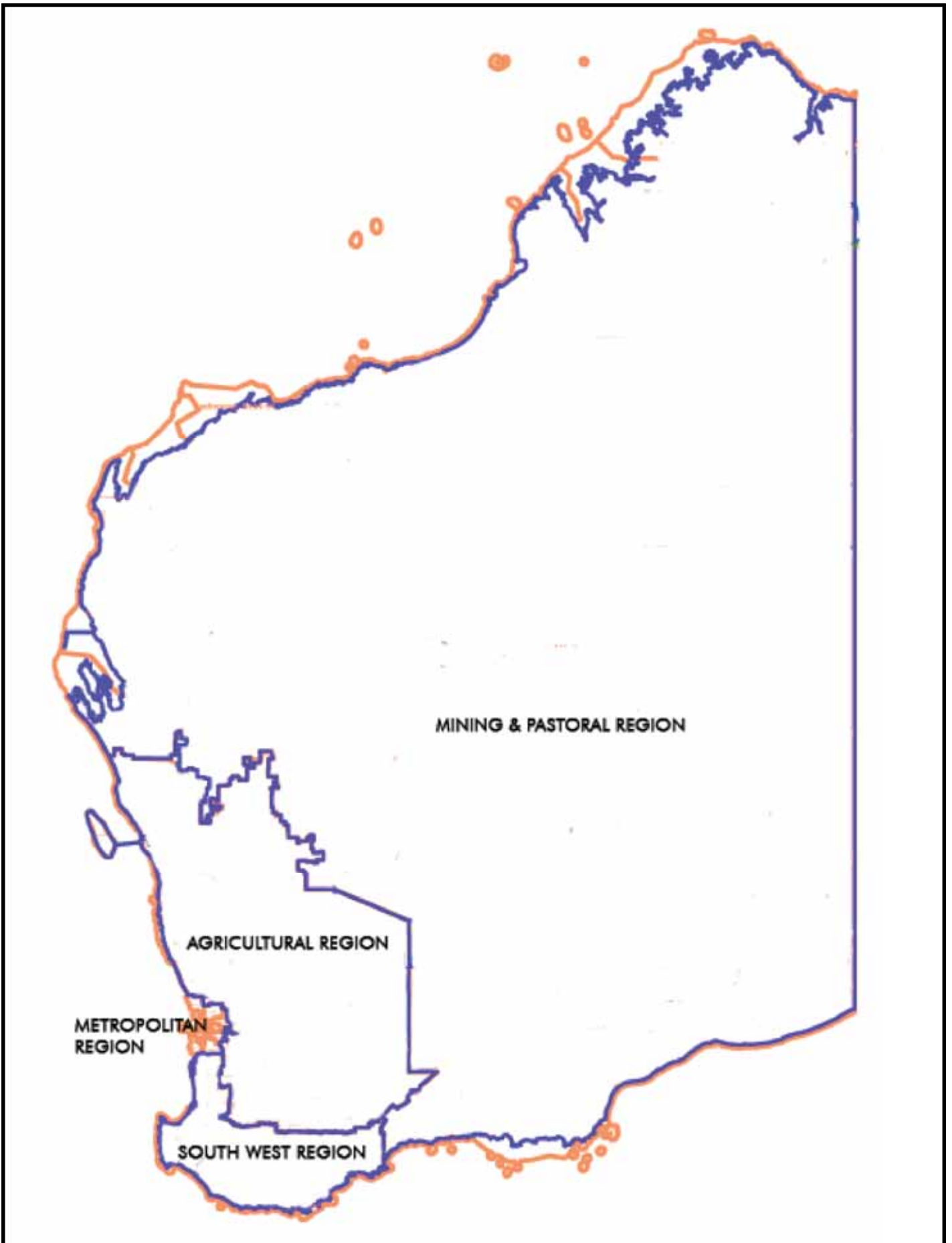
The proposed Mining and Pastoral region contains 71,030 electors and a total land area of 1,951,499 square kilometres. The Mining and Pastoral Region has a large district allowance in all five seats with 33,203 notional voters.

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(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	