

## 2019 WA DISTRIBUTION

### REVIEW OF STATE ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES

### PROCESS OVERVIEW

#### Introduction

The Western Australian Parliament is made up of two houses. The Legislative Assembly, or Lower House, has 59 members, each member representing a single district. The Legislative Council, or Upper House, has 6 regions with each of those regions represented by 6 Members.

The *Electoral Act 1907* requires that an independent Distribution Commission undertake a review of all district and region boundaries once during each electoral cycle.

The Commissioners who will conduct the 2019 Distribution are:

- The Hon. Eric Heenan, QC, a former Judge of the Supreme Court of Western Australia;
- Mr. David Kerslake, the Western Australian Electoral Commissioner; and
- Mr. Tom Joseph, Government Statistician & Regional Director Western Australia, Australian Bureau of Statistics.


The formal process for the 2019 Distribution is now underway. At the conclusion of the process, the number of enrolled electors in each district generally must not vary by more than 10% above or below the overall Average District Enrolment (ADE).

#### Legislative Assembly districts

The first step in the Distribution process is to determine the Average District Enrolment (ADE) across all Legislative Assembly districts. In accordance with the Electoral Act this is required to be calculated on a date as near as practicable to the mid-point between the previous and next general election (the 'relevant day'). The Commissioners determined 11 March 2019 to be the relevant day for the purposes of this Distribution.

As at that date the ADE was 27,573. Applying the 10% variation rule, this means that at the completion of the Distribution, as a general rule Legislative Assembly districts must have at least 24,816 enrolled electors but no more than 30,330.

There is one exception to this rule. This relates to districts that have an area of 100,000 square kilometres or more, in which cases a notional Large District Allowance (LDA) must be applied. The LDA is calculated by multiplying the number of square kilometres in the district by a factor of 1.5. This number is added to the number of actual electors in the district to arrive at a 'notional' enrolment figure. Under the legislation, the total in these particular districts must be set so that the total of the number of actual electors when added to the LDA does not vary more than 20% below or 10% above the ADE.



Enrolment levels in Legislative Assembly districts as at 11 March 2019 (the ‘relevant day’) are set out at the end of this document. It will be noted that enrolment levels in 11 of the State’s 59 Legislative Assembly districts fall outside of the permissible limits and therefore must have their boundaries adjusted. It is also important to note the ‘domino effect’ that almost invariably occurs when the boundaries of a given district or region are adjusted. That is, required adjustments to District ‘A’ may not simply be a matter of adding electors to or taking them from the adjoining district ‘B’. There are quite likely to be flow on effects for ‘C’, ‘D’, and so on. There are also a number of districts where the enrolment level is only marginally within the permissible limits and where it would appear prudent to make some adjustment.

Setting aside the districts with an LDA (where variance from the ADA is prescribed in the legislation), it is also instructive to compare the overall average enrolment in metropolitan districts with the overall average in those country districts that do not have an LDA.<sup>1</sup> The average number of electors across the metropolitan districts is 28,529 which is not exceptionally different from the average of 28,200 for country districts excluding those with a special allowance.

### **Legislative Council regions**


For the Legislative Council, the Commissioners are required to divide the State into regions that generally reflect the recognised communities of interest and land use patterns in the State. These are set out in section 16H of the Act, as follows:

- Three regions which together must be generally coextensive with the metropolitan area of Perth: the North Metropolitan Region to the north of the Swan River; the South Metropolitan Region south of the river; and the East Metropolitan Region which includes the Perth hills
- One region, to be known as the Mining and Pastoral region, an area remote from Perth and whose land is mainly used for mining and pastoralism
- One region, the Agricultural region, an area south, or southwest of, and adjacent to, the Mining and Pastoral region and whose land is used mainly for agriculture
- The South West region, which includes coastal and forest areas in the south west of the state

The Act does not specify a minimum number of electors for any Legislative Council region, but obviously any adjustment to Legislative Assembly district boundaries is likely to have a flow on effect for Legislative Council regional boundaries.

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<sup>1</sup> Actual elector numbers in districts with an LDA could be expected to differ from the overall average, given the special considerations laid down by the Parliament.



### **Factors to be taken into account in the review of boundaries**

In setting the boundaries for both districts and regions the Commissioners are required to take into account:

- communities of interest
- land use patterns
- means of communication, means of travel and distance from Perth
- physical features
- existing boundaries of regions and districts
- existing local government boundaries
- predicted future increases or decreases in elector numbers

Although any of these considerations may assume a level of importance in particular instances, the overriding determinant in all cases must be elector numbers. Regardless of anything else, the total enrolment in each district (inclusive of the LDA in large districts) must be within the permissible limits. Anyone wishing to make a public submission should therefore give close consideration to the tables of elector numbers set out below.

Although the Commissioners are not bound by future demographic change, it is often sensible to take projected changes into account. For example in areas of continued substantial growth it may be wise where practicable to set the total enrolment towards the lower permissible limit, to minimise the impact of future adjustments.

### **Determining the draft and final boundaries**

The comprehensive public consultation process required under the Electoral Act will be undertaken in three main phases:

#### *Public suggestions*


On 30 March 2019 the Commissioners will advertise inviting public suggestions for the revised boundaries. Submissions may relate to the whole state or particular areas including a single district or region. The deadline for the receipt of submissions will be 5.00 pm, Monday, 29 April 2019.

#### *Comments on suggestions*

Suggestions received will then be published on the Distribution website with an invitation for public comment on the suggestions.

#### *Comment on draft proposals*

There will be a further opportunity for the public to comment on the Commissioners' draft proposals once they are formulated. Under the Electoral Act there is no set date for publication but the proposals will be completed as soon as practicable.



Before drafting proposed boundaries the Commissioners will carefully consider every suggestion and comment which is submitted. Any additional information or explanatory comment will be published from time to time on the Distribution website.

Trained cartographers will assist the Commissioners with the mapping of different scenarios, using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software in addition to a MapInfo application called Boundary Maker (developed and kindly made available by the Victorian Electoral Commission). This system is loaded with spatial data sourced from the State Agencies and Departments, the Australian Bureau of Statistics and supplemented by Electoral Commission enrolment data. Available information also allows the overlay of features such as existing State, Local and Federal Government boundaries, rivers and roads, property boundaries and aerial views.

The new boundaries will be known by the end of 2019 and are not subject to appeal. They will only apply from the next State general election. Any by-election which may be held prior to the March 2021 State general election must be conducted in accordance with the current boundaries.

Individuals or organisations contemplating lodging a submission with the Commission are referred to the [Distribution Review Timetable](#). The following tables will also be of assistance.

### Enrolment levels as at 11 March 2019

Metropolitan Districts		
District	No. of Electors	Variation from Average District Enrolment <sup>^</sup>
Armadale	29,460	6.84%
Bassendean	27,181	-1.42%
Belmont	27,832	0.94%
Darling Range	32,913	19.37%
Forrestfield	27,120	-1.64%
Kalamunda	26,889	-2.48%
Maylands	27,967	1.43%
Midland	30,465	10.49%
Mirrabooka	27,906	1.21%
Morley	25,657	-6.95%
Mount Lawley	28,133	2.03%
Swan Hills	34,864	26.44%
Thornlie	28,445	3.16%
West Swan	30,513	10.66%
Balcatta	28,178	2.20%
Burns Beach	29,954	8.64%

Butler	34,345	24.56%
Carine	27,777	0.74%
Churchlands	27,023	-1.99%
Cottesloe	27,499	-0.27%
Girrawheen	29,463	6.86%
Hillarys	27,641	0.25%
Joondalup	27,658	0.31%
Kingsley	25,951	-5.88%
Nedlands	27,637	0.23%
Perth	30,454	10.45%
Scarborough	29,079	5.46%
Wanneroo	28,336	2.77%
Baldivis	33,640	22.00%
Bateman	25,735	-6.67%
Bicton	25,999	-5.71%
Cannington	26,279	-4.69%
Cockburn	28,944	4.97%
Fremantle	29,611	7.39%
Jandakot	31,246	13.32%
Kwinana	26,885	-2.49%
Riverton	25,078	-9.05%
Rockingham	27,107	-1.69%
South Perth	28,794	4.43%
Southern River	27,919	1.26%
Victoria Park	28,806	4.47%
Warnbro	29,353	6.46%
Willagee	25,024	-9.24%
	<b>1,226,760</b>	

^ Average District Enrolment for the whole of Western Australia is 27,573

Country Districts*		
District	No. of Electors	Variation from Average District Enrolment <sup>^</sup>
Albany	27,342	-0.84%
Bunbury	28,274	2.54%
Collie-Preston	28,887	4.77%
Dawesville	31,047	12.60%
Geraldton	25,874	-6.16%
Mandurah	30,300	9.89%
Moore	24,206	-12.21%
Murray-Wellington	28,939	4.96%
Vasse	29,175	5.81%
Warren-Blackwood	27,951	1.37%
	<b>281,995</b>	

\*Excludes districts with a Large District Allowance

Country Districts (with a Large District Allowance)			
District	No. of Electors	LDA*	Variation from Average District Enrolment <sup>^</sup>
Central Wheatbelt	25,855	1,519	-0.72%
Roe	25,486	1,596	-1.78%
Kalgoorlie	19,622	8,332	1.38%
Kimberley	15,275	6,315	-21.70%
North West Central	9,915	12,256	-19.59%
Pilbara	21,885	6,098	1.49%
	<b>118,038</b>	<b>36,116</b>	

<sup>^</sup> Average District Enrolment for the whole of Western Australia is 27,573

Enrolment Statistics by District and Region as at 11 March 2019				
District	Region	No. of Electors	LDA*	Variation from Average District Enrolment <sup>^</sup>
Central Wheatbelt	Agricultural	25,855	1,519	-0.72%
Geraldton	Agricultural	25,874		-6.16%
Moore	Agricultural	24,206		-12.21%
Roe	Agricultural	25,486	1,596	-1.78%
<b>Agricultural Region Total</b>		<b>101,421</b>	<b>3,115</b>	
Kalgoorlie	Mining and Pastoral	19,622	8,332	1.38%
Kimberley	Mining and Pastoral	15,275	6,315	-21.70%
North West Central	Mining and Pastoral	9,915	12,256	-19.59%
Pilbara	Mining and Pastoral	21,885	6,098	1.49%
<b>Mining and Pastoral Region Total</b>		<b>66,697</b>	<b>33,001</b>	
Albany	South West	27,342		-0.84%
Bunbury	South West	28,274		2.54%
Collie-Preston	South West	28,887		4.77%
Dawesville	South West	31,047		12.60%
Mandurah	South West	30,300		9.89%
Murray-Wellington	South West	28,939		4.96%
Vasse	South West	29,175		5.81%
Warren-Blackwood	South West	27,951		1.37%
<b>South West Region Total</b>		<b>231,915</b>		
Armadale	East Metropolitan	29,460		6.84%
Bassendean	East Metropolitan	27,181		-1.42%
Belmont	East Metropolitan	27,832		0.94%

Darling Range	East Metropolitan	32,913		19.37%
Forrestfield	East Metropolitan	27,120		-1.64%
Kalamunda	East Metropolitan	26,889		-2.48%
Maylands	East Metropolitan	27,967		1.43%
Midland	East Metropolitan	30,465		10.49%
Mirrabooka	East Metropolitan	27,906		1.21%
Morley	East Metropolitan	25,657		-6.95%
Mount Lawley	East Metropolitan	28,133		2.03%
Swan Hills	East Metropolitan	34,864		26.44%
Thornlie	East Metropolitan	28,445		3.16%
West Swan	East Metropolitan	30,513		10.66%
<b>East Metropolitan Region Total</b>		<b>405,345</b>		
Balcatta	North Metropolitan	28,178		2.20%
Burns Beach	North Metropolitan	29,954		8.64%
Butler	North Metropolitan	34,345		24.56%
Carine	North Metropolitan	27,777		0.74%
Churchlands	North Metropolitan	27,023		-1.99%
Cottesloe	North Metropolitan	27,499		-0.27%
Girrawheen	North Metropolitan	29,463		6.86%
Hillarys	North Metropolitan	27,641		0.25%
Joondalup	North Metropolitan	27,658		0.31%
Kingsley	North Metropolitan	25,951		-5.88%
Nedlands	North Metropolitan	27,637		0.23%
Perth	North Metropolitan	30,454		10.45%
Scarborough	North Metropolitan	29,079		5.46%
Wanneroo	North Metropolitan	28,336		2.77%
<b>North Metropolitan Region Total</b>		<b>400,995</b>		
Baldivis	South Metropolitan	33,640		22.00%
Bateman	South Metropolitan	25,735		-6.67%
Bicton	South Metropolitan	25,999		-5.71%
Cannington	South Metropolitan	26,279		-4.69%
Cockburn	South Metropolitan	28,944		4.97%
Fremantle	South Metropolitan	29,611		7.39%
Jandakot	South Metropolitan	31,246		13.32%
Kwinana	South Metropolitan	26,885		-2.49%
Riverton	South Metropolitan	25,078		-9.05%

Rockingham	South Metropolitan	27,107	-1.69%
South Perth	South Metropolitan	28,794	4.43%
Southern River	South Metropolitan	27,919	1.26%
Victoria Park	South Metropolitan	28,806	4.47%
Warnbro	South Metropolitan	29,353	6.46%
Willagee	South Metropolitan	25,024	-9.24%
<b>South Metropolitan Region Total</b>		<b>420,420</b>	
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,626,793</b>	

^ Average District Enrolment for the whole of Western Australia is 27,573

**Listed below are the Legislative Assembly districts whose enrolment level is outside of the limits permitted by the Electoral Act.**

Districts Outside Permissible Limits		
District	No. of Electors	Variation from Average District Enrolment <sup>^</sup>
Baldivis	33,640	22.00%
Butler	34,345	24.56%
Darling Range	32,913	19.37%
Dawesville	31,047	12.60%
Jandakot	31,246	13.32%
Kimberley*	21,590	-21.70%
Midland	30,465	10.49%
Moore	24,206	-12.21%
Perth	30,454	10.45%
West Swan	30,513	10.66%
Swan Hills	34,864	26.44%

\* Includes Large District Allowance of 6,315

Maps of all Legislative Assembly districts including enrolment levels for each may be found [here](#) (metropolitan) and [here](#) (country).

To access enrolment data tables separately click [here](#).

Further information will be available on the Distribution website on 30 March 2019.