

Agricultural Region

There will be four districts comprising the Agricultural Region, the same number following the 2011 division:

Central Wheatbelt

Gains: Shires of Boddington, Pingelly, Wandering, Westonia and Yilgarn

Geraldton No change

Moore No change

Roe

Gains: Shires of Esperance and Ravensthorpe

Cedes: Shires of Boddington, Jerramungup, Pingelly, Plantagenet and Wandering, and the remainder of Stirling Range National Park locality

Agricultural Region gains the Shires of Esperance, Ravensthorpe, Westonia and Yilgarn from the Mining and Pastoral Region, and cedes the Shires of Jerramungup and Plantagenet, and the remainder of Stirling Range National Park locality to the South West Region.

This reapportionment means that all districts are within the permitted tolerance range as indicated in Table 5.

Table 5: Agricultural Region and Districts – Number of electors per district after final boundary changes

District	Electors (after final boundary changes)	Large District Allowance (LDA)	Electors (including LDA after final boundary changes)	Variation from ADE ¹	Area (sq km)
Central Wheatbelt	25,500	1,519	27,019	+ 8.41%	101,240
Geraldton	23,205	n.a.	23,205	- 6.89%	1,798
Moore	23,894	n.a.	23,894	- 4.13%	71,817
Roe (formerly Wagin) ²	25,515	1,596	27,111	+ 8.78%	106,409
Total	98,114	3,115	101,229		281,264

¹ Average District Enrolment at 9 March 2015 includes large district allowance for some districts in the Agricultural Region.

² Note that boundaries of Roe do not correspond with former district of Roe.



Type: Crown
Purpose: Statutory

AGRICULTURAL REGION

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Office of the Electoral Distribution Commissioners

ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES 2015

- Electoral region
- Electoral district boundary/name
- Local government boundary
- Road
- Town

Coastal districts include offshore island areas. Mid-river centrelines are approximate only. All road boundaries use road centrelines unless otherwise described.

Lodgement date: 13 November 2015
Gazettal date: 27 November 2015

Examined: *Opaschall*
Lead Consultant: Boundary Definition
Date: 13 November 2015

DEPOSITED PLAN
407655

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Commentary

Central Wheatbelt – affecting Moore and Roe (Wagin)

A number of objectors opposed the inclusion of the Shires of Dowerin, Goomalling, Koorda and Wongan-Ballidu in the district of Moore rather than in the district of Central Wheatbelt. For example, the Shire of Koorda indicated that it was a member of a number of regional organisations all of which involved other shires to its east (and situated in Central Wheatbelt) and it was closely aligned to the regional centre of Northam (again, in Central Wheatbelt). Further, Moore included a substantial coastal area and shires with coastal towns. The Shire of Koorda indicated that the issues facing it were ‘not similar in any way to the coastal plains’.

The Commissioners were persuaded of the merit of the community of interest arguments expressed or implicit in the objections and have decided to leave the Shires of Dowerin, Goomalling, Koorda and Wongan-Ballidu in Central Wheatbelt rather than transfer them to Moore. However, the Commissioners had proposed that Central Wheatbelt would gain the Shires of Yilgarn and Westonia (from Eyre) and the Shires of Boddington, Wandering, Pingelly, Cuballing, Williams and West Arthur (from Wagin). If all of these 12 Shires were added to Central Wheatbelt it would fall outside the permitted tolerance range and it was therefore necessary to find offsets to reduce numbers. It was not possible to include all of the Shires of Boddington, Wandering, Pingelly, Cuballing, Williams and West Arthur in Roe because to do so would take Roe outside the permitted tolerance range. The Commissioners

decided that the best balance between recognition of communities of interest and the dictates of numbers was achieved by including the Shires of Cuballing, West Arthur and Williams (the southernmost of the six Shires) in the district of Roe and including the other three (along with the Shires of Dowerin, Goomalling, Koorda and Wongan-Ballidu) in Central Wheatbelt.

Even with that offset Central Wheatbelt will have a VFADE of + 8.41 per cent. That is high but given trends of demographic change the Commissioners consider that it is at an acceptable level. A consequence of this decision is that Central Wheatbelt will have an LDA. The Commissioners will return to the LDA question a little later in the report.

The decision also means that Moore will be unchanged from the 2011 division boundaries. It will have a VFADE of - 4.13 per cent but, as the local member pointed out in his objection, the trends of demographic change in the Shires of Toodyay and Chittering and along parts of the coastal strip suggest population increases in future years.

Geraldton – affecting North West Central, Moore and Central Wheatbelt

An objector suggested that the remainder of the Shire of Northampton be transferred from the district of Moore to the district of North West Central, all of the City of Greater Geraldton and the Shires of Chapman Valley and Irwin be brought together in the district of Geraldton, and that there be a greater transfer of Shires between Moore and Central Wheatbelt.

The Commissioners were not persuaded that it was appropriate to adopt these

suggestions. There were three main reasons. First, it involves a significant change in regional boundaries that had not been canvassed widely. Secondly, the predominant land use in most of the Shire of Northampton is devoted to cropping and grazing and it would not be an easy fit with the pastoral areas of North West Central. Thirdly, and as discussed in relation to Central Wheatbelt, there are material community of interest arguments militating against the transfer of shires away from Central Wheatbelt and into Moore. There will be further comment on this matter in the context of changes to districts in the Mining and Pastoral Region.

The decision means that the boundaries of the district of Geraldton will be unchanged from those set in the 2011 division.

Roe (Wagin) – affecting Kalgoorlie and Central Wheatbelt

Many of the objections to the proposals for the district of Roe (Wagin) stemmed from the decision to abolish the district of Eyre. However, in addition to that fundamental question, objectors raised two main concerns. First, that the proposal to split the Shire of Esperance failed to take into account a commonality of land use throughout the Shire, namely agricultural, and could disrupt communities of interest. Secondly, that Esperance had a closer affinity to the regional centre of Kalgoorlie than it did to areas to its west, stretching all the way across to the Wagin area.

In its objection the Shire of Esperance pointed out that the predominant land use throughout the Shire was agricultural and there were no active mining operations (although there were exploration tenements and the Port of Esperance was used for the export of mining product from the Goldfields) in the Shire and nor were there areas devoted to traditional pastoral

practices. There was, the Shire said, only one community of interest and the predominant land use was agricultural in and throughout the Shire.

Further, the Shire had a long history and relationship with the Goldfields and was a member of the regional associations in combination with other organisations in the Goldfields region. In its objection, the Shire of Ravensthorpe expressed similar views and asserted a strong community of interest with Esperance.

A principal reason why the proposal to split the Shire of Esperance was advanced was to avoid creating an LDA in Roe. As will appear shortly, the Commissioners accept that this argument ought not stand in the face of strong community of interest considerations. The Commissioners accepted that there were strong community of interest and land use arguments militating in favour of uniting the Shire of Esperance and they decided that this ought to happen. The Commissioners also accept that communities of interest dictate that the Shires of Esperance and Ravensthorpe ought to be in the same electoral district.

There are undoubted ties between Esperance, Ravensthorpe and the Goldfields. However, this has to be balanced against all other factors to which the Commissioners must give consideration and the overriding requirement to keep all districts within the permitted tolerance range.

If the whole of the Shire of Esperance or both the whole of that Shire and the Shire of Ravensthorpe were to be included in the district of Kalgoorlie, that electorate would be outside the permitted tolerance range. On the numbers, this could not be done without wholesale changes to the districts of North West Central and Pilbara and the

Commissioners were not persuaded that it was desirable to make those further changes. Accepting the arguments of the Shire that the predominant land use was agriculture, not mining and (or) pastoral, there was a degree of commonality of this use between Esperance/Ravensthorpe and the Shires to its west across to areas such as Wagin and Kojonup. It could be argued that the degree of commonality in this respect was greater than it was moving up from Esperance through the pastoral and mining industries in the Shire of Dundas, the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder and further north. The Commissioners also noted that for many years prior to the 2007 division, the Shire of Esperance was located together with agricultural areas to its west, admittedly not going as far as Wagin but certainly including local government areas such as Kent, Lake Grace and Gnowangerup, with which it will once again be joined.

Again, it comes down to a balance between the competing factors and the Commissioners have decided the best balance was achieved by including the Shires of Esperance and Ravensthorpe in Roe (Wagin).

As discussed earlier, to reduce numbers in Central Wheatbelt it has been necessary to retain the Shires of Cuballing, West Arthur and Williams in Roe (Wagin). With these changes, elector numbers in Central Wheatbelt and Roe (Wagin) are similar.

This decision means that Roe (Wagin) will have an LDA and a VFADE of + 8.78 per cent. The Commissioners were of the view it was desirable to reunite the Shire of Esperance, as they did with the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder in the district of Kalgoorlie. In both instances there was an

inevitable impact on numbers. In relation to Roe (Wagin), the VFADE was high but given trends of demographic change the Commissioners consider that it is within acceptable limits.

Albany

Some objectors suggested that the Shire of Jerramungup ought not be included in the district of Albany. On the other hand the relevant local authority supported the change. The Commissioners were not persuaded that they should depart from the proposals in this respect.

LDAs in Agricultural Region districts

In the 2015 Proposals Report the Commissioners said they preferred not to create districts in the Agricultural Region that had LDAs. However, after considering the objections the Commissioners accept that the arguments for recognising, preserving and facilitating established communities of interest (where feasible) and (or) land use patterns are stronger than those against the extension of LDAs into the Agricultural Region and the latter should not, of themselves, dictate the configuration of districts. The community of interest arguments put in objections, particularly concerning the splitting of the Shire of Esperance and the location of the Shires of Dowerin, Goomalling, Koorda and Wongan-Ballidu were compelling and the Commissioners believe they ought to be adopted. As explained above, there are no further offsets that the Commissioners believe can be made without creating other disruptions of communities of interest or creating VFADE problems in adjoining districts. As a result of these decisions both Central Wheatbelt and Roe (Wagin) now have an LDA.

The concept of LDAs was introduced by the *Electoral Amendment and Repeal Act 2006* (WA). In the two divisions since then (2007 and 2011) attention has been focussed on LDAs in the Mining and Pastoral Region. However, the plain meaning of the words in section 16G of the Act is such that the concept of an LDA is not restricted to the Mining and Pastoral Region. A reasonable argument can be mounted that the extension of LDAs beyond the Mining and Pastoral Region

and into the Agricultural Region was an inevitable consequence of the combination of the 2006 amendments and the trend of demographic changes in Western Australia.

The following table sets out information concerning the geographical area and elector numbers (as at the relevant day) of the districts of Central Wheatbelt and Roe (Wagin) under the proposals and as a result of this decision.

Table 6: Comparison of 2011 boundaries, 2015 proposed boundaries and final boundaries of Central Wheatbelt and Roe (Wagin)

Description	Central Wheatbelt	Roe
Geographical area (2011 boundaries ¹)	62,363 sq km	Roe: N/A [Wagin: 68,971 sq km] [Eyre: 297,759 sq km]
Geographical area (2015 proposed boundaries)	97,669 sq km	77,939 sq km
Geographical area (final boundaries)	101,240 sq km	106,409 sq km
Enrolled elector numbers (2015 proposed boundaries)	24,962	23,480
Elector numbers (final boundaries, attributable to LDA)	1,519	1,596
Elector numbers (final boundaries, including LDA)	27,019	27,111

¹ Area calculated using 2015 BoundaryMaker software.

The table illustrates that in relative terms (compared with, for example, the LDAs in the Mining and Pastoral Region either following the 2011 division or this division) the additional elector numbers attributable to the LDA are modest. The additional geographical area that an elected representative will have to serve has changed.

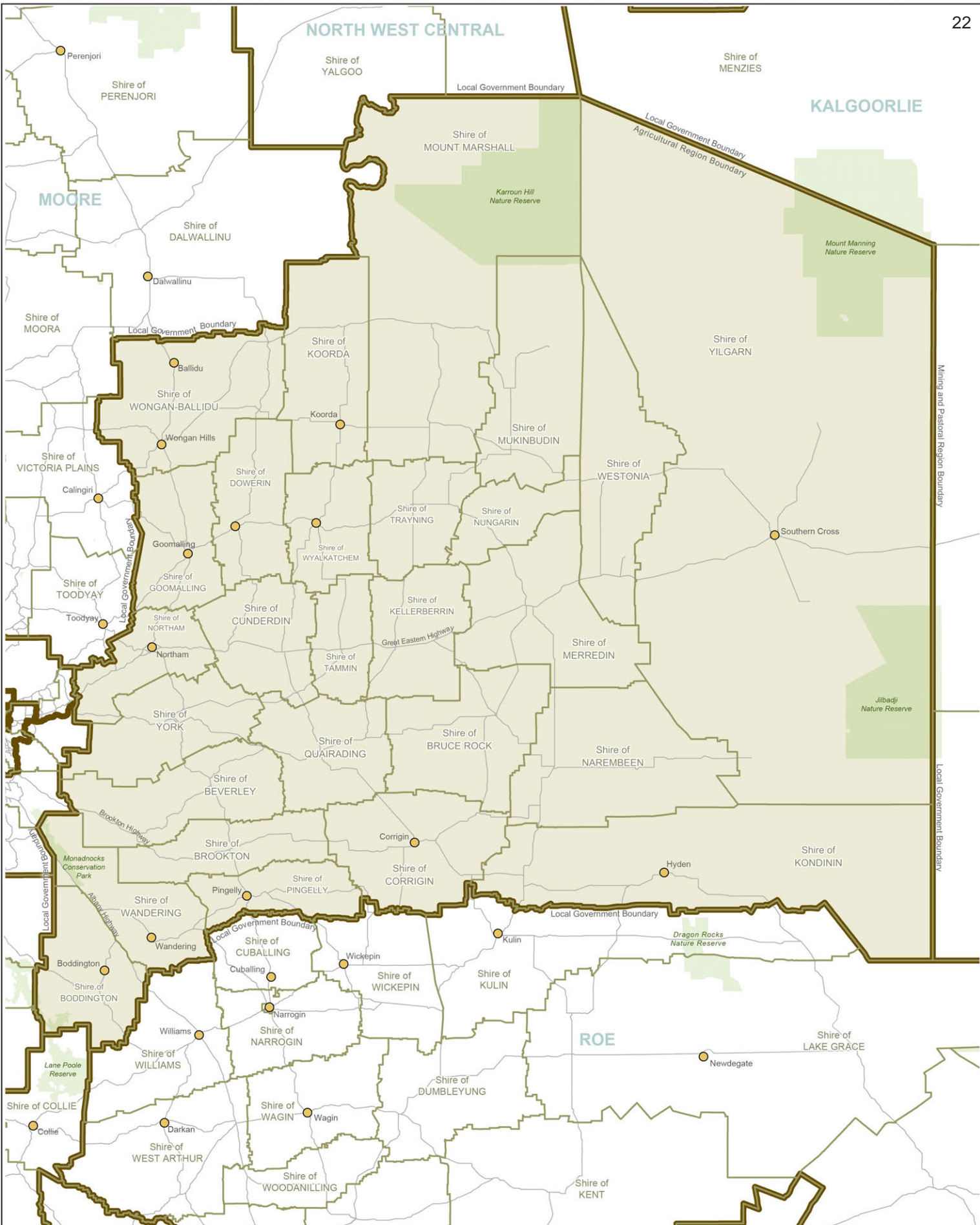
As explained earlier, many objectors raised concerns about the difficulty for residents gaining physical access to their elected representatives when the size of districts is increased. The Commissioners have acknowledged these concerns. However, the problems may be ameliorated depending upon the location of electoral offices. This is an administrative issue for the Member and is governed by rules that lie elsewhere than in the Act.

The Commissioners have come to the view that the best balance of competing factors is served by making the changes set out in this report, albeit with the consequence that two of the four districts in the Agricultural Region will have an LDA.

Finally in this respect the Commissioners repeat that they are aware a consequence of their decision is that Roe (Wagin) and Central Wheatbelt (and for that matter Kalgoorlie) have high VFADEs. They considered many other configurations of districts in the Agricultural Region (indeed in all regions). For example, it would have been possible to make fewer changes of local government areas than those posited in the 2015 Proposals Report. This might have resulted in less

discrepancy between numbers in, for example, Central Wheatbelt and Moore, but it would have left Roe as the only district in the region with an LDA (and with numbers considerably in excess of the other Agricultural districts) and Central Wheatbelt would have had a geographical area only a little under the threshold for the allocation of an LDA. Further, it would have been difficult to advance a rational explanation why one local government area rather than another was to be allocated contrary to accepted community of interest arguments.

In making the decision the Commissioners decided that on this occasion it was desirable and feasible to recognise communities of interest while keeping districts within the permitted tolerance range, albeit with high VFADEs and LDAs in two of them. Sometimes it is not possible to give full effect to community of interest arguments as, for example, with the decision not to include the Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku in the district of Kalgoorlie.



Type: Crown
Purpose: Statutory

District of CENTRAL WHEATBELT
AGRICULTURAL REGION
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Office of the Electoral Distribution Commissioners

ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES 2015

- Electoral district
- Local government boundary
- Local government name
- Road
- Lake/waterway
- Reserve
- Town

Coastal districts include offshore island areas. Mid-river centrelines are approximate only. All road boundaries use road centrelines unless otherwise described.

Lodgement date:
13 November 2015

Gazetted date:
27 November 2015

Examined
G. Marshall

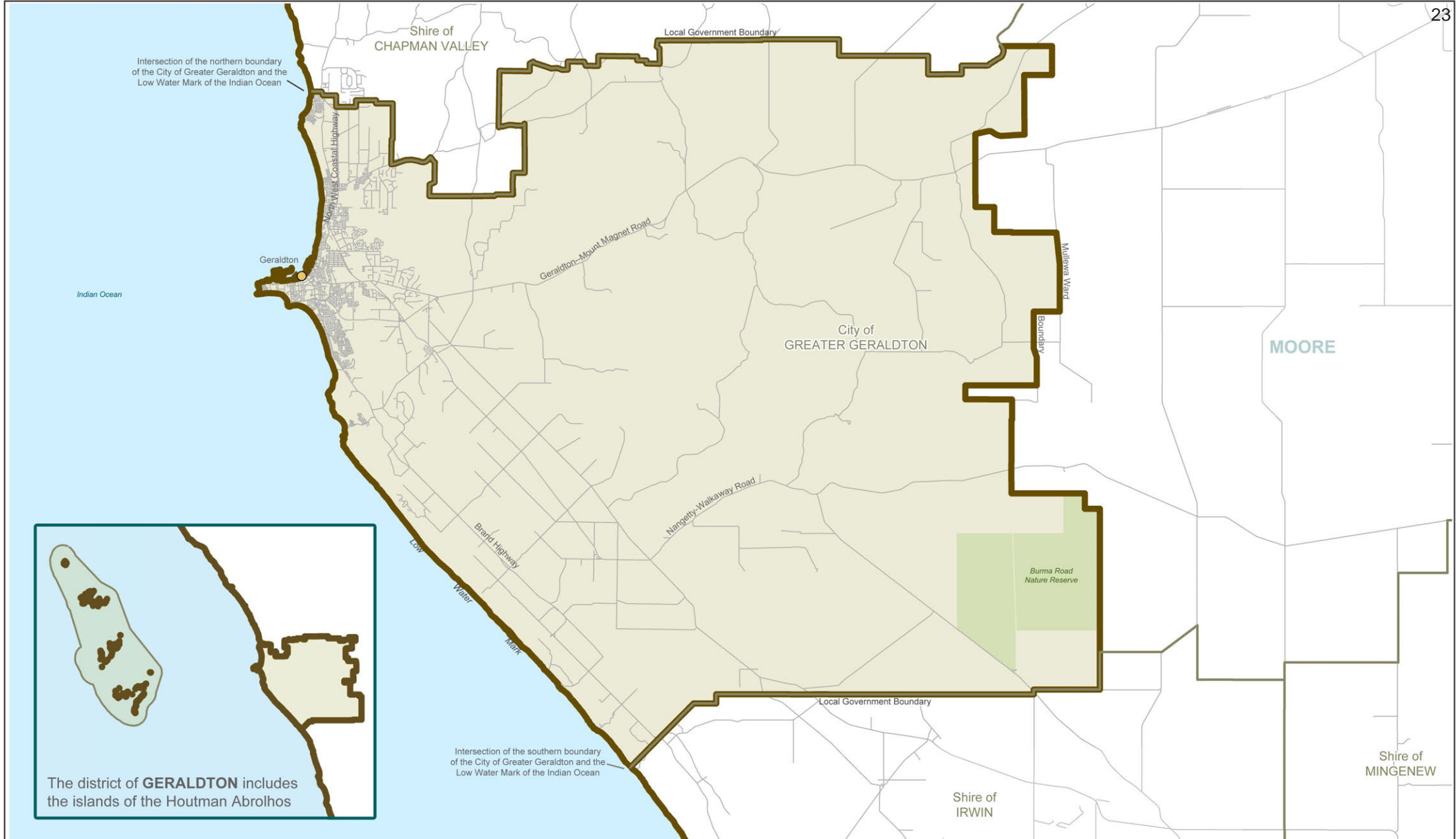
Lead Consultant
Boundary Definition

13 November 2015
Date

Landgate
WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LAND INFORMATION AUTHORITY

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407674

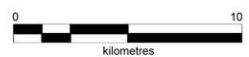
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Version 1



The district of **GERALDTON** includes the islands of the Houtman Abrolhos

Type: Crown
Purpose: Statutory

District of GERALDTON
AGRICULTURAL REGION
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Office of the Electoral Distribution Commissioners



- Electoral district
- Local government boundary
- Local government name
- Road
- Lake/waterway
- Reserve
- Town

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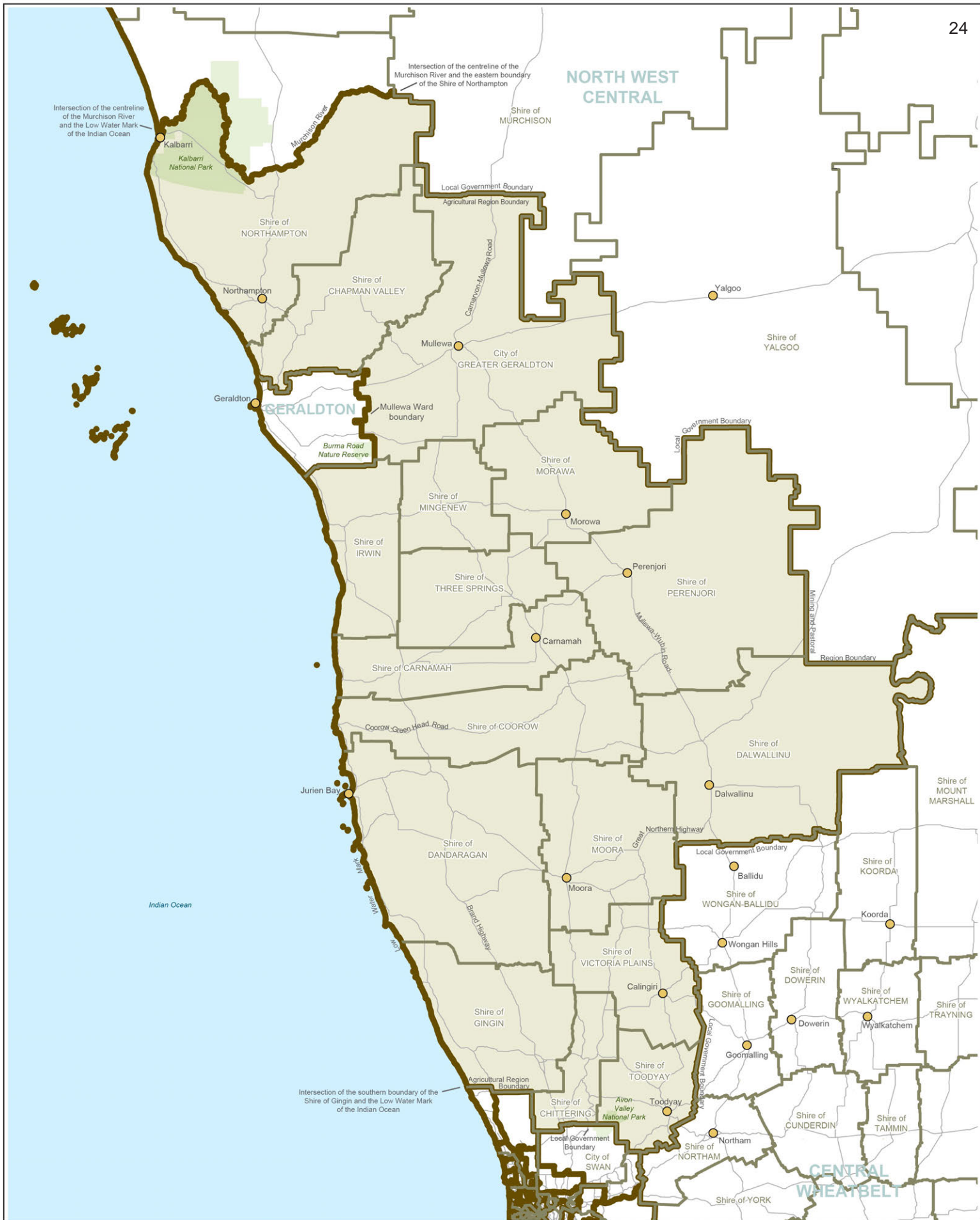
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Lead Consultant
Boundary Definition
13 November 2015
Date



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LAND INFORMATION AUTHORITY

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407683



Type: Crown Statutory
 Purpose: Statutory

District of MOORE
 AGRICULTURAL REGION
 WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Office of the Electoral Distribution Commissioners

ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES 2015

- Electoral district
- Local government boundary
- Lake/waterway
- Reserve
- Road
- Town

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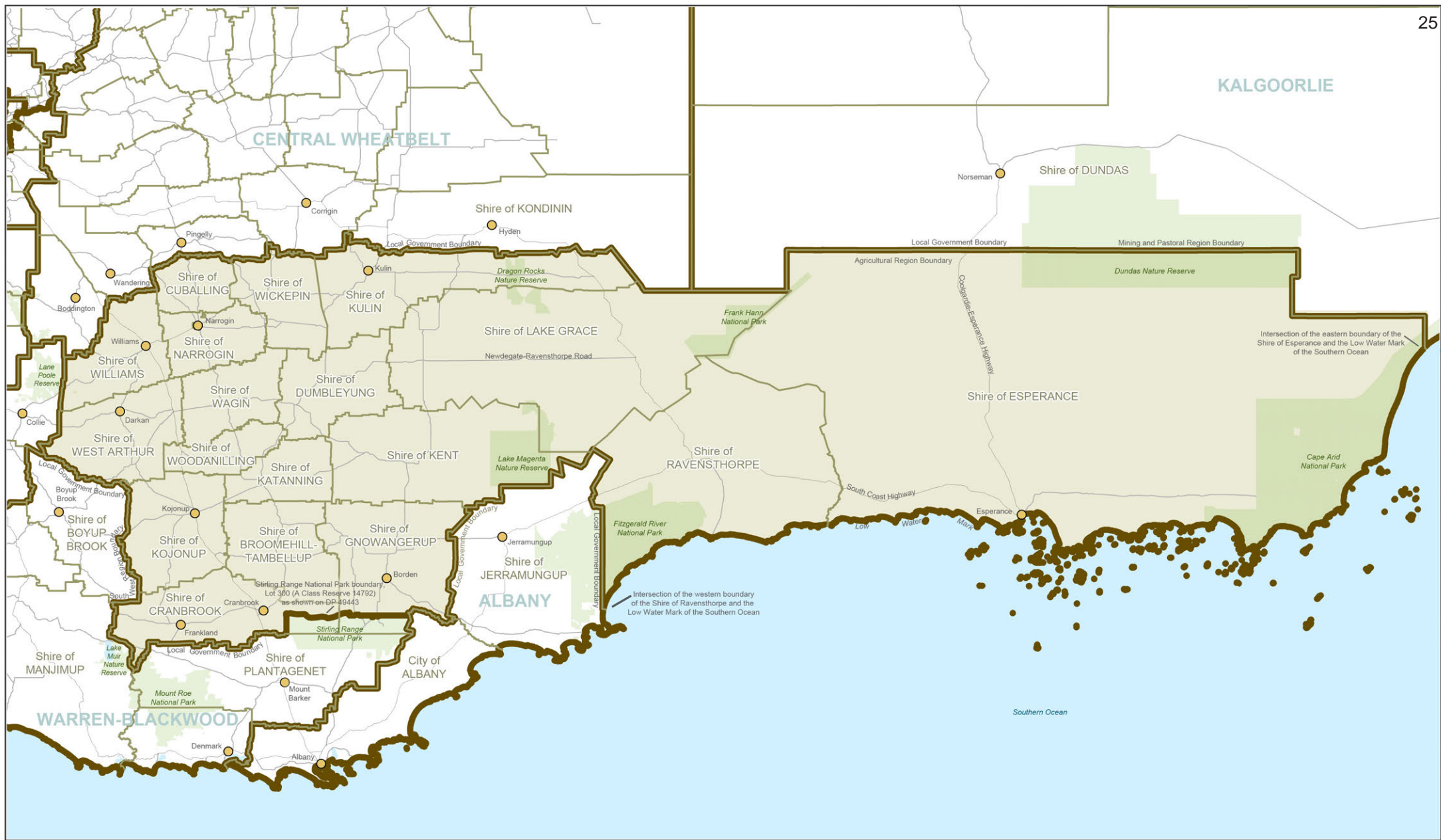
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Examined: *Garthall*
 Lead Consultant: Boundary Definition
 Date: 13 November 2015

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LAND INFORMATION AUTHORITY

DEPOSITED PLAN
407697

Sheet 1 of 1



Type: Crown
Purpose: Statutory

District of ROE
AGRICULTURAL REGION
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

0 100
kilometres

Office of the Electoral Distribution Commissioners

ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES 2015

- Electoral district
- Local government boundary
- Lake/waterway
- Local government name
- Reserve
- Road
- Town

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13 November 2015

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Examined

Marshall 13 November 2015
Lead Consultant Date
Boundary Definition

Landgate
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DEPOSITED PLAN
407707

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