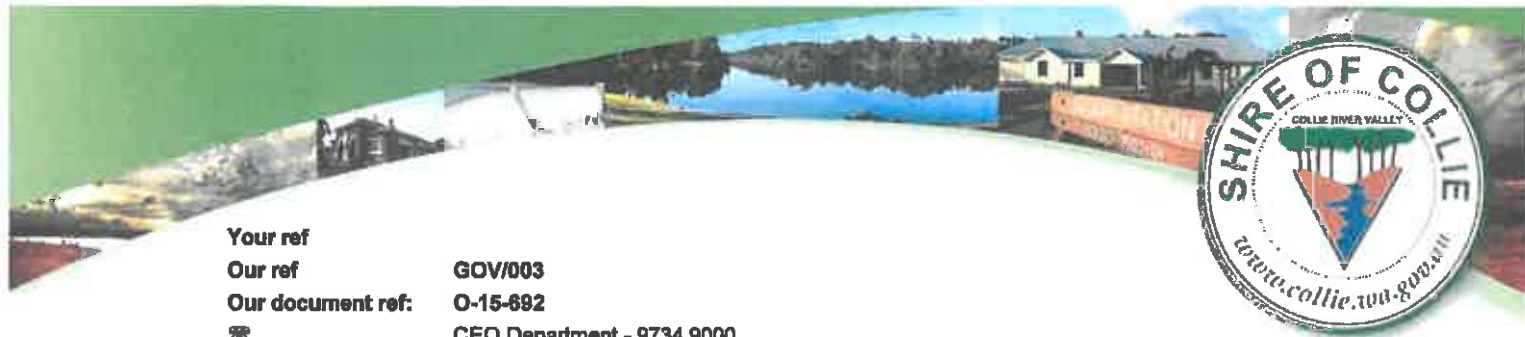




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Electoral Boundaries WA
Office of the Electoral Distribution Commissioners
Level 2
111 Saint Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6000



Dear Commissioners

2015 Review of Western Australian Electoral Boundaries – Shire of Collie Submission

The Shire of Collie welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on the submissions received in relation to the 2015 review of Electoral Boundaries by the WA Electoral Commission.

The Council notes the submission received from the Liberal Party of Australia (WA Division) in particular the commentary with regard to the seat of Collie-Preston on page 3. The lack of understanding of Collie's economic, social and cultural relationships within the Bunbury - Wellington Region is disappointing, misunderstood and concerning given that the Liberal party currently holds office in government.

Industry located in Collie contributes significantly to the South West's Gross regional product and is a significant employer in the Bunbury Wellington region. A study conducted by AEC Economics in 2012 *Mitigating the Impact of DIDO and Unleashing Collies True Potential*, showed that approximately 57% of the available jobs (4,304 jobs) in Collie are taken by employees who reside outside of the Shire of Collie, predominantly in Bunbury, Dardanup and Harvey local government areas. This demonstrates Collie's importance to the Bunbury Wellington area as a regional employer.

The Council is a member of the following organisations with an interest in the development of the Bunbury-Wellington area.

- Bunbury Wellington Economic Alliance (BWEA) - BWEA is a leading advocate for sustainable economic development in Bunbury Wellington Region and its membership includes local chambers of commerce and industries, local and state governments and industry representation. This organisation is based in Collie which highlights the importance of Collie to the Bunbury Wellington region. Council contributes \$10,000 annually towards this organisation.
- Bunbury Wellington Group of Councils (BWGoC) - The Council is partnering with other local governments in the Bunbury Wellington area to enable the strategic sharing of resources. Current focuses of the group are developing a Regional Waste Strategy, Regional Tourism Strategy and Regional Animal Refuge facility.

The Shire of Collie has previously partnered with this group to achieve economies of scale in regards to rubbish collection contracts.

- **South West Zone of WALGA** - The Council is also a member of the South West Zone of Councils which includes the Bunbury Wellington Councils as well as the Capes and Warren - Blackwood Councils. Its role is to consider the issues which affect all local governments in the region and advise WALGA with a view to developing policy.

Whilst there is a strong "shop local" ethos in Collie, local residents regularly shop in Bunbury as the regional centre for many goods and services which are unavailable in Collie. This is particularly so for specialist medical services, entertainment and even government services such as Centrelink and Department of Transport Services. Recognising the use of regional facilities by its residents, the Shire of Collie provides financial contributions to not for profit organisations including the Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre (\$6,000 p.a), the South West Academy of Sport (\$1,500 p.a.) and St John of God Cancer treatment centre (\$10,000 p.a.). This demonstrates tangible community support in the Greater Bunbury region by the Collie community.

In terms of education, many Collie students travel to Bunbury to attend both secondary and tertiary education on a daily basis. This includes attendance at Manea College, South West Institute of Technology (Bunbury Campus), Edith Cowan University (Bunbury Campus) and Bunbury Catholic College. From a sporting perspective Collie has long been involved in South West regional competitions. Collie currently has representative teams in the Bunbury and Districts Hockey Association (both men and women), South West Football League, South West Cricket Association and South West Soccer Association as examples.

Collie hosts many natural and manmade attractions which offer recreation opportunities for the greater Bunbury Wellington population including Wellington Dam, Stockton Lake, Lake Kepwari and the Collie Motorplex. The regional significance of these areas is recognised in the South West Development Commission's and Regional Development Australia's ***South West Regional Blueprint 2014*** document in which they are identified as opportunities for future development. Investment in these areas will play an important part in ensuring the South West region achieves the vision which has been set in this strategic document.

Being essentially a mining town, the Collie community considers itself to have little in common with Wagin being an agricultural based community and it is for these reasons that Council considers that the electorate of Collie-Preston should remain unchanged.

Yours sincerely



David Blurton
Chief Executive Officer