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Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2011

Dear Commissioners,

**COMMENT ON SUBMISSIONS MADE WITH RESPECT TO RE-DISTRIBUTION OF STATE ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES IN 2011 BY DAVID SMITH MAYOR OF BUNBURY**

1. Because Council is in recess I will not have the opportunity to refer this comment on the submissions made to date to Council. This submission should therefore be considered as being made by me as Mayor of Bunbury on my own behalf and not that of the City of Bunbury.
2. My first and primary concern is of course the seat of Bunbury which appears to be under quota to the extent of 453 voters based on the country average or 2082 on the State wide figures.

I need to point out that there are still three major areas of Bunbury to be developed. They are Glen Iris, Moorlands and the area boarded by Washington Avenue, Bussell Highway and Centenary Road, known as the Tuarts.

Council has also increased its residential density around activity centers to R25 or R30.

This will provide ongoing increases in the population of the LGA of the City of Bunbury on its current boundaries. However this is not likely to have a major affect until after the next term of the Parliament.

Therefore Bunbury does need to pick up an extra 453 to 2082 voters and other growth areas that are likely to be more immediate, but will not cause such a severe movement in it's boundaries that when Moorlands, Glen Iris and the Tuarts develop, they will need to be contracted again.

In my view the area of Capel on our southern boundary known as Dalyellup, is to be the preferred rather than part of Eaton.

Most of our major facilities like Hay Park, the Sports Centre, University, TAFE and Manea College, and the public and private Hospitals are all at the southern end of Bunbury – in fact closer to Dalyellup than our CBD – being less than 2 kms from the centre of Dalyellup.

My own view is that the best area to be transferred to Bunbury is the area between Centenary Road, Bussell Highway, Norton Avenue and Dalyellup Promenade, plus encompass the area that results from a line running north from Dalyellup Promenade along the boarder of the Coast to Preston Regional Park, and a line extending from the roundabout at the junction of Parade Road and Centenary Road, to meet with the extended Dalyellup Promenade line. You could not include all of Dalyellup as it would take Bunbury well over quota. You could assess it better than me, but I believe this would add about 750 voters immediately, and another 1000 as new development takes place to the north of the existing development.

Apart from the voters currently registered in that area, there is a large retirement village in that part of Dalyellup that is near completion that will immediately add about 130 voters.

All of the future growth in this part of Dalyellup is towards the Bunbury boundary. It will meet the boundary in a few years

If for some reason you choose to include part of Eaton, then again it would be best to transfer the North West end of Eaton which happens to be the older part of Eaton that abuts the Bunbury boundary. You could not include all of Eaton, Millbridge and Glen Houn, as that would take Bunbury well over its quota.

The logical area of Eaton to be added to Bunbury if that option was chosen, would be to start at the traffic lights at the intersection of Perth Bunbury Highway and Eaton Drive then to the roundabout at the intersection with Hamilton Road and Hands Avenue, then along Hands Avenue to the Collie River then along the Collie River to the Old Coast Road Bridge then along Old Coast Road to the traffic lights at the intersection of the Perth Bunbury Highway and Old Coast Road and then north along the Perth Bunbury Highway to meet at the starting point at the lights at Perth Bunbury Highway and Eaton Drive.

In summary the most logical change to Bunbury's boundaries would be to go south and embrace that part of Dalyellup between Bussell Highway, Norton Drive and Dalyellup Promenade north to a line joining a line drawn from Centenary Road south.

However if you are going to look at Eaton, then it should only include that area between the Perth Bunbury Highway, Old Coast Road, the Collie River, then to Hands Avenue to the roundabout then south along Eaton Drive to the traffic lights at the intersection of the Perth Bunbury Highway and Eaton Drive.

3. My other reason for making this submission is to express my concern at Collie being transferred out of the South West Region to the Agricultural Region, primarily to make up for the shortfall of election in the Wagin Assembly Electorate.
4. The majority of the 5891 electors on the Collie Shire electoral roll live in the Collie and Allanson Town sites. They are not in Agriculture but primarily in coal mining, electricity generation and the associated transport and mining service industries.
5. The Collie-Brunswick and Preston River and their tributaries flow to Leschenault Inlet.
6. The South West Zone of the West Australian Local Government Association includes Collie.
7. Collie is part of the Bunbury Wellington Region which comprises the Shires of Collie, Capel, Dardanup, Harvey, Donnybrook-Balingup and the City of Bunbury.
8. Collie is a 40 minute drive from Bunbury.
9. Collie is serviced by the South West Development Commission based in Bunbury.
10. Its football, soccer, hockey and other teams play in leagues or associations based in Bunbury.

11. Coal fields highway runs from Collie to Roelands and the Worsley Alumina staff at the refinery in the Collie Shire use it to get from their homes in Greater Bunbury to and from work.
12. The Collie TAFE Campus is part of the South West Institute of Technology, the principal campus of which is in Bunbury.
13. The regional medical and hospital services for Collie are provided by the Government Regional Hospital and St John of God Hospital in Bunbury. (It also has its own local Hospital).
14. The nearest University campus to Collie is the Edith Cowan University in Bunbury.
15. Collie is within the Catholic and Anglican Dioceses of Bunbury.
16. Collie is an integral part of the Bunbury economy. When Collie has a cold Bunbury has the flu.
17. The Shire of Collie is a member of the Bunbury Wellington Economic Alliance which consists of the six LGA's and representatives of major industries in our region.
18. Bunbury has the only crematorium in the region.
19. On the other hand Wagin has no prospective or current or past links to Collie other than the railway which has been closed and pulled up.
20. Wagin is primarily a wheat, oats and sheep region. Their grain and lamb exports go through Albany or Kwinana – not through Collie or Bunbury.
21. Collie is part of the public regional bus transport net work operated by Westrail and increasingly by Bunbury City Transit.
22. Bunbury is the nearest beach and entertainment centre for Collie.
23. There is absolutely no justification to move Collie out of the South West Region.
24. On the question of what area Collie Preston should lose, as I have said the obvious candidate is part or all of Dalyellup in the Capel Shire, and the Donnybrook Balingup Shire. If Dalyellup is to be divided then Norton Promenade which runs from the traffic lights on Bussell Highway to Dalyellup Promenade, and the other areas outlined above should be transferred to Bunbury. If this happens the rest of Capel Shire could possibly go in to the Vasse electorate or possibly Blackwood Stirling.
25. Collie Shire should not share any boundary with the Capel Shire.
26. Dalyellup is effectively part of the seamless urban area that is part of Greater Bunbury. It is proposed to extend Dalyellup right to the Bunbury boundary.
27. Dalyellup currently does not have a shopping centre or sports centre so almost all of its residents use the Parkes Shopping Centre and Bunbury CBD and other shopping centres and sporting facilities at Hay Park.
28. Dalyellup is connected directly to Bunbury by Bussell Highway and Parade Road and both are used substantially by its residents.

29. Hay Park, the Parks Centre, the Regional and St Johns Hospital, the ECU Campus and TAFE College are all closer to Dalyellup than the centre of Bunbury so while they are all within the City of Bunbury they are used by Dalyellup for all these services.
30. Using the recently used ABS stats to 30/06/2010, the seamless urban area of Greater Bunbury now has a population of 67,000 and a growth rate of 3% per annum, which is down from the intercensus 5 year growth which averaged 3.7% per annum. It is still well ahead of the State average.
31. According to those ABS stats, 72% of the population increase in the Shires of Capel and Dardanup and Harvey took place effectively in the outer suburbs of Bunbury which happen to be in those three Shires.
32. Capel is to Bunbury's immediate south and Harvey to our north and East. Dardanup and Harvey both have their own sporting centres (at Eaton for Dardanup and Australind for Harvey) and shopping centres, (Eaton Fair for Dardanup and Australind Village for Harvey) and primary and high schools. Most of Bunbury's services are on the other end of Bunbury close to Dalyellup.
33. Collie is closer to Eaton than it is to Dalyellup.
34. The growth in that part of Dalyellup, which I propose to be transferred to Bunbury, and the southern part of Bunbury will ensure that the electorate of Bunbury will be above quota and remain so between now and the next redistribution.

## **OTHER CHANGES**

35. The other comments I would make is that I was surprised at how little comment was made in the submissions on the changes suggested by the Commissioners, especially the three fundamental changes suggested by the Commissioners.
36. I have little doubt that Mandurah and Murray Shires will become part of the metropolitan region for planning and State Government purposes in the near future. They are as much a part of the metropolitan region as are the LGA's of Joondalup and Wanneroo.
37. The seats of Mandurah, Dawesville and Murray and the LGA's of Mandurah and Murray could be moved entirely out of the South West Region, and become part of the Metropolitan Regions which they are part of.
38. While it will not help to deal with the excess in the metro electorates that are over quota, it would facilitate the evening out of numbers by using a divisor of 45 seats rather than 42. The representation for Mandurah and Dawesville and Murray would be the same or similar to what it is now, with about 10000 votes coming out of Rockingham or Serpentine Jarrahdale, to make up for the loss of Waroona Shire and the Harvey Shire from the Murray Wellington electorate.
39. It would not substantially affect the South West, as none of these are substantially over quota – It may however mean the transfer of the rural part of Harvey and all of Waroona Shires out of Bunbury Wellington to the Agricultural Region. This is especially so if Boddington remains in the Agricultural Region.

40. However it needs to be noted that it would provide the South West with a fairer share of Legislative Councillors, as two of the Legislative Councillors are based in the Murray Mandurah area, which would not happen if they were no longer in the South West Region.
41. At present Mining and Pastoral has 6 MLC's and 5 Legislative Assembly Members, the Agricultural Region, 6 MLC's and 4 MLA's, and the South West 6 MLC's and 8 MLA's. Without Mandurah, Dawesville and Murray Wellington, the South West would have 5 MLA's and 6 MLC's.
42. The current enrolment stats indicate the mining and pastoral areas have 21406 electors per MLA, the Agricultural area 21441, and the South West 23430.
43. The shift of the Peel seats to the metro or Agricultural Region would not reduce the Assembly representation in the rest of the South West as the growth in population in the South West will more than match the average metro growth.
44. Without these three seats the South West without any other change to the rest of the South West Region boundaries would have 187442 – 53849 electors or 133593 electors in the Legislative Council Region – that is 47827 more than Mining and Pastoral and 26593 more than the Agricultural Region.
45. It would of course cause a major shake up of the remaining 5 assembly seats in the South West especially as it would leave 133593 voters or 26718 voters per electorate and still have the rapid growth areas of Greater Bunbury, Busselton and Augusta Margaret River.
46. The most obvious solution would be to transfer to the Wagin seat and the Agricultural Region the Plantagenet Shire (3281 voters and Cranbrook Shire (721 voters) to the Agricultural Region. This would increase Wagin from 20207 to 24207.
47. If Boddington which is a little Collie, was transferred back in to the South West that would take 948 out of Wagin and make the Wagin seats 23259 voters. Boddington would actually fit with both the South West and Agricultural Regions. If Waroona and the rural part of Harvey were to go to the Agricultural Region then Boddington should stay in the Agricultural Region.
48. This in turn would take Blackwood Stirling down to 21702 – 17702 which would mean it could take up all of the Margaret River Shire from Vasse, and/or the rest of Capel, including the rest of Dalyellup.
49. Waroona Shire and that part of the Harvey Shire north of Treasure Road could also be considered for transfer into the Agricultural area. Certainly if Boddington remains in the Agricultural Region it would make sense to transfer Waroona but I personally believe all of Harvey should stay in the South West.
50. Collie in that scenario would consist of the Collie Shire, Harvey Shire south of Treasure Road, and the whole of the Shire of Dardanup.
51. Radically in the future, consideration should be given to:-
  - i. Transferring Geraldton-Greenough and Mullewa, Chapman Valley and Northampton all in to the Mining and Pastoral Region,.
  - ii. In addition to Cranbrook and Plantagenet, transfer Albany and Denmark and Ravensthorpe into the Agricultural Region.

52. With Oakajee and the mining developments to the east, there will be growth in the Mid West based on mining, downstream tourism and regional services and downstream processing of the minerals.
53. There will continue to be growth in Greater Bunbury, Augusta Margaret River and Busselton, well ahead of the metro area growth, which will compensate for the lack of growth in Boyup Brook and the Manjimup Shire.
54. Albany, Denmark, Plantagenet, Cranbrook, and Ravensthorpe are really part of the Lower Greater Southern and South Coast and are more agricultural in their nature.
55. The rural part of Harvey and Waroona are also more rural than Collie.
56. Another alternative if Albany, Plantagenet, Cranbrook and Denmark, and Harvey, Waroona are all to remain in the South West, would be for the Agricultural Region to lose a seat to the South West. That may not be acceptable to the current Agricultural Region residents.
57. If we are only looking at minimum change this time around then:-
  - i. Include the part of Dalyellup – that is the area bounded by Centenary Road, Bussell Highway and Dalyellup Promenade into Bunbury.
  - ii. Leave Collie with all of Dardanup, Collie, Donnybrook Balingup, and perhaps Boddington.
  - iii. Transfer Plantagenet and Cranbrook to the Agricultural Region and Wagin, and thus allow Blackwood (not Blackwood Stirling) to have the surplus from Vasse and for the rest of the Capel Shire other than the part transferred to Bunbury, to be transferred to Vasse.
  - iv. All of which of which is a tad confusing, but whatever happens, Collie should certainly stay in the South West, and the whole of Dardanup Shire should be in the seat of Collie, and any extra voters required for Bunbury should come from the area of Dalyellup referred to above, and then leave the extra voters required to come out of the growth in Glen Iris, Moorlands and the Tuarts.

My final comments are:-

- i. Neither the Commissioner nor the Political Parties make any point about where accelerated growth is likely to happen such as in Geraldton and the Pilbara and North West.
- ii. I honestly believe that there must be a large number of people in Greater Bunbury, the Mid West, the Pilbara and North West who are simply not on the roll. How can it be when so much is happening there, that the enrolments in the Pilbara and Mid West have gone down. The seat of Bunbury does not reflect the ABS population growth figures in the Bunbury LGA. When I am out in Bunbury, there seem to be many young people in particular who are not on the roll anywhere. I know the Pilbara and North West have many fly in fly out people, but it beggars belief that there could have been a reduction in their population and enrolments over the last four years.

- iii. I believe an advertising campaign by the WAEC is required to ensure people change their enrolment with their address, and we should not deregister voters just because people do not respond to letters. This is so especially given the fly in fly out electors and the increasing number of grey nomads who are rarely home at census time. (Most of Bunbury's grey nomads spend the winter at the Coral Coast, Carnarvon and Exmouth).

In any event, I do not envy you or the task that lies before you.

With Best Wishes  
I am



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David Smith  
**MAYOR OF BUNBURY**