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14 August 2015

Executive Officer
 Western Australia Electoral Commission
 GPO Box F316
PERTH WA 6841

Dear Commissioners,

SUBMISSION FOR 2015 PROPOSED BOUNDARIES

Thank-you for the opportunity to provide comment regarding the 2015 Western Australia Proposed Boundaries report.

The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder makes a submission that the current regional Electoral Boundaries are to be maintained including the Electorate of Eyre.

As per the 2011 distribution, the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder was split into two electorates, District of Kalgoorlie and the District of Eyre. The electorate District of Kalgoorlie covered Kalgoorlie but also included the Shire of Menzies, Laverton, Leonora and Ngaanyatjarraku. The District of Eyre included Boulder and the Shires of Coolgardie, Dundas, Esperance, Ravensthorpe and Yilgarn. Both Districts of Kalgoorlie and Eyre were within the Mining and Pastoral Region.

The 2015 distribution proposes to abolish the District of Eyre which dramatically changes the electorates of the Goldfields-Esperance region splitting what was once considered as the Mining and Pastoral Region in two, the Mining and Pastoral and the Agricultural Region.

During the development of the proposal, the factors set out in section 16I were to be considered. These factors include:

- Community of interest
- Land use patterns
- Means of communication, means of travel and distance from the capital.
- Physical features
- Existing Local Government boundaries
- The trend of demographic changes.

These factors were not taken into account for the Goldfields-Esperance region in the development of this submission.

Community Interest – The 2015 Proposal will separate the Northern Goldfields Local Government Authorities (LGA) including the Shires of Laverton, Leonora, Wiluna and Ngaanyatjarraku, from the Goldfields-Esperance region. This proposal will put the Northern Goldfields LGA into the North West Central electorate which also includes Shires of Ashburton, Carnarvon and Shark Bay whose industries and land use are very



different to that of the Goldfields. The proposal also places Esperance and the surrounding areas into the Agricultural Region.

Land use patterns – The Goldfields-Esperance region's main industry is mining and should therefore remain under the Mining and Pastoral region. Under the 2015 Proposed Boundaries document, the Goldfields-Esperance region will be separated into two regions, Mining and Pastoral and the Agricultural region.

Means of communication, means of travel and distance from the capital - From a geographical perspective, Kalgoorlie is the central point for the Goldfields-Esperance region. The abolishment of the Eyre electorate will mean the Northern Goldfields LGA will be placed in a geographically larger electorate which could hinder open communication and may decrease the understanding and the attention received by the northern Goldfields.

Physical features - The Goldfields-Esperance region has similar physical features such as being within the Great Western Woodlands and located in a harsh arid environment.

Existing Local Government boundaries - Although the current electorate boundaries separate the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder into the District of Kalgoorlie and the District of Eyre, the current electorate boundaries incorporate the whole Goldfields-Esperance region into the two electorates. Under the 2015 Electorate Proposal, the removal of the Eyre electorate will force the Goldfields-Esperance region into three very different electoral districts, Kalgoorlie, North West Central and Wagin (proposed to rename to Roe). The current electorate borders will allow for Goldfields-Esperance LGA to maintain the strong ties with one another.

The trend of demographic changes - As previously mentioned, due to the main industry of the Goldfields-Esperance being mining, the demographics are similar throughout the region.

The above demonstrates that the relevant factors were not considered for the Goldfields-Esperance region during the development of the 2015 Proposed Electoral Boundaries document. The above statements defy the methodology used for the electoral boundaries proposal and therefore it is believed that the current status quo should remain.

The Goldfields-Esperance region has created strong relationships amongst each of the LGA for many reasons but mainly due to the geographic location and the main industry being Mining. Should the 2015 Western Australian Electoral Boundaries proposal go ahead, it will isolate some LGA's, especially the Northern Goldfields-Esperance LGA's. In addition, the message from the Goldfields-Esperance region may be diluted by having representation from three diverse electorates compared to two electorates which have a strong understanding of the Goldfields-Esperance community needs. The status quo needs to remain to ensure strong representation of the Goldfields-Esperance region continues.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DS BURNETT', written over the 'Yours sincerely' text.

DS BURNETT
Chief Executive Officer