

WAEC 2 1 AUG 2015



Electoral Distribution Commissioners GPO Box F316 PERTH WA 6841

To whom it may concern

# PROPOSED CHANGES TO WA ELECTORATES BOUNDARIES

The WDC is a Western Australia State Government statutory authority charged with the facilitation of economic and regional development across the Wheatbelt. We work collaboratively with government and regional stakeholders to provide a coordinated approach to address economic, environmental and social issues impacting on the Wheatbelt.

The Wheatbelt Development Commission (WDC) would like to provide the following comments on the proposed changes to boundaries for the Central Wheatbelt, Wagin and Moore Districts in the Agricultural Region.

The Wheatbelt is a region of considerable diversity. It comprises an area of 154,862 square kilometres across 43 local governments, nearly 200 communities, 5 distinct sub-regions with 5 sub-regional centres. It is home to approximately 75,000 people, making it the third most populous region in WA. A map of the Wheatbelt Region is attached for your reference.

This highly disbursed population, across communities of differing interest, is difficult to adequately represent. Considerable travel distances and times limits access to elected members, as their ability to travel out and the electors' ability to travel to an electoral office, become compromised over these distances.

While the Wheatbelt Development Commission understands the principle of one vote, one value, the practicality of this puts considerable resource strain on elected members and the Commission hopes that this is considered in boundary redistributions.

We would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you require further information please contact me on (08) 9622 7222 or email <a href="mailto:Teresa.drew@wheatbelt.wa.gov.au">Teresa.drew@wheatbelt.wa.gov.au</a>.

Yours sincerely,

WENDY NEWMAN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

21 August 2015

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