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23 May 2007

Mr Warwick Gately AM
Electoral Commissioner
Office of the Electoral Distribution Commissioners
GPO Box F316
Perth WA 6841

Dear Mr Gately

ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES DISTRIBUTION - 2007

I refer to your letter dated 30 March 2007 inviting the City to lodge a written submission about where the new boundaries should be placed.

Unfortunately due to the Council's ordinary meeting cycle it was not possible for Council to consider this matter prior to its meeting last night.

At that meeting Council resolved to forward the Administration's report to Council on the matter urging the Commissioners to retain a state electoral a boundary for South Perth which is essentially similar to the current boundary for the reasons outlined in the report.

I enclose a copy of the report to Council as the City's submission on the matter and thank you for the opportunity to comment.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to call me or the nominated officer above.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cliff Frewing'.

CLIFF FREWING
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



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9.5.4 Western Australian State Electoral Boundaries

Location: City of South Perth
Applicant: Council
File Ref: A/BO/2
Date: 8 May 2007
Author: Cliff Frewing, Chief Executive Officer

Summary

The purpose of this report is to consider an invitation from the WA Electoral Distribution Commissioners to make a submission regarding the State Electoral Boundary for South Perth.

Background

The West Australian Electoral Distribution Commissioners have announced that a review of the electoral boundaries will be carried out to determine the electorates for the next State general election due in 2009. In determining where to place the electoral boundaries, the Commissioners are required by the *Electoral Act* to consider a number of factors as follows:

- Community of interest
- Land use patterns
- Means of communication and distance from the capital
- Physical features
- Existing boundaries of regions and districts
- Existing local government boundaries
- The trend of demographic change

Because of amendments to the *Electoral Act*, the Commissioners are also required to create electorates in which the number of electors is within plus or minus 10% of the 'quotient'. The quotient for each seat in the metropolitan area is 21,350 electors.

Council last considered this issue in February 2003 when it made a submission which sought to preserve the existing State Electoral Boundary as it closely coincided with the City's local government boundary.

Comment

It is considered appropriate that the City should make a submission to the Electoral Distribution Commissioners with a view to preserving an essentially similar electoral boundary to that which currently exists.

There will necessarily be some adjustment to the electoral boundary to accommodate the new 'one vote-one value' principles set out in the amended *Electoral Act*. The number of electors in the state electorate of South Perth at 26 February 2007 was 27,464. This is well above the permitted 10% variation and therefore changes will need to be made to the state electorate boundary.

The Commissioners have received submissions from the major political parties in relation to South Perth which are very similar. Each proposes an amendment to the eastern boundary of the electorate which would move part of Kensington which is currently in the local government area of South Perth into Victoria Park.

The area which would be affected by these proposals is bounded by Canning Highway, Banksia Terrace (ALP proposal) or Dyson Street (Liberal Party proposal), George Street, Anketell Street, Rathay Street and Berwick Street.

Each of these proposals is outlined in a map of the current South Perth state electoral boundary which is at **Attachment 9.5.4**.

Given the factors that the Electoral Distribution Commissioners are required to take into account, it is considered that a position to preserve a boundary which is essentially similar to the existing State electoral boundary may be justified on the following basis:

- The existing State electoral boundary closely follows the Local Government boundary of the City and to that extent is unusual in WA. The boundaries have been the same since at least 1994 and there is a compelling argument to seek to maintain the closeness of the two sets of boundaries.
- The City of South Perth is bounded by the Swan and Canning Rivers on its northern, western and southern boundaries which in itself create an unusual natural border for which there is no opportunity to either increase or decrease the number of electors in those directions.
- The Swan and Canning Rivers therefore provide a natural boundary and are consistent with the physical features factor noted above.
- The only practicable opportunity therefore for a boundary adjustment is on the eastern boundary, where the existing local government boundary to a large extent follows main roads consisting of Berwick Street, George Street, Kent Street and Manning Road.
- Demographic change over the past decade has been marginal. Apart from a small number of development opportunities within the City of South Perth, the municipality is fully developed with limited opportunity for expansion in population. In fact the number of electors has fallen slightly since 2005.
- Factors such as community of interest, land use patterns and means of communication are little changed since the currently existing boundaries were established some considerable time ago and revised boundaries should seek to largely preserve these factors within the current boundaries as far as possible.

Consultation

This report has been prepared as a result of a public consultation process being conducted by the WA Electoral Commission.

Policy Implications

There are no policy implications relating to this item.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications relating to this item.

Strategic Implications

In line with Strategic Plan Goal 5: Organisational Effectiveness. *'To be a professional, effective and efficient organisation.'*

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION ITEM 9.5.4
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That the City forwards this report to the WA Electoral Distribution Commissioners urging them to retain a state electoral boundary for South Perth which is essentially similar to the current boundary for the reasons outlined in the report.

