

SUBMISSION TO:	Administration
AGENDA REFERENCE:	10.4.3
SUBJECT:	Electoral Boundary Change Submission
LOCATION/ADDRESS:	Shire of Jerramungup
NAME OF APPLICANT:	Shire of Jerramungup
AUTHOR:	Brent Bailey
DISCLOSURE OF ANY INTEREST:	Nil
DATE OF REPORT:	10 th August 2015

W A E C 2 5 AUG 2015

SUMMARY

It is recommended that Council participate in the review of the State's electoral boundaries by lodging a submission endorsing the proposal for the Shire of Jerramungup to be incorporated into the Albany District.

ATTACHMENT

Attachment 10.4.3 - Map showing new South West Region Boundaries

BACKGROUND

Before the introduction of the so-called 'one vote one value' legislation (Electoral Amendment and Repeal Act 2006) there were 57 districts, of which 23 were located in the country and 34 in the metropolitan regions. That legislation increased the number of districts to 59. The first distribution after those legislative changes occurred in 2007. In that review the total number of districts in the three country regions was reduced to 17 and the number in the metropolitan regions increased to 42. That allocation between country and metropolitan regions was maintained in the 2011 distribution.

In the 2015 review there is proposed to be a further reduction in country representation so that there will be 43 districts in the metropolitan regions and 16 in the country regions. Under the current proposal the district of Eyre will be abolished. The Shire of Jerramungup will be ceded from the Wagin District to the Albany District and move to the South West Region from the Agricultural Region.

A full report on the proposed changes in Electoral Boundaries in WA can be found at <http://www.boundaries.wa.gov.au/have-your-say/2015-proposed-boundaries-and-reasons>

CONSULTATION

WA Electoral Commission

COMMENT

The Commissioners have provided the following commentary on the Shire of Jerramungup and its move to the Albany District:

"The Commissioners understand that residents in the Shire of Jerramungup generally regard Albany as their regional centre and as the district of Albany already includes

areas where the land use is agricultural (as well as the town centre) there ought not to be any adverse community of interest implications.”

Albany has been held by all three major parties over the years, the Country Party 1936-56, Labor 1956-74, Liberal 1974-2001 and Labor again since 2001. The last three members have been Leo Watt (Liberal) 1974-93, Kevin Prince (Liberal) 1993-2001 and current Labor incumbent Peter Watson since 2001. At the 2013 Election Peter Watson won the seat with a 2 party preferred vote of 52.1%

Given the marginal status of the seat of Albany and the prevalence of a number of common strategic issues such as South Coast Highway, Health and Emergency Services, Port Infrastructure and Commodity Freight Routes there are perceived opportunities in the Shire of Jerramungup joining the Albany district in the upcoming election. Accordingly it is recommended that Council make a submission to the WA Electoral Commission supporting the change in electoral boundary affecting the Shire of Jerramungup.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Nil

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

As highlighted above a move to a marginal seat and into the same district as the City of Albany may yield desirable outcomes when lobbying for improvements to State Infrastructure and Services within the region.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

RECOMMENDATION

That Council lodge a submission with the WA Electoral Commission supporting the proposed new boundary for the Albany District.

OC150812 Moved Cr Iffla / Seconded Cr Trevaskis

That Council lodge a submission with the WA Electoral Commission supporting the proposed new boundary for the Albany District.

Carried 7-0