

Mrs Deborah Botica
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Western Australian Electoral Commission
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Dear Sir/madam

I wish to make a submission regarding the state electoral boundary changes in the Mining and Pastoral Region for the next state election. I am a city councillor in Kalgoorlie-Boulder and have been a candidate in previous state elections so I have a good knowledge and interest in the electoral boundaries of the two seats of Kalgoorlie and Eyre.

My understanding of the current review is one seat will be lost from the Mining and Pastoral Region and my concern is that the seat of Eyre may be lost to the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder and residents will then only have one State Parliamentary representative. If this does not occur in this review it may be a possibility in a future redistribution.

From my understanding some 13,000 electors will be needed for a seat within the Mining and Pastoral Region so I have split the area in the following way:

A Kimberley to remain the same (13,772 electors)

B Pilbara to comprise of the shires of Port Hedland, East Pilbara (minus Newman, which goes into Eyre), Halls Creek, the south-east half of Ashburton to take in Tom Price and Paraburdoo, Upper Gascoyne, Murchison and Yalgoo (12,869).

C Burrup Coastal to comprise shires of Roebourne, the northwest half of Ashburton, Exmouth, Carnarvon and Shark Bay (15,161).

D Kalgoorlie to include the shire of Yilgarn, Coolgardie, Menzies township and areas west of the highway, Leonora, Sandstone, Mt Magnet and Cue taking in some 5,203 electors in outlying shires. Kalgoorlie-Boulder would be split along the Eastern By-Pass Road and the Goldfields Highway travelling north and across towards South Kalgoorlie or Boulder depending on how many electors are needed to make a quota.

E Eyre would include the remainder of Kalgoorlie-Boulder and the shires of Dundas, Menzies (remote area only), Laverton, Ngaanyatjarraku, Wiluna, Meekatharra and Newman. The elector numbers outside of Kalgoorlie-Boulder equate to 4,991 with the remainder comprising of Kalgoorlie-Boulder electors.

Comments

A The Kimberley is the only seat that would foreseeably remain the same because it is the only region to have an increasing population.

B Given the expanding population in the Halls Creek Shire (which means it is unlikely, despite the obvious links, to put it in the seat of Kimberley) should

remain in Pilbara. I would also assume that the large centres of Karratha and Hedland would need two seats because of the two large population bases. If one seat included Karratha and Hedland the surrounding seat would have an enormous area with only a small population base to centre the seat on. Whilst the shire of Ashburton may be split between two seats I believe this would be manageable.

C Burrup would effectively become a coastal seat with all the commonalties this encompasses and extend down to Carnarvon. The existing electorate of Ningaloo is broken up between Burrup, Pilbara, Kalgoorlie and Eyre.

D I cannot see why the seat of Kalgoorlie is the only Mining and Pastoral Region seat to have just a city based electorate. The inclusion of the current Eyre shires to the west of the Goldfields Highway such as Yilgarn and the inclusion of the Ningaloo shires provides Kalgoorlie with a more diverse base that actually includes pastoral and mining activities which all the other electorates embrace.

E Eyre would of course include areas east of the Goldfields Highway and the northern areas of Wiluna, Meekatharra, Newman (which has diminished in size dramatically) and Ngaanyatjaarraku, which was previously in the seat.

From my point of view the additions of Meekatharra, Wiluna and the town of Newman can be defended from both access for servicing and for commonality of interest in mining and pastoral activities.

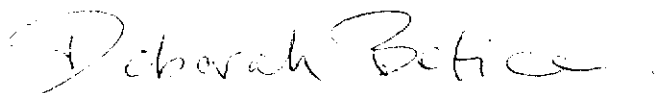
Ngaanyatjarraku is strongly linked to the Goldfields through the provision of services such as ATSI, police, government departments and transport links by road and air. More importantly the tribal and heritage links are with the Wongutha people of the Goldfields, with no traditional ties to Port Hedland from where their electoral representative is based.

I reiterate my main interest is to see two seats based in Kalgoorlie-Boulder and this necessitates dividing up the "city" and outlying areas evenly. I realise the projected figures don't show it but there has been a dramatic turnaround in the Goldfields population. When the enrolment figure was set last year and the projection made, Kalgoorlie-Boulder and Kambalda faced declining populations. That has changed to the point where it is very difficult renting a house in Kalgoorlie-Boulder and almost impossible in Kambalda.

Whatever is finally adopted for the next state election, I believe it is only fair to the electors in some of these more far-flung towns, ie Newman if it is included in Eyre or Carnarvon if it is included in Burrup, that Members of Parliament have sub-offices in these larger population bases.

If you require any further supporting documentation or wish to discuss my submission please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Deborah Btoica

6 March 2003