

EMAIL :

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1ST May 2023

Electoral Commissioners
Electoral Distribution Commission
Level 1, 111 St Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

BY EMAIL TO : boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au

Dear Sirs

SUBMISSION WA ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES – COLLIE-PRESTON

I wish to lodge my personal submission relating to the Electorate of Collie-Preston which I understand will be considered in time for the next State election due in 2025.

My submission is lodged mainly in relation to the factor of 'Community of Interest' and how this affects the community of Collie particularly. The township of Collie currently holds the electorate office for the Legislative Assembly Member for Collie-Preston and in fact 'Collie' has been incorporated into the district's electorate name almost since the commencement of Western Australian electorate districts; this is an historic feature I would like to see continued well into the future.

'Community of Interest' is featured in all aspects of daily life within the Shire of Collie district – we have our interests directly connected with the coastal communities to our west/south west (City of Bunbury, Shire of Dardanup, Shire of Harvey, Shire of Donybrook-Balingup, etc). Bunbury in particular is our central point for medical and major hospital appointments and when combined with all of our major retail and service industry, leisure and sporting requirements it is easy to see that that is where our real 'Community of Interest' lays. I am aware that all of the local governments within the Collie-Preston Electorate have close relationships whereby Chief Executive Officers, Bunbury City Mayor, and respective Shire Presidents meet on a fairly regular basis. This would not occur should the Shire of Collie be moved to some other Electorate where no real 'Community of Interest' would exist between the towns and communities therein.

The Shire of Collie is an emerging locality due to the current State Government's 'Just Transition Plan' for the life of our district post coal mining activities. The future of Collie will no doubt depend highly upon its access to regional facilities (port, rail, etc) to the west and to the Perth metropolitan area and this in turn will require much consultation and deliberations with our local government communities in these areas. Nothing of any meaningful benefit would occur should the Shire of Collie be 'hived' off to some adjoining Electorate to our east.

It is noted that the 2023 elector numbers for the Collie-Electorate stand at 32,331 which compares favourably with the Electorates of Bunbury (31,873), Murray-Wellington (32,237), Vasse (33,254), and Warren-Blackwood (31,822). I can see no point in tinkering with the Electorate numbers for Collie-Preston when the Electorate is on a sound and equitable footing with its surrounding Electorates. It is noted in an article published in the "West Australian" newspaper that both the WA Liberal Party and WA Nationals Party are advocating for no loss of country Parliamentary seats and have even suggested moving 7,000 electors (6,680 electors in fact according to 'Publications and Resources Electoral Boundaries WA) from the Shire of Collie into the Electorate of Roe. Taking this number of electors from the Electorate of Collie-Preston would mean that electors from elsewhere would need to be sourced to keep an equilibrium in the remaining (suggested) Electorate named simply 'Preston'. The Electorate of Murray-Wellington is the suggested source for the loss of the Shire of Collie electors according to the WA Liberal and National Parties but in all reality why would this need to be so when the existing Electorate numbers, as mentioned above, are a fair and equitable balance between all of the South West Electorates. Placing Shire of Collie electors into the Electorate of Roe (as suggested by the WA Liberal and National Parties) would be an 'insult to injury' for the Shire of Collie electors if for no other reason than no 'Community of Interest' exists between Shire of Collie electors and electors to our east.

The township of Collie has traditionally maintained the office for the Electorate of Collie-Preston (and previous iterations of the Electorate's name) and I could not imagine a town the size of Collie having to interact with (as suggested) the Electorate office for Roe in Narrogin – this simply would not be acceptable to Collie people!

In summation, I believe the Electorates (with their current elector numbers) is fair and equitable for our region and, for the strong 'Community of Interest' factor alone, there is no need for change – the Electorate boundary for Collie-Preston should remain as-is.

I thank you for the opportunity to make my submission and I look forward to the eventual outcome of the Commission's deliberations.

Yours sincerely



Ian Miffing