

Kalbarri Development Association

P.O. Box 6
Kalbarri W.A
6536.



Re: CHANGE OF ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES

On behalf of the Kalbarri Community we would like to lodge our objection to being removed from the remainder of our Shire in the suggested electoral boundary changes.

We understand that there is a need to alter boundaries and the reasons for this but feel that it is very unfair to a small rural town to have to go it alone rather than with the remainder of their Shire.

In the document Proposed Boundaries by District and Region of July 2019 it states under the rationale for proposed boundaries that the general description for The Mining and Pastoral Region which is the region that North West Central comes under is, "consisting of complete and contiguous districts which together form an area that is remote from Perth and in which the land use is primarily for mining and pastoral", none of which applies to Kalbarri.

It also states that Other factors to be considered under Section 16I of the Act which the Commissioners must take into account including:

- Communities of interest -
- Land use patterns
- Means of communication, means of travel and distance from the capital
- Physical features
- Existing local government boundaries
- The trend of demographic changes



When the Shires within this area were looked at, we really had very little in common with them. We are not a mining or pastoral area – having only one pastoral property within our town and no mining interests at all.

Communities of interest - We are linked through sport and cultural activities with Northampton and Geraldton and many of our services such as Health, Education and Police are linked to those communities.

Land Use Patterns – we have nothing in common with any of the Shires or towns with the North West Central electoral region. Most of these areas have either a pastoral, horticultural or mining land use, ours is simply home owners and businesses.

Means of communication, travel and distance from the capital – If we were in the North West Central we would be the closest town to the capital but the means of travel are limited– we have a bus service three times a week otherwise it is private transport to travel anywhere while most of the others have air transport availability. We would not be able to easily access the member who has an office in Carnarvon

Physical features – Kalbarri is at the northern end of the agricultural area and is connected to nearby farming areas such as Binnu and Ajana. The Murchison River provides a physical barrier to travel north and we have to travel out to the highway and through a large area of bush before reaching any of the communities in North West Central unlike the connection to Port Gregory, Horrocks, Northampton and Geraldton via George Grey Drive.

Existing Local Government Boundaries. – This is our biggest concern. The suggestion is to remove Kalbarri from its Shire boundary to be a stand alone town within the North West Central electoral region. We do not believe that this is in our best interest as we would have to try and work with a parliamentarian on our own while the Shire would have to often deal with two parliamentarians. This seems to us to be a most unsatisfactory place to be in.

The Trend of Demographic Change – At this point in time we do not see any great change in the demography of Kalbarri. Our population has remained similar for the past few years and has been changing due to the aged leaving due to need for improved care or family reasons, families leaving for schooling reasons (our school has dropped by 50 in the past two years) and those that are coming to town are retirees and single parents who do not need work. We do not have any great industries coming into town while the ones that are here are reducing as there is not the work for them nor for the community. The fishing



industry has become half the size it was 5 years ago and there doesn't seem to be any prospect of it growing.

We are concerned that we would find it difficult to deal with a parliamentarian who does not understand our town or who may never find the time to visit – unlike our current member who visits very regularly and has supported both the Shire and our town very well over the years.

Sincerely,

Merilynn Eastland
Chairperson
Kalbarri Development Association