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ELECTORAL DISTRIBUTION ACT 1947

PROPOSALS OF THE
ELECTORAL DISTRIBUTION COMMISSIONERS
FOR THE DIVISION OF THE STATE
INTO ELECTORAL DISTRICTS AND REGIONS

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Foreword

The proposed changes to the electoral boundaries as set out and explained in this Gazette are extensive and the Commissioners are anxious that the electors will understand the proposals which are put forward by them and the reasons which have led to their formulation.

To this end a supplement containing the proposals will appear in "The West Australian" on Saturday, 30 January, 1988 and in the Sunday Times on 31 January, 1988. Each elector is urged to read the supplement carefully. If any elector requires further information bearing upon the proposals including technical descriptions of the boundaries, he or she is invited to seek that information by contacting the Electoral Commissioner, Mr Les Smith, 4th Floor, W.A. Fire Brigade Building, 480 Hay Street, Perth. Phone 481 0139.

The Commissioners also invite objections to or comments upon what is proposed – as to the proposed boundaries or to the names proposed for electoral districts or otherwise. Such objections or comments should be made in writing addressed to Mr Les Smith at the above address. The closing date for written objections is Monday, 29th February, 1988.



Francis Burt
Chief Justice of Western Australia
and Chairman of the Electoral
Distribution Commissioners

Legislative Background

The Acts Amendment (Electoral Reform) Act 1987, came into operation on 30 October, 1987, by proclamation published in the Government Gazette on that day.

The electoral reform legislation included amendments to the Electoral Districts Act 1947-85 which required an immediate start to the division of the State into electoral districts and regions. The Act is now titled the Electoral Distribution Act, 1947-87. (the Act).

Section 2A (1) of the Act requires this division of the State to be completed as soon as practicable after 30 October, 1987.

The Act provides that there shall be three Electoral Distribution Commissioners (the Commissioners) for the purposes of the Act of whom:-

- (a) One shall be the Chief Justice of Western Australia, who shall be chairman;
 - (b) One shall be the Electoral Commissioner; and
 - (c) One shall be the Government Statistician.
- That position is held by the Deputy Commonwealth Statistician.

The first stage in the process of dividing the State was commenced by a notice published in "The West Australian" on Friday, 6 November, 1987, in which the Commissioners invited written suggestions relating to the division of the State to be lodged with the Commissioners within thirty days of that date.

The notice also invited written comments on those suggestions to be lodged with the Commissioners within fourteen days of the expiration of the period of thirty days mentioned above in the first stage.

Included in the notice was advice that the written suggestions were available for perusal at the office of the Electoral Commissioner, 4th Floor, W.A. Fire Brigade Building, 480 Hay Street, Perth.

The Commissioners are required within forty-two days of the expiration of the period of fourteen days mentioned above, to formulate proposals for the division of the State into districts and regions in accordance with the Act and the names proposed to be assigned to the districts and publish in the Government Gazette and in a newspaper circulating throughout the State:

- (a) A map or maps setting out these proposals; and
- (b) A statement of the Commissioners' reasons for making these proposals.

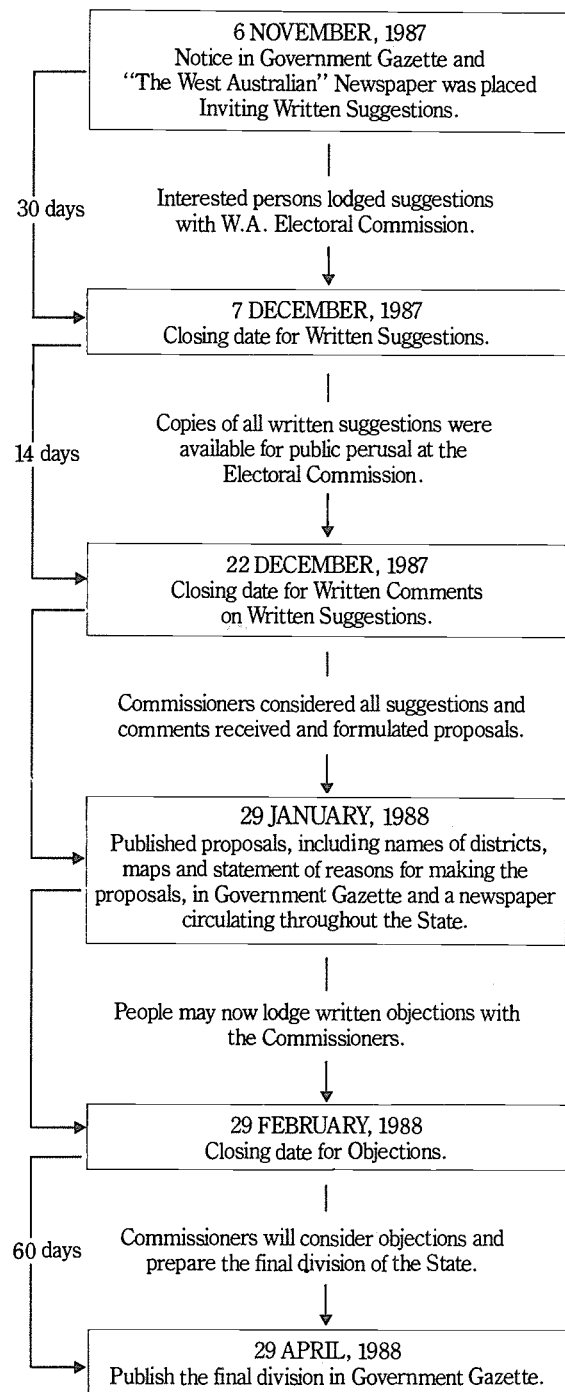
The proposals are accordingly published in this Gazette.

The primary purpose in publishing the proposals is to enable people to consider making objections in writing to any part of the proposals pursuant to section 3(2) (e) of the Act. Anyone who has an interest in the proposals is welcome to enquire or register it with the Western Australian Electoral Commissioner, Mr Les Smith, 4th Floor, W.A. Fire Brigade Building, 480 Hay Street Perth - Phone 481 0139. Objections or comments can be made about how the boundary lines have been drawn and the names used to describe the fifty-seven electoral districts. Any written objection should indicate if the person or organisation would like to have the matter heard by the Commissioners.

The basis for the Division of the State is set out in section 6 of the Act which reads as follows:-

- "6 (1) The Commissioners shall -
- (a) Divide the Metropolitan Area into 34 districts; and
 - (b) Divide the area comprising the remainder of the State into 23 districts.
- (2) The Commissioners shall make the division of an area mentioned in subsection (1) (a) or (b) into districts in accordance with the principle that the number of enrolled electors comprised in any district in the area must not be more than 15% greater, or more than 15% less, than the quotient obtained by dividing the total number of enrolled electors in the area by the number of districts into which the area is to be divided."

The steps in producing the new proposals.



The Metropolitan Area is defined as the Area that was, at 1 January, 1987, described in the Third Schedule to the Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme Act, 1959.

In making the division of the State, the Commissioners shall give due consideration under section 7 of the Act to:-

- (a) community of interest;
- (b) means of communication and distance from the capital;
- (c) physical features;
- (d) existing boundaries of regions and districts;
- (e) existing local government boundaries;
- (f) the trend of demographic changes;

and where the State is divided for the first time -

- (g) boundaries of the electoral provinces and electoral districts into which the State was divided prior to the division.

A substantial new criterion introduced by Parliament in 1987, requires the Commissioners to consider the trend of demographic changes.

This criterion had a major impact in determining the initial elector populations of districts. The Act provides that unless the Governor following upon the passing of a resolution of both Houses of Parliament should by Proclamation direct that there should be a further redistribution sooner, the next redistribution shall be carried out one year after the polling day for the second of two successive general elections.

This provision has led the Commissioners to fix the initial elector population in each district which will, having regard to the trend of demographic changes, produce approximate equality of numbers in each district in four years time.

Consideration of growth factors has highlighted the difficulty of achieving reliable projections without sound data readily available from an up-to-date information technology system. The Electoral Commission will introduce improvements and changes to systems to facilitate this task. The Commissioners are of the opinion that the growth projections arrived at are the best which can be produced under the circumstances bearing in mind the time constraints imposed.

Section 9 of the Act prescribes that the Commissioners shall divide the State into six regions so that:-

- (a) 3 regions, to be known, respectively, as the North Metropolitan Region, the South Metropolitan Region and the East Metropolitan Region, each consist of complete and contiguous districts that together form the Metropolitan Area.
- (b) one region, to be known as the Mining and Pastoral Region, consists of complete and contiguous districts that are remote from the capital and where the land use is primarily for mining and pastoral purposes.
- (c) one region, known as the Agricultural Region, consists of complete and contiguous districts that together form an area that is generally south or south and west of and adjacent to the Mining and Pastoral Region; and
- (d) The remaining region, to be known as the South West Region, consists of complete and contiguous districts.

Under the Constitution Acts Amendment Act, 1899, (section 5) the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia consists of thirty-four elected members who shall be returned and sit for electoral regions defined under section 6 which reads as follows:-

- "6 (1) The State shall be divided into 6 electoral regions under the Electoral Distribution Act 1947
- (2) The electoral regions known, respectively, as the North Metropolitan Region and the South West Region shall each return 7 members to serve in the Legislative Council.
 - (3) The electoral regions known, respectively, as the South Metropolitan Region, the East Metropolitan Region, the Agricultural Region and the Mining and Pastoral Region shall each return 5 members to serve in the Legislative Council."

One of the most fundamental amendments in the 1987 reform legislation was the introduction of Schedule 1 to the Electoral Act 1907-1987 which sets out the method of counting votes at Legislative Council elections.

At the multi-member elections for the Legislative Council, votes will be counted by a system of proportional representation which guarantees an accurate match between votes and the number of seats won. This is similar to the system of voting used for the Australian Senate.

The Legislative Assembly consists of fifty-seven members (section 18 of the Constitution Acts Amendment Act) and each electoral district returns one member to serve in the Legislative Assembly. (Section 19 of the latter Act) It is one of the functions of the Commissioners to decide which districts will be placed in each region. Members of the Assembly will continue to be elected by the system of preferential voting.

Commencing with the next State General Election, all members of both Houses of Parliament will be elected for terms of four years.

In undertaking their task, the Commissioners were assisted by information and research provided by the Western Australian Electoral Commission, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the State Planning Commission, the Department of Regional Development and the North West, Homeswest and Landbank.

When the Acts Amendment (Electoral Reform) Act 1987, was proclaimed to commence from 30 October, 1987, the Electoral Commission acted promptly to determine the numbers of electors for the purpose of making the division.

With co-operation from the Australian Electoral Commission, the electoral roll was closed as at 6 November, 1987, and the basic relevant statistics on which the division has been based are:-

(a) Total State Enrolment	909,374
(b) Metropolitan Area Enrolment	669,293
(c) Country Enrolment	240,081
(d) Quotients (Section 6(2) of the Electoral Distribution Act)	
(i) Metropolitan Area $\frac{669,293}{34} = 19,685$	
(ii) Country Area $\frac{240,081}{23} = 10,438$	
(e) The permitted variation of plus or minus 15% on the Area quotient provides for districts to range from 16,732 to 22,638 in the Metropolitan Area and from 8,872 to 12,004 in the country. No departure from those ranges is permitted to the Commissioners.	

Enrolment and quota statistics and appropriate maps were made available to parties interested in making written suggestions.

The written suggestions and the later written comments on those suggestions have been considered by the Commissioners. The data relevant to population growth and projections was gathered by research in the months of December, 1987 and January, 1988.

Proposed Regional Boundaries

(Refer to Map 1 on page 216)

The Electoral Distribution Act prescribes that the State of Western Australia be divided into the following six Regions.

Perth Metropolitan Area Regions –

- North Metropolitan Region
- South Metropolitan Region
- East Metropolitan Region

Country Regions –

- South West Region
- Agricultural Region
- Mining and Pastoral Region

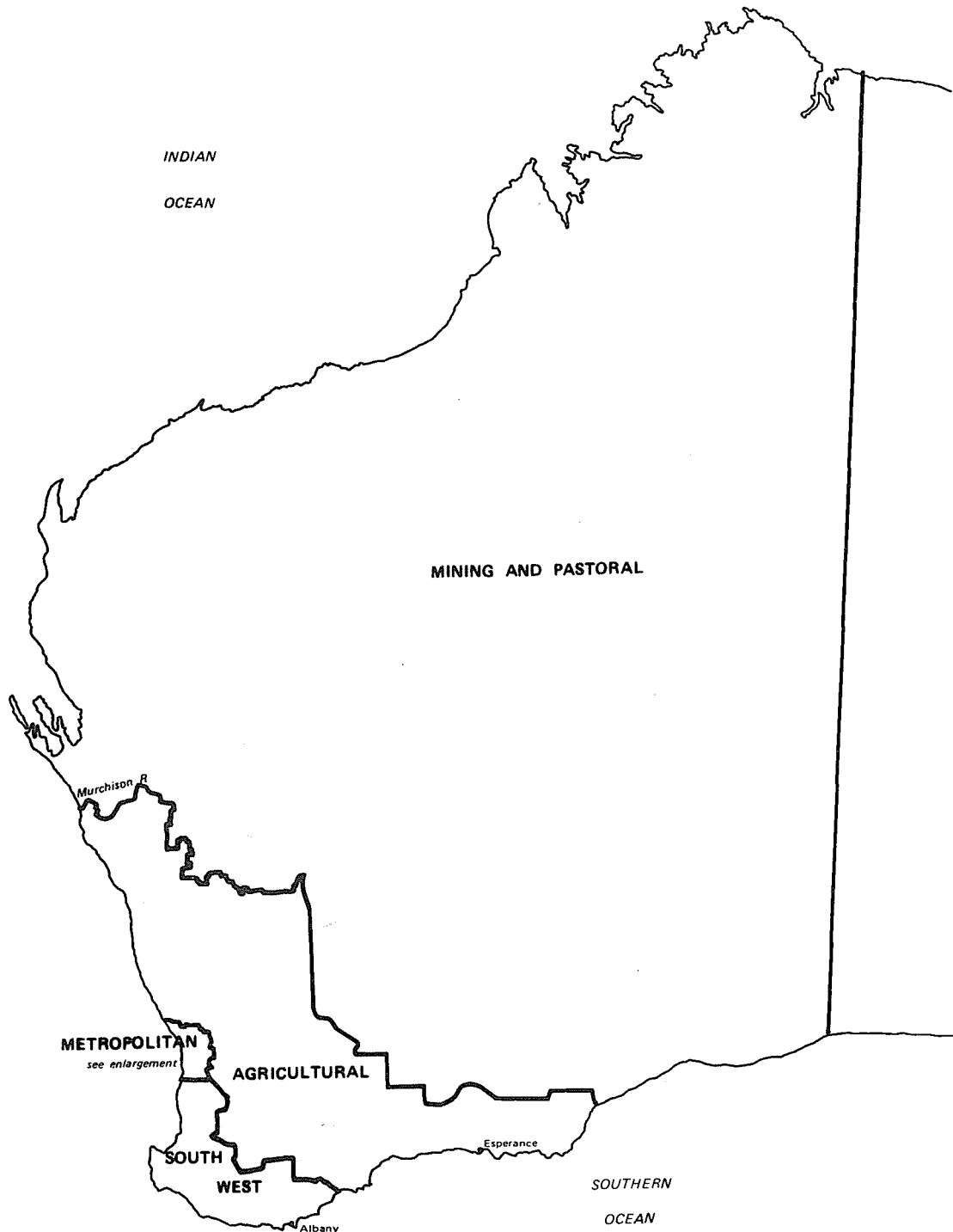
In this division of the State, the country regions have been defined taking into consideration land use (particularly in defining the Mining and Pastoral Region) which in broad terms reflect common community, economic and social interests.

The number of electors in each Region has been set at levels to ensure, as far as practicable, equivalence between regions within each of the Metropolitan and Country Areas in 1991 by taking into account expected demographic trends over that period.

The number of districts in each Region (refer to Table 1 on page 218) is in proportion to the number of Legislative Council members required by legislation for each Region except the Mining and Pastoral Region. In this latter Region, it was not possible to adopt a similar ratio because of the constraints imposed by legislation on the definition of the region.

The boundaries of Regions follow wherever possible, local authority boundaries (particularly in the country Area) and, where appropriate, natural or physical features.

MAP 1 Proposed Regional Boundaries



METROPOLITAN AREA REGIONS

(Refer To Map 2 on page 218)

Under the Act, the Metropolitan Area is defined as the Area that was, at 1 January, 1987, described in the Third Schedule to the Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme Act, 1959. The Act prescribes that the Metropolitan Area be divided into the North, South and East Metropolitan Regions.

The Swan River has provided a natural boundary between the North and South Regions with the coast forming the Western boundary for both of these Regions. The Eastern

boundary of the North Metropolitan and South Metropolitan Regions has been set to approximate the North Western and South Western urban planning corridors respectively except in the inner areas where the boundary has been defined to provide sufficient districts and electors within each region to ensure, as far as possible, equity between them over the period to the next division of the State.

The East Metropolitan Region is the remainder of the Metropolitan Area.

The elector populations of the Regions and the average elector populations of districts within the Regions (refer to Table No. 1 on page 218) were set to be near as practicable to equivalence in 1991.

COUNTRY AREA REGIONS

1. Mining and Pastoral Region (Refer To Map 1 on page 216)

The Act specifies that the Mining and Pastoral Region consists of areas which are remote from Perth and where the land use is primarily for mining and pastoral purposes. Consequently, this Region encompasses most of Western Australia.

The Region will experience growth in elector population but, the number of electors on the roll in this region falls well short of the census population. This apparent under enrolment may appear to create some uncertainty in estimating future elector populations primarily due to the difficulty of forecasting the effect of major new developments upon permanent resident population and hence upon the electoral population.

The number of districts within the Mining and Pastoral Region was set at 6 which is one less than would be required to achieve equivalence with the ratios of Legislative Council members to districts in other country area Regions. It would not have been possible to place an additional district in this Region without at least some districts contravening the 15% variation below the area quotient permitted by the Act.

2. Agricultural Region (Refer To Map 1 on page 216)

The Act defines this Region as being South or South-West of the Mining and Pastoral Region. In determining the boundaries of this Region it was considered that this Region should substantially embrace areas where broad acre agricultural activities were the predominant land use.

The elector population (refer to Table No. 1 on page 218) of this Region was set higher than the other country regions because overall growth in the population of electors is anticipated to be insignificant. Some districts in this Region will experience a decline in elector population whereas other districts near coastal urban centres (such as Geraldton and Esperance) and the Metropolitan Area are expected to grow. Other country regions will grow with the South West Region experiencing the largest growth.

The number of districts in this Region was set at 7 to ensure that the ratio of Legislative Council members to districts in the Agricultural Region and in the South West Region was near to equivalent.

The region follows local authority boundaries except where natural features or land use provide a compelling reason to do otherwise.

3. South West Region (Refer to Map 1 on page 216)

The South West Region is basically defined in the Act as the remainder of the State after the establishment of the Mining and Pastoral and Agricultural Regions. However, the Commissioners were mindful of community interest and land use when defining the boundary between the South West and Agricultural Regions.

A major determinant of the sizes of both the South West and Agricultural Regions was the setting of the number of districts in each Region. In the South West Region, there are 10 districts which ensures the ratio of Legislative Council members to districts within this and the Agricultural Regions is equal.

The number of electors in the Region was chosen in order that in 1991 the average number of electors in districts in the South West and Agricultural Regions was near to equivalent. This ensures, as far as practicable, over the period to the next division an equitable distribution of electors among districts.

The South West area of the State is presently growing very rapidly; in fact at almost a district quota (10,438) every four years.

Metropolitan Area Districts

(Refer to Map 2 on page 218 and Map 3 on page 219)

The Act requires that the Metropolitan Area be divided into 34 districts and that the quota of electors for each district be established when submissions are invited on how the State should be divided.

The quota of electors for the districts in the Metropolitan Area was set at 19,685 on 6 November 1987. In drawing up districts 15 per cent variation above or below this quota is permitted resulting in a range of 16,732 to 22,638 for Metropolitan Districts.

Demographic change was a major determinant in establishing the number of electors in districts within the above range. Districts were defined to ensure as far as practicable an equitable distribution of electors between districts over the period to the next division. To facilitate achieving this equity, districts were set to be as near as possible to equivalence in the number of electors in 1991.

In areas of very high growth, it was difficult to adjust districts to near equivalence in the future because of the minimum level permitted for districts (16,732) and the need to maintain community of interest. Consequently, districts in high growth areas may show on average higher projected elector populations.

The Swan and Canning Rivers were considered major physical features and were used wherever possible to define boundaries of districts. Proximity to these Rivers was also considered to reflect a broad community of interest which was taken into account when defining districts.

Some name changes have been made to avoid confusion with those existing districts which have undergone substantial boundary changes under current proposals.

1. NORTH METROPOLITAN REGION DISTRICTS

The Region contains 14 Districts as follows:-

WANNEROO (NEW NAME)
WHITFORD
MARMION (NEW NAME)
KINGSLEY (NEW NAME)
SCARBOROUGH
BALCATT
NEDLANDS
MARANGAROO (NEW NAME)
NOLLAMARA
FLOREAT
GLEN DALOUGH (NEW NAME)
DIANELLA (NEW NAME)
COTTESLOE
PERTH

In dividing up the North Metropolitan Region into districts, the Commissioners adopted the concept of defining a group of coastal districts which reflects a broad community of interest, common communication links (West Coast Highway) and consistency with the definition of existing districts.

Districts in the Shire of Wanneroo - the largest growing part of the North Metropolitan Region - have been defined to ensure growth in household formation is apportioned across several districts to achieve, as far as practicable, an equitable distribution of electors over the period to the next division.

However, whilst the districts in this Region share growth to the same extent, these districts will be on average above the average district levels in 1991. It was not feasible to lower the elector population further because of the statutory variation limit of 15 per cent and the adverse effect further division would have on community of interest.

Growth in this part of the Region required that an additional district be defined in the Shire of Wanneroo.

The remaining electoral districts were defined using the Mitchell Freeway and/or Wanneroo Road as major physical features to define wherever possible north/south boundaries of districts. East/west boundaries, particularly in the northern part of the Region, used major roads and existing and future freeway alignments wherever possible.

Elector populations in districts in the inner-city areas - Perth, Nedlands, Cottesloe, Floreat and Glendalough have been initially set high to compensate for lack of growth or relative decline in elector populations over the period to the next division of the State. Consequently, boundaries of inner-city existing districts have moved northwards and/or westwards.

MAP 2 Metropolitan Area Regions

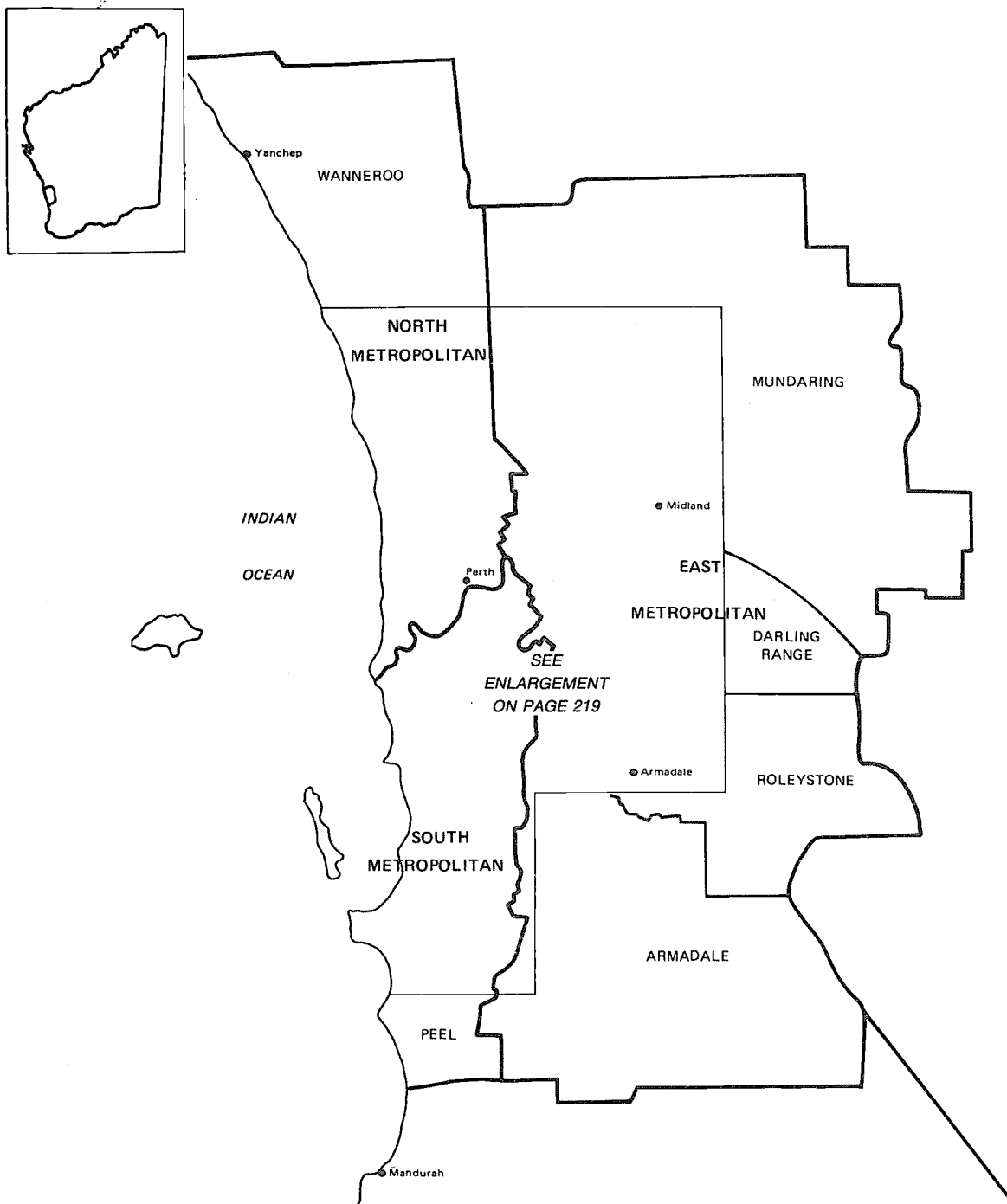


TABLE No. 1

	Legislative Council Members	Districts	Electors	
			Nov 87	Projected 1991
METROPOLITAN REGIONS				
- NORTH METROPOLITAN	7	14	279,262	313,400
- SOUTH METROPOLITAN	5	10	193,439	215,800
- EAST METROPOLITAN	5	10	196,592	222,500
COUNTRY REGIONS				
- MINING AND PASTORAL	5	6	60,545	66,100
- AGRICULTURAL	5	7	80,080	80,300
- SOUTH WEST	7	10	99,456	110,900

MAP 3 Metropolitan Area Districts

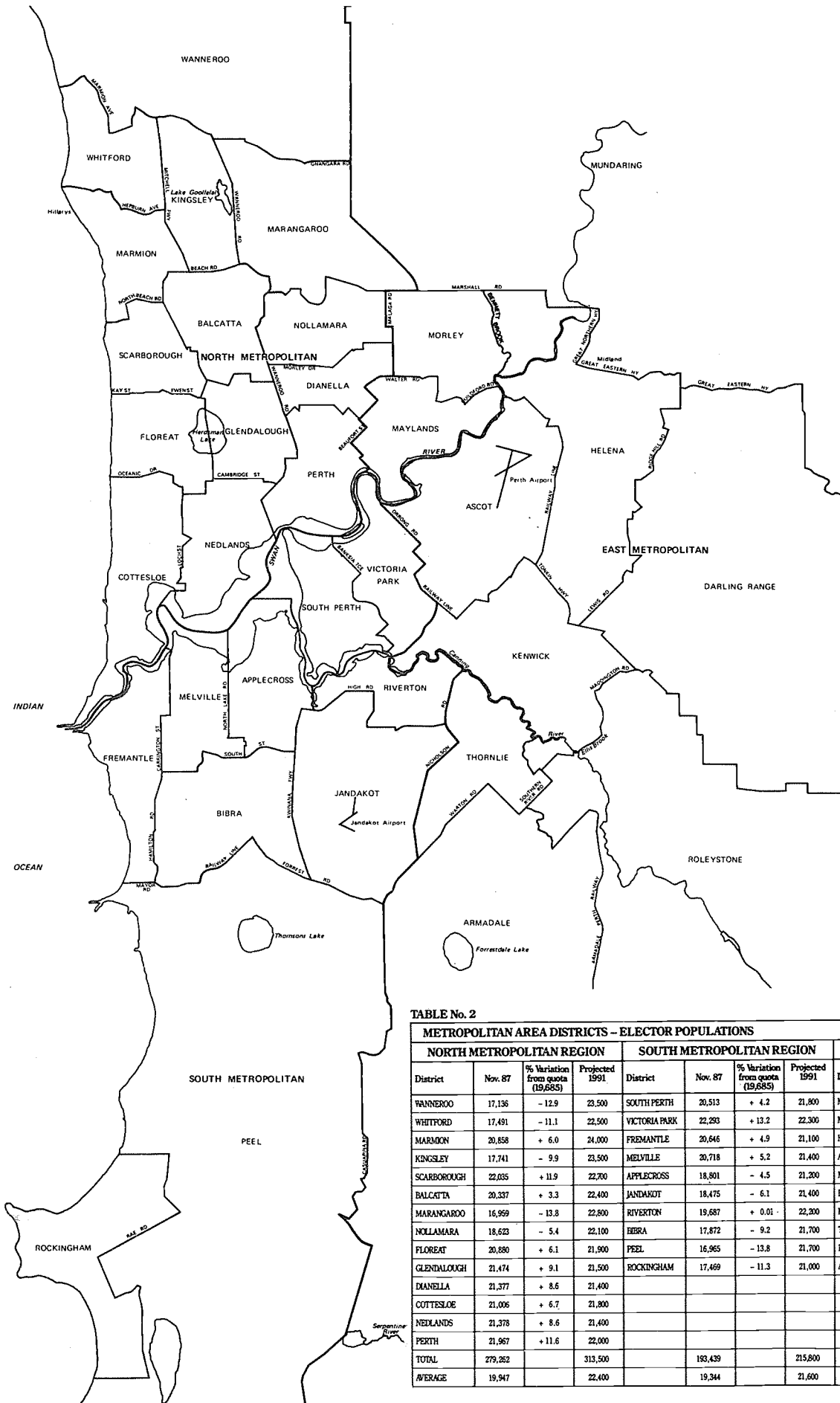


TABLE No. 2

METROPOLITAN AREA DISTRICTS - ELECTOR POPULATIONS											
NORTH METROPOLITAN REGION				SOUTH METROPOLITAN REGION				EAST METROPOLITAN RETION			
District	Nov. 87	% Variation from quota (19,685)	Projected 1991	District	Nov. 87	% Variation from quota (19,685)	Projected 1991	District	Nov 87	% Variation from quota (19,685)	Projected 1991
WANNEROO	17,136	- 12.9	23,500	SOUTH PERTH	20,513	+ 4.2	21,800	MAYLANDS	22,374	+ 13.7	22,400
WHITFORD	17,491	- 11.1	22,500	VICTORIA PARK	22,293	+ 13.2	22,300	MORLEY	17,807	- 9.5	23,500
MARMION	20,858	+ 6.0	24,000	FREMANTLE	20,646	+ 4.9	21,100	HELENA	19,549	- 0.7	22,700
KINGSLEY	17,741	- 9.9	23,500	MELVILLE	20,718	+ 5.2	21,400	ASCOT	21,797	+ 10.7	21,800
SCARBOROUGH	22,035	+ 11.9	22,700	APPLECROSS	18,801	- 4.5	21,200	MUNDARING	19,702	+ 0.1	22,800
BALCATTIA	20,337	+ 3.3	22,400	JANDAKOT	18,475	- 6.1	21,400	DARLING RANGE	19,479	- 1.0	22,200
MARANGAROO	16,959	- 13.8	22,800	RIVERTON	19,687	+ 0.01	22,200	KENWICK	19,826	+ 0.7	20,900
NOLLAMARA	18,523	- 5.4	22,100	PEEL	17,872	- 9.2	21,700	THORNLE	17,550	- 10.6	22,100
FLOREAT	20,880	+ 6.1	21,900	ROCKINGHAM	17,469	- 11.3	21,000	ROLEYSTONE	19,553	- 0.7	22,400
GLENDALOUGH	21,474	+ 9.1	21,500					ARMADALE	18,915	- 3.9	21,800
DIANELLA	21,377	+ 8.6	21,400								
COTTESLOE	21,006	+ 6.7	21,800								
NEDLANDS	21,378	+ 8.6	21,400								
PERTH	21,967	+ 11.6	22,000								
TOTAL	279,262		313,500		193,439		215,800		196,592		222,600
AVERAGE	19,947		22,400		19,344		21,600		19,659		22,300

2. SOUTH METROPOLITAN REGION DISTRICTS

The Region contains 10 districts as follows:-

PEEL (NEW NAME)
ROCKINGHAM
BIBRA (NEW NAME)
JANDAKOT (NEW NAME)
FREMANTLE
MELVILLE
APPLECROSS (NEW NAME)
RIVERTON (NEW NAME)
SOUTH PERTH
VICTORIA PARK

The concept of the coastal environs providing a common community of interest was applied when setting the boundaries of the urban centre coastal districts of Rockingham and Fremantle. The Swan and Canning Rivers were considered major natural features separating areas of common community interest and consequently were not crossed by any district in this region.

Electorate districts were defined to facilitate the sharing of high growth areas in the Cities of Canning, Cockburn, Kwinana, Melville and Rockingham to ensure an equitable distribution of electors between them over the period to the next division. Growth was such that an additional district has been created.

The district of Peel has one of the lowest elector populations of any in the Metropolitan Area because it has one of the largest growth rates of household formation in the Metropolitan Area. In addition, the relocation of the Naval Fleet at Garden Island and potential new major sub-division developments in the district will boost elector population.

3. EAST METROPOLITAN REGION DISTRICTS

The Region contains 10 districts as follows:-

ARMADALE
ROLEYSTONE (NEW NAME)
THORNLIE (NEW NAME)
KENWICK (NEW NAME)
DARLING RANGE
MUNDARING
HELENA
MORLEY (NEW NAME)
ASCOT
MAYLANDS

This Region includes the existing districts of Mundaring, Kalamunda, Darling Range and the metropolitan portion of Dale which were defined under previous legislation as country districts with corresponding low populations of electors well below the Metropolitan Area quota of 19,685.

As a result of the amendments to the Act, parts of the existing district of Dale are brought into the Metropolitan Area. The existing districts of Kalamunda and Darling Range contain urban communities on the Darling Scarp which share a community of interest.

As a result, the Commissioners considered these communities provided a sound basis to define a district incorporating virtually all of the existing district of Kalamunda and a major portion of the existing district of Darling Range.

This decision to amalgamate major portions of two existing districts, the lack of growth in the existing districts of Ascot, Maylands and Welshpool, and the distribution of high growth areas, has resulted in existing districts in this Region undergoing the most substantial changes to boundaries.

As with other Regions, the high growth areas were shared among as many districts as possible to ensure as far as practicable, equity between districts over the period to the next division.

The district of Roleystone was defined principally by connecting urban areas along the Brookton Highway as the Commissioners believed they share a common community of interest.

South West Region Districts

(Refer To Map 4 and 4A on page 221, and Map 4B and 4C on page 222)

The South West Region contains 10 districts as follows:-

MANDURAH
MURRAY (NEW NAME)
WELLINGTON (NEW NAME)
MITCHELL
BUNBURY
COLLIE
VASSE
WARREN
STIRLING
ALBANY

The quota for districts in this region is 10,438 with variations being permissible between 8,872 to 12,004.

The major factor in determining relative elector populations of districts in this Region within the above tolerance limits was demographic change. Areas of high growth in the Mandurah, Bunbury and Busselton local authorities has meant major changes being made to existing district boundaries.

The pattern and extent of growth in and around major coastal urban centres has resulted in a relationship between existing urban districts and the areas immediately adjoining them which in the opinion of the Commissioners has established a strong community of interest. The new boundaries are designed to accommodate this situation.

This approach was followed most obviously in the central and greater Bunbury areas where demographic change and community of interest enabled the Commissioners to define two districts. One district (Bunbury) covers the inner urban area of Bunbury and the other (Mitchell) encompasses the remainder of Bunbury, and Australind and Eaton. As a consequence, Bunbury and Mitchell become inner and outer "Bunbury Metropolitan" districts respectively.

Growth in elector populations in the Mandurah and Murray Shires is sufficient to enable two districts to be created within their boundaries. The boundaries of these two districts were defined by centring one district (Mandurah) on the core of the township of Mandurah and the other (Murray) taking the remainder of Mandurah and the Shire of Murray.

In this Region, districts have all been set below the country area quota for electors because of the high overall growth of the elector population in the Region. This has resulted in the average district elector population being lower than other country area Regions to ensure, as far as practicable, over the period to the next division, equity between the country Regions is maintained.

As far as possible, a series of districts comprising local authority areas along the coast of the South West has been established. All districts in the South West except Collie have a substantial coastal component.

Collie has stronger community of interest links with urban centres on the coastal plain than areas to the east or south east. However, given the difficulties in balancing elector populations and the disruption to the "inner" and "outer" Bunbury districts (Bunbury and Mitchell) that would be caused by a district centred on Collie having a coastal boundary, the Commissioners have defined a district of Collie which does not incorporate coastal plain areas. This was achieved by incorporating the Shire of Boddington and the North Ward of the Shire of Bridgetown/Greenbushes within the existing district of Collie.

The existing district of Albany has been expanded to compensate for growth in the Shire of Albany by moving the district boundary generally to the north.

New district names Murray and Wellington derived from the existing district of Murray - Wellington have been proposed because the existing boundaries of Murray - Wellington have been substantially modified.

MAP 4 and 4A South West Region Districts

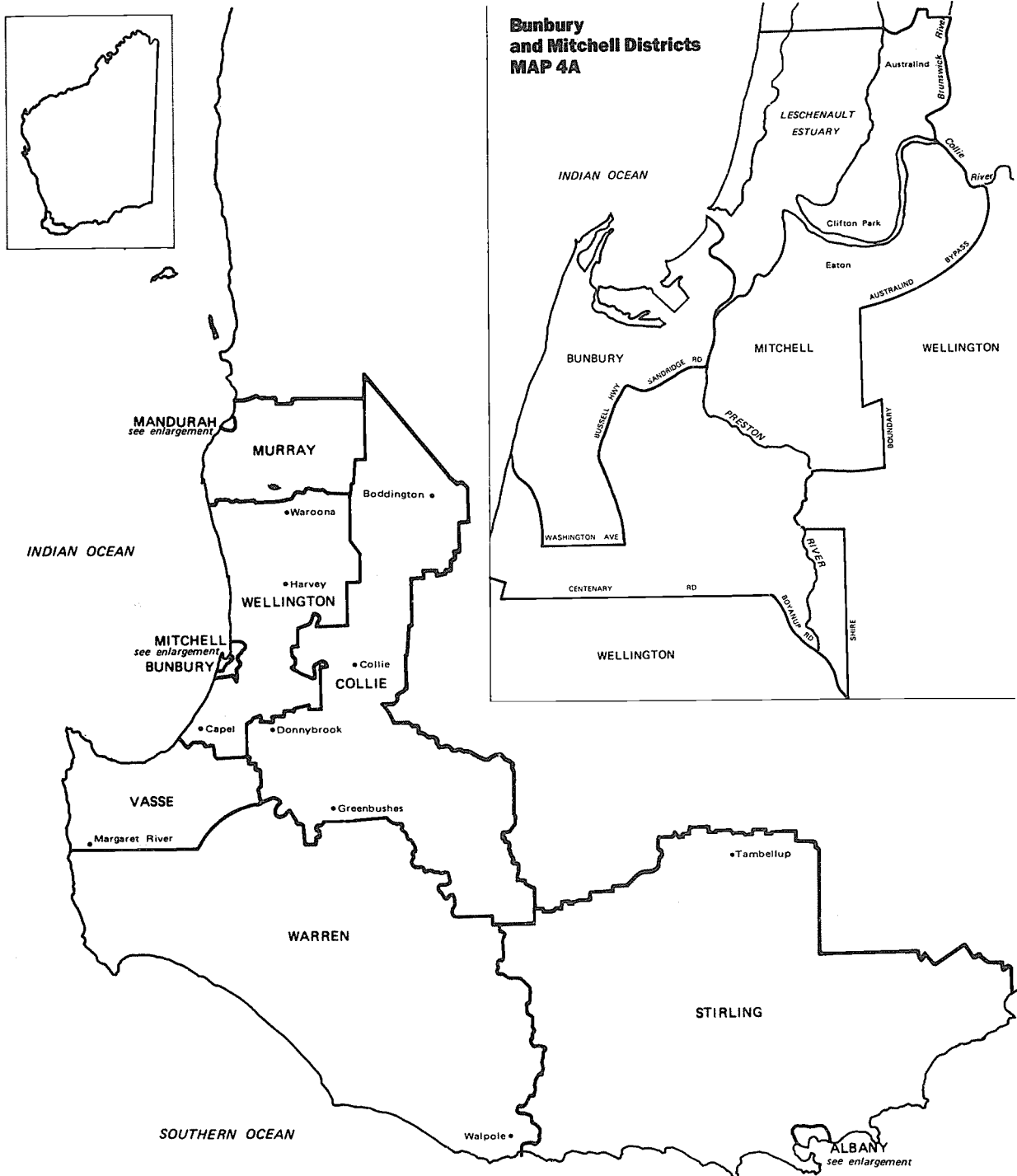


TABLE No. 3

SOUTH WEST REGION - ELECTOR POPULATIONS			
DISTRICTS	NOV. 87	% VARIATION FROM QUOTA (10,438)	PROJECTED 1991
MANDURAH	9,184	- 12.1	10,800
MURRAY	9,002	- 13.8	11,500
WELLINGTON	9,710	- 7.0	11,300
BUNBURY	10,182	- 2.5	11,000
MITCHELL	9,817	- 6.0	11,200
VASSE	9,766	- 6.4	11,500
COLLIE	10,435	- 0.1	10,800
WARREN	10,250	+ 1.8	10,500
STIRLING	10,674	+ 2.3	11,200
ALBANY	10,436	- 0.1	11,100
TOTAL	99,456		110,900
AVERAGE PER DISTRICT	9,946		11,100

Agricultural Region Districts

(Refer to Map 5 on page 223)

The Agricultural Region contains 7 districts as follows:-

- GERALDTON
- GREENOUGH
- MOORE
- MERREDIN
- AVON
- WAGIN (NEW NAME)
- ROE (NEW NAME)

Many of the districts in this Region are characterized by low growth or declining elector populations. All districts within this region have been set above quota (10438) although none exceeds the quota by more than the statutory limit of 15%. This approach ensures that, as far as practicable, equity between the elector population in districts within this Region and other country area regions is maintained over the period to the next division.

The Commissioners were mindful of the growing strong community interest links and interdependence between the Metropolitan Area and the Shires of Gin Gin, Chittering, Toodyay, Northam and York and the Town of Northam. Consequently, the new district of Avon was defined to include all these local authority areas.

Given the need to set all districts above quota and the above approach in defining the district of Avon, boundaries of all existing districts have been altered; in some cases substantially.

The growth in elector population in the Town of Geraldton and the surrounding Shires, enabled a similar approach to be adopted as was taken in the South West Region when considering expanding urban centres at Mandurah, Bunbury and Albany.

The growth in electors was apportioned between the two districts of Greenough and Geraldton to ensure, as far as practicable, an equitable distribution of electors between these districts over the period to the next division.

The boundaries of all districts in this region have followed local authority or local authority ward boundaries.

Mining and Pastoral Region Districts

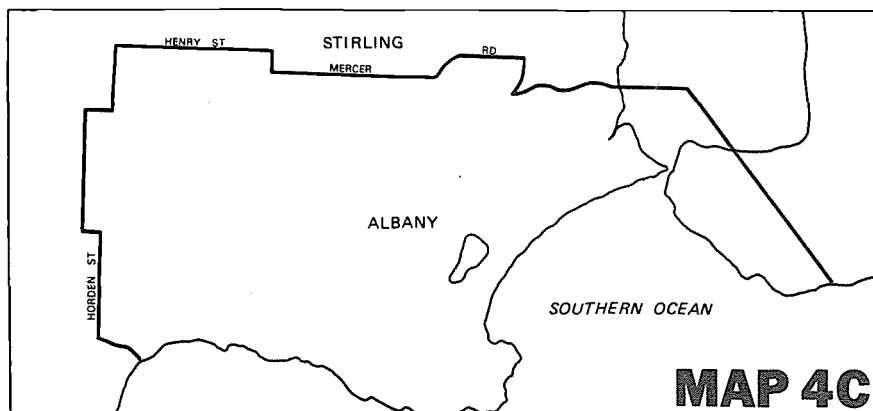
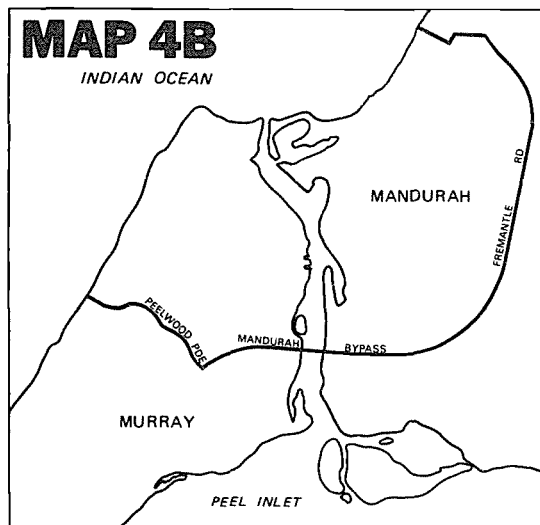
(Refer to Map 6 on page 224)

The Mining and Pastoral Region contains 6 districts as follows:-

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| KIMBERLEY | NORTHERN RIVERS (NEW NAME) |
| PILBARA | KALGOORLIE |
| EYRE (NEW NAME) | ASHBURTON (NEW NAME) |

The physical size, remoteness of this Region, and the pattern of population distribution within the Region, mitigate against the establishment of districts with comparable electoral populations. Some compromises on principles applied in other areas of the State had to be made in defining districts in this Region.

South West Region—Mandurah, Murray and Albany Districts.



MAP 5 Agricultural Region Districts

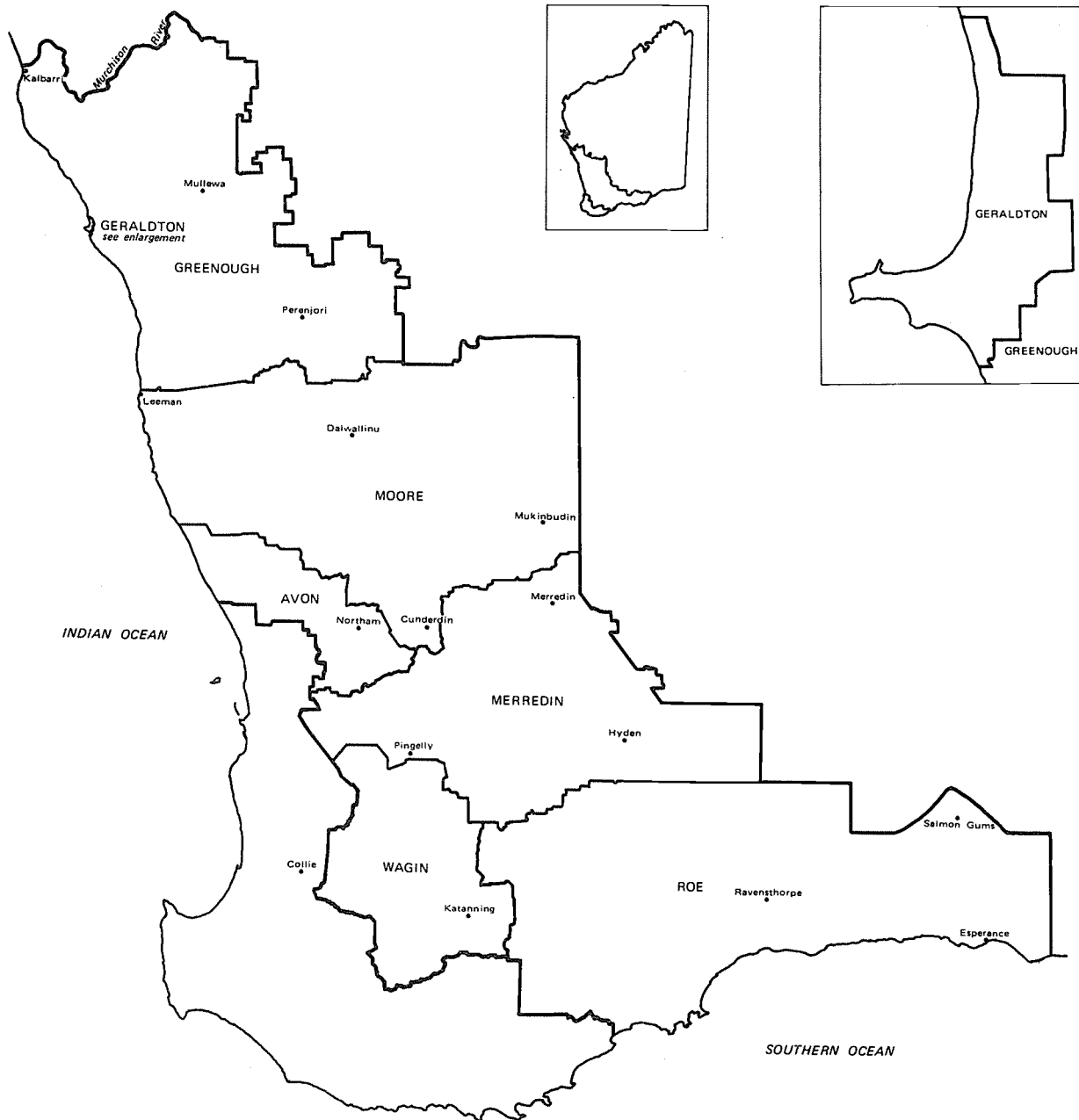


TABLE No. 4

AGRICULTURAL REGION - ELECTOR POPULATIONS			
DISTRICTS	NOV. 87	% VARIATION FROM QUOTA (10,438)	PROJECTED 1991
GERALDTON	10,958	+ 5.0	11,500
GREENOUGH	10,923	+ 4.6	12,000
MOORE	11,781	+ 12.9	11,200
AVON	11,020	+ 5.6	11,800
MERREDIN	11,963	+ 14.6	10,900
WAGIN	11,883	+ 13.8	11,100
ROE	11,552	+ 10.7	11,800
TOTAL	80,080		80,300
AVERAGE PER DISTRICT	11,440		11,500

MAP 6 Mining and Pastoral Region Districts

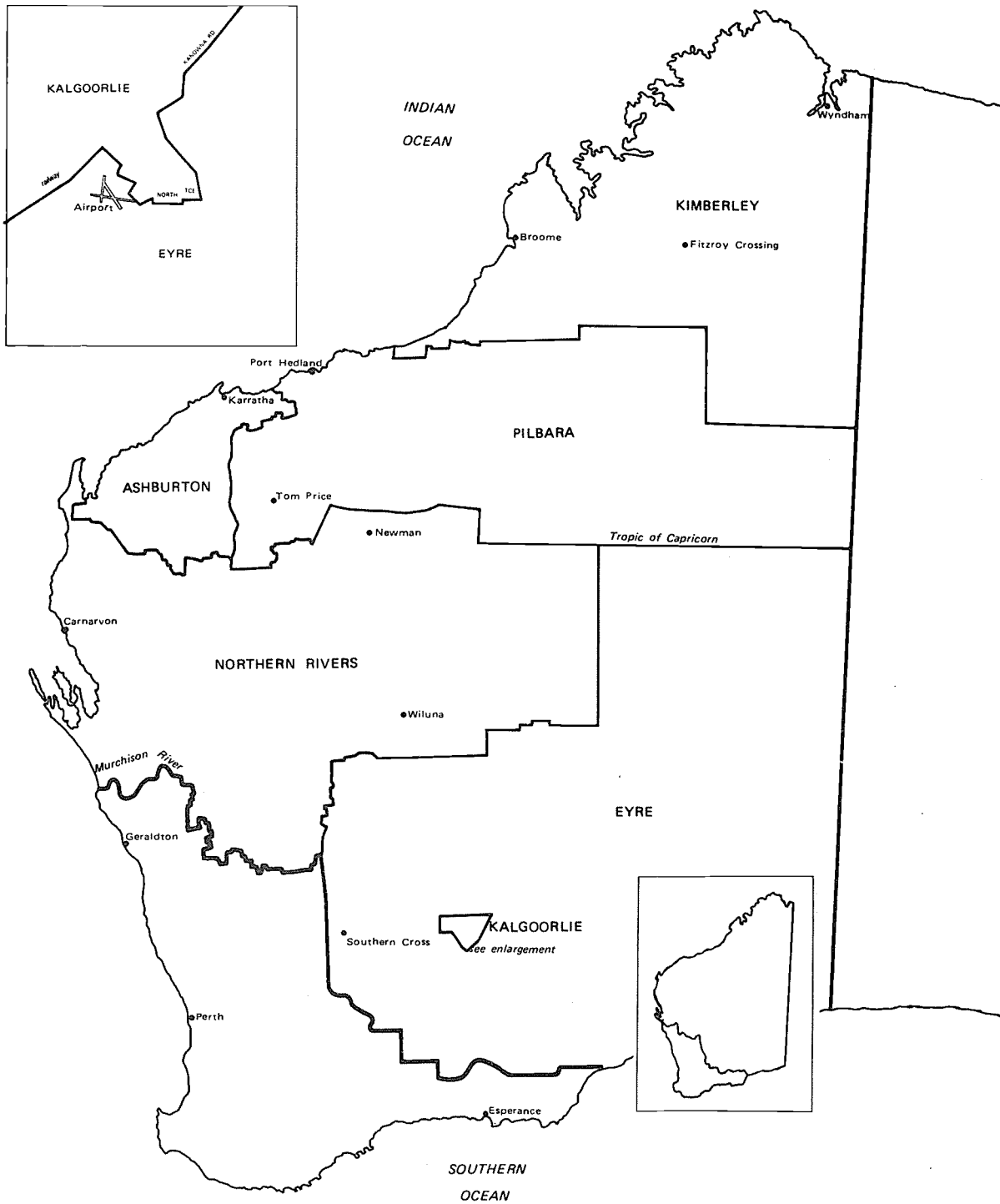


TABLE No. 5

MINING AND PASTORAL REGION DISTRICTS - ELECTOR POPULATIONS			
DISTRICTS	NOV. 87	% VARIATION FROM QUOTA (10,438)	PROJECTED 1991
KIMBERLEY	9,917	- 5.0	11,700
PILBARA	11,245	+ 7.7	10,900
ASHBURTON	9,047	- 13.3	10,000
NORTHERN RIVERS	9,722	- 6.8	11,100
KALGOORLIE	9,998	- 4.2	11,300
EYRE	10,616	+ 1.7	11,100
TOTAL	60,545		66,100
AVERAGE PER DISTRICT	10,091		11,000

Under previous legislation, elector populations of the existing districts of Gascoyne and Murchison Eyre were set well below the country quota and variations permitted by existing legislation. Therefore, substantial changes in the boundaries of these existing districts was necessary from the outset. In addition with the demographic change that is anticipated to occur throughout the Region, substantial changes in all remaining existing districts were necessary.

The township of Newman has been included in the Northern Rivers district not only because of the need to ensure as far as practicable a like number of electors in each of the districts in the Region, but also to reflect the communication and community of interest links between Meekatharra and Newman. The township of Wiluna has been included in this district for similar reasons.

Growth in elector population is anticipated to be high in the Kimberley and Pilbara areas creating the need to define an additional district.

The Commissioners observed that the relatively low proportion of the population of voting age enrolled in the Pilbara, East Pilbara and Kimberley districts could dramatically boost elector population numbers in these districts. The new Kimberley district could be most affected by this factor.

However, it has not been feasible to determine any reasonable means of adjusting for this circumstance.

The townships of Tom Price and Paraburdoo have been included in the Pilbara district. This continues their previous association with the Shire of East Pilbara in the former district of Kimberley.

District boundaries have been adjusted to achieve as far as practicable equity between districts over the period to the next division. In determining the growth of electors in the Pilbara it has been necessary to examine the likely growth trends of the townships of Paraburdoo, Tom Price, Pannawonica and Newman. The growth of these towns depends markedly on economic and industrial conditions, factors which can vary in an unpredictable manner.

As with the other major urban centres in other Regions, Kalgoorlie was considered jointly with the Boulder area. As a result, part of the Shire of Boulder has been incorporated with the Town of Kalgoorlie into the Kalgoorlie District. The remainder of the Shire of Boulder has been included in the surrounding district of Eyre. This split was forced upon the Commissioners because of the upper limit (12,004) on district size and to ensure, as far as practicable, an equitable distribution of electors between the two districts over the period to the next division.

District boundaries have followed wherever possible local authority boundaries. New names of Ashburton, Eyre and Northern Rivers have been proposed because of substantial changes in the boundaries of existing districts.

Conclusion

One of significant changes to the procedures for determining the boundaries for electoral districts and regions in the 1987 amendments to electoral legislation, relates to initiating the future division of the State into districts and regions.

Unless special circumstances arise, the division being undertaken now applies to the next two general elections for the Legislative Assembly.

The next division shall take place as soon as practicable after the day that is one year after the polling day for the second of those general elections. For example, if a general election for the Assembly was held in March, 1989, the four year term would end in March 1993 and the next division could commence in April 1994.

There is also provision in section 2A of the Act for the Governor, by proclamation, to direct that the State be divided in accordance with the Act as soon as practicable after the day of the issue of the proclamation. Such a proclamation requires both Houses of Parliament to pass a resolution to that effect. Therefore, the legislation assures that district and region boundaries will be reviewed regularly.

Further Information on the Proposals

If anyone has any queries about any aspect of the proposals including technical descriptions of the boundaries, feel free to contact the Electoral Commissioner, Mr Les Smith (4th Floor, W.A. Fire Brigade Building, 480 Hay Street, Perth - phone 481 0139). Enquiries can also be directed to him about any other aspect of the electoral reform legislation.

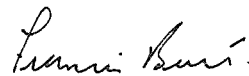
Any objections in writing need to be lodged within thirty days from the publication of this Gazette. The closing date for written objections, therefore, is Monday, 29 February, 1988.

An objection must be in writing, signed by the objector, and should give a concise and explicit statement of the ground upon which it is made, and of the relevant facts which are considered to support such ground.

An objection should be addressed to:-

Mr L.E. Smith
Electoral Commissioner,
Western Australian Electoral Commission
4th Floor,
W.A. Fire Brigade Building
480 Hay Street
PERTH WA 6000

The Commissioners, after considering written objections, are required to publish the final division of the State within sixty days of 29 February, 1988.



Francis Burt
Chief Justice of Western Australia
Chairman



Les Smith
Electoral Commissioner



Brian Pink
Government Statistician

Electoral Distribution Commissioners appointed under the Electoral Distribution Act, 1947-87.

