

WESTERN
AUSTRALIAN
GOVERNMENT

Gazette

4467



PERTH, TUESDAY, 30 AUGUST 1994 No. 123 SPECIAL

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY G. L. DUFFIELD, GOVERNMENT PRINTER AT 3.00 PM

ELECTORAL DISTRIBUTION ACT 1947

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

SETTING OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES

INTRODUCTION

The Electoral Distribution Act 1947 requires that Western Australia's electoral boundaries be reviewed at regular intervals so that the sizes of electorates remain within the established quotients.

This publication sets out the proposals of the Electoral Distribution Commissioners for revised electoral boundaries which will apply from the next State general election due by early 1997.

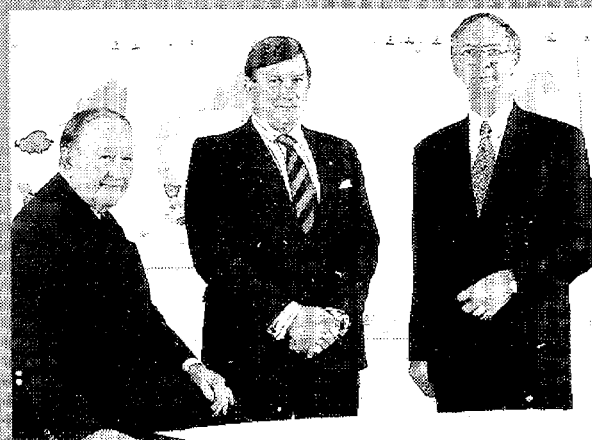
Because of the population changes in some areas since the last review, the proposed boundary changes are extensive. Each elector is encouraged to study the proposed new boundaries and the reasons for these.

Comments or objections are also invited about the proposals, as to the proposed boundaries, the proposed names of the electoral districts or on any other matter.

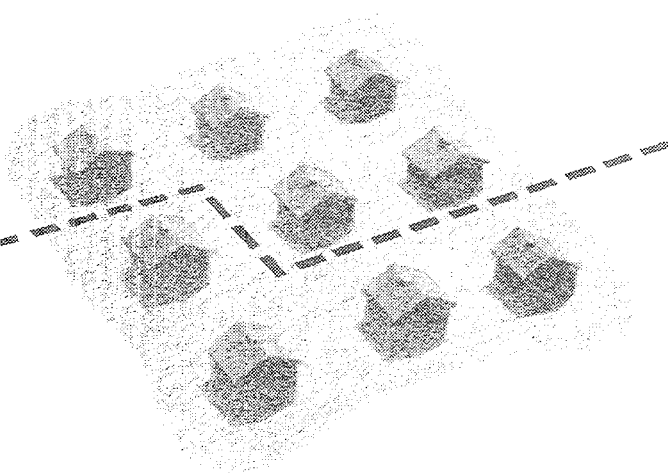
The closing date for written objections is 29 September 1994. These should be directed to Mr Les Smith, Electoral Commissioner, 4th Floor, Western Australian Electoral Commission, WA Fire Brigade Building, 480 Hay Street, Perth.

David Malcolm

Hon Mr Justice David Malcolm AC
Chief Justice of Western Australia
and Chairman of the Electoral
Distribution Commissioners
30 August 1994



The Electoral Distribution Commissioners (L-R):
Mr Les Smith, Hon Mr Justice David Malcolm AC,
Mr Peter Kelly



CONTENTS

Setting the Electoral Boundaries	Page 4470
The 1994 division of the State	Page 4471
Preparation for the division of the State	Page 4471
Proposed Regional Boundaries	Page 4472
Proposed District Boundaries	Page 4477
East Metropolitan Region Districts	Page 4477
North Metropolitan Region Districts	Page 4479
South Metropolitan Region Districts	Page 4481
Agricultural Region Districts	Page 4483
Mining and Pastoral Region Districts	Page 4485
South West Region Districts	Page 4487
Conclusion	Page 4490

SETTING THE ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES

AN OVERVIEW



The Electoral Distribution Act 1947 establishes the process by which the State's electoral boundaries are set.

Three Electoral Distribution Commissioners are appointed by the Act to divide the State into electoral regions and districts. The Commissioners are:

Hon Mr Justice David Malcolm, AC, Chief Justice of Western Australia (Chairman)

Mr Les Smith, Electoral Commissioner, and

Mr Peter Kelly, Government Statistician and Deputy Commonwealth Statistician for Western Australia.

The Commissioners are required to call for written suggestions about new boundaries, and then call for written comments on these suggestions. Once these have been considered, the Commissioners' proposals are published and objections to these proposals may then be lodged. The Commissioners' proposals must meet certain defined criteria, which are set out in detail in this publication.

Finally, the Commissioners are required to publish their division of the State into electoral regions and districts. The Commissioners' decisions at this last stage are final and there is no further review or appeal against them.

The electoral boundaries established by this process then apply for two State general elections before they are next reviewed.

THE STATUTORY SCHEME

Section 2A(2) of the Electoral Distribution Act provides that if the same division of the State has applied in respect of two successive general elections for the Legislative Assembly, the State shall be divided into regions and districts as soon as practicable after the day that is one year after the polling day for the second of those general elections.

The basis for the division of the State is set out in section 6 of the Electoral Distribution Act which reads as follows:

"(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 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, together with Rottnest Island.

In making the division of the State, the Commissioners are required by section 7 of the Act to consider the following matters:

- "(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."

As the 1994 division of the State is the second to be undertaken under the current arrangement, section 7(g) above will not apply on this occasion.

The last division of the State was undertaken in 1987/88 with the proposals being published in Government Gazette No. 8 of Friday 29 January 1988 and in a supplement distributed with The West Australian and the Sunday Times and country newspapers at that time. The final division of the State was published in Government Gazette No. 40 of 29 April 1988.

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."

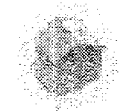
THE PARLIAMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The Electoral Distribution Act provisions follow on from section 5 of the Constitution Acts Amendment Act 1899 which provides that 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 of that Act. Section 6 provides that the North Metropolitan Region and the South West Region shall each be represented by 7 members in the Council and that the other four regions shall each be represented by 5 members. Other provisions contained in the Electoral Act 1907 then ensure that these members are elected by proportional representation, so that candidates are elected broadly according to the proportion of the vote they have secured.

Sections 18 and 19 of the Constitution Acts Amendment Act establish that the Legislative Assembly consists of fifty-seven members, each of whom represents one electoral district. Legislative Assembly elections are conducted by the preferential system of voting. It is one of the functions of the Electoral Distribution Commissioners to decide which districts will be placed in each region.

THE 1994 DIVISION OF THE STATE INTO ELECTORAL REGIONS AND DISTRICTS

DATE FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES



The Electoral Distribution Act sets out a timetable for the process of calling for written suggestions and written comments, reviewing these and for the Commissioners' proposals to

be published.

In addition, the Act also sets the date which is used as a base for determining the number of electors, from which quotients are calculated. The number of electors on the State electoral roll on the day that is one year after the polling day of the last State general election is used as a base for the purpose of making of a division of the State.

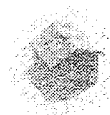
For the 1994 division, the relevant date is 7 February 1994, that being the day that is one year after the polling day for the 1993 State General Election.

One of the first steps to be taken then was for the Electoral Commission to make arrangements for the close of the State electoral roll on 7 February 1994, so that this information could then be used as a base.

On 7 February 1994, the following statistics applied:

<i>Calculation of Quotients</i>				
Total State Enrolment	1,034,006			
Metropolitan Area Enrolment	760,596			
Country Enrolment	273,410			
<i>(Enrolment as at 7 February 1994)</i>				
Metropolitan Area Quotient	760,596	÷	34	= 22,370
Country Area Quotient	273,410	÷	23	= 11,887
<i>Permitted Variation ± 15%</i>				
Metropolitan Area	19,015	-15%		+15%
Country Area	10,104			

PREPARATION FOR THE DIVISION OF THE STATE



Prior to the close of roll, the Electoral Commission had undertaken substantial work to establish an integrated computer based information system that would readily support decision making by the Electoral

Distribution Commissioners.

A substantial investment had been made in computer hardware and software as well as information acquisition, and considerable effort was invested in the integration and validation of this data. Information sources included the Electoral Commission's own electoral records, as well as details from the Australian Electoral Commission, census and other data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, a variety of land related information from the Department of Land Administration, details of roads from the Main Roads Department and demographic projections from the Department of Planning and Urban Development. Further information was also obtained about likely demographic change in specific areas, for example the East Perth development area. All of the information was the best available at the time.

The establishment of this integrated information system has placed the Commissioners in an advantageous position compared to that which was experienced in the previous division of the State in 1987/88. On that occasion, only limited preparation was possible and while much of the data to be used in 1994 was then available, the analysis and manipulation of this data was made difficult by the lack of effective computer support. The Commissioners responsible for the 1987/88 division recognised this difficulty and recommended that support systems be considered for the next division.

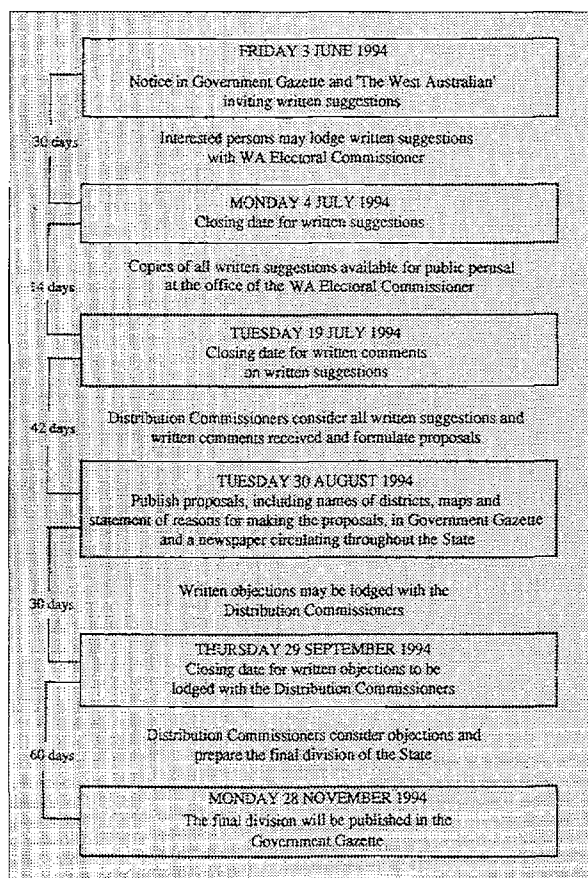
As a specific example of the benefits gained through this development, once a boundary is altered, the recalculation of elector statistics can now be made by the computer system

in 3 to 4 minutes, compared with 3 to 4 days of manual effort in 1987/88. This has enabled the Commissioners to give much closer attention to a far wider range of scenarios than was possible on the previous occasion.

TIMETABLE

As these preparations were still continuing in the early part of 1994, the Commissioners determined that the 1994 division of the State should commence on 3 June 1994 when a notice appeared in the Government Gazette and The West Australian inviting written suggestions and written comments on those suggestions. This then brought into operation the provisions of section 3(2) of the Act which determines the timing of the various phases.

As a consequence, the timetable for the 1994 division of the State into electoral regions and districts is as follows:



SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED AND CONSIDERED

By the closing date for the written suggestions on 4 July 1994, some 8 suggestions had been received from a variety of individuals, organisations and political parties. These were then made available at the Electoral Commission

for perusal by other interested persons and a further 29 written comments were received about these suggestions.

The Commissioners then set about the task of reviewing all of the available material and formulating their own proposals. These are discussed in the material that follows and are now published in accordance with the requirements of the Act in both the Government Gazette and in newspapers circulating throughout Western Australia.

Any person or group who wishes to lodge a written objection to these proposals is invited to do so. These objections must be lodged by 29 September 1994 with Mr Les Smith, Electoral Commissioner at the address indicated in the introduction to this publication. Should any more detailed information be required, this can also be obtained from Mr Smith's office.

Any written objections will then be considered and the Commissioners will then publish the final division in the Government Gazette of 28 November 1994. The electoral boundaries determined at that time will then take effect at the next State general election to be held by early 1997 and will apply for the State general elections due for 1997 and 2001. Any by-elections which are required before the 1997 State General election will be held on the basis of districts as established by the 1987/88 division of the State.

PROPOSED REGIONAL BOUNDARIES



The Electoral Distribution Act prescribes that the State be divided into six regions, as follows:

PERTH METROPOLITAN AREA REGIONS

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

COUNTRY REGIONS

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

Because of the population growth in some areas and the decline in population in other areas since the 1987/88 division of the State, some close consideration was given by the Commissioners to the Region boundaries.

THE COUNTRY REGIONS

The Commissioners have given careful consideration to the country region boundaries established in 1987/88 and have reached the view that the present boundaries accurately describe the intention of the legislation. That is, that the present Mining and Pastoral Region accurately reflects that area which is remote from Perth and where the land use is principally mining and pastoral. Similarly, the present Agricultural Region reflects complete and contiguous districts which are generally south or south and west and adjacent to the Mining and Pastoral Region, with the remainder then being the South West Region.

It is proposed to retain the existing Country Region boundaries, with one small exception of a boundary change between the Agricultural Region and the South West Region which follows a realignment of the boundaries of the Shires of Albany, Gnowangerup and Jerramungup.

Having confirmed that the existing Region boundaries are appropriate, the Commissioners then considered the question of the number of districts allocated to each Region.

At present, the Agricultural Region contains 7 districts, the Mining and Pastoral Region 6 districts and the South West Region 10 districts.

The Mining and Pastoral Region has experienced little growth in elector numbers, with this trend likely to continue. In contrast, the South West Region, and in particular the coastal strip from Mandurah to Augusta is experiencing strong growth in elector population.

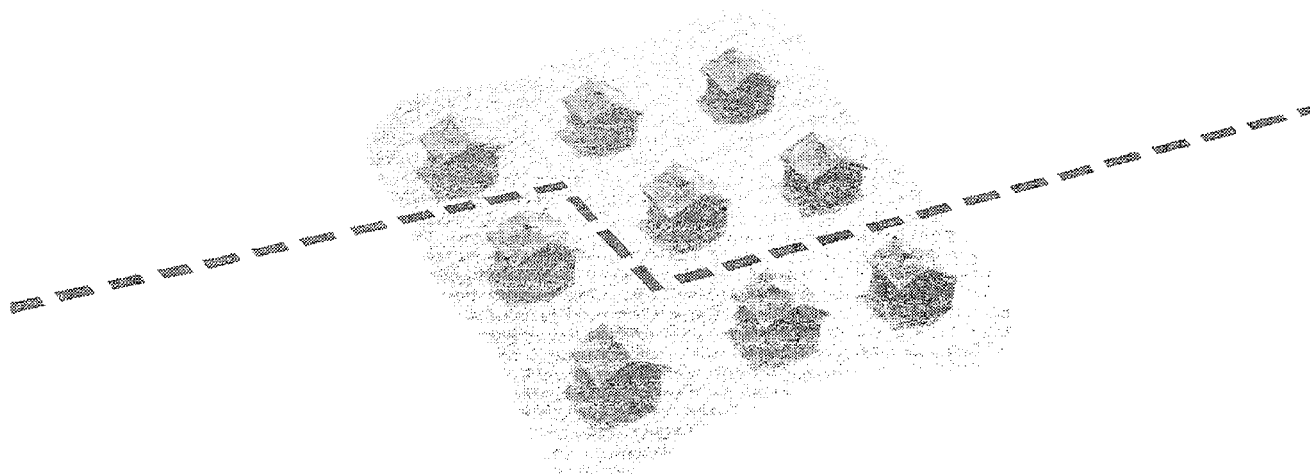
A consideration of the elector populations as at the reference date for this division of the State, together with the growth projections, leads the Commissioners to the conclusion that the number of districts in the Mining and Pastoral Region must be reduced to 5 and the number of districts in the South West Region must be increased to 11.

This will mean that in the short term, the average number of electors in each district in the Mining and Pastoral Region will be above the average for the Agricultural Region and the South West Region. This was considered a preferred solution, however, to the alternative should the existing 6 seat option be retained, whereby all or most of the districts in the Mining and Pastoral Region would be substantially below the country quotient.

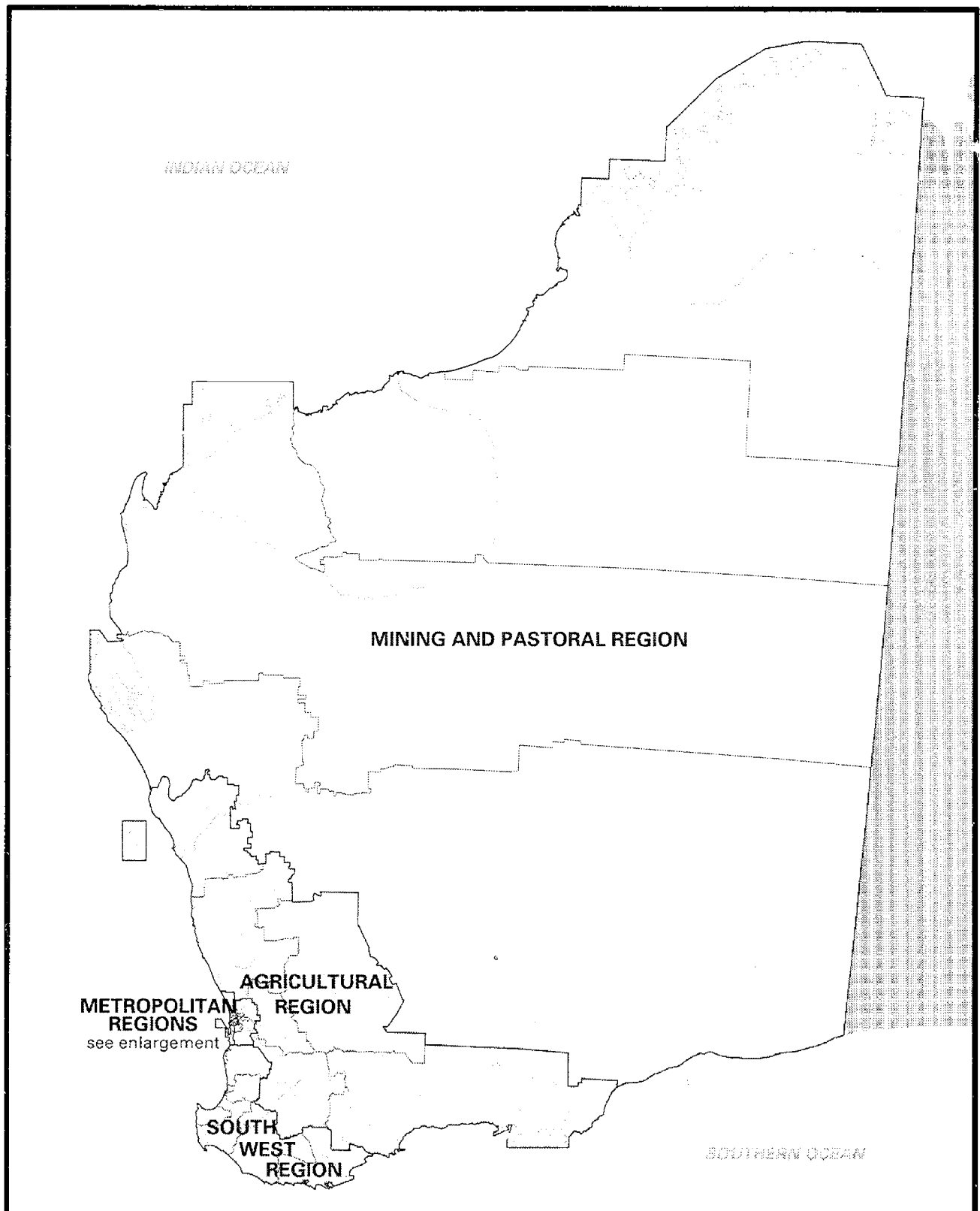
The resultant country Region statistics are:

Country Area Summary

Country Regions	Legislative Council Members	Legislative Assembly Districts	No. Electors		Average No. Electors	
			February 1994	Projected 1998	February 1994	Projected 1998
Agricultural	5	7	87,131	88,820	12,447	12,690
Mining and Pastoral	5	5	64,849	68,460	12,970	13,690
South West	7	11	121,430	130,440	11,039	11,860
Total	17	23	273,410	287,720	11,887	12,510



PROPOSED REGIONAL BOUNDARIES



THE PERTH METROPOLITAN AREA

Elector populations in the North Metropolitan and South Metropolitan Regions have continued to grow more rapidly than those in the East Metropolitan Region, with this trend being expected to continue. Some adjustment is therefore required to the Region boundaries to ensure, as far as practicable, equivalence in the district elector populations in 1998, the mid point of the period during which this division of the State applies. Boundary changes are proposed between the North and East Metropolitan Regions and the South and

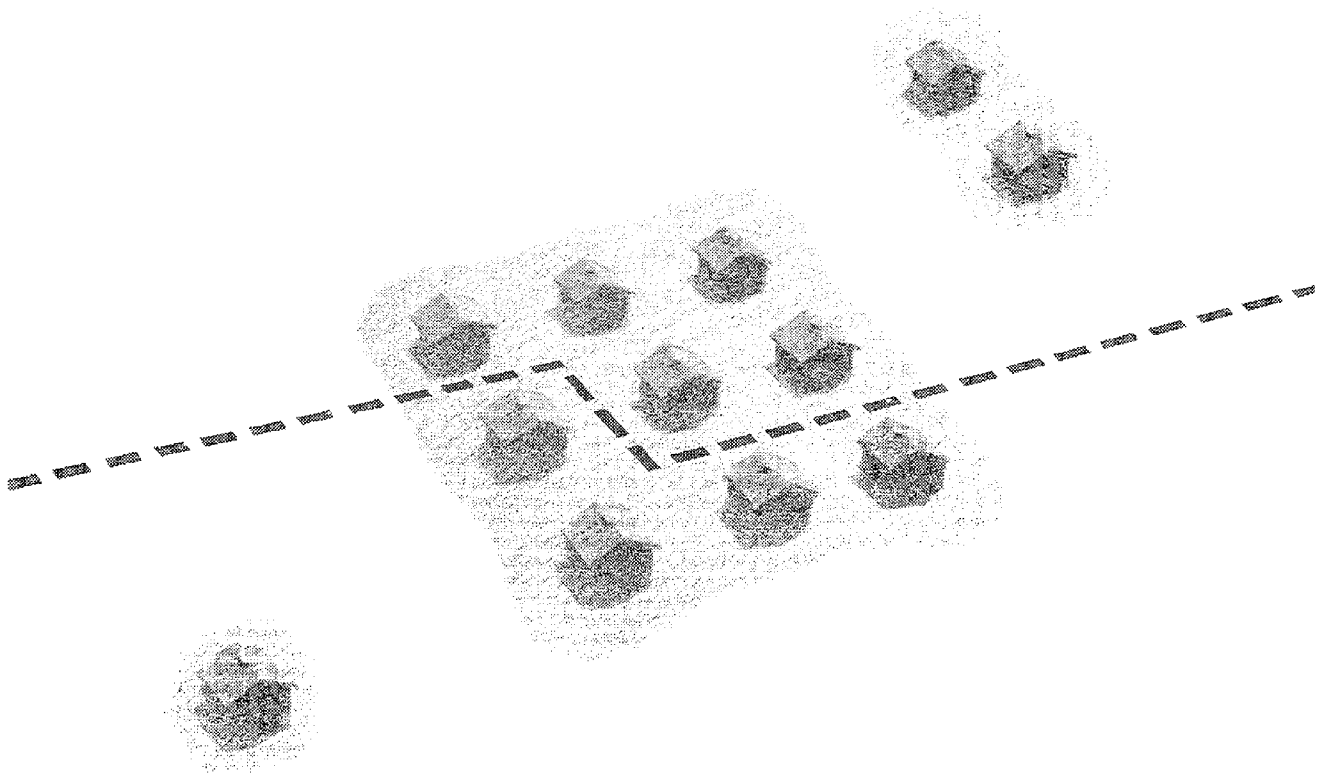
East Metropolitan Regions. The net overall effect of these changes is an increase in the number of electors in the East Metropolitan Region to compensate for the slower growth of that Region.

Where regional boundary changes are proposed, major roads have been selected wherever possible, as the new boundaries, for example, Alexander Drive in the north and the Kwinana Freeway extension in the south.

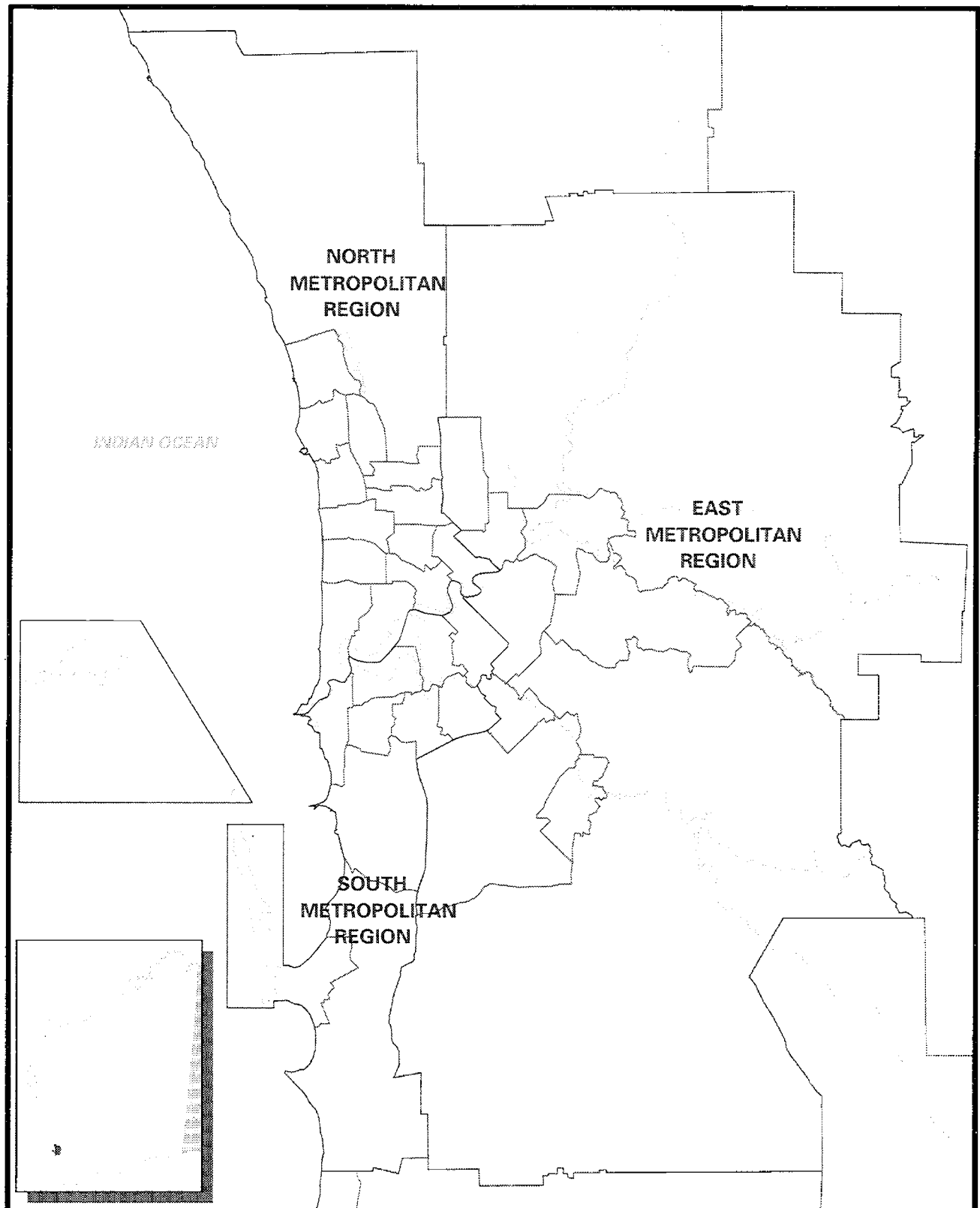
The resultant Region statistics are:

Metropolitan Area Summary

Metropolitan Regions	Legislative Council Members	Legislative Assembly Districts	No. Electors		Average No. Electors	
			February 1994	Projected 1998	February 1994	Projected 1998
East Metropolitan	5	10	227,177	238,630	22,718	23,860
North Metropolitan	7	14	312,232	329,770	22,302	23,560
South Metropolitan	5	10	221,187	234,130	22,119	23,410
Total	17	34	760,596	802,530	22,370	23,600



METROPOLITAN AREA REGIONS



PROPOSED DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

METROPOLITAN AREA DISTRICTS



Some parts of the Perth metropolitan area are growing rapidly, while in other parts, the population is static or in decline. Because of the desirability of keeping districts in balance

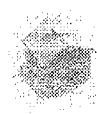
at the midpoint of the period that this division of the State applies for, the Commissioners consider it necessary to set high growth districts at near to the minimum level permitted and to set districts with static or moderate growth projections at the higher end of the permitted range.

The proposals also contain new or altered districts focussed on the major regional centres of Armadale, Joondalup, Midland and Rockingham. Districts based on the major centres of Perth and Fremantle have been retained. Major features such as the Swan River, freeways and other key roads were also used, where possible, as district boundaries.

EAST METROPOLITAN REGION DISTRICTS

The Region contains 10 districts as follow:

Armadale	Ballajura
Bassendean	Belmont
Darling Range	Midland
Roleystone	Southern River
Swan Hills	Thornlie



Changes to the North Metropolitan/East Metropolitan Region boundary have led to extensive changes to those districts to the north of the Swan River. A new district focussed on Midland is also contained in the proposals, as is a district focussed on Armadale. Three larger semi-rural districts have been retained on the outer perimeter of the East Metropolitan Region. Further changes to the South Metropolitan/East Metropolitan Region boundary have resulted in substantially revised district boundaries in the area adjacent to the Canning River.

Elector statistics for the East Metropolitan Region districts follow:

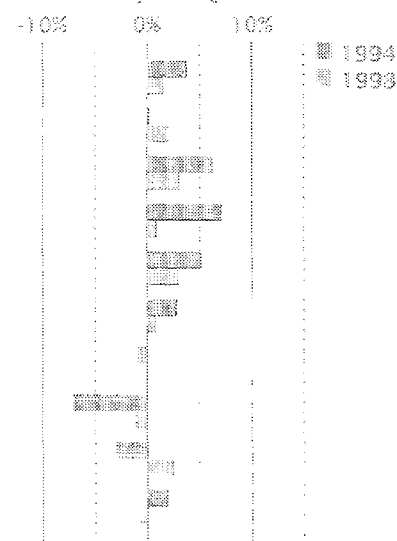
East Metropolitan

Elector Enrolment
1994 1998 Projected

23,197	23,940
22,381	24,050
23,745	24,300
23,938	23,790
23,499	24,280
22,980	23,760
22,162	23,560
20,792	23,350
21,703	24,170
22,780	23,430

ARMADALE
BALLAJURA
BASSEDEAN
BELMONT
DARLING RANGE
MIDLAND
ROLEYSTONE
SOUTHERN RIVER
SWAN HILLS
THORNIE

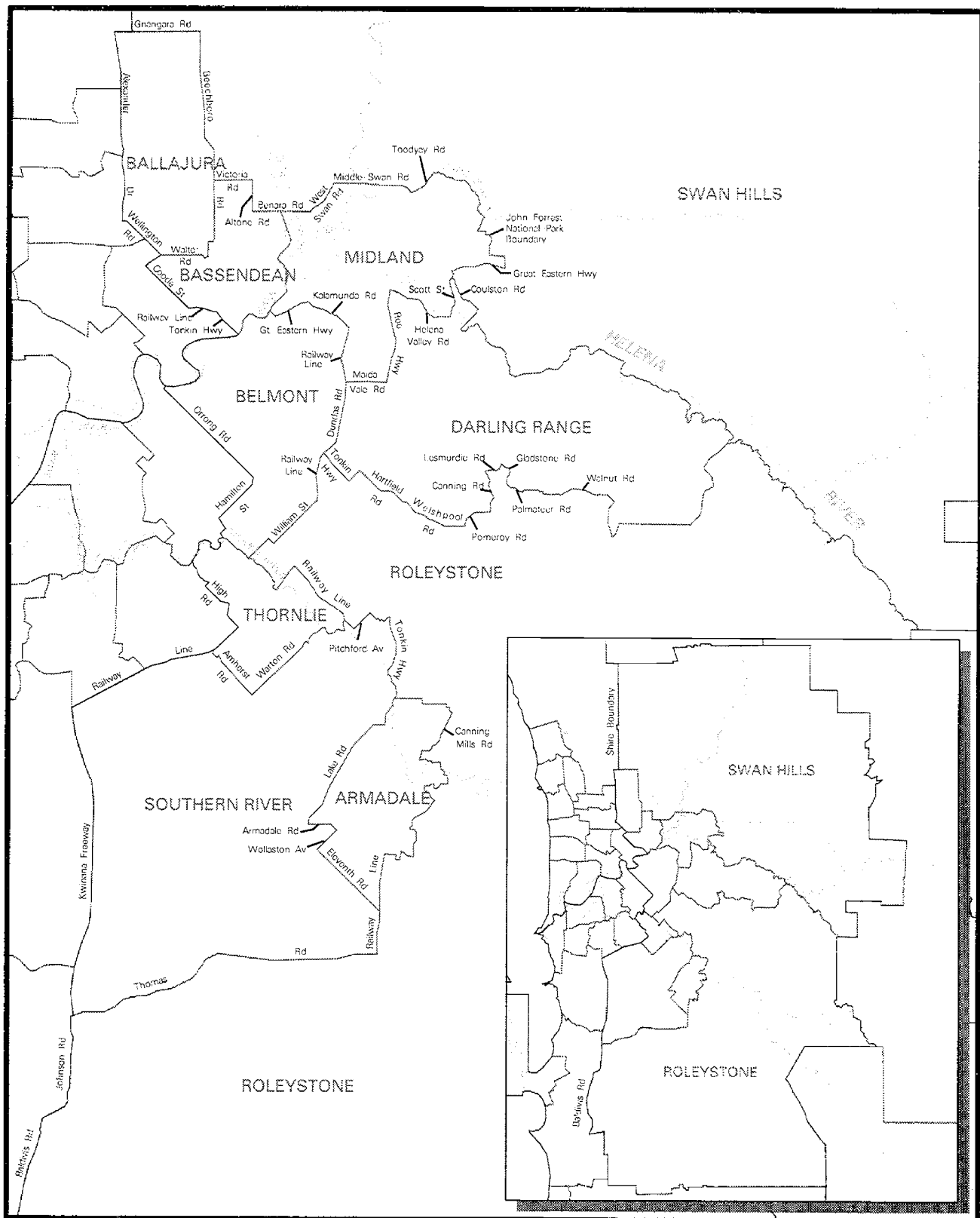
% Deviation from Quotient



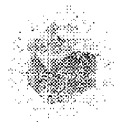
Total	227,177	238,630
Average	22,718	23,863

	-1.5%	Metropolitan Quotient	+1.5%
1994	19,015	22,370	25,726
1998	20,060	23,600	27,140

EAST METROPOLITAN REGION DISTRICTS



NORTH METROPOLITAN REGION DISTRICTS



The Region contains 14 districts as follows:

Bedford	Carine
Churchlands	Cottesloe
Girrawheen	Hillarys
Innaloo	Joondalup
Kingsley	Nedlands
Nollamara	Perth
Wanneroo	Yokine

The continuing development within the Shire of Wanneroo and the development of Joondalup as a regional centre have led to substantial changes in the northern part of the Region.

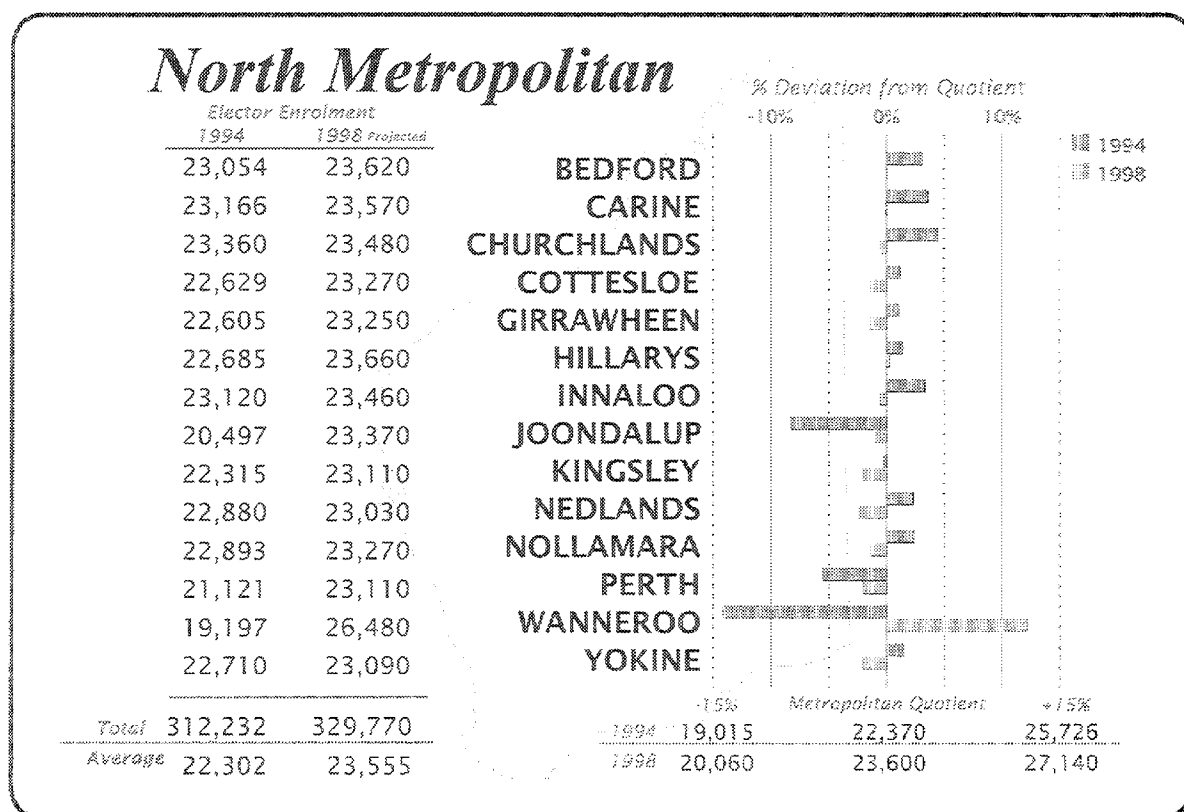
A new district comprising the Joondalup regional centre is proposed, together with a substantially revised district of

Wanneroo containing that area to the north and east of Joondalup. Both these districts have been set at the lower end of the permitted range, because of the anticipated strong growth in elector population in the area.

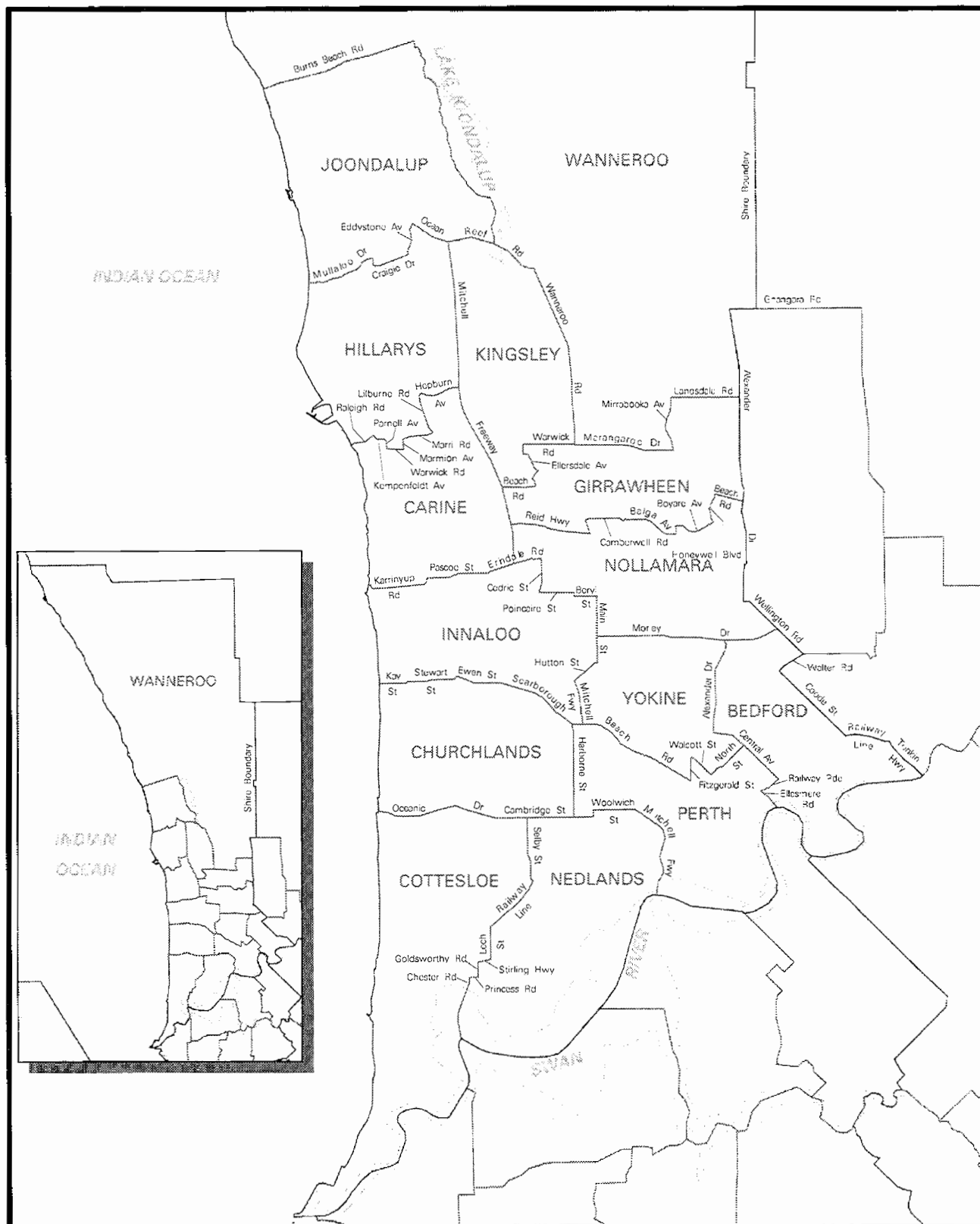
By contrast, the more static elector populations in the established districts such as Cottesloe and Nedlands, have meant that the boundaries of these districts must be extended to ensure equity in elector numbers, as far as is possible, in 1998. Because of the boundary changes, some existing district names are no longer appropriate and new names are now proposed.

The district of Perth required close consideration and the Commissioners propose establishing it with an elector population at the lower end of the permitted range, because of growth anticipated from redevelopment in progress in central Perth, East Perth and the Northbridge area.

Elector statistics for the North Metropolitan Region districts follow:



NORTH METROPOLITAN REGION DISTRICTS



SOUTH METROPOLITAN REGION DISTRICTS

The Region contains 10 districts as follows:

Alfred Cove	Cockburn
Fremantle	Murdoch
Peel	Riverton
Rockingham	South Perth
Victoria Park	Willagee

The growth areas of the South Metropolitan Region are concentrated in the southern portion of the Region with a more static population being found closer to the Swan River.

A district focussed on the Rockingham regional centre has been retained. The district of Peel has been substantially revised because of its strong growth in elector population and as a result, its northern boundary has moved

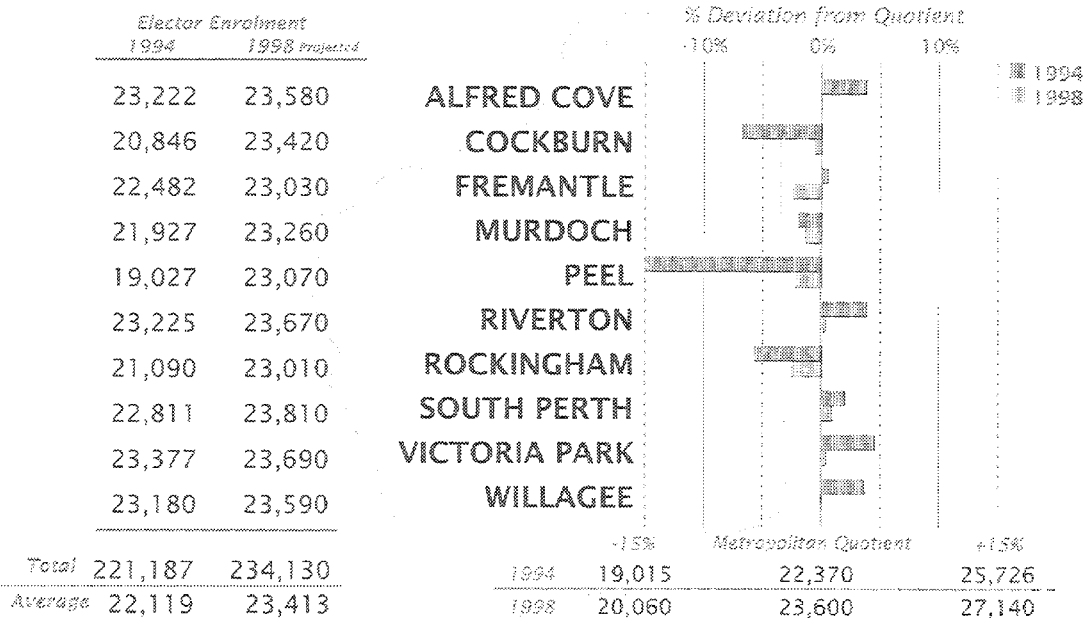
southward. The remaining districts closer to the Swan River have typically been set at higher levels because of their more limited growth in comparison with the southern areas of the Region.

A revised approach to the Applecross-Melville area is also proposed, with new districts of Alfred Cove and Willagee having an east-west orientation as compared to the previous north-south orientation of districts in this area.

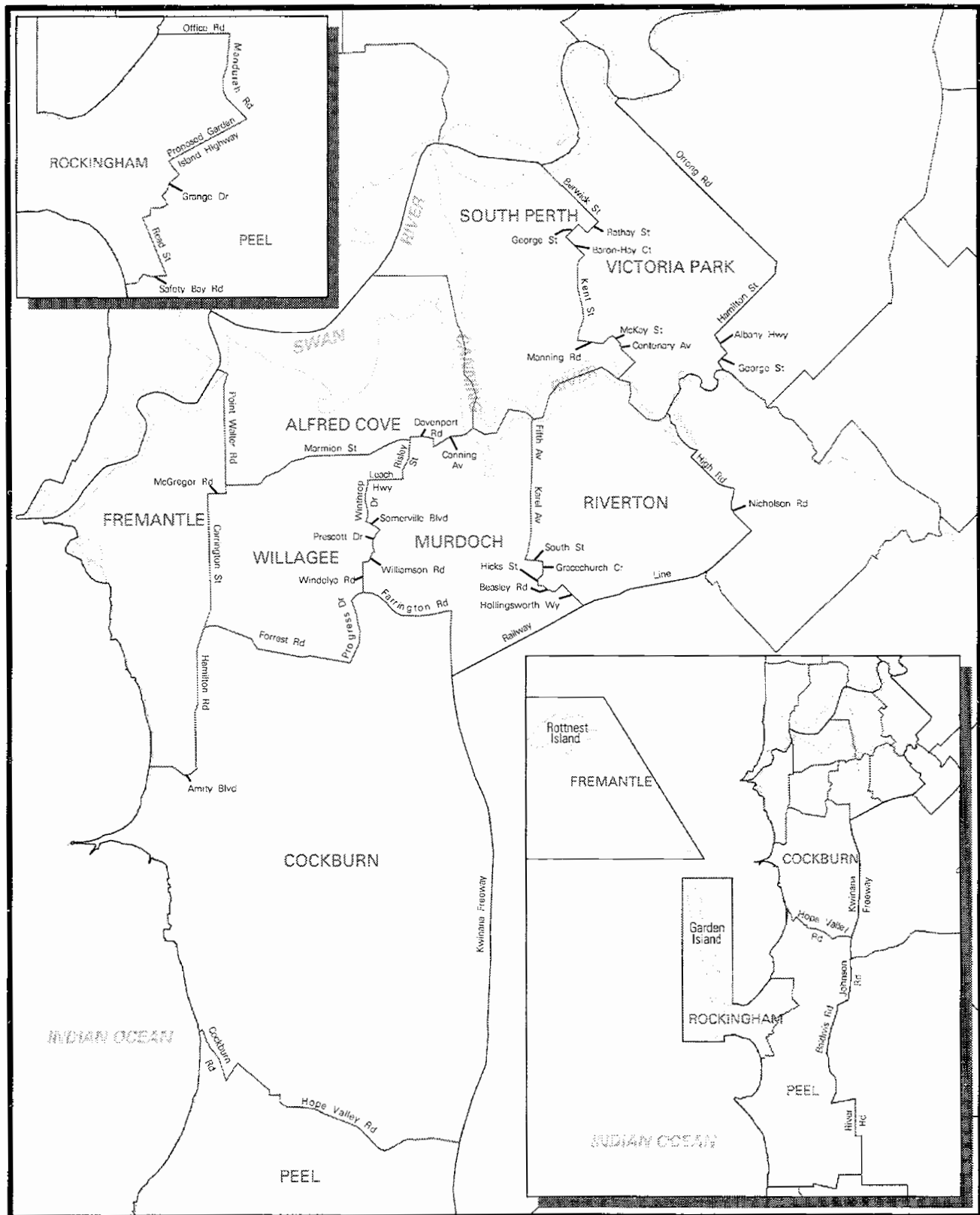
The boundaries of the more static districts of South Perth and Victoria Park have been extended into areas formerly in the East Metropolitan Region. To balance these changes, parts of the Riverton area have been transferred to the East Metropolitan Region.

Elector statistics for the South Metropolitan Region districts are:

South Metropolitan



SOUTH METROPOLITAN REGION DISTRICTS



COUNTRY AREA DISTRICTS

Parts of the country area, particularly those adjacent to the coast around Geraldton and from Mandurah southwards, are experiencing strong growth patterns. Districts in these areas have been set at the lower end of the permitted range, so as to ensure, as far as practicable, equity with other more static districts in 1998. District boundaries have followed wherever possible, local government boundaries.

Overall, the district averages of the Mining and Pastoral Region will be higher than those of the Agricultural Region, which will in turn exceed the district averages for the South West Region. Over time, however, these differences are likely to reduce because of the stronger growth pattern within the South West Region.

AGRICULTURAL REGION DISTRICTS

The Region contains 7 districts as follows:

Avon	Geraldton
Greenough	Merredin
Moore	Roe
Wagin	

A district focussed on Geraldton has been retained, with Greenough being established in the area surrounding it. Because of the growth, particularly on the coast to the south of Geraldton, the overall area of Greenough and Moore have been reduced.

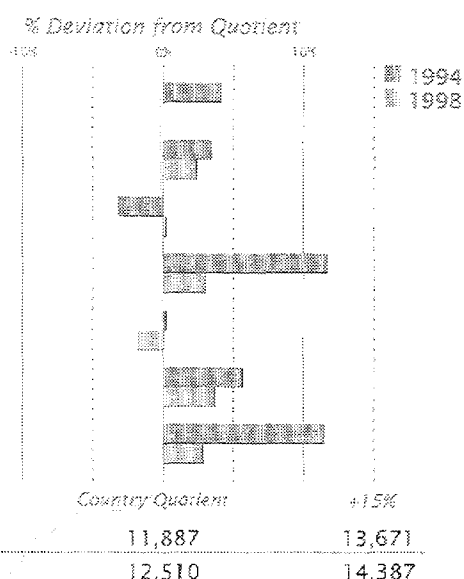
Merredin and Wagin by contrast are likely to experience a decline in elector population, thus necessitating increases in the areas contained within these districts.

Elector statistics for the Agricultural Region districts follow:

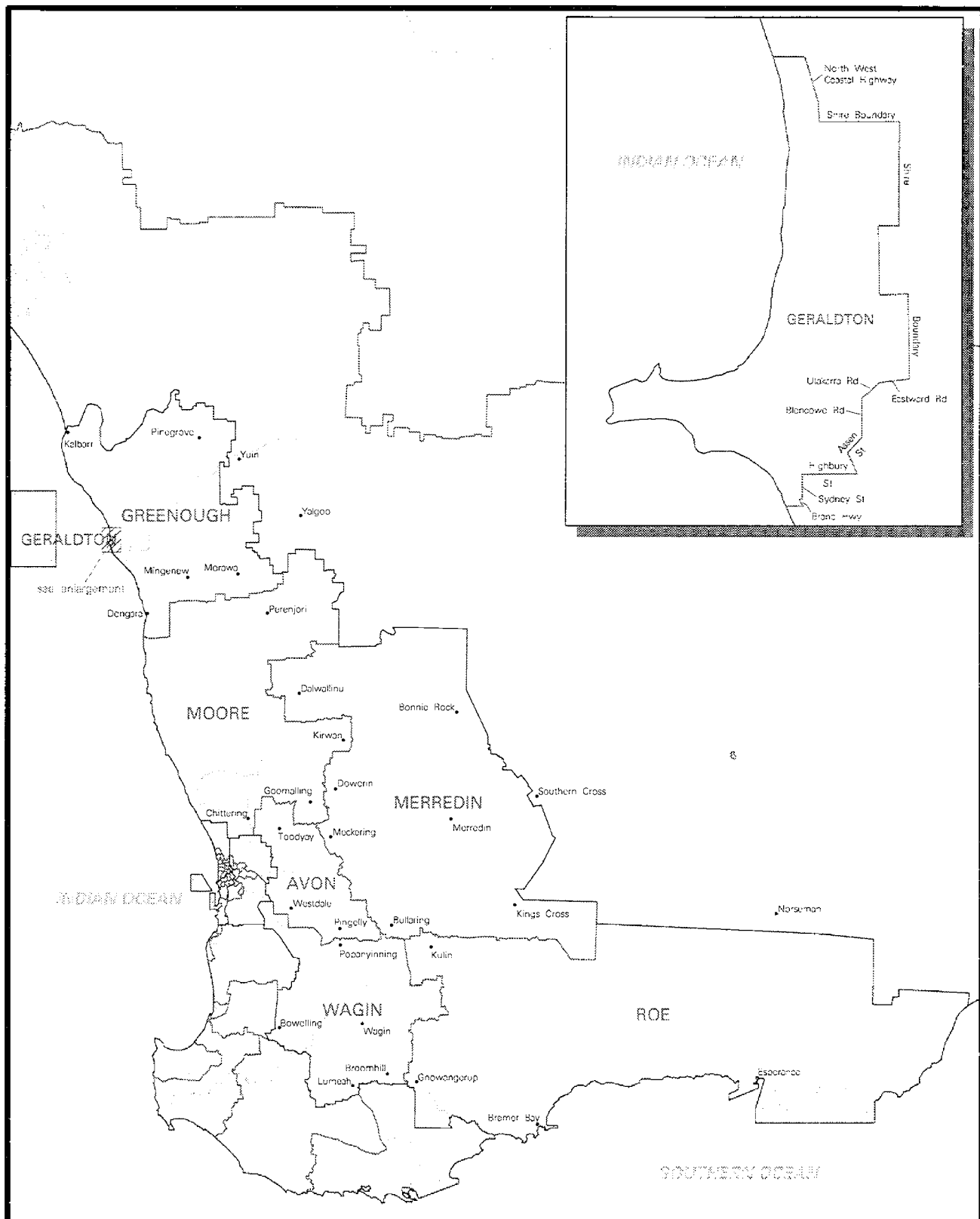
Agricultural

	Elector Enrolment	
	1994	1998 Projected
	12,375	12,510
	12,285	12,800
	11,504	12,530
	13,264	12,880
	11,910	12,280
	12,553	12,960
	13,240	12,860
Total	87,131	88,820
Average	12,447	12,689

AVON
GERALDTON
GREENOUGH
MERREDIN
MOORE
ROE
WAGIN



AGRICULTURAL REGION DISTRICTS



MINING AND PASTORAL REGION DISTRICTS

The Region contains 5 districts as follows:



Eyre
Kimberley
Pilbara

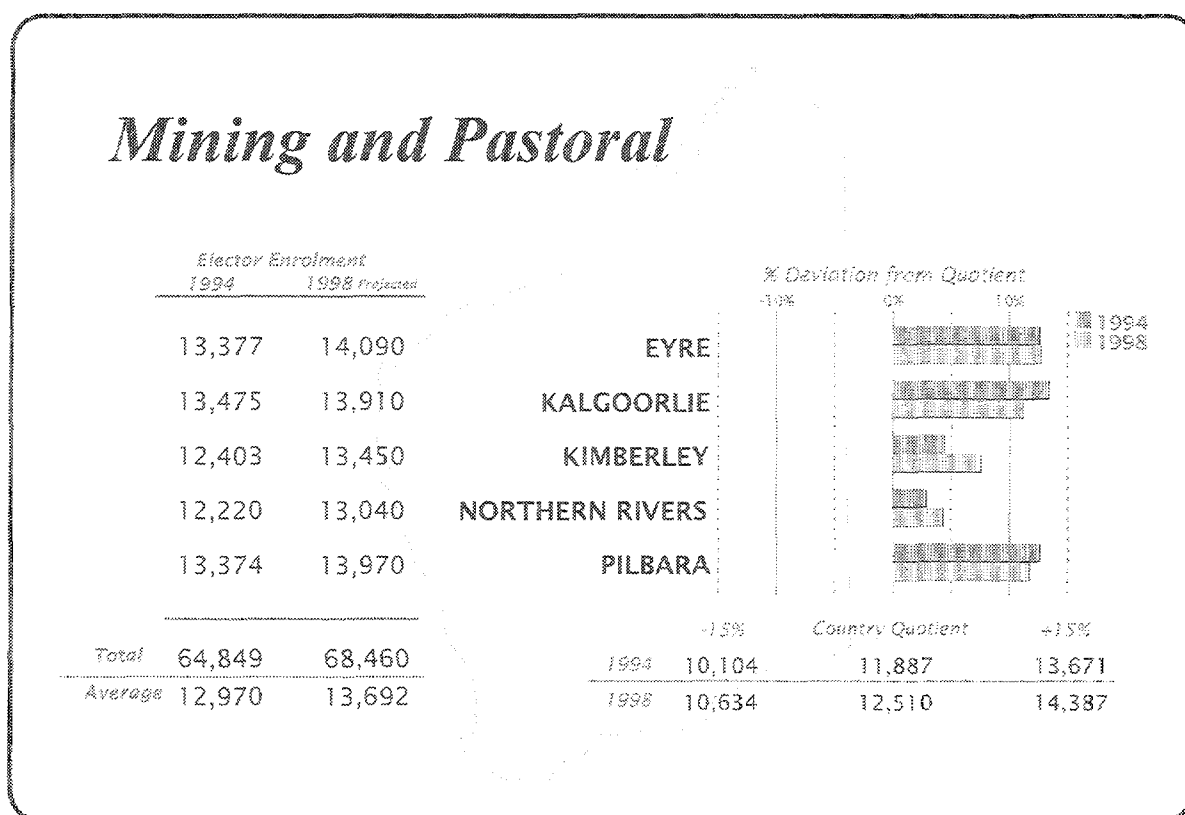
Kalgoorlie
Northern Rivers

A reduction in the number of districts contained within the Region has necessitated a substantial revision to boundaries of districts within this Region.

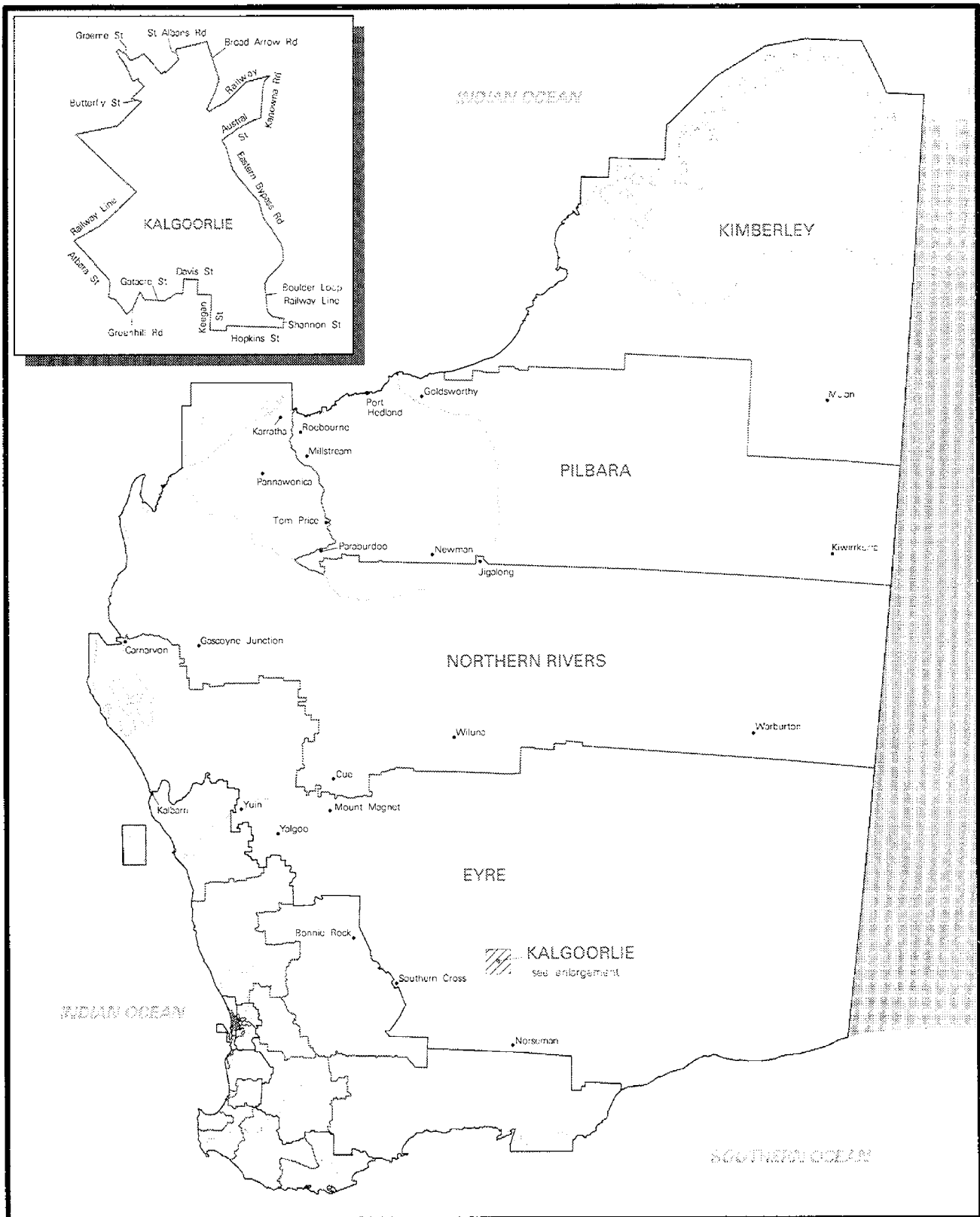
The exception is, however, the district of Kimberley. The present boundary for the district is considered by the Commissioners to clearly define an area quite distinct from the remainder of the Region. Accordingly, this boundary remains unchanged.

A revised district focussed on Kalgoorlie has also been retained. The remaining portion of the Region has been divided broadly into three districts running east-west across the State.

Elector statistics for the Mining and Pastoral Region districts are:



MINING AND PASTORAL REGION DISTRICTS



SOUTH WEST REGION DISTRICTS



The Region contains 11 districts as follows:

Albany	Blackwood
Bunbury	Collie
Dawesville	Mandurah
Mitchell	Murray
Stirling	Vasse
Warren	

The strong growth pattern that has lead to one additional district being placed in the Region, has necessitated a substantial revision to the district boundaries.

Mandurah and surrounds in particular are growing at a rapid pace, as compared to more static parts of the Region.

In essence, the additional district has been added to that area with a revised Mandurah being the area to the north

of the Peel Inlet and a new district of Dawesville being created to the south of Mandurah.

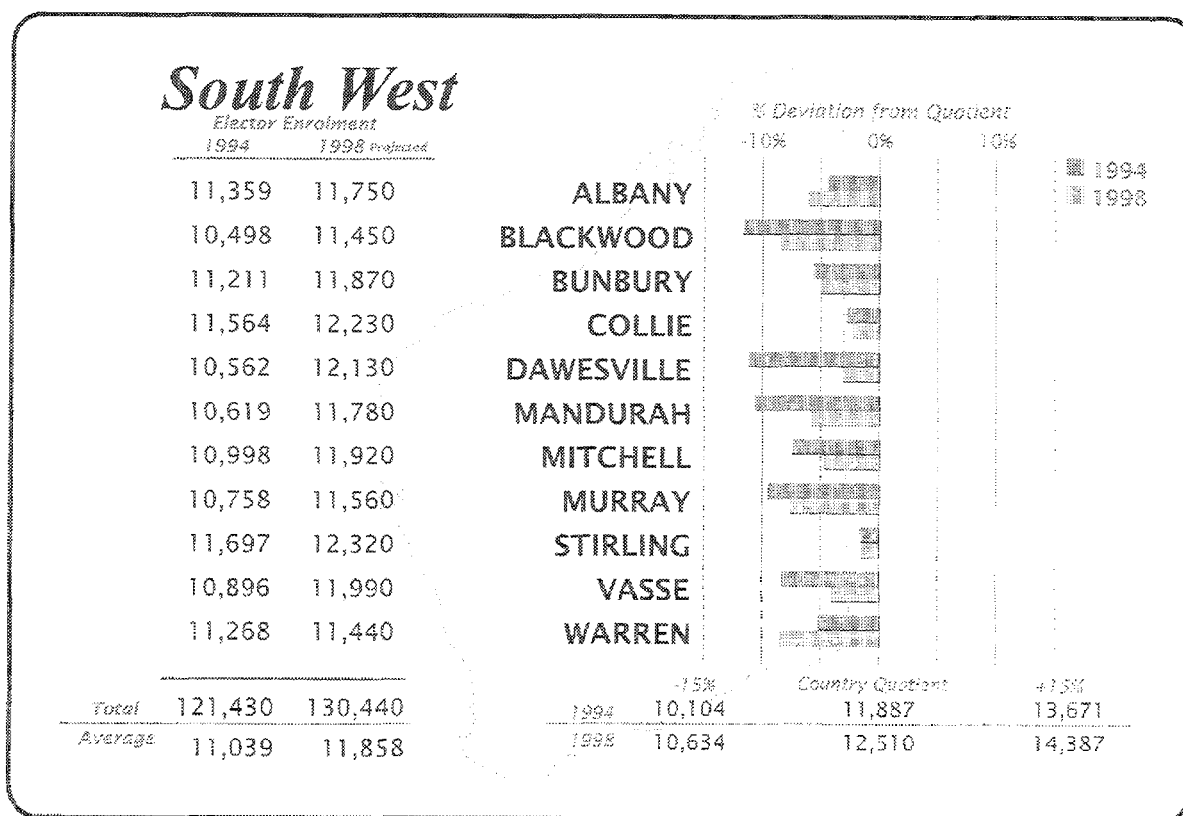
The district of Murray is retained in the area to the east and south of Mandurah and Dawesville.

Revisions have been made to the boundaries of the district of Bunbury and a substantially revised district of Mitchell is proposed with a focus on Australind.

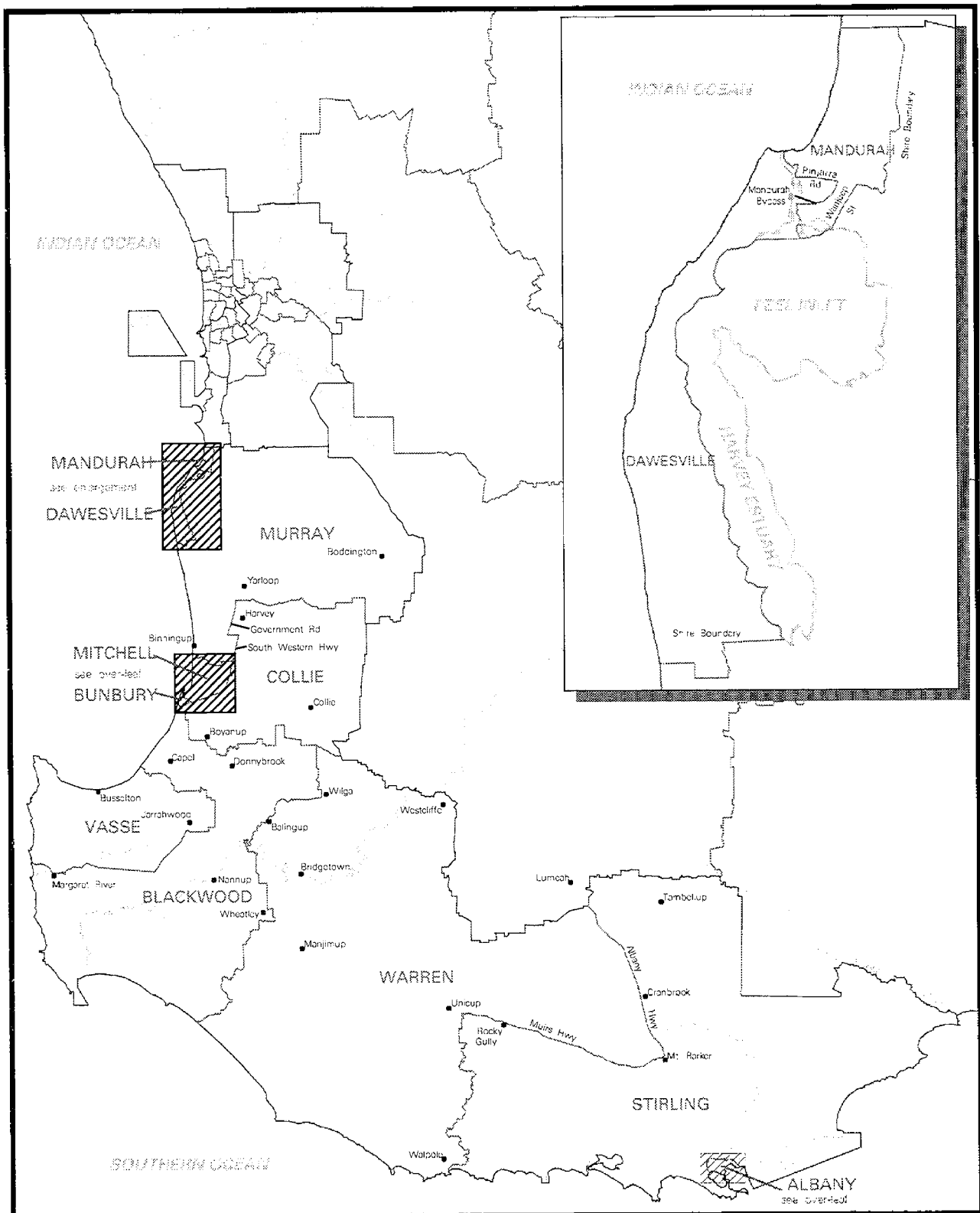
Because of the addition of one district to the Region, some changes are necessary to Stirling to ensure that it retains equity in elector population, as far as practicable, with the other districts in 1998. As a consequence, the district of Warren has moved to the east and retains its focus on forestry and farming.

The district of Vasse has been reduced in area, leaving Augusta, Margaret River and Capel to be included in a new district of Blackwood. Collie has also been substantially revised and is retained as a more compact district.

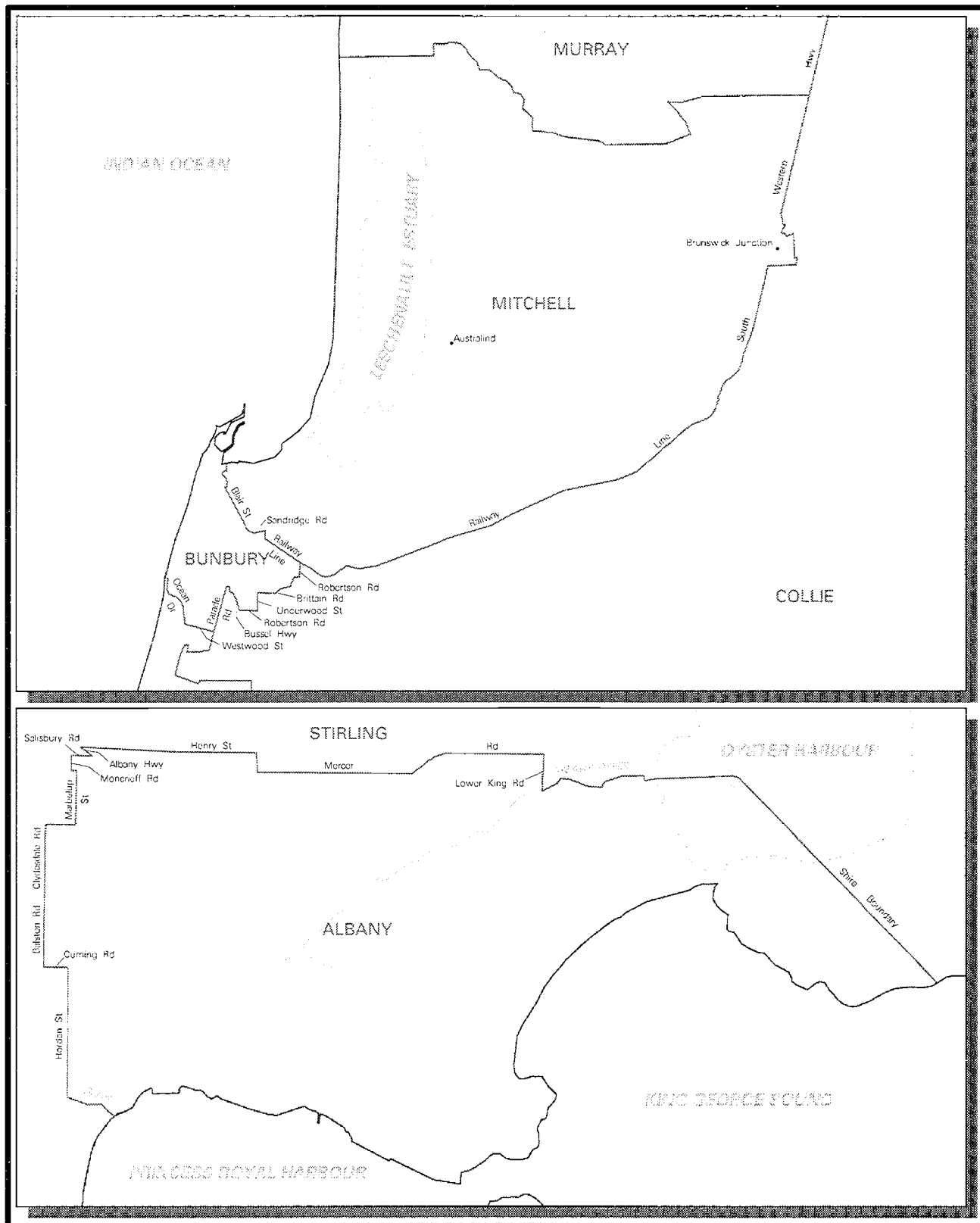
Elector statistics for the South West Region districts follow:



SOUTH WEST REGION DISTRICTS



SOUTH WEST REGION DISTRICTS



CONCLUSION



Unless special circumstances arise, the division of the State proposed in this publication will apply for the next two general elections for the Legislative Assembly.

The proposed changes to the boundaries of electoral regions and districts are substantial and it is important that electors study this material carefully.

Any queries about any aspect of the proposals or about the process for the division of the State, should be directed to:

Mr Les Smith
Electoral Commissioner
4th Floor, Fire Brigades Building
480 Hay Street
PERTH WA 6000
Telephone (09) 221 4454

THE OBJECTION PHASE

Any objections to the proposals must be in writing and need to be lodged within 30 days of the publication of the proposals in the Government Gazette. That is, objections must be lodged by 29 September 1994 to Mr Les Smith at the address indicated above.

An objection must be in writing, signed by the objector, and should give a concise and explicit statement of the reason for the objection and of any relevant facts on which it is based.

The Commissioners will then consider written objections and will publish the final division of the State in the Government Gazette on 28 November 1994.

Hon Mr Justice David Malcolm, AC
Chief Justice of Western Australia
Chairman

Mr Les Smith
Electoral Commissioner

Mr Peter Kelly
Government Statistician



1 9 9 4 0 0 1 2 3 6 6

ELECTORAL