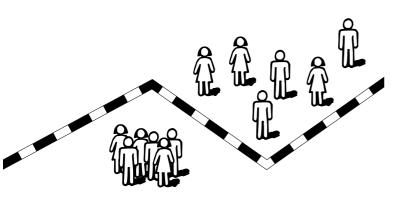
PERTH, FRIDAY, 2 MAY 2003 No. 65

SPECIAL

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY JOHN A. STRIJK, GOVERNMENT PRINTER AT 9.00 AM © STATE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ELECTORAL DISTRIBUTION ACT 1947

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



CONTENTS Setting the Electoral Boundaries 2 The 2003 division of the State into Electoral Regions and Districts 4 **Preparation and Provision of Information Country Regions** 6 **Metropolitan Regions** 8 **East Metropolitan Region Districts** 10 North Metropolitan Region Districts 12 14 **South Metropolitan Region Districts Agricultural Region Districts** 16 **Mining and Pastoral Region Districts** 18 **South West Region Districts** 20 Conclusion 23

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 in late 2004 or early 2005.

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.

Written objections are also invited about the proposals, as to the proposed boundaries, the proposed names of the electoral districts or on any other matter. Details of how to lodge objections can be found at the end of this booklet.



The Electoral Distribution Commissioners (L to R): Ms Lyn Auld, The Hon David K Malcolm, AC, CIT. WA, Mr Colin Nagle.



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 under the Act to divide the State into electoral regions and districts. The Commissioners are:

The Hon David K Malcolm, AC, CIT. WA, Chief Justice of Western Australia (Chairman);

Ms Lyn Auld, Electoral Commissioner; and

Mr Colin Nagle, Government Statistician and Australian Bureau of Statistics Regional Director, Western Australia.

The Act requires the Commissioners 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 right of appeal against them.

Under the current legislation, the electoral boundaries established by this process will apply for the next two State general elections before they are next reviewed.

THE STATUTORY SCHEME

Section 2A(2) of the *Electoral Distribution Act 1947* 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.

A distribution of electoral boundaries was thus due to commence on 11 February 2002 but was delayed pending resolution of the litigation regarding the 'One Vote, One Value' legislation. While this is now the subject of an application for special leave to the High Court, the current legislation requires the Electoral Distribution Commissioners to commence a division of the State so that new boundaries are in place for the next State general election. The distribution proposed in this publication therefore follows the current legislation and not 'One Vote, One Value' principles.

The basis for the division of the State is set out in section 6 of the *Electoral Distribution Act 1947* 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 2003 division of the State follows earlier divisions of the State conducted in 1987/88 and 1994, section 7(g) above will not apply on this occasion.

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 1947* 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 1899* 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 2003 DIVISION OF THE STATE INTO ELECTORAL REGIONS AND DISTRICTS

DATE FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES

The *Electoral Distribution Act 1947* 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 the 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 and one day 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 2003 division, the relevant date is 11 February 2002, that being the day that is one year and one day after the polling day for the 2001 State general election.

Accordingly, electoral roll figures as of 11 February 2002 form the basis of this distribution.

On 11 February 2002, the following statistics applied:

Calculation of Quotients

Total State Enrolment Metropolitan Area Enrolment Country Area Enrolment	89	5,377 9,450 5,927
Metropolitan Area Quotient Country Area Quotient	$899,450 \div 34 = 2$ $315,927 \div 23 = 1$	
Permitted Variation ± 15%		
	-15%	+15%
Metropolitan Area	22,486 3	0,422
Country Area	11,675 1	5,795

PREPARATION AND PROVISION OF INFORMATION

Despite some uncertainty about the distribution because of the proposal to amend the legislation and later, the litigation concerning that proposed legislation, preparations for conducting the distribution have proceeded and the Electoral Distribution Commissioners have had the benefit of a geographical information system to assist their decision-making.

This system integrates the Electoral Commission's electoral records with census and other data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, and data from the Department of Planning and Infrastructure, the Department of Land Administration and other State agencies. All of the information is the best available at the time.

In addition, the Internet has been utilised as a primary means by which information has been made available to the public and those interested in making submissions. A website has been established for the distribution at www.boundarieswa.com and

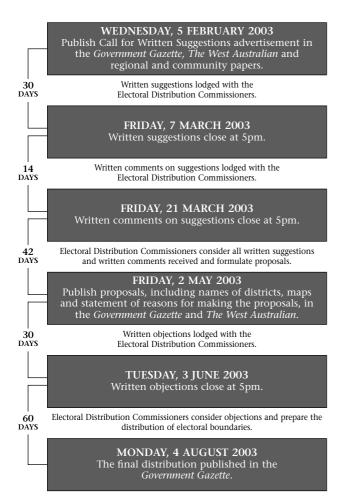


information has been posted to that site as the process has unfolded. Details of the final distribution of electoral boundaries will be posted on that website soon after their release on 4 August 2003.

TIMETABLE

The Commissioners determined that the 2003 division of the State should commence on 5 February 2003 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 2003 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 7 March 2003, some 20 suggestions had been received from a variety of individuals, organisations and political parties. These were then made available at the Office of the Electoral Distribution Commissioners for perusal by 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 a newspaper circulating throughout Western Australia.

It was evident from the suggestions received that many of those making suggestions considered that the legislation allows the Commissioners to set boundaries such that at the mid-point of the distribution period, elector numbers in districts could span across the full \pm 15% range and more.

In 1988, the then Electoral Distribution Commissioners determined that the initial elector populations should be set such that, having regard for the trend of demographic change, there would be approximate equality of numbers in each district in four years time. This same principle was applied in 1994 and the Commissioners see no reason to vary from it in this distribution.

Accordingly, these proposals are based on the proposition that elector numbers should be approximately at the quotient in early 2007, except where special or exceptional circumstances require otherwise.

A number of suggestions contained information about various kinds of developments that could impact on population projections. The Commissioners determined however to be guided by the population projections prepared by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, except where there was convincing evidence that the developments have a high probability of being undertaken in the timeframe relating to this distribution and will materially alter the projected rate of population growth or decline.



Any person or group who wishes to lodge a written objection to these proposals is invited to do so. Details of how to lodge objections can be found at the end of this booklet. Should any more detailed information be required, this can also be obtained from the Office of the Electoral Distribution Commissioners.

Any written objections will then be considered and the Commissioners will then publish the final division in the *Government Gazette* of 4 August 2003. The electoral boundaries determined at that time will then take effect at the next State general election to be held by early 2005 and will apply for the State general elections due in 2005 and 2009. Any by-elections which are required before the 2005 State general election will be held on the basis of districts as established by the 1994 division of the State.

The *Electoral Distribution Act 1947* prescribes that the State be divided into six regions, as follows:

COUNTRY REGIONS

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

METROPOLITAN REGIONS

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

COUNTRY REGIONS

The legislation specifies that the Mining and Pastoral Region must encompass an area that is remote from Perth and where the land use is primarily mining and pastoral. Similarly, the Agricultural Region must encompass an area that is south, or south and west, of the Mining and Pastoral Region, while the South West Region is the remaining country area. The legislation leaves for the Commissioners the task of determining where the region boundaries should be established and the number of districts within each region.

In broad terms, elector populations are in relative decline in both the Mining and Pastoral Region and the Agricultural Region, while the coastal strip of the South West Region between Mandurah and Busselton is growing strongly. The major change proposed for the country regions is the reduction from six to five in the

number of districts within the Mining and Pastoral Region and the increase in the number of districts in the South West Region from ten to eleven.

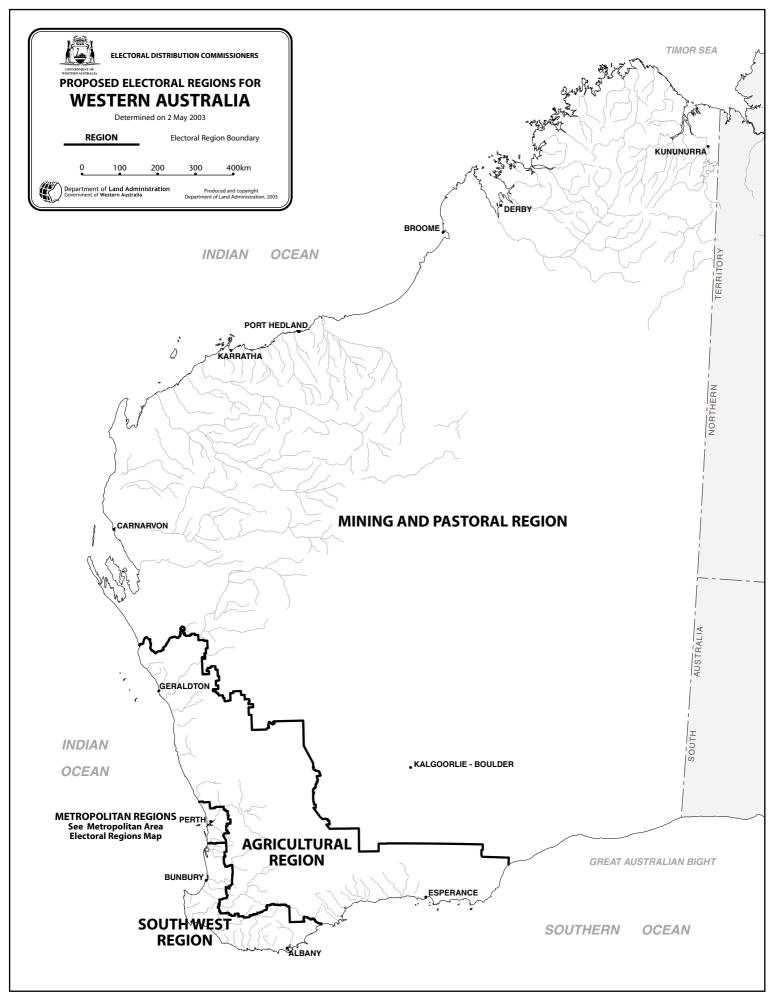
In addition to these changes, it has been necessary to adjust the respective region boundaries to some degree to better balance the elector numbers between the regions and maintain community of interest by keeping entire local governments intact.

The Commissioners did consider a more significant shift in the South West and Agricultural Region boundaries to better balance elector numbers, but decided against this on community of interest grounds because it would necessarily involve splitting at least two other local government areas.

The resultant country area statistics are:

Country Area Summary

Country Regions	Legislative Council	Legislative Assembly	No. Elec		Average Elect	
	Members	Districts	2002	2007	2002	2007
Agricultural	5	7	96,310	101,651	13,759	14,522
Mining and Pastoral	5	5	68,556	74,089	13,711	14,818
South West	7	11	151,061	177,168	13,733	16,106
Total	17	23	315,927	352,908	13,735	15,343





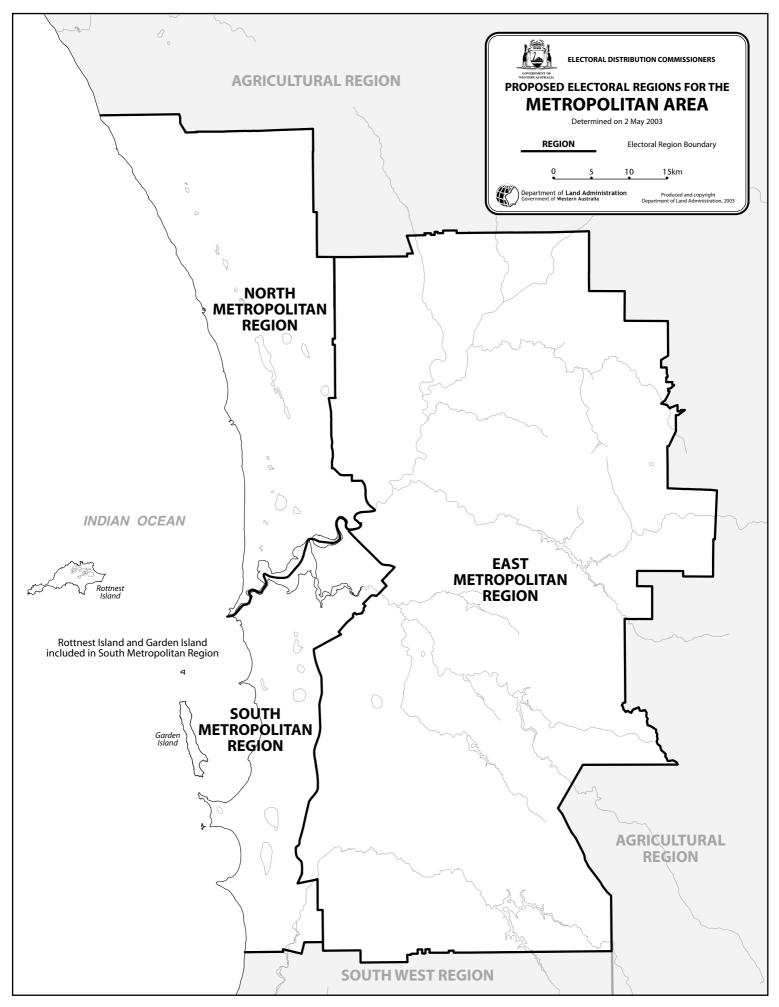
The elector population in the East Metropolitan Region has grown more rapidly than in the North Metropolitan and South Metropolitan Regions, with this trend being expected to continue. Accordingly, an adjustment to region boundaries is proposed with North Metropolitan and South Metropolitan Regions taking some of the territory formerly part of East Metropolitan Region.

Because of the requirement to keep districts in balance at the midpoint of the period that this distribution applies for, the Commissioners considered 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 resultant metropolitan area statistics are:

Metropolitan Area Summary

Metropolitan Regions	Legislative Council	Legislative Assembly	No. Elect		Average 1 Electe	
J	Members	Districts	2002	2007	2002	2007
East Metropolitan	5	10	262,454	290,277	26,245	29,028
North Metropolitan	7	14	374,168	407,725	26,726	29,123
South Metropolitan	5	10	262,828	291,148	26,283	29,115
Total	17	34	899,450	989,150	26,454	29,092





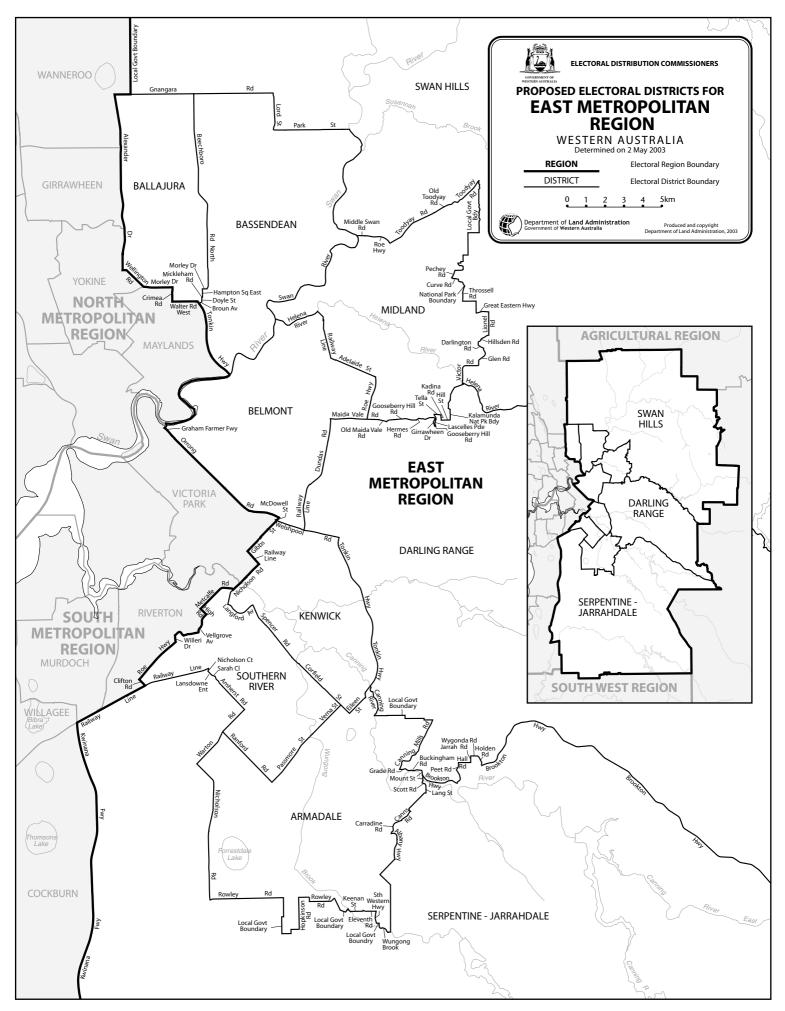
The Region contains 10 districts as follows:

- Armadale
- Ballajura
- Bassendean
- Belmont
- Darling Range
- Kenwick
- Midland
- Serpentine-Jarrahdale
- Southern River
- Swan Hills

Districts based on the regional centres of Midland and Armadale have been retained. Districts with slower growth have been increased in geographical size, in order to balance with the high growth areas within the region. The changes proposed are such that in some cases, a new and more appropriate name for the district is proposed. All the proposed districts are projected to be near to quota at the mid-point for this distribution.

Elector statistics for the East Metropolitan Region districts

District	Elector Enrolment 11/2/02	Deviation from 2002 Quotient	Projected Enrolment 11/2/07	Deviation from 2007 Quotient
Armadale	28,125	6.32	28,902	-0.65
Ballajura	27,095	2.42	29,127	0.12
Bassendean	25,780	-2.55	28,790	-1.04
Belmont	26,657	0.77	29,415	1.11
Darling Range	28,609	8.15	29,308	0.74
Kenwick	27,022	2.15	29,130	0.13
Midland	25,819	-2.40	29,354	0.90
Serpentine-Jarrahdale	23,702	-10.40	28,690	-1.38
Southern River	25,524	-3.52	28,757	-1.15
Swan Hills	24,121	-8.82	28,804	-0.99
Total	262,454	-0.79	290,277	-0.22
Average	26,245		29,028	





The Region contains 14 districts as follows:

- Balcatta
- Carine
- Churchlands
- Cottesloe
- Girrawheen
- Heathridge
- Hillarys
- Kingsley
- Maylands
- Mindarie
- Nedlands
- Perth
- Wanneroo
- Yokine

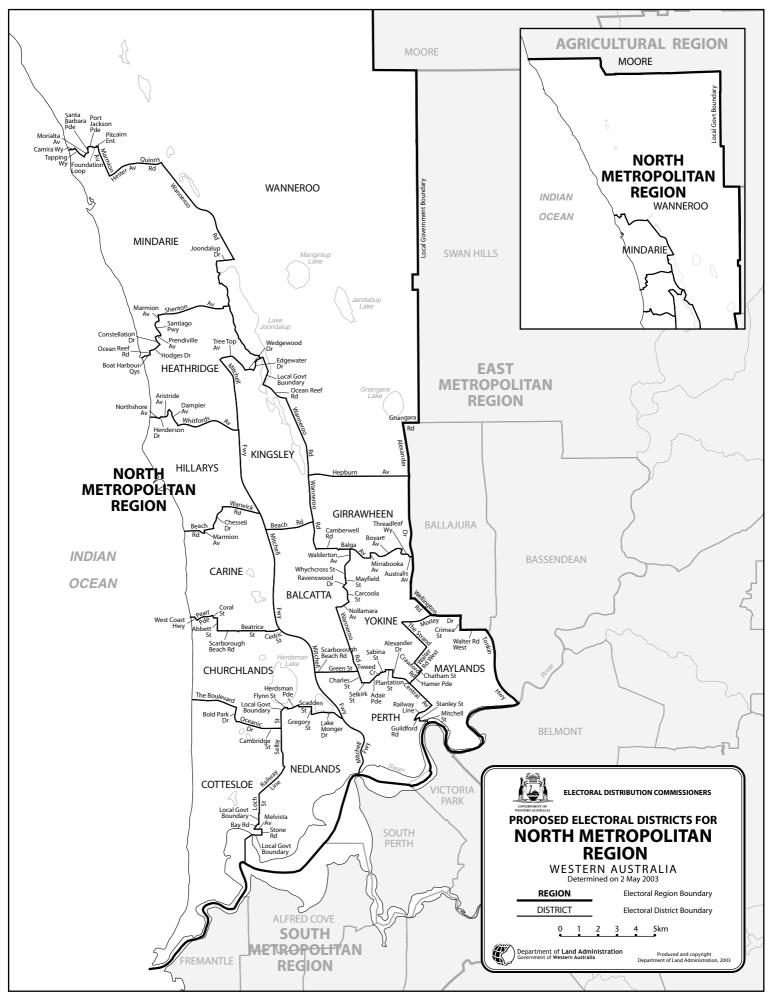
The population growth within the North Metropolitan Region is focused on the north of the region, with slower population growth occurring closer to the city centre.

New and substantially revised districts set at the lower end of the population range are proposed for the northern portion of the region to deal with the projected population expansion. Conversely, districts closer to the city have had to grow in area and a current district has had to be absorbed into adjacent districts. Boundaries have been set having regard to the significance of the Mitchell Freeway as a divide between east and west, and where the region boundary with East Metropolitan Region has been adjusted, major roads have been followed.

Some new names are proposed for districts where these more accurately reflect the area contained in the district.

Elector statistics for the North Metropolitan Region districts

	Elector	Deviation	Projected	Deviation
	Enrolment	from 2002	Enrolment	from 2007
District	11/2/02	Quotient	11/2/07	Quotient
Balcatta	28,224	6.69	29,103	0.04
Carine	27,453	3.78	29,055	-0.13
Churchlands	27,686	4.66	28,684	-1.40
Cottesloe	27,845	5.26	28,661	-1.48
Girrawheen	26,741	1.08	29,148	0.19
Heathridge	25,535	-3.47	28,407	-2.35
Hillarys	28,364	7.22	28,762	-1.13
Kingsley	27,949	5.65	28,424	-2.30
Maylands	27,591	4.30	28,988	-0.36
Mindarie	22,627	-14.47	29,119	0.09
Nedlands	27,453	3.78	29,134	0.14
Perth	26,399	-0.21	28,774	-1.09
Wanneroo	22,525	-14.85	32,374	11.28
Yokine	27,776	5.00	29,092	0.00
Total	374,168	1.03	407,725	0.11
Average	26,726		29,123	





The Region contains 10 districts as follows:

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

The population growth of the region is focused on the southern end of the region and districts in that area have contracted in size. Districts closer to the river have expanded in area so as to ensure that all districts will be near to quotient at the mid-point for this distribution.

At the southern end of the region, the Kwinana Freeway has been recognized as a divide that should form part of the boundary with the East Metropolitan Region.

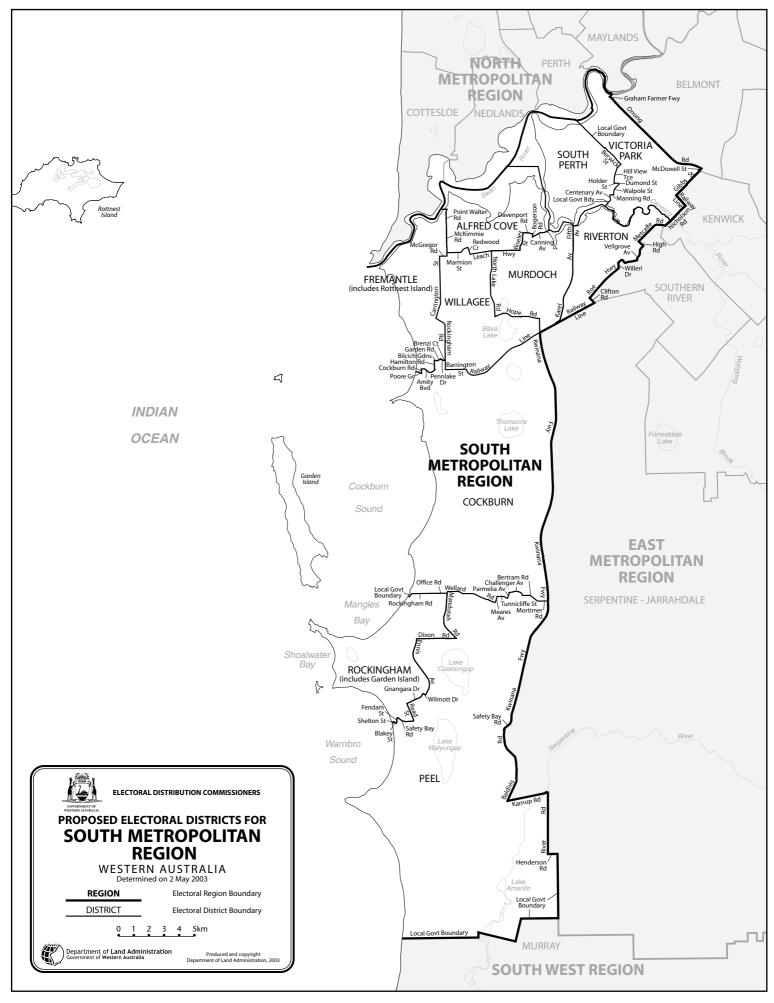
While generally freeways have been used as boundaries, there is an unavoidable exception in the case of Murdoch, having regard for its population distribution and enrolment projections.

Two of the districts of the region are constrained by the Swan and Canning Rivers and the adjustments necessary in this area, to ensure that elector populations are on quota, have pushed the region boundary with East Metropolitan Region to the south and east.

No new district names are proposed for this region.

Elector statistics for the South Metropolitan Region districts

	Elector Enrolment	Deviation from 2002	Projected Enrolment	Deviation from 2007
District	11/2/02	Quotient	11/2/07	Quotient
Alfred Cove	27,708	4.74	29,327	0.81
Cockburn	24,556	-7.17	28,946	-0.50
Fremantle	26,689	0.89	28,882	-0.72
Murdoch	28,007	5.87	29,394	1.04
Peel	22,633	-14.44	29,308	0.74
Riverton	27,830	5.20	28,949	-0.49
Rockingham	25,895	-2.11	29,669	1.98
South Perth	27,725	4.80	29,093	0.00
Victoria Park	25,903	-2.08	28,905	-0.64
Willagee	25,882	-2.16	28,675	-1.43
Total	262,828	-0.65	291,148	0.08
Average	26,283		29,115	





The Region contains 7 districts as follows:

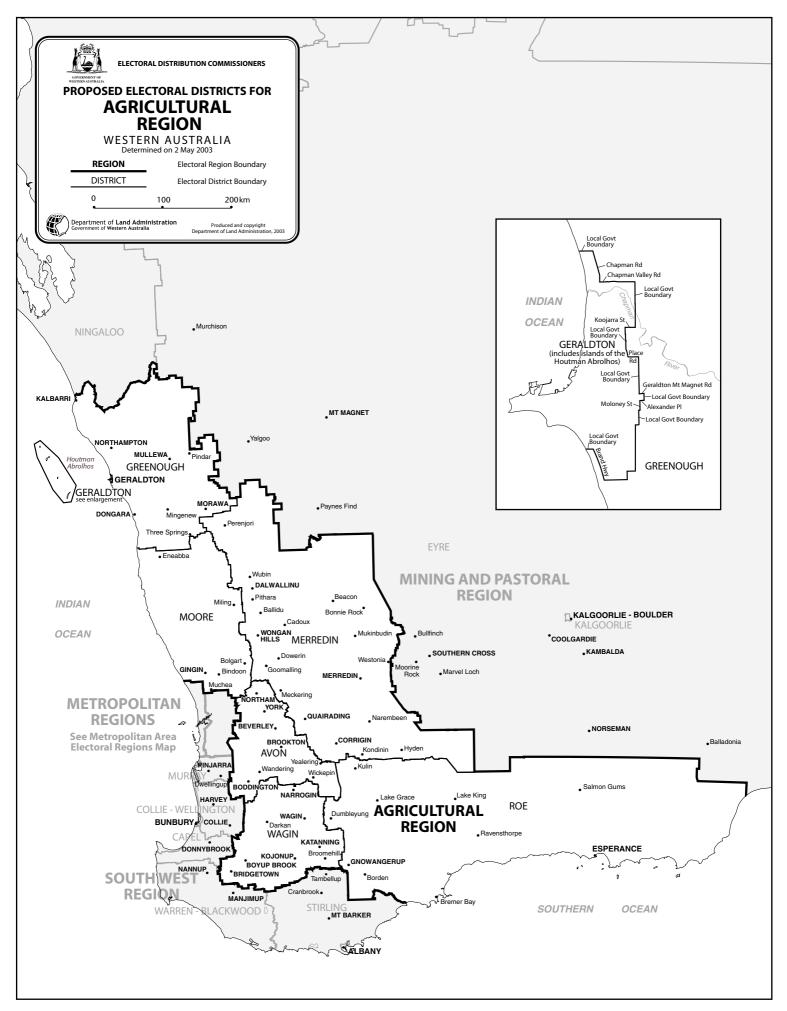
- Avon
- Geraldton
- Greenough
- Merredin
- Moore
- Roe
- Wagin

Population growth in the region is in decline, relative to the growth of the State as a whole, with uncertain prospects for a reversal of this trend. Adjustments to region boundaries have been necessary to ensure the retention of the existing number of seven districts within the region. Despite this, it is to be noted that all the districts within the region will be under quota at the mid-point. Unless there is a significant reversal of the population decline, it is likely that the next distribution of electoral boundaries would need to consider a reduction of the number of districts in the region.

Some adjustments have been made to the boundaries of Geraldton and Greenough, with more significant boundary changes proposed for the inland areas which are more static in population terms. Wherever possible, local government boundaries have been used to establish district boundaries.

Elector statistics for the Agricultural Region districts

	Elector Enrolment	Deviation from 2002	Projected Enrolment	Deviation from 2007
District	11/2/02	Quotient	11/2/07	Quotient
Avon	13,349	-2.81	14,135	-7.87
Geraldton	14,193	3.33	14,598	-4.86
Greenough	13,021	-5.20	14,721	-4.05
Merredin	14,244	3.71	14,171	-7.64
Moore	12,873	-6.28	14,786	-3.63
Roe	14,039	2.21	14,525	-5.33
Wagin	14,591	6.23	14,715	-4.09
Total	96,310	0.17	101,651	-5.35
Average	13,759		14,522	





The Region contains 5 districts as follows:

- Eyre
- Kalgoorlie
- Kimberley
- Ningaloo
- Pilbara

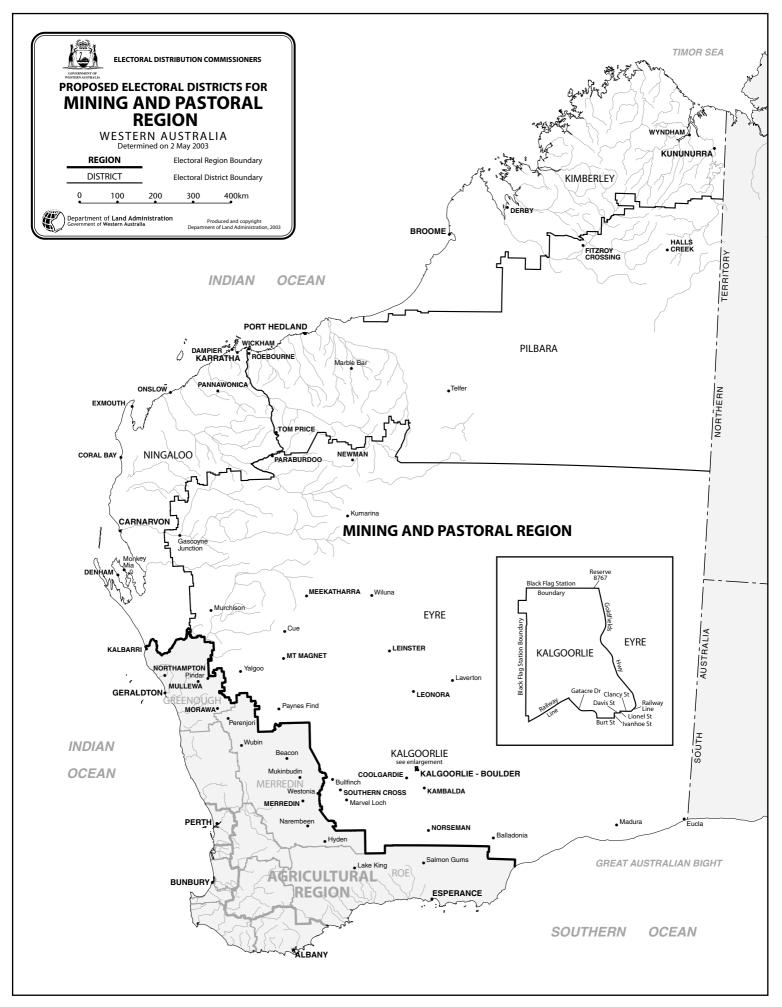
The changes within the Mining and Pastoral Region are amongst the most significant proposed for this distribution of boundaries.

There is insufficient population to sustain the current six districts and it is therefore necessary to establish boundaries to divide the region into five districts. A minor adjustment to the boundary with the Agricultural Region has also been made.

The distinct nature of the Kimberley area and its geographical separation from areas to the south, together with the need to ensure that all districts are within the permissible range of \pm 15% of quota at the mid-point have led to challenges in the establishment of boundaries. A further reduction in the area covered by the district of Kimberley is necessary, with the removal of the area surrounding Fitzroy Crossing from the district. Despite this adjustment, this district is projected to be at the higher end of the permissible range at the mid-point, with the remaining four districts all projected to be below quota. Regrettably, local government areas have had to be divided to achieve this balance in some cases.

Elector statistics for the Mining and Pastoral Region districts

	Elector Enrolment	Deviation from 2002	Projected Enrolment	Deviation from 2007
District	11/2/02	Quotient	11/2/07	Quotient
Eyre	15,629	13.79	13,984	-8.86
Kalgoorlie	13,673	-0.45	13,952	-9.07
Kimberley	12,797	-6.83	17,062	11.20
Ningaloo	13,286	-3.27	14,568	-5.05
Pilbara	13,171	-4.11	14,523	-5.34
Total	68,556	-0.17	74,089	-3.42
Average	13,711		14,818	
Average	13,711		14,818	





The Region contains 11 districts as follows:

- Albany
- Bunbury
- Capel
- Collie-Wellington
- Dawesville
- Leschenault
- Mandurah
- Murray
- Stirling
- Vasse
- Warren-Blackwood

Significant population growth is projected for the coastal strip from Mandurah to Busselton, with more modest population growth projected for the remainder of the region. An adjustment is proposed for the boundary with the Agricultural Region, to assist with the balance of elector numbers in that region.

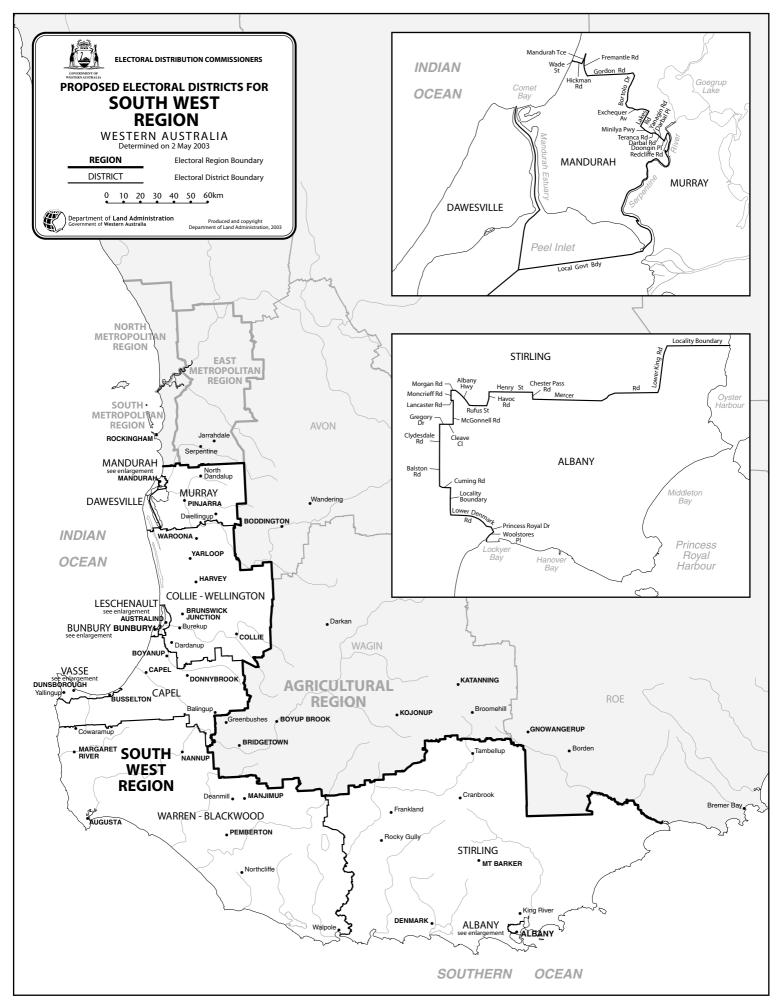
An additional district is proposed in the region with significant alterations to boundaries to achieve this. Generally, districts from Mandurah south have contracted in geographical size and reduced in elector population. A new district of Capel has been created and the district of Vasse has been revised and reduced in size to focus on the urban development of Busselton.

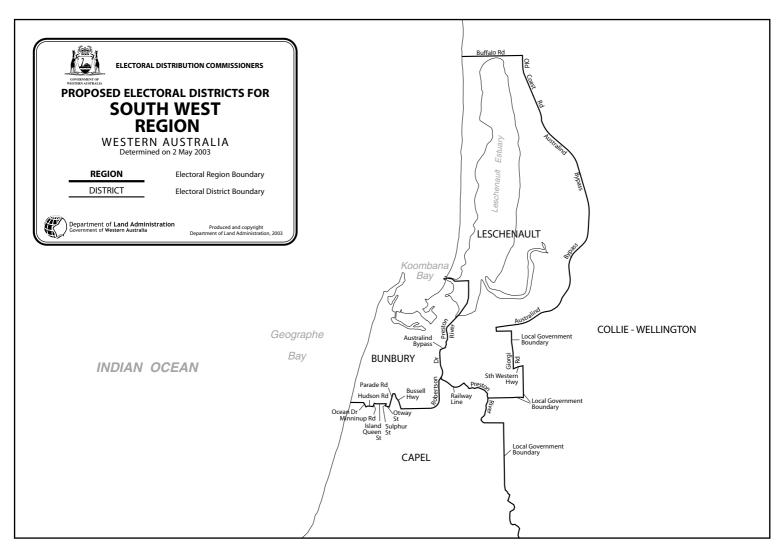
The current district of Mitchell has been refocused on the urbanised development to the north of Bunbury and renamed as Leschenault, the estuary being the significant geographical feature in the area.

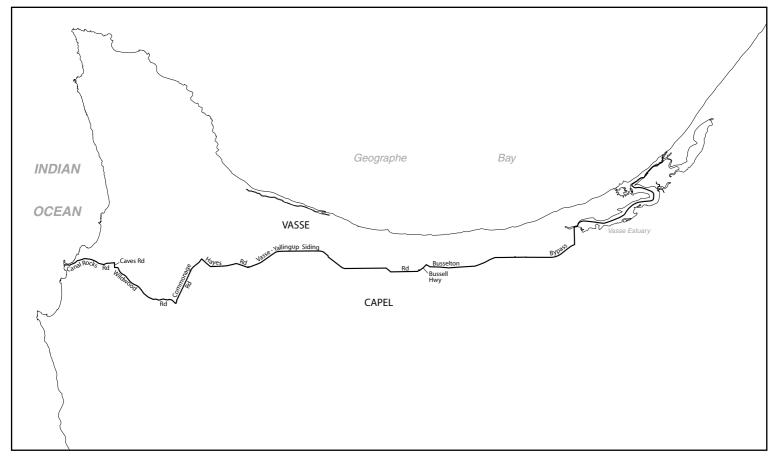
Except as required as a result of urban development, local government boundaries have been observed in establishing these proposals.

Elector statistics for the South West Region districts

	Elector	Deviation	Projected	Deviation
	Enrolment	from 2002	Enrolment	from 2007
District	11/2/02	Quotient	11/2/07	Quotient
Albany	14,396	4.81	16,064	4.70
Bunbury	14,709	7.09	16,344	6.52
Capel	14,110	2.73	16,528	7.72
Collie-Wellington	15,060	9.65	16,204	5.61
Dawesville	12,804	-6.78	16,074	4.76
Leschenault	12,104	-11.87	15,975	4.12
Mandurah	13,857	0.89	16,019	4.41
Murray	13,488	-1.80	16,288	6.16
Stirling	13,965	1.67	15,856	3.34
Vasse	12,788	-6.89	16,184	5.48
Warren-Blackwood	13,780	0.33	15,632	1.88
Total	151,061	-0.01	177,168	4.97
Average	13,733		16,106	









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. This publication is available for download on the Electoral Distribution website: **www.boundarieswa.com.**

THE OBJECTION PHASE

Any objections to the proposals need to be lodged by **5pm on Tuesday**, **3 June 2003**. Objections must be in writing, signed by the objector, and should give a concise and explicit statement of the reason for the objection and any relevant facts on which it is based. Objections are to be addressed to:

Secretary

Office of the Electoral Distribution Commissioners 11th Floor, 111 St George's Terrace PERTH WA 6000

Postal Address: GPO Box F316 PERTH WA 6841

If you require further information, please call 9214 0453 (country callers 13 63 06).

The Hon David K Malcolm

AC, CIT. WA

Chief Justice of Western Australia

Chairman

Ms Lyn Auld Electoral Commissioner Mr Colin Nagle

Government Statistician

