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**SPECIAL** 

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# ELECTORAL ACT 1907

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



Office of the ELECTORAL DISTRIBUTION COMMISSIONERS

# Western Australia's proposed electoral boundaries June 2011

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The Electoral Distribution Commissioners (L to R): Ms Gillian Nicoll, The Hon. Neville Owen, Mr Warwick Gately AM.

### Introduction

The *Electoral Act 1907* (WA) ('the Act') requires that Western Australia's electoral region and district boundaries be reviewed as soon as practicable after the date that is two years after a general election. The review process required by the Act commenced formally on 16 March 2011. The primary purpose of the review is to ensure that the number of electors within electorates remains within the permissible enrolment variations. This may require physical adjustment to boundaries of certain electoral districts and it may also affect the positioning of districts within regions. The statutory language suggests it is more appropriate to refer to the review process as a 'division' rather than a distribution or redistribution.

The review is undertaken by three Electoral Distribution Commissioners appointed under the Act: The Hon. Neville Owen, a retired judge formerly of the Supreme Court of Western Australia (Chair); Mr Warwick Gately AM, Electoral Commissioner; and Ms Gillian Nicoll, Government Statistician.

Amendments were made to the Act in 2005 to increase the number of districts from 57 to 59 and to introduce the so-called 'one vote, one value' principle. A division was carried out in October 2007 to give effect to those amendments. It resulted in very significant changes to the boundaries of many electoral districts and to the numbers of districts in country and metropolitan regions.

There have been no further relevant amendments to the Act since 2005 (other than to the eligibility criteria for the office of Chair of the Commissioners) and this division will be carried out within the same statutory framework. But, of course, the State has experienced substantial change since the 2007 division. There has been an increase in the general population and in the number and location of enrolled electors. Further, the trend of demographic changes has varied district by district. Certain districts have declined in population size or remained static while others have increased, some quite significantly. These changes make some adjustments to electoral boundaries necessary.

One of the steps in the review process prescribed by the legislation is for the Commissioners to publish proposals for the adjustment of boundaries of districts and regions to take effect for the next State general election. This booklet serves that purpose. Electors are encouraged to study the proposed new boundaries. A final determination will be made taking into account any objections made to the proposals.

### The Statutory Scheme

### Districts, regions and enrolments

Sections 16C and 16D of the Act provide that the State shall be divided into 59 electoral districts in six electoral regions. Each electoral district returns one member to the Legislative Assembly. Each electoral region returns six members to serve in the Legislative Council.

Section 16G contains a concept that is critical to the determination of district boundaries, namely 'the average district enrolment'. The average district enrolment is calculated by dividing the total number of electors in the State on the relevant day by the total number of districts. The 'relevant day' is the day two years after the last general election, in this case 6 September 2010.

The effect of section 16G(2) is that, subject to an exception, the boundaries must be set so that the number of electors in each district (as at the relevant day) must be between minus 10% and plus 10% of the average district enrolment. The exception is for districts that have a geographical area of 100,000 square kilometres or more. These districts are subject to a 'large district allowance' (LDA), which requires the boundaries to be set so that the enrolment figures (including the LDA) are between minus 20% and plus 10% of the average district enrolment.

Section 16H contains a general description of the six electoral regions as follows:

- (a) three contiguous regions (together generally co-extensive with the metropolitan area) called the North Metropolitan Region (an area generally to the north of the Swan River), the South Metropolitan Region (an area generally to the south of the Swan River) and the East Metropolitan Region (an area that includes the hills and foothills of the Darling Escarpment);
- (b) the Mining and Pastoral Region, consisting of complete and contiguous districts that together form an area that is remote from Perth and in which the land use is primarily for mining and pastoral purposes;
- (c) the Agricultural Region, consisting 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 in which the land use is primarily for agricultural purposes; and
- (d) the South West Region (being a region that includes coastal and forest areas in the south-west of the State), consisting of complete and contiguous districts.

Apart from these general statements, the Act does not prescribe where the boundaries between the six electoral regions are to be set. Nor does it prescribe how many districts are to be located in each region, although it does specify that each of the three metropolitan regions ought to have approximately the same number of districts. An electoral district must be wholly situated within the boundaries of an electoral region.

### Role of the Commissioners

The role of the Commissioners is to divide the State into regions and districts in accordance with the provisions of the Act. Elector numbers are important to the division process because, regardless of all other considerations, enrolments in a district cannot be outside the permissible limits. However, section 16I specifies a number of other matters to which the Commissioners must give due consideration in dividing the State into regions and districts. These matters are:

- community of interest
- land use patterns
- means of communication and distance from the capital
- physical features
- existing boundaries of regions and districts
- existing local government boundaries
- the trend of demographic changes.

Section 16F(2) sets out a timetable for the division process. It specifies set time periods for the submission of written suggestions and comments, the review of those submissions, the publishing of proposed boundaries and the receipt of objections to the proposed boundaries. After considering any objections, the Commissioners will publish their decision regarding the division of the State into electoral regions and districts. The Commissioners' decision is final and there is no further review or right of appeal. The legislation is prescriptive and the Commissioners have no discretion to extend or adjust the timetable. Further details of the process and the deadline for receipt of objections to the proposed boundaries are set out at the end of this booklet.

## The 2011 Division The Procedure

# Method and date for calculating average district enrolment

The Act describes the method for fixing the 'relevant day' on which the average district enrolment is calculated. In this instance, the relevant day is 6 September 2010. The total number of electors on the electoral roll as at

the close of business on that day was divided by the total number of districts to arrive at the average district enrolment for the current division.

Calculation of Average District Enrolments			
Total State Enrolment		1,367,532	
Metropolitan Enrolment		1,042,327	
Country Enrolment		325,205	
Average District Enrolment	1,367,532 ÷ 59 = 23,178		
	Permissibl	e Variation	
Metropolitan and Country	-10%	+10%	
	20,861	25,495	
Large District Areas	- 20%	+10%	
(i.e. ≥ 100,000 km²)	18,542	25,495	

### Preparation and provision of information

Similar to the 2007 division, a geographical information system (GIS) was used to assist the Commissioners in their decision-making. The GIS integrates the Western Australian Electoral Commission's electoral records with 2006 Population Census boundaries from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, along with data from Landgate and other State agencies.

Information about the process for the division of electoral boundaries has been made available to the public and those interested in making submissions through the Office of the Electoral Distribution Commissioners website at www.boundaries.wa.gov.au. Notices were also placed in print media circulating throughout the State, in regional areas and local communities and in the *Government Gazette*. Information about the final division of electoral boundaries will be published through similar means following release on 10 October 2011.

Copies of all media statements, submissions and publications relating to the determination of electoral boundaries will also be made available on the Office of the Electoral Distribution Commissioners website.

### Submissions received and considered

The Commissioners received 18 suggestions from individuals, organisations and political parties by the closing date. These were made available for public inspection at the Office of the Electoral Distribution Commissioners, the Western Australian Electoral Commission and on the boundaries website. A further 19 written comments were received about these suggestions by the closing date. One additional submission was received after the closing date.

### Timetable

The Commissioners determined that the 2011 division of the State into electoral regions and districts would commence on 16 March 2011. On this date a notice appeared in the *Government Gazette* and in print media circulating throughout the State, in regional areas and local communities inviting written suggestions and written comments on those suggestions. This activated the provisions of section 16F(2) of the Act which determines the timing of the various phases of the division.

#### Wednesday, 16 March 2011

#### 30 DAYS

Call for written suggestions. Interested persons have 30 days to lodge written suggestions.

### Friday, 15 April 2011

#### 14 DAYS

Written suggestions close at 5.00 pm. Interested persons have 14 days to lodge written comments.

#### Friday, 29 April 2011

#### 42 DAYS

Written comments on suggestions close at 5.00 pm. Commissioners have 42 days to consider all suggestions and comments received and to formulate proposals.

#### Friday, 10 June 2011

#### 30 DAYS

Proposed boundaries published. Interested persons have 30 days to lodge written objections.

#### Monday, 11 July 2011

#### 90 DAYS

Written objections close at 5.00 pm. Commissioners have 90 days to consider objections and to prepare final division of electoral boundaries.

#### Monday, 10 October 2011

Commissioners publish final electoral boundaries.

### Proposals for the 2011 Division – An Outline

The Commissioners have taken into account elector numbers and the other matters that they are required to consider under the Act. They have also had regard to the written suggestions and comments received. They have had to weigh the considerations and strike what is sometimes a delicate balance between competing factors. Not all factors can be accommodated or applied in exactly the same way in deliberations concerning individual regions or districts.

There are 12 districts in which elector numbers are outside the permissible limits and in respect of which boundary changes must be made. There are another five districts that are close to the upper or lower permissible limits. Assuming that the trend of demographic changes over the last four years continues, these electorates may be beyond the permissible limits by the time of the next election. Although there is no statutory imperative to change those districts it seems appropriate to give them some attention.

The reality is that changes cannot be confined to the districts the boundaries of which must be adjusted. Changes to the boundaries of any one district will inevitably cause a flow-on effect to neighbouring districts which could result in many, perhaps even most, district boundaries being changed.

There are three broad approaches that might be taken. First, make only those changes that are absolutely necessary in order to address the districts that are outside the upper or lower permissible limits. Secondly, pursue a strategy for incremental change that keeps the balance between country and metropolitan representation much as it is now, keeping the number of changes within reasonable confines while allowing the flow-on effect to extend further in an effort to reduce the disparities between districts in individual regions. Thirdly, effect more-fundamental change that seeks to bring elector numbers in all districts as close to the average district enrolment as is possible. An inevitable consequence of fundamental change would be to reduce the number of districts in the country regions with a corresponding increase in the number of districts in the metropolitan regions.

Since the 2007 division there has been, in proportional terms, a greater increase in enrolment numbers in the metropolitan areas than in country areas. Confining adjustments to those that are absolutely necessary would result in most country districts having enrolments very close to the lower permissible limits and which, assuming the trend were to continue, would soon be beyond the permissible range. The Commissioners do not favour this approach.

The Commissioners are mindful of the significant changes that occurred in the 2007 division and do not believe that it is either necessary or desirable that there be, in this division, a further reduction (in real terms) in the number of parliamentary representatives for country areas. The Commissioners believe the incremental approach better serves the interests of the electorate in the current circumstances. It provides a greater measure of stability by recognising existing boundaries where possible and permits a better balance to be struck between the other matters the Commissioners are required to consider. This is especially so when considering communities of interest, local government boundaries and issues with communication between constituents and representatives where vast distances are involved. All of the factors stipulated in the Act have been given due consideration in making decisions about the boundaries of individual districts and regions.

These proposals have been developed accordingly. In broad outline, the proposals will result in there being some adjustments to the current demarcation between the six regions. A notable change will be the expansion of the South Metropolitan Region beyond the 'Perth metropolitan area' (as defined in the planning legislation) to include that part of the City of Mandurah local government area currently in the district of Mandurah. There will be minor adjustments to the borders between the South Metropolitan and East Metropolitan Regions and between the East Metropolitan and North Metropolitan Regions. In addition, one local government area will move from the Agricultural Region to the Mining and Pastoral Region and three shires will be relocated from the South West Region to the Agricultural Region, with consequent adjustment to those regional boundaries.

Under these proposals there will be 16 districts in the country area and 43 districts in the metropolitan area. There will be 14 districts in each of the North Metropolitan and East Metropolitan Regions and 15 districts in the South Metropolitan Region. As will be explained later, the Commissioners do not regard these changes as a reduction (in real terms) in representation for country electors.

Adjustments to boundaries have made it necessary to change the name of some electoral districts to provide a better reflection of the new boundaries. To reduce confusion, these changes have been kept to a minimum. These proposals and the considerations that have brought them about are developed further in the pages that follow.

### Metropolitan regions

These proposals contemplate an adjustment to the southern border of the metropolitan regions. This is consistent with the legislative prescription that the metropolitan regions should be 'generally co-extensive with' the Perth metropolitan area as defined in planning legislation (rather than necessarily adhering to that boundary).

The Commissioners propose that the localities of Golden Bay and Singleton be transferred to the district of Mandurah. They appreciate that this will result in a change to the region boundary, with the South Metropolitan Region to include the Mandurah district. The Commissioners considered leaving the region boundary unchanged but formed the view that it would be difficult to do so without embarking on a series of changes to districts that would be more detrimental to communities of interest in the South Metropolitan Region and South West Region, with further impact possible in the Agricultural Region.

To accommodate the move of Golden Bay and Singleton, the Commissioners looked at a number of alternatives. One (which was eventually adopted) was to transfer the expanded district of Mandurah into the South Metropolitan Region. One involved redrawing the South Metropolitan Region boundary to exclude the two localities while leaving the expanded district of Mandurah in the South West Region. Another was to avoid splitting the City of Mandurah local government area and to transfer both districts within it (Mandurah and Dawesville) to the South Metropolitan Region. The last of these was thought to be the least compatible with the incremental change model. Either of the other alternatives would be feasible, but on balance the Commissioners favoured the option of including the expanded district of Mandurah in the South Metropolitan Region as it represents a marginally better balance of the various factors to which the Commissioners are required to give consideration. Taking into account matters such as the built up nature of the Mandurah locality, its proximity to Perth, new transport links and the continued development of the southern corridor between Perth and Mandurah, this is seen as a reasonable outcome for electoral purposes.

One written suggestion was that the eastern border of the metropolitan area be moved west, resulting in areas such as Chidlow and The Lakes being included in the Agricultural Region. The Commissioners believe that those areas have a greater community of interest with neighbouring localities that are (and would remain) in the East Metropolitan Region. In any event, there may be a statutory problem because the definition of the East Metropolitan Region requires that it include the hills and foothills of the Darling Escarpment. Although it is not entirely clear, the affected localities might be regarded as falling within the defined area.

The elector population in the North Metropolitan Region has increased markedly, while the growth in numbers in the South Metropolitan and East Metropolitan Regions has been more gradual.

The eight metropolitan districts that have elector numbers falling outside the permissible limits have been changed. The flow-on effect has contributed to many of the other changes in the metropolitan regions. The Commissioners have tried to limit the impact of changes to existing boundaries as far as possible. Where possible, more stable areas have been left at a higher enrolment figure, with areas likely to experience more-vigorous growth kept at lower levels. Some districts have not changed and there have been only marginal adjustments to boundaries in other districts. Historically, it has been more difficult to avoid splitting local government areas in districts within the metropolitan regions than it has in country areas but some changes have been made to recognise local government boundaries.

Regard has been had to communities of interest by, for example, avoiding or at least limiting instances where localities or suburbs are split. Sometimes the reality of elector numbers in adjoining districts makes it difficult to avoid such an outcome. Means of communication and distance from the capital are of less significance in metropolitan areas as they are directed primarily at the long distances and difficulties in communications typically experienced in country areas. Similarly, land use patterns are of lesser significance in the highly urbanised metropolitan areas. In some instances, physical features were taken into account by, for example, aligning boundaries with rivers and major roads.

#### **Metropolitan Summary**

Metropolitan Regions	Legislative Council Members	Legislative Assembly Districts	No. of Electors 2010
East Metropolitan	6	14	339,907
North Metropolitan	6	14	342,769
South Metropolitan	6	15	359,651
Total	18	43	1,042,327
Average District Enrolment - Metropolitan			24,240
VFADE*			4.58%

\* Variation from average district enrolment at 6 September 2010



## Country regions

As indicated previously, the proposals will result in adjustments to the boundaries of the three country regions. The boundaries of the Mining and Pastoral Region will be expanded slightly to include the Shire of Westonia. The Shires of Boyup Brook, Cranbrook and Plantagenet will be relocated from the South West Region to the Agricultural Region.

The Commissioners repeat that they do not regard the removal of Mandurah from the South West Region as a reduction in real terms in the representation available to country electors. While the number of districts in country areas has been reduced from 17 to 16 there has also been a reduction in the number of electors in those regions because of the removal of the electors enrolled in the district of Mandurah.

Elector numbers in the South West Region have increased significantly. Enrolments in the Agricultural Region have grown marginally while those in the Mining and Pastoral Region have declined slightly. Since the 2007 division the overall increase in enrolments in country areas has been 6.1%, compared with 9.2% in the metropolitan regions. If these trends continue through to the next division (assuming there are no relevant changes to the legislation), the case for fundamental change might be strengthened. Meanwhile, the proposed adjustments to the boundaries between the Agricultural and South West Regions will give a more even distribution to representation in country areas. It was suggested that the Shire of Collie be moved to the Agricultural Region. Indications of local community sentiment were against this suggestion with residents professing a greater affinity with neighbouring areas in the South West Region. Another suggestion was that the district of Albany be included in the Agricultural Region. The Commissioners could see no compelling reason to effect this change in the 2011 division. A further suggestion was that the Shire of Yalgoo be included in the Agricultural Region. This change, if implemented, would make it too difficult to define boundaries for a viable district of North West.

### Country Summary

Country Regions	Legislative Council Members	Legislative Assembly Districts	No. of Electors 2010 (including LDA⁺)
Agricultural	6	4	9 <b>0</b> ,7 <b>2</b> 5
Mining and Pastoral	6	5	107,256
South West	6	7	161,473
Total	18	16	359,454
Average District Enrolment - Country			22,465
VFADE* (including LDA)			-3.08%

\* Variation from average district enrolment at 6 September 2010 + Large district allowance



## Districts in the metropolitan regions

### East Metropolitan Region

Two districts in the East Metropolitan Region are outside the permissible limits and changes must be made. They are Swan Hills (+20.33%) and Darling Range (+18.76%).

The Commissioners propose that:

- there be 14 districts in the East Metropolitan Region, the same number as there is at present;
- there be no change to the districts of Armadale, Midland and Kalamunda;
- the district of Gosnells gains from Southern River parts of the localities of Thornlie and Gosnells not presently within its boundaries and cedes to Southern River part of the locality of Huntingdale;
- the district of Belmont gains part of the locality of High Wycombe from Forrestfield, as the only change to these two districts;
- the district of Darling Range has as its northern boundary the existing Shire of Kalamunda local government boundary, ceding the localities of Sawyers Valley, Malmalling, Gorrie, The Lakes, Beechina, Chidlow and Mount Helena to Swan Hills;
- the district of Swan Hills while gaining the above localities from Darling Range, cedes the localities of Ellenbrook and Lexia to West Swan;
- the district of Nollamara (to be renamed Mirrabooka) gains the locality of Balga (from the North Metropolitan Region district of Girrawheen) and part of the locality of Ballajura from West Swan, ceding the locality of Nollamara and part of the locality of Dianella to Morley;
- the district of West Swan while gaining the localities of Ellenbrook and Lexia, cedes the locality of Landsdale to the North Metropolitan Region district of Girrawheen and part of the locality of Ballajura to Mirrabooka (currently Nollamara).

In effecting these changes, boundaries have been adjusted generally anti-clockwise toward those inner metropolitan districts with relatively lower elector numbers, such as Bassendean, Maylands, Nollamara (to be renamed Mirrabooka), Morley and Mount Lawley. These five interdependent districts have had their boundaries adjusted accordingly, accommodating between them up to 8,000 additional electors from the higher growth localities in the East Metropolitan Region. By necessity there have been minor changes to the region boundaries between the North Metropolitan Region (Mirrabooka, West Swan) and South Metropolitan Region (Gosnells).

#### Elector statistics for the East Metropolitan Region districts

District	Elector Enrolment 6/9/10	Deviation from 2010 Average District Enrolment
Armadale	24,381	5.19%
Bassendean	25,011	7.91%
Belmont	23,650	2.04%
Darling Range	23,447	1.16%
Forrestfield	23,194	0.07%
Gosnells	25,198	8.72%
Kalamunda	23,661	2.08%
Maylands	24,957	7.68%
Midland	23,954	3.35%
Mirrabooka	25,088	8.24%
Morley	23,914	3.18%
Mount Lawley	24,815	7.06%
Swan Hills	24,346	5.04%
West Swan	24,291	4.80%
Total	339,907	



## Districts in the metropolitan regions

## North Metropolitan Region

Two districts in the North Metropolitan Region are well outside the permissible limits and changes must be made. They are Wanneroo (+34.97%) and Mindarie (+17.00%).

The Commissioners propose that:

- there be 14 districts in the North Metropolitan Region, the same number as there is at present;
- there be no or minimal change to the districts of Cottesloe, Nedlands, Perth, Churchlands, Balcatta and Kingsley;
- the districts of Scarborough, Carine and Hillarys between them share adjusted boundaries at their respective northern and southern ends to accommodate elector numbers and unite localities, where possible;
- the district of Girrawheen cedes parts of the localities of Warwick and Hamersley to Kingsley and Balcatta respectively and gains the localities of Madeley and Darch from Wanneroo and Landsdale from West Swan;
- the district of Ocean Reef cedes Currambine and part of the locality of Kinross to Joondalup and gains part of the locality of Tamala Park and all of the locality of Mindarie;
- the district of Joondalup gains the locality of Currambine and part of the locality of Kinross from Ocean Reef;
- the district of Mindarie (to be renamed Butler) cedes the locality of Mindarie to Ocean Reef, which of necessity requires a name change for this district, and gains part of the locality of Banksia Grove;
- the district of Wanneroo cedes the locality of Banksia Grove to Butler (currently Mindarie) and the localities of Madeley and Darch to Girrawheen.

Changes to the boundaries of Wanneroo and Girrawheen have resulted in minor adjustments to the border between the North Metropolitan and East Metropolitan Regions. Communities of interest have been recognised by uniting or reuniting localities in single districts. Woodlands (Churchlands) and Currambine (Joondalup) are examples. It has not been possible to avoid split localities entirely. Warwick (Kingsley and Girrawheen) and Gwelup (Carine and Scarborough) are examples. The relatively low numbers in Wanneroo will accommodate future growth in the area, although it has not been possible to make this provision in all affected districts. The district of Butler (currently Mindarie) is an example.

#### Elector statistics for the North Metropolitan Region districts

District	Elector Enrolment 6/9/10	Deviation from 2010 Average District Enrolment
Balcatta	24.896	7.41%
Butler	24,608	6.17%
Carine	24,456	5.51%
Churchlands	25,130	8.42%
Cottesloe	24,320	4.93%
Girrawheen	25,064	8.14%
Hillarys	24,677	6.47%
Joondalup	24,019	3.63%
Kingsley	25,043	8.05%
Nedlands	24,393	5.24%
Ocean Reef	23,407	0.99%
Perth	25,213	8.78%
Scarborough	24,109	4.02%
Wanneroo	23,434	1.10%
Total	342,769	



## Districts in the metropolitan regions

## South Metropolitan Region

Four districts in the South Metropolitan Region are outside the permissible limits and changes must be made. They are Cockburn (+13.16%), Jandakot (+10.26%), Southern River (+16.81%) and Warnbro (+15.27%). Another district, Kwinana (+9.87%), is of some concern.

The Commissioners propose that:

- there be 15 districts (including the district of Mandurah) in the South Metropolitan Region;
- there be no change to the districts of Cannington, South Perth and Victoria Park;
- the district of Warnbro cedes the localities of Golden Bay and Singleton to Mandurah but otherwise remains unchanged;
- the district of Southern River gains the part of the locality of Huntingdale not presently within its boundaries from Gosnells and cedes to Gosnells parts of the localities of Thornlie and Gosnells but otherwise remains unchanged;
- the district of Cockburn cedes part of the locality of Spearwood to Willagee but otherwise remains unchanged;
- the district of Bateman cedes the locality of Rossmoyne to the district of Riverton which otherwise remains unchanged and gains the locality of Murdoch from the district of Jandakot (which otherwise remains unchanged) and also gains from Willagee the portion of the locality of Myaree not presently within its boundaries;
- the district of Kwinana cedes the locality of Hillman to the district of Rockingham but both districts otherwise remain unchanged;
- the district of Willagee gains part of the locality of Spearwood from Cockburn and cedes part of the locality of Myaree to Bateman and Palmyra to Fremantle;
- the district of Alfred Cove gains from Fremantle the portion of the locality of Bicton not presently within its boundaries and cedes to Fremantle the portion of the locality of Palmyra presently within its boundaries.

The transfer of Golden Bay and Singleton from Warnbro to Mandurah was a building block that facilitated incremental adjustments to other districts in this region. The changes to the district of Bateman have left it with a low enrolment, but constraints due largely to the flow-on effect to adjacent districts have made it difficult to find other ways to increase elector numbers. Changes to district boundaries between Alfred Cove and Fremantle have resulted in the localities of Bicton and Palmyra being united in single, but different, districts. The same applies to the transfer of parts of the localities of Gosnells, Thornlie and Huntingdale between the districts of Gosnells and Southern River, although these changes also result in an adjustment to region boundaries.

#### Elector statistics for the South Metropolitan Region districts

District	Elector Enrolment 6/9/10	Deviation from 2010 Average District Enrolment
Alfred Cove	23,618	1.90%
Bateman	23,037	-0.61%
Cannington	23,262	0.36%
Cockburn	23,965	3.40%
Fremantle	24,992	7.83%
Jandakot	24,125	4.09%
Kwinana	24,226	4.52%
Mandurah	23,697	2.24%
Riverton	24,493	5.67%
Rockingham	24,293	4.81%
South Perth	23,747	2.45%
Southern River	24,328	4.96%
Victoria Park	24,259	4.66%
Warnbro	23,844	2.87%
Willagee	23,765	2.53%
Total	359,651	



# Districts in the country regions

## Agricultural Region

Two districts in the Agricultural Region are outside the permissible limits and changes must be made. They are Central Wheatbelt (-10.87%) and Wagin (-12.82%).

The Commissioners propose that:

- four districts be situated in the Agricultural Region, the same number as there is at present;
- there be no change to the districts of Moore and Geraldton;
- Central Wheatbelt cedes the Shire of Westonia to Eyre but gains the Shires of Brookton, Corrigin and Kondinin from Wagin;
- Wagin cedes the Shires of Brookton, Corrigin and Kondinin to Central Wheatbelt but gains the Shires of Boyup Brook, Cranbrook and Plantagenet from Blackwood-Stirling (renamed Warren-Blackwood).

The Shire of Westonia requested that it be in the same district as the Shire of Yilgarn. This has been accommodated and it results in an adjustment of the boundaries between the Agricultural and Mining and Pastoral Regions.

Indications of local sentiment are that the Shires of Cranbrook and Plantagenet have a community of interest with neighbouring areas in the southern part of the district of Wagin. Prior to the 2007 division the Shire of Boyup Brook was included in the Wagin district. These changes involve adjustments to the boundary between the South West Region and the Agricultural Region. The Shires of Brookton, Corrigin and Kondinin have, in the past, been in predecessor districts to both Wagin and Central Wheatbelt and communities of interest would not appear to be affected adversely by the change.

Importantly, the proposals do not involve splits of any local government areas, other than the pre-existing division of the Shire of Northampton (along the Murchison River).

### Elector statistics for the Agricultural Region districts

District	Elector Enrolment 6/9/10	Deviation from 2010 Average District Enrolment
Central Wheatbelt	22,640	-2.32%
Geraldton	22,006	-5.06%
Moore	22,874	-1.31%
Wagin	23,205	0.12%
Total	90,725	



# Districts in the country regions

## Mining and Pastoral Region

There are no districts in the Mining and Pastoral Region currently outside the permissible limits but the district of Pilbara (-17.8%) is of some concern.

The Commissioners propose that:

- five districts be situated in the Mining and Pastoral Region, the same number as there is at present;
- there be no change to the district of Kimberley;
- the district of North West (to be renamed North West Central) cedes the Shire of Roebourne to Pilbara but gains from Pilbara the portion of the Shire of Ashburton not presently within its boundaries and gains from Kalgoorlie the Shires of Wiluna and Sandstone;
- the district of Pilbara gains the whole of the Shire of Roebourne from the current North West but cedes to North West Central and Kalgoorlie (respectively) the portions of the Shires of Ashburton and Ngaanyatjarraku presently within its boundaries;
- the district of Kalgoorlie gains from Pilbara the portion of the Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku not presently within its boundaries but cedes the Shires of Wiluna and Sandstone to North West Central (North West);
- the district of Eyre remains unchanged except for the inclusion of the Shire of Westonia.

There were suggestions that the Shire of Roebourne be split, with Karratha and Dampier in North West Central (currently North West) and Wickham and Roebourne in Pilbara. Commissioners visited the area. There was opposition from the local community on the grounds that the four localities are effectively one unit. Another suggestion was that the whole of the Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku be included in Pilbara. In the past the local community has expressed a stronger affinity with the Goldfields region than with the Pilbara region.

The Commissioners considered making no changes to districts in the Mining and Pastoral Region. There are projections for substantial increases in the resident population of Port Hedland and Karratha over the next 25 years but it is highly unlikely that the current negative enrolment trends will be reversed in the time frame to which the 2011 division refers. The proposed changes to the revised North West (North West Central) and Kalgoorlie are a direct result of those proposed for Pilbara. The Commissioners note that for administrative purposes associated with regional development councils and the Department of Indigenous Affairs:

- The Shire of Roebourne is within the Pilbara region.
- The Shires of Wiluna and Sandstone (though linked with Kalgoorlie for electoral purposes in the past) are in the Mid-West or Murchison-Gascoyne regions rather than the Goldfields region.

This provides some evidence of communities of interest. The proposals also eliminate splits of local government areas, except for the pre-existing division of the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder and the Shire of Northampton.

The proposed name 'North West Central' recognises that it includes much of the territory in the district of North West and acknowledges the extension of the district east towards the central desert tracts. Before proposing the name 'North West Central' the Commissioners considered a number of alternatives, including Gascoyne-Murchison and Capricorn. However, they do not consider that the alternatives sufficiently describe the area of the proposed electorate.

#### Elector statistics for the Mining and Pastoral Region districts

District	Elector Enrolment 6/9/10	Large District Allowance (LDA*)	Total (including LDA*)	Deviation from 2010 Average District Enrolment
Eyre	17,257	4,433	21,690	-6.42%
Kalgoorlie	13,398	7,614	21,012	-9.35%
Kimberley	15,657	6,291	21,948	-5.31%
North West Central	9,874	9,848	19,722	-14.91%
Pilbara	16,821	6,063	22,884	-1.27%
	73,007	34,249	107,256	

+ Large district allowance



# Districts in the country regions

## South West Region

Two districts in the South West Region are outside the permissible limits and changes must be made. They are Collie-Preston (+10.73%) and Vasse (+11.19%). Three other districts, Murray-Wellington (+8.43%), Bunbury (-8.98%) and Blackwood-Stirling (-9.09%), are of some concern.

The Commissioners propose that:

- there be seven districts in the South West Region;
- there be no change to the districts of Albany and Dawesville;
- the district of Murray-Wellington gains from Mandurah the part of the Shire of Murray not presently within its boundaries but cedes to Bunbury part of the locality of Australind;
- the district of Bunbury gains part of the locality of Australind;
- the district of Vasse consists of the whole of the Shire of Busselton and the northern portion of the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River but cedes to Blackwood-Stirling other parts of that Shire, including the locality of Prevelly and parts of the localities of Margaret River and Witchcliffe (presently within its boundaries);
- the district of Blackwood-Stirling (to be renamed Warren-Blackwood) gains from Vasse parts of the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River, including the locality of Prevelly and parts of the localities of Margaret River and Witchcliffe (not presently within its boundaries) but cedes to Wagin the Shires of Boyup Brook, Cranbrook and Plantagenet;
- the district of Collie-Preston cedes to Warren-Blackwood (Blackwood-Stirling) the Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup.

In developing these proposals the Commissioners have given close attention to local government boundaries. The transfer of part of the Shire of Murray from Mandurah to Murray-Wellington facilitated the transfer of the Mandurah district into the South Metropolitan Region by restoring a local government boundary. Numbers in the district of Bunbury could only be increased by a split in a neighbouring local government area. The more feasible options were to include in Bunbury either part of the locality of Australind (Shire of Harvey) or the locality of Dalyellup (Shire of Capel). Both have communities of interest with Bunbury. The Commissioners favoured the Australind transfer as it allowed more-measured adjustments to other districts in the region. The major split is in the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River but it is merely a realignment of a pre-existing division. If the trend of demographic changes continues, it is likely that the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River will be brought together at a future division.

The Commissioners considered including the whole of the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River in Warren-Blackwood (Blackwood-Stirling), which would cede the Shires of Cranbrook and Plantagenet to Wagin. However, this could only have been achieved by splitting Capel or Donnybrook-Balingup to offset lower numbers in Vasse. Under the alternative, the remainder of the South West Region would still have been divided as described above.

The relatively low numbers in Collie-Preston and Vasse will accommodate future growth in those areas.

#### Elector statistics for the South West Region districts

District	Elector Enrolment 6/9/10	Deviation from 2010 Average District Enrolment
Albany	23,095	-0.36%
Bunbury	23,689	2.20%
Collie-Preston	22,000	-5.08%
Dawesville	23,258	0.35%
Murray-Wellington	24,068	3.84%
Vasse	21,533	-7.10%
Warren-Blackwood	23,830	2.81%
	161,473	





### Conclusion

### The process

The next step in the process is for interested persons to lodge such objections to the proposals contained in this publication as they see fit. The Commissioners will consider all objections and may, as a result of adoption of objections or for other good reason, publish final boundaries that vary from these proposals. The final boundaries, to be published by 10 October 2011, will apply for the next State general election, anticipated to be held in 2013. Any by-elections that are required before the next State general election will be held on the basis of districts as established by the 2007 division of the State.

The proposed boundaries have been published in the Government Gazette and in statewide editions of The West Australian. Once they have been determined, the final boundaries will be published in the Government Gazette and in editions of The West Australian circulating in country areas. Information about the proposals and, in due course, the final boundaries will be made available in broadcasts on radio throughout the State and through other forms of communication. Copies of this booklet and, when determined, the final boundaries booklet can be obtained from the Office of the Electoral Distribution Commissioners and will be available for download from the boundaries website: www.boundaries.wa.gov.au.

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

### Objections

Written objections are now invited on the proposed boundaries, the proposed names of electoral districts or any other relevant matter. Any objections to the proposals must be lodged by 5.00 pm on Monday, 11 July 2011. Objections must be in writing and should give a concise and clear statement of the reason for the objection and any relevant facts on which it is based. Where possible, an indication of an outcome that would satisfy the objector should also be included with the submission. All objections will be made publicly available on the Office of the Electoral Distribution Commissioners website and at the premises of the Office of the Electoral Distribution Commissioners and the Western Australian Electoral Commission after the closing date.

Objections are to be addressed to:

Secretary

Office of the Electoral Distribution Commissioners Level 2, 111 St Georges Terrace PERTH WA 6000

Postal Address: GPO Box F316 PERTH WA 6841

Fax: (08) 9214 0455

Email: boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au

If you require further information, please call 9214 0450 (13 63 06 toll-free in Western Australia).

The Hon. Neville Owen Chairman

Mr Warwick Gately AM Electoral Commissioner

much

Ms Gillian Nicoll Government Statistician

### Electoral boundaries are changing! Are you correctly enrolled?

#### Visit www.boundaries.wa.gov.au

to check your enrolment or update your details.

Electoral boundaries are changing! Are you correctly enrolled? Visit www.boundaries.wa.gov.au to check your enrolment or update your details.

Authorised by Warwick Gately AM, Electoral Commissioner, Level 2, 111 St Georges Terrace, Perth WA 6000

