



**Office of the
ELECTORAL DISTRIBUTION COMMISSIONERS**

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MEDIA RELEASE

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ELECTORAL DISTRIBUTION FINALISED

The Electoral Distribution Commissioners have completed their realignment of electoral boundaries for the next State general election. Details will be published in the *Government Gazette* and posted on the Electoral Distribution website today (Monday, August 4), and will be circulated throughout Western Australia in the August 9 issue of *The West Australian*.

The distribution of boundaries follows an exhaustive six-month planning and community consultation process, including reviewing submissions from individuals and groups, and considering objections to the Commissioners' proposals, which were made publicly available in May, 2003.

Spokesperson for the Electoral Distribution Commissioners, Ms Lyn Auld, said "The proposed electoral boundaries were well received by the major political parties as being generally fair and equitable."

"We have taken full note of the many constructive submissions we received early in the process, and the objections raised to our proposals, and have been able to accommodate many of the points raised within the legal framework in which we have to work," said Ms Auld.

Ms Auld said it was important to understand that the Commissioners had to work within a framework defined by the *Electoral Distribution Act 1947*.

She said the task in this distribution had been to define districts that met population quotients which are 26,454 for metropolitan seats and 13,735 for country seats, with a permitted variation of plus or minus 15%.

The Commissioners had determined to set the initial elector populations of districts such that, having regard for the trend of demographic change, there would be approximate equality of numbers in each district in four years time, except where special or exceptional circumstances required otherwise.

Changes to the boundaries proposed in May include:

Metropolitan Regions

- The boundary of the proposed district of Heathridge has been revised to incorporate the entire suburb of Joondalup and the Joondalup civic centre. This district has been renamed Joondalup, recognising the importance of Joondalup as a regional centre.
- The boundary of the proposed South Metropolitan Region district of Riverton has been adjusted to include the entire suburb of Parkwood, thus impacting the boundary of the East Metropolitan Region district of Southern River.

Agricultural and South West Regions

- Objections were made to the proposal for the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes to be moved into the Agricultural Region district of Wagin and a range of options were explored with representatives of that community. A proposal emerged from local representatives, as part of those discussions, which has been adopted. This is for the East Ward only of the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes to be included in the Agricultural Region district of Wagin. The remaining portion of the shire is to be moved from the Agricultural Region to the South West Region district of Warren-Blackwood. As a consequence of this adjustment, in order to balance elector numbers, it has been necessary to make a number of other adjustments. The South Ward of the Shire of Manjimup is to be moved from the district of Warren-Blackwood to the district of Stirling, the Shire of Tambellup is to be moved from the South West Region district of Stirling to the Agricultural Region district of Wagin, and the Shire of Dumbleyung is to be moved from the district of Roe to the district of Wagin.

Mining and Pastoral Region

- Objections were received about the proposals made for the Pilbara area. As a result of these objections, a further option was developed from discussions with objectors, which has now been adopted. This includes a revised coastal electorate named North West Coastal extending from the Murchison River to Onslow and on to the Shire of Roebourne. A revised electorate named Central Kimberley-Pilbara has also been created to the north-east, which includes the iron ore towns of Tom Price, Paraburdoo and Pannawonica, together with Port Hedland and the central Kimberley. A new name of Murchison-Eyre has been determined for the proposed district of Eyre in order to more correctly describe the area concerned. Some further small adjustments have been made to the boundary between Kalgoorlie and Murchison-Eyre to better balance elector numbers.

Ms Auld said that the final boundaries were legally binding and there was no further opportunity for appeal to, or review by, the Commissioners.

The review of electoral boundaries, which commenced in February, 2003, was carried out by the WA Electoral Distribution Commissioners:

The Chief Justice (Chairman)	–	The Hon. David K. Malcolm AC, C1T. WA
The Electoral Commissioner	–	Ms Lyn Auld
The Government Statistician	–	Mr Colin Nagle

NOTE: The Electoral Distribution website is www.boundarieswa.com.