



## Office of the ELECTORAL DISTRIBUTION COMMISSIONERS

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### WA STATE ELECTORAL DISTRIBUTION IS UNDER WAY

The 2003 electoral distribution, which will review Western Australia's current State electoral boundaries in preparation for the next State General Election, commences on February 5, 2003 with the placement of newspaper advertisements inviting written suggestions on boundary changes.

An electoral distribution is the process of adjusting electoral boundaries in line with local population changes, to ensure that electorates do not have disproportionately large or small elector numbers. The *Electoral Distribution Act 1947* stipulates that a distribution should be carried out one year after every second State General Election – that is, approximately every eight years. The last distribution took place in 1994.

The distribution process, which will take approximately six months to complete, will be carried out by the WA Electoral Distribution Commissioners, who are:

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

WA Electoral Commissioner, Lyn Auld, said the process provided several opportunities for the public to be involved in the redrawing of electoral boundaries.

"These opportunities exist from the outset of the process, which is signalled by advertisements, commencing today, inviting written suggestions on boundary changes," she said.

"When the period for suggestions closes, on March 7, all submissions will be made public via the Commission's website, and the public will have two weeks in which to comment on the suggestions that have been made.

"All submissions and subsequent comments will be considered by the Commissioners in preparing their draft proposals, which will be made public on May 2. Again, interested parties will have the opportunity to lodge objections to the Commissioners.

"Any objections raised will be considered by the Commissioners in making their final electoral boundary determination. Final boundaries are due to be published in the form of a booklet and circulated widely by August 4, 2003," she said.

Ms Auld said that the distribution will lead to significant changes to electoral boundaries. In the metropolitan area, population is growing strongly at the fringes while closer to the city population growth is more static. In the country, the South-West corner is growing strongly while the Agricultural and Mining and Pastoral Regions are growing more slowly.

The legislation requires the rebalancing of the elector numbers in the country and in the city, with no overall increase in the number of seats.

Information on the distribution process, including a detailed information booklet, can be obtained from the Electoral Distribution website: [www.boundarieswa.com](http://www.boundarieswa.com).

**February 4, 2003**