



MEDIA STATEMENT

HIGH LEVEL OF INTEREST IN WA'S ELECTORAL BOUNDARY REVIEW

Community interest in the distribution of the State's electoral boundaries is high, with an increased number of submissions received by the Office of the Electoral Distribution Commissioners as the first stage of the process to redraw Western Australia's electoral boundaries.

A total of 33 written suggestions had been received when submissions closed at 5.00 pm on Friday 4 May, which is a significant increase on the last boundary distribution conducted in 2003.

Electoral Commissioner Warwick Gately said submissions had been received from political parties and local governments as well as other interested individuals and groups.

"The larger number of written suggestions received is an indication of the strong interest being shown in the distribution of the State's electoral boundaries," Mr Gately said.

"There have been eight submissions from political parties and members of parliament, 10 submissions from local government authorities and 15 submissions from community groups and individuals.

"All submissions will be considered by the Electoral Distribution Commissioners before the proposed new boundaries are published on 29 June."

Mr Gately said that the increased interest in the process could be attributed to the extensive change expected as a result of legislation passed in 2005 based on 'one vote, one value' principles.

"All written suggestions received have been placed on the boundaries web site at www.boundarieswa.com and can be viewed at the Office of the Electoral Distribution Commissioners at Level 11, 111 St Georges Terrace, Perth.

"Interested groups or individuals now have until 5.00 pm on Friday 18 May to lodge written comments on these initial suggestions."

Once all the written comments have been received, the Electoral Distribution Commissioners have a period of 42 days to consider all suggestions and comments before publishing the proposed boundaries on Friday 29 June. There is then a 30 day period for interested groups or individuals to lodge any objections to the proposals.

The Electoral Distribution Commissioners have a further 90 days to consider the objections and prepare the final boundaries. The new boundaries will be published on Monday 29 October and it is these boundaries that will be used at the next State general election.

ENDS

7 May 2007

Justin Harbord
Secretary to the Electoral Distribution Commissioners

Phone: 9214 0450