

2007 Electoral Distribution for Western Australia

Media Briefing
3 April 2007



Office of the
ELECTORAL DISTRIBUTION COMMISSIONERS



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Where will you be in 2009?



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Legislative changes

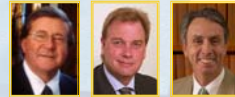
- ★ 57 to 59 members in the Legislative Assembly
- ★ 34 to 36 members in the Legislative Council
- ★ 400,000 electors will find their district boundary has changed
- ★ Eight more districts in the metropolitan area
- ★ Six less districts in the country area



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Electoral Distribution Commissioners

- ★ The Chief Justice (Chairman)
– The Hon. Wayne Martin
- ★ The Government Statistician
– Mr Michael Tindall
- ★ The Electoral Commissioner
– Mr Warwick Gately AM



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Requirement for a distribution

- ★ *Electoral Act 1907*
- ★ Legislation now requires a distribution of boundaries to commence two years after polling day following each State general election
- ★ Boundaries established in 2007 will apply at the State general election
- ★ Any by-elections before the next State general election will use current boundaries



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Legislative provisions

- ★ Legislation determines district and region numbers
- ★ Legislation determines Metropolitan area boundary
- ★ Commissioners assign
 - districts to regions
 - region boundaries within the Metropolitan area
 - region boundaries within the Country area
 - district boundaries
 - district names

Legislative provisions

| Metropolitan Regions | Country Regions |
|--|---|
| East Metropolitan – 6 members | Agricultural – 6 members |
| North Metropolitan – 6 members | Mining and Pastoral – 6 members |
| South Metropolitan – 6 members | South West – 6 members |

Close of enrolment - 26 February 2007

| Area | Enrolment | Districts |
|--------------|------------------|-----------|
| Metropolitan | 935,539 | 42 |
| Country | 324,126 | 17 |
| State | 1,259,665 | 59 |

- ★ Average district enrolment = 21,350
 - calculated by dividing enrolment by number of districts
 - ± 10% except large district allowance areas

Large District Allowance (LDA)

- ★ Applies to areas greater or equal to 100,000 km²
- ★ Equals the square kms of district multiplied by 1.5% (or 1,500 notional electors per 100,000 km²)
- ★ LDA plus number of electors in district must be within the range of -20% to +10% of the average district enrolment

Central Kimberley-Pilbara district*

Total area = 600,038 km²

Total electors = 12,601 electors

LDA = 600,038 x 1.5%

= 9,000 notional electors

Total electors + LDA = between 17,080 & 23,485

Total electors + LDA = **21,601** ✓

* Based on 2003 district boundaries

How are decisions made?

- ★ Quota ± 10%
- ★ Community of interest
- ★ Land use patterns **New**
- ★ Means of communication/distance from capital
- ★ Physical features
- ★ Existing region and district boundaries
- ★ Existing local government boundaries
- ★ Trend of demographic change

Timeline

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| 4 April 2007 | Call for Written Suggestions |
| 4 May 2007 | Written Suggestions close at 5.00 pm |
| 18 May 2007 | Written Comments on Suggestions close at 5.00 pm |
| 29 June 2007 | Proposed Boundaries published by Electoral Distribution Commissioners |
| 30 July 2007 | Written Objections close at 5.00 pm |
| 29 October 2007 | Final Boundaries published by Electoral Distribution Commissioners |

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Call for written suggestions

WEDNESDAY 4 APRIL 2007
Publish *Call for Written Suggestions* advertisement in the *Government Gazette* and a newspaper circulating within the State.

30 days

Interested persons lodge written suggestions with the Secretary to the Electoral Distribution Commissioners.

FRIDAY 4 MAY 2007
Written suggestions close at 5.00 pm.

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Comments on suggestions

FRIDAY 4 MAY 2007
Written suggestions close at 5.00 pm.

14 days

Copies of all written suggestions available for public perusal at the Office of the Electoral Distribution Commissioners.

FRIDAY 18 MAY 2007
Written comments on suggestions close at 5.00 pm.

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Proposed boundaries announced

FRIDAY 18 MAY 2007
Written comments on suggestions close at 5.00 pm.

42 days

Electoral Distribution Commissioners consider all written suggestions and written comments received and formulate proposals. Copies of all comments made public.

FRIDAY 29 JUNE 2007
Public proposals, including names of districts, maps and statement of reasons for making the proposals, in the *Government Gazette* and a newspaper circulating the State.

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Written objections to proposed boundaries

FRIDAY 29 JUNE 2007
Publish proposals, including names of districts, maps and statement of reasons for making the proposals, in the *Government Gazette* and a newspaper circulating within the State.

30 days

Written objections lodged with the Electoral Distribution Commissioners. Copies of all objections made public.

MONDAY 30 JULY 2007
Written objections close at 5.00 pm.

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Final changes gazetted

MONDAY 30 JULY 2007
Written objections close at 5.00 pm.

90 days

Electoral Distribution Commissioners consider objections and prepare the distribution of electoral boundaries.

MONDAY 29 OCTOBER 2007
The final distribution published in the *Government Gazette* and a newspaper circulating the State

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Keeping the electorate informed

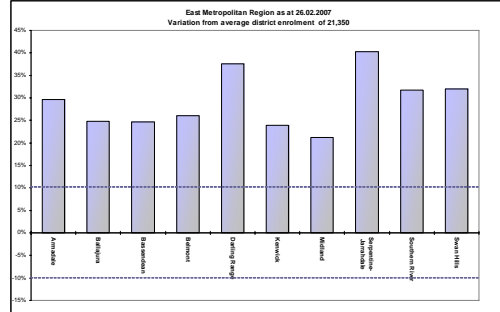
- ★ Legislation provides opportunity for public input in the process
- ★ Information kit and suggestions posted on the Internet
- ★ Proposed and final boundaries will be widely circulated in booklet form via newspaper and published in the *Government Gazette* and on the Internet

Who will be affected?

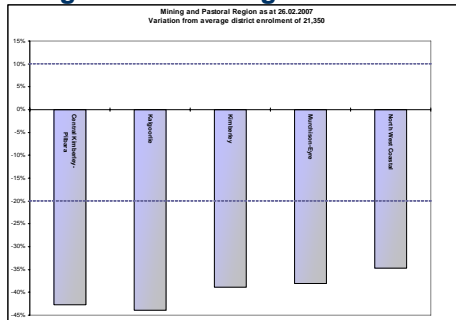
- ★ Quota imbalances and demographic trends will force significant change
- ★ Districts with elector numbers above and below the quota, must change
- ★ Knock-on effect to districts with more static populations



East Metropolitan Variations



Mining & Pastoral Region Variations



How do you obtain more information?

- ★ Street Address:
Office of the Electoral Distribution Commissioners
Level 11, 111 St Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6000
- ★ Postal Address:
GPO Box F316
PERTH WA 6841
- T: (08) 9214 0450 (or 13 63 06 toll-free in WA)
- F: (08) 9214 0455
- E: boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au
- W: www.boundarieswa.com

