



Shire of  
**Bridgetown-Greenbushes**  
.... simply beautiful



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Dear Commissioners

**SUBMISSION – REVIEW OF WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES**

The Bridgetown-Greenbushes Shire Council has resolved to lodge a submission with the WA Electoral Commission advocating for the retention of the whole of the district of the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes within the South West Legislative Council Region.

Council's position is that the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes is to remain within the South-West Region as the prescribed factors to be taken into account by the WAEC when reviewing electoral comprehensively show that the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes fits within the characteristics of the South West Region and not the Agricultural Region.

The prescribed factors also considered when reviewing electoral boundaries are listed below together with comments specifically addressing the relationship between the district of the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes and the South West Region.

The Shire has a strong community of interest with the South West Region with strong commercial links to Manjimup to the south and Bunbury to the north, and lesser linkages to Busselton and Margaret River. The main transport corridor servicing Bridgetown-Greenbushes is the South Western Highway. State Government services are provided from within the existing South West Region (mainly via Bunbury) and there is little community and political interaction between our community and communities in the Agricultural Region.

Land use patterns within the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes are similar to other districts within the South Western Region, including a high proportion of rural residential subdivision and "lifestyle" lots. The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes has experienced population growth of approximately 1.5% per annum over the last 5 years and this growth is consistent with other areas of the South West Region. Issues relating to population growth, such as town planning, building control, demand for new infrastructure and services, etc. are consistent with the issues addressed throughout the South West Region.

The physical characteristics of the district are more consistent with the other areas of the South West Region than with the Agricultural Region and are characterized by undulating terrain, river valleys and a high concentration of State Forest and other crown land. Approximately 45% of the land area of the Shire is under the control of the Crown and is classified into a variety of reserves, being State Forest, Conservation Area, vacant crown land, vested reserves and unvested reserve land.

As at 9 March 2015 the Average District Enrolment (ADE) in Western Australia was 24,923. As at the same date the Warren Blackwood Electorate had a total of 26,391 electors thus it has a variation of 5.89% from the ADE – within the WAEC's acceptable guidelines. However Council is cognisant that the neighbouring electorate of Wagin has 21,809 electors and with a variation of -12.49% is outside the acceptable variation from the ADE. Council has concerns that a simplistic solution to this problem would be to simply move the district of the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes into the Wagin electorate and the Agricultural Region. For the reasons outlined above such a solution would not be consistent with the prescribed factors used when reviewing electoral boundaries.

There are numerous scenarios that could be considered to ensure the electorate of Wagin achieves compliance to the maximum permissible deviation from the ADE however at this stage of the process Council has restricted its submission to that of simply requesting that the whole of the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes remain in the South West Region.

Yours faithfully



**TIM CLYNCH**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**28 April 2015**