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Our Ref: OCR181118  
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Electoral Boundaries WA

Email: [boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au](mailto:boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au)

Dear Sir

### Review of State Electoral Boundaries 2019

The City of Karratha is pleased to be invited to review the WA state electoral boundaries. Local representation is extremely important and retaining the same number of representative seats in country Western Australia is essential to providing a pathway to rural WA voicing their concerns.

The City has a strong interest in retaining the existing electoral boundaries within the Pilbara District. The community of interest for the District is predominantly a mining and resources sector where the people and businesses rely heavily upon the services offered from the townships and ports of Karratha and Port Hedland. Karratha and Port Hedland provide important business, commercial, transport, employment, health, education, cultural and recreational services and support for the Pilbara region. The District also has close ties with the Pilbara's Shire of Ashburton where it has noted, for distribution reasons, that the Shire is excised into the North West Central District in 2015.

It is recognised that the Mining and Pastoral Region has inequities in the current boundary alignments based on the WA Electoral Commission's model calculations of the Average District Enrolment. As it stands, the Kimberley District is under-represented (-21.70%) which exceeds the WAEC's minimum tolerance limits of -20% whilst the North West Central District also is under represented (-19.59%) however falls within the WAEC tolerance limits.

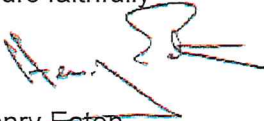
The City strongly recommends that a review of the tolerances be considered to enable greater consideration for the contraction of elector representations in regional areas weighted against land area. The existing country Districts are a reasonable representation of activities across WA and have a single community of interest. Dilution of these boundaries will potentially lead to mixed interests arising across the community.

The WAEC model proposes that district numbers were not to exceed a variation of +/-10% from the Average District Enrolment (ADE) figure of 27,573. Districts that have geographic areas exceeding 100,000km<sup>2</sup> can have a spread between -20% to +10% from the ADE figure (ie. 22,058 – 30,330).

If elector numbers reduce in a district, the electoral boundaries will need to continue to grow to maintain minimum elector representations combined with a need to increase the rate required to calculate the Large District Allowance so results continue to fit within the WAEC model tolerances.

The City does not support any further changes to existing boundaries and recommend a further review of the current WAEC model's tolerances applied for boundary redistributions with the lower tolerance being increased to -25%.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Henry Eaton', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Henry Eaton  
Manager Governance & Organisational Strategy

29 April 2019