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TO ELECTIONS COMMISSION

Submission
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(4)

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ELECTORATE OF FORREST DIVISION

Submission relating to re-distribution of Federal Electoral Boundaries in Western Australia as to the Forrest Division electorate.

I live in the community of Bridgetown-Greenbushes and in the electorate of Forrest Division and have based my submission around the sub regional area of the Warren Blackwood which has the Shires of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Manjimup, Nannup and Boyup brook.

Community of interest within the proposed Electoral Division including economic, social and regional interest.

Economic

The Shires of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Boyup Brook, Manjimup and Nannup are closely aligned and I will refer to them as a sub region.

We all have a diverse range of industries with Agriculture, timber and forest products together with the expansion of mining and horticulture are central to the economic viability of these regions.

Together we generate \$174 million which is nearly 40 % of the South Wests total annual gross value of agricultural production from Manjimup to Boyup brook. Horticulture, viticulture, Aquaculture, Timber and Forest Products, Mineral extracts and Processing, Tourism, Manufacturing.

Social interest

The sub region has government and private education facilities catering for approximately 3560 pre-primary, primary and secondary students. Post secondary education is available through the South West Regional College of TAFE which has a campus at Manjimup.

The sub region is serviced by six child health care centres and five senior citizen centres.

Hospitals are located at manjimup, Pemberton, Bridgetown, Boyup brook and Nannup with a nursing post at Northcliffe.

The sub region has a diverse range of recreation and community facilities located at Manjimup, Pemberton, Bridgetown, Greenbushes, Boyup brook and Nannup.

Local organisations are prominent throughout the sub region.

Football clubs which is known as the Lower South West has the towns of Pemberton, Manjimup, Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Boyup brook competing.

Bunbury is now the centre of entertainment with the CBD upgrade, entertainment centre and cinema offering the latest releases together with nightclubs for the younger people.

The Youth of the sub region meet to discuss issues under the YAC programme.

The South West Youth Co-ordinating network has representatives on it from Manjimup, Bunbury, Busselton, Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Boyup brook, Margaret River, Augusta, Northcliffe, Pemberton.

This network discusses the social issues for youth in this area and works together to find solutions.

Regional interest.

Bunbury is looked upon as these centres main regional city for shopping, for higher schooling with the Catholic College and the Cathedral Grammar school.

The Government organisations are centrally located in the region of Bunbury to use an example in the one instance is the C.E.S.

The new Bunbury hospital is used by local people in emergency situations and to a lesser degree for elective surgery.

Specialist services are available at the new hospital and not at any other centres.

Bunbury TAFE and University is used by the sub region for higher schooling.

A bus service runs from Manjimup Bridgetown to Bunbury every day for students of both centres and collects children along the route.

Bridgetown-Greenbushes uses Manjimup for schooling especially Yrs 11 and 12 as there is no higher education in town.

Boyup Brook children are usually sent to Perth or the Colleges in Bunbury for higher schooling.

Bridgetown Greenbushes is part of the South West Local Government Association which comprises 11 local governments. These are Bunbury, Collie, Harvey, Donnybrook/balingup, Capel, Busselton, Margaret River, Manjimup, Bridgetown Greenbushes, Boyup brook and Nannup.

As can be clearly seen the sub region is encompassed within this LGA.

This meets on a regular basis and the group constantly seeks solutions to matters of common interest to all participating councils.

Within the electorate of Forrest the regional interests are of a common ground not only in economic matters such as Forestry, mining, viticulture, horticulture and agricultural but in the social interests which have been explained above.

The electorate of Forrest at present takes in the towns of Busselton, Bunbury, Capel, Donnybrook, Margaret River, Nannup, Bridgetown, Manjimup, Pemberton, Northcliffe, Walpole, Denmark and Albany.

Eight of these towns are coastal and if you take for example Bridgetown-Greenbushes it is only one hour away from any coastal town excepting Albany.

When people from Bridgetown-Greenbushes go on holiday they will go to Albany, Denmark, Walpole, Peaceful bay, Windy harbour, Busselton or Bunbury.

I could safely say that most people in the inner regions use the coastal retreats as their holiday base and for weekends.

Throughout the region as I have stated we share common interests and have a very cohesive commonality.

Travel and communications throughout Forrest Division is well linked.

Bridgetown-Greenbushes has a daily bus service to Bunbury for students which leaves early in the morning and gets back in at 6.30pm. This collects students all along the route which is Manjimup, Bridgetown, Greenbushes, Donnybrook, Boyanup and then into Bunbury.

We have bus services to Perth daily and to Albany daily that connect up along the route.

We have the Australind train service in Bunbury that travels to and from Perth daily. People feed in from all over the South West to use this service.

We have flights that leave from the Bunbury airport to Perth and one that leaves from the Albany airport into Perth.

Albany has bus services daily that go to Perth.

The bus services are well linked and anyone in the Forrest division can get to a town of their choosing by bus.

Most people would choose to go by car and we have excellent dual lanes that feed into Bunbury.

Communications are getting better by mobile phones although they do cut out in whenever you are out of a main CBD.

Telecentres are well patronised in Boyup brook, Bridgetown, Pemberton, Northcliffe, Denmark and Walpole.

I have seen the ALP submission for the electorate of Holman and am disgusted at the towns they have put in especially the part of the present Forrest electorate that has Albany, Boyup brook, Bridgetown Greenbushes, Denmark and Manjimup that they wish to put in the newly created Holman.

This area has absolutely nothing in common with Boddington, Broomehill, Cranbrook, Dumbelyung, Gnowangerup, Jerramungup, Lake Grace, Narrogin, Ravensthorpe, Wagin, Wandering, Waroona, Williams, Woodanilling, Mandurah, Serpentine-Jarradale and Canning.

There is no commonality of regional interests nor is there a commonality of social interests.

I believe to accept this would be an outrage to our community and when I say our community I mean the community of Forrest Division as it stands.

Collie would be an acceptable choice to be placed into the Forrest Division as it was previously.

Collie has a common interest geographically with Forrest, socially with the area and fits in well with us economically with the mining and diversity that they have in the Shire.

Collie is also in the LGA area with Manjimup, Bunbury, Donnybrook, Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Boyup brook and Boyanup.

Collie is one hour away from Bridgetown Greenbushes and is closely aligned with Boyup brook.

Collie also uses Bunbury as its regional centre as does the sub region of the South West.

Our South West regions are completely different from the Agricultural Region that the ALP would have us believe we fit into.

How do flat agricultural plains fit with extensive hardwood forests of Kari, jarrah and marri with national parks and State forest covering more than 870,000 acres? We have horticultural products such as potatoes, cauliflowers, onions and various other fruits and nuts. The Manjimup area is one of the largest producers of fruit and vegetables in the State.

Bus services to the proposed ALP Holman electorate would be very erratic and would not connect readily as does the Forrest electorate.

Why should the people of the sub region be subjected to having Mandurah as the hub of the regional centre of the ALP proposal? We have a perfectly good set up with Manjimup being the centre for the sub region hub and Bunbury as the regional centre.

Many people from the sub region use Busselton as a regional centre and the statistics will show that many people from the sub centre retire in Bunbury or Busselton.

Boundaries of existing divisions

I understand that some changes will have to be made to Forrest Division and I would suggest that it be left alone to the extent that the South West sub region of Manjimup, Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Nannup and Boyup brook remain as Forrest with the inclusion of Collie into its boundaries.

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