



**THE FEDERAL  
REDISTRIBUTION  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

# Comment on suggestion 5

Shire of Murray

2 pages

Ref: 1506-01  
Enquiries: Dean Unsworth

2 November 2020

Redistribution Committee for WA  
Australian Electoral Commission  
Locked Bag 4007  
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Commissioner

### **Western Australian Federal Redistribution Submissions**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on submissions received regarding the Western Australian Federal Redistribution.

The Shire of Murray is part of the division of Canning and is one of 5 local Governments in the Peel Region. The Murray's major industries are Manufacturing, Mining, Retail, Education and Training and Construction.

We fully support Suggestion 19 and the case put forward by the City of Mandurah to keep the Peel Region together within the current division of Canning. This is also reflected in the WA Labor Suggestion 23 that recommends no changes to the divisions of Brand, Burt, Canning, Forest, and Fremantle.

We respectfully ask that you consider how the Shire of Murray and City of Mandurah form a region of common interest and strategic economic bond. Our resident's work, shop, attend schools, recreate, and socialise together and therefore identify strongly within the same geographic area. On the contrary, the Shire of Murray and its main town of Pinjarra has little historic, economic, business or community links with other towns in the current division of Forest. Our main population and growth areas are geographically located well to the north of the Shire just 10 mins from the City of Mandurah. In contrast the main urban and city areas of Forest are located around Bunbury over an hour's drive to the south and Busselton which is over two hours away.

The Peel Region is undergoing increased urban and peri urban expansion as indicated by its strong population growth at 106.3% from 1996 to 2016, twice that of Western Australia at 45.2% and over 3 times that of Australia (32.4%) according to the ABS. The issues faced by Murray and Mandurah are remarkably similar in terms of demographics, infrastructure requirements and essential services. We also have a common outlook and environmental considerations given we share a dual river system with the Murray and Serpentine rivers flowing into the Peel Harvey Estuary along our shared boundary.

In principle we believe that the new electoral divisions should wherever possible, align with State Government economic regions and be framed by Local Government boarders. This

avoids confusion for our residents and makes the advocacy role by elected members more consistent and efficient. It also encourages all levels of government and their communities to work more cooperatively together rather than competing for funding and resources, particularly where the needs of their communities and economic fundamentals are aligned and obviously the same.

Yours sincerely



Dean Unsworth  
**Chief Executive officer**