



Electoral Education Centre

State government

Electoral Boundaries in Western Australia

Western Australia is divided into 59 Legislative Assembly districts and six Legislative Council regions. At a State election, one member is elected for each Legislative Assembly district and six members are elected for each Legislative Council region by the electors who live in those districts and regions.

Reviewing the electoral boundaries

A regular review of the electoral boundaries ensures that at election time, the number of electors in each district is as equitable as possible. A number of factors are also considered in addition to the number of electors in a district when drawing electoral boundaries, including:

- community of interest
- land use patterns
- means of communication, means of travel and distance from capital
- physical features
- existing boundaries of regions and districts
- existing local government boundaries
- the trend of demographic changes.

The State's electoral boundaries are reviewed as soon as practicable two years after each State election.

The review process

The review is conducted by three Electoral Distribution Commissioners. These commissioners currently are:

- a former Supreme Court judge (chair)
- the Electoral Commissioner
- the Government Statistician.

These people and the staff that support them form the temporary 'Office of the Electoral Distribution Commissioners'.

The review process must be completed within seven to eight months. The timeline for key stages is set out in Part IIA of the *Electoral Act 1907*.

Once the final boundaries have been published, the review is complete. The new boundaries will come into effect at the following State general election.

Have your say

A review of the State's electoral boundaries is a consultative process. During the review, the Commissioners will ask the community to share their views by making a submission. There are three stages in the review where the Electoral Distribution Commissioners will call for suggestions or comments from the public.

For more information on Western Australia's electoral boundaries or to get involved in the next review, visit www.boundaries.wa.gov.au