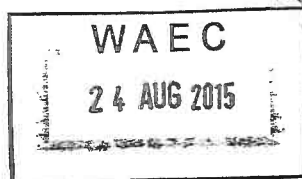


ENQUIRIES: Mr Stuart Taylor

OUR REFERENCE:

YOUR REFERENCE:

24 August 2015



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and Elphin Crescent  
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The Commissioner  
WA Electoral Commission  
GPO Box F316  
PERTH WA 6841

Dear Commissioners,

**SUBMISSION TO RETAIN THE CURRENT NUMBER OF COUNTRY SEATS AND  
REMAIN IN THE ELECTORATE OF THE CENTRAL WHEATBELT**

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Shire of Wongan Ballidu in response to the proposed electorate boundary changes. The Shire acknowledges that from time to time there is a requirement for a review and the challenge in keeping the balance across the many spheres of influence.

Again the issue of Country representation is proposed to be reduced to provide an additional seat in the metropolitan area, most people in the Country live there for life style, and because they have a fundamental belief in the communities that they live in, and the services that they provide to enable the country of Western Australia to be productive, if everyone moved to the Perth Metropolitan area, Agriculture, Pastoral and Mining could not be supported, the communities maybe small but they do provide significant contribution and support to business and industry in the regions, which ultimately supports the economic and social base of our State.

Any proposal put forward can arguably be considered political, and may be looked upon on the basis of how a community votes, however in reading the submissions put forward by our political representatives it would seem far more practical to create a new seat in the Metropolitan area and retain the current 17 seats than to reduce the representation of our communities in the country.

In recent times local government has been challenged with amalgamations, one of the fundamental positions held out in relation to the consideration of country local government amalgamation discussion by the State, was the concept of communities of interest.

The Shire of Wongan Ballidu is a part of the central wheatbelt, its regional centre is Northam, and most of the non-local business activity of our community is undertaken in Northam or Perth. We are a part of the Swan Avon catchment (as opposed to those to the west and North who are in the Mortlock Catchment) and our sports teams are based in competitions that are focused mainly south.

Our Community of interest does not extend north or west towards the coast, Mid-west or Geraldton.

It would make sense then that our political representation should be focused around our regional centre and our community of interest, which is the Central Wheatbelt

The Shire of Wongan Ballidu Respectfully requests that the Commission retain the current Country electoral boundaries and make the relevant minor changes to meet legislative requirements and increase the metropolitan electorate by 1, and if this is not considered that the Shire remain in the Electoral Boundary of the Central Wheatbelt.

The Shire of Wongan Ballidu thanks the Commissioners for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Electoral Boundary changes

If you require any additional information or wish to discuss this matter please contact the above officer on 9671 1011 or email: [ceo@wongan.wa.gov.au](mailto:ceo@wongan.wa.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Stuart Taylor  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

SHIRE OF WONGAN-BALLIDU