

It is interesting to point out that the Agricultural electorates are generally not serviced by regular air travel routes and so to get around much of the electorate, and even more so if they are enlarged, charter flights and/or long distances of road travel is required.

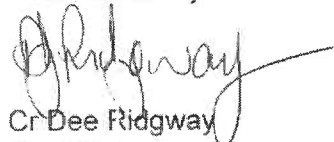
The nature of Agricultural Region electorates is one of dispersed communities unlike those in the larger Mining and Pastoral electorates which have fewer and larger communities that are generally serviced by regular air transport.

Effective representation, already challenging due to distances, will be even more demanding with an increased electorate size. The sheer size of the proposed re-aligned electorates will mean less opportunity to meet with community representatives, less opportunity to attend the various functions and activities, and less contact with rural and regional residents. All aspects which constituents in the metropolitan area take for granted.

In summary there seems to be no rational argument advanced for increasing the size of the electorates as is being proposed, and especially as it will cut across community of interest. The Commission seems to have been focusing on the need to satisfy a desire to increase metropolitan representation without meaningful examination of the detrimental effects this will have on the rural and regional communities of WA. A proposal has been submitted (by the National Party) which would enable the Average District Enrolment for all electorates to remain within the permissible limits.

The Shire of Beverley is appreciative of the opportunity to make this submission to the Electoral Commission's 2015 review of the States electoral region and district boundaries and is of the view that there be no reduction in the number of rural and regional electorates and minimal increases to electorate sizes.

Yours sincerely



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