

[REDACTED]

From: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox
Sent: Friday, 28 July 2023 12:26 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Ob34 - FW: Proposed electoral boundary changes submission
Attachments: SUBMISSION TO PROPOSED LOWER HOUSE BOUNDARY CHANGES.pdf

Objection 34 (Ob34)

-----Original Message-----

From: Anne Cripps [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 27 July 2023 1:54 PM
To: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox <boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au>
Subject: Proposed electoral boundary changes submission

[External Email] This email was sent from outside the organisation. Be cautious, particularly with links and attachments.

All SPAM emails must be reported using the instructions on the intranet.

To whom it may concern (especially the many disenfranchised regional voters),

Attached is my submission expressing concerns the proposed boundary changes will have on regional citizens and their elected representatives.

Regards,

Anne Cripps.

Acknowledgement of Country: The Western Australian Electoral Commission acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands on which our electoral activities take place. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

SUBMISSION TO PROPOSED LOWER HOUSE BOUNDARY CHANGES.

In preparing this submission I would like to focus on two aspects of your proposed Lower House electoral boundary changes. Firstly, what idealistically seems fair is in practice grossly unfair on regional electors and their representatives. Secondly, as a constituent of the current seat of Moore, to express my concern that this has been made into one of the largest and most difficult electorates to oversee under the proposed redistribution.

THE PERCEIVED FAIRNESS OF ONE VOTE ONE VALUE

One vote one value may sound fair but when you take into account the tyrannies of distance that exist in WA once you travel beyond the SW corner it is not. If as a Lower House MP your constituents are located an hour or so drive away (Metro) how is this comparable to an MP who has his/her constituents spread over 820,591 sq Km (Northwest Central Electorate)?

The revamp of the Upper House voting system has also increased the workload of these rural Lower House MPs as well. As an elector in Moore currently I can contact the member for Moore or one of six members for the Agricultural Region. With the new Upper House system, I am not guaranteed of having a single Upper House member living in my vicinity to be able to contact. Effectively you are increasing the workload for the member for Moore sevenfold. This also applies to other electorates such Kimberley, Pilbara, Northwest Central, Kalgoorlie, Central Wheatbelt and Roe. HOW IS THIS FAIR?

Metro Lower House MPs get home most nights after attending functions in their electorates. Rural Lower House MPs spend many nights hundreds of kilometres from home after attending functions in the electorates. HOW IS THIS FAIR?

An example of this excessive workload is the retirement of two Lower House regional representatives in the last fifteen months from the seats of Northwest Central and Central Wheatbelt. Both were dedicated and healthy individuals who were essentially being asked to forgo any life outside being an MP to serve their electors effectively. HOW IS THAT FAIR?

As a participant in the Agricultural sector, I find the regulators are making more and more rulings (red tape) that are totally impractical in their implementation. They are costly and severely hinder efficiency and productivity. In some cases, they exacerbate the problem (eg bushfire control and animal husbandry). I fear some of the electoral commission decisions are heading in the same direction. If you are a person entrusted with devising and implementing the decisions and in this case changing electoral procedures, the foremost question in your mind should be – COULD I COPE WITH THE OUTCOME I HAVE CREATED? In other

words, could I handle the workload of the new member for Midwest? Would I go home (if I could get there) and feel I was adequately representing my electorate? If the answer is NO, why are you pushing this onerous task on someone else? HOW IS THAT FAIR?

In addition, if you were a resident of the new seat of Midwest would you feel your interests were being adequately represented? If the answer is NO, HOW IS THAT FAIR?

Referencing the link below I have compiled a list of the current seven electorates that fall outside of the SW corner of WA and their areas.

CENTRAL WHEATBELT	102,127 SQ KM
KALGOORLIE	555,549 SQ KM
KIMBERLEY	536,571 SQ KM
MOORE	77,632 SQ KM
NORTHWEST CENTRAL	820,591 SQ KM
PILBARA	292,570 SQ KM
<u>ROE</u>	<u>104,934 SQ KM</u>
TOTAL	2,489,974 SQ KM

WESTERN AUSTRALIA 2, 527,013 SQ KM

Serious consideration should be taken of the areas covered by Lower House MPs especially in light that they will no longer have the same support from Upper House MPs.

98.5% of our state is currently represented by seven people.

>98.5% of our state will be represented by six people if the new proposals go ahead. (I was unable to calculate an exact figure, but referencing the boundaries map it has increased).

Presently 7 MLAs have support from 6 Mining and Pastoral MLCs and 6 Agricultural MLCs.

If these proposed changes go ahead these 6 MLAs do not have guaranteed support from any MLCs.

HOW IS THAT FAIR?

<https://parliament.wa.gov.au/WebCMS/webcms.nsf/content/parliamentary-library-electorate-profiles-2021>

<https://www.boundaries.wa.gov.au/boundaries/2023P>

MOORE/NORTHWEST CENTRAL REDISTRIBUTION

The proposed electorate of Midwest has the potential to be one of the most difficult to represent. Not only has it got a large area to be covered, but just about every industry and social issue occurs in that electorate and not on a small scale.

Industries – agriculture, horticulture, fishing, mining and tourism.

Social issues – health (I don't think one hospital that would be considered adequate by metropolitan standards exists in the electorate), education (many remote schools, distance education and access to secondary education), housing, understaffing of govt employees, aboriginal affairs, crime, outer urban development.

How many other electorates have all these issues and as mentioned above each one is on a large scale. The member for Midwest would have to be abreast of all these portfolios and at the same time be constantly on the road.

What a workload to lumber on a person!!

These are all very serious issues that need to be managed and we need MPs on the ground in areas they are occurring to advise parliament. Disenfranchising the portion of the state beyond the SW corner is not the solution. Citizens throughout the ENTIRE state need their concerns addressed and are deserving of proper services.

Anne Cripps.

[REDACTED] Northampton, 6535.

[REDACTED]