

[REDACTED]

From: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox
Sent: Friday, 28 July 2023 11:59 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Ob36 - FW: Boundary Change Objection
Attachments: Electoral Boundary Objection.pdf

Objection 36 (Ob36)

From: Patrick Walter <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, 28 July 2023 9:31 AM
To: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox <boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au>
Subject: Boundary Change Objection

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Dear Commissioners,

Please see the attached document of my objection to the proposed Electoral Boundary Changes.

Regards

Patrick Walter

[REDACTED]
Morawa
W.A 6623

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.

Electoral Distribution Commissioners
Western Australian Electoral Distribution Commission
E-mail: boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au

Dear Commissioners,

I would like to make my personal objection to the proposed electoral boundary changes being currently considered.

As the current electoral boundaries sit, already it is a major undertaking for one MP to be able to effectively reach all of its constituents. The vast distances can be even more of a hindrance for the constituents themselves seeking to connect with their local representative with regard to cost of fuels, poor to zero mobile phone reception and impractical internet speeds/connections. If the current electorates were to be merged, thus greatly increasing the electorate area, this will only worsen the situation.

I operate as a mobile diesel mechanic around the Morawa district, but my trade has taken me to places such as Wiluna, Carnarvon, Newman, Gascoyne Junction and Fitzroy Crossing. Having travelled the distances and met the people living and working in these remote areas I've clearly seen and experienced the challenges involved with life in the bush such as:

*High costs of food, fuels and accommodation.

*Limited access to health/medical facilities and education centres/schools.

*Poor mobile/internet access.

*Limited access to general business providers (such as automotive or building repairers, clothing suppliers and hardware merchants)

Fair representation to Parliament is something we need to try and address these issues and to take that away, **as the proposed boundary changes will absolutely do**, will condemn people in the regions to continue to struggle at the expense of those living in the outer metropolitan suburbs.

Challenges aside, living and working in regional and remote areas is also a great way of life, not to mention an important contributor to the States wealth. Agricultural operations that produce grains, livestock, fruit and vegetables not only help keep our state fed, but support other businesses and trades, all of whom will be contributing financially back to the State. The same goes for mineral exploration and mining. If regional centres are supported they can grow, creating more opportunities for people and more income for the State.

In an age where **minority** groups are being **celebrated and listened to** nation and world wide, the whole argument for redrawing of boundaries based purely on population numbers seems quite petty. Retaining the current 16 regional seats is vital for good, balanced governance in this State.

I would encourage all of the commissioners responsible for this decision process to take the time to personally visit the regions that they are going to be impacting. Meet the people, see the challenges and experience the uniqueness of regional life.

Regards

Patrick Walter

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