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Over the years there has been a gradual erosion of regional political representation in State Parliament. Regional constituents are already disadvantaged due to proximity access to their Local Member and the services and advocacy that they provide. GVROC LGAs cover a land mass of more than a third of the State and having the ability to personally meet with your Local Member to address local issues can be difficult and further erosion of this will be unequitable. Due to travel and distance, regional politicians also have to work harder to provide the same service to their constituents as their city counterparts.

Even with technology and connectivity improvements the role of a Local Member is greatly assisted and enhanced by being present and available in person for the people they represent in Parliament.

It is also vitally important that continual advocacy and support for regional WA from a political perspective to ensure adequate access to health care, aged care, transport infrastructure and education, which is vital to ensure services are comparable to those in Perth.

The GVROC acknowledges the challenges and limited scope inherent to the Commissioners' task to propose electoral boundary changes. Nevertheless, as an Organisation representing communities over a third of the state through Local Government, GVROC supports strong and effective political representation for the non-metropolitan districts to ensure that regional WA is supported to continue to generate export and employment opportunities that benefit us all.

Any further reduction in political representation at the State level will necessarily lead to an expectation that regional Local Governments will expand to fill this gap, a role that will stretch the GVROC Local Governments beyond their capacity and resources.

Representation for non-metropolitan districts (especially those covering large geographical Areas like the GVROC) also needs bolstering by increased resources for electorate offices.

**Therefore, GVROC's objection to the proposed boundaries are on the basis that the reduction of non-metropolitan districts will:**

- 1. Further diminish political representation for regional communities;**
- 2. Increase pressure on regional Local Governments; and**
- 3. Fail to recognise the contributions of non-metropolitan districts to the WA Economy.**

I'd be happy to discuss this matter further with you and can be contacted via email [shire.president@coolgardie.wa.gov.au](mailto:shire.president@coolgardie.wa.gov.au) or mobile 0417 266 191.

Yours sincerely



**Cr Malcolm Cullen - GVROC Chair**  
President – Shire of Coolgardie

P: (08) 9080 2111

M: 0417 266 191

E: [shire.president@coolgardie.wa.gov.au](mailto:shire.president@coolgardie.wa.gov.au)

A: PO Box 138, Kambalda WA 6442

Cc: Andrew Mann – Executive Officer, GVROC