

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 189 Ob - FW: Response to Suggestions - Boundaries
Date: Monday, 21 August 2023 10:47:52 AM

From: Cheryl Jean <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, 15 August 2023 7:28 PM
To: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Response to Suggestions - Boundaries

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Dear Commissioner,

I wish to respond to electoral boundary suggestions published on your website.

Despite consistently suffering worse outcomes than their city cousins, regional West Australians will lose 18 dedicated regional representatives after the next election due to changes to a whole-of-state electorate in the Legislative Council.

It is of utmost importance that this loss of representation in the upper house is not compounded by reduced legislative assembly representation.

Having read the published suggestions, I support the resounding collective sentiment from many submissions that sixteen regional seats must be maintained.

The Labor Party's suggestion to abolish the North West Central electorate in favour of new metropolitan seats may benefit their political fortunes but it would be a devastating blow for regional communities that clearly need more representation now; not less.

Aside from the enormous geographical area, this area covers an incredibly diverse range of land uses – from rural peri-urban blocks, to horticulture, intensive animal production, broadacre mixed farming, mining, coastal communities involved in fishing, tourism, manufacturing industry and pastoral leases. All of these industries and communities have vastly differing needs making it very difficult to give this area the fair representation it deserves.

The loss of a regional electorate is nothing short of an assault on fair representation for regional voters and follows WA Labor's submission to the Electoral Commission, which outlined their plan to abolish another regional voice. Health, aged care, education, childcare, housing, communications and power supplies all need greater investment in the regions.

Please consider how this redistribution will ensure democratic equity and The fate of regional West Australians is in your hands.

Sincerely,

Cheryl-Jean



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.