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[Redacted]

From: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox
Sent: Thursday, 24 August 2023 1:44 PM
To: [Redacted]
Subject: FW: Response to Suggestions - Boundaries

W.A.E.C. RECORDS	
FILE No.	<u>DST 0152</u>
DATE:	<u>16 AUG 2023</u>
ACTION BY:	_____

302 Ob

From: Naomi Purser <[Redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, 16 August 2023 2:59 PM
To: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox <boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au>
Subject: Response to Suggestions - Boundaries

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Dear Commissioner,

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

Every week my husband and I drive The Great Northern Highway from Piawaning to Perth. We do not have adequate mobile reception on a state highway to make voice telephone calls or text let alone have enough signal for data downloads or uploads. We would love this in order to manage our business more effectively when we are travelling. I also travel between towns across the Wheatbelt regularly. It is extremely frustrating to be in a mobile telephone conversation and have it drop out or not be able to hear or be heard properly to complete the call. I realise telecommunications is a federal issue however without strong state representation advocating for us we will never have equal communications services to our city cousins.

We travel for my husband's cancer treatment which is not available locally. We have limited local General Practitioner, Pharmacy and Nursing services 35 kilometres to our east and 55 kilometres to our west. It is easier to get in car and drive to Perth to get all the health services we need (CT, MRI, PET scans, pathology, oncology, GP referrals, pharmaceutical, hospital etc.) We realise that most of these would never be available outside the metropolitan areas, but it is another example of a lack of services for regional people versus a city-centric supply of services for a newly proposed electorate.

The distances to the two towns I mention above means that is also the only two places on offer for childcare and Higher Education for our children and our staff families. There is limited childcare availability mainly due to limited childcare workers being available and limited housing options in those towns (Moora and Wongan Hills). A trip to town for a family accessing childcare is a 70-kilometre round trip or a 100-kilometre round trip which if they are dropping children in and out each day is then double that (140kms or 200kms depending on which direction you go.) That is 700 kilometres or 1000 kilometres per week to access the childcare centres in order to then also go to work for the day.

These are just a few of the examples – telecommunications, education and health – where living in the country already suffers greatly compared to the city. Another big one is when the power goes out and how that doesn't just cut off electricity, it cuts our water as we rely on electricity to pump the water it is not gravity fed as it is in the city, it cuts the mobile towers as they rely on electricity and can only run on a battery system for a day, and it cuts the internet (mobile towers go down and satellite modems go down). Why would the state government want to reduce the availability or access to our elected representative even further by increasing the size of the electorate and giving more representatives to the city? We love living here and growing produce to feed the world. It's what we do,

and we do it as well if not better than many countries in the world. However we are struggling to see the upside when there is less and less understanding and support from government for what we do and why we do it. WE need support to improve the uptake of technology and transport, reduce our emissions, work in unison with mining, pastoral and indigenous interests to get the absolute best from our land and our environment. We need more representation and recognition in government to be able to do that. Many of us are small business owners, employing staff and trying to support families.

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.

Please consider how this redistribution will ensure democratic equity and The fate of regional West Australians is in your hands. We lack Education, Health and Employment services where we live, and we are less than three hours from the centre of Perth.

Yours sincerely,

Naomi Purser



Piawaning WA 6572



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.