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**From:** Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox  
**Sent:** Friday, 25 August 2023 11:11 AM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** 348 - Ob FW: Boundary changes to North West Central- unacceptable

W.A.E.C. RECORDS	
FILE No.	DST 0152
DATE:	17 AUG 2023
ACTION BY:	_____

**From:** Jo Matthewson <\_\_\_\_\_  
**Sent:** Thursday, 17 August 2023 12:48 PM  
**To:** Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox <boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Rundle, Peter <peter.rundle@mp.wa.gov.au>; Love, Shane <Shane.Love@mp.wa.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Boundary changes to North West Central- unacceptable

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Dear Commissioner,

Clearly whoever made this decision has no idea on the diversity of regional areas and as such I wish to respond to electoral boundary suggestions published on your website, with my personal experience.

I lived in Bullsbrook for 13 years and the difference from Muchea to the other areas that will be included, like Carnarvon is astounding.

It is unacceptable 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.

When the regions thrive, the metro does.

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

A local member of regional WA electorates already have to travel huge distances to make contact with electorate members.

Is someone going to give this member additional funding for staff for constituents to make contact with their MP so they don't have to travel 100's of kilometres?

Face to face contact is very important.

It is so simple for a metro resident to pop into their members office, whether lower or upper house.

Having read the published suggestions, I support the resounding collective sentiment from many submissions that sixteen regional seats must be maintained, in fact a few more wouldn't hurt, or additional allowances for travel etc for regional MP's.

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 Australian representation in Parramatta is in your hands.

As someone who grew up in Perth, lived in Bullsbrook and now the Great Southern region, population isn't an indicator of need.

The issues are not as different between metro postcodes as they are in regional ones.

Sincerely,

Joanne Matthewson

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Katanning resident

*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.*