

371 Ob

From: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox
Sent: Friday, 25 August 2023 1:13 PM
To:
Subject: 371 OB
Attachments: EXTRACT 10.4 Objection to the 2023 Proposed Boundaries for WA Electoral Districts.pdf; Letter - Objection to the 2023 Proposed Boundaries v2 (1).pdf

From: Richard Towell <ceo@cue.wa.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 18 August 2023 6:56 AM
To: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox <boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au>
Subject: Objection to proposed boundaries

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Please find attached objection on behalf of the Shire of Cue.

Richard Towell
Chief Executive Officer
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W.A.E.C. RECORDS	
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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.



15 August 2023

Executive Officer
Western Australian Electoral Commission

Via email: boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au

Dear Commissioners

Objection to the 2023 Proposed Boundaries

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment regarding the 2023 Proposed Boundaries for Western Australia's electoral districts.

The Shire of Cue objects to the proposed boundary changes and supports the preservation of the current electorates and retention of the current 16 regional seats. We would like to support a model that provides minimal change to the current boundaries.

The 2023 distribution proposes to abolish the district of North West Central and Moore to create The Mid West district and reduces representation in regional Western Australia.

The factors set out in section 161 of the Electoral Act 1907 do not appear to have been taken into account with the merging of these districts into the Mid West district incorporating urban fringes with remote communities and abolishing a regional seat.

The Shire of Cue strongly oppose any proposal that results in the loss of a regional electoral district.

Thank you for your consideration of this objection to the current proposed changes.

Yours sincerely

Richard Towell
Chief Executive Officer

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10.4 OBJECTION TO THE 2023 PROPOSED BOUNDARIES FOR WA ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

APPLICANT: Shire of Cue
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST: Nil
AUTHOR: Richard Towell
DATE: 11 August 2023

Matters for Consideration:

That Council consider lodging an objection to the 2023 Proposed Boundaries for Western Australia's electoral districts.

Background:

The Electoral Act 1907 requires that Western Australia's State electoral boundaries be reviewed once in the life of each Parliament.

District boundaries are reviewed every four years to maintain similar populations in each electoral seat with WA Electoral Commission taking into account communities of interest, land use patterns, Local Government boundaries, means of travel and distance from Perth.

The 2023 proposed boundaries were published on 21 July 2023 and objections can be submitted in writing until 5.00pm 21 August 2023.

Comments:

The most significant change proposed by the Commissioners is the amalgamation of two non-metropolitan districts North West Central and Moore to accommodate the creation of an additional district in the growing outer metropolitan area.

This has the appearance of being a political move as it merges two National seats while retaining the Labor seat around Geraldton. It also reduces the number of regional representatives to 15 and increases the number of metropolitan representatives to 44.

The proposed new Mid West district will stretch from Muchea just North of Perth to just South of Newman, covering an estimated 70 townships and a broad spectrum of land use patterns, from urban fringe development, remote communities, livestock farming, broadacre cropping, pastoral properties and mining operations.

Section 16I of *The Electoral Act 1907* requires the Commissioners to give due consideration to the following factors when determining district boundaries:

- community of interest;
- land use patterns;
- means of communication, means of travel and distance from the capital;
- physical features;

- existing boundaries of districts;
- existing local government boundaries; and
- the trend of demographic changes.

These factors do not appear to have been taken into account incorporating urban fringes with regional and remote communities.

Statutory Environment:

Local Government Act 1995

Electoral Act 1907

Policy Implications:

Nil

Financial Implications:

Nil

Strategic Implications:

Nil

Consultation:

Nil

Officer's Recommendation:

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

That Council lodge an objection, as attached, to the proposed electoral boundary changes that merge the seats of North West Central and Moore.

Council Decision:08082023

Voting requirement: Simple Majority

MOVED: CR Leonie Fitzpatrick

SECONDED: Cr Elizabeth Houghton

That Council lodge an objection, as attached, to the proposed electoral boundary changes that merge the seats of North West Central and Moore.

CARRIED:7/0

AGAINST: None