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From: Peter Klein <ceo@wyalkatchem.wa.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 18 August 2023 12:05 PM
To: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox
Cc:
Subject: Submission of Objection
Attachments: 002 Objection FY23 Boundary Review 18 Aug '23.pdf

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Good afternoon – please find attached an objection to the proposed FY23 boundary changes.

Kind regards
Peter

Peter Klein
Chief Executive Officer || Shire of Wyalkatchem

Email: ceo@wyalkatchem.wa.gov.au



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18 August 2023

Electoral Distribution Commissioners
Level 2
111 St Georges Terrace
Perth, WA

Email: boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au



Dear Sirs,

Re: Objection to the Proposed Electoral Boundary Changes

I write on behalf of the Shire of Wyalkatchem to lodge our opposition to the proposed 2023 electoral boundary changes.

In particular, we voice our opposition to the Commissioners' decision to abolish a non-metropolitan district and to replace this with an additional metropolitan district.

Rural and regional Western Australia is a significant driver of the Western Australian economy and grapples with many challenges that threaten its sustainability. These challenges are typically unique to non-metropolitan districts and as such, are not needing to be confronted by those living in metropolitan districts.

These differences are generally created by the tyranny of distance which influences things like access to services that many in metropolitan districts take for granted, quality of roads, housing and social opportunity.

For these reasons it is essential that the representation currently afforded to non-metropolitan districts is not further eroded by increasing the number of metropolitan districts, as proposed. An erosion of representation for non-metropolitan districts has the potential to further marginalise our voice. This in turn deflects the focus of decision makers away from the investment necessary to secure efficient transport networks and social services that underpin the contribution that rural and regional businesses play in driving the State's economy.

We request The Electoral Distribution Commissioners recommend amended electoral boundaries that deliver the status quo in terms of metropolitan and non-metropolitan representation. In justifying this recommendation consideration should be given to economic factors that recognise the significant contribution the non-metropolitan population makes to the health of the WA economy.

Yours faithfully

Quentin Davies
President

E general@wyalkatchem.wa.gov.au **P** (08) 9681 1166

A 27 Flint St and Honour Ave
PO Box 224 Wyalkatchem WA 6485

wyalkatchem.wa.gov.au

