

393 OB

From: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox
Sent: Friday, 25 August 2023 1:28 PM
To:
Subject: 393 OB

W.A.E.C. RECORDS	
FILE No.	<u>06T 0152</u>
DATE:	<u>18 AUG 2023</u>
ACTION BY:	_____

From: Marnie Giroud
Sent: Friday, 18 August 2023 3:23 PM
To: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox <boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au>
Subject: Objection to electoral boundaries

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Dear Redistribution Commissioners,

I would like my objection to the electoral boundaries you have proposed for the Legislative Assembly to be noted and considered please.

The decision to replace another regional electorate with a metropolitan one is distressing for many regional West Australians. Many of us including me and my family are feeling more and more ignored and disempowered by recent changes in our representation. These changes will water down a regional voice in Western Australia, a voice already restrained by government policy and crucially needed as regional communities confront various challenges.

This suggested reconfiguration undervalues the essential need to preserve shared community interests. It overlooks countless expressions from regular Western Australians advocating for the retention of 16 regional seats. Disappointingly, it also dismisses thoughtfully crafted proposals that present a clear case for preserving the current level of regional representation in compliance with the Electoral Act.

The proposed boundaries disregard the need to preserve the unity of our communities and dismiss public advocacy for the continued existence of the current 16 regional seats. This move signals the continuation of a worrying trend that has stripped regional voters of 18 crucial upper house representatives!!

I object most strongly to the following suggested changes:

1. The abolition of the Moore electorate and the abolition of the North West Central electorate and creation of a new Mid-west electorate. This separates areas with a strong community of interest such as Exmouth and Carnarvon from each other.
2. While the Moore electorate maintained connection between communities of interest in a large electorate, the new Mid-West electorate lumps together such a vast variety of communities and environments and it is difficult to see where Commissioners found commonality. The proposed seat would span from Muchea on the outskirts of Perth to just a few kilometres south of Newman in the north! More than 1,000km from top to tail and no large population centre within its boundaries!
3. The partitioning of regional shires in Western Australia - such as Victoria Plains - for the mere transfer of a few hundred votes between electorates threatens to rupture tightly knit regional communities who depend on shared essential services. These communities, which often operate as interconnected units, may face significant disruption due to such electoral adjustments. It is of utmost importance that regional local councils remain undivided, ensuring their ability to continue serving their constituents effectively. Electoral

considerations should not override the necessity of maintaining the unity and integrity of these regional communities for a modest shift in votes.

4. Under the proposed boundary changes, residents of the Shire of Chapman Valley and Mullewa would be included in the electorate of Geraldton, there being no degree of commonality with respect to land use patterns.
5. The dividing of the Shire of Northampton between Mid West and Geraldton electorates - the communities within this Local Government Area have been divided since the previous redistribution and suffered the challenge of working with two separate Members of Parliament who represent vast areas.
6. The creation of a new Oakford electorate. As is clear in the data released by the Commission, there is no justification for the creation of a new electorate within the metropolitan area as the metropolitan area is already well within acceptable limits of representation.

I stand with thousands of regional West Australians who are distressed by this current proposal. Please reevaluate your proposal, ensuring the preservation of the 16 regional seats and long standing communities whose sense of place is severely compromised with these new proposals.

Sincerely,
Marnie Giroud

Chittering WA 6084

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.