

459 OB

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From: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox
Sent: Friday, 25 August 2023 2:19 PM
To: -
Subject: 459 OB

W.A.E.C. RECORDS	
FILE No.	DST 0152
DATE:	20 AUG 2023
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From: Jude Sutherland <csutherland@perenjori.wa.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 20 August 2023 2:56 PM
To: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox <boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au>
Subject: Electoral Boundary Review

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Dear Sir/Madam

Please see below several reasons why I oppose the proposed electoral boundary. Please listen to your real counterparts and see us a valuable asset to Western Australia by giving us a fair chance to represent and manage our regional areas.

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, 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. This is a remarkably difficult electorate for any local member to service and all but impossible for any local member to be held to account by their constituents.
3. The partitioning of regional shires across 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 expressing their disappointment at this redistribution, viewing it as a regrettable lost chance. I urge you to reevaluate your proposal, ensuring the preservation of the 16 regional seats.

Sincerely,

Cr Judith Sutherland

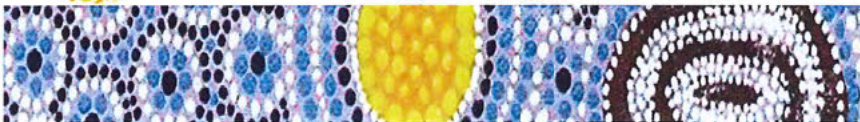
Perenjori WA 6620

Regards

Jude Sutherland
Deputy President

We acknowledge the Badimia people as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands on which we live and work. We also pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

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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.