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From: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox
Sent: Friday, 25 August 2023 2:50 PM
To: .ies
Subject: 505 OB

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FILE No.	DST 0152
DATE:	21 AUG 2023
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From: .au <...>
Sent: Monday, 21 August 2023 1:10 PM
To: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox <boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au>
Subject: Re: 2023 Electoral Boundary Review: Comment on Boundary Suggestions

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to you with regard to your proposed changes to the electoral boundaries, specifically the suggestion to remove the seat of Northwest Central and distribute its representation between the Pilbara and Midwest regions. I wish to express my concerns and reasons for advocating that the seat of Northwest Central remains intact, based on several important factors.

Vulnerable Groups:

One of the primary considerations when redrawing electoral boundaries should be the representation of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. The Gascoyne Region, encompassing a large portion from the Northwest Central electorate, contains a significant population of vulnerable individuals, including:

- **Aboriginal People:** The Gascoyne Region has a notably higher percentage of Aboriginal representation (11.9%) compared to the state (around 3%) and the nation. Preserving this seat is vital to ensure adequate representation and engagement of Indigenous communities.
- **Family and Household Incomes:** The region experiences family and household incomes that are well below the state and national averages. Maintaining a distinct representation for this area would help address the unique economic challenges faced by its residents.
- **Age Distribution:** The Northwest Central electorate has a significant percentage of very young (0-4) and very old (< 50 years) individuals, higher than both the state and national averages. Such demographics require targeted representation to address the specific needs of these age groups.
- **Anti-Social Issues:** It's worth noting that Carnarvon, a small regional town within the Gascoyne Region, has implemented some of the strictest liquor restrictions in Australia to counter anti-social issues. Preserving the electorate's representation can contribute to addressing such issues effectively.

Climate Change:

The Northwest Central electorate has experienced a growing number of climate change-related events, including cyclones, floods, and fires. In light of these incidents, it is crucial to maintain representation for this area to advocate for policies that address climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.

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Industry:

The distinct industries and economic outputs of the Gascoyne Region, as represented by the Northwest Central electorate, differ significantly from those of the Pilbara and Midwest regions. Key points to consider include:

- **Educational Attainment:** Educational attainment at the bachelor and diploma levels in the Northwest Central electorate falls below state and national averages. Effective representation is vital to address this education gap and create opportunities for skill development.
- **Industry Composition:** Unlike the Pilbara, where mining holds a dominant role (21.1% employment in mining), and the Midwest, which combines mining and agriculture (5.5% employment in each), the Northwest Central electorate's predominant industry is accommodation (6.6%), primarily tied to tourism. Preserving this representation is crucial to support and grow the tourism sector in the region.

Other Considerations:

Aside from the aforementioned points, factors such as communications infrastructure (internet connectivity) and air transport connectivity set the Northwest Central electorate apart from the Pilbara and Midwest regions. Ensuring equitable access to these essential services requires dedicated representation.

In conclusion, I strongly advocate for the retention of the Northwest Central electorate due to its unique demographic composition, vulnerability to climate change, distinctive industries, and specific needs regarding education, social issues, and economic growth. Preserving this electoral boundary would ensure that the voices of the Gascoyne Region are heard and adequately represented in the Western Australian political landscape.

Thank you for your consideration of these important points. We appreciate your dedication to ensuring fair and effective representation for all regions within Western Australia. Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information or clarification on our perspective.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Kelly GAICD
arnarvon WA 6701

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.