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... Jones

From: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox
Sent: Friday, 25 August 2023 2:57 PM
To: ... Jones
Subject: 513 OB
Attachments: waec aug 23.pdf

LYNTOH DENNELL
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From: Nicole Reichelt
Sent: Monday, 21 August 2023 1:46 PM
To: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox <boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au>
Subject: objection to changes in the WA electoral boundary

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Dear Commissioner,

I wish to respond to electoral boundary suggestions published on your website.

Despite consistently suffering worse outcomes than our city cousins, regional West Australians will lose 18 dedicated regional representatives after the next election due to changes to a whole-of-state electorate in the Legislative Council.

It is of utmost importance that this loss of representation in the upper house is not compounded by reduced legislative assembly representation.

Please find a letter of concerns attached.

Yours Sincerely
Nicole Reichelt

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.

W.A.E.C. RECORDS	
FILE No.	05T 0152
DATE:	21 AUG 2023
ACTION BY:	

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Nicole Reichelt

Dandaragan WA 6507

Dear Redistribution Commissioners,

I object to the electoral boundaries you have proposed for the Legislative Assembly.

Regional electorates, which already cover larger areas, demand regional MLAs to navigate greater distances, represent more diverse communities, and judiciously distribute their funding allocations across more expansive areas. The merging of regional seats risks voter exclusion due to the increase in already sizable areas. It also threatens to centralise power in metropolitan areas, causing an imbalance in representation where urban concerns overshadow regional interests. 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.

The new seat of **Mid West** would stretch from Muchea to Meekatharra, spanning more than 430,000km² – a six-fold increase in the area of the current seat of Moore. **More than 1,000km from top to tail this is an area twice the size of Victoria and half the size of New South Wales, making it very tough for electors to access their Member of Parliament.** 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.

Aside from the enormous geographical area, this area covers an incredibly diverse range of land uses – from rural peri-urban blocks, to horticulture, intensive animal production, broadacre mixed farming, mining, coastal communities involved in fishing, tourism, manufacturing industry and pastoral leases. All of these industries and communities have vastly differing needs making it very difficult to give this area the fair representation it deserves.

This suggested reconfiguration seems to undervalue the essential need to preserve shared community interests. It overlooks countless expressions from regular Western Australians advocating for the retention of 16 regional seats. 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.

Of the many changes proposed, I object most strongly to:

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 has 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 commonality.

I stand with thousands of regional West Australians expressing their disappointment at this redistribution. I urge you to reevaluate your proposal, ensuring the preservation of the 16 regional seats.

Sincerely

Nicole Reichelt.