

520 OB

From: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox
Sent:
To:
Subject: 520 OB

From: n>
Sent: Monday, 21 August 2023 2:49 PM
To: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox <boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au>
Subject: Response to Suggestions - Boundaries

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Dear Redistribution Commissioners,

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

The decision to replace another regional electorate with a metropolitan one is both alarming and disheartening. This move serves to further diminish the influence of regional Western Australia, a voice already restrained by government policy and crucially needed as regional communities confront various challenges. 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. 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.

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 constituencies. 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. This move signals the continuation of a worrying trend that has stripped regional voters of 18 crucial upper house representatives. Since the 1987 redistribution, 12 lower house seats have been stripped from regional WA. These considerations necessitate a rethink of these boundary alterations to secure fair representation for all Western Australians.

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

1. The abolition of the Moore and the North West Central electorate and creation of a new Mid-west electorate. This separates areas with a strong community of interest from each other.
2. Further, I wish to point out that we are **NOT a blip on the map**, we have a strong community in Lancelin, we are facing devastating issues that are being glossed over by State & local Government.
3. **TOURISM**: The coastal regions within MOORE electorate have been part of **EXPERIENCE PERTH** for many years !! How on earth is our tourism development going to operate if we are swallowed up in a massive area that is managed by an elected person who could be 4-5-6 hours north of us!!
4. The LANCELIN Post Code is 6044 – this is a **PERTH Code** and we are aligned to Perth on many issues by virtue of that post code, as are all of our surrounding locations being 6041 6042 – 6043.
5. **FURTHER** Lancelin has a private land release that has a proposed sales plan for 20 grouped releases. Stage 1 was 53 housing lots with stage 2 being released in the very near future. Looking forward there are two primary schools and a high school allocated as well as a shopping centre and future commercial and industrial land allocations.
6. Land and housing sales in Lancelin has grown exponentially over the past few years. I very much doubt that future buyers will be interested in a State authority that is located hundreds of kilometres away from the coastal action of Lancelin, especially as we **ARE 40 minutes by road north of Yanchep.**
7. **I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ADVISE THAT THE NORTHERN RAIL LINK WILL INCREASE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE METROPOLITAN AREA. THE RAIL LINK IS PROGRESSING QUICKLY TO YANCHEP**
8. 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.**
9. 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.

I object to the electoral boundaries you have proposed for the Legislative Assembly. I urge you to consider this proposed change, it will have dire repercussions for families, regional businesses,

farmers, etc in the regions.

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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,
Julia Skoglund

Lancelin WA 6044

