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From: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox
Sent: Friday, 25 August 2023 3:03 PM
To:
Subject: 521 OB
Attachments: SOM WAEC ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES 20.08.23.pdf

From: Gavin Robins <ceo@moora.wa.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 21 August 2023 3:20 PM
To: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox <boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au>
Cc: Cr Tracy Lefroy <crtrleeroy@moora.wa.gov.au>; Cr Steve Gilbert <crsgilbert@moora.wa.gov.au>
Subject: Western Australian Electoral Boundaries

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Dear Sirs,

Please find attached, the formal objection by the Shire of Moora to the Electoral Commission's Boundaries Commissioners' proposed electoral boundary changes.

Kind regards

Gavin Robins
Chief Executive Officer



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PO Box 211, Moora WA 6510
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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.

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Boundary Commissioners
Western Australia Electoral Commission
GPO Box F316
PERTH WA 6841

20 August 2023

Email: boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au

Dear Sirs

I refer to your proposed revision of Western Australian Electoral Boundaries. Your proposal will result in the abolition of the seats of Moore and North-West Central, to be amalgamated into the seat of Mid-West, making way for a new metropolitan seat of Oakford.

The Shire of Moora objects to this proposal in the strongest possible terms.

The abolition of the seats of Moore and North West Central and their incorporation into the new seat of Mid-West diminishes further, the level of genuine representation for and of electors in this seat. It follows on the heels of the Labor Government's passing of the *Electoral Equality Act*, that disadvantaged further, those of us who live in "the bush".

If your recommendation is accepted, the new seat of Mid-West will stretch from Muchea in the south to Meekatharra in the north, creating an electorate of more than 430,000km², a six-fold increase in the area of the current seat of Moore. That is an area twice the size of Victoria and half the size of New South Wales. How do you propose electors, businesses and communities in such a vital economic zone will receive the quality, capacity, access and representation its electors will have, both to and from our Member of Parliament?

Aside from the enormous geographical area of this proposed seat, the area covers an exceptionally diverse range of land uses, from rural peri-urban blocks, to horticulture, intensive animal production, broadacre mixed farming, pastoral leases, mining, fishing tourism manufacturing, and coastal communities involved in fishing, tourism, manufacturing industry and pastoral leases. Each of these industries and their communities have vastly differing needs. How do you think the vastly differing

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needs of the proposed new seat, it's communities and industries will receive the equal, fair and just representation they deserve?

Importantly, as with the existing seat, the proposed new seat will incorporate diverse communities, many of these being highly remote and greatly disadvantaged. It is essential that these communities are appropriately represented by a member who invests time, effort and understanding into the complex mix of their needs. This is unlikely to happen under your proposed boundary changes due to the workload imposed on the representative.

The loss of a regional electorate represents an assault on fair representation for regional voters. It follows WA Labor's submission to the Electoral Commission, which outlined their plan to abolish a further regional voice. While government makes much of the capacity of the regions and their importance to the State economy, the regions are crying out for the health, aged care, education, childcare, housing, roads, communications and power investments necessary for further development.

Government's long promised investments in services and infrastructure in the regions is disingenuous and replete with failure. To stretch our representation over such a vast area in the expectation that it will be adequate highlights how little the Commissioners understand the complexity of the current model of representation.

The Shire of Moora objects in the strongest possible terms, to your proposal to abolish the seats of Moore and North-West Central simply to incorporate them into a restructured seat of Mid-West, making way for a new metropolitan seat of Oakford.

In the absence of any consultation to date, I would welcome any direct enquiry you wish to make as to the views of the Shire.

Yours sincerely



Tracy Lefroy
President