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**From:** Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox  
**Sent:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:** 522 OB

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**From**  
**Sent:** Monday, 21 August 2023 3:21 PM  
**To:** Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox <boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Response to Suggestions - Boundaries

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Dear Commissioner,

I take this opportunity to respond to the proposed electoral boundary suggestions published on your website and I strongly disagree to any changes to the current distribution of electorates.

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, Western Australia is not metropolitan central and regional inhabitants have the same right to be represented by an elected member who lives in close proximity and understands our needs.

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

Marginalising regional residents who choose to live and work in the regions is not the way forward as the state grows, it is the regional residents that make the state prosperous so why take their rights away?

Equity and equality is currently on everyone's lips so why is the Electoral Commission hell bent on alienating us from communities of similar ilk? It appears that regional West Australians are going to be potentially victimised for living in the regions and not being given the same opportunities as our 'city cousins', we need a localised representative the same as them. At the end of the day, we have rights, and a localised voice is of great importance to us and a member to cover an area of 1000kms in length is of no benefit to the politician or the community he/she represents.

By choosing to live regionally we are being discriminated against, we need more and not less representation due to tyranny of distance. The lower house cannot be decimated similarly to the Upper House as we will then be governed by city-based politicians who in many cases have no idea of country living and the conditions we face.

Living in the Shire of Gingin we have four (4) communities starting with 60 post codes which indicate metropolitan existence, and in turn place us under state and federal programs. An example of this the states tourism sector where we are part of Experience Perth so having a representative who could reside in Newman is of no benefit to us.

With the northern freeway extension and rail link to Yanchep the Shire of Gingin communities are going to be more alienated to the metropolitan area and not to the proposed electorate that extends to Newman, leave Moore as is as we are seeing the metropolitan expansion heading northwards.

Having read the published suggestions, I support the resounding collective sentiment from many submissions that sixteen regional seats must be maintained.

The Labor Party's suggestion to abolish the North West Central electorate in favour of new metropolitan seats may benefit their political fortunes but it would be a devastating blow for regional communities that clearly need more representation now; not less.

I stand with thousands of regional Western 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.

Please consider how this redistribution will ensure democratic equity as the fate of regional West Australians is in your hands.

Sincerely,

Norman Skoglund

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