

526 Ob

From: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox
Sent: Friday, 25 August 2023 3:05 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: 526 OB
Attachments: Boundary review Objection letter 2023.docx

From: Morris and Diana Van Buerle
Sent: Monday, 21 August 2023 4:08 PM
To: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox <boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au>
Subject: Objection to Boundaries review

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To the Boundary Commissioners
Please see the attachment for my opinion.
Thank you.
Sincerely
Diana Van Buerle

Diana Van Buerle

Three Springs W.A. 6519

Australia

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

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.

Dear Redistribution Commissioners,

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

I am a voice in regional Western Australia, north of Perth and my opinion is important.

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. Politicians who represent their diverse communities need to be seen physically and be practically present in them as often as time allows. His/her attendance at agricultural shows, expos; open days at agricultural colleges; presentation nights at schools; community meetings for specific issues; re-fuelling the car at petrol stations whilst in the electorate, buying meals at cafes, even sitting at picnic tables with the locals to ask what's on their minds! 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 point 2 below, but I also object to the following:

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. (Also see points 4 and 5.)
2. Whilst the Moore electorate maintains connection between communities of interest in a large electorate, the new Mid West electorate will lump together

