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From: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox
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To:
Subject: 534 OB

From: Denise Howe
Sent: Monday, 21 August 2023 7:22 PM
To: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox <boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au>
Subject: Response to Suggestions - Boundaries

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Dear Commissioner,

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

Despite consistently suffering worse outcomes than their 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.

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.

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

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.

1. 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.
2. 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 or more hours north of us!!
3. The LANCELIN Post Code is 6044 – this is a PERTH Code and we are aligned to Perth on many issues by virtue of this post code, as are all of our surrounding locations being 6041 6042 – 6043. Population numbers are interesting as taken from the 2021 census. Numbers have grown constantly since then : * Locality 6044 - 1300 * Locality 6043 - 233 * Locality 6042 - 107 * Locality 6041 – 1597. The townsite of Gingin, some 80kms inland and our Shire headquarters Postcode 6053 has 2354 residents as at 2021 census records.

FURTHER Lancelin has a private land release that has a proposed plan for 20 grouped releases. Stage 1 was 53 housing lots with stage 2 being released in the very near future with 66 lots being released. 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.

4. 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.
5. 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
6. 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.

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 and so on in the regions.

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. Your plan allows very little and may I say useless representation for the folk who live within the regions. We deserve SO much more and our voices should be heard.

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.

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

Sincerely,

Denise Howe

Lancelin

