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**From:** Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox  
**Sent:** [Tuesday, 22 August 2023 8:59 AM](#)  
**To:** [George Kahl](#)  
**Subject:** 537 OB

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**Sent:** Tuesday, 22 August 2023 8:59 AM  
**To:** Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox <boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Boundary review

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Dear Commissioner,

The change that you are proposing to the electoral boundaries in our state, is incredibly short-sighted. We are a Western Australian community and many of the issues that impact our rural and regional areas will never effect the suburbs of Perth, let alone be understood by those who live there.

Please reconsider your plans and be considerate of all those who live in rural and regional WA.

George Kahl

Toodyay WA 6566

Phone/Fax  
Mobile

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Shane Love MLA <mooreelectorate@mp.wa.gov.au>  
**To:** [George Kahl](#)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 15 August 2023 at 03:19:25 pm GMT+8  
**Subject:** Boundary review - submissions close Monday 21 August

Dear George Kahl

The WA Electoral Distribution Commissioners have released their proposed Electoral Boundaries, which would see the regional seats of **Moore** and **North West Central** abolished and amalgamated into the seat of **Mid West**, making way for an additional metro seat, Oakford.

The new seat of **Mid West** would stretch from Muchea to Meekatharra, spanning more than 430,000km<sup>2</sup> – 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, making it very difficult for electors to access their Member of Parliament.

Aside from the enormous geographical area, this area covers an incredibly diverse range of land uses – from rural peri-urban blocks, to horticulture, intensive animal production, broadacre mixed farming, mining, coastal

communities involved in fishing, tourism, manufacturing industry and pastoral leases. All of these industries and communities have vastly differing needs making it very difficult to give this area the fair representation it deserves.

The loss of a regional electorate is nothing short of an assault on fair representation for regional voters and follows WA Labor's submission to the Electoral Commission, which outlined their plan to abolish another regional voice. Health, aged care, education, childcare, housing, communications and power supplies all need greater investment in the regions.

I urge you to email your objection to: [boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au](mailto:boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au) before Monday 21st August.

You can help us stand up for regional WA by submitting your own objection to these proposed boundaries. You may find the text below this message helpful in forming your response.

Objections must be made in writing to the Boundary Commissioners before 5PM 21st August 2023.

Email: [boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au](mailto:boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au)

Post: GPO Box F316 PERTH WA 6841

Regards,

**Shane Love**

Member for Moore, Leader of The Nationals WA, Leader of the Opposition

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*\*Copy and paste this text to help build your response.\**

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 (examples below)

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.
2. 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. This is a remarkably difficult electorate for any local member to service and all but impossible for any local member to be held to account by their constituents.
3. The partitioning of regional shires across Western Australia - such as Victoria Plains - for the mere transfer of a few hundred votes between electorates threatens to rupture tightly knit regional communities who depend

on shared essential services. These communities, which often operate as interconnected units, may face significant disruption due to such electoral adjustments. It is of utmost importance that regional local councils remain undivided, ensuring their ability to continue serving their constituents effectively. Electoral considerations should not override the necessity of maintaining the unity and integrity of these regional communities for a modest shift in votes.

4. Under the proposed boundary changes, residents of the Shire of Chapman Valley and Mullewa would be included in the electorate of Geraldton, there being no degree of commonality with respect to land use patterns.
5. The dividing of the Shire of Northampton between Mid West and Geraldton electorates - the communities within this Local Government Area have been divided since the previous redistribution and suffered the challenge of working with two separate Members of Parliament who represent vast areas.
6. The creation of a new Oakford electorate. As is clear in the data released by the Commission, there is no justification for the creation of a new electorate within the metropolitan area as the metropolitan area is already well within acceptable limits of representation.

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,  
(Your Full Name)  
(Your Address)  
(Your Phone)

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