

WAEC
- 5 MAY 2023

C25

From: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox
Sent: Tuesday, 9 May 2023 4:52 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Mental Health in Farming and Regions (C25)

Comment 25 (C25) Christine Tyson

From: Les & Chris Tyson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, 5 May 2023 11:04 AM
To: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox <boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au>
Subject: Mental Health in Farming and Regions

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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. Have you any idea what this does to add to the feeling of powerlessness to the people living and working in the regions?

Each year, roughly one in five rural and remote Aussies experience mental health difficulties and whilst the current data indicates similar rates in metropolitan areas, there continues to be a distinct difference in the ability to access mental health services and support. As we know, natural disasters, floods, droughts, financial stresses, and isolation, make up some of the challenges faced by primary producers and others who live in rural and remote areas, this proposal only adds to our suffering.

It seems you are happy to provide voices for the multitude of others in society, but we must suffer in silence. Shame on you.

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 Labour Party's suggestion to abolish the Northwest 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.

Please consider how this redistribution will ensure democratic equity for all West Australians.

The fate of regional West Australians is in your hands.

Sincerely,
Christine Tyson
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W.A.E.C. RECORDS	
FILE No. _____	
DATE: - 5 MAY 2023	
ACTION BY: _____	