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Office of the Electoral Distribution Commissioners  
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Comment on Suggestions to the 2023 Electoral Boundaries Review

To the Commissioners,

I was only made aware of the proposed changes to the WA State Electoral Boundaries Review after hearing about it on the ABC Regional Drive program with Andrew Collins, on the day that submissions closed.

My concern and outrage is to do with the proposed abolition of the seat of North West Central and the redistribution of its electors into other neighbouring electorates, based solely on its population. It does not take into account its diverse industries, economics, opportunities for growth, practical logistics associated with its geographical size, and history of the region.

North West Central is the state's largest electorate taking in 32.3% of the state. It covers 820,591 square kilometres, an area larger than New South Wales. Imagine the outcry in that state were their voters to be told they were not considered worthy enough to have representation in the state parliament, but should instead be amalgamated with surrounding electorates in Victoria, South Australia and Queensland.

Regional West Australians do it tough at the best of times, yet generate more wealth to the Government's coffers than inner-city and suburban residents. Much of the industry and wealth generated in North West Central is provided by fly-in, fly-out workers who spend most of their time in the electorate, but whose residential addresses, and therefore their enrolment to vote, are in other electorates. FIFO is a huge detriment to the development of, and population growth in, regional communities in WA.

Abolishing the electorate of North West Central will further marginalise and disenfranchise regional West Australians. Why should they bother to vote at all if their voice to parliament is silenced? And which regional electorate is next on the hit list?

Redraw the boundaries of the metropolitan electorates if you must, and create a new one there if there is significant population growth to warrant it, but don't destroy regional communities to achieve this.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours Faithfully,

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