

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** OAM63747 - URGENT - Please respond - regarding our Late Submission to be considered  
**Date:** Tuesday, 2 May 2023 8:24:14 AM  
**Attachments:** [State Electoral Boundaries - Minutes of 26 April 2023.pdf](#)  
**Importance:** High

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Dear Sir / Madam

I wish to advise that Council made a decision at their Ordinary Council Meeting, held on 26 April 2023, regarding the proposed boundary changes.

I hope that even though the closing date was yesterday, that you will include this email as part of those submissions.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**MOTION/COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. OCM089/04/23**

**MOVED** Cr R Madacsi

**SECONDED** Cr B Ruthven

That Council requests the CEO make a submission to the Electoral Reform Review to inform them of Council's decision to support retaining the current level of 16 regional seats..

**MOTION CARRIED 8/0**

The extract of the Council minutes is attached for your perusal.

Your website stated that we should provide information about community support for our alternative option, however, I would cite that as Elected Members representing the community, the weight of the decision made by Council ought to be enough.

I am copying this to [REDACTED] who I hope may contact me to advise whether the Submission attached and above will indeed be considered as part of all the submissions.

Thank you.

Kind regards

Mrs [REDACTED]  
Executive Services

Shire of Toodyay  
PO Box 96  
TOODYAY WA 6566

Phone: (08) 9574 9305

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

E: [execsec@toodyay.wa.gov.au](mailto:execsec@toodyay.wa.gov.au)

W: [www.toodyay.wa.gov.au](http://www.toodyay.wa.gov.au)

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Don't just have a good day, have a great day !

The Electoral Distribution Commissioners have considered this request and have agreed to accept this late suggestion because it will not disrupt the schedule for considering all suggestions submitted.

- 9.4     **INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSETS**  
      Nil.
- 9.5     **COMMITTEE REPORTS**  
      Nil.
- 10     **MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN**  
      Nil.
- 11     **NOTICES OF MOTION GIVEN AT THE MEETING FOR CONSIDERATION AT  
NEXT MEETING**  
      Nil.
- 12     **QUESTIONS OF MEMBERS OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN**  
      Nil.
- 13     **NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE INTRODUCED BY DECISION OF  
MEETING**
- 13.1   **MEMBERS**

<b>13.1.1 State Electoral Boundaries Review</b>
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Cr Madacsi advised of new business of an urgent nature, regarding the State Electoral Boundaries Review, seeking Council's view on maintaining the current regional boundaries that she wished to introduce by decision of the meeting.

The Presiding Member read out the requirements of Standing Order 4.5(3) and (4) New Business of an Urgent Nature which stated as follows:

- 3     *Before debate begins on a matter under this clause that is not the subject of a written employee report to the meeting:***
- (a)   *the Presiding Member is to ask the CEO to give; and***
  - (b)   *the CEO, or the CEO's nominee, is to give,***
  - (c)   *a verbal report to the meeting.***
- 4     *The minutes of the meeting are to include:***
- (a)   *a summary of the verbal report and any recommendations of the CEO or the CEO's nominee; and***
  - (b)   *the reasons for any decision made at the meeting that is significantly different from any recommendations of the CEO or the CEO's nominee.***

**OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION/COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. OCM086/04/23****MOVED** Cr R Madacsi**SECONDED** Cr P Hart

That Council considers Item 13.1.1 State Electoral Boundaries Review as new business of an urgent nature in accordance with Standing Order 4.5.

**MOTION CARRIED 8/0**

The Presiding Member requested the CEO make a verbal report in accordance with Standing Orders.

A summary of the verbal report is as follows:

This matter raised at the last Avon Midland Country Zone meeting where Shane Love had written to the President of the Shire of Northam explaining that the current review of state electoral boundaries, should it go the way that it is anticipated it will mean reduced representation for those living in regional areas at state level. So the encouragement is that Councils provide a submission to the review suggesting that the State Electoral Boundaries remain as they are. The proposal is to reduce the number of electorates which will then have less representatives and specifically less rural and regional representatives. We are currently at 16 and I think the proposal is to go to 8. A 50% reduction.

What Cr Madacsi is asking Council to consider whether Council approves the CEO to make a submission to the review that the number of electorates remain at the current level of 16.

Cr Madacsi moved a motion as follows:

**That Council supports the CEO intent to inform the review that Council of the Shire of Toodyay support remaining at the current level of 16 electorates.**

Further clarification was sought.

**MOTION/COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. OCM087/04/23****MOVED** Cr M McKeown**SECONDED** Cr D Wrench

That Council suspend standing orders 7.9 at 2.20pm.

**MOTION CARRIED 8/0**

Clarification was sought in regard to the substantive motion.

Cr Ruthven seconded the substantive motion.

Further clarification was sought.

The CEO read aloud for the benefit of the members and the gallery, from a document not marked confidential from a member of parliament's letter to a constituent as follows:

*".....As many of you would be aware, two years after a state election Electoral Distribution Commissioners are appointed to undertake a boundary redistribution. The boundary redistribution takes a snapshot of the average enrolment for all 59 seats in State Parliament as at the midpoint between elections. This year that was 13<sup>th</sup> of March 2023. The snapshot showed the average to be 30,432 voters per seat. Within the rules of the boundary redistribution all 59 seats are allowed to be within 10% above or below the average*

enrolment. The seats of Kimberley, Pilbara, North West, Central, Rowe, and Central Wheatbelt, are geographically large and have populations spread out across those areas. They are allowed a large district allowance to acknowledge their immense size, bigger than most European countries. I am writing to you because this year's distribution will be incredibly important. Due to the electoral reform legislation introduced by the McGowan labour government there will be a significant reduction to regional representation in the parliament after the 2025 State Election. As a result of the changes, the metropolitan boundary line that delineated city seats and regional Western Australia has been removed. There will likely be a significant change to peri-urban seats and possibly a further loss of regional seats. Since the introduction of one vote, one value by the Gallop Labour government in 2005, there has already been a reduction in regional seats. For example, Merredin and Avon were merged into one seat; Now 100,000 square kilometres and encompassing 27 local government areas. The result of merging two seats has been made to reduce the ability for constituents to access their local member and the services and advocacy they provide. Even with technology and connectivity improvements, the role of a local member is greatly assisted and enhanced by being present and available in-person for the people they represent in the Parliament. The issues our regional constituents face while living, working and creating a prosperous future for their communities require continual advocacy and support at a political and parliamentary level. Access to education, health care, aged care, safe and affordable transport, infrastructure and services within regional and remote Western Australia is more difficult and in many cases inequitable when compared to those living in our capital city. Having less people that understand, live and work in these communities and now Parliament will only make it more difficult to get better outcomes for these challenges. The good news is that we do not need to lose regional seats as a result of this boundary redistribution. The average number of voters in country WA, outside of the Perth Metropolitan boundary is just -3.12% or 29,520 voters. This is well within the allowance, allowable 10% above or below the average. It is possible to retain the 16 regional seats and prevent any further loss of these voices in the Parliament; retaining 16 dedicated regional members regardless of which political party those members are a part of. Now, more than ever, it is important to have those regional voices in the legislative assembly to ensure an equitable and fair distribution of electoral power. Regional WA cannot afford to lose any more regional representation. I am writing to encourage you and your organisation to make a submission that supports the retention of the current 16 regional seats. Submissions for the boundary redistribution close 1 May 2023 (refer to: <http://www.boundaries.wa.gov.au/have-your-say/making-submission> ). The process to make a submission can be found here: [boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au](mailto:boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au) - If you could like to discuss further, please contact my office. Yours sincerely. Shane Love, MLA (Leader of the Opposition; Leader of the Nationals, WA).

Further clarification was sought.

**OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION/COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. OCM088/04/23**

**MOVED** Cr R Madacsi

**SECONDED** Cr P Hart

That Council resume Standing Order 7.9 at 2.32pm.

**MOTION CARRIED 8/0**

The substantive motion was reconsidered and reworded.

