



OFFICE OF THE ELECTORAL DISTRIBUTION COMMISSIONERS

Please accept the attached as my submission to the proposed electoral boundary changes in Western Australia

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## SUBMISSION TO COMMITTEE FOR ELECTORAL BOUNDARY CHANGE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT

What is being proposed is contrary to all notions of justice and equality. The catch cry of "ONE VOTE ONE VALUE" is used as the reason for these proposed changes when the paradox is that this reason should be in reverse - that is ONE VALUE, ONE VOTE. Until people who live outside the metropolitan area and larger regional centres are equal in all aspects, we should not be disadvantaged by being disenfranchised.

Below are examples of some of the disadvantages for rural residents

### HEALTH

In the past few weeks, a report was issued by the Health Department of Western Australia stating that the further a person lives from both Perth and a large regional centre, the less likely they are to receive adequate care in the event of life threatening illness and more likely to die from it. Even with the PATS scheme in place, country people have no choice as to where they can go to access specialist services; that is they have to go to where the PATS scheme decides is their nearest relevant doctor even if the patient has no confidence in this doctor.

### EDUCATION

Primary and secondary education in the country is a joke. The distances travelled preclude most students from reaching their potential. By the time they return home late in the evening, they do not have the capacity to spend a further three or four hours study and more to the point why should they when they have already had a long day. Most adults can relax at the end of the day but not students?

As for tertiary education - by the time a student pays for boarding away from home, any money left over would be unable to support life whereas a student living in the city or a regional centre can live at home and they receive the same government allowance.

### SERVICE BY OUR ELECTED MEMBER

A member of parliament in Perth can easily see any of their electors at any time whereas in the country, the distances prohibit this exchange of ideas. Our particular member has a vast electorate enough but what is being proposed is beyond belief. The proposed new seat in Roe will be larger than a lot of European countries and will be virtually unserviceable

### DISTANCES

The whole concept of the vast distances in this state should put us in a different category to the idea of electorates all having the same numbers as this is flawed equality. What is being taken as a measure is one concept to the exclusion of all else. We do not expect to have equal value with our city residents but do expect to be treated with dignity and humanity rather than being discarded as non persons which is what is being proposed. If this trend continues the rural areas will be completely disenfranchised and we will see no infrastructure installed to an even greater extent that it now is with an inordinate amount of taxes being spent in the metropolitan area on non essentials, to the exclusion of necessities in the country. One glaring example is the fact that we are still on (mostly) unmaintained gravel roads in this the 21st century.

*D. M. L. L. L. L.*