

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Ob5 - FW: Submission of objection to State Boundary Changes
Date: Thursday, 27 July 2023 2:22:33 PM

Objection 5 (Ob5)

-----Original Message-----

From: Luke Hulm <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, 21 July 2023 1:51 PM
To: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox <boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au>
Subject: Submission of objection to State Boundary Changes

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Dear WAEC,

I am writing to offer my objection to the abolition of a rural based seat in WA with the proposed amalgamation of the seats of Moore and North West Central, as I do not believe the commission has granted due consideration for the consequences of the decision in breaking one of the democratic traditions that has underpinned good governance in Western Australia for over a century.. that of a balance between rural and urban interests and views in parliament in Western Australia.

The removal of a rural seat from WA, to be replaced with an additional urban seat, is occurring within a context where the state government has already rebalanced urban and rural voters in the upper house, depriving rural areas of a significant portion of the influence and representation they may have had.

With this change combined, Western Australia is being moved from a system where parties have to weight rural and urban concerns, to pass legislation and be electable, to one where campaigns can be successfully run based on urban concerns only, even when they impose on rural needs, with very little hinderance.

This will be disastrous for the state, and effects can already be seen from similar changes wrought, with the lack or oversight, clarity and limits placed on legislation like the Aboriginal Heritage Act that is now causing problems. Not that such an act shouldn't exist, but that by virtue of there being an imbalance in representation in this particular parliament, the opportunity to make legislation better, and tighter, has been forgone.

Removing a rural seat and replacing it with a new urban seat does not just deprive rural areas of 1 vote in parliament, but essentially 2, as should the new urban seat vote against rural interests on any issue, it will essentially cancel out a rural vote against the legislation, meaning a prior parliament that may have had 2 seats, net, weight against an issue, or require some amendment to it, now essentially offers no opposition.

Greater weight needs to be added to the thought that Western Australia has generally been well governed in its history, and one of the factors that has underpinned this is that rural and regional concerns, due to the makeup of the parliament and its weighting between regions, has always made sure those voices can be heard.

A dark precedent is being set to allow 'mob rule', which is actually antithetical to genuine democracy, which is based around people close to an issue, such as a decision about their neighbourhood, having the greatest say over it. Centralising power in urban seats, thousands of kilometres away from the people in question, who as voters are outnumbered soundly, does not deliver on the promise of democracy to them.

By rights, the regions would be better off not trapped in this new parliament, and the truly democratic decision, should they be robbed of representation in the proposed manner, would be for them to secede from the state itself, and be independent. THAT would be democratic. Centralising decision making in Perth, over regions thousands of kilometres away, is not.

Regards a locally born resident and business owner, who has lived here for 95% of his 42 years, and believes in good governance, who despairs for the quality of governance and representation, and balancing of interests we will have if the proposed changes are made reality.

Luke [REDACTED] Hulm

[REDACTED],
Kinross, Perth, WA 6028

Acknowledgement of Country: The Western Australian Electoral Commission acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands on which our electoral activities take place. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.