

From: [Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Ob20 - FW: WA Electoral Boundaries - Objections
Date: Thursday, 27 July 2023 2:44:21 PM

Objection 20 (Ob20)

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

From: Brian Rettinger [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, 25 July 2023 1:27 AM
To: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox <boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au>
Subject: WA Electoral Boundaries - Objections

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To: Electoral Boundary Commissioners

I strongly object to the decisions made by the Commissioners to eliminate the existing Lower House regional seats of North West Central and Moore, and to combine them into one new seat called Mid-West, along with creating a new metro seat called Oakford.

This is a direct and vindictive attack prompted by the Labor Party government to eliminate a regional seat in Parliament in favour of yet another Metro seat. The influence of this autocratic government over the WAEC on this important matter taints your so-called "independent" government agency in making such a non-democratic decision, irrespective of the number of voters in each electorate.

There are clearly other ways to have balanced the voters between each electorate, and alternative recommendations had been submitted to the WAEC by the Opposition parties. But, by the WAEC making the decision to create another (new) Metro seat in favour of losing a precious Regional seat, you have also cheated democracy to do it.

I've lost my respect for the WAEC, which now appears to be a puppet to the government of the day, which had previously legislated the 6 regions out of existence in the Upper House. Where were you then?

The Commissioners apparently have not taken into consideration the huge and unique geographical areas here in WA, and the abilities for regional MP's to be able to effectively cover the travel times and vast areas of their regional seats. Furthermore, you commissioners have grossly favoured the comfy and richer Metro voters and the government of the day, namely the Labor Party, over the Opposition.

In the end, your decision to accept another new Metro seat in favour of eliminating an existing Regional seat in the Lower House is not only a non-democratic decision but it will be viewed as a slap in the face to WA's regions. Moreover, it places regional voters in a "second class" position, politically speaking, to their richer and more influential Metro voters. You are directly creating a WA wherein regional voters will lack the fundamental ability to elect regional representatives.

Thus, you have not only made a non-democratic decision, thereby permanently damaging your so-called "independent" reputation, but you have created a 2-class system whereby Metro voters will have more control over the results of future state elections.

In fact, I believe the WAEC is not democratic at all, rather you are a puppet to the government of the day, with no ability shown to find another way to protect each voter's equal rights to elect the representatives of their choice.

Ultimately, the WAEC will be seen by the voters to be biased against WA's unique regions and the vast distances involved for regional MP's to adequately represent regional and rural WA. And this fact alone is

absolutely disgusting. So, please reconsider your decisions before it's too late!

Respectfully,

Brian Rettinger

[REDACTED]

South Bunbury, WA 6230

E. [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

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.