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Sent: Friday, 28 July 2023 12:59 PM
To: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox
Cc: Councillors
Subject: Feedback on the Proposed Electoral Boundary Changes Published on 21 July 2023

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Good afternoon. Based on the report issued by the WAEC, as well as on the domination of Parliament by the current government, there does not appear to be a realistic chance of having the proposed boundary changes reversed or altered.

Having said that, the Shire of West Arthur believes that it is important that we communicate to the WAEC the views of our community on this matter as it is yet another assault on the political representation of regional communities and residents in Western Australia.

The Shire wishes to express its strong objection to the proposed electoral boundary changes in Western Australia put forth by the WAEC. As an engaged local government that values fair representation and democratic principles, we are deeply concerned about the potential consequences of these changes, particularly regarding the decrease in regional representation.

The essence of a thriving democracy lies in the ability of all citizens to have their voices heard and represented fairly in the electoral process. The proposed electoral boundary changes, which appear to reduce regional representation, will undermine this core principle and risk marginalizing large sections of the population living in regional areas.

Regional communities play a pivotal role in the economic, social, and cultural fabric of our state. They have unique concerns and challenges that demand specialized attention from their elected representatives. Decreasing the representation of regional areas in the legislature may result in decisions being made without a full understanding of the specific needs and aspirations of these communities.

Moreover, reducing regional representation could lead to a lack of diversity and perspective within the government. The views and opinions of rural and remote residents may not receive adequate consideration, potentially leading to policies that favour urban areas over rural ones.

The Shire of West Arthur urges the WAEC to reconsider the proposed boundary changes and prioritize the preservation of regional representation in the electoral system. Instead of diminishing regional voices, efforts should be made to enhance engagement and representation in these areas. By supporting regional representation, we can strengthen the democratic process and ensure that all citizens, regardless of their location, have a meaningful say in the governance of our state.

In conclusion, I implore you to seriously reconsider the proposed electoral boundary changes and take into account the potential adverse effects on regional representation and the democratic values we hold dear. By preserving and strengthening regional representation, we can foster a more inclusive and responsive government that truly represents the interests of all Western Australians.

Thank you for considering our concerns. I look forward to your response and trust that you will give them due consideration.

Kind Regards

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Forest to Wheatbelt

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