

To the Western Australian Electoral Commission
Submission of Natasha Colliver in response to Proposed electoral boundary changes

14 August 2023

To whom it may concern

I write to express my objection to the merging of the Legislative Assembly electorates of Moore and North West Central which would see the abolition of another regional seat, further reducing the voice of regional voters who are greatly disadvantaged due to the one vote one value changes in the Legislative Council.

The geographical size of the new proposed electorate of the Mid West will be a formidable task for any member of parliament to truly represent their constituency. I think it is fair to say that they will be insufficiently resourced to do so. As a result, access to their local member will be severely restricted for constituents.

Of further concern to me is that with the boundary changes to the seat of Geraldton to now include the majority of the Shire of Northampton, once again the town of Kalbarri has been cut from the Shire to be placed in another electorate. This is against community of interest principles. Since the last boundary redistribution, the Shire of Northampton has had to navigate between two electorates, which provided particularly challenging in the aftermath of Cyclone Seroja. I would have hoped that this situation be rectified as part of this proposed redistribution process.

Kalbarri is well and truly a part of the Geraldton community, just as Northampton is.

For example:

- Geraldton is by and far the closest regional service centre for those living in Kalbarri.
- Kalbarri schools are under the care of the Mid West District Education Office based in Geraldton.
- Kids from Kalbarri play sport in many Geraldton sporting associations. As the vice president of the Great Northern Junior Football League, we actively support the participation of Kalbarri kids to play for Northampton Junior Football Club which are part of the Great Northern Junior Football League.
- Those attending schools in Geraldton board at the Geraldton Residential College.
- Those seeking higher education are supported by the Geraldton Universities Centre.

These are just some examples of the social community interest principles that apply to Kalbarri. If you took a deep dive into the areas of health, education, aged care, mental health, etc it is evident that these services are provided or supported by organisations based in Geraldton. Continuing to exclude the Kalbarri community from being part of the electorate that represents the majority of the Shire of Northampton (whether this be the existing seat of Moore, or the proposed extension of the seat of Geraldton) does not make

sense. Kalbarri is just as much as a part of the greater Geraldton community as Northampton.

Please preserve shared community interests.

Please reconsider the loss of a regional seat.

Your sincerely

Natasha Colliver

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