

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 188 Ob - FW: Objection to boundary review
Date: Monday, 21 August 2023 10:47:07 AM

From: Helen Massang <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, 15 August 2023 7:16 PM
To: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Objection to boundary review

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Dear Redistribution Commissioners,

I object to the electoral boundaries you have proposed for the Legislative Assembly.

The decision to replace another regional electorate with a metropolitan one is both alarming and disheartening. This move serves to further diminish the influence of regional Western Australia, a voice already restrained by government policy and crucially needed as regional communities confront various challenges. This suggested reconfiguration seems to undervalue the essential need to preserve shared community interests. It overlooks countless expressions from regular Western Australians advocating for the retention of 16 regional seats. Disappointingly, it also dismisses thoughtfully crafted proposals that present a clear case for preserving the current level of regional representation in compliance with the Electoral Act.

Regional electorates, which already cover larger areas, demand regional MLAs to navigate greater distances, represent more diverse communities, and judiciously distribute their funding allocations across more expansive areas. The merging of regional seats risks voter exclusion due to the increase in already sizable constituencies. It also threatens to centralise power in metropolitan areas, causing an imbalance in representation where urban concerns overshadow regional interests. The proposed boundaries disregard the need to preserve the unity of our communities and dismiss public advocacy for the continued existence of the current 16 regional seats. This move signals the continuation of a worrying trend that has stripped regional voters of 18 crucial upper house representatives. Since the 1987 redistribution, 12 lower house seats have been stripped from regional WA. These considerations necessitate a rethink of these boundary alterations to secure fair representation for all Western Australians.

Of the many changes proposed, I object most strongly to the creation of a new Oakford electorate. As is clear in the data released by the Commission, there is no justification for the creation of a new electorate within the metropolitan area as the metropolitan area is already well within acceptable limits of representation.

I stand with thousands of regional West Australians expressing their disappointment at this redistribution, viewing it as a regrettable lost chance. I urge you to reevaluate your proposal, ensuring the preservation of the 16 regional seats.

Regards,
Helen M Massang
[REDACTED]
Lower Chittering.
WA 6084
[REDACTED]

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.