
From: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox
Sent: Tuesday, 22 August 2023 12:04 PM
To:
Subject: 228 Ob - FW: Electoral Distribution submission
Attachments: 210823 Electoral Distribution Commissioner Objection MB.docx

From: Northwest <Northwest@mp.wa.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 21 August 2023 4:14 PM
To: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox <boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au>
Subject: Electoral Distribution submission

[External Email] This email was sent from outside the organisation. Be cautious, particularly with links and attachments.
All SPAM emails must be reported using the instructions on the intranet.

Good afternoon

Please see Electoral Distribution Submission attached.

Kind regards

Merome Beard MLA
Member for North West Central



P: 08 99412 999 | Freecall: 1800 627 668
20 Robinson Street, Carnarvon WA 6701 | PO Box 1000, Carnarvon WA 6701

THE NATIONALS *for Regional WA*



Merome BEARD MLA

Member for North West Central

21 August 2023

Electoral Distribution Commissioners
GPO Box F316

PERTH WA 6841

Via email: boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au

Dear Electoral Distribution Commissioners,

I write to convey my strong opposition to the proposed electoral boundaries put forth by you ahead of the 2025 State Election.

Most concerning to the communities I represent is the abolition of the current North West Central electorate.

The proposed Mid West seat will cover 431,224sqkm, 24 councils, thousands of farmers, pastoralists, fishing and miners, dozens and dozens of schools, and even more small towns and isolated settlements.

It sprawls from remote Aboriginal communities in the north, to townships on Tonkin Highway on the outskirts of Perth. To have such a diverse region serviced by a single Member of Parliament is unrealistic and will be detrimental to fair representation.

The Opposition has offered a solution. In Parliament last week, a solution was offered to amend the Electoral Reform Act 1907 to mitigate the impact proposed boundary changes will have on regional representation. Although not directly relevant to the role of the WAEC it shows the need to have all options on the table to deliver improved outcomes for regional families.

We have been calling on the WA Labor Government to consider a simple change to the Act, a proposal to increase the large district allowance from 1.5 per cent to 3 per cent, which would preserve the current number of regional electorates.

This proposed change is nothing short of an assault on fair representation for regional voters. I respect this process is administering the Electoral Act 1907, but I feel so strongly as I have seen first hand the needs and interests of my regions to remain central to discourse in Perth. This will not occur with the abolition of North West Central.

It would shock many that there is no permanent doctor in places such as Shark Bay, Coral Bay, Mount Magnet, or Yalgoo.

Northwest@mp.wa.gov.au
www.meromebeard.com.au

 @MeromeBeardMP
 @Merome.Beard

20 Robinson Street
(PO Box 1000)
Carnarvon WA 6701 | Ph 08 9941 2999

THE NATIONALS *for Regional WA*



Merome BEARD MLA

Member for North West Central

You are also unable to have a baby anywhere in the current electorate of North West Central. How is this fair and how will this situation improve with a further reduction in regional representation?

Recently I visited Wiluna a dynamic community trying to forge a bright future for its residents. With a population of around 700 and enrolled voters numbering considerably less the regional development and infrastructure priorities they are pursuing would struggle to gain the focus of Perth politicians and would be further marginalised with the proposed reduction in regional representation.

Mid West will be a huge electoral seat that will stretch from Muchea to Meekatharra, leaving these communities voiceless to make way for yet another metro seat in Perth. This may be the way the raw numbers fall but they mean a raw deal for the communities I represent.

Mid West would cover more than 430,000km² double the size of Victoria and half the size of New South Wales, making it near impossible to have local issues voiced or serviced properly by a single Member with only two staff.

Mid-West would have a broad spectrum of land use patterns, from peri urban lifestyle blocks, to intensive livestock farming, broadacre cropping, pastoral properties and mining operations.

Regional people are resilient and pragmatic, but WA has one of the most centralised populations in the world. Further reducing the capacity of those who live work and invest in regional WA to engage with their elected leaders will do nothing to help slow this trend.

Although geographical distances are immense, this does not lessen constituents expectations to be able to engage regularly with their representative and this is something which they deserve and that can't physically be achieved to the expected level by a single MP in such a large area – something that is achievable in small metro seats.

I have worked hard to ensure the issues of every person from Exmouth to Kalbarri and Tom Price to Yalgoo and Wiluna and everywhere in between feel they are heard in State Parliament and I am confident if the changes proposed in the draft boundaries are adopted this will be detrimental to service delivery and outcomes in regional WA, not beneficial.



Yours sincerely,



Merome Beard MLA
Member for North West Central



Northwest@mp.wa.gov.au
www.meromebeard.com.au

 @MeromeBeardMP
 @Merome.Beard

20 Robinson Street
(PO Box 1000)
Carnarvon WA 6701 | Ph 08 9941 2999

THE NATIONALS for Regional WA