

248 Ob

**From:** Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 23 August 2023 1:30 PM  
**To:** Dawn Jones  
**Subject:** 248 - FW: Response to Suggestions - Boundaries

<b>W.A.E.C. RECORDS</b>	
FILE No.	DST 0152
DATE:	16 AUG 2023
ACTION BY:	_____

**From:** Carolyn King <carolyn.king@waec.wa.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 16 August 2023 6:41 AM  
**To:** Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox <boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Response to Suggestions - Boundaries

**[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.

Dear Commissioner,

I wish to respond to electoral boundary suggestions published on your website.

Despite consistently suffering worse outcomes than their city cousins, regional West Australians will lose 18 dedicated regional representatives after the next election due to changes to a whole-of-state electorate in the Legislative Council.

It is of utmost importance that this loss of representation in the upper house is not compounded by reduced legislative assembly representation.

Having read the published suggestions, I support the resounding collective sentiment from many submissions that sixteen regional seats must be maintained.

The Labor Party's suggestion to abolish the North West Central electorate in favour of new metropolitan seats may benefit their political fortunes but it would be a devastating blow for regional communities that clearly need more representation now; not less.

1. While the Moore electorate maintained connection between communities of interest in a large electorate, the new Mid-West electorate lumps together such a vast variety of communities, it is difficult to see where Commissioners found commonality. The proposed seat would span from Muchea on the outskirts of Perth to just a few kilometres south of Newman in the north. More than 1,000km from top to tail and no large population centre within its boundaries. This is a remarkably difficult electorate for any local member to service and all but impossible for any local member to be held to account by their constituents.

2. The partitioning of regional shires across Western Australia - such as Victoria Plains - for the mere transfer of a few hundred votes between electorates threatens to rupture tightly knit regional communities who depend on shared essential services. These communities, which often operate as interconnected units, may face significant disruption due to such electoral adjustments. It is of utmost importance that regional local councils remain undivided, ensuring their ability to continue serving their constituents effectively. Electoral considerations should not override the necessity of maintaining the unity and integrity of these regional communities for a modest shift in votes.

3. 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.

Please consider how this redistribution will ensure democratic equity and The fate of regional West Australians is in your hands.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Joy King

Moora WA 6510

*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.*