

256 0b

**From:** Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 23 August 2023 1:39 PM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** 256 - FW: Electoral boundary review

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

**From:** Kris Brooks <...@...net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 16 August 2023 8:12 AM  
**To:** Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox <boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Electoral boundary review

**[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 Redistribution Commissioners,

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

The proposal to replace another regional electorate with a metropolitan one is alarming, but not surprising. It reflects the complete lack of understanding Perth based bureaucrats have of regional Western Australia. This voice of rural WA is already restrained by government policy and this suggested reconfiguration further undervalues community interests.

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. **I am appalled to learn that after the next election rural WA will lose 18 dedicated upper house representatives and that 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.

I object strongly to all the points below.

1. The abolition of the Moore electorate and the abolition of the North West Central electorate and creation of a new Mid-west electorate This separates areas with a strong community of interest such as Exmouth and Carnarvon from each other.
2. 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.
3. 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.

4. Under the proposed boundary changes, residents of the Shire of Chapman Valley and Mullewa would be included in the electorate of Geraldton, there being no degree of commonality with respect to land use patterns.
5. The dividing of the Shire of Northampton between Mid West and Geraldton electorates - the communities within this Local Government Area have been divided since the previous redistribution and suffered the challenge of working with two separate Members of Parliament who represent vast areas.
6. 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 urge you to re-evaluate your proposal, ensuring the preservation of the 16 regional seats. Please consider how this redistribution will ensure democratic equity.

Sincerely,  
Kristine Brooks

t, Binu, WA 6532

#### Get Outlook for Android

*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.*