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**From:** Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox  
**Sent:** Friday, 25 August 2023 1:29 PM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** 395 OB

<b>W.A.E.C. RECORDS</b>	
FILE No.	<u>DST 0152</u>
DATE:	<u>18 AUG 2023</u>
ACTION BY:	_____

**From:** theshiralee@activ8.net.au  
**Sent:** Friday, 18 August 2023 3:44 PM  
**To:** Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox <boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Response to Proposed Boundary change

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Dear Redistribution Commissioners,

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

These changes overlook the advocacy of the retention of 16 regional seats and dismiss proposals that present a clear case for preserving the current level of regional representation in compliance with the Electoral Act. They further silence any voice that rural Western Australians still retain.

The decision to replace another regional electorate with a metropolitan one, for which there is no clear need, is more than alarming, **it is terrifying**. The current State Government has already severely reduced our representation in state parliament. Ironically, if their blueprint was followed by the Federal Government, our state would lose most of its representation – and I believe the state government would be the first to point out how unfair that is, considering the wealth Western Australia brings to the federal economy. The same argument applies here – the wealth of this state is generated here in rural Western Australia.

How many civilisations have fallen because of the creation of cities and the concentration of expenditure on those cities rather than the areas that actually produce the wealth or sustenance of the society? It's what we are already seeing here in Western Australia, money spent in areas that don't generate wealth, while productive infrastructure is either not provided or not maintained. Rural industries shut down. The merging of regional seats further threatens to centralise power in a metropolitan area that produces nothing.

Rural electorates already cover large areas, many of them too large for one person to either represent or even be able to keep up with the concerns of their constituents. I remember rolling my eyes several years ago at a newspaper report where the Victoria Park representative wondered why rural representatives had such a difficult time seeing their constituents – as he nipped across the river, no doubt! His comments served to illustrate the huge gap already existing between rural and city. City politicians, like most city residents, have no comprehension of rural concerns. Accordingly, most of the government departments have no idea either. Even the Passport office doesn't comprehend that everyone doesn't live in a "suburb" or have their mail delivered. Federally, I live in the largest electorate in the country, the seat of Durack. Do I feel represented? No, not at all. I don't have a voice federally. How can I? My interests don't coincide with people who live up way up north. It is impossible for one person, no matter their political persuasion, to represent such a wide, diverse area.

Now, since I live in the state electorate of Moore, you're proposing to strip me of my state representation. To lump me in with another wide and diverse area, silencing me for all time. What do I have in common with people who live just south of Newman? I have something in common with someone living in Mullewa, and yet Mullewa is not even going

to be in my electorate. Have you even been to any of these areas you're lumping together? Your proposed change is not just terrifying, it is ludicrous.

Under your proposal, why should I vote at all? No one will hear me.

Further, the political aspect of this proposal, seeking to eliminate the seat of the State National Party leader, calls into question the independence of the AEC. Where does this proposal really come from? The state government? Redesign the boundaries is certainly one way to retain political power, and there is something of a precedent in Queensland. To me, it also smells of revenge. Moore keeps resisting Labor's ideas, doesn't it? Gallop decided to take away the hospital in Moora. A brick campaign and, thankfully, the much needed hospital is still there. McGowan comes in and again attacks Moora, this time the boarding house for the high school. Both times the Member for Moore was active. Now the electorate itself is being attacked? This doesn't feel like any old boundary change.

Even this objection phase is wrong. Firstly, I have not been officially communicated with about these changes, even though I live in Moore. If my state representative had not alerted me, I wouldn't even know about the proposed change – and if I didn't know, how could I possibly object? Again, the lack of communication in this instance becomes sinister and terrifying. In this age of communication, why is it that the state and federal government, and their departments, almost never seem to communicate with me? Secondly, the objection has to be in writing. Literacy standards in this state and country are not wonderful, are they? So that stipulation disenfranchises anyone who has trouble putting two words together on paper. Don't their objections matter too?

I am a working class girl but I don't recognise this party in power and nor do I understand why they seem so determined to silence everyone who lives outside Perth's boundaries. I don't understand why your proposed changes seem to accommodate their wishes. I urge you to reevaluate your proposal and ensure the preservation of the 16 regional seats, so that I and my fellow rural Western Australians continue to have some kind of a voice in parliament that seems increasingly hostile.

Rural Western Australia matters.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona G Carroll

Badgingarra WA 6521

*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.*