

408 OB

**From:** Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox  
**Sent:** Friday, 25 August 2023 1:43 PM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** 408 OB  
**Attachments:** Dear Redistribution Commissioners.docx

.....ssion

Phone: 9214 0458

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Anne Cripps <[anne.cripps@waec.wa.gov.au](mailto:anne.cripps@waec.wa.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, 19 August 2023 8:23 AM  
**To:** Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox <[boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au](mailto:boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** submission to proposed Lower House boundary changes

[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.

Attached is a submission prepared by the Northampton Branch of the National Party.

Peter Cripps (President).

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.

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| W.A.E.C. RECORDS |             |
| FILE No.         | DST 0152    |
| DATE:            | 19 AUG 2023 |
| ACTION BY:       |             |

iManage 187866

Dear Redistribution Commissioners,

On perusing the proposed boundary changes for the Lower House electorates in WA we would like to note our disappointment at the treatment of regional West Australians. Is it fair to compare representing 20 sq km or less (Mount Lawley, Balcatta, Bicton, and Morley) to 802,591 sq km (Northwest Central) or 430,000 sq km (proposed new Midwest)? Regional members are already stretched to the limit travelling their electorates between and during spending time in Perth for parliamentary sittings and heaven help them if they are trying to manage a ministry or shadow ministry on top of that. The thought that this representation needs to be cut further is hard to fathom.

Another concerning aspect is local councils have been divided in these redistributions. Our shire, Northampton, was divided between Moore and Northwest Central in a previous redistribution and suffers the same fate in your new proposals. Surely it is desirable for the shire to work with one MLA rather than two. Northampton is not the only regional local government area to be divided, Victoria Plains is another example. In a time when we are being preached the virtues of efficiency and productivity you are suggesting state government and local government procedures be duplicated.

Our current electorate of Moore covers the northern and western portion of the wheatbelt. It is largely an agricultural area with also fishing, horticultural, mining and tourism interests. These are all compatible industries and a manageable portfolio for an MP to keep abreast of and promote at a state level. The new proposals suggest some areas move to Central Wheatbelt (is compatible), some areas move to Geraldton (a more urban focused electorate) and some areas move to Midwest (a mining and pastoral electorate). An amalgamation with the Shire of Mullewa and the City of Geraldton has not exactly seen the rural areas of the new shire receive their due attention. Will the same happen to the shires of Northampton, Chapman Valley and Mullewa when added to the Geraldton electorate? The remainder of Moore (including outer urban areas) joins a mining and pastoral area which creates an electorate of very diverse interests and huge areas to cover. The quality of representation, no matter how dedicated and enthusiastic the member, cannot match our current standard. We urge you to maintain Moore as an electorate.

People are being encouraged to live and work in regional communities. This will not happen if they feel that they lack access to the politicians and the services that their urban counterparts have. The mining, farming, fishing, horticulture, tourism and pastoral industries all play a big part in keeping WA's balance sheet healthy. These occur predominantly outside the metropolitan area. These regional areas need to maintain the current 16 Lower House seats to represent them adequately.

Since 1987 regional WA has gone from 28 to 16 Lower House seats. Numbers of electors alone cannot be used as a formula to structure electoral boundaries. Areas and the distances travelled by our representatives need to be considered, as well as the immense workload being placed on regional Lower House members.

It is imperative that all 16 regional Lower House seats remain, especially since there is no guarantee they will have support from 18 regional Upper House members.

Northampton Branch Nationals WA

c/o PO Box 20,

Northampton, 6535.