

428 OB

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From: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox
Sent: Friday, 25 August 2023 1:58 PM
To:
Subject: 428 OB
Attachments: 2023 Electoral Boundary submission.docx

or

From: greg.wheeler@inet.net.au
Sent: Sunday, 20 August 2023 11:58 AM
To: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox <boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au>
Subject: Submission on the proposed 2023 Electoral Boundaries

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To the Electoral Distribution Commissioner

Attached is a Word document of my submission to the Commission on the proposed Electoral Boundaries 2023. I have reviewed several of the submission on the AEC website and have put together my submission.

Regards,
Greg Wheeler

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	
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2023 Electoral Boundary submission.

I am using this opportunity to voice my opinion on the proposed electoral boundary distribution.

I believe that the state should retain the current 16 regional seats in the Legislative Assembly. People in the regional areas of Western Australia experience significant disadvantage when trying to access their local representative and the services that they provide. Due to the tyranny of distance and time taken to get around many of the regional districts, the representatives are at a significant disadvantage when compared to their metropolitan counterparts – consider the proposed area of 839,000 square kilometres for one regional area and the proposed area of 18 square kilometres for one of the metropolitan areas (Scarborough). It is patently ridiculous to expect the voters in these 2 regions to be able to expect the same level of service from their member of parliament.

Many politicians in this State have expressed the view that the regional areas are the “economic engine room” of the state and that they generate a significant proportion of the wealth of, not only the state, but also the country.

Reading the explanation of how the boundaries are calculated, based on number of voters in each electoral boundary and not being allowed to go beyond certain limits of numbers of electors within these boundaries, this not only implies “one vote, one value” and “equal” votes for both metropolitan and regional WA; it does not take in to account the difference in the wealth of the state generated by the regions versus the metropolitan area. I do not think that it is a good idea to diminish the importance of regional WA when it comes to determining the number of representatives they have in parliament.

I urge the Electoral Commission to consider the importance of retaining the regional electorates as part of the 2023 Electoral Boundary review.

Yours sincerely,

Greg Wheeler