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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 15 May 2023 2:55 PM
To: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox
Cc: shire.president@coolgardie.wa.gov.au
Subject: GVROC Submission - Comments and suggestions on the 2023 Electoral Boundaries Review
Attachments: GVROC Submission - Comments on suggestions for electoral boundaries review 2023.pdf

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Dear Electoral Distribution Commissioners,

On behalf of the Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils (GVROC) Chair, Cr Malcolm Cullen, please find attached our submission with comments and suggestions for consideration during the 2023 Electoral Boundaries Review.

If you have questions or would like to discuss the GVROC comments and suggestions further, please feel free to either contact the GVROC Chair via email shire.president@coolgardie.wa.gov.au or mobile [REDACTED] or myself as the GVROC Executive Officer on the contact details below.

Kind regards
Andrew

Andrew Mann
Managing Director and Principal - Mann Advisory
and
Executive Officer – Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils (GVROC)
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15 May 2023

Office of the Electoral Distribution Commissioners
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111 St Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

E: boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au

Dear Electoral Distribution Commissioners,

GVROC SUBMISSION – COMMENT ON SUGGESTIONS TO THE 2023 ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES REVIEW PROCESS

The Goldfields Voluntary Organisation of Councils (GVROC) provides the following comments for consideration by the Electoral Distribution Commissioners.

The GVROC is an established partnership between Local Government Authorities (LGAs) in the Goldfields Esperance Region of Western Australia including - City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder and the Shires of Coolgardie, Dundas, Esperance, Laverton, Leonora, Menzies, Ngaanyatjaraku and Wiluna. The GVROC drives practical, locally led solutions to improve the lives of its residents in the GVROC region.

As part of the first process of the review with submission of suggestions, the GVROC supports those submissions that were submitted by its LGA members during that process. These included submissions from the Shires of Esperance, Dundas and Ngaanyatjaraku.

All LGA members of the GVROC support the view that the State retain the current 16 regional seats in the Legislative Assembly. It is important to have regional voices in the Legislative Assembly, to ensure an equitable and fair distribution of electoral power. Regional WA cannot afford to lose more regional representation.

Over the years there has been a gradual erosion of regional political representation in State Parliament. Regional constituents are already disadvantaged due to proximity access to their Local Member and the services and advocacy that they provide. GVROC LGAs cover a land mass of more than a third of the State and having the ability to personally meet with your Local Member to address local issues can be difficult and further erosion of this will be unequitable. Due to travel and distance, regional politicians also have to work harder to provide the same service to their constituents as their city counterparts.

Even with technology and connectivity improvements the role of a Local Member is greatly assisted and enhanced by being present and available in person for the people they represent in Parliament.

Thus, the GVROC believes that regular access to your Local Member of Parliament should be a right for any WA resident, whether regional or metropolitan based. Equal voter distribution is therefore fundamentally flawed when added with the regional challenges within WA for constituent access to their local politician.

It is also vitally important that continual advocacy and support for regional WA from a political perspective to ensure adequate access to health care, aged care, transport infrastructure and education, which is vital to ensure services are comparable to those in Perth.

Therefore, the GVROC suggests that as part of the 2023 electoral boundary review process that the Electoral Distribution Commissioners retain all of the current 16 regional seats to ensure good governance of the State.

I'd be happy to discuss this matter further with you and can be contacted via email shire.president@coolgardie.wa.gov.au or mobile 0417 266 191.

Yours sincerely



Cr Malcolm Cullen - GVROC Chair
President – Shire of Coolgardie

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Cc: *Andrew Mann –Executive Officer, GVROC*