

From: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox
Sent: Monday, 15 May 2023 10:34 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Response to submissions electoral boundaries review

Comment 90 (C90)

From: Ananda Barton [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 15 May 2023 10:09 AM
To: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox <boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au>
Subject: Response to submissions electoral boundaries review

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Mr. Robert Kennedy
Electoral Commissioner
West Australian Electoral Commission

Dear Mr. Kennedy

Re: 2023 Electoral Boundary Review.

W.A.E.C. RECORDS	
FILE No.	OST 0151
DATE:	15 MAY 2023
ACTION BY:	_____

It was with great interest that I read submissions to the 2023 Electoral Boundary Review, available on the WAEC website. I appreciate the opportunity to comment, given that I have serious concerns at the proposal, contained in the WA Labor Submission, to abolish the seat of North West Central, reducing, by one, the sixteen seats currently representing regional WA.

Regional WA is a significant contributor to our State's economy. According to the April 2023 Western Australian Economic Profile mining contributed \$186.8 billion (\$46 percent) to the Gross State Product, add to this \$10.8 billion (3 per cent) from agriculture, forestry and fishing and it is clear that regional WA creates wealth that benefits our whole state. At the same time regional areas experience significant disadvantage. The WA Country Health Service records that people in rural areas have a life expectancy approximately two years lower than their city counterparts; while remote and very remote communities have a mortality rate 30 percent higher than that of metropolitan residents. Reducing the number of regional parliamentary seats will deprive already disadvantaged people of representation.

Reducing the number of regional seats will increase pressure on the remaining rural parliamentarians, who already face the challenge of representing areas the size of some countries; North West Central is larger than New South Wales; Central Wheatbelt approximately the size of Portugal. If North West Central were abolished, its component parts added to adjoining electorates this problem would be exacerbated.

I also caution against disregarding the Perth Metropolitan Boundary when preparing electorate margins; such a step would see rural residents swamped by metropolitan voters, their specific needs marginalized.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to comment on this important issue. Reducing the number of rural seats will disadvantage already marginalized people, disregard the economic importance of regional WA and increase the challenges in seeing that this area is adequately represented.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Ananda Barton

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GOSNELLS WA 6110
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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.