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1 May 2023

The Electoral Distribution Commissioners

Dear Electoral Commissions,

I write this letter on behalf of the Shire of Dandaragan seeking your support for the retention of the existing number of regional seats when you consider changes to the State's current electoral boundaries.

The regional areas, in particular the Shire of Dandaragan, have a wide variety of diversity in communities, economic drivers, environmental issues and socio-economic needs. There is already a substantial expectation of regionally elected representatives to manage an extensive portfolio of local issues across their large electorates and any reductions in representation will have a materially adverse impact on already marginalised areas.

A significant per capita contribution of the State's wealth is generated from regional areas and accordingly the simplistic methodology for assigning boundaries within an average deviation has the potential to disincentivise regional living, ultimately driving population away from the areas where it delivers the highest returns.

The Shire of Dandaragan is supportive of the submissions from all other regional local governments who have also advocated for the retention or expansion of representation numbers applied to regional areas.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brent Bailey", is shown within a white rectangular box.

Brent Bailey
Chief Executive Officer