

W A E C
- 5 MAY 2023

C 15

From: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox
Sent: Monday, 8 May 2023 3:17 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Comments on Suggestions re the 2023 Electoral Boundary Review (C15)

Comment 15 (C15)

From: Sean Fletcher <ceo@victoriaplains.wa.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 5 May 2023 8:32 AM
To: Electoral Boundaries Review Mailbox <boundaries@waec.wa.gov.au>
Cc: Marie Freeman <marie.freeman@victoriaplains.wa.gov.au>
Subject: Comments on Suggestions re the 2023 Electoral Boundary Review

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Dear Commissioners

Please find below, my comments on behalf of the Shire of Victoria Plains regarding the submissions (suggestions) received as part of the 2023 review of the State's electoral boundaries.

We are of the view that the 16 regional seats in the Legislative Assembly are retained. To this extent, the Shire of Victoria Plains supports the submissions by local governments and other bodies that reflect the retention of the 16 regional seats, some of which include:

- The Shire of Toodyay;
- The Shire of Boyup Brook;
- The Shire of Esperance;
- The Shire of Narrogin;
- The Shire of Dundas;
- The Shire of Ravensthorpe;
- The Shire of Dandaragan;
- The Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku.

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The Shire, respectfully, does not support the WA Labor Party's submission proposing that the Shire of Victoria Plains (and others) is moved from the Seat of Moore and put into the Central Wheatbelt. When we talk about "In the Public Interest," which is the valid test in these matters in conjunction with the statutory requirements, local governments understand their natural affiliations and communities of interest, land use patterns and physical features and means of communication far better than the various political parties.

In this context, the District of Victoria Plains (and thus the Shire), serves as the hub or axis point not just to its seven neighbouring local governments, but the significant throughput or pathway to and from other parts of the State. The freight task (Aglime route, Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network, Northam, Muchea Hub, Agriculture, Mining, General Freight and so on) in this regard is not be "sneezed" at and with this, the Shire is finding itself very quickly in the situation where it is becoming part of the hinterland that is Gingin, Chittering, Toodyay and Dandaragan. The Seat of Moore in general deals with the State's key transport throughput and it makes sense that it is retained as is in this regard.

The Shire also supports the comments in submissions that clearly point out that the regional areas are punching well above their weight in terms of economic output and this should not be ignored when it comes to ensuring that there is sufficient electoral representation over Western Australia's vast distances in this regard. The social fabric that is

required to support such outputs along with the environmental considerations really does need that dedicated level of representation to help balance the demands generated in the larger population centres.

As the CEO at the Shire of Esperance points out, quite simply: "I understand that the average number of voters in country WA is 29,520 per seat or just -3.12% below the average. This is well within the allowable 10 percent above or below the average, so change is not required at this time. Retention of the current 16 regional seats is imperative for good governance of the State."

Thank you

Kind Regards,

Sean Fletcher
Chief Executive Officer



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