

Dear committee members,

I urge you to abolish malappropriation in the legislative council.

The current system is incredibly unfair. In a just democracy, every voter should have an equal say in the running of society. Under the current system of malappropriation, regional votes are essentially overweighted. As regional voters tend to vote conservatively, this results in an almost permanent conservative majority in the upper house regardless of the voting intentions of the general public.

I understand that regional voters appreciate having greater representation because they feel they will be neglected if malappropriation is removed. However, there are many minority groups which would benefit from increased representation in parliament, and regional voters are only one such group. Additionally, significant progress has been made in minority rights issues at both federal and state levels despite none of these minority groups having an additional say in parliament.

Ideally, in my opinion the four electoral regions of the upper house should be abolished and combined into one. Group voting tickets should also be abolished and replaced with a more transparent system that gives voters control and flexibility over the direction of their preferences. Whatever new system is created should ensure a plurality of minor parties can be elected, but only if they receive support from a clear section of the community - not through opaque and undemocratic preference deals.

Whatever new system is chosen, I urge you to ensure the overall political balance of the upper house in future years accurately and fairly represents the political will of the entire Western Australian community. This is fundamental to our democracy. Please do not let us down.