

Afternoon WA Electoral Reform,

Attached is my submission to the electoral reform of the WA Upper House.

Regards

Greg King

Submission to Electoral Reform Committee.

The Western Australian Upper House has 36 members from 6 regions each region has 6 members. The number of electors in each region varies from as low as 100,000 (Agricultural) to as high as 400,000 (Metropolitan). This is a very malappropriation of votes.

Proposal for Regions

I propose that the current 4 Metropolitan regions be divided into 8 regions each having approximately 200,000 electors this is the approximately the number of voters in the South West district. I further propose that there be only 4 members elected for each region, this will maintain the 36 members for the Upper House. Elector numbers have been sourced from Western Australian Electoral Commission, Electoral Enrolment Statistics 30 September 2020.

Region	Electors	Number of Members	Comments
East Metropolitan A	214,304	4	Half of Current Region
East Metropolitan B	214,303	4	Half of Current Region
North Metropolitan A	208,087	4	Half of Current Region
North Metropolitan B	208,088	4	Half of Current Region
South Metropolitan A	220,144	4	Half of Current Region
South Metropolitan B	220,145	4	Half of Current Region
Agricultural	102,775	4	Same as current Region
Pastoral and Mining	68,071	4	Same as current Region
South West	239,695	4	Same as current Region
Total	1,691,612	36	

Table 1: Proposed Division of Regions

Proposal for voting

As shown by the 2021 election results “preference harvesting” did occur, especially in the Mining and Pastoral Region. The current voting method is an elector can either vote above the line or below the line. Voting below the line is arduous especially when there are many candidates. Voting this way enhances “preference harvesting”. I propose that voting above or below the line have a limit so as the elector can indicate their preferences. I recommend that an elector can number a maximum of 4 boxes (1 to 4) and at least 2 boxes (1 to 2) above the line or a maximum 8 boxes (1 to 8) below the line. If only one box has been numbered either above or below the line, then this ballot should be counted as a formal vote. If numbers are placed in boxes above and below the line then this ballot should be counted as an informal vote.