

Electoral Reform – Terms of Reference.

A Submission to this Reform by: Lindsay Stockdale.

Preliminary Summary:

I think all West. Australians will welcome this reform. Particularly after the last Election, but as with all Government reforms and reviews, there is always conjecture on how broad the Terms of Reference are and how much the Members of the Committee are being paid.

It is hoped that the elected committee in this reform, firmly present their outcome based on **“WHAT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE STATE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA”** and nothing else.

Terms of Reference:

I have noted that there is the 2 Recommendations to be handed down, being; **Electoral Equality and Distribution of Preferences.**

Electoral Equality;

This is one area I am very concerned with.

I can't help but feel, because of the very brief terms of reference, there was an intent or influence to give the same result as to what happened in the recent Lower House reform, where the Regional Area's lost seats based on the disproportionate elector numbers in the over populated Perth/Peel region compared to that of the regions.

I believe the emphasis should be on the ;

- a. **Environmental.** Regional conditions are usually very isolated from modern Hospitals/Medical, the coastline that provides a huge amount of recreational activities, some of our regions are very sparse in vegetation, making them unattractive to some people to settle etc.
- b. **Social.** We are gradually seeing many Government Departments and Agencies moving back to the more densely populated Towns in and close to the Perth/Peel area. We have a lack of entertainment as artists find it unprofitable to come because of the smaller number of patrons.
- c. **Financial.** It is the regional area's that provide the largest portion of the State's revenue through Mining royalties, Rent, Rates, Jobs, Exports and Tax's, and the Agricultural and Pastoral Industries providing Food, Jobs Rent, Rates, Exports and Tax's. There can be no argument against the importance of the Mining Industries contribution to W.A's and Australia's revenue support, as claimed by both State and Federal Governments how it was the Mining Industry that pulled Australia through Covid 19.
- d. **Contrast of these living conditions.** It is easy to understand if all Politicians are living in the Perth/Peel area how they wouldn't understand or appreciate the huge difference in living standards. It is natural for any person to become so focussed and blasé on their environment because of their active involvement and concentration on their activities, that they lose contact with their neighbouring environment and function. Therefore when it comes to voting for issues outside of their comfort zone, they have no interest or knowledge of these issues that are so important to the regions. This leaves those regions with no reasonable representation in

Parliament. We must remember that 91% of WA's population live in the Perth/Peel area. That means 91% of those voting in Parliament is by people with the same mindset that is at odds with the most important Region of the States Economy. So what possibly should be used as a criteria in your decision making, is set the boundaries of seats by the productivity of what those seats contribute to the States Economy and not by the population.

So this leaves you with the decision between , is it more important to support the simple people's feeling that there is more value in votes that are in an over populated smaller land area compared to the productive regions voting.

What you must also take into consideration with this, is that comparing land area's, the people in the Perth/Peel area finish up with more voting power in Parliament, per Hectare and production. There is a more serious disproportionate voting result, when using one vote per person compared to productivity.

There is a possibility that there would be more value in moving Seats to the Regions from the over populated Perth/Peel area that in some cases are non or less productive area's compared to the regions that are more productive.

Distribution of Preferences;

This is so simple to resolve.

Simply stop the Distribution of Preferences in both Houses of Parliament.

That way, only the candidates who were the preferred candidate, is elected.

Yours sincerely.

Lindsay Stockdale.

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