

Ministerial Expert Committee on Electoral Reform

Dumas House

West Perth W.A. 6005

4th June, 2020

Dear Sirs

Review of Amending Voting for the Upper House in Western Australia

Thankyou for giving this issue the serious attention it deserves. It is a complex issue which has concerned me for some time. Thankyou for affording me the opportunity to contribute to this enquiry.

I see two issues here:-

Firstly the ongoing chant of "One Person one Vote". In any decision making the outcome relies on the accuracy and broad nature of inputs. Our government is no different. Different regions of our state contribute differently to the economy. Outer regions are very productive, goodswise. Private industry, visions, employment and investment need to be recognised in this connection. We all benefit from the investment and risk taking involved.

We accept this principle as far as giving each state equal representation in our federal Senate. The state should be no different.

Secondly is the issue of a candidate being elected with only a handful of votes. New South Wales was forced some years ago to take action on this. It is unfortunate that we have such an extreme example here for action to be taken. Residency, as well as an agenda with virtually no community interest, as shown by the few votes received, need to be considered. Unfortunately we now face potentially four years without politicians with more widely acknowledged fields of expertise available for the good of our state.

I wish you well for your important enquiry.

Yours Faithfully

Judith Lorraine Archibald