



Shire of Kojonup submission regarding Electoral Reform – June 2021

The Shire of Kojonup whole heartedly supports the WALGA recommendations as listed below:

1. That Group Ticket Voting be removed from the Legislative Council electoral system, and reforms be adopted modelled on the Senate reforms of 2016.
2. That a regional system be retained, and the whole state electorate option be rejected.
3. That the Ministerial Expert Committee on Electoral Reform be required to consider the importance of political representation for rural and regional Western Australia.

Given the vast area Western Australia covers there will be variances in population density, just as there exists disparity in fuel and food prices and that health, education and other services are not provided to all Western Australians equally in regional and remote WA, yet residents accept this as the cost of living in the bush!

Metropolitan residents have access to more services given population density but this should not translate that electoral boundary adjustment be undertaken to favour those areas for electoral equality. We are all West Australians and have the right to exercise our vote for preferred candidates in each region. Those elected are then charged with the responsibility to represent their constituents of the electorate but also the state to the best of their ability regardless of political persuasion. Therefore, the above recommendations are of vital importance to all West Australians not just the Ministerial Committee.

Has the Ministerial Committee also assessed the number of contact hours rural MLC's have with constituents as against those in Metropolitan seats? Our experience demonstrates Rural MLC's are very receptive to meeting with Council, attending WALGA Zone meetings or responding to communications from community members/organisations/businesses via email, demonstrating that distance or remoteness is not an excuse for under representation.

Kind Regards

Cr J S Benn
Shire President