

From: [Liam O'Neill](#)
To: [WA Electoral Reform Submissions](#)
Subject: Submission on Electoral Reform
Date: Tuesday, 8 June 2021 4:21:21 PM

Good Afternoon,

I wanted to provide my view on this matter. I think it can be very simply resolved by:

1. Adopting the Australian Senate voting system.
2. Removing the descriptions of the regions from the electoral act, thereby allowing the boundary commission to draw 6 equal regions. This could be further improved by increasing the size of the lower house to 61 seats, enabling 5 regions of 10 seats and 1 region of 11. The 11 seat region should include those seats with large district allowances so that electoral equality can be better achieved as otherwise that regions actual voters would be far less than some other regions.

If the regional model is maintained the casting vote of the President should be abolished removing the need to worry about who is in that role. Likewise ensuring all regions have an equal say on all bills.

I do not support a single statewide electorate as the quota would be too low and the ballot paper too large for a person to make an informed choice about their elector. However, 6 or 4 equal regions is suitable in ensuring all votes are reasonably equal and regional voices can be represented.

I would also support a future referendum to reduce the size of the upper house to 30 members (6x5 regions) or 28 members (4*7 regions). However, this should not be tied up in finally abolishing at the state level the idea that land is more valuable than people.

While it is certainly beyond the terms of reference for the committee the relationship between the two houses should be addressed. This addressing should ensure that there can be no blocking or delaying of money bills and that for other bills a dispute resolution mechanism exists (such as a joint sitting).

Kind Regards,

Liam O'Neill