

Submission by Tshung Chang (personal capacity) on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear Ministerial Expert Committee

I refer to your terms of reference and I say that there should be no change to either the composition of the State Legislative Council or the method of election.

Changes have been proposed and debated extensively since the Burke government of the 1980's. The two main reasons why they should not be changed are:

1, **Geography** - Western Australia accounts for 33% of the Australian continent and is bigger in size than Western Europe, four times the size of Texas, twelve times bigger than the UK, and twenty times bigger than England<sup>1</sup>

2, **Economics** - The agriculture and mining industry sectors have dominated the Western Australia economy for over 100 years. Both were at severe risk of decline during the last electoral term with the state government proposing the nationalisation of the lobster industry (agriculture) and a hike in gold tax (mining) in the last state government. It was only the result of having the current representation that these industries and the Western Australia economy was saved.

If you are concerned about reforming the Electoral System for the better, I propose the following four changes:

i, **Elimination of voter fraud** – Everyone who votes must produce Voter Identification. The present system allows a person to “vote early and vote many”. Also, the period of pre-polls must be reduced so that there is only one pre-poll day before the actual election day.

ii, **Elimination of voter confusion** – We have three levels of government and it comes with three methods of election. Currently a tick or an “X” above the line which is normal for local government election is ruled as an informal for state voting. If a voter signals their intention for a tick or an “X” above the line, then it should be accepted.

iii, **No dual-citizens can be elected** – Currently a dual-citizen can be elected to State Parliament with loyalties elsewhere. There must be a requirement (as is done Federally) that those who want to nominate must renounce their non-Australian citizenship and loyalties.

iv, **No foreign interference in state elections** – Foreign embassies or their proxies should have no involvement in state elections. There was evidence that this happened in the last state election.<sup>2</sup>

I seek leave to address the Ministerial Expert Committee.

Kind regards

Tshung Chang

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.virtualoceania.net/australia/states/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.watoday.com.au/national/western-australia/question-of-judgement-labor-candidate-s-front-page-ads-in-pro-ccp-paper-under-fire-as-fight-for-riverton-heats-up-20210102-p56rba.html>