

Chair
Ministerial Expert Committee on Electoral Reform
11th Floor Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

8 June 2021

Dear Mr McCusker

Re: submission on electoral reform

The Shire of Carnamah would like to make the following recommendations to the committee:

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.

Rural and remote political representation is important to ensure that regional Western Australia is supported to continue to generate export and employment opportunities that benefit us all.

A reduction in political representation in the Western Australian Parliament will lead to an expectation that Local Governments will expand to fill this role, a role that may stretch Local Governments beyond their capacity and resources.

In addition, it is widely acknowledged that health, education and other services are not provided to all Western Australians equally. In particular Aboriginal communities remain significantly disadvantaged in Regional Western Australia and removing or limiting access to Members of Parliament will have significant repercussions and does not achieve electoral equality.

On this basis, it remains important that rural and remote voices are heard in the Western Australian Legislative Council.

Yours faithfully,

Vin FORDHAM LAMONT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER