

8 June 2021

Via email to:

Ministerial Expert Committee on Electoral Reform Western Australian Electoral Reform

Email: submissions@waelectoralreform.wa.gov.au

Dear Committee Members

COUNCIL SUBMISSION TO MINISTERIAL EXPERT COMMITTEE ON ELECTORAL REFORM.

Please treat this letter as a submission on behalf of the elected members of the duly elected Shire of Boyup Brook to the current Review of the WA State Electoral System.

Any electoral reform that reduces the voice of regional people is a concern for not just Boyup Brook and its electors, but also the electors of the wider district.

These are people that rely on the Members of Parliament of metropolitan areas appreciating and recognising that one vote one value and equal representation between voting districts, based purely on population, would be totally inappropriate and indeed unjust.

In a State as diverse, large and indeed in many instances remote, Governments need to consider the voices and issues of the minority, as well as the voters that have the largest voice (or power). The only way that this has been able to be 'somewhat' achieved for many decades in the Western Australian context, is through the proportional voting system that has allowed greater participation in Parliament, through a long held agreed positive (beneficial) distortion to the one vote one value system.

The risk that we see on behalf of our constituents and regional constituents across this region and vast State, is that the State Government (with Lower and Upper House control) might go further and erode the voting representation of the regions. This simply should not and cannot occur.

Put simply, if the Government of today, does not protect the country people of today, tomorrow there might be no people in the country to govern.

We urge two things;

1. For the Government to protect the principles of a system that has served well for decades and has enabled country people to have access to basic services and facilities, which in turn has enabled the regions to enormously contribute to our culture, our values and our economy, of this great and diverse State; and
2. For the Government and Expert Committee to recognise that the time it has allotted to invite and receive submissions is woefully inadequate and gives rise to suspicions that there is a preconceived and deliberative agenda.



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Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission and should you require further information or clarification on the above, please contact me via email, shire@boyupbrook.wa.gov.au or telephone 9765 1200.

Yours sincerely

Dale Putland
Chief Executive Officer