

W A E C

28 APR 2015

The Electoral Distribution Commissioners
The Hon Neville Owen
Mr Tom Joseph
Mr David Kerslake

Dear Commissioners

Please accept my submission about the 2015 redistribution of State electoral boundaries. - Attached

Yours sincerely

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LIMITING IMBALANCE IN REPRESENTATION TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

In 1987 and 2005 the State Parliament passed two significant electoral reform Acts. The core purpose of each of these reforms was reduction of imbalance in representation by bringing our electoral system closer to the democratic principle of one person, one vote, one value. The 2005 legislation informed the 2007 redistribution and tolerated a level of imbalance in representation to the Legislative Council by prescribing 6 MLCs to each region.

Table A deals with representation of electors in the Legislative Council and compares the ratio which existed at the time of the redistribution in 2007 with the ratio which exists in the enrolments being used for the current redistribution.

Table A

Overall inequality of representation between electors in Metropolitan and Country Legislative Council regions			
Year of redistribution	Metropolitan enrolment	Country enrolment	Ratio between enrolments *
2007	935,548	324,126	2.88:1
2015	1,103,172	367,279	3.00:1
* direct comparison possible because 18 Metropolitan and 18 Country Members			

Since the first redistribution under the revised legislation took place in 2007, imbalance has increased overall and to a greater degree between the extreme example shown in Table B.

Table B

Extreme case of inequality of representation among electors in Legislative Council regions			
Year of redistribution	North Metropolitan region enrolment	Mining and Pastoral region enrolment	Ratio between enrolments
2007	321,587	73,776	4.24:1
2015	369,850	74,734	4.95:1

I recommend that you not exceed the levels of imbalance in representation among Legislative Council regions accepted by Parliament when the legislation was passed.

Yours sincerely

Graham Hawkes
27 April 2015