

ELECTORAL LAW REFORM

Petition

Hon Barry House presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 18 persons -

To the Honourable the President and Members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia assembled.

We, the undersigned residents of Western Australia, express our concern at the Labor Government's proposed new electoral laws, which will:

- reduce country representation in Parliament to just 15 out of 57 Legislative Assembly seats;
- increase the number of politicians in the Legislative Council, estimated to cost taxpayers at least an extra one million dollars each year;
- increase the number of politicians in the metropolitan area by 8 so that decisions regarding the allocation of government services will be dominated by the metropolitan region at the expense of the country; and
- greatly increase the size of country electorates, making it harder for country people to have personal access to their Member of Parliament; and

We respectfully request the Legislative Council to reject the Labor Government's plan and to support the Liberals' call for a referendum to let the people decide on Dr Gallop's Government's proposed electoral changes to reduce country representation in the Parliament.

And your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

[See paper No 979.]