

ELECTORAL REFORM

Petition

HON NEIL THOMSON (Mining and Pastoral) [1.03 pm]: I present an e-petition containing 2 405 signatures couched in the following terms —

To the President and Members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled. We the undersigned ...

express our dismay at the proposal to abolish another regional Legislative Assembly seat in Western Australia which further erodes and silences the voices of the Regions. We note this comes on the back of attacks on regional Western Australia including: 1. the recent implementation of unworkable Aboriginal Cultural Heritage laws 2. the removal of regional representation from the Legislative Council when no mandate was given to this at the 2021 Election 3. the proposal to shut down the live sheep trade by the Federal Government 4. the abrupt decision to end sustainable native timber harvesting. We call on the Legislative Council to stand in solidarity with regional people in the face of the ongoing assault and marginalisation of regional voices and support in the strongest terms the following: 1. The retention of existing regional Legislative Assembly seats until the 2029 election cycle. 2. The establishment of a Parliamentary Select Committee to: (a) examine how to improve our democracy with fair representation from regional people. (b) ascertain whether the electoral roll has been accurately maintained to reflect the number of eligible voters in regional and remote seats in Western Australia. (c) provide recommendations to the Parliament of Western Australia and Minister for Electoral Affairs on how to ensure a balanced and robust democracy which acknowledges the challenges of isolation and remoteness in Western Australia.

And your petitioners as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[See paper 2485.]