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18 JUN 2003

ACT ELECTORAL
COMMISSION

WESTON CREEK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

- Your Local Voice -

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17 June 2003

Redistribution Committee
ACT Electoral Commission
PO Box 272
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Dear Committee Members

ACT Legislative Assembly Electoral Boundaries Redistribution 2003 Submission by the ACT Equity Party

The Weston Creek Community Council (WCCC) would like to comment on the submission to the ACT Legislative Assembly Electoral Boundaries Redistribution 2003 by the ACT Equity Party, which presents an option that Weston Creek be split into two electorates.

In our submission accompanied by a covering letter dated 3 June 2003, we stressed the primary importance to Weston Creek residents of the electoral integrity of our district. The desire for community integrity has been reinforced since the January fires devastated much of our community.

Weston Creek is clearly an identifiable physical and social entity, something that is valued by residents who have asked us to lobby for community facilities such as a library and swimming pool. Any issue that geographically splits our 'small town' atmosphere will erode this important sense of community.

The four models proposed by the ACT Equality Party propose to split at least 2 (and sometimes 3) local communities, so they are no real improvement to the existing boundaries that split only two communities.

The Molonglo electorate covers five local communities (Weston Creek, Woden Valley, South and North Canberra and Gungahlin) while the Brindabella and Ginninderra electorates are primarily based on a single local community, or two communities with one community being substantially larger than the other. It would appear to be more democratic that the Molonglo electorate have 7 members since this electorate covers the largest number of local communities.

We reiterate our recommendation that the Committee avoid splitting local communities, but if this is not possible, that the current electorate boundaries be left unchanged. It is also preferred that our district remains in a seven-member Molonglo electorate.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Carl', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jeff Carl

Chairperson, Weston Creek Community Council