

Woden Valley

Community Council Inc

PO Box 35
WODEN ACT 2605

Electoral Redistribution Committee
PO Box 272 Civic Square ACT 2608

Dear Committee,

The Woden Valley Community Council wishes to object to the proposed 'status quo' for electoral boundaries for the 2004 elections.

We consider that the suburbs of Chifley, Pearce and Torrens are very much an integral part of Woden, and as such should join the rest of Woden's suburbs in the Molonglo Electorate. Similarly, we believe Nichols would be better placed with the remainder of Gungahlin.

We note that several of the submissions and comments relate to this matter and favour the consolidation of geographically adjacent suburbs into the one district. We also consider that both the voters and their MLA's would be better served if this were to occur.

Paragraph 17 of your review acknowledges the desirability of "avoiding, where possible, splitting suburbs and districts..." Such consolidation would, we believe, be very much in the spirit of Section 36 © of the Electoral Act which refers to communities of interest, physical features and means of communication and travel within an electorate, as relevant matters when considering boundaries.

We note however that your Review claims that these advantages are subservient to subsections (a) and (b) which refer to numbers and quotas. We are not convinced that this is how the voters view this matter. Paragraph 51 of the Review says "the Committee was not aware of any widespread dissatisfaction with the current boundary of Brindabella." We are unsure of the validity of that statement given the limited proactive publicity, the limited timeframe and the high profile of competing local, national and international issues over this period.

At the 'anecdotal' level we note that two members of our WVCC Executive live in the 'dislocated' suburbs of Chifley and Pearce and, for personal and 'community' reasons, would much prefer to be in the same electorate as the rest of our Council's Executive. We believe that the vast majority of our Council's members and friends would likewise prefer to be in the same electorate.

A simple solution, we believe, could be for all of Gungahlin and Belconnen to be in one Electorate (Ginninderra), for Central Canberra to be in Molonglo, and for Woden Valley,

Weston Creek and Tuggeranong to be in Brindabella. The number of MLA's for each Electorate would, of course, be adjusted to reflect the number of voters.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment and await the outcome of your further deliberations.

Sincerely

David Menzel
Chair, Woden Valley Community Council