

To
The Chair
Expert Reference Group

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to provide comments on this long pending issue. Table 1 and 2 of Appendices 20 shows how poor we are in representing in the different levels of Government. Is there any single reason for being underrepresented by ACT community? Now its time to fill the gap only. I strongly recommend an assembly of 35 Members, consisting of 7 electorates each returning 5 Members. I understand there is a huge financial implication on that. But the question is if Tasmania or Northern Territory can afford a few hundreds of local councillors why we cant have additional MLAs. We are tax payers too. ACT people are serving whole country. We need to negotiate with Commonwealth to provide additional costs for the members from the Local Government funds. An alternative could be keep the same size of Legislative Assembly and create 7 city councils - North Canberra, South Canberra, Belconnen, Gungahlin, Woden, Weston Creek / Molonglo and Tuggeranong.

Regards
Abu Chowdhury