

Mr Robert Altamore OAM CM BA LLB and Mrs Wendy Altamore

1 March 2013

Expert Reference Group

Inquiry Into the Size of the ACT Legislative Assembly

By email [sizeofassemblyinquiry@act.gov.au](mailto:sizeofassemblyinquiry@act.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam

We write to put our submission to the inquiry into the size of the ACT Assembly.

We record our preference for an increase in the size of the Assembly from 17 to 21 members with 3 electorates each electorate electing 7 members and with as close as possible to equal numbers of voters in each electorate.

We support an Assembly of 21 members elected on this basis as it is the fairest and most equitable and just way to elect the Assembly as each electorate elects the same number of members and has the same number of voters. The current system whereby the electorate of Molonglo has 7 members and the electorates of Ginninderra and Brindabella only have 5 members is unfair to the people in the electorates of Ginninderra and Brindabella as the electorate of Molonglo has 2 more members and has a disproportional influence on the composition of the Assembly and of the Government.

An increase in the number of Assembly members from 17 to 21 is justified to allow the Assembly to have sufficient numbers for a Ministry, a Shadow Ministry and a number of backbenchers and to enable the Assembly to do its work to provide an effective Government and an Opposition to keep the Government accountable.

We wish to record my opposition to the Labor Party proposal to increase the Assembly to 25 members with 5 electorates electing 5 members. This is too great an increase in the numbers of Assembly members for which ACT taxpayers pay. An Assembly of 25 is too large for a population the size of the ACT. An Assembly of 21 is adequate for it to perform its functions as above. Importantly, an Assembly of 5 electorates of 5 members would give an unfair advantage to the Labor and Liberal Parties and

unfairly affect smaller parties and independents because the higher quota of 16.67% would be too high to give a minor party or an independent a reasonable chance of being elected.

We are happy for our submission to be published on the Elections ACT website. We are also happy to discuss our ideas with the members of the Expert Reference Group.

Yours sincerely

Robert Altamore OAM CM BA LLB and Wendy Altamore