

Submission to the Size of the ACT Assembly Enquiry

The quantitative analysis that is reported in Tables 1-4 provides an incomplete basis for the comparison between the ACT and the States and the other Territory. The population in the ACT is centred on one town only, and comparisons that include populations in the States in dispersed and remote areas are less relevant.

Besides its Commonwealth functions, ACT Assembly is the Local Government for a small town and that town is clearly analogous to the Capital Cities of the States.

Therefore another comparison point that needs to be understood is the number of representatives per 100,000 population in Canberra and in the Capital Cities. For the latter, the ratios of the number of representatives and the population in the most significant Local Government area are requested.

Can you supply this information?

Alan Duus

Second Submission to the Size of the ACT Assembly Enquiry

In a previous submission I requested information on the numbers of elected representatives in the City Councils of the major Capital Cities. I have not received any information in response to this submission.

The information provided in the Assembly Size Discussion Paper does not provide a substantial basis on which to base an opinion on whether or not an increase in the size is justified. The comparisons in Chapter 6 of the size of the Assembly with the State Parliaments do not reflect the situation that a proportion of the Assembly's work is taken up by addressing issues that are dealt with elsewhere by City Councils. Furthermore, those issues that are dealt with elsewhere by State Parliaments can be handled much more effectively in the ACT which is essentially a one-city state with no dispersion of its population.

There should be no change to the size of the Assembly until a convincing argument for such a change has been made.

Alan Duus