

From: Woden Valley Community Council
Sent: Saturday, 4 August 2007 10:58 PM
To: Elections
Subject: Continuing bifurcation of Woden

Dear Augmented ACT Electoral Commission,

At its 1 August 2007 meeting the Woden Valley Community Council considered the July 2007 Statement of the Augmented Commission's and their proposal to transfer Farrer to the electorate of Brindabella.

The meeting expressed strong opposition to this proposal and very considerable disappointment that the continuing bifurcation of Woden appears to be preferred to a number of other options which maintain the integrity of communities of interest. In addition our meeting also strongly expressed the hope that the Augmented Commission might see fit to recommend options that would restore the integrity of Woden's other three suburbs into the one electorate.

Our meeting believes that, for too long, Woden has fallen between the cracks at the southern end of the elongated Molonglo Electorate and at the northern end of the Brindabella electorate.

The meeting considers that steps to redress this situation should be taken sooner rather than later.

WVCC noted and agrees with Mr Reynolds statement that the transfer of Farrer, and particularly placing the electorate boundary along Beasley Street, is disruptive to the redistribution criteria related to communities of interests and the boundaries of divisions. Mr Reynolds also states that there is no substantive basis for the transfer of Farrer as the current boundaries meet the numerical criteria (ie without consideration of any uncertainties associated with the projected change in elector numbers).

WVCC concurs with Mr Alan Kerlin from Gungahlin Community Council: ³Of even greater concern to us is that the electorate of Molonglo stretches from near Tuggeranong all the way to the northern ACT border, wrapping all the way around Ginninderra as well We object to this proposal as not addressing the key issues facing the Molonglo electorate now and not planning for it in the future.²

WVCC agrees with Mr John Davenport, Farrer, that "Farrer is geographically part of the Woden Valley not the Tuggeranong Valley and that (the

Commission) find some other solution to population variations within electorates.²

WVCC is unsure on what basis the The Augmented Commission states that "A more radical reshaping of the electorate map might be appropriate in the future to give fuller effect to the ³community of interest² criteria, and to allow for patterns of growth, but that time has not yet come."

WVCC believes that a relatively frequent reshaping of electoral boundaries aimed at maintaining communities of interest is preferable to cutting large swathes through communities of interest aimed simply at satisfying the numerical criteria.

WVCC appreciates the opportunity to again put forward it's views on these matters and looks forward to hearing back from you.

Sincerely,

David Menzel

Chair, Woden Valley Community Council