

**From:** John Trueman  
**Sent:** Thursday, 17 January 2013 7:20 PM  
**To:** Elections  
**Subject:** A submission re the size of the Assembly

There is much to be said, in my opinion, for making the electorates of equal size. It would give people an equal chance of having their views represented wherever they happen to live.

There is absolutely nothing to be said, again in my opinion, for increasing the size of the Assembly. Sydney gets along quite well with 10 councillors and Melbourne has 11. We do not need 17.

The argument that our situation is different because our Assembly has both State and Local functions is a furphy. The proper role of elected representatives is to provide the political direction and policy framework, and only that. Politicians should not be micro-managing the day to day work of the Territory. That task should fall to a competent administrative team headed, as in other jurisdictions, by a City Manager. There should be no need for any of the ten positions to be full-time and that would be true even if the breadth of their remit, in terms of State and Local matters discussed, is wider than in other Australian cities. A part-time Assembly was the original plan before our present full-time assembly was set up and the same could still be achieved.

There is no real reason why the ACT Assembly should have a State function. There are two options. 1. Return the ACT to Federal control as has been popularly voted for on two separate occasions, or 2. Let it take on the State law of NSW with appropriate representation on that decision-making body. My preference is for option 1 since I also would favour abolishing the NSW and other state legislatures. Australia is grossly over-governed. However, even if the ACT continues, unnecessarily, to replicate a State government function, the political input to that process does not need the present number of politicians. Ten members who together would span the range of views in the population in proportion to how common those views are, would suffice. Adelaide comes close to being a city-state, like Canberra, and it has 12 councillors in a five-way geographical split. Abandoning the geographical split would allow better representation with fewer people.

Therefore, my preferred solution is for the ACT Assembly to comprise a Single, ACT-wide electorate with Ten members.

John Trueman PhD