

ACT Electoral Commission
Ground Floor, North Building, Civic Square, London Circuit
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Redistribution Committee

RE Electoral Boundaries Redistribution 2019

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed electoral boundaries for the ACT Legislative Assembly elections in 2020. The premise of our submission is that as much as possible districts should be kept together and that the communities of the smaller districts of Woden, Weston Creek and Molonglo should be kept together as one electorate.

We make the following comments in the context of the matters to be considered:

- (i) the community of interests within each proposed electorate, including economic, social and regional interests;
- (ii) the means of communication and travel within each proposed electorate;
- (iii) the physical features and area of each proposed electorate;
- (iv) the boundaries of existing electorates; and
- (v) the boundaries of divisions and sections fixed under the *Districts Act 2002*.

Cities are the people that live in them. Within cities, geographical communities are identified for the provision of facilities and services (such as the Woden Town Centre) - hubs where people can 'live, work and play'. These communities are important for the health and well-being of their residents because they provide places for people to meet and connect with each other, they reduce social isolation.

One of the key principles of Canberra's urban structure, contained in the National Capital Plan, is a hierarchy of relatively self-contained social and commercial centres, with each town having a centre acting as a focal point for higher order retail functions, commercial services, offices and community facilities. The National Capital Plan states that continued expansion of services and facilities should be provided for and encouraged in each of the town centres.

Woden, Canberra's first town centre, is centrally located, an employment hub and has duplicated roads that provide access through bus rapid transit from surrounding regions. The Woden Town Centre services the Woden, Weston Creek and Molonglo communities.

While the Government has committed to a community centre, primarily for Woden Community Service, we have lost our CIT, the basketball stadium and we are at risk of losing the ice skating rink and the Phillip pool. Notwithstanding a new pool is being built at Stromlo, a centrally located, accessible aquatic centre is required in the Woden Town Centre. With the loss of these facilities, the opportunities to build morale and a strong, resilient community are reduced as residents drive elsewhere for social and recreational amenity.

There are concerns in Weston Creek about parking at Coleman Court and about the provision of shops – a Group Centre - in Molonglo. The level of densification (particularly in Woden and Molonglo) requires advocacy to ensure great outcomes and the recent rejection of some Development Applications demonstrates the risk of overdevelopment is real.

It is therefore vital to our community that we have strong and active representation to advocate for jobs, housing and facilities in our community, to be a champion for our community.

We therefore ask that redistribution of the electorate boundaries are considered with a view to keeping the Woden, Weston Creek and Molonglo communities together.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "FmCarrick". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a faint horizontal line.

Ms Fiona Carrick
President
Woden Valley Community Council

4 March 2019