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ACT ELECTORAL  
COMMISSION

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The Redistribution Committee  
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CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608

24 February 2011

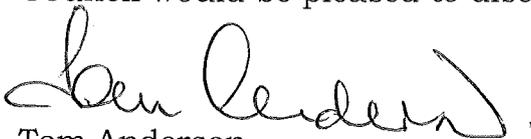
**Submission in Relation to the Proposed Electoral Boundaries for the ACT  
Legislative Electorates**

I am writing on behalf of the Weston Creek Community Council (WCCC) in relation to the proposed boundaries for the ACT Legislative Electorates.

Weston Creek is a unique part of Canberra and is the smallest District in residential Canberra situated in a well treed valley some 3 kilometres wide and 4 kilometres long. It has been described as one of the most picturesque parts of the National Capital. Neither Council nor the Community could contemplate Weston Creek being split between electorates. The eight suburbs are a community with the hub being the Coleman Court precinct.

It would appear that the Commission in past elections has made decisions to move suburbs from their "Districts" to balance the quotas required for each, electorate. While WCCC appreciates the Commission has a difficult task in balancing electorates, it is also of the opinion that Weston Creek, unlike some other 'districts', is a homogenous area that does not readily lend itself to segregation. Rather, Weston Creek should be the starting point to determine boundaries with those 'districts' that do not have any particular defining features being used to balance the overall electorate requirements.

Council would be pleased to discuss submission at any time.



Tom Anderson  
Deputy Chairman  
Weston Creek Community Council

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9 March 2011

**Submission in Relation to the Proposed Electoral Boundaries for the ACT  
Legislative Electorates**

This is a supplementary Submission on behalf of the Weston Creek Community Council (WCCC) in relation to the proposed boundaries for the ACT Legislative Electorates.

Further to my earlier Submission, I would like again to emphasise that Weston Creek is a single community and is better kept as a whole in the Molonglo Electorate. It would seem that at the last review, the Electoral Commissioners accepted this point of view as Weston Creek remained as a whole within the Molonglo Electorate. There is certainly a view that people in Weston Creek, if they have an affinity, it is with the Woden Valley rather than Tuggeranong and for shopping and bus routes this is certainly true.

WCCC notes that within the 'Legal Requirements for Redistribution', section C states that 5 matters must be considered. Items (i) and (ii) seem to cover the economic and social cohesion of an electorate and along with item (iii) point towards maintaining where possible the boundaries of what residents consider to be their 'area'. This seems to confirm the points made above and the view of the Commissioners previously.

In Table 4 there are no projected persons for either Wright or Coombs. Council understands that these areas are planned to be settled during 2012. Further, Council notes that there is a projected decrease in the suburb of Weston despite construction in the new North Weston area well under way and expected to be settled during 2012.

There is no question that the moving suburbs out of their District is one which is not accepted by the people who live there. However, the boundaries that are presently in place have been accepted by the population, albeit probably

reluctantly in the southern Woden suburbs and in Nicholls in Gungahlin. WCCC suggest to keep any changes to a minimum that the suburbs of Palmerston and Crace be moved from the Electorate of Molonglo to the Electorate of Ginninderra. This will provide a very clear boundary between the two electorates and geographically seems to be the “right” boundary. This move will then provide for the three electorates to be within the 5% of the projected quota for each Electorate. Council figures based on the information provided are as follows:

Quota for 1 member based on projections for 2012 is  
256168 divided by 17 = 15068

Therefore the number of enrolled voters in each electorate should be:

Molonglo –  $15068 \times 7 = 105476$  enrolled voters [105480 in the guide]  
Brindabella –  $15068 \times 5 = 75340$  enrolled voters [75343 in the guide]  
Ginninderra –  $15068 \times 5 = 75340$  enrolled voters [75343 in the guide]

Council’s suggestions would make the electorates as follows:

Molonglo	$112353 - 4212$ [Palmerston] - 112 Crace	$= 108029$	$+ 2.42\%$
Ginninderra	$71098 + 4212$ [Palmerston] + 112 Crace	$= 75422$	$+ 0.11\%$
Brindabella	- as projected	$72717$	$- 3.49\%$

Again I would just like to repeat that Council strongly supports keeping Weston Creek suburbs in the one electorate and that the Electorate be that of Molonglo.

Council would be pleased to discuss this submission at any time.

Tom Anderson  
Deputy Chairman  
Weston Creek Community Council