

Woden Valley Community Council Inc.

PO Box 280 Woden ACT 2606; e-mail info@wvcc.org.au; ph. 0420529747

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

Email: elections@act.gov.au

Dear Augmented Electoral Commission

Objection to the Redistribution Committee's Proposed Redistribution

The Woden Valley Community Council (WVCC) would like to register its strong objection to the Redistribution Committee's proposed redistribution of the ACT electoral boundaries. The bifurcation of Woden, with the town split across the electorate of Molonglo and Brindabella has been a long-standing concern of the WVCC. We are very disappointed that this issue has not been resolved in the proposed redistribution.

Notwithstanding the primary criteria of quotas that must be met, it would appear that criterion (c)(iv) to consider 'the boundaries of existing electorates' has been the primary consideration, and that criteria (c)(i) to consider 'the community of interests within each proposed electorate, including economic, social and regional interests' and (c)(iii) 'the physical features and area of each proposed electorate' have not been adequately addressed, despite the Committee having stated in its report that it 'considered that these criteria were best met by avoiding, where possible, splitting suburbs and districts and by selecting boundaries which clearly separate communities'.

The current situation of representation with one part of Woden being on the periphery of the electorate of Brindabella, primarily comprising the Tuggeranong Valley, and the other part of Woden being on the periphery of the electorate of Molonglo that stretches all the way to the northern part of Gungahlin is most unsatisfactory. The WVCC has found that the bifurcation of Woden in this way has resulted in, with few exceptions, inadequate

representation by our elected members of the Legislative Assembly, and the issues facing our town being 'off the radar'.

The suburbs of Chifley, Farrer, Pearce and Torrens are part of the Woden Valley, not the Tuggeranong Valley, from both a geographic, demographic and community point of view. It is our view that the issues of concern in the Woden Valley are similar across all the suburbs in the Valley and would be best served by having local members responsible for an electorate that contains the Woden Valley as a whole.

While we understand the constraints of the current electoral legislation and criteria that the Commission must adhere to, we would suggest that the starting point of the redistribution process be that as far as possible, none of the towns of Canberra should be split across electorates. While there may be some initial (and we believe relatively minor) disruption to members and the electorates that they serve, this would provide better long-term outcomes for the residents of the Woden Valley, and we would suggest, for all residents of Canberra.

We request that the Augmented Electoral Commission consider this objection and restore the integrity of Woden's suburbs into the one electorate under the 'Second Proposed Redistribution'.

The WVCC appreciates the opportunity to again put forward its views and looks forward to a positive response.

Yours sincerely



Shirley Lithgow
Secretary
WVCC

2 June 2011