

Your local voice



Talking Points for the Augmented Electoral Commission inquiry into ACT Electorate Re-Distribution – 4 June 2018

Thank you for the opportunity to elaborate on our Submission – I will try to be brief

I have said in the Council's Submission that Woden has been affected by the Electoral Boundaries under the ACT Government. You only need to look at what has happened here over the time that Woden has been split as an Electorate:

Woden was split 8 to 3 in suburbs [Torrens, Pearce and Chifley] from 1995 to 2008 and 8 to 4 [Farrer] from 2008 to 2016 in suburbs between the ACT electorates Molonglo and Brindabella.

- Employment has dropped markedly
- Buildings are run-down and boarded up
- Shops have closed over the years

So, my plea to you is to consider the consequences of your decision on the boundary between the Electorates of Bean and Canberra.

In my view the ACT politicians really didn't care for Woden as there were not enough votes there to matter.

Now Woden is in the one ACT electorate along with Weston Creek, Molonglo and the suburb of Kambah. There are 5 Members who now have responsibility for these areas and the corner has turned.

It is only now that there seems to be investment and employment returning to the Town Centre.

Consequently, splitting Woden again could leave it out in the cold once more.

If nothing more could be done I would urge the Committee to include all of Phillip in the Electorate of Bean as this would place all of the Town Centre

with the majority of suburbs of Woden, and the Districts of Weston Creek and Molonglo.

I am aware of the statistics in this and the calculations. I am of the opinion that all of Phillip can be included in Bean and still be within the proposed projections for 2022. This can be achieved as Page 75 shows 1741 electors in 2022 in Phillip bringing the total in Bean to 101,156 while the Electorate of Canberra reduces to 96,894. Both would still be within the stated limits.

If any other Suburbs could be similarly moved into Bean this would be an improvement. For example, if Norfolk Island were moved to Canberra as well as Hume this would reduce Bean by 759 voters and if Lyons were brought into Bean then the total projected for 2022 would be 103,312 just above the limit of 103,138. It would be good if the ACT East included in Bean could be moved out [229 electors] then this would allow Lyons to be included in Bean. My only concern is that I am unsure as to where the voters in ACT East actually live.

Thank you for the opportunity to make these points today.

Tom Anderson
Chair
Weston Creek Community Council