



Redistribution Secretariat for the ACT
Australian Electoral Commission
Locked Bag 4007
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Sir/Madam

Woden Valley Community Council submission to the ACT Federal electorate redistribution

The Woden Valley Community Council (WVCC) appreciates the opportunity to provide this submission in response to the Federal redistribution of the ACT electorates. The WVCC objects to the proposed boundaries because they split the Woden Community and split the Woden Town Centre from the majority of people it services.

Cities are the people that live in them. Within cities, geographical communities (such as the Woden Town Centre) are identified for the provision of facilities and services - 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. A map of Canberra's Town Centres at **Attachment A**.

Woden, Canberra's first town centre, is centrally located, an employment hub and has duplicated roads that provide bus rapid transit from surrounding regions. The Woden Town Centre services around 70,000 people in the Woden, Weston Creek and Molonglo communities.

Unfortunately, in recent decades our community has suffered from the decline of amenity and community facilities. Woden has never had a community/cultural centre, our CIT and the basketball stadium have closed and the pool and ice skating rink are at risk of closure should a new ice rink be built. The opportunities to build morale and a strong, resilient community are reduced as residents drive to other districts for social and recreational amenity.

Woden has become a graffiti hot spot, we host derelict buildings that attract young people to illegally enter, we are seeing higher instances of anti-social behavior and data shows that people feel unsafe in our central areas at night.

The primary objection of the WVCC to the redistribution boundaries is the splitting of the representation for our community.

It is vital to our community that we have a strong and active representative to advocate for jobs, amenity and facilities for our community, to be a champion for our community.

The Woden Town Centre is the social and economic hub for Woden, Weston Creek and Molonglo and under the proposed distribution, not only will the Woden community be split, the Town Centre will be separated from the majority of the community it services.

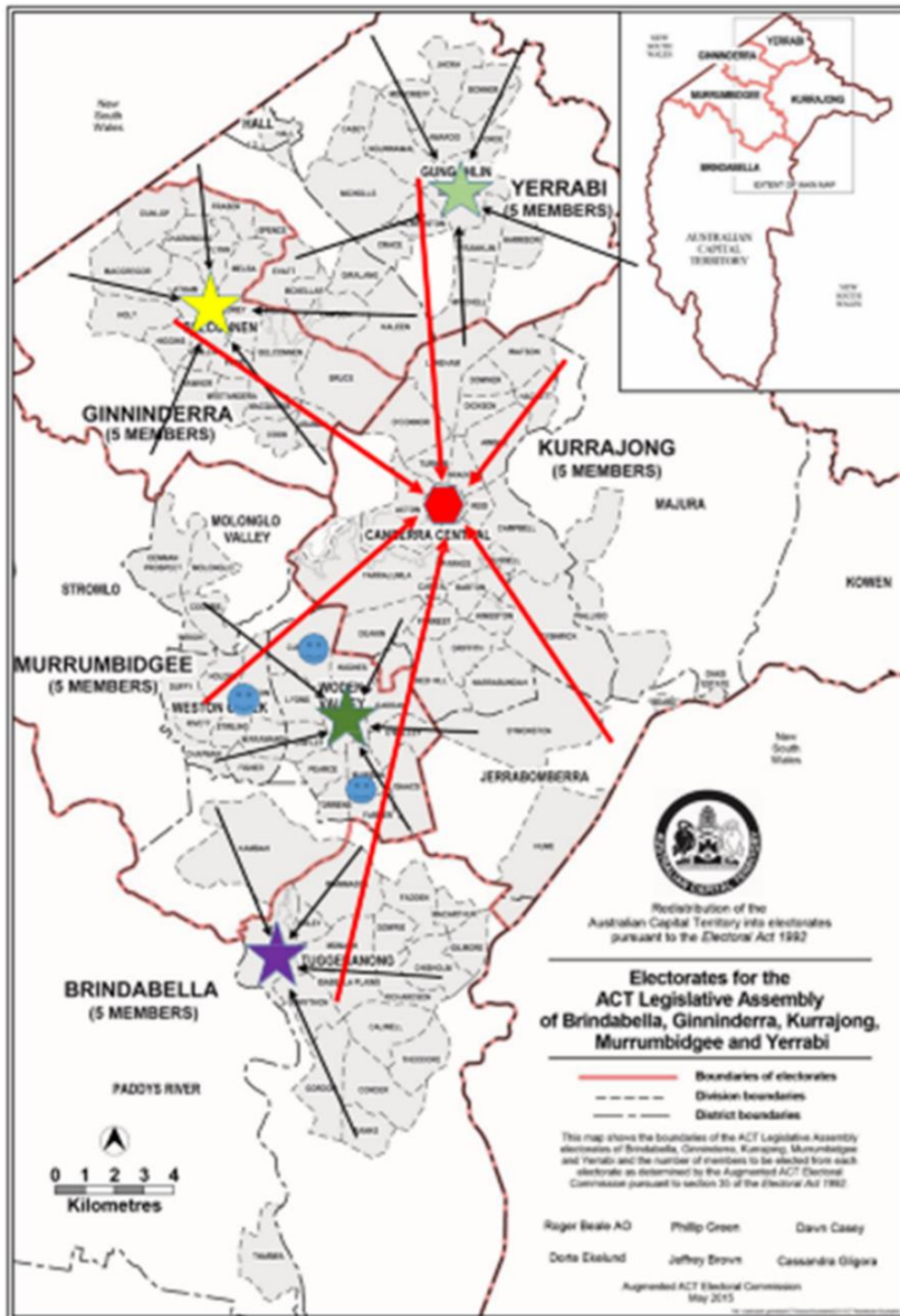
While the conclusion that the electoral divisions be focused on the northern, central and southern areas of the ACT may be appropriate, the WVCC objects to the divisions being based on roads rather than communities of interest.

We therefore ask that the electorate boundaries are reconsidered with a view to keeping the Woden community together and for the Woden Town Centre to be located within the communities it services.

Yours sincerely

Ms Fiona Carrick
President
Woden Valley Community Council

The National Capital Plan – the Urban Hierarchy



Red – the City
 Stars – Town Centres
 Blue circles – Woden’s Group Centres