

Rafferty, Janice

From: Kiermaier, Max
Sent: Tuesday, 20 March 2012 11:38 AM
To: Duncan, Tom
Cc: Rafferty, Janice
Subject: FW: Self govt inquiry

fyi

Max

From: Stefaniak, Bill
Sent: Tuesday, 20 March 2012 9:59 AM
To: Kiermaier, Max
Subject: RE: Self govt inquiry

Dear Max, I set out below my submission. Please pass it on, thanks.

Self government enquiry.

1. As the ACT is covered in the Constitution it can never be a state, unlike the NT. This means that the federal parliament has some ultimate say over the ACT. This effects things like the leasehold system for example. However, in my view the Self Government Act can still be amended to ensure the ACT has maximum say about its own affairs.
2. The ACT needs to be able to legislate for such things as 999 year leases and to determine how many members and how many ministers there are in the Assembly. In my view we should go to 25 members now. We do not need any more, (even if the ACT grew to 600,000 people) due to the fact that we are, effectively, a city state. The geographic make up of the ACT makes the breakup of these electorates fairly obvious. They should in my view be, 1 Belconnen, 2. Gungahlin and Hall, 3 Inner North and inner South Canberra.4. Woden Weston and 5. Tuggeranong. We probably don't need to tinker around the edges, even though initially Gungahlin would not have as many electors as the others. This, however will rapidly change. Some minor tinkering may be justified if for example, the new developments of Molonglo ends up greatly increasing the size of Woden Weston and if urban infill effected numbers to a significant degree.
3. The number of ministers in my view should be set at 6. (including the chief minister). This then allows a party winning 13 seats to elect a speaker and still have 6 back benchers available for committees. As most assemblies will only have minority governments of 10, 11 or 12. This still allows a government to have a back bench. (of 3,4 or 5). Having been a minister in a cabinet of 4 and a cabinet of 5, I can say that it was not all that hard running your departments if you were one of 5 (providing you were reasonably competent). It was a bit of a stretch if there was only 4 in the cabinet. 6 allows for a greater sharing of the load again. We do not in my view need more. We do not the geographical spread the NT does which might justify their bigger ministry.
4. The assembly building need not be altered much, although the ministry could be accommodated in the city north building or somewhere else close by if need be.
5. despite the obvious reservations of ACT citizens in the late 80's, self government has served the people of the ACT well (certainly at least as well as other states and the NT.) The standard of all governments has generally been of a fairly high standard compared with other Australian Jurisdictions and some further tweaking of the Self Government Act will improve governance further.

Yours sincerely

Bill Stefaniak ,(Occasional- Minister, Opposition leader, Deputy Speaker , Committee Chair and member of the 1st to 6th Assembly inclusive.)

From: Kiermaier, Max

Sent: Thursday, 8 March 2012 2:31 PM

To: Stefaniak, Bill

Subject: Self govt inquiry

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