



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

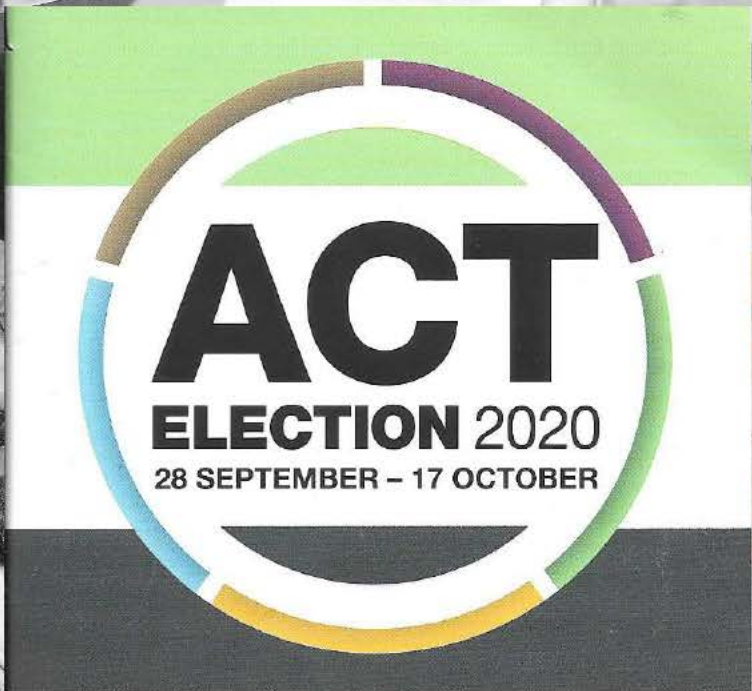
Mr Jeremy Hanson MLA (Chair), Dr Marisa Paterson (Deputy Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into 2020 ACT Election and the Electoral Act

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Inquiry into 2020 ACT
Election and the Electoral
Act

Submission by Martin Miller

Inquiry into 2020 ACT Election and the Electoral Act

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Dear Committee Chair,

As a long time Canberran, I have voted in every ACT election since the first election in 1989. While some may say the first few years were chaotic with the numerous parties, over the years the ACT Assembly became more refined. With only three parties dominating the ACT Assembly 25 seats.

But is it now too refined, rigid or even stale. The major parties now seem to have the monopoly in the assembly. Vote according party lines, questions without notice are not without notice but are 'Dorothy Dixers'¹ and committee hearings are just going through the motions. With committee recommendations either *agreed to*, *noted* or *not agreed*. This according to which party you are from. Yes there are new assembly members but the need for real independent voices is severely lacking.

Did the ACT Electorate not want to vote for an independent? Is the system rigged against independents? Does the Hare Clarke system favour political parties? There hasn't been an independent elected to the ACT assembly since 1998! The ACT election and election results by the ACT Electoral commission, has become too 'party' focused. An example of this, is those seeking election as an 'independent' are put together in an upgrouped column which the ACT Electoral commission has labelled a 'party' since 2008 (obviously for simplicity reasons). The ungrouped term has been used in the ACT since 1992.

Candidate	Votes	Percent	Quotas
Ginninderra			
CHURCHILL, Darren	190	0.3%	0
HIRD, Harold	711	1.2%	0.1
McILHONEY, Cathy	245	0.4%	0
PARTON, Mark	3767	6.3%	0.4
SARKIS, Eddie	90	0.2%	0
SMITH, Barry	119	0.2%	0
VERWEY, Adam	166	0.3%	0
Electorate Total	5285	8.9%	0.5
Molonglo			
CROSS, Helen	1111	1.3%	0.1
FARRELL, Tony	173	0.2%	0
TANNAHILL, Greg	198	0.2%	0
TARANTO, Kerri	152	0.2%	0
Electorate Total	1634	1.9%	0.2
Ungrouped Total	6922	3.3%	

ACT Electors are supposed to vote for individual candidates and number 1 to 5 so why is our Ballot paper layout like a senate voting sheet? The only thing missing on the ACT election ballot layout is the above the line voting and the ballot paper would look exactly the same. But our multi member electorates are supposed to be more like a house of representatives ballot sheet. Given that we do not have an upper house or house of review as it is sometimes called. So the ballot paper should reflect this. Why do we need to put candidates by party in their party columns?


¹ <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/dorothy-dixer>

Is it to make it easier for the parties?, The voter ? Or the ACT Electoral commission ?

Australian Senate Voting ballot layout:

Q <input type="checkbox"/> or AUSTRALIAN VOICE PARTY	R <input type="checkbox"/> or AUSTRALIAN INDEPENDENTS	S <input type="checkbox"/> or THE GREENS	T <input type="checkbox"/> or	U <input type="checkbox"/> or STOP CSG	V <input type="checkbox"/> or KATTER'S AUSTRALIAN PARTY	W <input type="checkbox"/> or PALMER UNITED PARTY		Y <input type="checkbox"/> or ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY	Z <input type="checkbox"/> or AUSTRALIAN MOTORING ENTHUSIAST PARTY	AA <input type="checkbox"/> or THE WIKILEAKS PARTY	AB <input type="checkbox"/> or AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS
Q AUSTRALIAN VOICE PARTY	R AUSTRALIAN INDEPENDENTS	S THE GREENS	T	U STOP CSG	V KATTER'S AUSTRALIAN PARTY	W PALMER UNITED PARTY	X	Y ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY	Z AUSTRALIAN MOTORING ENTHUSIAST PARTY	AA THE WIKILEAKS PARTY	AB AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS
<input type="checkbox"/> SHMUEL Immanuel AUSTRALIAN VOICE PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SHAW Samantha AUSTRALIAN INDEPENDENTS	<input type="checkbox"/> RICE Janet THE GREENS	<input type="checkbox"/> TOSCANO Joseph	<input type="checkbox"/> THORROWGOOD Roger Hugh STOP CSG	<input type="checkbox"/> DANIELI Robert KATTER'S AUSTRALIAN PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> MICHAEL Barry PALMER UNITED PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSANDINE Peter THE AUSTRALIAN REPUBLICANS	<input type="checkbox"/> POON Bruce ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> MUIR Ricky AUSTRALIAN MOTORING ENTHUSIAST PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> ASSANGE Julian THE WIKILEAKS PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> COLLYER David AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS
<input type="checkbox"/> HUGHES Vern AUSTRALIAN VOICE PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> WOOD Yvonne AUSTRALIAN INDEPENDENTS	<input type="checkbox"/> MCCARTHY Therit Mark THE GREENS	<input type="checkbox"/> MATTHEWS Beth	<input type="checkbox"/> VAN ROSMALEN Adele STOP CSG	<input type="checkbox"/> COSTABILE David KATTER'S AUSTRALIAN PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> HAWKINS Douglas JAMES PALMER UNITED PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> PORTORS Clinton THE AUSTRALIAN REPUBLICANS	<input type="checkbox"/> DAVISON Sarah ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> GILL Craig A AUSTRALIAN MOTORING ENTHUSIAST PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> CANNOLD Leslie THE WIKILEAKS PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> HOWE Roger AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS
		<input type="checkbox"/> TRUONG Thi Viet Huong THE GREENS				<input type="checkbox"/> PALMAN Penny Maree PALMER UNITED PARTY				<input type="checkbox"/> KAMPMARK Binoy THE WIKILEAKS PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> ISGRO Sarina AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS
		<input type="checkbox"/> CHRISTOE Ian J THE GREENS									<input type="checkbox"/> RAINES Greg AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS
		<input type="checkbox"/> SEKHON Gurm THE GREENS									<input type="checkbox"/> LIVESAY Robert AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS
		<input type="checkbox"/> HUMPHREYS Robert THE GREENS									<input type="checkbox"/> GRUMME Richard AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS

ACT Legislative Assembly Ballot:

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Ballot Paper Election of 5 Members 2020 Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory

Electorate of Murrumbidgee

Number five boxes from 1 to 5 in the order of your choice

You may then show as many further preferences as you wish by writing numbers from 6 onwards in other boxes

A ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY	B SUSTAINABLE AUSTRALIA - STOP OVERDEVELOPMENT. STOP CORRUPTION.	C THE ACT GREENS	D SHOOTERS, FISHERS AND FARMERS PARTY (ACT)	E ACT LABOR	F AUSTRALIAN CLIMATE CHANGE JUSTICE PARTY	G CANBERRA LIBERALS	H CANBERRA PROGRESSIVES	UNGROUPED
<input type="checkbox"/> Edmund HANDBY	<input type="checkbox"/> Jill MAIL	<input type="checkbox"/> Terry BAKER	<input type="checkbox"/> Gordon YEATMAN	<input type="checkbox"/> Brendan LONG	<input type="checkbox"/> Rohan BYRNES	<input type="checkbox"/> Amardeep SINGH	<input type="checkbox"/> Stephen LIN	<input type="checkbox"/> Brendan WHYTE INDEPENDENT
<input type="checkbox"/> Yana del VALLE	<input type="checkbox"/> Geoff BUCKMASTER	<input type="checkbox"/> Tjanara GORENG GORENG	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark GILMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/> Bec CODY	<input type="checkbox"/> Jackson HILLMAN	<input type="checkbox"/> Giulia JONES	<input type="checkbox"/> Robert KNIGHT	<input type="checkbox"/> Fiona CARRICK INDEPENDENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> Emma DAVIDSON		<input type="checkbox"/> Chris STEEL	<input type="checkbox"/> Peter VEENSTRA	<input type="checkbox"/> Sarah SUJINE		<input type="checkbox"/> Lee PERREN-LEVERIDGE INDEPENDENT
				<input type="checkbox"/> Marisa PATERSON	<input type="checkbox"/> Richard FORNER	<input type="checkbox"/> Ed COCKS		
				<input type="checkbox"/> Tim DOBSON	<input type="checkbox"/> Andrew DEMETRIOS	<input type="checkbox"/> Jeremy HANSON		

Remember, number at least five boxes from 1 to 5 in the order of your choice

1 + 1

The House of Representatives Ballot. (No Columns)

The recent federal Election for Eden-Monaro had a candidate list of 14 .



Recommendation :Changes to Voting Ballot

Proposed layout for ACT electoral ballots : (no columns)
Mixed parties and independents . No party columns or ungrouped columns.

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Ballot Paper Election of 5 Members 2020 Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory

Electorate of Murrumbidgee

Number five boxes from 1 to 5 in the order of your choice

Edmund HANDBY ANIMAL JUSTICE	Jill MAIL SUSTAINABLE AUSTRALIA	Terry BAKER ACT GREENS	Gordon YEATHMAN SHOOTERS, FISHERS AND FARMERS PARTY	Brendan WHYTE INDEPENDENT	Rohan BYRNES AUSTRALIAN CLIMATE CHANGE JUSTICE	Amardeep SINGH CANBERRA LIBERALS	Stephen LIN CANBERRA PROGRESSIVES
Emma DAVIDSON ACT GREENS	Tim DOBSON ACT LABOR	Andrew DEMETRIOS AUSTRALIAN CLIMATE CHANGE JUSTICE	Jeremy HANSON CANBERRA LIBERALS	Chris STEELE ACT LABOR	Peter VEENSTRA AUSTRALIAN CLIMATE CHANGE JUSTICE	Sarah SUIINE CANBERRA LIBERALS	Marisa PATERSON ACT LABOR
Yana del VALLE ANIMAL JUSTICE	Lee PERREN- LEVERIDGE INDEPENDENT	Tjanara GORENG GORENG ACT GREENS	Mark GILMAYER SHOOTERS, FISHERS AND FARMERS PARTY	Bec CODDY ACT LABOR	Jackson HILLMAN AUSTRALIAN CLIMATE CHANGE JUSTICE	Giulia JONES CANBERRA LIBERALS	Robert KNIGHT CANBERRA PROGRESSIVES
Geoff BUCKMASTER SUSTAINABLE AUSTRALIA	Brendan LONG ACT LABOR	Fiona CARRICK INDEPENDENT	Richard FORNER AUSTRALIAN CLIMATE CHANGE JUSTICE	Ed COCKS CANBERRA LIBERALS			

1 Remember, number at least five boxes from 1 to 5 in the order of your choice 1

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I believe that this is a much fairer layout giving candidates an overall even setting , rather than party centric ballots. Rotation of candidate ballot lists (Robson rotation)can still take place . Would this take longer to count? Maybe , but then Hare Clark is a long drawn out process anyway. Plus the move to electronic voting and a six week voting window will make little difference in the over counting process.

Further Recommendations:

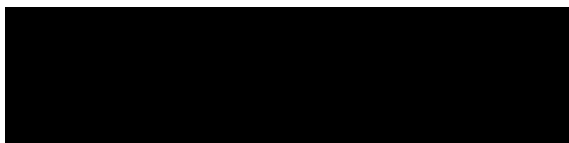
Another consideration is to reduce the major party candidates number from five to three maximum per electorate . Past elections show that the maximum a party can achieve per electorate is 3 candidates elected anyway. Even when there was a seven member electorate of Molonglo. This would help minor parties and independents and achieve a more diverse assembly. The ACT Greens have shown in last years election with only 3 candidates per electorate their vote increased from 2016 to 2020. This also with no roadside signs/core-flutes .

Core-flute signs seem to play a role for candidates but as the greens have shown they are not entirely necessary. They did allow signs at private homes and were holding up signs at major intersections. Should they (core flutes) be removed altogether , in my opinion no, but there should be a limited to how many a candidate can display and where they are placed. There should be no more than 50 (not including A frames at shops) and the rules where road signs are placed should be tightened further, and only at certain sites within the electorates.

Candidate signs at outside election booths should be allowed but no more than one or two per candidate. Rather than the 150 metre away rule. But keep Party /Independent volunteers away from Election Booths with how to vote cards/flyers.

The rules regarding nomination of non party candidates requiring 20 signatures from electors should be reduced or removed.

Kind Regards



Martin Miller
Resident of the Murrumbidgee Electorate.

30th April 2021