



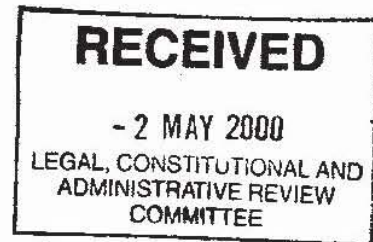
Kate Carnell MLA

Chief Minister

Member for Molonglo
Australian Capital Territory

20 April 2000

Mr Gary Fenlon MLA
Chair
Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Q 4000



Submission No. 8

Dear Mr Fenlon

Thank you for your letter of 13 April 2000 inviting submissions on our experience with four year parliamentary terms.

In the ACT the parliamentary term is three years, with election day fixed on the third Saturday of every third October.

Some interest has been expressed – mainly by some parliamentarians and academics – in moving to four year terms, but the proposal is not supported by a majority of Members in the Legislative Assembly on the grounds that it is perceived as being unpopular in the community. It is important to note that in the ACT there is minority government (the Liberal Party currently has 6 members in the Assembly of 17 and relies on Independents to govern) so any suggestions of amending legislation to provide for four year parliamentary terms would have to have clear cross-party support.

I found your background paper interesting and the arguments persuasive. However, this issue in the ACT is likely to be decided primarily by perceptions of community reaction.

I would be most interested to read the outcome of your review.

Yours sincerely

Kate Carnell MLA
Chief Minister

26 APR 2000

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