

Date: Friday, 11 March 2011 12:05:36 PM

m **Peter M. Gately**

10 March 2011

The Chairman
Senate Inquiry – ACT Self Government – Disallowance and Amendment Power of the Commonwealth Bill
2010
Canberra

Dear Sir,

In relation to the above matter I wish to make the following submission. I would ask the Australian Parliament to either continue with the Status Quo or revert back to full ministerial control of the A.C.T.

However, if the Parliament decided to free themselves of the present veto over A.C.T. laws, then a “House of Review/ Upper House” be established.

Territorial residents deserve a more democratic and less dictatorial approach to governance than we bear at present – where – for example – the sham and farcical Community engagements are a charade of power play by the A.C.T. Government.

The Federal Parliament thrust self-government onto the A.C.T. residents despite some 75% of A.C.T. people voting against it.

If now the Parliament wish to walk away from their power to over-ride A.C.T. Legislation, then at least give A.C.T. Territorians the right to ensure a Legislative Review of any proposed laws.

It may well be that residents vote for the same party to control both houses. However, it would be naïve to assume that voters are unable to differentiate between the power exercised by both Houses as practised in the State Parliaments.

Electing members to a Lower House, and electing other representatives to an Upper House will be in the voters’ overall best interests.

I believe that is what “Self-Government” is supposed to be all about.

Yours Sincerely

Peter Gately