

From: Jodie Pipkorn
Sent: Friday, 5 August 2011 10:33 AM
To: Elections
Subject: ACT Electoral Boundary proposed changes - submission

To whom it may concern

Thank you for the opportunity to make further submissions on the redistribution of the ACT Electoral Boundaries. I acknowledge the difficulty the Commission faces in making an equitable decision. However, **Lyneham and O'Connor belong in the 'inner-city/Canberra central' boundary** and following are my key points as to why:

Separating O'Connor/Lyneham from inner-city will undermine densification

Although the Commission has accepted that Gungahlin Drive is a natural barrier between O'Connor/Lyneham and that they have stronger links with the adjacent north Canberra suburbs, I completely disagree. The culture of both O'Connor and Lyneham is very much connected to the inner city. These suburbs, particularly with their increasing densities, are increasingly becoming more connected to the city and to separate them in the electoral boundaries would completely undermine the densification that is occurring.

O'Connor and Lyneham are very much connected to the inner city

The issues faced by O'Connor and Lyneham are much more closely related to the changes taking place in the city, not related to the newer suburbs. These suburbs are well-established and are very much focused on increasing densities. This is very different to what Belconnen and Gungahlin are dealing with. In addition, the greater densification of these areas increases the connection within the community.

Decisions now need to consider longer term strategic directions

Changing electoral boundaries now should be considering future growth plans. Lyneham and O'Connor are increasing densities, along with other outer areas like Molonglo. Consideration now should be given to increasing electorates to 7-member electorates rather than 5 and, if decided that these changes should happen in the future, then any solutions now should be looking for the least disruption to residents - ie. moving the low population areas like Crace and Palmerston at this stage and communicating the future plans which will potentially move them back at some point. This would be consistent with the Crace and Palmerston dealing with similar issues to that of Belconnen or Gungahlin and the fact that both of these areas are relatively new and connections to place are not as deep-seeded as the connections to place that inner areas have.

Regards

Jodie Pipkorn