

MURRAY WILLIAMSON

23 February, 2000

Mr Phillip Green  
Electoral Commissioner  
ACT Electoral Commission  
PO Box 272  
CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608

Dear Mr Green,

**Redistribution of ACT Legislative Assembly electoral boundaries**

Thank you for your letter of 15 February inviting me to submit a written suggestion for boundaries and names for the ACT's electorates.

The criticisms I made of the current boundaries related to the Gungahlin area being included in the Molonglo Electorate and thus joined with the electors of distant Woden and Weston Creek with whom they share few interests; and the inclusion of three suburbs in Woden in the Brindabella electorate.

On trying my hand at a more logical distribution, I appreciate the difficulties faced by the Redistribution Committee, largely because of the inflexibility of the 7, 5, 5 numbers of members for the three electorates.

I note that:

- Under the projected enrolments for 20 October 2001, Molonglo is too big and must cede some suburbs to either Ginninderra or Brindabella.
- Tuggeranong has too few electors to constitute an electorate in its own right. While logic would suggest that the suburbs of Chifley, Pearce and Torrens be restored to Molonglo where the rest of the Woden valley is allocated, the residual number of electors in Brindabella would fall to less than 95 of quota for a 5-member electorate.

I agree with the suggestion that Ginninderra might be changed to a 7 member electorate by adding Gungahlin and parts of Northern Canberra.

- Combination of Belconnen and Gungahlin makes sense in terms of geography and communality of interest. My limited observation is that many Gungahlin residents are former Belconnen residents. Gungahlin residents use Belconnen for its shopping centre and the fruit markets, for schooling, swimming and for emergency hospital services, while Belconnen residents use Gungahlin for its

emerging services, particularly golf courses.

Unfortunately the mere amalgamation of Gungahlin and Belconnen does not solve the problem. It would leave both the enlarged Ginninderra and the reduced Molonglo electorates with more electors than are permissible for a 5-member electorate but not enough for a 7 member electorate. To increase Gungahlin to the size required for a 7-member electorate requires the transfer of further suburbs from Molonglo. The logical area from which those suburbs must come is North Canberra, which is contiguous with Belconnen and Gungahlin.

- The northern suburbs of Canberra have less in common with Belconnen and Gungahlin than they do with their neighbouring North Canberra suburbs.
- However, there are some areas of common interest. In particular, both Gungahlin and the Northern suburbs of central Canberra are vitally concerned with the vexed question of road access from Gungahlin and road access from the Barton and Federal highways to central and Southern Canberra. Each of the three areas proposed for the new Ginninderra – Belconnen, Gungahlin and North Canberra – are serviced by the Mitchell Industrial area and the Belconnen tip. The three areas have direct public transport links.

I do not favour the alternative suggestion of combining Weston Creek with Belconnen and Gungahlin – Weston Creek is a completely separate and remote identity in terms of geography and interests. . Weston Creek must logically stay with Woden.

I attach a table showing the detail of my suggestion.

As to possible names for the amended electorates, I think Ginninderra and Brindabella remain appropriate.

- One might argue that Molonglo is a little less appropriate name for that electorate under the new boundaries because there will be far fewer electors North of the lake/river. Would Yarralumla be a suitable alternative, in terms of an old district name which is located centrally in the new boundaries?

Yours Sincerely,

Murray Williamson

## PROPOSED REDISTRIBUTION OF ACT ELECTORATES

<b>Electorate size:</b>	<b>5-member</b>	<b>7-member</b>
Quotas based on projected enrollments Oct 2001	89307	63791
Permissible range (plus or minus 5%)	84841 - 93772	60601 - 67169

	<b>Ginninderra</b>	<b>Molonglo</b>	<b>Brindabella</b>
Projected enrolments 20 October 1991	59345	94335	63208
	<i>Out of range</i>	<i>Out of range</i>	<i>5 members</i>

### **Proposed adjustments**

#### **Step A. Add Gungahlin to Belconnen**

	Plus	Minus	
Amaroo	1742	1742	
Mitchell	2	2	
Ngunnawal	5576	5576	
Nicholls	3039	3039	
Palmerston	3883	3883	
Gungahlin - Balance	335	335	
Balance: A	73922	79758	63208
<i>Result</i>	<i>Out of range</i>	<i>Out of range</i>	<i>5 members</i>

#### **Step B. In addition, transfer some North Canberra suburbs to Ginninderra**

	<b>Ginninderra</b>	<b>Molonglo</b>	<b>Brindabella</b>
	Plus	Minus	
Lyneham	3086	3086	
O'Connor	3348	3348	
Downer	2355	2355	
Watson	2620	2620	
Dickson	1389	1389	
Hackett	2195	2195	
Balance:	88915	64765	63208
<i>Result</i>	<i>7 members</i>	<i>5 members</i>	<i>5 members</i>
Quota	89307	63791	63791
Variation from quota	-0.04%	1.52%	-0.91%