

Members of the Redistribution Committee

Brief comments on submissions

The Proportional Representation Society of Australia (Australian Capital Territory Branch) has closely examined those submissions that addressed themselves wholly or predominantly to matters within your province.

None of the proposals for major boundary changes makes an argument that population shifts over the past three years greatly strengthen the case being presented. This amounts to their questioning the appropriateness of the boundaries that were used in 1998 with minimal public disquiet. The ACT Branch therefore urges the Redistribution Committee to reaffirm the desirability of providing voters with stable boundaries in such circumstances, and to again rule out engaging in exercises that disrupt communities far more than they can be asserted to provide benefits from better collocation.

In that regard, close attention should be paid to the submission of the Weston Creek Community Council, which makes very clear the local feeling of incompatibility with Ginninderra, indicating a preference to be joined with Brindabella if it cannot remain part of Molonglo. North Canberra Community Council raises the additional burdens on voluntary organisations like itself in lobbying Members of the Legislative Assembly in the event that their areas were divided between two electorates, and states its opposition to such fragmentation.

The ACT Branch points out that, on available projections, enrolments in the expanded Ginninderra proposed by Malcolm Mackerras would be outside the allowed variation by the time of the 2004 general elections, and therefore we believe his suggestion is unsuitable on the grounds of such instability.

Our view remains that simply shifting Nicholls from Molonglo to Ginninderra is the best way in which the Redistribution Committee can discharge its obligations, and we are pleased to find both the Liberal and Labor Parties in agreement with us on this occasion.

Bogey Musidlak

Convenor

Proportional Representation Society of Australia (Australian Capital Territory Branch)

29 March 2000