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ACT ELECTORAL
COMMISSION

91 Twamley Crescent
RICHARDSON ACT 2905

24 July 2003

ACT Electoral Commission
PO Box 272
CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608

Proposed Redistribution of Electoral Boundaries

I wish to lodge objections to the proposal to redistribute electoral boundaries in the ACT.

Firstly, the advertisement in local papers on the subject does not propose to change any boundary, and indeed contains the statement:

"The Committee proposes that the current electoral boundaries for the Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly remain unchanged."

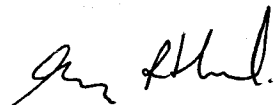
The advertisement then contradicts itself by continuing to refer to a proposed redistribution, despite the above quoted extract from the advertisement. Misleading?

My second objection relates to the lost opportunity this represents to equalise the number of members representing each electorate. This could mean increasing the number of members by one to 18, six members for each electorate. However, this may not be politically acceptable for a number of reasons, the least being that the general public does not like to see more politicians. Conversely, the numbers could be reduced to 15.

If this is not possible, and the Legislative Assembly does not wish to lead any general community debate on changes to the size of the assembly, then the size of Molongo (7 members) should be reduced, with a compensating increase to either Gininderra or Brindabella (5 members each) to minimise the difference in numbers. The current discrepancy in numbers of members for the electorates means that the votes required for candidates to be successful at elections is different, and true representation of voters intentions may not necessarily be achieved.

It should be a normal or routine task of the Electoral Commission to propose a levelling out of the electorates, and this is not evident in the current proposal, which is not to change any boundary.

Yours sincerely



Garry Haensel