

From: Carol Kee
Sent: Saturday, 23 July 2011 3:11 PM
To: Elections
Subject: submission re new electoral boundaries in ACT

Dear Electoral Commission

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on your proposals to change electoral boundaries in the ACT.

Purpose: To vigorously oppose the intention to remove Turner, O'Connor and Lyneham from Molongolo to Gungahlin electorates.

1. The inner north suburbs are part of a cohesive and dynamic community, developed from like interests, philosophies and demographics, over a long period of time.
2. Turner, O'Connor and Lyneham have been established for well over 50 years. Gungahlin suburbs are very new by comparison.
3. By definition almost, the older suburbs have different interests and local problems to those of more recently established suburbs.
4. The older Gungahlin suburbs (still less than 15-20 years old) have a great deal in common with Belconnen suburbs (e.g. Gungahlin and Belconnen have major issues with town planning, roads, development of facilities whereas Turner, O'Connor and Lyneham are more interested in preserving historic buildings, trees; maintaining infrastructure etc).
5. The demographics of Turner, O'Connor and Lyneham fit perfectly with those of the rest of Molongolo. The demographics of inner Gungahlin fit well with those of Belconnen. (e.g. demographically Belconnen has 19% of its population under 14 years of age; Gungahlin has 25% and North Canberra only 13%: taken from 2008 ACT demographer's data).
6. If Turner, O'Connor and Lyneham were moved to Gungahlin, they would have different issues to those of the rest of the large 7 member electorate. A tiny voice in a huge pond. The democratic right of these 3 suburbs would be eroded considerably. Given the best will in the world, their voice **would not** be heard.
7. On the other hand, Gungahlin residents, with similar issues and history to those of Belconnen residents **would** be heard. Their democratic rights would be protected.

Whilst I sympathise with the nominated Gungahlin residents proposed to being moved, their move would be less disruptive than moving the inner north old suburbs. They would retain good and strong representation from like-minded and similar issues people. They would not lose their democratic rights. People in Turner, O'Connor and Lyneham would be badly disrupted and would lose representation from like-minded and similar issues people.

I strongly ask that you consider these points and **do not** approve the proposal to split the Molongolo electorate.

Thanking you

Yours sincerely

Carol Kee