

From: Logan McLennan
Sent: Wednesday, 3 August 2011 5:14 PM
To: Elections
Subject: Redistribution Submission

I write to register my opposition to the augmented redistribution currently proposed by Elections ACT. This proposed redistribution fails to satisfy several of the ACT Electoral Commission's own criteria.

Section 36 of the Electoral Act requires that any redistribution duly consider:

(i) the community of interests within each proposed electorate, including economic, social and regional interests.

While the redistribution appears to be intended to enclose all of Gungahlin within one electorate, it tries to achieve this by dividing the Inner North of Canberra across both the Molonglo and Ginninderra electorates. The Electoral Commission is seeking to consolidate one community of interest at the expense of another. As a resident of O'Connor my community of interest is being arbitrarily relocated from the electorate of Molonglo to the electorate of Ginninderra. The ACT Electoral commission has seen fit to pass judgement that my interests lie in voting with areas of Canberra in which I have no social, economic or regional interests. I live in O'Connor because I shop, commute, work, play sport, volunteer and socialise in the Inner North.

(ii) the means of communication and travel within each proposed electorate;

Residents of Turner, O'Connor and Lyneham are fully integrated into a community of interest in the Inner North which involves explicit networks of communication and transport. These networks of communication and travel feed directly into Canberra city. Residents of Turner, O'Connor and Lyneham live where they do because they travel to and interact with Canberra city, not because they travel to and interact with Belconnen or Gungahlin. The proposed redistribution uses Northbourne Avenue as a boundary between electorates. Any due consideration of *the means of communication and travel within an electorate* would immediately reject electorates being bordered by main transport arterials. To border an electorate with a transport arterial is to have failed to understand the relationship between a locality and its means of transport. Based on the proposed redistribution, the ACT electoral Commission appears convinced that residents of Turner, O'Connor and Lyneham have less of an interest in the Northbourne Avenue transport corridor than they do in Gungahlin Drive or Kingsford-Smith Drive. As a resident of O'Connor I commute on roads and bike paths in the electorate of Molonglo every single day. If the proposed redistribution goes ahead and I am required to vote in Ginninderra, I will have little to no recourse to lobby the Government for the services I require daily.

(iii) the physical features and area of each proposed electorate;

The suburbs of Turner, O'Connor and Lyneham are overtly distinct from the rest of the current electorate of Ginninderra, so much so that they are separated from the nearest Ginninderra suburbs by the Black Mountain - O'Connor Ridge. The suburbs of Turner, O'Connor and Lyneham are clearly and physically a part of the Inner North and by extension, the electorate of Molonglo. To

suggest Turner, O'Connor and Lyneham are part of some greater North –Western Canberra is completely disingenuous.

(iv) the boundaries of existing electorates;

The proposed redistribution takes little or no account of the existing electorates. The ACT Electoral Commission has proposed a radical change to the electorates of Canberra despite the Electoral Act advising conservative changes. While the proposed redistribution may well be intended to locate all of Gungahlin in the one electorate, it does so through too great a change. In the medium term, the ACT Legislative Assembly needs to be expanded to include more seats. While this will not happen before the October 2012 election, it is incumbent upon Elections ACT to maintain existing electorates insofar as possible, until greater systemic change can be achieved through the Federal Parliament at a later date. The redistribution proposed by Elections ACT in March 2011 would serve to facilitate the 2012 ACT election with much less short term disruption.

For all of the above reasons, I wish to strongly object to the redistribution currently proposed by Elections ACT.

Sincerely

Logan McLennan
O'Connor