

ACT Electoral Commission

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11-7-2003

RECEIVED

15 JUL 2003

ACT ELECTORAL
COMMISSION

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Proposed Redistribution of Electoral
Boundaries - ACT Legislative Assembly 2003

It is noted that the map in today's Canberra Times includes Nicholls with Gungahlin. This seems odd as Nicholls is part of the Gungahlin community. Further there are considerable physical barriers between Nicholls and nearby Gungahlin suburbs which would tend to prevent commonality of interest.

Examples of these barriers related to my vicinity are lack of any feasible communication, other than by car to Nicholls even though Gold Creek is only about 30 min. walk. There is no footpath or cycle way and there seems to be no plan to construct Clarrie Hermes Drive. Public Transport requires travel to Belconnen Interchange. A glance at a road map will show that Nicholls and Gungahlin are likewise not planned to have any community of interest.

There appears to be numerous disadvantages for Nicholls citizens who will not be represented by the proposed 7 Members concerned with the rest of Gungahlin and are likely to be seen by

the proposed 5 Ginninderra Members as "odd man out."

In terms of interest by the rest of Ginninderra the effect is likely to be disadvantageous by diluting Members' attention with Gungahlin problems.

Paradoxically, this could result in Gungahlin as a whole being able to validly expect close attention by 12 Members to the detriment of other parts of Canberra.

There is however one advantage, 5 Members will have a direct electoral interest in reducing the physical barriers mentioned whereas placing the boundary along the Barton Highway corridor would tend to put these issues into "No man's land".

Perhaps these issues have been previously raised however I thank you for the opportunity to put forward these comments for consideration.

Yours faithfully
R. G. Shelton
(Mr. R. G. Shelton)