

Appendix C

Suggestions

Suggestions lodged with the Redistribution Committee pursuant to section 41(1)(a) of the *Electoral Act 1992* (in order of receipt):

1.	Glenys Darnell	page 44
2.	Daniel Clode, ACT Director Liberal Party of Australia (ACT Division) 16 National Circuit, BARTON ACT 2600	page 45
3.	Proportional Representation Society of Australia (ACT Branch)	page 47
4.	Jeff Carl Weston Creek Community Council PO Box 3701, WESTON CREEK ACT 2611	page 50
5.	Jonathon Reynolds, President ACT Equality Party PO Box 50, MITCHELL ACT 2911	page 51
6.	Australian Democrats (ACT Division)	page 52
7.	Barry Dee, President Gungahlin Community Council Inc PO Box 260, GUNGAHLIN ACT 2914	page 75

Note: These objections were submitted using a variety of media and have been reformatted for this publication. The content is identical to the original submission and every effort has been made to preserve the original format.

Fw call for suggestions.txt

----- Original Message -----
From: John Darnell
To: elections @act.gov.au
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2003 1:25 PM
Subject: call for suggestions

I live in Gungahlin and would like to suggest that Nicholls be brought into the same electorate as the other Gungahlin suburbs.
I feel that we would be better represented in the Assembly, particularly in matters of Education and Transport, if we were not so divided.
Glenys Darnell

Page 1

**Suggestion from Glenys Darnell.
Page 1 of 1.**



The Liberal Party of Australia

A.C.T. DIVISION INC

ABN 65 727 304 134

13B National Press Club Building
16 National Circuit
BARTON ACT 2600
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The Redistribution Committee
Po Box 272
Civic Square ACT 2608

Dear Mr Green and colleagues

The Liberal Party of Australia – ACT Division submits that the Redistribution Committee should make no change to the boundaries of the existing ACT electorates on this occasion. We base our recommendation on the following reasons.

1. The population projections provided by the Commission forecast that if the ACT electoral boundaries remain unchanged, then existing constituencies will remain *comfortably within the statutory tolerance* for ACT electorate sizes.
2. This present redistribution process has commenced later than normal in the parliamentary term, due to the inquiry by the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs into “The Appropriateness of the Size of the Legislative Assembly”. As a result, the current population projections have been produced little more than a year out from the next election. It is highly improbable that the population projections could be very inaccurate when *forecasting such a short time period ahead*.
3. In none of the electorates will the forecast variance from quota be verging close to the limit of the allowable variance. In these circumstances, it is more important to satisfy the *public desire for continuity of boundaries*, than to eliminate all variance as far as it is possible. In previous redistributions, parties of all political colours have submitted to this Committee that the Canberra public is seeking consistency and certainty in boundary positioning. By avoiding disruptive and confusing changes in the past, the Commission has both enhanced the integrity of the current electoral system and provided continuity of linkage between citizens and their respective MLAs. It should be remembered that one of the reasons Canberrans voted for the Hare Clark system in 1992 was the argument in the official referendum booklet that this system would mean that “boundaries will seldom change.”
4. It would be *rash to move suburbs based on speculative assumptions* about longer-term population trends that might occur after 2004. For instance, assumptions about the longer-term growth in Gungahlin may be vitiated if apparent proposals by the Territory Government to allocate some of the ACT’s greenfields residential development to Stromlo proceed (a proposition reported as under their consideration).
5. The present configuration of ACT electorates is one that avoids sub-division within the existing town-centres, so far as it is possible (with only four suburbs separated from their closest town-centres). If a suburb or two were redistributed prior to 2004 just to minimise variance from quota, then such changes would inevitably:
 - further divide existing *community of interests*;
 - cut across the dominant physical features of the landscape (including ridgelines and valleys); and
 - sub-divide zones of travel and communication within the current electorates.

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**Suggestion from Liberal Party of Australia (ACT Division).
Page 1 of 2.**

For these compelling reasons, we submit there is insufficient imperative to make any boundary adjustment this year.

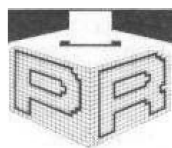
Yours sincerely



Daniel Clode
ACT Director

www.canberraliberals.org.au

**Suggestion from Liberal Party of Australia (ACT Division).
Page 2 of 2.**



PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA
(AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BRANCH)

**LEAVE THE BOUNDARIES UNCHANGED AND SUGGEST SIMPLIFICATIONS
OF FUTURE REDISTRIBUTION PROCESSES OF THIS KIND**

The Proportional Representation Society of Australia (Australian Capital Territory Branch) submits that there should be no change to the existing electoral boundaries, and urges the Redistribution Committee to recommend that in future the process in which it is now engaged should be capable of being fast-tracked in instances as clear-cut as the current one.

An expectation of stable boundaries under Hare-Clark

The appreciation by voters of a high level of stability in electoral arrangements goes back to the start of the campaign for our voter-empowering Hare-Clark system. Expectations of stable boundaries were repeatedly placed before the people when we were deciding the nature of our future electoral system. For example, in the 1991 pamphlet **How to make your vote really count**, the Hare-Clark Campaign Committee prominently contrasted *stable boundaries* under Hare-Clark with *frequent boundary changes* under single-member electorates.

In the official case for the Proportional Representation (Hare-Clark) System sent to voters in 1992, the following comments were made in relation to *stability* (bold type face has been introduced to emphasise the key words in the current context).

A voting system should also provide *stability*: a government with broad support should not be 'held to ransom' by parties with a very small share of the primary vote, **nor should voters face constantly-changing electoral boundaries.**

Under the ACT version of Hare-Clark, a quota of at least 12.5% of the vote will be needed to win a seat; this will exclude parties with very little popular support.
Boundaries will seldom change.

The ACT Branch of the Proportional Representation Society of Australia (hereinafter ACT Branch) has been a strong supporter of minimising changes to ACT electoral boundaries, so long as the boundaries still provide for broadly equal representation. In particular, in 1996 we were among the organisations submitting that there should be no change at all as a result of that review.

In 2000, along with the Liberal and Labor Parties, we suggested moving the suburb of Nicholls from Molonglo to Ginninderra in order to deal with the projected imbalances at the time of the 2001 general elections if the previous boundaries had remained the same. We added that the best-available population projections at the time indicated no change would be needed in 2004.

**Suggestion from Proportional Representation Society (ACT Branch).
Page 1 of 3.**

The ACT Branch is pleased that the previous Redistribution Committee stated explicitly of its proposed transfer of Nicholls that ‘this is the minimum change necessary to ensure that each electorate is within the required statistical tolerance’ and observed as a more general principle that ‘change should affect as few electors as possible’.

This approach of placing strong importance on maintaining stability of boundaries and avoiding unnecessary disruption to voters is in keeping with the attitude adopted by Redistribution Committees since the first set of boundaries came up for review in 1996. The ACT Branch continues to be heartened that voters’ interests are being placed at the forefront of how the Hare-Clark system operates here, and that flawed proposals calling for extensive change have been duly examined but have received relatively short shrift in the past.

The current boundaries satisfy all the relevant criteria and should be retained

Under the Electoral Act, three criteria relating to proposed electorates that must be given due consideration by the Redistribution Committee are economic, social and regional community of interests, means of communication and travel, and physical features and area. These criteria are clearly intended to help identify natural communities and groupings of suburbs, taking account of the physical and social geography of the ACT. As these patterns are essentially unchanged since the last redistribution, it would be very disturbing to voters to find major changes at the next election.

The Redistribution Committee is also required to give due consideration to the boundaries of existing electorates in making its proposed distribution. In the current circumstances, where population shifts have been fairly minor, the inclusion of this criterion reinforces the evident intention to promote stability of electoral boundaries, and to discourage any thought of a substantial redrawing of boundaries. The departures from the quota in April 2003, halfway through the term of this Assembly, were minuscule, at 1.1% and 1.2% below in the five-member electorates, and 1.6% above in Molonglo, well within the 10% tolerance allowed.

Australian Bureau of Statistics estimates put enrolments in Brindabella and Ginninderra at the time of the next election respectively 2.5% and 2.6% below the territory quota, and place Molonglo, with expected inner-city growth very strong in several suburbs, 3.6% above, still comfortably within the allowed 5% tolerance either way. In these circumstances, no changes of significance are warranted, and the ACT Branch urges the Redistribution Committee to wind up the current proceedings as quickly as possible.

Time to simplify clear-cut redistribution proceedings

The ACT Branch believes that beyond retaining unchanged boundaries and reaffirming the sound principles espoused and articulated plainly by earlier Redistribution Committees, the Committee should take the initiative to suggest to the Assembly that a simplified redistribution process might reasonably be undertaken where actual and projected enrolments fall well within the respective statutory tolerances and there has not been public clamour for major changes to the boundaries.

Under amended legislation, submissions would still always be called for. However, when actual and projected enrolments stood well within the tolerances allowed and the Redistribution Committee observed that there was little or no call for change, the Committee would be empowered to make a final determination without having to go through the

**Suggestion from Proportional Representation Society (ACT Branch).
Page 2 of 3.**

unproductive charade of undertaking a full second stage that is a mandatory feature of the current process.

When change is neither required nor called for, there is absolutely nothing to be gained from going through the motions with superfluous elements of an elaborate process originally designed around the extensive inter-party argy-bargy associated with federal redistributions of single-member electorates. Both Elections ACT and ACT Administration as a whole have many more pressing matters to deal with and should not be forced to waste precious resources in the circumstances described.

June 2003

**Suggestion from Proportional Representation Society (ACT Branch).
Page 3 of 3.**

WESTON CREEK COMMUNITY COUNCIL*- Your Local Voice -*Email: info@wccc.com.auWebsite: www.wccc.com.au

Phone: (02) 6288 8975

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ABN: 52 841 915 317

PO Box 3701 Weston Creek ACT 2611

3 June 2003

Redistribution Committee
 ACT Electoral Commission
 PO Box 272
 CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608

RECEIVED
 05 JUN 2003
 ACT ELECTORAL
 COMMISSION

Dear Committee Members

ACT Legislative Assembly Electoral Boundaries Redistribution 2003

The Weston Creek Community Council (WCCC) welcomes this opportunity to contribute to the ACT Legislative Assembly Electoral Boundaries Redistribution 2003.

Of primary importance to Weston Creek residents is the electoral integrity of our district. There is a very strong belief within our district - again expressed at our last meeting of 28 May 2003 - that Weston Creek is a distinct and generally homogeneous community. Our community strongly believes that this electoral integrity must be maintained in any future redistribution.

It is recognised that the current electoral distribution has detached small portions of the Woden Valley district and the Gungahlin district and placed these portions into neighbouring electorates. Such arrangements are not ideal because local communities are split, but they may be necessary and unavoidable arrangements given other constraints such as enrolment numbers and the maximum permissible variation from each electorate's quota.

On reviewing all of the current and projected enrolment statistics, it is noted that the current electorate boundaries satisfy the requirement of maintaining a maximum variation of $\pm 5\%$ from the expected quota for both the actual persons enrolled and for the projected persons enrolled for all three electorates.

Therefore, the WCCC recommends that the Committee avoid splitting local communities, and if this is not possible, that the current electorate boundaries be left unchanged. It is also preferred that our district remains in a seven-member Molonglo electorate.

Yours faithfully



Jeff Carl
 Chairperson, Weston Creek Community Council

Suggestion from Weston Creek Community Council.

Page 1 of 1.



050603 - Electoral Boundaries.doc

Redistribution Committee
 ACT Electoral Commission
 PO Box 272,
 CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608

Response to request for submissions Electoral Boundaries – Distribution 2003

Dear Sir/Madam,

The ACT Equality Party (A registered political party in the Australian Capital Territory) is pleased to provide the following submission to the Redistribution Committee.

The Equality Party acknowledges that the electoral boundaries as currently drawn already meet the legislative requirements for the current analysis in any potential boundary redistribution.

Given that the current boundaries are themselves not “perfect” in that the Gungahlin community is split across Molonglo and Ginninderra electorates and the Woden Community is split across Molonglo and Brindabella, the Equality Party thought it appropriate to table some alternative configurations for consideration.

The purpose of tabling these alternatives is to demonstrate that there is no “magic bullet” to any electoral boundary redistribution. All suggestions will involve some level of compromise in order to meet the current legislative requirements. A brief critique against the assessment criteria for each of the models we have proposed is also provided.

Our four suggested alternative boundary configurations have been provided as electronic documents in Adobe Acrobat PDF format. We recommend that these files are best viewed on screen unless being output to an A3 format (or larger) colour printer.

We have also included the latest revision of our ACT Electoral Boundary Modeling Tool. Incorporating the electoral data as provided by the ACT Electoral Commission. This tool (requiring Microsoft Excel) allows an individual to “visually” assess the impact of any potential redistribution with statistical feedback indicating legislative compliance. We encourage the free distribution of this tool to any interested individuals, groups and parties.

We look forward to your favourable response to this submission.

Yours faithfully



Jonathon Reynolds – President
 ACT Equality Party

PO Box 50
 Mitchell ACT 2911
 Phone: (02) 6253-8027
 Facsimile: (02) 6253-8844
 Web: www.EqualityParty.org
 Email info@EqualityParty.org

Authorised by J.Reynolds – 45 Yarrowonga Street Ngunnawal ACT 2913
 on behalf of the ACT Equality Party, a political party registered in the Australian Capital Territory

**Suggestion from ACT Equality Party.
 Page 1 of 9.**

Model 01-B5G7M5 - A model allowing for geographically North, Central and South Electorates by allowing for a 7 member Ginninderra Electorate

Evaluation Criteria	Compliance / Comments												
The Electoral Act provides that the Territory must be divided into three separate electorates with seven members of the Legislative Assembly to be elected from one electorate and five members of the Legislative Assembly to be elected from each of the other two electorates.	Complies Brindabella 5 members Ginninderra 7 members Molonglo 5 members												
Ensure that the number of electors in an electorate immediately after the redistribution is within the range of not greater than 110%, or less than 90% of the quota;	Complies												
Endeavour to ensure, as far as practicable, that the number of electors in an electorate at the time of the next general election of members of the Legislative Assembly will not be greater than 105%, or less than 95%, of the expected quota for the electorate at that time	Complies <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Electorate</th> <th>Quota</th> <th>Variance</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Brindabella</td> <td>4.948</td> <td>-1.04%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ginninderra</td> <td>7.099</td> <td>1.39%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Molonglo M</td> <td>4.953</td> <td>-0.95%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Electorate	Quota	Variance	Brindabella	4.948	-1.04%	Ginninderra	7.099	1.39%	Molonglo M	4.953	-0.95%
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Duly consider -													
(i) the community of interests within each proposed electorate, including economic, social and regional interests;	To the North: the North Canberra area is split across two electorates using David street, Wakefield Avenue and Majura avenue as the boundary between proposed new Ginninderra and Molonglo electorates To the South: the Woden Suburbs of Torrens, Farrer and Isaacs are placed in the southern proposed electorate of Brindabella. Beasley Street and Yamba Drive are used to separate the two proposed electorates in these areas. The North Canberra Community Council and Woden Valley Community Councils (as examples of significant community groups) would have suburbs split into two separate electorates.												
(ii) the means of communication and travel within each proposed electorate;	Only the southern suburbs of Torrens, Farrer and Isaacs could be considered to be somewhat isolated from neighbouring suburbs in terms of electoral boundary, however there are good transport links within the Woden District to these suburbs.												
(iii) the physical features and area of each proposed electorate;	This model is intends to introduce a logical North, Central and South stratification to the electoral boundaries. For example the current electorate of Molonglo wraps in a large reversed "C" chape from Gungahlin in the North to the southern suburbs of Weston and Woden to the South												
(iv) the boundaries of existing electorates;	To the North: Gungahlin is made entirely part of the Ginninderra Electorate moving all suburbs from the current Molonglo. In the Central Area: Portions of North Canberra are moved into Ginninderra. To the South: Chifley, Pearce are moved to Molonglo. Farrer and Isaacs moves from Molonglo to Brindabella. Torrens remains unchanged.												
(v) the boundaries of divisions and sections fixed under the Districts Act 1966.	Except as outlined above all major Districts are left generally intact.												

Model 02-B5G7M5 - Variation of Model 01-B5G7M5

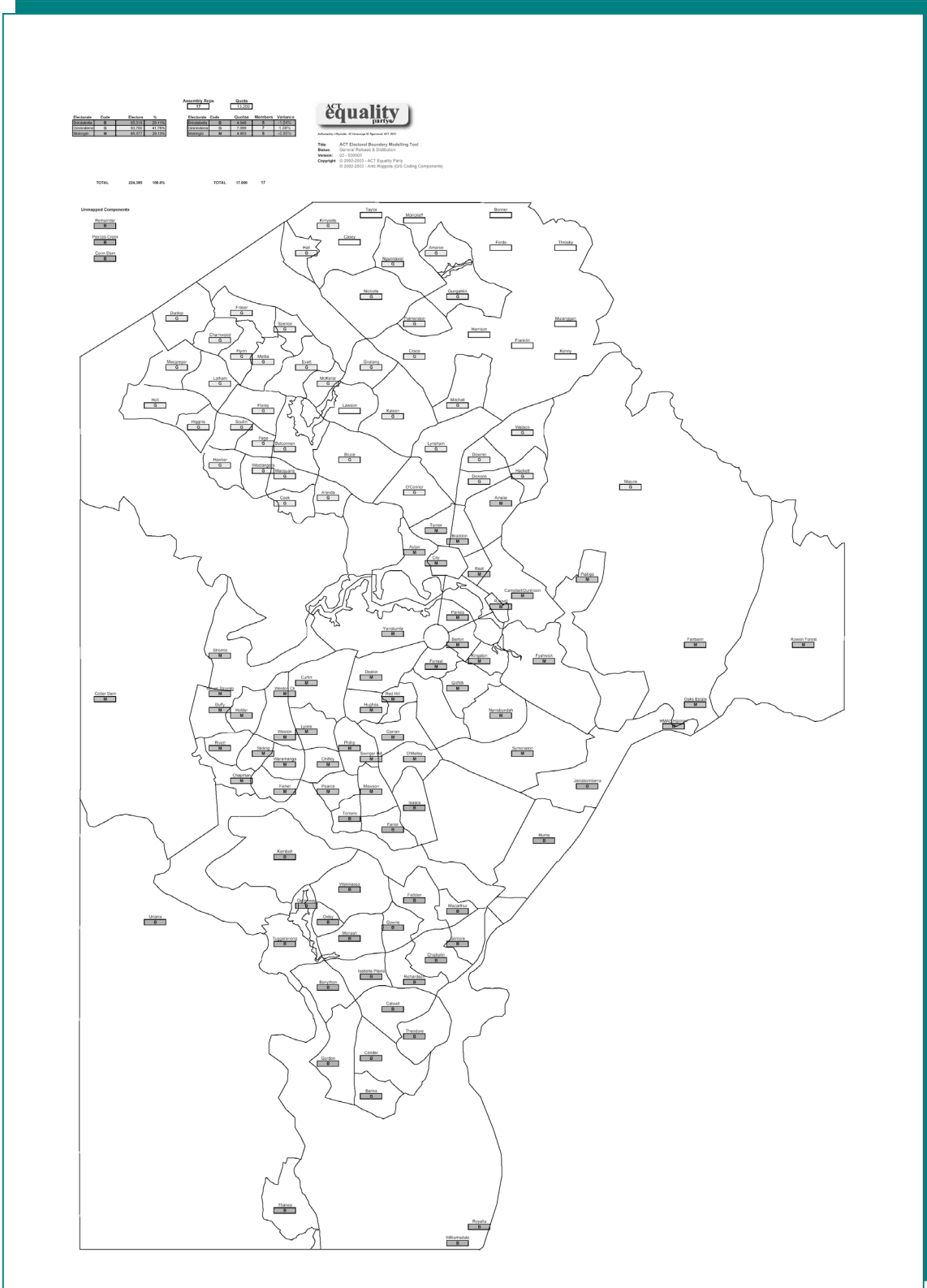
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Duly consider -													
(i) the community of interests within each proposed electorate, including economic, social and regional interests;	To the North: the North Canberra area is split across two electorates using Wattle Street, Wakefield Avenue and Limestone Avenue as the boundary between proposed new Ginninderra and Molonglo electorates To the South: the Woden Suburbs of Farrer and Isaacs are placed in the southern proposed electorate of Brindabella. Athlon Drive, Beasley Street and Yamba Drive are used to separate the two proposed electorates in these areas. The North Canberra Community Council and Woden Valley Community Councils (as examples of significant community groups) would have suburbs split into two separate electorates.												
(ii) the means of communication and travel within each proposed electorate;	Only the southern suburbs of Farrer and Isaacs could be considered to be somewhat isolated from neighbouring suburbs in terms of electoral boundary, however there are good transport links within the Woden District to these suburbs.												
(iii) the physical features and area of each proposed electorate;	This model is intends to introduce an alternative version of a logical North, Central and South stratification to the electoral boundaries.												
(iv) the boundaries of existing electorates;	To the North: Gungahlin is made entirely part of the Ginninderra Electorate moving all suburbs from Molonglo. In the Central Area: Portions on North Canberra are moved into Ginninderra. To the South: Chifley, Pearce and Torrens are moved to Molonglo. Farrer and Isaacs moves from Molonglo to Brindabella. Areas to the west of the Territory such as Symonston, HMAS Harman, and Oaks estate are moved from Molonglo to Brindabella.												
(v) the boundaries of divisions and sections fixed under the Districts Act 1966.	Except as outlined above all major Districts are where possible are left generally intact.												

Model 03-B7G5M5 - A model allowing for a 7 member Brindabella electorate, emphasizing distinct electorates

Evaluation Criteria	Compliance / Comments												
The Electoral Act provides that the Territory must be divided into three separate electorates with seven members of the Legislative Assembly to be elected from one electorate and five members of the Legislative Assembly to be elected from each of the other two electorates.	Complies Brindabella 7 members Ginninderra 5 members Molonglo 5 members												
Ensure that the number of electors in an electorate immediately after the redistribution is within the range of not greater than 110%, or less than 90% of the quota;	Complies												
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(i) the community of interests within each proposed electorate, including economic, social and regional interests;	To the North: the current North Canberra area is split across two electorates using the Barton Highway, Northbourne Avenue, David Street and Barry Drive as the boundary between proposed new Ginninderra and Molonglo electorates To the South: the Woden area is logically split in to East and West sectors by Yarra Glenn and Yamba Drive between the proposed Molonglo and Brindabella electorates. The North Canberra Community Council and Woden Valley Community Councils (as examples of significant community groups) would have suburbs split into two separate electorates.												
(ii) the means of communication and travel within each proposed electorate;	The northern suburbs of Lyneham and O'Connor are orphaned from the rest of the proposed Ginninderra electorate by the O'Connor ridge. There appear to be no significant communication and travel issues for the suburbs as outlined to the south.												
(iii) the physical features and area of each proposed electorate;	With the Exception of the two northern suburbs as outlined above this model uses major arterial roads to delineate electoral boundaries.												
(iv) the boundaries of existing electorates;	To the North: Hall and Nicholls are moved to the proposed Molonglo electorate. In the Central Area: Lyneham and O'Connor are moved into proposed Ginninderra electorate. To the South: The whole of Weston Creek and Western Woden areas are moved from Molonglo to the proposed Brindabella Electorate.												
(v) the boundaries of divisions and sections fixed under the Districts Act 1966.	Woden is logically split along major road arterials in to West and Eastern sectors.												

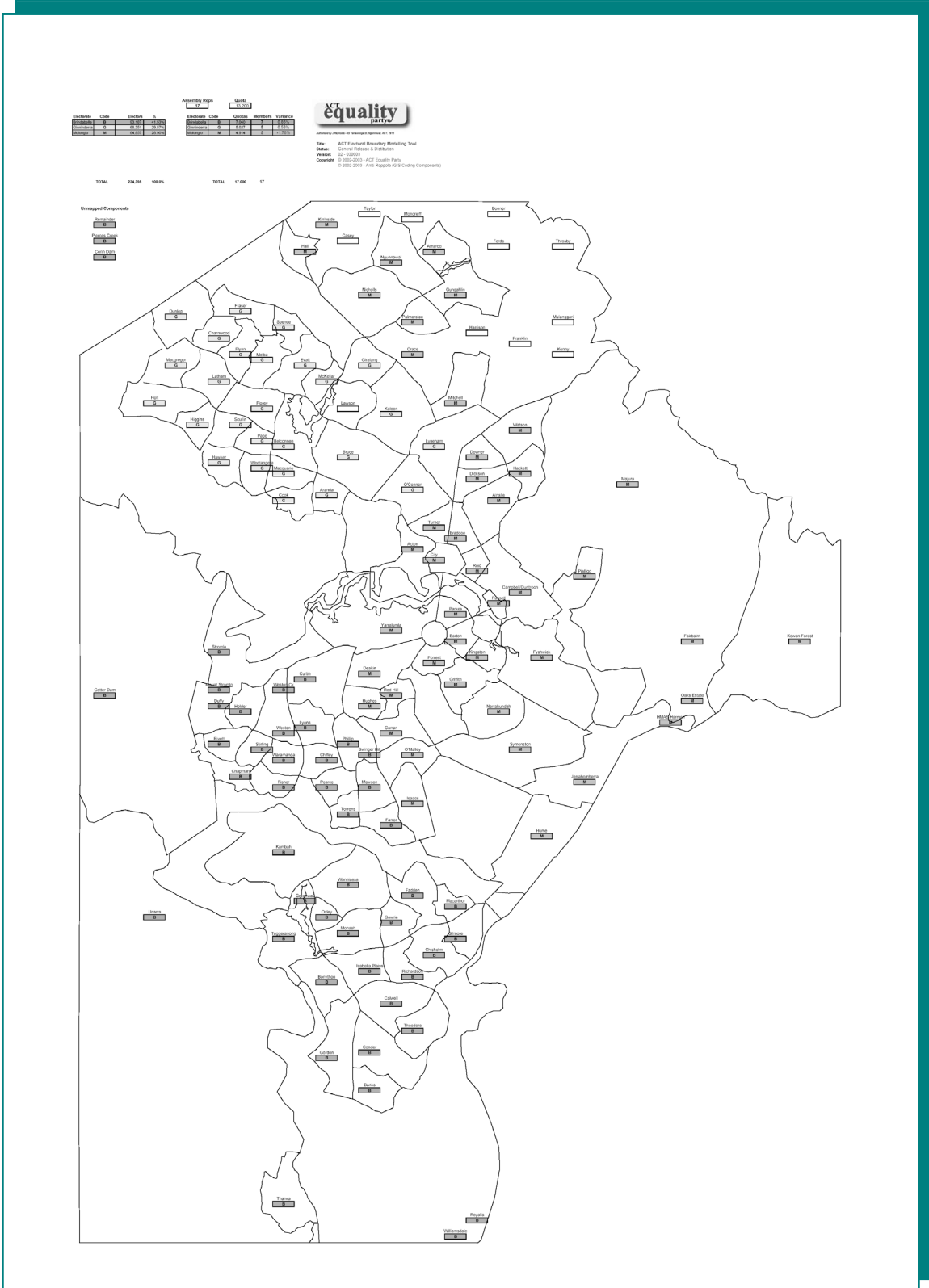
Model 04-B5G5M7 - A model attempting to demonstrate near perfect numerical constituent distribution across electorates

Evaluation Criteria	Compliance / Comments												
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(ii) the means of communication and travel within each proposed electorate;	The northern suburbs of Lyneham and O'Connor are orphaned from the rest of the proposed Ginninderra electorate by the O'Connor ridge. The southern suburbs of Weston creek though not orphaned in the manner as indicated with Lyneham and O'Connor has no direct transport route to other proposed Brindabella electorate suburbs.												
(iii) the physical features and area of each proposed electorate;	This model is attempting to achieve a perfect numerical distribution of constituents across electorates whilst still attempting to maintain logical spatial groupings.												
(iv) the boundaries of existing electorates;	To the North: Hall and Nicholls are moved to the proposed Molonglo electorate. In the Central Area: Lyneham and O'Connor are moved into proposed Ginninderra electorate. To the South: The southern suburbs of Rivett, Chapman and Fisher of Weston Creek are moved into Brindabella, within Woden – Chifley, Pearce and Torrens are brought back in to the Molonglo electorate.												
(v) the boundaries of divisions and sections fixed under the Districts Act 1966.	Weston Creek is split along minor arterial roads.												



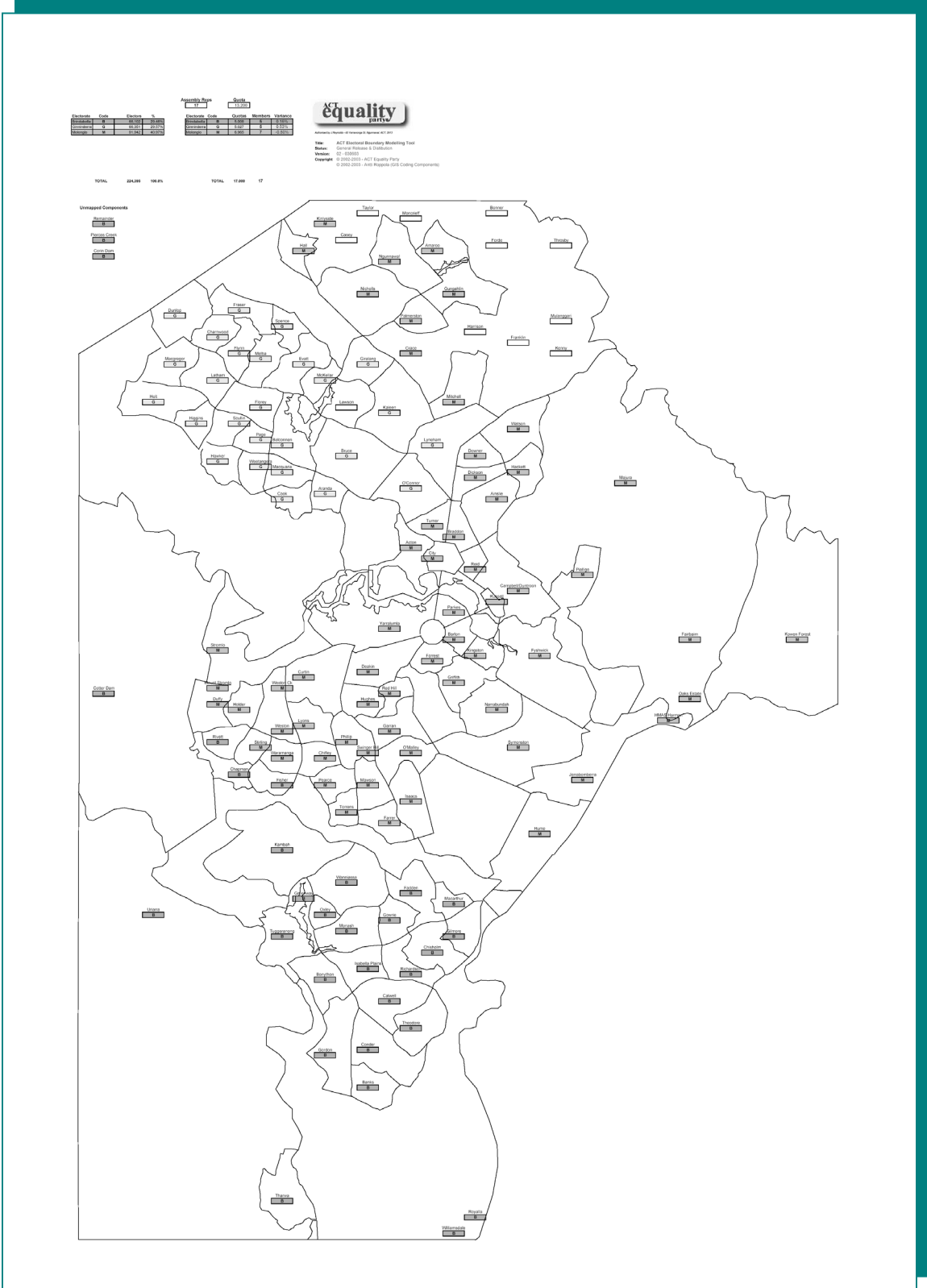
**Suggestion from ACT Equality Party.
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Note: a larger version of this map is available from the ACT Electoral Commission's website at www.elections.act.gov.au/redis03ps.html



**Suggestion from ACT Equality Party.
Page 8 of 9.**

Note: a larger version of this map is available from the ACT Electoral Commission's website at www.elections.act.gov.au/redis03ps.html



**Suggestion from ACT Equality Party.
Page 9 of 9.**

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AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS (ACT DIVISION)

SUBMISSION

TO THE

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES REDISTRIBUTION 2003

Introduction

In March 2000, The ACT Democrats submitted a proposed redistribution of electoral boundaries to the ACT Electoral Commission (“the Commission”), which was not then taken up by the Redistribution Committee (“the Committee”). However, the ACT Democrats still believe our suggestion provided a more sensible layout of electorates for the ACT Legislative Assembly elections than exists at present.

This submission presents a modified version of our previous proposal, reflecting the changes in population distribution since then, and reviews a range of social, economic and environmental data to support our conclusions.

The ACT Democrats continue to support the principle that electoral boundaries should place electors into groups that best reflect their common interests, demographics and spatial location.

In particular, the ACT Democrats continue to oppose the division of Gungahlin between two electorates, believing that it is unwise to divide a small suburban cluster with similar electoral interests, and particularly one that is in the early stages of community development and representation.

Secondly, the ACT Democrats continue to believe that the inclusion of Gungahlin in the central electorate of Molonglo does not represent any meaningful community of interest. This creates an electorate with little spatial integration and few social, economic or developmental commonalities.

This submission begins with a short discussion of demographic change in Canberra, but will focus principally on the northern electoral boundary dividing Ginninderra and Molonglo. It will also discuss the Southern boundary between Brindabella and Molonglo, as well as touch upon some issues surrounding the Electoral Act 1992 (“the Act”).

Demographic Change in Canberra

Demographic change in Canberra follows a familiar and moderately predictable pattern. As new suburbs are established, the population grows

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rapidly as new housing is developed, and people whose ages are, on average, younger than in general, populate them. The population continues to rise over the next decade or two as these people have children. Average incomes also tend to rise, and home ownership increases as mortgages are paid off. As a suburb ages, children tend to move away, and the population begins to decline, the average age rises, and incomes continue to rise. Finally, as initial residents become aged, and also move or pass away, a second cycle begins, often accompanied by an increase in real estate sales and redevelopment as the housing stock ages.

Different areas of Canberra are in different stages of this suburban life cycle, reflecting the periods in which they were settled. The newly developed suburbs of Gungahlin, west Belconnen and Tuggeranong are still in a stage of rising population growth and infrastructure development. The “middle ring” of suburbs – Woden, Weston Creek and inner Belconnen are experiencing ageing populations and declining numbers of children. The inner suburbs of North and South Canberra are undergoing considerable redevelopment as the housing stock ages and young professionals demand a new mix of accommodation close to the city.

Indeed, a second, related variable in determining the different social and economic pressures of Canberrans is their geographic proximity to Civic and the parliamentary triangle. Central Canberra contains the bulk of Canberra’s employment opportunities, as well as government agencies, social services, and cultural sites and activities. Thus, the further one resides from the centre of the city, not only is the expense and time required in travelling greater, on average, but the level of access to these services and connectivity to the city-wide community is lowered.

The Northern Electoral Boundary

Overview

The current configuration of the northern electoral boundary between Ginninderra and Molonglo continues to be controversial. In particular, the placement of the bulk of Gungahlin in Molonglo seems arbitrary, as there is little evidence of similarity between Gungahlin and the remainder of the electorate. In addition, the inclusion of the suburb of Nicholls in Ginninderra appears to have unnecessarily divided the district of Gungahlin that is otherwise considered to be cohesive and whose residents are united by similar social and political concerns.

The ACT Democrats maintain that the configuration of electorates would better reflect the criteria of the Act if Gungahlin was within a single electorate, and joined with the district of Belconnen in a redrawn electorate of Ginninderra. As this would clearly be in excess of current electorate requirements, the south-eastern parts of Belconnen could be moved into Molonglo. In a sense, the Committee is currently faced with the choice of retaining the bulk of Gungahlin in Molonglo, or moving it into Ginninderra and

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replacing it with the near suburbs of Belconnen. This submission argues that the latter option results in a far better configuration, as on almost any measure, the suburbs of south-east Belconnen (SE Belconnen) are more similar to the remainder of Molonglo than either Gungahlin or the rest of Belconnen.

The ACT Democrats proposed redistribution for the Northern Boundary

This submission proposes the following redistribution:

- Place the entire district of Gungahlin into the electorate of Ginninderra
- Move the suburbs of Hawker, Weetangera, Macquarie, Cook, Aranda and Bruce into Molonglo
- Move the area south and west of these suburbs and bounded by Drake Brockman Drive, Stockdill Drive, The Molonglo River and Black Mountain Nature Reserve, into the electorate of Molonglo

This would result in the new border between Molonglo and Ginninderra being (from East to West) the Federal Highway, the border between Lyneham and Gungahlin/Kaleen, Ginninderra Drive, Aikman Drive, Eastern Valley Way, Belconnen Way, Drake Brockman Drive, Stockdill Drive, the Molonglo River (near its mouth), and the Murrumbidgee River to its border with NSW.

This configuration produces a boundary that runs generally east-west, and avoids the current loop-shaped boundary that results in the odd “peninsula” of Ginninderra.

Population Sizes

According to the data provided by the Commission, the current configuration of electorates is not beyond the tolerance levels set by the Act. This alternative proposal also falls within the tolerance levels of the Act:

In fact, based solely upon sections 36 (a) and (b) of the Act, this proposal fares slightly better in terms of fitting the required quota for the electorate of Ginninderra (likewise, it improves the distribution for Molonglo).

While the current configuration is within the tolerance levels set by the Act, there is no stipulation that rules out a redistribution (for a further discussion of this point, see below). To determine whether a redistribution should occur, the Commission must consider the items listed in part 36 (c) of the Act.

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Table 1: Projected Ginninderra population

Suburb	Actual persons enrolled 2 April 2003	Projected persons enrolled 16 October 2004	Projected growth (%)
Ginninderra Total (current)	63868	64312	0.70%
Quota	64645	65999	
Variation from quota	-1.20%	-2.56%	
Suburbs Deleted in Democrats proposal			
Aranda	1814	1791	-1.27%
Cook	2158	2124	-1.58%
Macquarie	1700	1690	-0.59%
Bruce	1675	1811	8.12%
Weetangera	2042	2029	-0.64%
Hawker	2277	2248	-1.27%
Suburbs Deleted Total	11666	11693	0.23%
Suburbs Added in Democrats Proposal			
Amaroo	2574	2791	8.43%
Gungahlin - Balance	229	1544	574.24%
Ngunnawal	5906	5928	0.37%
Mitchell	2	2	0.00%
Palmerston	3788	3798	0.26%
Suburbs Added Total	12499	14063	12.51%
New Ginninderra Total under Democrats proposal	64701	66682	3.06%
Quota	64645	65999	
Variation from quota	0.09%	1.03%	

In fact, based solely upon sections 36 (a) and (b) of the Act, this proposal fares slightly better in terms of fitting the required quota for the electorate of Ginninderra (likewise, it improves the distribution for Molonglo).

While the current configuration is within the tolerance levels set by the Act, there is no stipulation that rules out a redistribution (for a further discussion of this point, see below). To determine whether a redistribution should occur, the Commission must consider the items listed in part 36 (c) of the Act.

Communities of Interest

Part 36 (c) (i) of the Act requires the Commission to duly consider “the community of interests within each proposed electorate, including economic, social, and regional interests”. This provision has occasionally been assumed by some to mean solely that suburban clusters (e.g. Belconnen, Woden, Gungahlin, etc.) should not be divided (a fact better indicated by part 36 (c) (v)). Given the fact that there is no distribution of electorates that will retain all

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clusters intact, nor is there any cluster that is large enough to be an electorate in its own right, this section clearly has a much wider scope. The phrase “economic, social, and regional interests” plainly invites a consideration of the demographic, spatial, and financial similarities between areas which are to be included in the same electorate, with the aim of placing suburbs with greater similarities in the same electorate.

This submission will repeatedly compare numerous social and economic indicators between the areas proposed to be added and deleted from Ginninderra, and the balance of both Ginninderra and Molonglo.

Social Demographics

The recent 2001 census has provided social statistics that allow up-to-date comparison of various electoral configurations. Table 2 presents some selected data:

Table 2: Selected Social Statistics

		Molonglo <small>(without Gungahlin)</small>	SE Belconnen <small>(including Aranda, Bruce, Cook, Macquarie, Weetangera, Hawker)</small>	Ginninderra <small>(without SE Belconnen)</small>	Gungahlin <small>(without Nicholls)</small>
Age Profile	% people aged 0-14	17.4%	16.5%	21.0%	25.2%
	% people aged over 55	21.8%	22.7%	14.9%	8.2%
Level of education (people over 15)	% with university degree	33.0%	36.9%	20.6%	22.3%
	% without non-school qualifications	39.2%	38.1%	49.2%	45.8%
Household structure	% households with 3 or more people	35.3%	39.0%	48.0%	47.3%
Family structure	% families with children under 15	49.0%	45.1%	53.8%	63.4%

The table clearly demonstrates the greater affinity of the remaining suburbs of Gungahlin with Ginninderra than with Molonglo. Ginninderra and Gungahlin have a significantly higher proportion of children under the age of 15 than SE Belconnen or Molonglo, whereas the latter have significantly higher proportions of people over the age of 55.

Equally, the level of university educated people in SE Belconnen is similar to Molonglo, with levels in the mid 30’s, whereas both Gungahlin and Ginninderra have lower levels, in the low 20’s.

The household and family structures also underlie the theme, with larger numbers of people per household in the outer areas, and smaller households closer to the city. In line with higher numbers of children, a majority of families have children under 15 in Ginninderra and Gungahlin, where this is true for only a minority in Molonglo and SE Belconnen.

Economic Data

A similar pattern emerges if we look at economic indicators in different areas.

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Table 3: Selected Economic Statistics		Molonglo <small>(without Gungahlin)</small>	SE Belconnen <small>(including Aranda, Bruce, Cook, Macquarie, Weetangera, Hawker)</small>	Ginninderra <small>(without SE Belconnen)</small>	Gungahlin <small>(without Nicholls)</small>
Individuals' Incomes	% individuals earning more than \$1000	24.3%	24.0%	16.1%	19.1%
Family Income	% families earning more than \$2000	19.8%	23.5%	14.6%	14.2%
Dwellings being purchased	% dwellings being purchased	25.0%	26.1%	36.5%	52.9%
Land Value	Average Unimproved Value (2002)	\$199,800	\$155,200	\$88,000	\$84,000

The data demonstrates that those individual's and families residing in either Molonglo or SE Belconnen are more similar than those in Gungahlin or Ginninderra.

Regional Interests

As already described, the areas of Gungahlin and Ginninderra have numerous social and economic similarities. They are also commonly characterised as northern outer suburbs of Canberra. The division of the ACT into three electorates is commonly referred to in terms of directionality. Ginninderra is the northern electorate, Brindabella the southern, and Molonglo the central. However, the current position of the bulk of Gungahlin in Molonglo is contrary to this common understanding. The proposed redistribution assists in bringing electorate boundaries into better alignment with expectations, providing a generally east-west boundary to divide the two electorates.

In a similar vein, Canberra is often thought of as comprising three "rings" of suburban development, particularly in terms of real estate. Central Canberra is the "inner ring", Woden, Weston and inner Belconnen are the "middle ring", while Tuggeranong, outer Belconnen and Gungahlin are the "outer ring". The proposed redistribution aligns the interests of these three groupings, with the inner and middle rings being represented by Molonglo, while Ginninderra and Brindabella represent the outer ring in the north and south, respectively.

To complement this thesis, the major areas proposed for new "green fields" development in the near future are in Gungahlin, West Belconnen, and Lawson. This proposal aligns the common issues surrounding green fields development in the single electorate of Ginninderra. Conversely, the current alignment places the developing suburbs of Gungahlin in Molonglo, which elsewhere is primarily concerned with issues of re-development and "brown fields" sites (such as the Kingston foreshore). This proposal more clearly aligns similar regions, and also enables elected representatives to better represent suburbs with similar interests, including issues of development, rather than representing dissimilar interests across a community.

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Communications and Transport

Part 36 (c) (ii) of the Act requires the Committee to duly consider “the means of communication and transport within each proposed electorate”. As briefly mentioned earlier, the proximity of suburbs to central Canberra has the greatest impact upon the use and cost of transport for residents. Gungahlin and the outer suburbs of Belconnen are both relatively distant from Civic, while the distance between SE Belconnen to Civic is comparable to that with the southern suburbs of Molonglo.

The census provides additional support in that the pattern of transport use by those in the outer suburbs differ from those in the centre of Canberra:

	Molonglo <small>(without Gungahlin)</small>	SE Belconnen <small>(including Aranda, Bruce, Cook, Macquarie, Weetangera, Hawker)</small>	Ginninderra <small>(without SE Belconnen)</small>	Gungahlin <small>(without Nicholls)</small>
Table 4: Journey to Work Data				
% persons using private transport	77.5%	82.4%	87.2%	91.2%
% using alternative transport (bus, bicycle, foot)	18.2%	14.8%	9.4%	6.1%

There is clear evidence that residents of Ginninderra and Gungahlin are more likely to use private transport than those in Molonglo or SE Belconnen. More residents living closer to the centre of Canberra utilise alternative transport modes (buses, bicycles or walking) than those in more distant suburbs. It is also meaningful to note that under the previous “zonal” bus fare system for ACTION (now abolished), the near suburbs of Belconnen were included in the central zone, whereas Gungahlin suburbs were grouped with west Belconnen in the north zone.

A further point is that people who share common transport routes are more likely to share common transport concerns. This proposed redistribution places SE Belconnen in Molonglo. Many of these SE Belconnen commuters share the western approach to the City via Parkes Way with commuters from Weston Creek and parts of Woden. Equally, Gungahlin traffic shares major road connections with areas of Belconnen, particularly Ginninderra Drive, the Barton Highway, Northbourne Avenue and the proposed Gungahlin Drive Extension. The proposed redistribution shows far greater transport connectivity within the newly formed electorates of Ginninderra and Molonglo, suggesting they also have greater internal mobility and community interaction.

While the means and access to communication might be considered to be reasonably homogenous across the ACT, there is a case for some regional variation. Local debate about access to information technology has often complained that the outer suburbs (where there are fewer business clients) are the last to have access to broadband cable technologies provided by Telstra or TransACT. The census recorded the following data about the use of the internet:

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	Molonglo (without Gungahlin)	SE Belconnen (including Aranda, Bruce, Cook, Macquarie, Weetangera, Hawker)	Ginninderra (without SE Belconnen)	Gungahlin (without Nicholls)
Table 5: Internet Usage at Home				
% people using the internet at home	41.7%	44.9%	39.8%	39.5%

While the differences are not very pronounced, there is certainly little reason to argue that SE Belconnen is especially well-placed in Ginninderra on this variable alone.

A broader definition of “communication” may include the means that communities use for community representation, and here there is a noticeable difference between Belconnen and Gungahlin. It is far more common for subsections or individual suburbs of Belconnen to form local representative organisations of residents’ groups or trading organisations (eg Aranda Residents Group, Bruce Precinct Association, Kippax Traders), where this phenomenon is nowhere near as prevalent in Gungahlin. Belconnen is also divided between two Local Area Planning Advisory Committees (West Belconnen and Ginninderra). Thus, it is arguable that Belconnen has a far greater natural tendency to be able to represent different segments of the suburb cluster than Gungahlin, which has no such tradition.

Physical Features and Area

Subsection 36 (c) (iii) of the Act specifies that the Committee must duly consider “the physical features and area of each proposed electorate”.

The major physical feature of both Molonglo and Ginninderra are the water systems after which the electorates are named. However, there is an anomaly in this naming system as the bulk of the upper catchment of Ginninderra Creek is currently within the electorate of Molonglo, whilst the northern bank of the lower Molonglo River is currently in the electorate of Ginninderra. This reinforces the physical relationship between Gungahlin and Belconnen, which comprise a completely different river system to the Molonglo River.

There has been much political analysis about the appropriateness of placing political boundaries on the edges of water catchments so that politicians are forced to balance the needs of both upstream and downstream residents. The obvious Australian example is of the Murray-Darling Basin, which is currently spread across five jurisdictions, causing enormous problems in environmental management. While ACT electoral boundaries are not an issue of the same order, it remains a sensible decision to align electoral boundaries as closely to watersheds as possible. This proposed redistribution improves this aim considerably, placing the Coppins sub-catchment wholly within Molonglo, and placing all of Ginninderra Creek’s headwaters in Ginninderra. The only deviations are the southern segment of Ginninderra (virtually unpopulated) that is part of the Sullivans Creek sub-catchment, and the area of SE Belconnen to be included in Molonglo.

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A further consideration is the similarities of flora and environmental management issues that connect Belconnen and Gungahlin. While the pre-European environment of most of urban Canberra is quite similar, the management of ecologically sensitive environments adjacent to the urban fringe is a key issue in both areas. Both Gungahlin and Belconnen contain substantial temperate grassland nature reserves, some of which adjoin proposed development sites (e.g. Dunlop and Gungahlin Town Centre).

Another issue confronting Molonglo is the co-management of lands by both the ACT Government and the National Capital Authority. The NCA has jurisdiction over much of the hills and buffer zones that surround Woden, Weston Creek, and Central Canberra. Note that this also applies to SE Belconnen. The long-term co-management of NCA lands is an issue that unites Molonglo, but has little relevance for north or western Belconnen, or for Gungahlin.

Existing Electoral Boundaries

Obviously, this proposed redistribution is less in line with current electoral boundaries than the option of leaving them unchanged. However, this submission argues that the Committee should not rely too heavily on subsection 36 (c) (iv) of the Act if a proposal shows obvious improvements on other criteria, as the ACT Democrats' previous submission argued. This issue will be elaborated further below. It should also be noted that if our proposed redistribution occurred, the redrawn electorate of Ginninderra would still retain around 80% of current Ginninderra electors (the figure is even higher for Molonglo).

Boundaries under the Districts Act 1966

In terms of evaluating this proposal against the status quo, both require the division of one official district, being either Belconnen or Gungahlin. While subsection 36 (c) (v) of the Act requires the due consideration of divisions and sections fixed under the Districts Act 1996, this does not appear to be of use in choosing between these two options.

The Southern Electoral Boundary

The ACT Democrats proposed redistribution

The southern electoral boundary has generally attracted less attention than the northern. This submission proposes two general options for redistribution:

- no change to the electoral boundary; or
- add the suburb of Farrer to the electorate of Brindabella.

The only other option would be to transfer Chifley, Pearce, and Torrens into Molonglo, and transfer parts of southern Weston Creek into Brindabella (e.g. Chapman, Fisher, and Waramanga). While this would also bring the

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populations closer to fitting the required quota, there are few additional communities of interests to be created by this redistribution. Worse, it would result in the division of a small and cohesive group of suburbs (like Gungahlin) and this is not supported by the ACT Democrats.

Further Discussion

The major attraction of including the suburb of Farrer in the electorate of Brindabella is that it brings the number of electors closer to the optimum level. It would also indicate the Committee's intention to continue to place the southern suburbs of Woden into Brindabella as necessary. Finally, as the population of Brindabella is projected to grow at a slower rate than the remainder of Canberra, it would probably result in the number of electors remaining, on average, closer to the optimal level over the term of the next Assembly.

The same level of analysis has not been done for the southern electoral boundary as the northern in this submission, due to considerations of timeliness and brevity. The ACT Democrats encourage the further analysis of similarities between Farrer and Brindabella. Such an analysis will assist the Committee in determining whether Farrer more closely resembles Molonglo or Brindabella. It is very likely to resemble the nearby suburbs of Chiefly, Pearce, and Torrens, but the link with the more recently developed suburbs further south is more tenuous. Some level of statistical investigation may give the Committee more clarity as to which of the options presented here is more applicable.

The Electoral Act – Some Broader Considerations

The Argument for No Redistribution

The ACT Democrats are aware that other submissions may urge the Committee to decide that no redistribution is necessary, citing the fact that the current projections supplied by the Commission indicate that the population of electorates under their current configuration is not beyond the limits set by subsections 36 (a) and (b) of the Act.

However, such a decision would not give proper effect to the Act, which states that a redistribution process will begin "After each ordinary election" (s37), and nowhere states that a redistribution should occur if and only if the number of electors is beyond the limits set by subsections 36 (a) and (b) of the Act. In fact, after ensuring the a proposal complies with 36 (a), and 36 (b) as far as possible, competing proposals should be assessed by duly considering those items listed in subsection 36 (c). Thus, the argument that the current electorates meet the requirements of subsections 36 (a) and (b) is not, in and of itself, a reason to determine that no redistribution is required. This is particularly the case if the Committee is persuaded that an alternative

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proposal provides a more optimal configuration based on the criteria in subsection 36 (c).

The Boundaries of Existing Electorates

A second argument that might be advanced against this proposal (as it was during the last redistribution) is based upon section 36 (c) (iv) of the Act, which states that the Committee must duly consider “the boundaries of existing electorates”. This proposal does not meet this criterion to the same extent as retaining the current electoral boundaries intact.

Yet, as the 2000 Redistribution Committee noted, “This criterion has equal weight with the other criteria listed in paragraph 36 (c)” (para 59, p 13). That is to say, no more emphasis should be placed on 36 (c) (iv) than on the other four criteria listed – for example, the consideration of communication and transport within an electorate. However, particular emphasis was placed on 36 (c) (iv) in the 2000 Committee’s report – both selectively highlighting it in both the redistribution criteria (para 16, p 5), and the conclusion (para 59, p13). No other criterion was referred to by its assigned subsection in the document, other than by reprinting all criteria in the Act (para 7, p 3).

The 2000 Redistribution Committee goes so far to say that the presence of subsection 36 (c) (iv) “was an indication that the legislature placed considerable weight upon stability of electoral boundaries” (para 59, p 13). It is interesting that upon tabling the Electoral Bill in 1992, the then Attorney-General, Rosemary Follett, said:

“I would now like to return to one of the crucial parts of the Bill which I adverted to earlier. In preparing a proposed redistribution, both the Redistribution Committee and the Electoral Commission must have regard to the following matters: Community of interests within the proposed electorate, including economic, social and regional interests; means of communication and travel within the proposed electorate; the physical features and area of the proposed electorate; the boundaries of any existing electoral boundaries; and the boundaries established under the Districts Act 1966.”

(-Attorney-General, Ms Follett, LA Hansard, 14 October 1992, p 2631)

It is clear that she deliberately mentioned all five criteria for redistribution, in the order printed in the Act, with no particular reference to or elevation of electoral stability.

In contrast, note Helen Szuty’s comments in an earlier Matter of Public Importance:

“One of the most important tasks that will need to be undertaken by the Australian Electoral Commission is the division of Canberra into a number of regional electorates. This task needs to be approached sensitively so that arbitrary boundaries are not imposed which would unnecessarily separate cohesive communities. Geographically defined areas of Canberra need to be seen as such within electoral boundaries. Weston Creek is a good example.

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The Weston Creek community, although smaller than other geographical centres in Canberra, has considerable interest in the planning, health and education issues which affect it. It would be inappropriate for the electors of Weston Creek to elect some members, for example, to the electorate of central Canberra and other members, for example, to the electorate of Tuggeranong.”

(-Ms Szuty, LA Hansard, 19 May 1992, p 545)

Ms Szuty referred again to this section of her speech in her reply to the Electoral Bill 1992 (LA Hansard, 24 November 1992, p 3351). These comments are just as applicable and relevant to Gungahlin.

A further comment upon the reliance upon subsection 36 (c) (iv) is that elevating this criterion above others will have the effect of creating piecemeal changes to electoral boundaries. Thus, if this subsection is interpreted too strictly, electoral boundaries will tend to “creep” in response to changes in population growth, eventually bearing little resemblance to the initial communities of interest that created them.

It is also informative to note the 2000 Redistribution Committee’s reference to the 1993 Redistribution Committee’s statement that “the Committee was of the view that the boundaries proposed by the Committee ought to provide a useful foundation for future redistributions” (para 16, p 5). The corollary of this is that boundaries that no longer provide a useful foundation for future distributions require more drastic changes.

The current boundary dividing the district of Gungahlin provides no clear path for future distributions. The suggestion in the 2000 Redistribution Committee’s Report is that Palmerston may be a potential candidate for transfer to Ginninderra in the future. However, it appears odd to place the Gungahlin suburb nearest to the city in Ginninderra, while those furthest away remain in Molonglo. The wisdom of placing electoral boundaries so near to areas of new development, with their unpredictable growth rates and directions, is also questionable.

In contrast, the proposal outlined here leads to a more predictable movement of electoral boundaries in the future, with an easily viewed progression of inclusion of additional Belconnen suburbs to the west and north.

In summary, the Committee needs to ensure it is, in fact, weighting all five criteria in the Act equally.

Electoral Boundaries on Roads fronted by houses

It should be noted that this proposal would result in an electoral boundary that is fronted by houses along a section of its length. This occurs along Belconnen Way at the northern border of Weetangera and Hawker. It should also be noted that these houses would fall in different electorates but would also be in different suburbs, and that Belconnen Way remains a major arterial road. There is also road access to blocks along Eastern Valley Way, but these are not zoned residential. Houses on either side of Beasley Street also front the northern border of the suburb of Farrer.

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The 2000 Committee's Report stated "Roads fronted by houses are not ideal as electoral boundaries as they can result in confusion for residents in those streets" (para 48 p.11). While it is undoubtedly true that boundaries not fronted by houses are preferable as electoral boundaries, a proposed redistribution should not be ruled out on this basis alone. In fact, it is not immediately obvious which criterion in the Act this statement refers to. A case could be made that it could be a consideration in line with subsection 36 (c) (iii), but "physical features and area" encompasses many more considerations than the presence of houses on electoral boundaries.

It is also relevant to note that the current border between the federal electorates of Fraser and Canberra includes roads that are fronted by houses. It appears that this type of electoral boundary is not without precedent in the ACT.

Obviously, the smooth operation of elections and avoiding confusion in the electorate will inform the decisions of the Committee. However, these should not override the declared criteria in the Act. It remains uncertain whether the criteria given in section 36 should be considered exhaustive or not.

Holistic Decision-Making

The final criticism of the ACT Democrats previous submission was that "the Committee was of the view that the communities of interest between the suggested suburbs and the remainder of Belconnen are greater than between those between these suburbs and North Canberra". While this submission may raise some doubts about the generality of this claim, there are obviously going to be continuing communities of interest between suburbs in the same cluster.

However, it would be just as easy to argue, for similar reasons, that Nicholls has a greater community of interest with Gungahlin than with Belconnen, or that Gungahlin has a greater community of interests with Belconnen than with Central Canberra. However, it is not possible to create an electorate of five members covering all of Belconnen and Gungahlin. This means that part of either Gungahlin or Belconnen must be included in Molonglo.

Thus the argument is not whether SE Belconnen has a greater community of interest with Central Canberra or the remainder of Belconnen. It is that SE Belconnen has a greater affinity with Central Canberra than does Gungahlin. This submission has gathered much evidence to support the claim that SE Belconnen is a better candidate for inclusion in Molonglo than is Gungahlin, on at least three of the criteria in the Act. The reverse argument needs to be made if the Committee is to support maintenance of the current boundary, which is that Gungahlin (excluding Nicholls) somehow has a natural community of interests with Central Canberra, Woden, and Weston (but not Belconnen),

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Appendix A

Notes on Statistics

Table 1: Projected Ginninderra Population

This has been generated using the population data supplied by the Electoral Commission in the Guidelines for Submissions, ACT Legislative Assembly Electoral Boundaries Redistribution 2003.

Table 2: Selected Social Statistics

Generated from current ABS Statistics for the 2001 Census.

- Age profile (spreadsheet B03)
 - Expresses no. of people in age category as a percentage of total population (less overseas visitors)
- Level of education (spreadsheet B23)
 - “University degree” means bachelor degree or higher, expressed as a proportion of total people over 15 (excluding overseas visitors)
 - “Without non-school qualifications” includes people who have a qualification out of scope with the Australian Standard Classification of Education
- Household structure (spreadsheet B32)
 - Expressed the number of households with 3 or more people as a percentage of all households
- Family Structure (spreadsheet B17)
 - Expresses no. of families with children under 15 (including single-parent families) as a percentage of all families

Table 3: Selected Economic Characteristics

Generated from current ABS Statistics for the 2001 Census (except land values)

- Individual’s Incomes (spreadsheet B13)
 - Expresses the no. of individuals earning over \$1000 per week as a percentage of all person’s aged over 15 (excluding “not stated” and overseas visitors)
- Family income (spreadsheet B31)
 - Expresses the percentage of families earning over \$2000 per week as a proportion of all families (excluding those where no income or a partial income was stated)
- Dwellings being purchased (spreadsheet B19)
 - Expresses the percentage of dwellings being purchased (including through a rent/buy scheme) as a proportion of total dwellings (excluding “not stated)
- Land Values
 - Expresses Unimproved Land Value (2002) as the average of all assessed residential properties (ACT Treasury statistics)

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Table 4: Journey to work data

Generated from current ABS Statistics for the 2001 Census (B28)

- Private transport
 - Expresses the number of people who used a private vehicle (car, motorcycle or truck) as their only means of transport to work, as a percentage of total employed people (excluding “not stated”, “did not go to work” and “worked at home”)
- Alternative Transport
 - Expresses the number of people who used bus, bicycle or walking as their only means of transport to work, as a percentage of total employed people (excluding “not stated”, “did not go to work” and “worked at home”)

Table 5: Internet Usage at Home

Generated from current ABS Statistics for the 2001 Census (B16). Expresses the total number of people who used the internet at home as a percentage of total people (excluding “not stated” and overseas visitors).

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04 June 2003

Electoral Boundary Redistribution Committee
 ACT Electoral Commission
 Plaza Level, Allara House,
 48-56 Allara Street
 Canberra City, ACT 2601



**Gungahlin
 Community
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Electoral Boundaries – 2003 Distribution

Dear Committee Members,

The Gungahlin Community Council Inc. (GCC) is an incorporated, not for profit, community-based association operating within the Gungahlin region of the Australian Capital Territory.

The district represented by the Council covers an area in the north to northwest of the Territory between the ACT/NSW border and the Barton Highway, Federal Highway/Northbourne Avenue to the South and East.

The objectives of the council as defined in its constitution are as follows:

- To preserve and improve the social, cultural, economic and environmental well being of Gungahlin and the Gungahlin Community.

To achieve these objectives the Council undertakes to:

- Consult with members of the Gungahlin community;
- Represent the Gungahlin community, and lobby authorities on the community's behalf;
- Provide a non-political environment where members of the community can express their aspirations, concerns and suggestions;
- Provide a public forum where members of the community can obtain information, support and opportunities to network with others;
- Advise, support and / or assist any organisation with compatible objectives to those that have been adopted by the Council;
- Liaise with members of the public, legislators, officials and community representatives; and
- To provide appropriate information and opinions on matters relevant to the Gungahlin community.

**Suggestion from Gungahlin Community Council Inc.
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In line with achieving these objectives the Council Executive Committee resolved that a submission to Electoral Boundaries – 2003 Distribution Committee would be made.



Comments regarding the Electoral Boundaries – 2003 Distribution

At present the Gungahlin region is predominately zoned within the electoral boundaries of Molonglo, however there are two suburbs Hall and Nicholls that have been excised from the rest of the Gungahlin and are situated in the electorate of Ginninderra.

Apart from the inclusion of two Gungahlin suburbs the Ginninderra electorate, Ginninderra is otherwise exclusively associated with the Belconnen community of interest and associated metropolitan area and has no obvious synergy with the Gungahlin Region.

The Gungahlin Community Council believes that the entire Gungahlin region (that is the area in the north to northwest of the Territory between the ACT/NSW border and the Barton Highway, Federal Highway/Northbourne Avenue to the South and East) should be located within a single electorate being either that of Molonglo or Ginninderra.

The Gungahlin Community Council does not have the available expertise or resources to determine which would be the most appropriate electorate in which to be located, nor do we have any preconceived ideas with regard to how the redistributed electoral boundaries should be redrawn outside the Gungahlin region. However it is assumed that it will be possible to achieve the desired effect within the confines of the current Electoral Legislation.

Conclusion:

The current practice whereby Gungahlin as a community of interest has been split and subdivided across two electorates should not be perpetuated.

The Gungahlin Community Council looks forward to this opportunity to place the whole of the Gungahlin region within a single Electorate for the next ACT Election in 2004.

Yours faithfully

Barry Dee - President
Gungahlin Community Council Inc.