

From: [email address withheld at the request of the sender]
Sent: Friday, 11 July 2003 11:26 AM
To: elections@act.gov.au
Subject: Proposed Redistribution of Electoral Boundaries

Dear members of the ACT Electoral Commission,

I refer to your notice on page 8 of today's Canberra Times (Friday July 11) regarding the redistribution of electoral boundaries.

I am a resident of Nicholls in Gungahlin and it was very clear in the 2003 ACT elections that our suburb was completely forgotten when it came to being a part of the Ginninderra electorate. We didn't receive information from the Ginninderra candidates who, for obvious reasons, would have concentrated on the Belconnen suburbs and yet we also weren't considered part of the rest of Gungahlin. There was even a candidate from a new party, a Gungahlin-based residents' group, who didn't know whether or not he represented Nicholls!

The Barton Highway clearly defines both Belconnen and Gungahlin. Candidates and parties with the interests of Belconnen residents at heart really aren't interested in just one Gungahlin suburb. That's not a criticism, and I can understand that feeling, but it also means that Nicholls effectively has no representation at Legislative Assembly level.

I am well aware how difficult it must be putting boundaries in so that similar populations emerge in each electorate, but pulling Nicholls out of Gungahlin and putting it into Belconnen just doesn't seem to work. I notice in the proposed redistribution that the number of members differs from electorate to electorate, so perhaps this is a better option - increase the members in Molonglo and decrease the members in Ginninderra. If the numbers still don't balance, perhaps another of the southern suburbs of Woden would be transferred to Brindabella and their member numbers increased, as I notice that already Chifley, Pearce and Torrens are in Brindabella.

It just seems to me to be unfortunate that the suburb of Nicholls, which is clearly part of Gungahlin, should be separated. In no other area of Canberra is just one suburb from a region removed to another. The village of Hall identifies itself much more with Gungahlin than with Belconnen too, so perhaps that could also be taken into consideration.

Thank you for your interest in obtaining residents' views. I have lived in Gungahlin for 6 years and also work in Gungahlin.

Yours faithfully,

[name and address withheld at the request of the sender]