

GungahlinCouncilInc.txt

From: Roma Hosking [gunsmoke@austarmetro.com.au]
Sent: Thursday, 19 June 2003 4:44 PM
To: elections@act.gov.au
Subject: Electoral boundaries

Gungahlin Community Council Inc

Po Box 260

Gungahlin ACT 2912

19 June 2003

Electoral Boundary Redistribution Committee

ACT Electoral Commission

Plaza Level, Allara House,

48-56 Allara Street

Canberra City, ACT 2601

Electoral Boundaries – 2003 Distribution

Comments on Submissions

Dear Committee Members,

The Gungahlin Community Council (GCC) would like to make the following comments in relation to

the submissions already received on the Electoral Boundaries – 2003 Distribution.

- The GCC rejects the thoughts and opinions as expressed in the submissions that the boundaries

should remain “as is” purely on the basis of boundary stability as an underlying argument. This

position will continue the division on the Gungahlin region across two electorates.

- Gungahlin being the only significant area of green fields development in the Territory should

be considered in an electoral context similar to how Civic is being treated for planning and

development issues - "a first among equals" (quoting Minister Corbell - Canberra Times,

Friday 13th June). This is the only way to ensure cohesiveness legislative representation for the

entire region as it continues to rapidly grow.

- The position as expressed by the Weston Creek Community Council in that they will accept the

splitting of other communities as inevitable due to legislative constraints, but refuse to consider

that their own community being put under similar pressure is unfortunately an all too common

occurrence of the "Not In My Backyard" position. It could be argued that the Weston Creek

Community has not had the opportunity to consider statements made by the Australian Labor

Party prior to the 2001 Election (and documented in "Gunsmoke" Edition 63 - official

newsletter of the Gungahlin Community Council Inc.) that stated - because the Gungahlin

region was split across two electorates the region could look forward to "double" representation

from the elected members of the ACT Legislative Assembly.

I would like to point out that communities that are fragmented do not function as efficiently as those which are able to have a sense of belonging in their local community. I therefore, request the Electoral Commission repair the damage that has been done to the Gungahlin community by the dividing Gungahlin between two districts and ensure that Gungahlin is contained within one electoral boundary.

We trust that these comments will be given due consideration in the ongoing redistribution process.

Yours faithfully

Roma Hosking

[Sent by email]

Editor: Gunsmoke Newsletter

Gungahlin Community Council Inc.