



Proposed Redistribution of the ACT into Electorates for the Legislative Assembly

ACT Legislative Assembly

Electoral Boundaries

Redistribution 2011





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ACT Legislative Assembly Electoral Boundaries Redistribution 2011

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Summary of proposed redistribution

The 2011 ACT Redistribution Committee proposes in accordance with section 43 of the *Electoral Act 1992* that the current electoral boundaries in the Australian Capital Territory be altered as follows:

- The suburbs of Palmerston and Crace be transferred from Molonglo to Ginninderra;
- The portion of the district of Gungahlin bounded by the suburbs of Palmerston and Crace and Barton Highway and Gungahlin Drive be transferred from Molonglo to Ginninderra; and
- The portion of the district of Molonglo Valley north of the Molonglo River be transferred from Ginninderra to Molonglo.

The proposed electorates are as follows:

BRINDABELLA, a 5-Member electorate comprising the district of Tuggeranong (excluding the suburb of Hume), the Woden Valley suburbs of Chifley, Farrer, Pearce and Torrens and the districts of Booth, Coree, Cotter River, Paddys River, Rendezvous Creek, Tennent and Mount Clear;

GINNINDERRA, a 5-Member electorate comprising the districts of Belconnen and Hall (including the entire Village of Hall) and the Gungahlin suburbs of Crace, Nicholls and Palmerston; and

MOLONGLO, a 7-Member electorate comprising the districts of Gungahlin (excluding the suburbs of Crace, Nicholls and Palmerston), Canberra Central, Molonglo Valley, Weston Creek, Woden Valley (excluding the suburbs of Chifley, Farrer, Pearce and Torrens), Jerrabomberra (including the entire suburb of Hume), Kowen, Majura, and Stromlo.

Overall statistical summary

Quotas and maximum and minimum numbers of electors

	ACT	5 Member electorates	7 Member electorate
31 March 2011			
Actual enrolment	248 147		
Quotas		72 984	102 178
Not more than 110% of the quota		80 282	112 395
Not less than 90% of the quota		65 686	91 961
October 2012			
Projected enrolment	256 168		
Quotas		75 343	105 480
Not more than 105% of the quota		82 877	116 028
Not less than 95% of the quota		67 809	94 932

Existing electorates: Statistical summary

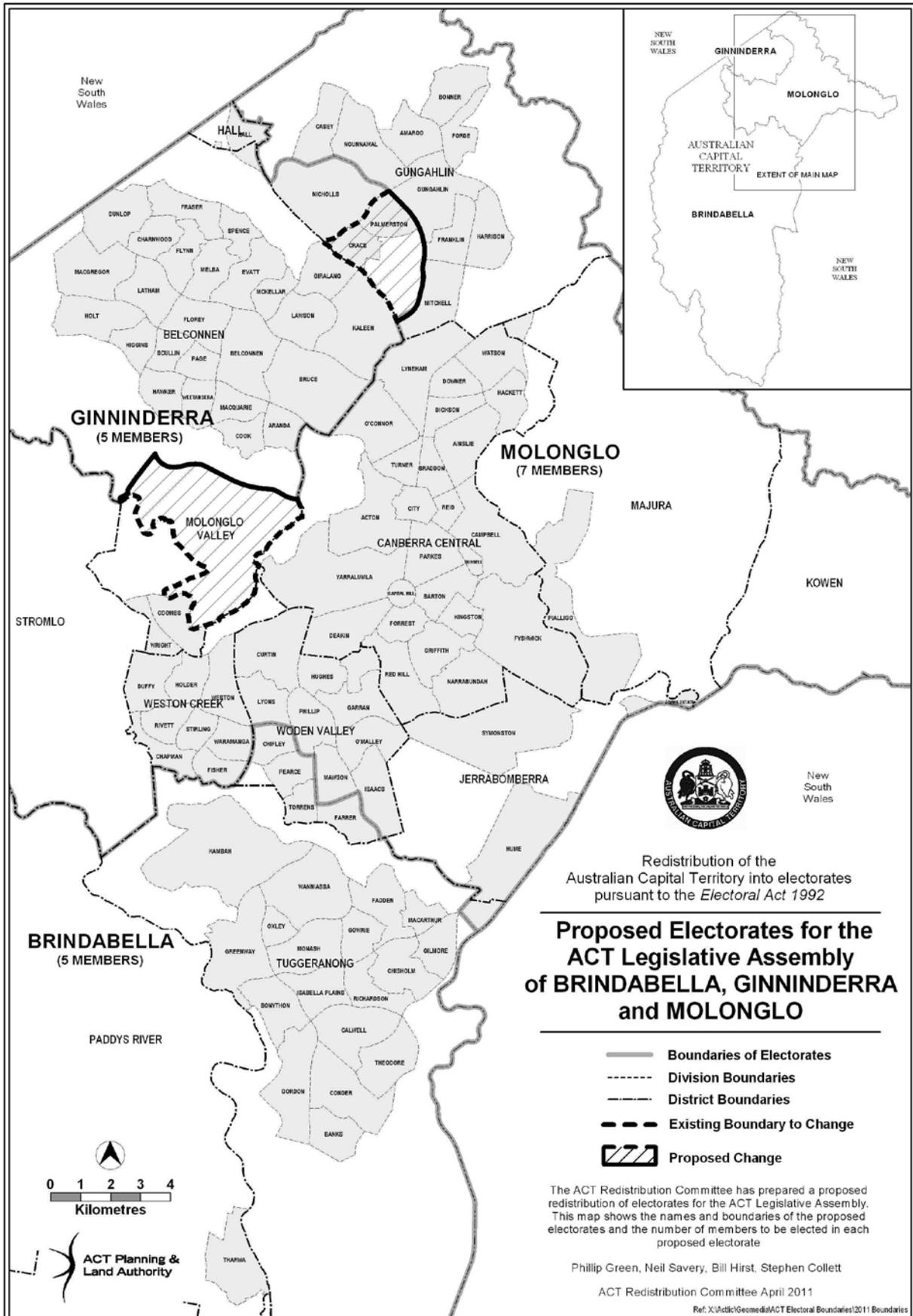
Proposed electorate	Number of Members	Enrolment March 2011	% above or below quota 2011	Projected enrolment October 2012	% above or below quota 2012
Brindabella	5	71 429	-2.13%	72 717	-3.49%
Ginninderra	5	69 978	-4.12%	71 098	-5.63%
Molonglo	7	106 740	4.46%	112 353	6.52%

Proposed electorates: Statistical summary

Proposed electorate	Number of Members	Enrolment March 2011	% above or below quota 2011	Projected enrolment October 2012	% above or below quota 2012
Brindabella	5	71 429	-2.13%	72 717	-3.49%
Ginninderra	5	73 975	1.36%	75 418	0.10%
Molonglo	7	102 743	0.55%	108 033	2.42%

For a detailed breakdown of these statistics see Appendix A.

Map of proposed boundaries



Legal Requirements

Commencement of the redistribution process

Section 37 of the *Electoral Act 1992* (the Electoral Act) provides that a redistribution of the electoral boundaries of the ACT shall begin as soon as practicable after the commencement of the period of 2 years ending on the expiration of the 3rd Saturday in October in the year in which the next ordinary election is due to be held.

The Redistribution Committee

Under section 39 of the Electoral Act, the ACT Electoral Commission is required to appoint a Redistribution Committee for the purposes of each redistribution. Before appointing this Redistribution Committee, the Commission gave careful consideration to the appointment of the fourth member of the Committee. The Commission appointed this Redistribution Committee on 19 January 2011. Notice of the appointment of the Redistribution Committee was notified on the ACT Legislation Register on 24 January 2011.

The Redistribution Committee consists of the Electoral Commissioner (Mr Phillip Green, who is chairperson of the Redistribution Committee), the Chief Planning Executive, ACT Planning and Land Authority (Mr Neil Savery), the Surveyor-General (Mr Bill Hirst) and a person appointed by the ACT Electoral Commission, the Regional Director, ACT Office, Australian Bureau of Statistics (Mr Stephen Collett).

Invitation to submit suggestions and comments

In accordance with section 41 of the Electoral Act, the Redistribution Committee invited written suggestions relating to the redistribution, and written comments on those suggestions, by written notice published in the Canberra Times and the ACT Legislation Register on 10 February 2011. The closing date for suggestions was 10 March 2011. Six suggestions were received by the closing date. The closing date for comments on these suggestions was 24 March 2011. No comments on suggestions were received.

Redistribution criteria

Section 36 of the Electoral Act sets out the criteria under which a redistribution is to be conducted. This section (as applied to a Redistribution Committee by section 43 of the Electoral Act) prescribes that a Redistribution Committee, in making a redistribution of electorates, shall:

- (a) ensure that the number of electors in an electorate immediately after the redistribution is within the range permitted by subsection 67D(2) of the *Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988* (the Self-Government Act) of the Commonwealth;

- (b) 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 ascertained in accordance with the formula set out in subsection 67D(1) of the *Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988* of the Commonwealth; and
- (c) duly consider —
- (i) the community of interests within each proposed electorate, including economic, social and regional interests;
 - (ii) the means of communication and travel within each proposed electorate;
 - (iii) the physical features and area of each proposed electorate;
 - (iv) the boundaries of existing electorates; and
 - (v) the boundaries of divisions and sections fixed under the *Districts Act 2002*.

Section 67D of the *Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988* of the Commonwealth prescribes that:

(1) In this section:

“**quota**”, in relation to an electorate for the Territory, means the number calculated in accordance with the formula:

$$\frac{\text{Number of Territory electors} \times \text{Number of electorate members}}{\text{Number of Territory members}}$$

where:

“**Number of Territory electors**” means the number of electors of the Territory;

“**Number of electorate members**” means the number of members to be elected by the electorate;

“**Number of Territory members**” means the number of members of the Assembly.

- (2) A distribution or redistribution of the Territory into electorates is not to result in any electorate having, immediately after the distribution or redistribution:
- (a) a number of electors of the Territory greater than 110% of its quota; or
 - (b) a number of electors of the Territory less than 90% of its quota.

Objections

Written objections to the Redistribution Committee’s proposed redistribution can be lodged with the ACT Electoral Commission by no later than 2 June 2011.

Objections should be lodged at:

ACT Electoral Commission
 Ground Floor, North Building, Civic Square
 London Circuit
 CANBERRA ACT 2601

Postal Address: PO Box 272, CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608
 Phone: (02) 6205 0033, Fax: (02) 6205 0382
 Email: elections@act.gov.au

Who considers objections?

Objections to the Redistribution Committee's proposal will be considered by the Augmented ACT Electoral Commission. The Augmented Commission consists of the Chairperson of the ACT Electoral Commission (Mr Roger Beale AO), the Electoral Commissioner (Mr Phillip Green, who is chairperson of the Redistribution Committee), the third member of the ACT Electoral Commission (Ms Dawn Casey) and the other members of the Redistribution Committee: the Chief Planning Executive (Mr Neil Savery), the ACT Surveyor-General (Mr Bill Hirst) and the Regional Director, ACT Office, Australian Bureau of Statistics (Mr Stephen Collett). The Augmented Commission may hold public hearings into objections to the proposed redistribution.

Numbers of electors

Numbers of electors immediately after the redistribution

Paragraph 36(a) of the Electoral Act requires the Committee to ensure that the number of electors in an electorate immediately after the redistribution is within the range permitted by subsection 67D(2) of the Self-Government Act. The Committee has had recourse to several sets of enrolment statistics in the course of the redistribution.

Before appointing the Redistribution Committee, the ACT Electoral Commission obtained from the Australian Electoral Commission enrolment statistics for the ACT, broken down by suburb. These enrolment statistics were compiled on 30 September 2010. These statistics were used to project the enrolment figures by suburb at the time of the next election. They were made available for the information of people lodging submissions.

The *Guidelines for submissions* published by the Committee concurrently with the call for public suggestions and comments included the enrolment statistics compiled on 30 September 2010 and the then latest available statistics from 31 January 2011.

This report includes updated enrolment statistics compiled on 31 March 2011. The Committee considered that these figures were sufficient for ensuring the criterion related to current enrolment will be met under its proposed redistribution. However, the Augmented Electoral Commission may further consult the Australian Electoral Commission before it makes its final determination, to ensure that the final determination is made against the latest enrolment statistics.

Numbers of electors at the time of the next general election

Paragraph 36(b) of the Electoral Act requires the Committee to endeavour to ensure, as far as practicable, that the number of electors in an electorate at the time of the next general election is within the range of not greater than 105% nor less than 95% of the quota at that time. The next general election is due to be held on 20 October 2012 under section 100 of the Electoral Act.

In order to comply with this criterion, the ACT Electoral Commission engaged the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to project enrolment at the suburb level as at 20 October 2012. The projected enrolment statistics were calculated by the ABS according to assumptions accepted by the Electoral Commission on the basis of advice provided by the ACT Government, using the number of electors enrolled in each suburb as at 30 September 2010. A detailed description of the methodology used to calculate the projected enrolment statistics is included in the introduction to those statistics, which are available from the Electoral Commission (see www.elections.act.gov.au/resources/uploads/pdfs/redistrib_11/guidelinesstats11.pdf).

The Committee notes that the enrolment projections for October 2012 are just that: projections based on current enrolment statistics and anticipated population changes, taking past population growth and projected housing developments into account. In particular, the Committee notes that the methodology used to calculate projected enrolment at the time of the 2012 election may not have accurately taken account of new developments in the suburbs of Coombs and Wright in the district of Molonglo Valley.

As the projected enrolment totals for October 2012 are simply estimates, they cannot be expected to be totally accurate. The Committee considers that it is necessary to leave a margin of error to allow for the possibility that enrolment projections to suburb level may not accurately forecast the actual enrolment relativities of the three electorates at the time of the next election. For this reason, the Committee has taken care that the boundaries proposed by the Committee include a margin for error to ensure that each electorate will be within the required +/-5% range at the time of the next election.

Quotas

At 31 March 2011 there were 248,147 electors on the roll for the ACT. The quota for the 5-Member electorates determined in accordance with section 67D of the Self-Government Act is 72,984, the permitted minimum enrolment (not less than 90% of the quota) is 65,686, and the permitted maximum enrolment (not greater than 110% of the quota) is 80,282. The quota for the 7-Member electorate is 102,178, the permitted minimum enrolment is 91,961, and the permitted maximum enrolment is 112,395.

The ABS projects that there will be 256,168 electors on the roll for the ACT in October 2012. Therefore the quota for the 5-Member electorates at that time determined in accordance with subsection 67D(1) of the Self-Government Act is 75,343, the permitted minimum enrolment (not less than 95% of the quota) is 67,809, and the permitted maximum enrolment (not greater than 105% of the quota) is 82,877. The quota for the 7-Member electorate is 105,480, the permitted minimum enrolment is 94,932, and the permitted maximum is 116,028.

The other redistribution criteria

The criteria set out in paragraph 36(c) of the Electoral Act — community of interests, means of communication and travel, physical features and area, boundaries of existing electorates and boundaries of divisions and sections fixed under the *Districts Act 2002* — are subservient to the two objectives of enrolments in proposed electorates being within a range of 5% above or below the quota at the time of the next election and current enrolments being within 10% above or below the quota. However, given these two constraints the Committee sought to ensure that the other criteria were given maximum possible effect. In particular, the Committee considered that these criteria were best met by avoiding, where possible, splitting suburbs and districts and by selecting boundaries which clearly separate communities.

Suggestions and comments

Six suggestions were lodged with the Redistribution Committee by the close of the suggestions period on 10 March 2011. No comments on the suggestions were received by the closing date on 24 March 2011. Copies of the suggestions may be viewed at the Commission's office or obtained from its website, www.elections.act.gov.au.

The Committee met on 31 March 2011 to discuss the public suggestions received.

Brief summary of suggestions

Elias Hallaj, Secretary, Australian Labor Party, ACT Branch

This suggestion notes that "ACT Labor believes that although there is a long-term need for more substantial reform, the stability of the current electoral structure serves to increase the public confidence in the administration and outcomes of Territory Elections." The suggestion makes a case for only moving a small number of suburbs between electorates in order to meet the requirements of the redistribution provisions. "ACT Labor therefore requests that the Redistribution Committee seek a minimalist approach to boundary changes that will provide greater confidence in the existing system, boundaries and in the management of ACT electoral regulations. This would also be prudent given the current Senate debate around the ACT Assembly's rights to determine the size of its own legislature."

The suggestion does not propose any specific changes.

Alan Kerlin, Spokesman – Planning, Transport and Environment, Gungahlin Community Council

This suggestion states that "we should say at the outset that we feel most of this process will be in vain, and the committee will default to the "least change" approach it did last time around. The problem with that approach of course is that it does not fix the problem in a lasting manner, as evident from the fact that we need more changes just three years later. The incremental approach does not account for the rapid population growth in the north. And the core problem will remain: the 7-Member Molonglo electorate will remain geographically sprawling from almost Tuggeranong, through Weston, Woden, central Canberra and circling around Belconnen through most (but not all) of Gungahlin. There will remain some MLAs representing parts of Gungahlin who know little of the Gungahlin community's issues, and if we are frank seldom set foot in Gungahlin."

This suggestion states that "Our preferred approach is for the ACT to have additional MLAs." The suggestion goes on to demonstrate how the ACT could be divided into 5 electorates each returning 5 MLAs.

Noting that the current redistribution law requires the ACT to be divided into two 5-Member electorates and one 7-Member electorate, the suggestion proposes a solution aimed at avoiding the current splitting of the Districts of Gungahlin and Woden Valley. This solution consists of making Ginninderra the 7-Member electorate, comprising all of Belconnen, Gungahlin and the suburb of Watson; making Molonglo a 5-Member electorate consisting of Canberra Central (less Watson) and Woden Valley; and making Brindabella a 5-Member electorate comprising all of Tuggeranong and Weston Creek.

This suggestion also proposes another alternative: making Ginninderra the 7-Member electorate, comprising all of Belconnen, Gungahlin and the suburbs of Lyneham and Watson; making Molonglo a 5-Member electorate consisting of Canberra Central (less Lyneham and Watson), Weston Creek and those Woden Valley suburbs north of Hindmarsh drive; and making Brindabella a 5-Member electorate comprising all of Tuggeranong and those Woden Valley suburbs south of Hindmarsh drive.

Jonathon Reynolds

This suggestion puts forward three options for altering the existing boundaries to return each electorate to within +/- 5% of the quota at the time of the 2012 election.

The first model proposes minimal changes to the existing boundaries, moving the Gungahlin suburbs of Palmerston and Crace from Molonglo to Ginninderra, and moving the Woden Valley suburb of Mawson from Molonglo to Brindabella. Mr Reynolds states that this model is included for illustrative purposes only and is not put forward as a recommended solution.

The second model proposes making Ginninderra the 7-Member electorate, comprising all of Belconnen and Gungahlin and the Canberra Central suburbs of Lyneham, O'Connor and Turner; making Molonglo a 5-Member electorate consisting of Canberra Central (less Lyneham, O'Connor and Turner), Woden Valley (less Chifley, Farrer, Mawson, Pearce and Torrens) and all of Weston Creek; and making Brindabella a 5-Member electorate comprising all of Tuggeranong and the Woden Valley suburbs of Chifley, Farrer, Mawson, Pearce and Torrens.

The third model proposes making Ginninderra the 7-Member electorate, comprising all of Belconnen and Gungahlin and the Canberra Central suburbs of Lyneham, O'Connor and Turner; making Molonglo a 5-Member electorate consisting of Canberra Central (less Lyneham, O'Connor and Turner), all of Woden Valley and the Weston Creek suburbs of Duffy, Holder and Weston; and making Brindabella a 5-Member electorate comprising all of Tuggeranong and the Weston Creek suburbs of Chapman, Fisher, Rivett, Stirling and Waramanga. Mr Reynolds states that this is his preferred option.

Bogey Musidlak, Convenor, Proportional Representation Society of Australia (ACT Branch)

This suggestion submitted that there should be a minimal change only to the present boundaries in order to keep the boundaries within the required +/- 5% target in 2012. Arguments put forward in favour of making a minimal change included:

- That there was a community expectation that electoral boundaries would seldom change; and
- That stability of electoral boundaries was one of the features of the Hare-Clark electoral system listed in the official case in favour of Hare-Clark distributed during the 1992 referendum on the choice of electoral systems in the ACT.

The suggestion proposed transferring the Gungahlin suburbs of Palmerston and Crace from Molonglo to Ginninderra.

The suggestion noted that: “while moving just Palmerston would address the imbalance in enrolments, the question arises of whether Crace should be moved also even though it is expected to have very few voters in October 2012. The Proportional Representation Society of Australia (Australian Capital Territory Branch) believes that better boundaries for electors would arise if this step were taken now as Nicholls, Palmerston and Crace form a more natural standalone unit geographically than would just Nicholls and Palmerston. Future growth in Crace could then result in boundary stability being a possible option when the next redistribution is undertaken as Ginninderra would have an area in which rapid population increases were occurring and receiving attention from at least some of its MLAs.”

Tony Farrell

This suggestion states “that Nicholls should be removed from Ginninderra and re-united with Gungahlin, and hence Molonglo for the time being, and that Chifley, Pearce, Torrens and Farrer be removed from Brindabella and also returned to Molonglo, and that the number of Representatives for Molonglo should be raised from 7 to 9.”

Tom Anderson, Deputy Chairman, Weston Creek Community Council

This suggestion consists of an initial submission dated 24 February 2011 and a supplementary submission dated 9 March 2011. The suggestion supported keeping Weston Creek entirely within the electorate of Molonglo. Recognising that changes to boundaries will be needed to ensure that electorates were within +/- 5% of the quota at the time of the 2012 election, “WCCC suggest to keep any changes to a minimum that the suburbs of Palmerston and Crace be moved from the Electorate of Molonglo to the Electorate of Ginninderra. This will provide a very clear boundary between the two electorates and geographically seems to be the “right” boundary. This move will then provide for the three electorates to be within the 5% of the projected quota for each Electorate.”

Brief summary of comments

No comments were received by the closing date of 24 March 2011.

The Committee's proposed boundaries

The following paragraphs examine some of the options the Committee considered before arriving at its proposed boundaries.

Retaining the current boundaries unchanged

Under section 36(b) of the Electoral Act, the Committee is required to 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.

According to the enrolment projections prepared by the ABS, while Brindabella is projected to be 3.49% below the quota in October 2012, Ginninderra is projected to be 5.63% below the quota in October 2012, and Molonglo is projected to be 6.52% above the quota in October 2012.

As a result, the Committee considers that it is required to alter the boundaries in order to bring all 3 electorates within +/-5% of the projected enrolment in October 2012.

Consequently, while there is no numerical imperative to alter the Brindabella boundary, the projected enrolments indicate that it will be necessary to reduce the number of electors in Molonglo and increase the number of electors in Ginninderra. Therefore leaving the current boundaries unchanged is not an option for this redistribution.

The Brindabella-Molonglo boundary

The Committee turned first to the Brindabella-Molonglo boundary.

The Committee noted that the enrolment for Brindabella was projected to be 3.49% below the quota at the time of the October 2012 election. Given the requirement in section 36(b) of the Electoral Act to ensure, as far as practicable, that the number of electors in an electorate at the time of the next general election will not be greater than 105%, or less than 95%, of the expected quota for the electorate at that time, the Committee noted that there was no numerically compelling argument to alter the Brindabella boundary.

Of the six suggestions received by the Committee, three (those submitted by the Australian Labor Party, the Proportional Representation Society and Weston Creek Community Council) indicated that there was no need to alter the Brindabella boundary.

The submission made by the Gungahlin Community Council proposed two alternative changes to the Brindabella boundary. The first change would combine all of the districts of Tuggeranong and Weston Creek in Brindabella while the second change would combine the district of Tuggeranong with those Woden Valley suburbs south of Hindmarsh drive. The Committee notes that the first proposed change would put Brindabella over 8% above the quota in October 2012, and the second proposed change would put Brindabella close to 5% above the quota in October 2012, while splitting the suburb of Phillip along Hindmarsh Drive. Given that these two proposals would fail the test of ensuring that the boundaries of Brindabella were within 5% of the quota at the time of the next election, the Committee did not consider that these options were viable.

The submission made by Tony Farrell suggested that the suburbs of Chifley, Farrer, Pearce and Torrens be removed from Brindabella and that Molonglo should be made a 9 Member electorate. As such a change is beyond the power of the Redistribution Committee, this suggestion cannot be considered within the terms of the current Electoral Act.

Two of the three proposals put forward by Jonathon Reynolds proposed the same change to the Brindabella boundary: to transfer the suburb of Mawson from Molonglo to Brindabella. This would put Brindabella 0.56% below the quota in October 2012. Mr Reynolds' preferred option included transferring all Woden Valley suburbs to Molonglo and transferring the Weston Creek suburbs of Chapman, Fisher, Rivett, Stirling and Waramanga from Molonglo to Brindabella. This option would put Brindabella 0.57% below the quota in October 2012.

Mr Reynolds does not advance an argument as to why he recommended transferring Mawson as opposed to leaving the Brindabella boundary unchanged. In support of his proposal to incorporate all of Woden in Molonglo and to transfer 5 Weston Creek suburbs to Brindabella, Mr Reynolds indicated the desirability of not splitting the district of Woden between electorates, and noted that future redistributions could see the incorporation of the entire Weston Creek district in Brindabella as the Molonglo Valley district development grows.

Taking the above considerations into account, the Committee turned to the views expressed by the Augmented ACT Electoral Commission during the 2007 redistribution process. At the 2007 redistribution, the Redistribution Committee proposed transferring Farrer from Molonglo to Brindabella and proposed transferring Palmerston from Molonglo to Ginninderra, in order to bring all three electorates closer to the quota at the time of the next election. Following the objection process, the Augmented Commission decided that it was only necessary to move one of these suburbs in order to satisfy the requirement that all three electorates be within +/-5% of the quota at the time of the next election.

In considering the factors required to be taken into account under section 36 of the Electoral Act, the Augmented Commission determined that the requirement to consider the boundaries of existing electorates, and the requirement to endeavour to ensure that all electorates would be within +/-5% of the quota at the time of the next election, indicated that any changes should only be made to ensure that the electorates were within the 5% target, and that otherwise stability of boundaries should be maintained where possible.

In its statement of reasons for its redistribution of boundaries conducted in 2007, the Augmented Commission addressed whether it had any basis for altering the boundaries so that each electorate was closer to the quota at the time of the election, in order to provide for a greater approximation of “one-vote, one-value”. At page 12 of the Report on the 2007 redistribution, the Augmented Commission stated: “The Augmented Commission noted that the Electoral Act did not explicitly refer to one-vote, one-value. Rather, it implicitly sought to meet the desirability of achieving one-vote, one-value through the mechanism of requiring each electorate to be within 5% of the quota at the time of the next election. The Augmented Commission did not consider that this requirement extended to providing that each electorate had to be as close to the quota as possible. The Augmented Commission took the view that its principal aim was to ensure that each electorate was within the required 5% of the quota and, provided that this was met, then the provisions of section 36(c), requiring consideration of range of issues such as community of interests and boundaries of existing electorates, provide guidance for the Augmented Commission in selecting the best option.”

Taking these views into account, and noting the suggestions that argued in favour of retaining stability of electoral boundaries, the present Redistribution Committee has decided to propose that the Brindabella boundary should remain unchanged for the reasons expressed above by the 2007 Augmented Commission.

The Ginninderra-Molonglo boundary

Having decided that there was no need to alter the Brindabella-Molonglo boundary, the Committee turned to the boundary between Ginninderra and Molonglo.

The Committee noted that Ginninderra is projected to be 5.63% below the quota in October 2012, and Molonglo is projected to be 6.52% above the quota in October 2012. As a result, the Committee considers that it is required to alter the boundaries to increase the size of Ginninderra and decrease the size of Molonglo in order to bring the electorates within +/-5% of the projected enrolment in October 2012.

The Committee considered the following options.

Option 1: Minimal change – Transferring Palmerston and Crace from Molonglo to Ginninderra

Of the six suggestions received by the Committee, three (those submitted by the Australian Labor Party, the Proportional Representation Society and Weston Creek Community Council) supported making only a small change to the existing boundaries in order to bring them within the required +/-5% tolerance.

The Australian Labor Party did not suggest which particular change should be made, but indicated: “Moving a small number of suburbs between electorates would minimise the possibility that the proposed redistribution would generate many objections and would also improve the likelihood of wider support for more substantial reform in the future by minimising the disruption that would be caused by a significant change now as well as one in the near future.”

The Proportional Representation Society argued strongly for stability of electoral boundaries, and suggested that the most appropriate change to make would be to transfer Palmerston and Crace from Molonglo to Ginninderra. It stated that it “believes that better boundaries for electors would arise if this step were taken now as Nicholls, Palmerston and Crace form a more natural standalone unit geographically than would just Nicholls and Palmerston. Future growth in Crace could then result in boundary stability being a possible option when the next redistribution is undertaken as Ginninderra would have an area in which rapid population increases were occurring and receiving attention from at least some of its MLAs.”

The Weston Creek Community Council stated that: “WCCC suggest to keep any changes to a minimum that the suburbs of Palmerston and Crace be moved from the Electorate of Molonglo to the Electorate of Ginninderra. This will provide a very clear boundary between the two electorates and geographically seems to be the “right” boundary.”

In addition, Mr Reynolds submitted a “minimal change” model that he did not put forward as a recommended solution, that proposed the transfer of Palmerston and Crace from Molonglo to Ginninderra. Mr Reynolds stated: “This is the least optimal choice as it further exacerbates the current inadequacies of the current electoral boundaries further fragmenting the districts of Gungahlin and Woden Valley across two electorates and uses boundaries that at times are not immediately logical when considering the divisions and sections as defined under the *Districts Act 2002*. The means of communication and travel within each proposed electorate remain complicated and for the electorate of Molonglo there is little sense in the physical features of the electorate as it encompasses several multiple disparate Districts across the North, Central and Southern Areas of Canberra.”

The Committee notes that three of the above suggestions all indicated that the most appropriate suburbs to transfer to achieve minimal change would be Palmerston and Crace. The Committee notes that, numerically, it would not be necessary to transfer Crace in order to achieve the required +/-5% targets by the time of the next election. Crace is only projected to include 112 electors in October 2012. However, the Committee notes the geography of the region suggests strongly that Crace should be included in the transfer of Palmerston to Ginninderra, given that Crace is between Palmerston and Belconnen and is adjacent to the Belconnen suburb of Giralang. The Committee further notes that the transfer of Crace would include in Ginninderra a developing suburb that could be expected to have high growth after the 2012 election, which may assist in preserving the stability of the boundaries at the following redistribution.

While it may be possible to transfer other Gungahlin suburbs from Molonglo to Ginninderra, such as Casey and Ngunnawal, the Committee agrees with the above suggestions that Palmerston and Crace would be the most appropriate suburbs to transfer, given their physical proximity to Belconnen.

However, the Committee is aware the adoption of the proposed transfer of Palmerston and Crace from Molonglo to Ginninderra would further increase the split of the district of Gungahlin between the two electorates, noting that the Gungahlin suburb of Nicholls is currently in Ginninderra.

Three of the public suggestions argued in favour of keeping all of the Gungahlin suburbs in the one electorate. The submissions made by the Gungahlin Community Council, Mr Reynolds and Mr Farrell all sought solutions that would see Gungahlin united in one electorate.

The following option considers models for including all of Gungahlin in one electorate.

Option 2: Significant change – Making Ginninderra the 7 Member electorate, consisting of Belconnen, Gungahlin, Hall and Mitchell and the Central Canberra suburbs of Lyneham, O'Connor and Turner

The Committee noted the suggestions calling for Nicholls to be included in the same electorate as the rest of Gungahlin, and for all of Gungahlin to be included in one electorate. The Committee agreed that the inclusion of Nicholls in Ginninderra is not ideal. Accordingly, the Committee examined a number of options to determine whether an alternative could be identified that included Nicholls in the same electorate as the rest of Gungahlin that also met the criteria in paragraph 36(c) to the same or to a greater extent than the current boundaries.

The Redistribution Committee that undertook the 2007 redistribution extensively canvassed options for including all Gungahlin suburbs in the one electorate. These included combining (north) Central Canberra suburbs with Belconnen suburbs to form a 5 Member electorate and combining all of Gungahlin with a portion of Belconnen suburbs in a 5 Member electorate. The current Committee agrees with the 2007 Committee in rejecting these options for the same reasons as were canvassed in the 2007 report.

Other options considered in the 2007 redistribution involved proposals to combine all of Gungahlin and all of Belconnen together with some (north) Central Canberra suburbs in a 7 Member electorate.

In this present redistribution, the Gungahlin Community Council and Mr Reynolds put forward similar options. The Gungahlin Community Council put forward two options: making Ginninderra the 7-Member electorate, comprising all of Belconnen, Gungahlin and the suburb of Watson; and making Ginninderra the 7-Member electorate, comprising all of Belconnen, Gungahlin and the suburbs of Lyneham and Watson. Mr Reynolds suggested making Ginninderra the 7-Member electorate, comprising all of Belconnen and Gungahlin and the Canberra Central suburbs of Lyneham, O'Connor and Turner.

It is noteworthy that all of these options would require the combination of the districts of Belconnen and Gungahlin with some (north) Central Canberra suburbs in order to constitute a 7 Member electorate that meets the +/-5% criterion. The Committee notes that Belconnen and Gungahlin combined are not large enough to constitute a 7 Member electorate without supplementation from another district. Thus any attempt to avoid splitting the district of Gungahlin must of necessity split another district. As the suburbs of (north) Central Canberra are those closest to and in some cases directly adjacent to Belconnen and Gungahlin, these are the suburbs most appropriate to being combined in such a 7 Member electorate.

The Committee notes that the option to make Ginninderra the 7-Member electorate, comprising all of Belconnen, Gungahlin and the suburb of Watson would result in the electorate of Ginninderra being 4.79% below the quota at the time of the next election. For the reasons canvassed in the 2007 redistribution report, the Committee would consider this result would be too close to the permitted 5% variation to be acceptable within the requirements of the Electoral Act.

The Committee notes that the option to make Ginninderra the 7-Member electorate, comprising all of Belconnen, Gungahlin and the suburbs of Lyneham and Watson would result in the electorate of Ginninderra being 2.22% above the quota at the time of the next election. While this option is comfortably within the +/-5% range, the Committee notes that it would involve placing a boundary along Wattle Street, the suburban street dividing the suburbs of Lyneham and O'Connor. The Committee did not consider this boundary to be optimal, given that it would disrupt the community of interests of the residents on either side of Wattle Street. The Committee also notes that Lyneham and Watson are only connected along a small part of their respective boundaries, along the major thoroughfare of Northbourne Avenue. The Committee did not consider the connection of these two suburbs to each other was as significant as the connections these suburbs had to other adjacent suburbs. For these reasons the Committee does not consider that the selection of Lyneham and Watson would be the optimal choice when considering an option that would result in a 7 Member electorate incorporating Belconnen and Gungahlin.

The Committee notes that the option to make Ginninderra the 7-Member electorate, comprising all of Belconnen, Gungahlin and the suburbs of Lyneham, O'Connor and Turner would result in the electorate of Ginninderra being 1.08% above the quota at the time of the next election. This result would be comfortably within the required +/-5% variation from the quota. The Committee also notes that the electorate boundaries around these three (north) Central Canberra suburbs would follow the major thoroughfares of Northbourne Avenue and Barry Drive.

This option was considered by the Committee to be the best mix of suburbs that could constitute a 7 Member electorate including Belconnen and Gungahlin.

The Committee considered that this option had merit in that it combined the whole of the districts of Belconnen and Gungahlin with a discrete set of (north) Central Canberra suburbs – Lyneham, O’Connor and Turner – that had close connections with each other and which were delineated from the rest of Central Canberra by the major multi-lane thoroughfares of Northbourne Avenue and Barry Drive. The Committee also noted that two of these three suburbs were immediately adjacent to the Belconnen suburbs of Kaleen and Bruce, that they shared access to O’Connor Ridge Nature Park and that they had strong transport links along Belconnen Way, Ginninderra Drive and the Barton Highway. The Committee also noted these areas had a range of other connections due to their proximity, including access to schools, shops, sporting facilities and Calvary Hospital.

The Committee also considered that Gungahlin and Belconnen had stronger links with each other than Gungahlin had with the further reaches of the existing Molonglo electorate, stretching as it does from Gungahlin through Central Canberra to Woden and Weston Creek.

If this option was adopted, the Committee also considered that this option could in the longer term see the Central Canberra suburbs return to Molonglo as Gungahlin increased in size.

However, the Committee notes that this option would significantly violate the principle of giving regard to the boundaries of existing electorates, with its implicit value of minimising changes to electoral boundaries and providing stability of boundaries. The Committee notes that this option would involve the transfer of around 31,600 electors from Molonglo to Ginninderra on current enrolment. (By contrast, the proposal to transfer Palmerston and Crace would involve the transfer of around 4,000 electors.) This option would also have the significant consequence of moving the location of the 7 Member electorate.

The Committee is also concerned that this option would significantly disrupt the community of interests that Lyneham, O’Connor and Turner share with neighbouring (north) Central Canberra suburbs. As the various Central Canberra suburbs were developed and settled much earlier than the suburbs of Belconnen and Gungahlin, it is arguable they have much more in common with each other than they do with the suburbs developed more recently. For example, it could be argued that Lyneham, Turner and O’Connor have much closer connections to the university precinct of Acton, the adjacent City area and the neighbouring suburbs of Braddon, Dickson, Downer and Watson than they do with Belconnen or Gungahlin.

For the above reasons, the Committee concludes that it could not propose this change to the existing boundaries.

However, the Committee also notes the strength of feeling of those who are concerned that the existing electorate of Molonglo is too large, stretching as it does from Gungahlin to Weston Creek, and that it splits the growing district of Gungahlin. The Committee also recognises that the preferred alternative to this option would further split Gungahlin between Molonglo and Ginninderra.

The Committee therefore invites the ACT community to comment on the above option in the objection stage of this redistribution process. Should significant community support for this (or another) change emerge during the objection process, the Augmented Commission would have the option of rejecting the proposal of this Committee and substituting its own proposed redistribution. If that were to occur, the Electoral Act would require the Augmented Commission to conduct a further round of objections should the Augmented Commission's proposal be significantly different from the proposal made by this Committee.

Inclusion of the district of Molonglo Valley in one electorate

The Committee notes that the new district of Molonglo Valley is currently split between the electorates of Ginninderra and Molonglo. By the time of the October 2012 election, the only suburbs expected to be occupied by residents will be the suburbs of Coombs and Wright, both within the current electorate of Molonglo.

A general principle has been expressed at every redistribution conducted for the ACT Legislative Assembly that ACT districts constitute discrete communities of interests; therefore districts should not be split between electorates where possible. In order to be consistent with this principle, the Committee considers that it would be appropriate at this redistribution to alter the Ginninderra-Molonglo boundary to ensure that the whole of the district of Molonglo Valley is within one electorate.

As the only Molonglo Valley suburbs that will be developed at the time of the next election are currently in the electorate of Molonglo, and as those suburbs, Coombs and Wright, are adjacent to the Weston Creek suburbs of Duffy and Holder, the Committee considers that it would be appropriate to include all of the district of Molonglo Valley in the electorate of Molonglo. The Committee notes that this change will affect 4 currently enrolled electors in this area, who are all resident at the National Zoo and Aquarium. These 4 electors will be transferred from Ginninderra to Molonglo under the Committee's proposal.

Therefore, as part of its proposed redistribution, the Committee is proposing that the portion of the district of Molonglo Valley north of the Molonglo River be transferred from the electorate of Ginninderra to the electorate of Molonglo.

Changes to the number of Members to be elected in each electorate

The submissions from the Gungahlin Community Council and from Mr Farrell suggested a change in the number of Members elected in the various electorates. The Committee notes that it does not have any power under the Electoral Act to consider this as a viable option in making its proposed redistribution. Section 34 of the Electoral Act specifies that the ACT must be divided into one electorate returning 7 Members, and two electorates returning 5 Members.

The Committee notes the ACT Electoral Commission's 30 April 2002 *Submission to the ACT Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Legal Affairs Inquiry into the appropriateness of the size of the Legislative Assembly for the ACT and options for changing the number of members, electorates and any other related matter*, available at www.elections.act.gov.au/resources/uploads/pdfs/sizeofassemblysubmission.pdf. This

submission expressed the Commission's view that the following two principles would further enhance the ACT's electoral system:

- Electorates should each return the same number of Members; and
- The total number of Members should be an odd number – accordingly there should be an odd number of electorates.

This Committee notes adoption of these principles would have the beneficial effect of removing the issue of where to place unequal sized electorates from consideration at future redistributions.

Conclusion

While the Committee is mindful of, and sympathetic with, the arguments in favour of keeping Gungahlin suburbs together in the one electorate, the Committee views the transfer of Palmerston and Crace from Molonglo to join Nicholls in Ginninderra as the minimum change necessary to ensure that each electorate is within the required statistical allowances. It would also minimise public confusion and maintain continuity of existing boundaries as far as practicable.

The Committee notes that there are strong links between Nicholls and Palmerston, as they were among the first Gungahlin suburbs developed and those suburbs and the newer suburb of Crace share transport links with and proximity to Belconnen, being the closest Gungahlin suburbs to Belconnen. The Committee also notes that placing the revised electorate boundary around Palmerston and Crace along Gungahlin Drive will present a clear and obvious boundary.

In considering the available options, the Committee is of the view that the transfer of Palmerston and Crace from Molonglo to Ginninderra is the best available change that will ensure that the requirements of the Electoral Act are met.

For the purpose of keeping the new district of Molonglo in the one electorate, the Committee also proposes that the portion of the district of Molonglo Valley north of the Molonglo River be transferred from the electorate of Ginninderra to the electorate of Molonglo.

Names of electorates

In the first distribution of electoral boundaries in 1993, the then Committee also had the duty to propose names for the electorates. In naming the electorates the Committee was sensitive to the need to avoid confusion with Commonwealth electoral divisions and took cognisance of names that had a common theme and some tangible connection with their respective electorates. The names adopted in 1993 would appear to have gained general community acceptance.

None of the submissions received canvassed changing the names of any of the electorates.

The Committee notes that the new district of Molonglo Valley will be populated by the time of the 2012 election. The name of this district has the potential to be confused with the name of the electorate of Molonglo. However, in the absence of any public submissions expressing concern that the naming of Molonglo Valley could cause confusion, the Committee does not consider that there is a need to alter the name of the electorate of Molonglo at this time. However, should public concern be expressed during the objection stage of this redistribution, the Augmented Commission may wish to address this issue when making its proposal.

The Committee accordingly proposes that Brindabella, Ginninderra and Molonglo be retained as the respective names of the southern, north-western and central electorates of the Australian Capital Territory.

Redistribution Committee for the Australian Capital Territory
Phillip Green — Neil Savery — Bill Hirst— Stephen Collett

5 May 2011

Appendix A: Constitution of Proposed Electorates

Proposed Electorate of Brindabella

Suburb	Actual persons enrolled 31 March 2011	Projected persons enrolled 20 October 2012	% change
Banks	3390	3951	16.55%
Bonython	2654	2831	6.67%
Calwell	4219	4402	4.34%
Chifley	1714	1764	2.92%
Chisholm	3848	3709	-3.61%
Conder	3498	4084	16.75%
Fadden	2477	2323	-6.22%
Farrer	2554	2489	-8.70%
Gilmore	2014	1964	-2.48%
Gordon	5447	6193	13.70%
Gowrie	2451	2371	-3.26%
Greenway	1098	1199	9.20%
Isabella Plains	2974	3008	1.14%
Kambah	11702	11101	-5.14%
Macarthur	1173	1184	0.94%
Monash	4188	4369	4.32%
Oxley	1309	1309	0.00%
Pearce	1913	1925	0.63%
Richardson	2245	2166	-3.52%
Theodore	2728	2898	6.23%
Torrens	1666	1677	0.66%
Tuggeranong - SSD Bal	26	22	-15.38%
Wanniassa	5921	5591	-5.57%
Remainder of ACT	220	187	-15.00%
Total	71429	72717	1.80%
Quota	72984	75343	
Variation from quota	-2.13%	-3.49%	

Proposed Electorate of Ginninderra

Suburb	Actual persons enrolled 31 March 2011	Projected persons enrolled 20 October 2012	% change
Aranda	1831	1836	0.27%
Belconnen Town Centre	2451	2843	15.99%
Belconnen - SSD Bal	26	30	15.38%
Bruce	3146	3659	16.31%
Charnwood	2101	2052	-2.33%
Cook	2176	2180	0.18%
Crace	97	112	15.46%
Dunlop	4519	5218	15.47%
Evatt	4049	3865	-4.54%
Florey	3610	3656	1.27%
Flynn	2605	2458	-5.64%
Fraser	1632	1541	-5.58%
Giralang	2567	2425	-5.53%
Hall	236	228	-3.39%
Hawker	2202	2102	-4.54%
Higgins	2250	2137	-5.02%
Holt	3474	3602	3.68%
Kaleen	5676	5330	-6.10%
Latham	2768	2630	-4.99%
McKellar	2138	2161	1.08%
Macgregor	3376	4088	21.09%
Macquarie	1807	1819	0.66%
Melba	2432	2448	0.66%
Nicholls	4986	5151	3.31%
Page	2021	2014	-0.35%
Palmerston	3904	4212	7.89%
Scullin	1983	1859	-6.25%
Spence	1933	1836	-5.02%
Weetangera	1979	1926	-2.68%
Total	73975	75418	1.95%
Quota	72984	75343	
Variation from quota	1.36%	0.10%	

Proposed Electorate of Molonglo

Suburb	Actual persons enrolled 31 March 2011	Projected persons enrolled 20 October 2012	% change
Acton	353	368	4.25%
Ainslie	3837	3973	3.54%
Amaroo	3552	3688	3.83%
Barton	839	928	10.61%
Bonner	278	523	88.13%
Braddon	2735	3157	15.43%
Campbell / Duntroon / Majura	3952	3943	-0.23%
Casey	341	723	112.02%
Chapman	2191	2087	-4.75%
City	918	1060	15.47%
Curtin	3908	3975	1.71%
Deakin	2108	2127	0.90%
Dickson	1431	1482	3.56%
Downer	2467	2498	1.26%
Duffy	2390	2260	-5.44%
Fisher	2342	2314	-1.20%
Forde	761	862	13.27%
Forrest	1126	1156	2.66%
Franklin	1412	2961	109.70%
Fyshwick	23	21	-8.70%
Garran	2281	2342	2.67%
Griffith	3130	3306	5.62%
Gungahlin	3112	3513	12.89%
Gungahlin-Hall - SSD Bal	16	16	0.00%
Hackett	2259	2299	1.77%
Harman	34	38	11.76%
Harrison	2506	2790	11.33%
Holder	2079	1978	-4.86%
Hughes	2140	2196	2.62%
Hume	6	7	16.67%
Isaacs	1871	1948	4.12%
Jerrabomberra	8	9	12.50%
Kingston	2224	2368	6.47%
Kowen	25	26	4.00%
Lyneham	3319	3451	3.98%
Lyons	1825	1873	2.63%
Mawson	2174	2205	1.43%
Mitchell	8	8	0.00%
Molonglo Valley – SSD Bal	4	4	0.00%
Narrabundah	4153	4298	3.49%
Ngunnawal	6000	6187	3.12%
Oaks Estate	198	174	-12.12%
O`Connor	3811	3942	3.44%
O`Malley	666	685	2.85%
Parkes	3	3	0.00%
Phillip	1372	1558	13.56%
Pialligo	92	95	3.26%
Red Hill	2297	2340	1.87%

Proposed Electorate of Molonglo

Suburb	Actual persons enrolled 31 March 2011	Projected persons enrolled 20 October 2012	% change
Reid	1107	1139	2.89%
Rivett	2358	2383	1.06%
Russell	0	0	0.00%
Stirling	1486	1433	-3.57%
Stromlo	4	5	25.00%
Symonston	329	333	1.22%
Turner	2478	2535	2.30%
Waramanga	1926	1825	-5.24%
Watson	3617	3733	3.21%
Weston	2454	2416	-1.55%
Weston Creek-Stromlo - SSD Bal	28	26	-7.14%
Yarralumla	2379	2440	2.56%
Total	102743	108033	5.15%
Quota	102178	105480	
Variation from quota	0.55%	2.42%	

Appendix B: Copies of public suggestions

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

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 1. Elias Hallaj, Secretary
Australian Labor Party (ACT Branch) | page 28 |
| 2. Alan Kerlin, Spokesman – Planning, Transport and Environment,
Gungahlin Community Council | page 30 |
| 3. Jonathon Reynolds | page 34 |
| 4. Bogey Musidlak, Convenor
Proportional Representation Society of Australia (ACT Branch) | page 43 |
| 5. Tony Farrell | page 47 |
| 6. Tom Anderson, Deputy Chairman,
Weston Creek Community Council | page 49 |

Note: These suggestions 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.

No comments on these suggestions were lodged with the Redistribution Committee pursuant to section 41(1)(b) of the *Electoral Act 1992*.



AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY

Australian Capital Territory Branch

Phil Green
Electoral Commissioner
ACT Electoral Commission
North building, Civic Square
London Circuit, Canberra City ACT 2601

Submission to Redistribution Committee ACT Electoral Commission

Dear Redistribution Committee members,

I make the following submission to the Redistribution Committee as the Secretary and Registered Officer of ACT Branch of the Australian Labor Party.

I must begin by acknowledging the professionalism displayed by Elections ACT in its role of providing high quality electoral services that ensure fair and open elections for our community in our unique representative system of democracy and government.

There is currently a very passionate debate being undertaken regarding the democratic rights of ACT residents. One of the reasons that these rights are cherished is that our government agencies and authorities have nurtured confidence in our unique system of government. ACT residents have now experienced 21 years of self-government since 1989 and 5 Hare-Clark elections since 1995. They better understand the voting opportunities and representative limitations our system provides. There is an "emerging maturity" and pride in our system of government and a growing public acceptance that the Hare-Clark system can provide opportunities for public representatives to work more cooperatively.

One of the key representative limitations is that due to the size and current composition of the three Assembly electorates a uniform "community of interest" which binds each electorate is not readily identifiable. This is somewhat inevitable when there are only three electorates and there are more than three distinct town centres, significant natural boundaries and numerous suburban precincts.

If you asked Canberrans where they lived they normally identify mostly with their nearest town centre or actual suburb, never with their Assembly electorate. Smaller and more numerous electorates that still retained proportional representation would improve "community of interest" whilst retaining the unique character and objectives of a unicameral Hare-Clark parliament.

The ACT Branch of the Labor Party has always been a very vocal advocate for individual and communal democratic rights and championed systemic improvements to our unique model of representative democracy. To be effective that advocacy must acknowledge the contextual factors which affect the universal franchise we enjoy in our community.

www.actlabor.org.au

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As in previous submissions, ACT Labor believes that although there is a long-term need for more substantial reform, the stability of the current electoral structure serves to increase the public confidence in the administration and outcomes of Territory Elections.

In the past, all three current ACT political parties have argued for an increase in the size of the ACT Assembly. An increase in the future is inevitable.

The recently released ACTPS Review stated "ACT residents remain significantly under-represented today in comparison to the rest of Australia." At a combined state and local government level, representation in the ACT is 1:14,285 compared to Tasmania at 1:1,110 and the Northern Territory at 1:685.

The review lists various reasons why an increase in the size of the Assembly and Executive would benefit governance and accountability, including enabling Members "to serve their constituents better" and enhancing the "capacity of the legislature to scrutinise the activities of the Executive".

However the wholesale reform of the Assembly size and design is not practical at this stage in the ACT's electoral cycle.

Moving a small number of suburbs between electorates would minimise the possibility that the proposed redistribution would generate many objections and would also improve the likelihood of wider support for more substantial reform in the future by minimising the disruption that would be caused by a significant change now as well as one in the near future.

In these circumstances a significant change to the current boundaries will compound the confusion that already exists regarding Assembly electorates and community of interest objectives. Although fundamental weaknesses regarding community of interest in the existing system cannot be fixed through redistribution, a short-term solution is needed to enable next year's election to proceed with as little disruption and as much notice and fairness as possible.

ACT Labor therefore requests that the Redistribution Committee seek a minimalist approach to boundary changes that will provide greater confidence in the existing system, boundaries and in the management of ACT electoral regulations. This would also be prudent given the current Senate debate around the ACT Assembly's rights to determine the size of its own legislature.

Yours sincerely,



Elias Hallaj

Secretary, ALP (ACT Branch)

09/03/11

Dear Mr Green

Following are our suggestions regarding the redistribution of electoral boundaries for the ACT.

However, we should say at the outset that we feel most of this process will be in vain, and the committee will default to the "least change" approach it did last time around. The problem with that approach of course is that it does not fix the problem in a lasting manner, as evident from the fact that we need more changes just three years later. The incremental approach does not account for the rapid population growth in the north.

And the core problem will remain: the seven-member Molonglo electorate will remain geographically sprawling from almost Tuggeranong, through Weston, Woden, central Canberra and circling around Belconnen through most (but not all) of Gungahlin. There will remain some MLAs representing parts of Gungahlin who know little of the Gungahlin community's issues, and if we are frank seldom set foot in Gungahlin.

Our preferred approach is for the ACT to have additional MLAs. As we explained during the last redistribution, it is evident to us that the workloads involved with a 17-member Assembly are unacceptable, leading to inadequate decisionmaking that may not have occurred if there was better oversight and issue knowledge by ministers with less demanding portfolios. We note that not one Government MLA has attended a single GCC meeting since the last election, and rare conversations our representatives have had with them at functions etc make it clear that some are falling out of touch with the community they represent. It has also been argued that some of the problem stems from lack of depth within the Government "back bench". Similar arguments can be put forward regarding the quality of opposition resulting from the small Assembly depth.

We have attempted to stimulate public debate on the issue of Assembly size, but have been disappointed by the lack of support or even interest from many incumbent MLAs. We would have thought that if there was one issue for which they could put aside grandstanding in favour of a united approach to the Federal Government supporting a better solution for the people of the ACT, then this would be it. It seems not.

As can be seen from the attached output from our electorate modelling software, five electorates of five MLAs each with quotas of approximately 10,000 electors can be easily achieved. These electorates can align closely to established communities of interest: Belconnen, North Canberra/Gungahlin, Central Canberra, Weston/Woden, and Tuggeranong. Each possible electorate is geographically constrained, which would give elected members far better opportunity to closely engage with the community they represent.

However, as previously stated, it seems the parliament hasn't the mood to pursue such an improvement, so we will be stuck with a 7-5-5 Assembly, with a quota of about 15,000 electors - an increase of 1000 per MLA from the current term. Given that unfortunate situation, we have sought a solution that aligns communities of interest as closely as possible, while preserving a small negative variance where the growth will be greatest over the next eight years - Gungahlin, hopefully minimising the need for another redistribution next term.

The attached output shows a five-member electorate covering Tuggeranong and Weston (nominally Brindabella), and a second five-member electorate with all of Woden and the

Inner South, plus the Inner North (Molonglo).

The seven-member Ginninderra electorate would entirely encompass Belconnen and Gungahlin - areas with many common issues, characteristics and challenges. Watson from north Canberra would make up the numbers, recognising that this suburb is heavily used by Gungahlin people, who frequent its schools, childcare centres and shops. The electorate would be five per cent under variance initially, well under the 10 per cent requirement. This would absorb significant Gungahlin population growth without the need for redistribution. Further out, and assuming still no solution for increasing the Assembly size, Gungahlin will grow to the extent that Watson could be moved from Ginninderra to Molonglo.

Similarly, this solution has Molonglo with a 1.6 per cent negative variance, sufficient to absorb population growth in the new suburbs of Molonglo. Brindabella electorate would start the term with a 7.6 per cent over variance, also under the 10 per cent requirement, and sufficient to buffer the population expansion in the other electorates, most likely for more than one term.

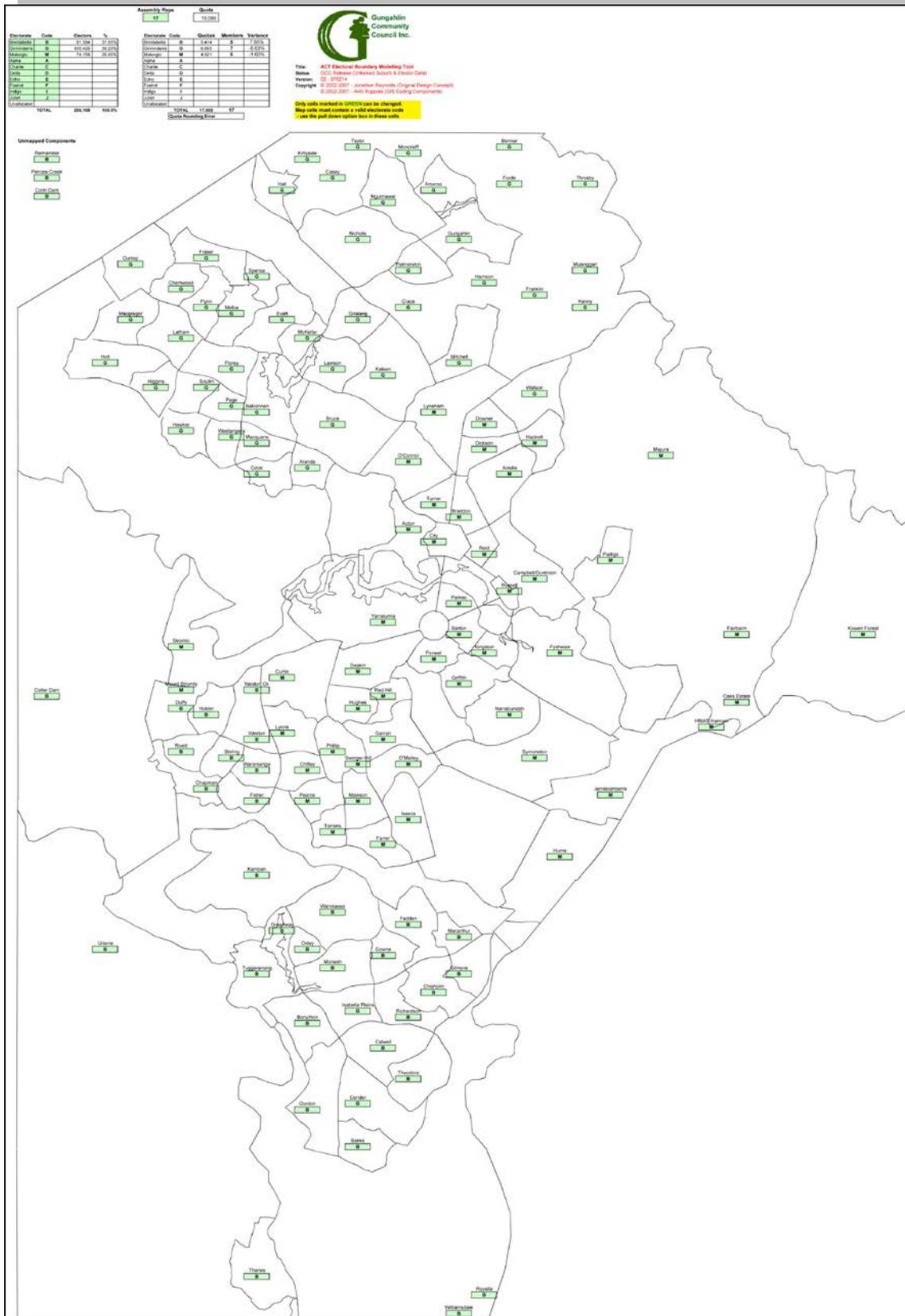
A similar alternative would have Brindabella as a five-member electorate covering Tuggeranong and up to Hindmarsh Drive, and Molonglo from Woden and Weston, through the Inner South and Inner North, but with the two suburbs of Lyneham and Watson incorporated into Ginninderra. The variances for this option are smaller though, and would therefore be less resilient against likely population growth.

We would be pleased to further explain our proposals.

Regards,

Alan Kerlin
Gungahlin Community Council
Spokesman - Planning, Transport and Environment
m 0408 771633

10 March 2011



Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached three suggested models for the redistribution of the current ACT Electoral Boundaries.

These proposed boundaries suggestions have been presented in both spreadsheet and graphical formats (as attached).

Model 1: Minimal Change

This model proposes the minimal changes that would be required to meet the criteria for a possible redistribution. This is the least optimal choice as it further exacerbates the current inadequacies of the current electoral boundaries further fragmenting the districts of Gungahlin and Woden Valley across two electorates and uses boundaries that at times are not immediately logical when considering the divisions and sections as defined under the Districts Act 2002. The means of communication and travel within each proposed electorate remain complicated and for the electorate of Molonglo there is little sense in the physical features of the electorate as it encompasses several multiple disparate Districts across the North, Central and Southern Areas of Canberra. This model is included for illustrative purposes only and not put forwarded as a recommended solution to any proposed boundary redistribution.

Model 1 Compliance with Legislative Requirements:

- **Complies:** 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;

Model 2: Northern, Central and Southern Electorates (Molonglo Adjustments)

This model proposed making Molonglo a 5 member electorate and Ginninderra a 7 member electorate. Redistribution is limited to reallocating sections as defined under the Districts Act 2002 of the March 2010 Molonglo electorate only. It attempts to create a notion of clearly defined Northern (Ginninderra), Central (Molonglo) and Southern (Brindabella) electorates. Portions of North Canberra are incorporated into the Northern Electorate with the intent that they will return to the central electorate as the District of Gungahlin continues to grow significantly. These areas of North Canberra is clearly delineated by major axis roads. It makes no attempt to rectify the problems of splitting the district of the Woden Valley across two electorates at this time. Longer term redistribution problems will arise as the new district of Molonglo develops and population increases thus further potentially splitting the community in the Woden Valley in future redistributions.

Model 2 Compliance with Legislative Requirements:

- **Complies:** 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;

Model 3: Northern, Central and Southern Electorates (Molonglo & Brindabella Adjustments)

This model proposed making Molonglo a 5 member electorate and Ginninderra a 7 member electorate. Redistribution involves reallocating sections as defined under the Districts Act 2002 of the March 2010 Molonglo and Brindabella electorates. It attempts to create a notion of clearly defined Northern (Ginninderra), Central (Molonglo) and Southern (Brindabella) electorates with a clear view for further growth within and of these electorates. Portions of North Canberra are incorporated into the Northern Electorate with the intent that they will return to the central electorate as the District of Gungahlin continues to grow significantly. These sections of North Canberra that are incorporated in the proposed new Ginninderra electorate are clearly bounded by major axis roads. Portions of the Woden Valley currently in Brindabella are returned to the Molonglo (central) electorate thus ensuring that the community of interest is returned to a fully intact state within a single electorate. The southern portion of Weston Creek is split along a major axis road. Whilst this change currently splits the Weston Creek district it is envisioned that as the new Molonglo district grows the entire area of Weston Creek to the north of the proposed split would be further redistributed into the Brindabella electorate thus maintaining the concept of clearly defined Central and Southern electorates and communities of interest. This is my preferred redistribution model of the three being proposed.

Model 2 Compliance with Legislative Requirements:

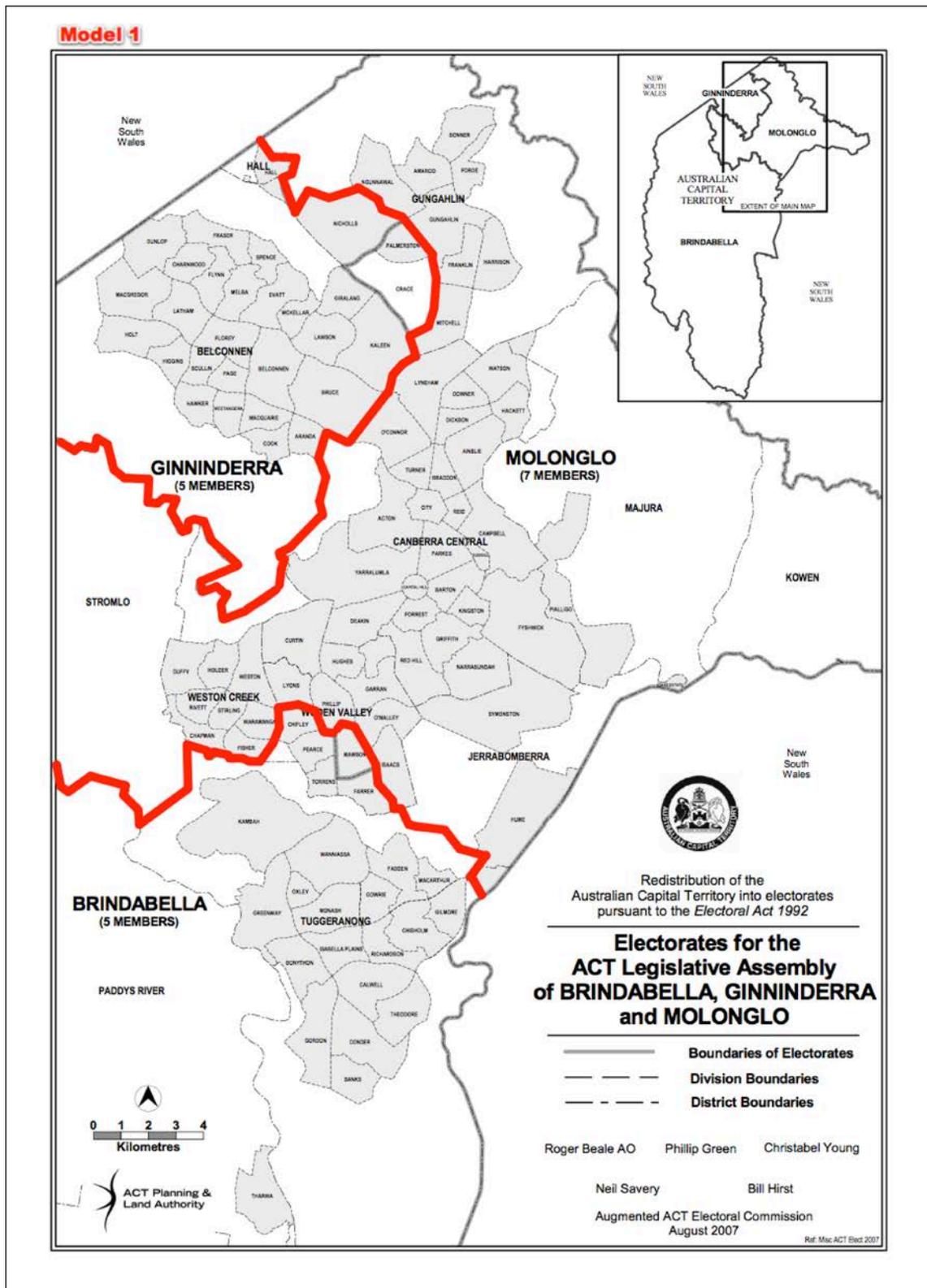
- **Complies;** ensure that the number of electors in an electorate immediately after the redistribution is within the range of not greater than 110%, or less than 90% of the quota;
- **Complies:** endeavour to ensure, as far as practicable, that the number of electors in an electorate at the time of 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;

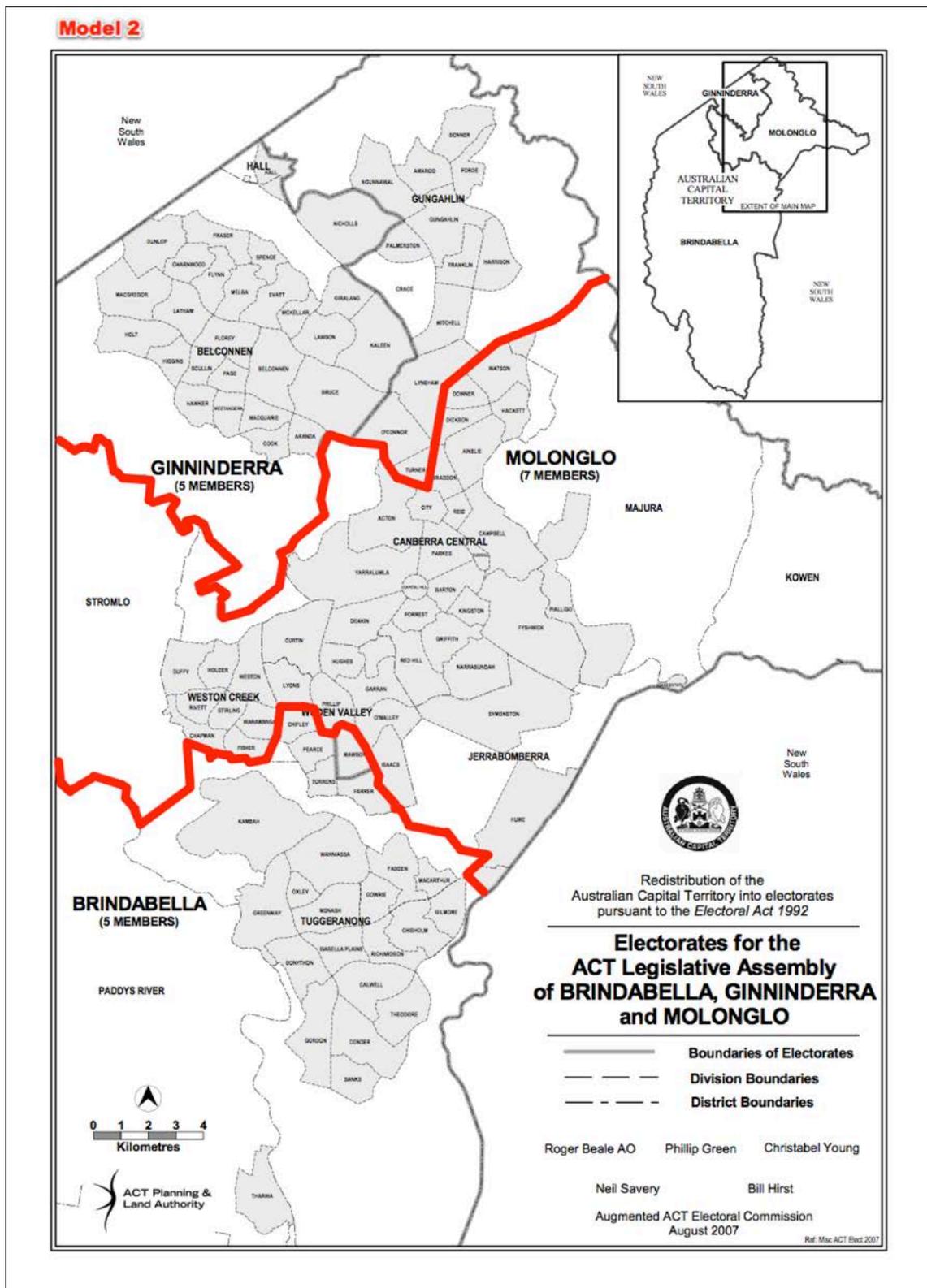
I trust that this submission meets with your approval.

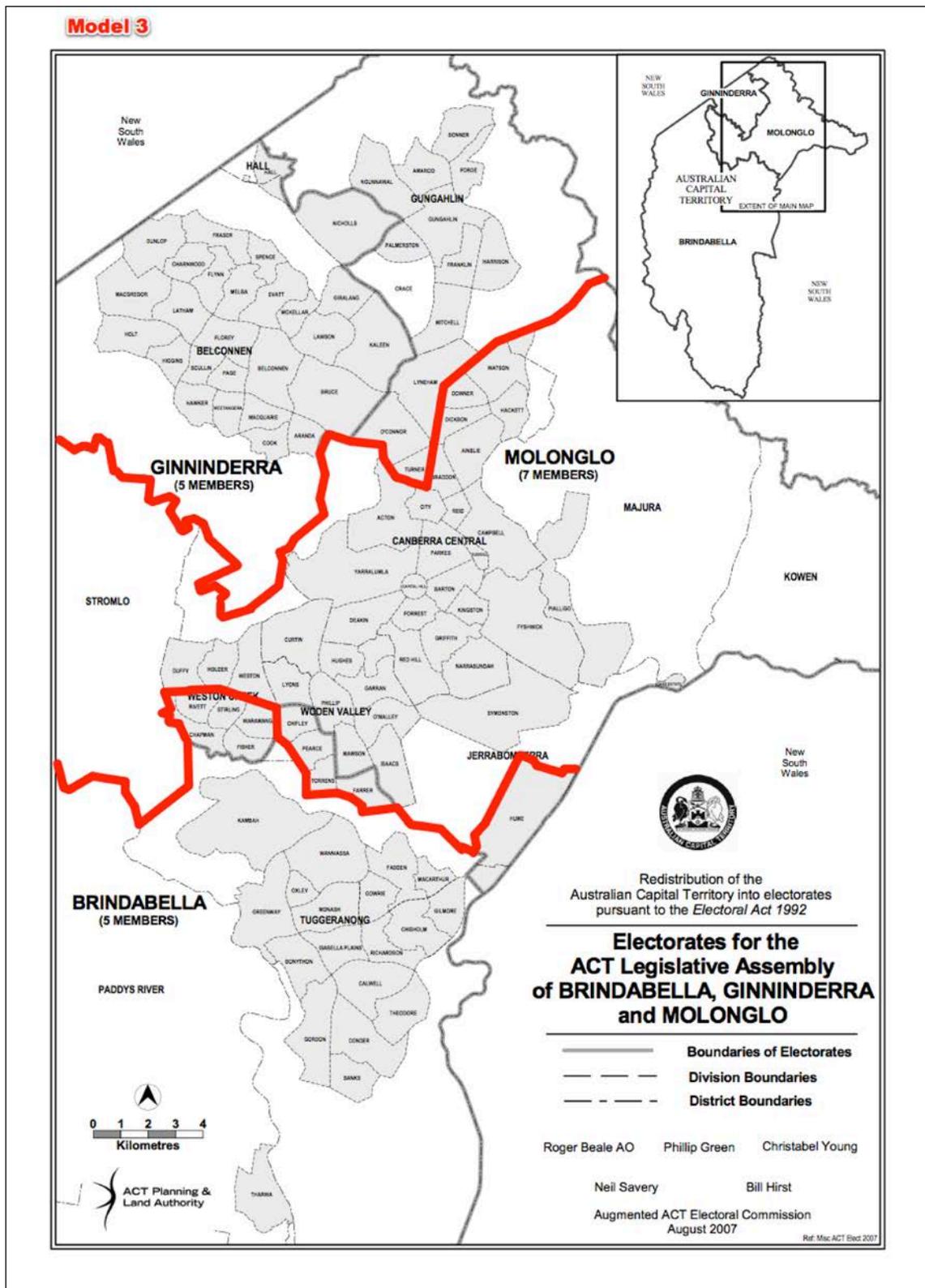
I look forward to your positive consideration of these suggestions.

Yours faithfully
Jonathon Reynolds

10 March 2011







Current and Projected Numbers of Persons Enrolled

Table 1: Australian Capital Territory

Suburb	Actual persons enrolled 30 September 2010	Projected persons enrolled 20 October 2012	% change	Present Electorate
Acton	360	368	2.22%	Molonglo
Ainslie	3864	3973	2.32%	Molonglo
Amaroo	3563	3688	3.51%	Molonglo
Aranda	1842	1836	-0.33%	Ginninderra
Banks	3370	3951	17.24%	Brindabella
Barton	827	928	12.21%	Molonglo
Belconnen Town Centre	2386	2843	19.15%	Ginninderra
Belconnen - SSD Bal	32	34	6.25%	Ginninderra
Bonner	129	523	305.43%	Molonglo
Bonchdon	2663	2831	6.31%	Brindabella
Braddon	2770	3157	13.97%	Molonglo
Bruce	3044	3659	20.20%	Ginninderra
Calwell	4225	4402	4.19%	Brindabella
Campbell / Duntroon / Malura	3923	3943	0.51%	Molonglo
Casey	249	723	215.72%	Molonglo
Chapman	2201	2087	-5.18%	Molonglo
Charnwood	2123	2052	-3.34%	Ginninderra
Chiffley	1220	1764	4.56%	Brindabella
Chisholm	3873	3709	-4.23%	Brindabella
City	864	1060	22.69%	Molonglo
Conder	3501	4084	16.65%	Brindabella
Cook	2181	2180	-0.05%	Ginninderra
Czace	32	112	250.00%	Molonglo
Curtin	3958	3975	0.43%	Molonglo
Deakin	2110	2127	0.81%	Molonglo
Dickson	1432	1482	3.49%	Molonglo
Downer	2468	2498	1.22%	Molonglo
Duffy	2390	2260	-5.44%	Molonglo
Dunlop	4450	5218	17.26%	Ginninderra
Evatt	4058	3865	-4.76%	Ginninderra
Fadden	2489	2323	-6.67%	Brindabella
Farrer	2579	2489	-3.49%	Brindabella
Fisher	2355	2314	-1.74%	Molonglo
Flory	3606	3656	1.39%	Ginninderra
Flynn	2624	2458	-6.33%	Ginninderra
Fotie	633	862	33.65%	Molonglo
Forrest	1142	1156	1.23%	Molonglo
Franklin	1189	2961	149.03%	Molonglo
Fraser	1637	1541	-5.86%	Ginninderra
Fyshwick	24	21	-12.50%	Molonglo
Garra	2317	2342	1.08%	Molonglo
Gilmore	2004	1964	-2.00%	Brindabella
Giralang	2904	2425	-6.52%	Ginninderra
Gordon	5450	6193	13.53%	Brindabella
Gowrie	2482	2371	-4.47%	Brindabella
Greenway	1088	1199	10.20%	Brindabella
Griffith	3172	3306	4.22%	Molonglo
Gundahlin	3120	3513	12.60%	Molonglo
Gundahlin-Hall - SSD Bal	16	16	0.00%	Molonglo
Hackett	2265	2299	1.50%	Molonglo
Hall	235	228	-2.98%	Ginninderra
Harman	41	38	-7.32%	Molonglo
Harrison	2462	2790	13.32%	Molonglo
Hawker	2199	2102	-4.41%	Ginninderra
Higgins	2260	2137	-5.44%	Ginninderra
Holder	2077	1978	-4.77%	Molonglo
Holt	3506	3602	2.74%	Ginninderra
Hughes	2163	2196	1.53%	Molonglo
Hume	7	7	0.00%	Molonglo
Isaacs	1903	1948	2.36%	Molonglo
Isabella Plains	2988	3008	0.67%	Brindabella
Jerrabomberra	8	9	0.00%	Molonglo
Kaleen	5701	5330	-6.51%	Ginninderra
Kambah	11752	11101	-5.54%	Brindabella
Kingston	2179	2368	8.67%	Molonglo
Kowen	25	26	4.00%	Molonglo
Latham	2775	2630	-5.23%	Ginninderra
Lynham	3340	3451	3.32%	Molonglo
Lyons	1831	1873	2.29%	Molonglo
McKellar	2131	2161	1.41%	Ginninderra
McArthur	1161	1184	1.98%	Brindabella
Macgregor	3346	4088	22.18%	Ginninderra
Macquarie	1794	1819	1.39%	Ginninderra
Mawson	2192	2205	0.59%	Molonglo
Melba	2464	2448	-0.65%	Ginninderra
Mitchell	8	8	0.00%	Molonglo
Monash	4205	4369	3.90%	Brindabella
Narrabundah	4199	4298	2.36%	Molonglo
Ngunnawal	6008	6187	2.98%	Molonglo
Nicholls	4990	5151	3.23%	Ginninderra
Oaks Estate	192	174	-9.38%	Molonglo
O'Connor	3833	3942	2.84%	Molonglo
O'Malley	664	685	3.16%	Molonglo
Oxley	1311	1309	-0.15%	Brindabella
Page	2009	2014	0.25%	Ginninderra
Palmerston	3887	4212	8.36%	Molonglo
Parkes	3	3	0.00%	Molonglo
Pearce	1917	1925	0.42%	Brindabella
Phillip	1333	1558	16.88%	Molonglo
Pialligo	95	95	0.00%	Molonglo
Red Hill	2316	2340	1.04%	Molonglo
Reid	1107	1139	2.89%	Molonglo
Richardson	2272	2166	-4.67%	Brindabella
Rivett	2370	2383	0.55%	Molonglo
Russell	0	0	0.00%	Molonglo
Scullin	1982	1859	-6.21%	Ginninderra
Spence	1937	1836	-5.21%	Ginninderra
Stirling	1496	1433	-4.21%	Molonglo
Stromlo	6	5	-16.67%	Molonglo
Symonston	332	333	0.30%	Molonglo
Theodore	2740	2898	5.77%	Brindabella
Torrens	1694	1677	-1.00%	Brindabella
Tuggeranong - SSD Bal	26	22	-15.38%	Brindabella
Turner	2461	2535	3.01%	Molonglo
Wannassa	5950	5591	-6.03%	Brindabella
Waramanga	1942	1825	-6.02%	Molonglo
Watson	3629	3733	2.87%	Molonglo
Weetangera	1994	1926	-3.41%	Ginninderra
Weston	2444	2416	-1.15%	Molonglo
Weston Creek-Stromlo - SSD Bal	50	26	-13.33%	Molonglo
Yarralumla	2402	2440	1.58%	Molonglo
Remainder of ACT	217	187	-13.82%	Brindabella
Total	247915	256168	3.33%	

Model 1 - MINIMAL CHANGE						
Actual Molonglo (7 Member)	Projected Molonglo (7 Member)	Actual Ginninderra (5 Member)	Projected Ginninderra (5 Member)	Actual Brindabella (5 Member)	Projected Brindabella (5 Member)	Original March 2010 Electorate
360	368					Molonglo
3864	3973					Molonglo
3563	3688					Molonglo
		1842	1836			Ginninderra
827	928			3370	3951	Brindabella
		2386	2843			Molonglo
129	523	32	34			Ginninderra
				2663	2831	Molonglo
2770	3157	3044	3659			Brindabella
				4225	4402	Molonglo
3923	3943					Ginninderra
229	723					Brindabella
2201	2087	2123	2052			Molonglo
				1720	1764	Molonglo
864	1060			3873	3709	Ginninderra
		2181	2180	3501	4084	Brindabella
		32	112			Ginninderra
3958	3975					Molonglo
2110	2127					Molonglo
1432	1482					Molonglo
2468	2498					Molonglo
2390	2260					Molonglo
		4450	5218			Ginninderra
		4058	3865			Ginninderra
				2489	2323	Brindabella
				2579	2489	Brindabella
2355	2314					Molonglo
		3606	3656			Ginninderra
		2624	2458			Ginninderra
633	862					Molonglo
1142	1156					Molonglo
1189	2961					Molonglo
		1637	1541			Ginninderra
24	21					Molonglo
2317	2342					Molonglo
		2594	2425			Brindabella
				5450	6193	Ginninderra
				2482	2371	Brindabella
				1088	1199	Brindabella
3172	3306					Molonglo
3120	3513					Molonglo
16	16					Molonglo
2265	2299					Molonglo
		235	228			Ginninderra
41	38					Molonglo
2462	2790					Molonglo
		2199	2102			Ginninderra
		2260	2137			Ginninderra
2077	1978					Molonglo
		3506	3602			Ginninderra
2163	2196					Molonglo
7	7					Molonglo
1903	1948					Molonglo
8	9			2988	3008	Brindabella
		5701	5330			Molonglo
				11752	11101	Ginninderra
2179	2368					Brindabella
25	26					Molonglo
		2775	2630			Ginninderra
3340	3451					Molonglo
1831	1873					Molonglo
		2131	2161			Ginninderra
		3346	4088	1161	1184	Brindabella
		1794	1819			Ginninderra
		2464	2448	2192	2205	Ginninderra
8	8					Molonglo
				4205	4369	Brindabella
4199	4298					Molonglo
6008	6187					Molonglo
		4990	5151			Ginninderra
192	174					Molonglo
3833	3942					Molonglo
664	685					Molonglo
		2009	2014	1311	1309	Brindabella
		3887	4212			Ginninderra
3	3					Molonglo
				1917	1925	Molonglo
1333	1558					Brindabella
95	95					Molonglo
2316	2340					Molonglo
1107	1139					Molonglo
				2272	2166	Brindabella
2370	2383					Molonglo
0	0					Molonglo
		1982	1859			Ginninderra
1496	1433	1937	1836			Ginninderra
6	5					Molonglo
332	333					Molonglo
				2740	2898	Brindabella
				1694	1677	Brindabella
				26	22	Brindabella
2461	2535					Molonglo
				5950	5591	Brindabella
1942	1825					Molonglo
3629	3733					Molonglo
		1994	1926			Ginninderra
2444	2416					Molonglo
30	26					Molonglo
2402	2440					Molonglo
				217	187	Brindabella
TOTAL	100227	105824	73819	75422	73869	74922
QUOTA	102082	105480	72916	75343	72916	75343
Variance	1855	-344	-903	-79	-953	421
%age of quota	1.82%	-0.33%	-1.24%	-0.10%	-1.31%	0.56%
Complies	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	duly consider					

MODEL 2 - Northern, Central and Southern Electorates (Molonglo Adjustments)						
New Actual Molonglo (5 Member)	New Projected Molonglo (5 Member)	New Actual Ginninderra (7 Member)	New Projected Ginninderra (7 Member)	Actual Brindabella (5 Member)	Projected Brindabella (5 Member)	Original March 2010 Electorate
360	368					Molonglo
3864	3973					Molonglo
		3563	3688			Molonglo
		1942	1836			Ginninderra
827	928			3370	3951	Brindabella
		2386	2843			Molonglo
						Ginninderra
		129	523			Molonglo
2770	3157			2663	2831	Brindabella
		3044	3659			Molonglo
3923	3943			4225	4402	Ginninderra
		229	723			Brindabella
2201	2087					Molonglo
		2123	2052			Molonglo
				1720	1764	Ginninderra
864	1060			3873	3709	Brindabella
						Molonglo
		2181	2180	3501	4084	Brindabella
		32	112			Ginninderra
3958	3975					Molonglo
2110	2127					Molonglo
1432	1482					Molonglo
2468	2498					Molonglo
2390	2260					Molonglo
		4450	5218			Ginninderra
		4058	3865			Ginninderra
				2489	2323	Brindabella
2355	2314			2579	2489	Brindabella
		3606	3656			Molonglo
		2624	2458			Ginninderra
1142	1156					Molonglo
		633	862			Molonglo
		1189	2961			Molonglo
		1637	1541			Ginninderra
24	21					Molonglo
2317	2342					Molonglo
				2004	1964	Brindabella
		2594	2425			Ginninderra
				5450	6193	Brindabella
				2482	2371	Brindabella
3172	3306			1088	1199	Brindabella
						Molonglo
		3120	3513			Molonglo
		16	16			Molonglo
2265	2299					Molonglo
		235	228			Ginninderra
41	38					Molonglo
		2462	2790			Molonglo
		2199	2102			Ginninderra
2077	1978					Ginninderra
		2260	2137			Molonglo
						Ginninderra
2163	2196					Molonglo
7	7					Molonglo
1903	1948					Molonglo
8	9			2988	3008	Brindabella
						Molonglo
		5701	5330			Ginninderra
2179	2368			11752	11101	Brindabella
25	26					Molonglo
		2775	2630			Ginninderra
1831	1873					Molonglo
		3340	3451			Molonglo
		2131	2161			Ginninderra
				1161	1184	Brindabella
		3346	4088			Ginninderra
		1794	1819			Ginninderra
				2192	2205	Molonglo
		2464	2448			Ginninderra
		8	8			Molonglo
4199	4298			4205	4369	Brindabella
						Molonglo
		6008	6187			Molonglo
		4990	5151			Ginninderra
192	174					Molonglo
664	685					Molonglo
		3833	3942			Molonglo
				1311	1309	Brindabella
		2009	2014			Ginninderra
		3887	4212			Molonglo
3	3					Molonglo
				1917	1925	Brindabella
1333	1558					Molonglo
95	95					Molonglo
2316	2340					Molonglo
1107	1139					Molonglo
				2272	2166	Brindabella
2370	2383					Molonglo
0	0					Molonglo
		1982	1859			Ginninderra
1496	1433					Ginninderra
6	5					Molonglo
332	333					Molonglo
				2740	2898	Brindabella
				1694	1677	Brindabella
				26	22	Brindabella
		2461	2535			Molonglo
				5950	5591	Brindabella
1942	1825					Molonglo
3629	3733					Molonglo
		1994	1926			Ginninderra
2444	2416					Molonglo
30	26					Molonglo
2402	2440					Molonglo
				217	187	Brindabella
TOTAL	73236	74625	100810	106621	73869	74922
QUOTA	72916	75343	102082	105480	72916	75343
Variance	-320	718	1272	-1141	-953	421
%age of quota	-0.44%	0.95%	1.25%	-1.08%	-1.31%	0.56%
Complies	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;					

MODEL 3 - Northern, Central and Southern Electorates (Molonglo & Brindabella Adjustments)						
New Actual Molonglo (5 Member)	New Projected Molonglo (5 Member)	New Actual Ginninderra (7 Member)	New Projected Ginninderra (7 Member)	Actual Brindabella (5 Member)	Projected Brindabella (5 Member)	Original March 2010 Electorate
360	368					Molonglo
3864	3973					Molonglo
		3563	3688			Molonglo
		1842	1836			Ginninderra
827	928			3370	3951	Brindabella
		2386	2843			Molonglo
		32	34			Ginninderra
		129	523			Molonglo
2770	3157			2663	2831	Brindabella
		3044	3659			Molonglo
3923	3943			4225	4402	Ginninderra
		229	723			Brindabella
		2123	2052	2201	2087	Molonglo
1720	1764					Ginninderra
864	1060			3873	3709	Brindabella
		2181	2180	3501	4084	Brindabella
		32	112			Molonglo
3958	3975					Ginninderra
2110	2127					Molonglo
1432	1482					Molonglo
2468	2498					Molonglo
2390	2260					Molonglo
		4450	5218			Ginninderra
		4058	3865			Ginninderra
2579	2489			2489	2323	Brindabella
						Brindabella
		3606	3656	2355	2314	Molonglo
		2624	2458			Ginninderra
		633	862			Ginninderra
1142	1156					Molonglo
		1189	2961			Molonglo
		1637	1541			Ginninderra
24	21					Molonglo
2317	2342					Molonglo
		2594	2425	2004	1964	Brindabella
				5450	6193	Ginninderra
				2482	2371	Brindabella
				1088	1199	Brindabella
3172	3306					Molonglo
		3120	3513			Molonglo
		16	16			Molonglo
2265	2299					Molonglo
		235	228			Ginninderra
41	38					Molonglo
		2462	2799			Molonglo
		2199	2102			Ginninderra
		2260	2137			Ginninderra
2077	1978					Molonglo
		3506	3602			Ginninderra
2163	2196			7	7	Molonglo
1903	1948					Molonglo
				2988	3008	Brindabella
8	9					Molonglo
		5701	5330			Ginninderra
				11752	11101	Brindabella
2179	2368					Molonglo
25	26					Molonglo
		2775	2630			Ginninderra
1831	1873					Molonglo
		3340	3451			Molonglo
		2131	2161			Ginninderra
				1161	1184	Brindabella
		3346	4088			Ginninderra
		1794	1819			Ginninderra
2192	2205					Molonglo
		2464	2448			Ginninderra
		8	8			Molonglo
				4205	4369	Brindabella
4199	4298					Molonglo
		6008	6187			Molonglo
		4990	5151			Ginninderra
192	174					Molonglo
664	685					Molonglo
		3833	3942			Molonglo
				1311	1309	Brindabella
		2009	2014			Ginninderra
		3887	4212			Molonglo
3	3					Molonglo
1917	1928					Brindabella
1333	1558					Molonglo
95	95					Molonglo
2316	2340					Molonglo
1107	1139					Molonglo
				2272	2166	Brindabella
				2370	2383	Molonglo
0	0					Molonglo
		1982	1859			Ginninderra
		1937	1836			Ginninderra
				1496	1433	Molonglo
6	5					Molonglo
332	333					Molonglo
				2740	2898	Brindabella
1694	1677					Brindabella
		2461	2538	26	22	Brindabella
				5950	5591	Molonglo
				1942	1825	Brindabella
3629	3733					Molonglo
		1994	1926			Ginninderra
2444	2416					Molonglo
30	26					Molonglo
2402	2440					Molonglo
				217	187	Brindabella
TOTAL	72967	74636	100810	106621	74138	74911
QUOTA	72916	75343	102082	105480	72916	75343
Variance	-51	707	1272	-1141	-1222	432
%age of quota	-0.07%	0.94%	1.25%	-1.08%	-1.68%	0.57%

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

Hello

Please find attached a submission from the ACT Branch of the Proportional Representation Society of Australia arguing that in the current redistribution process Palmerston and Crace should be transferred from Molonglo to Ginninderra.

Bogey Musidlak

Convenor

10 March 2011

**PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA
(AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BRANCH)**

MOVE PALMERSTON AND CRACE FROM MOLONGLO TO GINNINDERRA

The Proportional Representation Society of Australia (Australian Capital Territory Branch) submits that, while continuing rapid growth in Molonglo necessitates change to the existing electoral boundaries, the transfer of both Palmerston and Crace from Molonglo to Ginninderra would satisfy legislative requirements about enrolments at the time of the next election as well as maximising utility for electors including prospects of boundary stability in 2016.

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.

Following implementation of the Hare-Clark system, to date the expectations of Hare-Clark supporters have been met. The ACT Branch of the Proportional Representation Society of Australia (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 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, and noted that the best-available population projections at the time indicated no change would be needed in 2004;
- in 2003, we argued for no change and suggested that the Committee recommend fast-tracking be possible when current and projected populations fall within statutory tolerance limits and there has been no public agitation for boundary changes prior to the call for submissions;

- in 2007, we argued that, based on publicly-available information, there was no need for any change to electoral boundaries and urged fast-tracking of redistribution processes in such circumstances.

The ACT Branch is pleased that an earlier 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”.

Most Redistribution Committees since the first set of boundaries came up for review in 1996 have adopted a similar approach. 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.

While the current boundaries do not satisfy all the relevant criteria, only minor adjustments are necessary

Australian Bureau of Statistics projections put enrolments in Ginninderra and Molonglo slightly beyond the statutory deviations allowed from the territory quota on the next election day, while those in Brindabella are comfortably within the available allowance.

In these circumstances there should be no change to Brindabella’s boundaries, while the necessary changes elsewhere can be and most appropriately should be effected by minor adjustments. Moving Palmerston from Molonglo to Ginninderra would result in Ginninderra being almost precisely at quota in October 2012 based on ABS projections and Molonglo being just 2.5% above, and therefore satisfy the key statutory requirement.

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.

In these circumstances, while moving just Palmerston would address the imbalance in enrolments, the question arises of whether Crace should be moved also even though it is expected to have very few voters in October 2012.

The Proportional Representation Society of Australia (Australian Capital Territory Branch) believes that better boundaries for electors would arise if this step were taken now as Nicholls, Palmerston and Crace form a more natural standalone unit geographically than would just Nicholls and Palmerston. Future growth in Crace could then result in boundary stability being a possible option when the next redistribution is undertaken as Ginninderra would have an area in which rapid population increases were occurring and receiving attention from at least some of its MLAs.

While projections that far ahead are necessarily speculative because of significant events that could occur in the intervening period, the Redistribution Committee might give thought to including some particulars of that nature under various plausible assumptions to further strengthen the case for also shifting Crace to Ginninderra before it is strictly necessary to do

so. Increasing the likelihood of continuity of representation within more stable boundaries as expansion within the suburb occurred would from the perspective of electors be agreeable grounds for including Crace in fairly minor adjustments to boundaries to be made on this occasion.

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23 FEB 2011

ACT ELECTORAL
COMMISSION

Tony Farrell,
13/8 Bega Courts,
Reid, A.C.T. 2612
ph. (02) 6247.1682
23.02.11

A SUBMISSION TO THE REDISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE FROM TONY FARRELL

My proposal is that Nicholls should be removed from Ginninderra and re-united with Gungahlin, and hence Molonglo for the time being, and that Chifley, Pearce, Torrens and Farrer be removed from Brindabella and also returned to Molonglo, and that the number of Representatives for Molonglo should be raised from 7 to 9.

In 1989 at the time of the first ACT Legislative Assembly elections, the total enrolment of voters was 169,493. That gave us one Representative for every 9,970.1764 voters, and there being only the one electorate, regional differences were not yet relevant to the system itself, and hence were not considered.

In January of 2011, the total of enrolled voters for Ginninderra was 69,929 - this gives one Representative for every 13,985.8 voters.

In January of 2011, the total of enrolled voters for Brindabella was 71,524 - this gives one Representative for every 14,304.8 voters.

In January of 2011, the total of enrolled voters for Molonglo was 106,502 - this gives one Representative for every 15,214.571 voters.

Even allowing for the assumption that the original framers of the system foresaw that the ACT would grow in population as the years passed, and that around the 12,000 mark would eventually apply as the number of voters per Representative, as it seems fairly normal in similar jurisdictions, the way the current system has evolved has now exposed flaws in the system, both in a regional sense and a population sense.

Farrell Submission to R.C. page 2

My suggestion is that Nicholls more properly should be grouped as part of Gungahlin, and hence part of Molonglo for the time being until some future Redistribution Committee may deem Gungahlin (and perhaps Majura, Kowen, and even Oaks Estate) to be a populous region in it's own right to justify constituting a separate Electorate.

With the loss of Nicholls, this would give Ginninderra a total of 64,941 enrolled voters on 2011 figures, and consequently 12,988.2 voters per Representative. Ginninderra would then be regionally and clearly defined as Belconnen and Suburbs and the village of Hall.

My suggestion is that the suburbs of Chifley, Pearce, Torrens and Farrer have never ceased to be part of the Molonglo region, and should be returned. That would leave Brindabella a total of 63,673 enrolled voters on 2011 figures, and consequently 12,734.6 voters per Rep. As well, Brindabella would then regionally and clearly be defined as Tuggeranong and Suburbs and the village of Tharwa.

This would give Molonglo a total of 119,341 voters on 2011 figures, and clearly dividing by 7 is no longer relevant. But dividing by 9 would mean that there were 13,260.111 voters per Representative, a far more acceptable option. As well, Molonglo would regionally and clearly be defined as the City and Woden and their suburbs, and for the time being Gungahlin and Majura and Kowen and Oaks Estate.

Thanking you for your consideration of these suggestions,

I remain,

yours sincerely,


Tony Farrell

Your local voice

■ ■ ■ weston creek
 ■ ■ ■ community
 ■ ■ ■ council

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 28 FEB 2011
 ACT ELECTORAL
 COMMISSION

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The Redistribution Committee
 ACT Electoral Commission
 P.O. Box 272
 CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608

24 February 2011

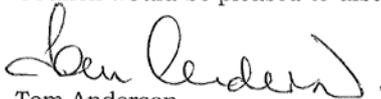
**Submission in Relation to the Proposed Electoral Boundaries for the ACT
 Legislative Electorates**

I am writing on behalf of the Weston Creek Community Council (WCCC) in relation to the proposed boundaries for the ACT Legislative Electorates.

Weston Creek is a unique part of Canberra and is the smallest District in residential Canberra situated in a well treed valley some 3 kilometres wide and 4 kilometres long. It has been described as one of the most picturesque parts of the National Capital. Neither Council nor the Community could contemplate Weston Creek being split between electorates. The eight suburbs are a community with the hub being the Coleman Court precinct.

It would appear that the Commission in past elections has made decisions to move suburbs from their "Districts" to balance the quotas required for each electorate. While WCCC appreciates the Commission has a difficult task in balancing electorates, it is also of the opinion that Weston Creek, unlike some other 'districts', is a homogenous area that does not readily lend itself to segregation. Rather, Weston Creek should be the starting point to determine boundaries with those 'districts' that do not have any particular defining features being used to balance the overall electorate requirements.

Council would be pleased to discuss submission at any time.



Tom Anderson
 Deputy Chairman
 Weston Creek Community Council

■ Established 1991 ■ ABN: 52 841 915 317 ■ Weston Creek Citizens Council Inc. ■ Reg. no. A 2637
 Weston Creek Community Council is supported by the ACT Government

Your local voice

■ ■ ■ weston creek
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The Redistribution Committee
 ACT Electoral Commission
 P.O. Box 272
 CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608

9 March 2011

**Submission in Relation to the Proposed Electoral Boundaries for the ACT
 Legislative Electorates**

This is a supplementary Submission on behalf of the Weston Creek Community Council (WCCC) in relation to the proposed boundaries for the ACT Legislative Electorates.

Further to my earlier Submission, I would like again to emphasise that Weston Creek is a single community and is better kept as a whole in the Molonglo Electorate. It would seem that at the last review, the Electoral Commissioners accepted this point of view as Weston Creek remained as a whole within the Molonglo Electorate. There is certainly a view that people in Weston Creek, if they have an affinity, it is with the Woden Valley rather than Tuggeranong and for shopping and bus routes this is certainly true.

WCCC notes that within the 'Legal Requirements for Redistribution', section C states that 5 matters must be considered. Items (i) and (ii) seem to cover the economic and social cohesion of an electorate and along with item (iii) point towards maintaining where possible the boundaries of what residents consider to be their 'area'. This seems to confirm the points made above and the view of the Commissioners previously.

In Table 4 there are no projected persons for either Wright or Coombs. Council understands that these areas are planned to be settled during 2012. Further, Council notes that there is a projected decrease in the suburb of Weston despite construction in the new North Weston area well under way and expected to be settled during 2012.

There is no question that the moving suburbs out of their District is one which is not accepted by the people who live there. However, the boundaries that are presently in place have been accepted by the population, albeit probably

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reluctantly in the southern Woden suburbs and in Nicholls in Gungahlin. WCCC suggest to keep any changes to a minimum that the suburbs of Palmerston and Crace be moved from the Electorate of Molonglo to the Electorate of Ginninderra. This will provide a very clear boundary between the two electorates and geographically seems to be the "right" boundary. This move will then provide for the three electorates to be within the 5% of the projected quota for each Electorate. Council figures based on the information provided are as follows:

Quota for 1 member based on projections for 2012 is
256168 divided by 17 = 15068

Therefore the number of enrolled voters in each electorate should be:

Molonglo – $15068 \times 7 = 105476$ enrolled voters [105480 in the guide]
Brindabella – $15068 \times 5 = 75340$ enrolled voters [75343 in the guide]
Ginninderra – $15068 \times 5 = 75340$ enrolled voters [75343 in the guide]

Council's suggestions would make the electorates as follows:

Molonglo 112353 – 4212 [Palmerston] - 112 Crace = 108029 + 2.42%
Ginninderra 71098 + 4212 [Palmerston] + 112 Crace = 75422 + 0.11%
Brindabella - as projected 72717 - 3.49%

Again I would just like to repeat that Council strongly supports keeping Weston Creek suburbs in the one electorate and that the Electorate be that of Molonglo.

Council would be pleased to discuss this submission at any time.

Tom Anderson
Deputy Chairman
Weston Creek Community Council