
From: Bill Reid
Sent: Wednesday, 1 June 2011 3:44 PM
To: Elections
Subject: Electoral boundary redistribution

Dear Madam/Sir

I wish to submit the following comments on the proposed ACT electoral redistribution. I do so as a voter in the Molonglo electorate of some 14 years.

If an elected representative departs too far from the wishes of the electorate, the term representative democracy loses all content. A representative, while not necessarily being the typical, or the average, citizen of his or her electorate, should not be so far out of touch with the feelings and wishes of the ordinary citizens as not to be able to listen to their problems with sympathy or express their needs with vigour and conviction. (See Graham Maddox, *Australian Democracy in Theory and Practice*)

Within the present boundaries of the Molonglo electorate there is a real schism between the feelings, interests and needs of the demographically young, developing area of Gungahlin (including the Ginninderra electorate suburb of Nichols), and the mature, almost moribund, central areas. Subsequently, most candidates base their electoral appeal, and performance if elected, on party affiliation and interaction with non broadly-representative networks of interest and pressure groups. Neither area seems to be satisfactorily represented in this situation.

It is in the best interests of representative democracy for both areas, and for the fostering of democratic dialogue, that the electorate boundaries encourage a more genuine representation than exists now. Given the realities of current electoral laws, this is better achieved by joining all of Belconnen and Gungahlin in a 7 member electorate, reducing the Molonglo electorate to 5 members across the central areas.

Such a redistribution will also cater for future growth with minimal future changes.

The opportunity to make these changes should be taken now.

Yours sincerely,

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