

From: Gordon McAllister
Sent: Thursday, 4 August 2011 9:59 PM
To: Elections
Subject: objection to revised boundary redistribution

Hi Elections ACT

I wish to object to the revised proposal to change the boundaries of the ACT electorates which primarily makes Ginninderra the 7 member electorate. I believe that the original proposal to just make minor changes to the boundary between the Molonglo and Ginninderra electorates to be preferable.

It is quite odd that the Electoral Commission wants to solve concerns raised by a small number of Gungahlin residents to a relatively minor excision from the Molonglo electorate into Ginninderra by making a much more significant split in electorates through North Canberra.

It is also particularly odd to make a major adjustment in the numbers of members in Ginninderra and Molonglo relatively close to the next ACT election and to cause disruption to the work of the existing MLAs who may find themselves in new electorates through no fault of their own.

I am a resident of Lyneham and feel strongly that the inner North of Canberra should be regarded as a united community. The inner North is one of the oldest developed areas of Canberra and has a long history of interaction between its suburbs and with the commercial centres of Civic and Dickson. Black Mountain/O'Connor Ridge and Mount Ainslie/Mount Majura form natural boundaries to the inner North and Sullivans Creek winding through the valley to the lake provides a uniting natural feature.

As a Lyneham resident, and knowing many other people in this area, I know that we have much more affinity to the inner North than to Belconnen. I have few reasons to travel to Belconnen whereas I travel around the inner North daily for work, shopping, recreation and visiting friends. I am aware of many people who have chosen to stay in the inner North, even though they may have moved houses a number of times, because they like the community and location here.

I can understand the concerns of some Gungahlin residents to having their community split into different electorates, but it has to be admitted that the Gungahlin community is young and still in the process of formation and the disruption to their community caused by the boundary change there would be much less than a boundary change in the inner North. Indeed, the suburb of Crace has very few people living in it at present so would be hardly affected by the originally proposed change.

I accept that electoral boundaries will almost always divide some community or other, but I thought that the Commission was obliged to make the minimum necessary changes to keep the electorates within their quotas. The original proposal did that and should be maintained.

Yours sincerely

Gordon McAllister