



Proposed Redistribution of the ACT into Electorates for the Legislative Assembly

ACT Legislative Assembly
Electoral Boundaries
Redistribution 2007



ISBN 10 digit: 0 642 60407 X
 13 digit: 978 0 642 60407 1

© Australian Capital Territory, Canberra 2007

This work is copyright. Apart from any use as permitted under the *Copyright Act 1968*, no part may be reproduced by any process without written permission from the ACT Electoral Commission, except that permission is given for use and reproduction of the statistics included in this publication.

Produced by the ACT Electoral Commission
PO Box 272, Civic Square ACT 2608.

Email: elections@act.gov.au

Phone: 6205 0033

ACT Electoral Commission homepage:

<http://www.elections.act.gov.au>

ACT Government homepage:

Publication Number: 07/0498

<http://www.act.gov.au>

Phone: Canberra 13ACT1 or 132 281

ACT Legislative Assembly Electoral Boundaries Redistribution 2007

Table of Contents

Summary of proposed redistribution	1
Overall statistical summary	2
Quotas and maximum and minimum numbers of electors	2
Existing electorates: Statistical summary	2
Proposed electorates: Statistical summary	2
Map of proposed boundaries	3
Legal Requirements	4
Commencement of the redistribution process	4
The Redistribution Committee	4
Invitation to submit suggestions and comments	4
Redistribution criteria	4
Objections	5
Numbers of electors	6
Numbers of electors immediately after the redistribution	6
Numbers of electors at the time of the next general election	6
Quotas	7
The other redistribution criteria.....	8
Suggestions and comments	9
Brief summary of suggestions	9
Brief summary of comments	10
The Committee's proposed boundaries	12
Retaining the current boundaries unchanged	12
The Ginninderra boundary	14
The Brindabella boundary	21
Future growth trends	24
Changes to the number of members to be elected in each electorate	25
Conclusion	25
Names of electorates	26
Appendix A: Constitution of Proposed Electorates	27
Proposed Electorate of Brindabella.....	27
Proposed Electorate of Ginninderra	28
Proposed Electorate of Molonglo.....	29
Appendix B: Projected electoral enrolment statistics methodology	31

Summary of proposed redistribution

The 2007 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 suburb of Farrer be transferred from Molonglo to Brindabella; and
- The suburb of Palmerston be transferred from Molonglo to Ginninderra.

The proposed electorates are as follows:

BRINDABELLA, a five member electorate comprising the district of Tuggeranong (excluding the suburb of Hume), the Woden Valley suburbs of Chifley, Farrer, Pearce and Torrens and the southern remainder of the ACT;

GINNINDERRA, a five member electorate comprising the districts of Belconnen and Hall (including the entire Village of Hall) and the Gungahlin suburbs of Nicholls and Palmerston; and

MOLONGLO, a seven member electorate comprising the districts of Gungahlin (excluding the suburbs of Nicholls and Palmerston), Canberra Central, 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
17 April 2007			
Actual enrolment	234 961		
Quotas		69 106	96 748
Not more than 110% of the quota		76 016	106 422
Not less than 90% of the quota		62 196	87 074
October 2008			
Projected enrolment	238 818		
Quotas		70 240	98 336
Not more than 105% of the quota		73 752	103 252
Not less than 95% of the quota		66 728	93 420

Existing electorates: Statistical summary

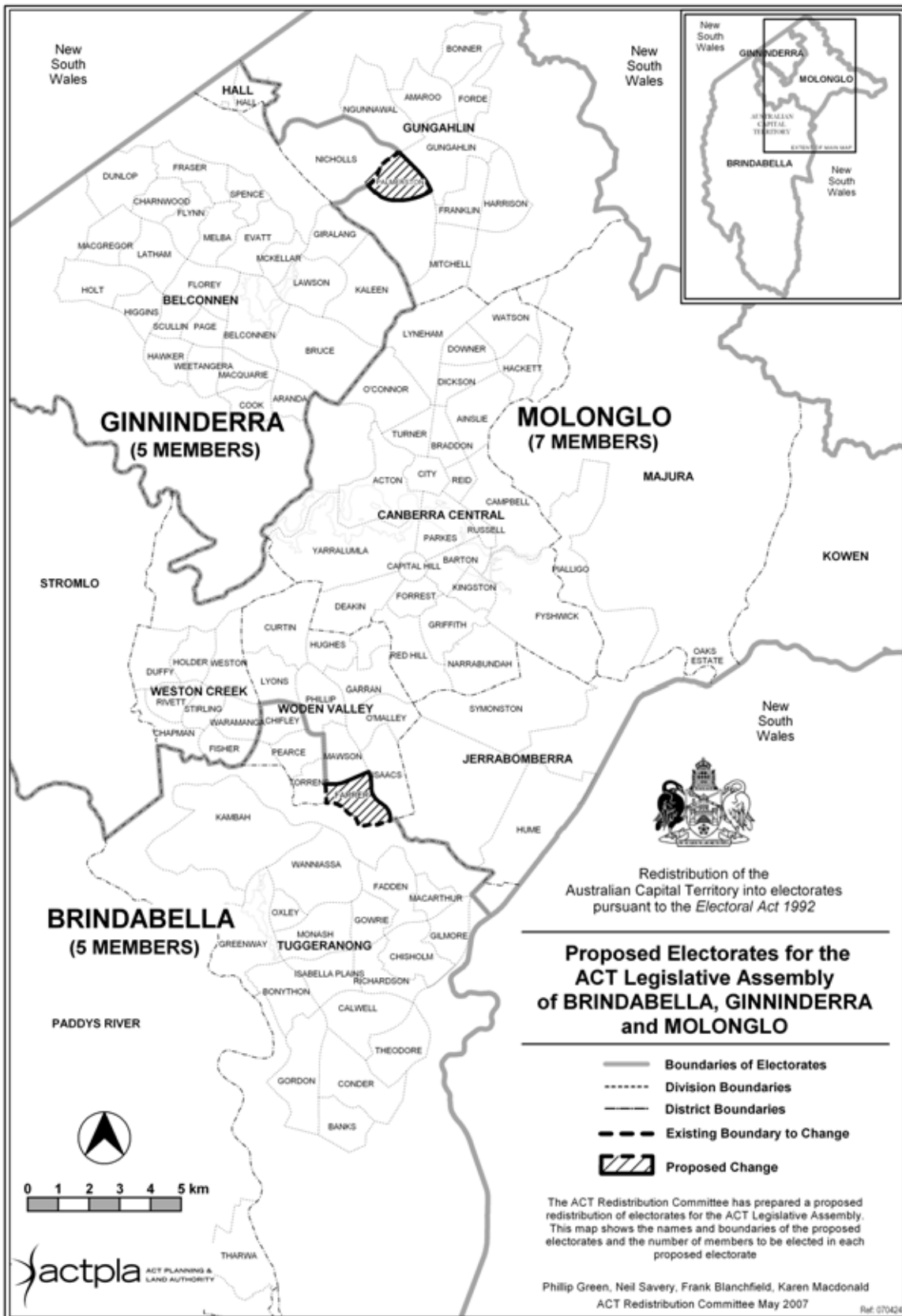
Proposed electorate	Number of members	Enrolment April 2007	% above or below quota 2007	Projected enrolment October 2008	% above or below quota 2008
Brindabella	5	67 633	-2.13%	68 124	-3.01%
Ginninderra	5	67 096	-2.91%	67 643	-3.70%
Molonglo	7	100 232	3.60%	103 051	4.79%

Proposed electorates: Statistical summary

Proposed electorate	Number of members	Enrolment April 2007	% above or below quota 2007	Projected enrolment October 2008	% above or below quota 2008
Brindabella	5	70 131	1.48%	70 597	0.51%
Ginninderra	5	71 100	2.89%	71 639	1.99%
Molonglo	7	93 730	-3.12%	96 582	-1.78%

For a detailed break down 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 12 December 2006. Notice of the appointment of the Redistribution Committee was notified on the ACT Legislation Register on 21 December 2006.

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 Commissioner for Surveys (Mr Frank Blanchfield) and a person appointed by the ACT Electoral Commission, the Regional Director, ACT Office, Australian Bureau of Statistics (Ms Karen Macdonald).

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 8 February 2007. The closing date for suggestions was 8 March 2007. The closing date for comments on these suggestions was 22 March 2007.

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 28 June 2007.

Objections should be lodged at:

ACT Electoral Commission
Level 2, 12 Moore Street
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), the Electoral Commissioner (Mr Phillip Green, who is chairperson of the Redistribution Committee), the third member of the ACT Electoral Commission (Dr Christabel Young) and the other members of the Redistribution Committee: the Chief Planning Executive (Mr Neil Savery), the Commissioner for Surveys (Mr Frank Blanchfield) and the Regional Director, ACT Office, Australian Bureau of Statistics (Ms Karen Macdonald). 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 the latest available enrolment statistics for the ACT, broken down by suburb. These enrolment statistics were compiled on 18 August 2006. 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 (see the following section).

The *Guidelines for submissions* published by the Committee concurrently with the call for public suggestions and comments included the enrolment statistics compiled on 18 August 2006 and the then latest available statistics from 6 February 2007.

This report includes updated enrolment statistics compiled on 17 April 2007. 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 18 October 2008 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 18 October 2008. 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 18 August 2006. 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/adobe/Guidelines&Stats2007.pdf).

The Committee met on 3 April 2007 to discuss the public suggestions and comments received. At that meeting, the Committee noted that the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) had begun undertaking increased enrolment stimulation activities in early 2007, including an extensive national targeted door-knock. This activity had significantly increased the number of electors enrolled in the ACT. In particular, the new enrolments generated indicated that the electorate of Molonglo appeared to be growing at a faster rate, compared to Brindabella and Ginninderra, than was projected by the ABS using the enrolment data provided by the AEC in August 2006. As a result, the Committee agreed that there was a need to obtain more up-to-date projected enrolment statistics for October 2008 in the light of the recent changes to the electoral roll. The Committee obtained the latest enrolment statistics for each suburb on 17 April 2007, following the completion of the round of door-knocks conducted by the AEC. The Committee provided these statistics to the ABS, who used them to provide updated projections of the enrolment in each suburb for October 2008. These statistics (included at Appendix A) have been used as the basis for the proposed redistribution in this report.

The Committee notes that the enrolment projections for October 2008 are just that: projections based on current enrolment statistics and anticipated population changes, taking past population growth and projected housing developments into account. The Committee is also aware that the current electoral roll is not at its optimal level of accuracy, as there has not been a formal ‘roll close’ for an election since October 2004. The Committee also notes that there will be two roll closes before the October 2008 ACT election, for the Federal election due at the end of 2007 and for the ACT election itself. These events are likely to lead to significant changes to the ACT electoral roll. As the projected enrolment totals for October 2008 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.

Quotas

At 17 April 2007 there were 234,961 electors on the roll for the ACT. The quota for the five member electorates determined in accordance with section 67D of the Self-Government Act is 69,106, the permitted minimum enrolment (not less than 90% of the quota) is 62,196, and the permitted maximum enrolment (not greater than 110% of the quota) is 76,016. The quota for the seven member electorate is 96,748, the permitted minimum enrolment is 87,074, and the permitted maximum enrolment is 106,422.

The ABS projects that there will be 238,818 electors on the roll for the ACT in October 2008. Therefore the quota for the five member electorates at that time determined in accordance with subsection 67D(1) of the Self-Government Act is 70,240, the permitted minimum enrolment (not less than 95% of the quota) is 66,728, and the permitted maximum enrolment (not greater than 105% of the quota) is 73,752. The quota for the seven member electorate is 98,336, the permitted minimum enrolment is 93,420, and the permitted maximum is 103,252.

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

Five suggestions were lodged with the Redistribution Committee by the close of the suggestions period on 8 March 2007. Two comments on the suggestions were received by the closing date on 22 March 2007. Copies of the suggestions and comments may be viewed at the Commission's office or obtained from its website, www.elections.act.gov.au.

Brief summary of suggestions

Matthew Cossey, ACT Secretary, Australian Labor Party, ACT Branch

This suggestion notes that Molonglo is estimated to be close to 5% above the quota at the time of the 2008 election. The suggestion notes that "the vast majority of high-growth suburbs such as Gungahlin (excluding Nicholls), Barton, Braddon, Turner, Kingston and Phillip" are in Molonglo and that "This significantly heightens the chance that with no change to current boundaries the electorate of Molonglo may well exceed the limits set by the legislation by the time of the next ACT election." The suggestion supports stability in the electoral boundaries, but suggests that "some minimal change on this occasion, in reducing the electorate of Molonglo, would be appropriate in seeking to achieve the above [one vote, one value] principle."

The suggestion does not propose which changes should be made, but notes that it would be ideal if all the Gungahlin suburbs were contained within one electorate. However, the suggestion recognises "that having some Gungahlin suburbs in the Ginninderra electorate is the only way to maintain the current electoral structure without major or radical change."

Alan Kerlin, President, Gungahlin Community Council Inc.

This suggestion states that "the current anomaly with the electoral boundary between Ginninderra and Molonglo that leaves Nicholls in a different electorate should not be allowed to continue. This has resulted in our community [Gungahlin] being under-represented in each of these electorates, leading to disadvantage for our community in the way of planning, services and infrastructure provision."

The suggestion proposes to address this by making Brindabella the 7-member electorate, comprising all of Tuggeranong, Weston Creek and Woden. This would then provide for "Two 5-member electorates north of the river [which] would provide for the future population growth areas, and contain the electorates within fairly close geographical and social proximity – quite different from the current situation."

The suggestion also proposes an alternative to the current legislative requirement to divide the ACT into two 5-member electorates and one 7-member electorates: to change the number of members to 19 in a 5-5-3-3-3 configuration.

Gary Kent, President, Liberal Party of Australia, ACT Division

This suggestion submitted that there should be no change to the present boundaries. The suggestion stated that “A rearrangement of boundaries should ordinarily only commence when the forecast populations of enrolled voters exceeds statutory thresholds. The suggestion stressed the importance of “the public desire for continuity of boundaries.” The suggestion notes that any further sub-division of town centres would further divide existing community of interests and cut across dominant physical features and sub-divide zones of travel and communications. The suggestion opposes any further shift of Gungahlin suburbs to Ginninderra.

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

This suggestion submitted that there should be no change to the present boundaries. Arguments put forward in favour of making no change included:

- That there was a community expectation that electoral boundaries would seldom change;
- 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; and
- That the current boundaries satisfy all the relevant criteria and should be retained.

The suggestion also called for a simplified redistribution process to be suggested to the Legislative Assembly, whereby, where the actual and projected enrolments stood well within the tolerances, the Redistribution Committee would be empowered to make a final determination to the effect that the boundaries would remain unchanged, without the need for a public consultation phase.

Bob Sutherland, Secretary, Weston Creek Community Council

This suggestion supported keeping Weston Creek entirely within the electorate of Molonglo. The suggestion also recommended that the redistribution avoid splitting local communities as much as possible.

Brief summary of comments

Theodore Ian Ruecroft, Palmerston

This comment by a Gungahlin resident argues that Gungahlin has suffered disadvantage by being split between Ginninderra and Molonglo, and states that “the Electoral Commission has a responsibility to work with the Gungahlin community to explore every possible solution to the current situation and implement changes that will ensure that Gungahlin is contained within one electorate for the 2008 ACT election and for future elections. If it is not possible to develop a suitable option that contains all communities of common interests within the same electorate, then there is a need to develop a process that rotates the disadvantage. ... it is time that other districts are disadvantaged.”

**Rosemary Lissimore, President, Tuggeranong Community Council
Incorporated**

This comment proposes making the following changes to the current boundaries:

- Moving Chifley, Pearce and Torrens from Brindabella to Molonglo, and moving all of Weston Creek from Molonglo to Brindabella.
- Moving all of Gungahlin currently in Molonglo to Ginninderra.

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

Two of the submissions – from the Proportional Representation Society of Australia (ACT Branch) and the Liberal Party of Australia, ACT Division – suggested that, as the projected enrolments for each electorate for October 2008 were within the required tolerance of 5% from the quota, the current boundaries should not be changed. The submissions stressed the importance of providing stability of electoral boundaries.

The Committee noted that these submissions were made in the context of the projected enrolment totals calculated by ABS on the basis of the enrolment statistics extracted from the roll in August 2006. Based on these projections Molonglo would be 4.38% over the quota in October 2008, with Brindabella 2.91 % under the quota and Ginninderra 3.22% under the quota.

At its meeting on 3 April 2007, the Committee expressed its concern that these projections may have underestimated the growth rate in Molonglo, given the changes to the numbers of electors on the electoral roll that occurred in early 2007 described above. As a result of this concern, the Committee sought revised enrolment projections for October 2008 from the ABS.

The enrolment figures for April 2007 and the revised projected enrolment figures for October 2008 on the current electoral boundaries are:

Electorate	Number of members	Enrolment 17 April 2007	% above or below quota 2007	Projected enrolment October 2008	% above or below quota 2008
Brindabella	5	67 633	-2.13%	68 124	-3.01%
Ginninderra	5	67 096	-2.91%	67 643	-3.70%
Molonglo	7	100 232	3.60%	103 051	4.79%

Of particular note, it is projected that the enrolment for Molonglo for October 2008 will be 4.79% above the quota at that time. Expressed another way, it is projected that Molonglo, at 103,051 electors, will be 201 electors below the maximum permitted number of electors: no more than 105% of the quota at the time of the next election, or 103,252 electors.

As discussed above, in relation to the projected numbers of electors enrolled at the time of the next election, the Committee considered that it is necessary to leave a margin for error to allow for the possibility that the enrolment projections may not accurately forecast the actual enrolment relativities of the three electorates at the time of the next election. Without wishing to put an absolute number on the desirable margin for error, the Committee considered that a margin of 0.21%, or 201 electors (by which Molonglo is short of 105% of the quota), was too small to allow the Committee to be satisfied that it had fulfilled the statutory requirement 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 (as set out in section 36 of the Electoral Act).

For this reason, the Committee did not consider it acceptable to propose that the existing boundaries should remain unchanged.

The Committee noted that both Brindabella and Ginninderra were projected to be below the quota at the time of the next election in October 2008 – with Brindabella projected to be 3.01% below the quota and Ginninderra projected to be 3.70% below.

In this light, the Committee noted the suggestion submitted by the ACT Branch of the Australian Labor Party, which stated that “if no change is made to the boundaries as part of this redistribution then there will be a significant difference of variance from quota between the electorate of Molonglo compared with the two five member electorates of Brindabella and Ginninderra. ... ACT Labor believes that the Committee should still seek to best protect the principle of ‘one vote, one value’ and accordingly look to minimise such variances.”

Given that the Committee had determined that Molonglo would need to be reduced in size to ensure that it fell within the required range at the time of the next election, the Committee decided to examine both the boundary between Brindabella and Molonglo and the boundary between Ginninderra and Molonglo. The Committee considered that there would be merit in adjusting all three electorates to bring each of them closer to the relevant quotas in October 2008. Such a change would achieve several objectives:

- ensuring beyond doubt that all three electorates would be within the required variation from the quota by 2008;
- bringing the number of electors per member closer together in each electorate, in accordance with the ‘one vote, one value’ objective implicit in the requirement to ensure all electorates are within 5% of the quota; and
- reducing the likelihood that the boundaries will need to be changed at the next redistribution due before the 2012 election, by allowing for future growth areas, thereby respecting the criteria to duly consider the boundaries of existing electorates.

The Ginninderra boundary

The Committee turned first to the Ginninderra boundary.

The Committee noted the suggestions and comments 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 proposal 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.

None of the suggestions or comments proposed a specified set of boundaries for Ginninderra that would achieve the objectives of placing all Gungahlin suburbs in one electorate while ensuring that Ginninderra was within the 5% variation from the quota in 2008. The Gungahlin Community Council suggested making Brindabella the 7 member electorate and making two 5 member electorates north of the river, with Ginninderra “a predominantly Belconnen electorate” and Molonglo encompassing north and south Canberra plus Gungahlin. This suggestion does not address the fact that Belconnen by itself is too small to constitute a 5 member electorate, being 9.81% below quota in April 2007 and projected to be 10.61% below quota in 2008. The suggestion does not indicate which other suburbs should be included with Belconnen to make a suitable 5 member electorate.

Mr Ruecroft from Palmerston in Gungahlin commented that Gungahlin should be in one electorate, and that some other area should be included in Ginninderra with Belconnen in order to meet the numerical criteria. However, he did not nominate which areas should be included.

The Tuggeranong Community Council recommended placing all of Gungahlin with Belconnen in a 5 member electorate. Such an electorate would dramatically exceed the 5% enrolment tolerance in 2008 and could not be considered.

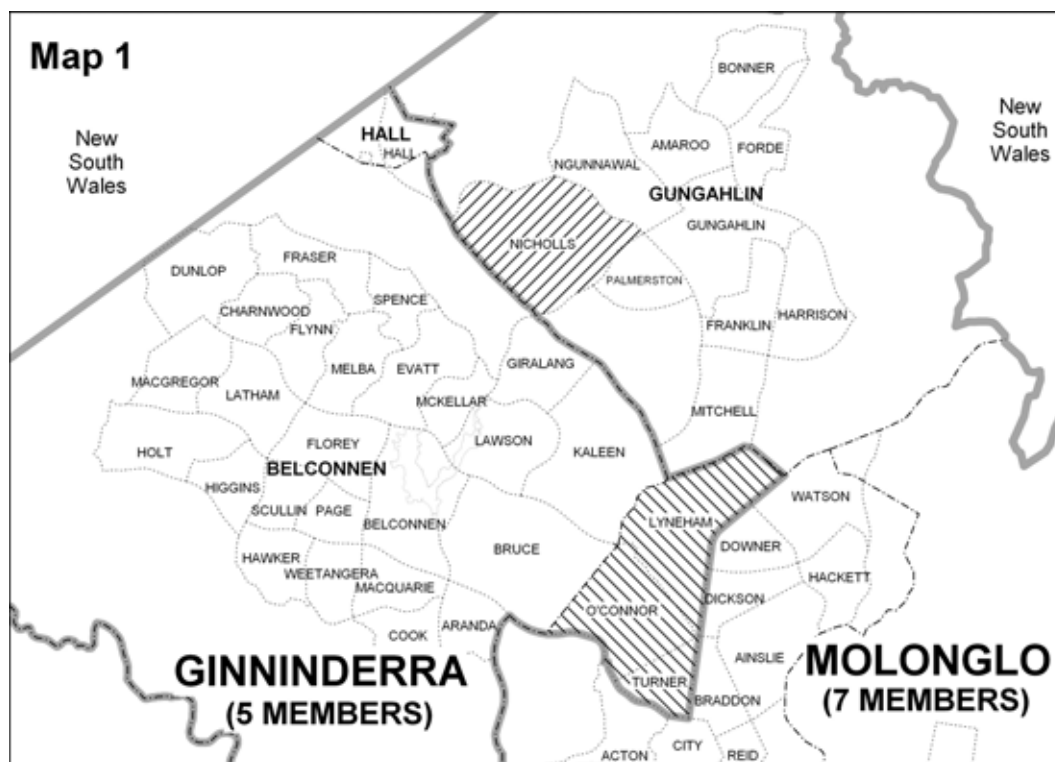
In the absence of any achievable guidance from the public submissions the Committee considered the following options.

Option 1: Transferring Nicholls from Ginninderra to Molonglo and transferring Lyneham and/or O'Connor and/or Turner from Molonglo to Ginninderra

The Committee considered transferring Nicholls from Ginninderra to Molonglo and transferring various combinations of Lyneham, O'Connor and Turner from Molonglo to Ginninderra. The following table shows the results of these combinations.

Suburbs transferred from Molonglo to Ginninderra (with Nicholls transferred to Molonglo)	Proposed electorate	% above or below quota 2007	% above or below quota 2008
Lyneham	Ginninderra	-5.17%	-6.04%
	Molonglo	+5.22%	+6.46%
O'Connor	Ginninderra	-4.50%	-5.38%
	Molonglo	+4.74%	-5.99%
Lyneham and O'Connor	Ginninderra	+0.13%	-0.80%
	Molonglo	+1.43%	+2.73%
Lyneham, O'Connor and Turner	Ginninderra	+3.02%	+2.40%
	Molonglo	0.64%	+0.44%

Map 1 shows the boundaries that would apply if Nicholls was transferred from Ginninderra to Molonglo and Lyneham, O'Connor and Turner was transferred from Molonglo to Ginninderra.



It can be seen that transferring just Lyneham or just O'Connor would not be sufficient to place Ginninderra within the 5% tolerance in 2008. However, transferring a combination of Lyneham and O'Connor, or a combination of Lyneham, O'Connor and Turner, would place Ginninderra within the 5% tolerance.

The option of including Lyneham and O'Connor in Ginninderra with Nicholls transferred to Molonglo was considered in both the 2000 and 2003 redistributions. In each case, this option was rejected for the following reasons, endorsed by the current Committee.

The boundary between O'Connor and Turner runs along David Street, a relatively minor road fronted by houses in both O'Connor and Turner. The Committee considers that this would be a poor boundary, as roads fronted by houses are not ideal as electoral boundaries as they divide close communities of interests. The boundary between Lyneham and the suburbs to the east would follow Northbourne Avenue, which would be a more appropriate boundary.

The Committee considered that Lyneham and O'Connor share significant communities of interests with the adjacent north Canberra suburbs, such as Watson, Downer, Dickson and Turner. These suburbs were developed at similar times and share similar socio-economic characteristics, as well as transport links, schools and shopping and employment facilities. While Lyneham and O'Connor share some interests with the adjacent Belconnen suburbs, particularly O'Connor ridge, the new Gungahlin Drive extension forms a natural barrier between them. The Committee considers that Lyneham and O'Connor have much stronger links with the adjacent north Canberra suburbs.

The Committee was also concerned that transferring Lyneham and O'Connor to Ginninderra would insert a "wedge" in Molonglo that would disrupt the continuity of Molonglo by isolating Gungahlin from north Canberra in the electorate.

Including Turner in the transferred suburbs would avoid using David Street as a boundary and would allow the use of Barry Drive and Northbourne Avenue as a boundary instead. However, transferring all three of these suburbs would further disrupt the communities of interests these suburbs share with the adjacent north Canberra suburbs.

For these reasons, and the fact that this would represent a substantial change to the electoral boundaries, the Committee considered that neither of these options was very suitable.

As discussed in the 2003 redistribution, the Committee considered splitting Belconnen in this way would disrupt several communities of interests. It would separate the excised shopping, leisure and employment facilities in the Belconnen town centre from the nearby Belconnen suburbs left in Ginninderra. It would also divide several school catchment areas. The suburbs proposed to be transferred to Molonglo include Belconnen town centre, Calvary Hospital, the Australian Institute of Sport, the Canberra Stadium, the Hawker sporting ovals, the University of Canberra, Radford College, Hawker College, Canberra High, Fern Hill Park and the Jamison Centre, all of which have strong connections with the rest of Belconnen. While many of these institutions also have connections with other parts of Canberra, their location in Belconnen arguably makes their Belconnen connections stronger.

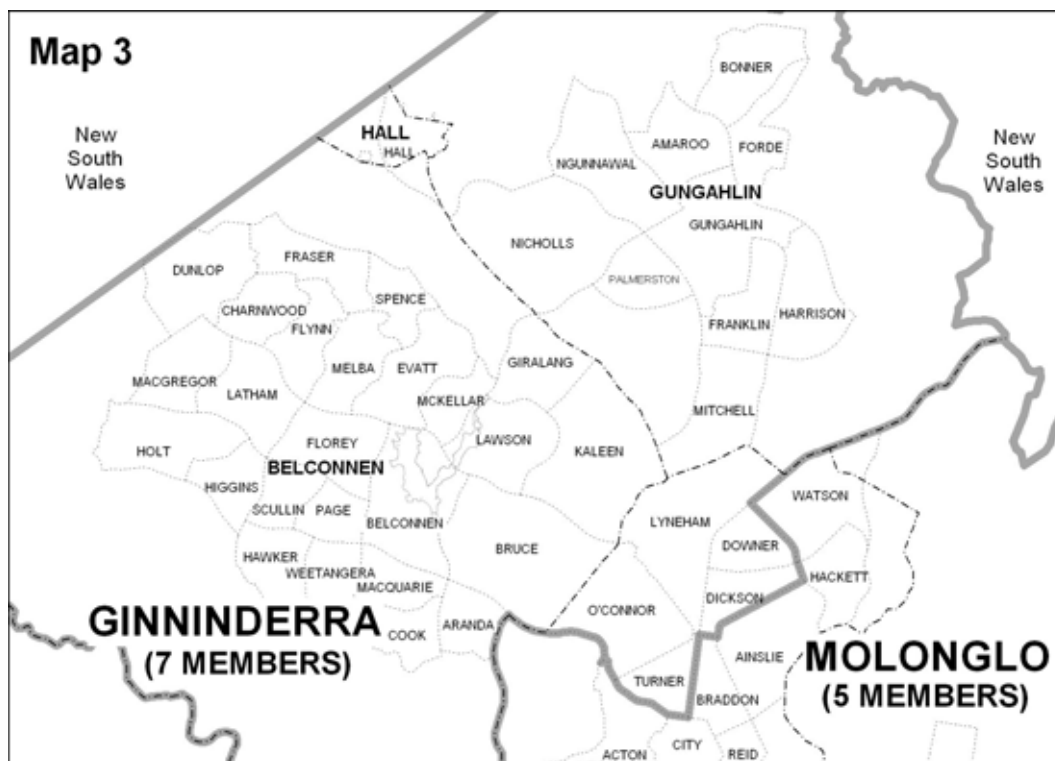
While the Committee recognised that the inclusion of parts of Gungahlin in Ginninderra disrupts the community of interests that exist within Gungahlin, the Committee considered that the division of Belconnen under this option would disrupt significantly greater interests than the current boundaries. In addition, this proposal is significantly at odds with the criteria related to having regard to existing boundaries. In particular, it would involve the transfer of 14,250 electors (on the April 2007 enrolment figures) from Ginninderra to Molonglo, and the transfer of 16,437 electors from Molonglo to Ginninderra. In total, this proposal would require 30,687 electors to change electorate. By comparison, there were 4,766 electors enrolled in Nicholls in April 2007.

For these reasons the Committee rejected this option.

Option 3: Making Ginninderra the seven member electorate, consisting of Belconnen, Gungahlin, Hall and Mitchell and the Central Canberra suburbs of Dickson, Downer, Lyneham, O'Connor and Turner

This proposal was considered by the Committee to be the best mix of suburbs that could constitute a 7 member electorate including Belconnen and Gungahlin. As these two areas are not of themselves large enough to constitute a 7 member electorate, it is necessary to include some North Canberra suburbs to make up the numbers.

Map 3 shows the boundaries that would apply under this option.



The Committee considered that this option was not satisfactory on a number of grounds. It would involve dramatic change to the existing boundaries and the transfer of a large number of electors from Molonglo to Ginninderra. It would separate the communities of interests that exist between the various north Canberra suburbs that would be divided by this proposal. The proposed boundary along Majura Avenue between Ainslie and Dickson would also be less than ideal as it presents less of an obstacle to community interaction compared to more major roads like the Tuggeranong Parkway or Hindmarsh Drive.

For these reasons, the Committee rejected this option.

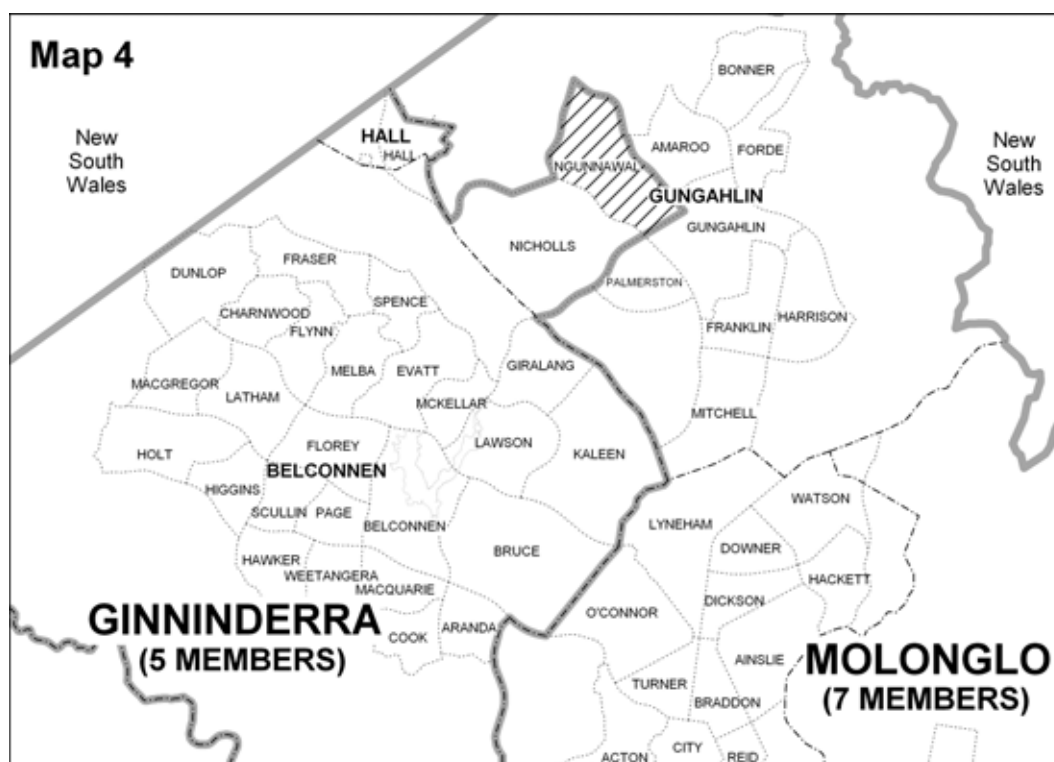
Option 4: Transferring part of Gungahlin from Molonglo to Ginninderra

As none of the above options appeared to provide a satisfactory alternative to the splitting of Gungahlin between Ginninderra and Molonglo, the Committee examined whether it would be appropriate to include one or more additional suburbs with Nicholls in Ginninderra.

The following table shows the results of transferring the two Gungahlin suburbs that share boundaries with Nicholls from Molonglo to Ginninderra.

Suburbs transferred from Molonglo to Ginninderra	Proposed electorate	% above or below quota 2007	% above or below quota 2008
Palmerston	Ginninderra	+2.89%	+1.99%
	Molonglo	-0.54%	+0.73%
Ngunnawal	Ginninderra	+5.82%	+4.83%
	Molonglo	-2.64%	-1.30%
Ngunnawal and Palmerston	Ginninderra	+11.62%	+10.52%
	Molonglo	-6.78%	-5.36%

Map 4 shows the boundaries that would apply if Ngunnawal was transferred from Molonglo to Ginninderra.



It can be seen from the above table that, in terms of the numerical criteria, the only suitable option is to transfer Palmerston from Molonglo to Ginninderra. As the transfer of Ngunnawal from Molonglo to Ginninderra would put Ginninderra 4.83% over the quota in 2008, the Committee considers that this option would not be suitable given its misgivings over the fact that the existing Molonglo is projected to be 4.79% over the quota in 2008.

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 from Molonglo to join Nicholls in Ginninderra as the minimum change necessary (in relation to the Ginninderra-Molonglo boundary) 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 share transport links with and proximity to Belconnen, being the closest Gungahlin suburbs to Belconnen. The Committee also notes that the borders of Palmerston that would form the new electoral boundary will present a clear boundary, with Gungahlin Drive between Palmerston and the adjacent suburbs Gungahlin and Franklin, and Nudurr Drive between Palmerston and the yet to be developed suburb of Crace.

The Committee also notes that the transfer of Palmerston from Molonglo to Ginninderra would place Ginninderra a projected 1.99% over the quota in 2008. The Committee considers this to be a reasonable outcome, as Ginninderra is currently growing at a slower rate than Molonglo. Therefore, placing Ginninderra over the quota in 2008 will see Ginninderra moving towards the quota after 2008 if current trends continue.

The Committee is aware that this proposal will attract criticism from the Gungahlin community. However, in considering the available options, as discussed above, the Committee is of the view that the transfer of Palmerston from Molonglo to Ginninderra is the best available change that will ensure that the requirements of the Electoral Act are met.

The Brindabella boundary

Having decided that the best option for addressing the Ginninderra-Molonglo boundary was the transfer of Palmerston from Molonglo to Ginninderra, the Committee turned to the boundary between Brindabella and Molonglo.

If Palmerston was to be transferred from Molonglo to Ginninderra and Brindabella was to be unchanged, the following table sets out the numerical result.

Proposed electorate	Number of members	Enrolment April 2007	% above or below quota 2007	Projected enrolment October 2008	% above or below quota 2008
Brindabella	5	67 633	-2.13%	68 124	-3.01%
Ginninderra	5	71 100	+2.89%	71 639	+1.99%
Molonglo	7	96 228	-0.54%	99 055	+0.73%

It is projected that if left unchanged under this model, Brindabella will be 3.01% below the quota in 2008, whereas Ginninderra would be 1.99% above the quota and Molonglo would be 0.73% above the quota in 2008. As the population projections indicate that Molonglo is growing at a faster rate than Brindabella, the Committee considered that it was desirable to alter the Brindabella-Molonglo boundary to bring Brindabella closer to the quota in 2008.

As the inclusion of the Woden suburbs of Chifley, Pearce and Torrens has been a feature of Brindabella since that electorate was created in 1993, the Committee considered that these suburbs should remain in Brindabella. As a result, the Committee considered that the only option available to increase the size of Brindabella was to consider the transfer from Molonglo to Brindabella of one or more Woden suburbs adjacent to Chifley, Pearce and Torrens and to the Tuggeranong District. The Committee considered that it would not be appropriate to include one or more Weston Creek suburbs in Brindabella, given the strength of feeling expressed in the public submissions towards splitting Districts unnecessarily and the legislative criteria aimed at considering physical features, community of interests and means of communication and travel.

This reasoning limited the available options to the transfer from Molonglo to Brindabella of Farrer by itself, or Farrer and Mawson, or Farrer and Isaacs. The following table sets out the results of the available options.

Suburbs transferred from Molonglo to Brindabella (with Palmerston transferred from Molonglo to Ginninderra)	Proposed electorate	% above or below quota 2007	% above or below quota 2008
Farrer	Brindabella	+1.48%	+0.51%
	Ginninderra	+2.89%	+1.99%
	Molonglo	-3.12%	-1.78%
Farrer and Mawson	Brindabella	+4.58%	+3.55%
	Ginninderra	+2.89%	+1.99%
	Molonglo	-5.34%	-3.06%
Farrer and Isaacs	Brindabella	+4.18%	+3.12%
	Ginninderra	+2.89%	+1.99%
	Molonglo	-5.05%	-3.65%

It can be seen that the transfer of either set of two suburbs would place Brindabella more than 3% above the quota in 2008, and place Molonglo more than 3% below the quota in 2008. The Committee considers that such a large variation from the quota in 2008 would not be desirable. Accordingly, the Committee considers that the transfer of Farrer only would give the most desirable numerical results, with Brindabella 0.51% above the quota in 2008 and Molonglo 1.78% below the quota in 2008.

As with the proposed transfer of Palmerston from Molonglo to Ginninderra, the Committee is mindful of and sympathetic with the arguments in favour of avoiding the splitting of Districts between electorates. However, the Committee notes that Woden has been split between Brindabella and Molonglo since the first redistribution of the ACT into three Legislative Assembly electorates in 1993. As the Committee considers that Brindabella needs to be increased to take account of past and expected future growth in Molonglo, the Committee views the transfer of Farrer from Molonglo to join Chifley, Pearce and Torrens in Brindabella as the minimum change necessary (in relation to the Brindabella-Molonglo boundary) to ensure that each electorate is within the required statistical allowances. Again, of the available options, this change would impact on the smallest number of electors and would maintain continuity of existing boundaries as far as possible.

The Committee notes that the transfer of Farrer disrupts the community of interests that exist between Farrer and its neighbouring Woden suburbs, particularly Mawson and Isaacs. In particular, the Committee notes that the new electorate boundary constituted by Beasley Street, being the border between Farrer and Mawson, is less than ideal. Along this boundary, there are nearly 40 dwellings on the Farrer side of Beasley Street that face that street and around 70 dwellings on the Mawson side of Beasley Street. Past Redistribution Committees have avoided the need to place electorate boundaries along residential streets such as Beasley Street by using major arterial roads and natural corridors as boundaries. However, given the lack of options available, the Committee considers that the use of this boundary is unavoidable.

The Committee notes that the new boundary between Farrer and Isaacs will present a more suitable boundary as it will run along the major thoroughfare of Yamba Drive.

The Committee also notes that there are community and transport links between Farrer and Chifley, Pearce and Torrens in Brindabella, with Farrer sharing a border with Torrens. Farrer is also part of the priority enrolment area for Melrose High School, which includes Chifley, Pearce and Torrens in Brindabella as well as Isaacs, Mawson and O'Malley and part of Phillip in Molonglo. Farrer also shares transport links with, and proximity to, Tuggeranong in Brindabella, and shared access with Kambah to the Farrer Ridge Nature Reserve.

Future growth trends

In making its proposed redistribution, the Committee was mindful of likely future growth trends in the different parts of the ACT. In the context of the requirement to duly consider the boundaries of existing electorates, the Committee considered it useful to propose boundaries that could absorb some of the likely future growth between the 2008 and 2012 elections, to minimise the need for change at the next redistribution.

The following table summarises the result of the transfer of Palmerston from Molonglo to Ginninderra and the transfer of Farrer from Molonglo to Brindabella.

Proposed electorate	Number of members	Enrolment April 2007	% above or below quota 2007	Projected enrolment October 2008	% above or below quota 2008
Brindabella	5	70 131	1.48%	70 597	0.51%
Ginninderra	5	71 100	2.89%	71 639	1.99%
Molonglo	7	93 730	-3.12%	96 582	-1.78%

This proposed set of boundaries would see Molonglo below the relevant quota in 2008, with Brindabella and Ginninderra above the quota. As most of the growth areas in the ACT are expected to be in Molonglo leading up to 2012, this will allow for projected growth in Molonglo and subsequently minimise the need for changes to boundaries in the redistribution before the 2012 election. Growth is expected in the various new and expanding Gungahlin suburbs, in the various urban infill areas in central Canberra, and in the proposed new District of Molonglo, to the north of Weston Creek. No significant growth is expected in Brindabella as there are no plans for substantial new housing developments in that electorate. Some growth may occur in Ginninderra with the development of Lawson and west Macgregor.

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

The submission from the Gungahlin Community Council suggested a change in the number of members elected in the various electorates. The Committee did not consider that it was appropriate for it to have a view on this issue as it is outside its statutory functions. Section 34 of the Electoral Act specifies that the ACT must be divided into one electorate returning seven members, and two electorates returning five members.

Conclusion

The Committee agreed that the requirement in paragraph 36(c)(iv) of the Electoral Act that existing boundaries must be duly considered, was an indication that the legislature placed considerable weight on stability of electoral boundaries. Two of the suggestions stressed the importance of providing stability of electoral boundaries and recommended that boundaries remain unchanged. However, the Committee noted that the statistical requirements in paragraphs 36(a) and 36(b) have primacy over the factors to be duly considered under paragraph 36(c).

Revised enrolment projections for the time of the 2008 election, taking into account recent changes to the electoral roll up to April 2007, indicated that Molonglo was projected to be only around 200 electors short of the permitted maximum. The Committee therefore decided that it could not propose retaining the existing boundaries without running the risk of failing to comply with paragraph 36(b). This paragraph 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.

After considering the range of options described above, the Committee decided that it should make changes that affected as few electors as possible, while retaining the character of the existing boundaries. Consequently, the Committee has proposed transferring a second Gungahlin suburb, Palmerston, to join Nicholls in Ginninderra; and proposed transferring a fourth Woden suburb, Farrer, to join Chifley, Pearce and Torrens in Brindabella.

The Committee noted, and had considerable sympathy with, the suggestions that urged the inclusion of all of the suburbs in a District in the same electorate, with particular reference to Gungahlin. However, the Committee also noted that this issue was at the forefront of the thinking of the 2000 Redistribution Committee, which took the view that transferring Nicholls from Molonglo to Ginninderra would best satisfy all of the criteria in section 36 of the Electoral Act. While agreeing with this view, this committee joins with its predecessor in expressing its regret at the necessity to further split the district of Gungahlin. However, as discussed above, all of the identified available options require splitting one or more districts somewhere. The committee considers that its proposed boundaries result in disruption to the minimum number of electors possible while also meeting the statistical requirements.

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 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 — Frank Blanchfield — Karen Macdonald

30 May 2007

Appendix A: Constitution of Proposed Electorates

Proposed Electorate of Brindabella

Suburb	Actual persons enrolled 17 April 2007	Projected persons enrolled 16 October 2008	% change
Banks	3081	3108	0.88%
Bonython	2390	2635	10.25%
Calwell	4117	4154	0.90%
Chifley	1735	1718	-0.98%
Chisholm	3836	3902	1.72%
Conder	3249	3317	2.09%
Fadden	2475	2472	-0.12%
Farrer	2498	2473	-1.00%
Gilmore	1958	1997	1.99%
Gordon	5504	5529	0.45%
Gowrie	2433	2426	-0.29%
Greenway	791	932	17.83%
Isabella Plains	2918	2954	1.23%
Kambah	11799	11676	-1.04%
Macarthur	1149	1164	1.31%
Monash	4095	4092	-0.07%
Oxley	1286	1280	-0.47%
Pearce	1951	1910	-2.10%
Richardson	2255	2250	-0.22%
Theodore	2699	2745	1.70%
Torrens	1684	1674	-0.59%
Tuggeranong - SSD Balance	24	24	0.00%
Wanniassa	6034	5995	-0.65%
Remainder of ACT	170	170	0.00%
Total	70131	70597	0.66%
Quota	69106	70240	
Variation from quota	1.48%	0.51%	

Proposed Electorate of Ginninderra

Suburb	Actual persons enrolled 17 April 2007	Projected persons enrolled 16 October 2008	% change
Aranda	1833	1808	-1.36%
Belconnen Town Centre	2036	2282	12.08%
Belconnen - SSD Balance	38	38	0.00%
Bruce	2116	2350	11.06%
Charnwood	2131	2118	-0.61%
Cook	2216	2189	-1.22%
Dunlop	3944	4156	5.38%
Evatt	4175	4146	-0.69%
Florey	3579	3623	1.23%
Flynn	2615	2584	-1.19%
Fraser	1645	1632	-0.79%
Giralang	2566	2562	-0.16%
Hall	244	244	0.00%
Hawker	2249	2215	-1.51%
Higgins	2258	2235	-1.02%
Holt	3488	3554	1.89%
Kaleen	5755	5705	-0.87%
Latham	2775	2756	-0.68%
McKellar	1999	2040	2.05%
Macgregor	2530	2500	-1.19%
Macquarie	1721	1711	-0.58%
Melba	2484	2479	-0.20%
Nicholls	4766	4857	1.91%
Page	1987	1974	-0.65%
Palmerston	4004	3996	-0.20%
Scullin	2000	1981	-0.95%
Spence	1905	1890	-0.79%
Weetangera	2041	2014	-1.32%
Total	71100	71639	0.76%
Quota	69106	70240	
Variation from quota	2.89%	1.99%	

Proposed Electorate of Molonglo

Suburb	Actual persons enrolled 17 April 2007	Projected persons enrolled 16 October 2008	% change
Acton	398	398	0.00%
Ainslie	3614	3605	-0.25%
Amaroo	3411	3533	3.58%
Barton	718	929	29.39%
Braddon	2260	2347	3.85%
Campbell / Duntroon / Majura	3937	3918	-0.48%
Chapman	2197	2221	1.09%
City	360	548	52.22%
Curtin	3898	3860	-0.97%
Deakin	2069	2169	4.83%
Dickson	1448	1428	-1.38%
Downer	2434	2430	-0.16%
Duffy	2289	2328	1.70%
Fisher	2331	2291	-1.72%
Forrest	975	1010	3.59%
Fyshwick	28	28	0.00%
Garran	2297	2252	-1.96%
Griffith	3088	3089	0.03%
Gungahlin-Hall - SSD Balance	2986	4479	50.00%
Hackett	2265	2226	-1.72%
Harman	57	57	0.00%
Holder	2026	2008	-0.89%
Hughes	2211	2211	0.00%
Hume	10	10	0.00%
Isaacs	1867	1838	-1.55%
Jerrabomberra	0	0	
Kingston	1818	2053	12.93%
Kowen	18	18	0.00%
Lyneham	3200	3215	0.47%
Lyons	1705	1832	7.45%
Mawson	2143	2135	-0.37%
Mitchell	2	2	0.00%
Narrabundah	4121	4147	0.63%
Ngunnawal	6034	5990	-0.73%
Oaks Estate	203	203	0.00%
O'Connor	3666	3676	0.27%
O'Malley	581	662	13.94%
Parkes	2	2	0.00%
Phillip	1404	1537	9.47%
Pialligo	88	88	0.00%
Red Hill	2231	2239	0.36%
Reid	1168	1146	-1.88%
Rivett	2363	2328	-1.48%
Russell	0	0	
Stirling	1552	1539	-0.84%
Stromlo	7	7	0.00%
Symonston	309	309	0.00%

Proposed Electorate of Molonglo

Suburb	Actual persons enrolled 17 April 2007	Projected persons enrolled 16 October 2008	% change
Turner	2000	2250	12.50%
Waramanga	1925	1900	-1.30%
Watson	3133	3256	3.93%
Weston	2493	2459	-1.36%
Weston Creek-Stromlo - SSD Bal	46	46	0.00%
Yarralumla	2344	2330	-0.60%
Total	93730	96582	3.04%
Quota	96748	98336	
Variation from quota	-3.12%	-1.78%	

Appendix B: Projected electoral enrolment statistics methodology

The statistics used in this proposal have been compiled for the 2007 redistribution of ACT electoral boundaries in preparation for the 2008 election for the ACT Legislative Assembly. The statistics are shown for ACT Statistical Local Areas (generally suburbs).

The enrolment projections are derived from population projections and from electoral enrolments as at 17 April 2007.

The population projections were calculated using Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) projections relating to Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) defined according to the Australian Standard Geographic Classification (ASGC) – 2005 (ABS Cat. No. 1216.0).

The SLA projections also incorporate information gained from forecasts of new occupied dwellings as provided by the ACT Government. This data takes into account the growth of Canberra's population due to expected developments between June 2006 to June 2009.

The enrolment information used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in calculating its projections was supplied by the Australian Electoral Commission and was current as at 17 April 2007.

The compilation of these projections was undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as a consultancy project for the ACT Electoral Commission.

Methodology for the Projections

The general technique employed for the projections was the cohort-component method, widely accepted as the most accurate age/sex population projection method. It involves applying fertility and mortality rates and migration rates/levels to the base population to produce a projected population, which in turn becomes the base for projecting the next year, and so on.

A three-tiered approach was taken to the process of calculating the projected enrolments.

1. The ACT population was projected by age and sex from June 2005 to June 2009.
2. The populations of all ACT SLAs were projected by age and sex and constrained to the total at 1.
3. Actual enrolments as at 17 April 2007 were used to calibrate the SLA population projections, resulting in projected enrolments as at 18 October 2008.

1. Projections of the Total Population of the ACT

The base population for the ACT cohort-component projections was the preliminary ABS 30 June 2005 Estimated Resident Population. This incorporated results from the 2001 Census of Population and Housing and subsequent ABS population data.

The assumptions for fertility and mortality were from Population Projections 2004 to 2011 (ABS Cat. No. 3222.0). While the fertility assumption was irrelevant for short-term projections of persons aged 18 and over, the mortality assumption was slightly adjusted to reflect more recent years' observed death levels. The migration assumptions, based closely on the medium scenario ("B") in Population Projections were:

	Net Overseas Migration	Net Interstate Migration
2005/2009 (per annum)	600	500

2. Projections of the Populations of the SLAs (Suburbs)

The base population for the SLA cohort-component projections was the preliminary 30 June 2005 SLA age/sex Estimated Resident Population. The fertility, mortality and migration assumptions were based on an assessment of SLA-specific levels and trends observed over the past five to ten years. At each yearly cycle in this process, the SLA projections were constrained to sum to the ACT-level projection, helping to produce more reliable SLA results.

In addition to trend analysis, the SLA net migration assumptions incorporated forecasts of new occupied dwellings as provided by the ACT Government. To these forecasts persons-to-dwelling ratios derived from the 2001 Census were applied, giving new migration capacity for SLAs. This was then combined with estimates of underlying migration for existing SLA residents.

The age/sex distribution for the migration assumptions were based on overseas and inter-regional migration rates used in the calculation of published ABS SLA age/sex population estimates, which were originally derived from 2001 Population Census migration data.

The SLA projection results were collapsed into the age group 18 years or more and these were then interpolated to give results as at 17 April 2007 and 18 October 2008.

3. Projected Enrolments in SLAs

The SLA propensities of persons to be enrolled were calculated as the ratio of enrolments as at 17 April 2007 to the projected population aged 18 years or more at the same date. These propensities were then applied to the projected population aged 18 and over as at 18 October 2008 to give the projected enrolments by SLA. Minor adjustments were made for apparent enrolment lags in some SLAs.

Disclaimer

Any population projections are subject to some degree of uncertainty because it is impossible to exactly predict future trends, particularly the future level of migration. Projection of the population of small areas is especially hazardous. However, care has been taken to produce the best possible projections from the data currently available.

It is important to recognise that the projection results given in this document essentially reflect the assumptions made about future fertility, mortality and migration trends. While the assumptions are formulated on the basis of an objective assessment of demographic trends over the past decade and their likely future dynamics, there can be no certainty that they will be realised.

While ABS takes responsibility for the methodology employed, in accordance with ABS policy regarding small area population projections the assumptions used are the final responsibility of the client, and the projections are not official ABS population statistics.

The projections may be referred to as "... projections prepared by the ABS according to assumptions reflecting prevailing trends and anticipated new dwelling occupancies agreed to by the ACT Electoral Commission ...".

No liability will be accepted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics for any damages arising from decisions or actions based upon this population projection consultancy service.