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ACT ELECTORAL
COMMISSION

Tony Farrell,

13/8 Bega Courts,

Reid, A.C.T. 2612

ph. (02) 6247.1682

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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.

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