

Electoral Boundary Redistribution Committee
ACT Electoral Commission
Plaza Level, Allara House,
48-56 Allara Street
Canberra City, ACT 2601

19 June 2003

Electoral Boundaries – 2003 Distribution
Comments on Submissions

Dear Committee Members,

The Gungahlin Community Council (GCC) would like to make the following comments in relation to the submissions already received on the Electoral Boundaries – 2003 Distribution.

- The GCC rejects the thoughts and opinions as expressed in the submissions that the boundaries should remain “as is” purely on the basis of boundary stability as an underlying argument. This position will continue the division on the Gungahlin region across two electorates.
- Gungahlin being the only significant area of green fields development in the Territory should be considered in an electoral context similar to how Civic is being treated for planning and development issues - “a first among equals” (quoting Minister Corbell – Canberra Times, Friday 13th June). This is the only way to ensure cohesiveness legislative representation for the entire region as it continues to rapidly grow.
- The position as expressed by the Weston Creek Community Council in that they will accept the splitting of other communities as inevitable due to legislative constraints, but refuse to consider that their own community being put under similar pressure is unfortunately an all too common occurrence of the “Not In My Backyard” position. It could be argued that the Weston Creek Community has not had the opportunity to consider statements made by the Australian Labor Party prior to the 2001 Election (and documented in “Gunsmoke” Edition 63 – official newsletter of the Gungahlin Community Council Inc.) that stated - because the Gungahlin region was split across two electorates the region could look forward to “double” representation from the elected members of the ACT Legislative Assembly.
- The GCC would like to suggest that in the interests of equity and fairness all areas of the Territory should (at some time) be given equal exposure to such a multiple electorate distribution effects. In this context the current split distribution across two electorates could be removed from both Gungahlin and Woden regions and applied to two other regions for the upcoming 2004 Election.

We trust that these comments will be given due consideration in the ongoing redistribution process.

Yours faithfully

[Sent by email]

Barry Dee
President, Gungahlin Community Council