



The Liberal Party of Australia

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Mr Phillip Green
Electoral Commissioner
Elections ACT
P O Box 272
CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608

Dear Mr Green

REDISTRIBUTION OF ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES

The Liberal Party would like to comment on the submissions received by the Electoral Commission on the proposed redistribution.

We were pleased to see that several of the submissions supported our proposal that the only alteration needed was for Nicholls to be shifted from Molonglo to Ginninderra.

This proposal was supported by

- The ACT Branch of the Australian Labor Party
- The Proportional Representation Society of Australia (Australian Capital territory Branch)

We were particularly impressed by the research and arguments put forward by the Proportional Representation Society.

In addition the argument for minimal change was also put forward strongly by

- The Weston Creek Community Council
- The ACT Democrats

The Weston Creek Community Council consulted widely before they made their submission and would reflect community opinion in their opposition to having Western Creek moved from the Molonglo Electorate to the Ginninderra Electorate.

The ACT Democrats also argued for minimal change but their proposal to move all of the Gungahlin suburbs (Nicholls, Ngunnawal, Amaroo and Palmerston) into Ginninderra and then shift Cook, Aranda, Bruce and Kaleen into Molonglo would involve shifting 23,352

voters between Electorates as compared with our proposal which would only involve 2,425 voters.

Five other submissions were received from

- The Australian Greens (ACT)
- North Canberra Community Council Inc
- Mr Connor from Kaleen
- Mr Mackerras from Campbell
- Mr Williamson from Weetangera

The Australian Greens (ACT) proposed four options but favoured the radical move of making Ginninderra a 7 member Electorate and Molonglo a 5 member Electorate but in their comments on the proposal to only shift Nicholls into Ginninderra from Molonglo it should be noted that they said on page 4 of their submission - *“The main advantage of shifting only one suburb (Nicholls) lies in the fact that fewer voters would be inconvenienced by losing their natural alliance. There is no readily apparent advantage in shifting more suburbs than would be necessary to meet the requirements of the Act.”*

The North Canberra Community Council Inc argue in favour of having each Electorate return 7 members and as this is unlikely to gain Assembly support it means the remainder of their submission is not relevant.

Mr Connor proposes fundamental change to the present system of electing members to the Assembly and is thus outside the scope of the redistribution review.

Mr Mackerras is of the opinion that Ginninderra should become the 7 members Electorate and Molonglo the 5 member. He does not put forward any argument in support of his proposal of shifting 30,078 voters other than to say “there must be a change” because of the population growth in Molonglo.

Mr Williamson of Weetangera also supports such a change but defeats the arguments he puts forward by referring to his “limited observation” in support of his proposals. To follow his suggestions would involve shifting 29,570 voters between electorates in order to prove that mathematically it can be done.

Having carefully examined all submissions lodged the Liberal Party believes that our proposal (and that of ACT Labor and the Proportional Representation Society) remains the simplest and most obvious solution.

Yours sincerely

John RYAN
GENERAL SECRETARY