

**From:** Jenni Boon  
**Sent:** Friday, 5 August 2011 2:04 PM  
**To:** Elections  
**Subject:** A submission concerning the proposed changes to ACT Electoral Boundaries

Dear Commissioners

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the proposal to move Lyneham, O'Connor and Turner (LOT) into an enlarged Ginninderra electorate. As a resident and rate-payer of O'Connor I have several concerns about the proposal and wish to register my objections to it for the following reasons:

1. The creation of a new electorate has not been adequately canvassed. It has been argued for by only one of Canberra's regions – Gungahlin and should be canvassed Canberra-wide.
2. The Commission has accepted that there is a community of interest within 'adjacent North Canberra suburbs', and has previously stated:

"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."

3. The disruption of a long established community:

The 2011 Redistribution Committee's Report discussed the option of moving Lyneham, O'Connor and Turner (LOT) to Ginninderra and concluded on page 19:

"The Committee is also concerned that this option would significantly disrupt the community of interests that Lyneham, O'Connor and Turner share with neighbouring (north) Central Canberra suburbs. As the various Central Canberra suburbs were developed and settled much earlier than the suburbs of Belconnen and Gungahlin, it is arguable they have much more in common with each other than they do with the suburbs developed more recently. For example, it could be argued that Lyneham, Turner and O'Connor have much closer connections to the university precinct of Acton, the adjacent City area and the neighbouring suburbs of Braddon, Dickson, Downer and Watson than they do with Belconnen or Gungahlin".

4. Densification and urban in-fill.

The planned densification of population along Northbourne Avenue will create, rather than diminish, community on both sides of Northbourne Avenue. The expected densification of population elsewhere in the inner north creates a distinct set of issues and interests different from issues in other more recently developed suburbs.

5. Moving the 'LOT' suburbs is unnecessarily disruptive and may need to be reversed later.

The changes in the second proposal would lead to a major change in boundaries and would substantially disrupt residents in both Gungahlin and the Inner North. This is not necessary or desirable. In addition, Gungahlin's expected growth might result in the three 'LOT' suburbs in Inner North, being moved back to Molonglo in the 2016 redistribution.

Future population trends will require more redistributions, and the correct course for 2011 is to make the *minimal changes* suggested in the Commissions first proposal.

6. The least disruption to voters and to community loyalties would be achieved by moving Crace and Palmerston as originally proposed. Crace has a population of less than 200. This would be consistent with the clearly desirable continued progression towards the electoral union of Gungahlin with Belconnen.

Your sincerely

Jenni Boon