

From: David Ferris
Sent: Wednesday, 3 August 2011 5:12 PM
To: Elections
Subject: Proposed Redistribution

I understand that the ACT Electoral Commission is considering a redistribution which would split the Inner North - the east side of Northbourne Avenue staying in the Molonglo electorate with the west side being moved into the Ginninderra electorate, joining up with Gungahlin.

This redistribution proposal seems to me to be counterintuitive. It seems sensible for communities with common interests to stay together. This makes it easier for members to get a more "unified" view of their electorate's interests and - the other side of the coin - for voters with common issues to identify which members to approach.

The Inner North is one community with very similar interests.

My own experience exemplifies this. for over 20 years I lived in Dickson. Two years ago, I moved to Lyneham (The Sanctuary) - less than 1 kilometre away, but apparently, if the redistribution proposal is to be taken at face value, now with more in common with voters in Palmerston and Ngunnawal than with other Inner North residents.

I still:

- frequent the same library (Dickson) - the one used by most Inner North residents on either side of Northbourne
- do my groceries in the same shopping precinct (Dickson) - the one used by most Inner North residents on either side of Northbourne
- eat out and buy takeaway at the same restaurants in Dickson as previously
- ride pretty much the same public transport routes - the Dickson Interchange remains my main hub or spoke or whatever the right word is
- still commute the same way to work as I used to
- face pretty much the same commuter and parking issues as other residents of the Inner North - very few of which are 'common' with residents of Gungahlin
- ride pretty much the same bike paths
- go to the same 'community club' facilities that I used to - Ainslie Football Club and Dickson Tradies - the main ones for all residents of the Inner North
- if I go to the local footie, I still go to Ainslie Oval to watch it, even though I am not on the "west" side of Northbourne
- go to the same bridge and chess clubs as before (not in Gungahlin)
- I still keep my Dickson post office box and use the Dickson post office for nearly all my parcels and correspondence. Note that I still have the same post code even though I have crossed "the Rubicon" of Northbourne Avenue.
- still play my golf at the closest course - Yowani - not Gold Creek or Gungahlin Lakes
- still meet my friends at the same meeting places as before (Tilleys and All Bar Nun)
- still go to the same medical practice (in Watson - which would be outside my electorate in your proposal).
- still go to the same parks and ramble on the same walking tracks as I used when I lived in Dickson (again - I have only moved about a kilometre!)
- have the same access to broadband and telephone services and I face the same issues with television reception as other residents of the Inner North.

I contrast, although I am now to be lumped in with residents of that area (under the proposal you are considering), I have only ever been to the Gungahlin shops about three times in my 25 years in Canberra. I have never been on a cycle path out that way, nor used any of the community facilities. I have never ridden a bus in that direction or been in peak hour traffic on the main arteries out to Gungahlin. There are suburbs in the Gungahlin area that I have never been in whereas I have probably at one time or another walked down every street of the Inner North.

There is, of course, nothing wrong with people from Gungahlin (or anywhere else in Canberra) - but from the perspective of community facilities, transport, zoning and planning issues, medical services, communications, shopping, parking or whatever, I simply do not face the same issues as people in Gungahlin. Rather, I face the same issues as other people in the Inner North - no matter which side of Northbourne they are on. I am sure that 99% of other residents of the Inner North would say the same thing.

It therefore makes sense to keep voters of the Inner North within the same electorate.

Please do not split us into separate electorates.

Should you wish to contact me about any of these issues, I would be more than happy to engage further.

David Ferris