

From: Ian Ruecroft
Sent: Thursday, 14 July 2011 10:33 PM
To: Elections
Subject: Redistribution of Electoral Boundries submission from Ian Ruecroft
14.7.11
Attachments: Electoral boundries 15.7.11.doc

As a Gungahlin resident I consider that the Redistribution Committee has made a responsible decision by proposing that Ginninderra be made into the 7-Member electorate and Molonglo be made into a 5-Member electorate. I believe that this proposal has considerable merit but it could be further explored to:

- 1) Minimise the disadvantage to the North Canberra and Woden districts
- 2) Structure electoral boundaries to provide improved stability, equality and consideration of future growth.

For the general public, our main exposure to politicians (and political candidates) occurs during the lead up to the ACT elections. However, there are other times when politicians make the effort to seek community contact. Generally this occurs in public places where their constituents gather. If we use the "Shopping Centre" model as a guide to shaping electoral boundaries there is a strong possibility that the community and politicians will benefit.

In the ACT our communities of common interest identify with their local Shopping Centre. These being:

Tuggeranong residents – Tuggeranong Hyperdome
Woden resident – Woden Plaza
Weston Creek residents – Cooleman Court
South Canberra residents – Kingston and Manuka shopping precinct
North Canberra residents – Dickson Shopping Centre
Gungahlin residents – Gungahlin Shopping Centre
Belconnen residents – Belconnen Mall

When a community of common interest is split, politicians have restricted opportunity to engage with their constituents. In reality they need to find out what the electorate's voters have to say, without wasting the time of voters from another electorate. Example - If a politician (from the Molonglo electorate) is engaging with voters at the Dickson Shopping Centre, how interested is that politician in the issues of residents of Lyneham, O'Connor or Turner?

During the period of 2012 - 2016 the majority of the ACT population's growth will occur in the Gungahlin and Molonglo districts. I would like to suggest following model as a guide for future electoral boundaries:

Brindabella (5 Members) - Tuggeranong, Weston Creek and Molonglo
Molonglo (5 Members) – Woden, North and South Canberra
Ginninderra (7 Members) – Belconnen and Gungahlin

As an option for the 2012 election there may be advantages in considering including Acton and Yarralumla into the Brindabella electorate and returning Turner, O'Connor and Lyneham into the Molonglo Electorate.

Yours sincerely
T.I. Ruecroft