



Phil Green  
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## 2<sup>nd</sup> Submission to Redistribution Committee ACT Electoral Commission

Dear Redistribution Committee members,

I make the following submission to the Redistribution Committee in response to the "Proposed Redistribution of the ACT into Electorates for the Legislative Assembly" and as the Secretary and Registered Officer of ACT Branch of the Australian Labor Party.

I would like to begin by stating my support for the Redistribution Committee's proposal as it has clearly considered all six initial public submissions and the redistribution criteria, before carefully concluding that a small change to the existing boundaries would provide the best available change to existing boundaries and ensure requirements of the Electoral Act are met. Until more substantial reform is possible in the future we believe that this is the most responsible outcome for the current electoral cycle.

I am writing now to raise issues and concerns regarding matters which have been aired in public debate since the redistribution was first announced. ACT Labor sympathises with the submissions which have argued for clearer "community of interest" identification within electorates. In particular the frustrations which have been articulately explained in the Gungahlin Community Council submission include valid concerns about the challenges and benefits of fulfilling community of interest objectives.

However, simply transplanting the existing community of interest frustrations from one part of the city to another will not resolve this problem in the long-term. We suspect that had it been in the Redistribution Committee's proposal, any plans to move Lyneham and Watson into Ginninderra (an electorate that is largely identified with the Belconnen region) would cause some concern within those suburban communities, as much as it has been of concern to residents in the suburb of Nicholls in past elections.

The GCC submission adds considerable weight to the argument for a significant evolution of the ACT electoral system and boundaries to better reflect the physical and demographic changes that Canberra has seen over the past 20 years. The only long-term resolution of the community of interest challenge is a larger number of electorates that better reflect local communities and natural geographic divisions. A new framework for future redistributions following the 2012 ACT Election would ensure orderly iterative electoral redistributions for several decades. Until that happens, we agree with the Redistribution Committee that the best interim measure is minimalist change, as represented in the current Proposed Redistribution.

Yours sincerely,

Elias Hallaj, Secretary, ALP (ACT Branch)