

ACT Electoral Commission

Dear members of the ACT Electoral Commission,

I have just read with dismay the proposed redistribution of electoral boundaries. A redistribution that excises Nicholls from Gungahlin. I wish to lodge an objection on the basis that the proposal divides the Gungahlin Community and weakens the value of our vote.

I have been a Gungahlin resident for 6 years. Over that time I have seen our community grow, but not thrive due to the disregard we are shown by the government of the day. We have inadequate and dangerous roads, we have no employment base and few services. The forces against a safe road for us grows each day. When a government office could have been built here, it was built in Dickson using a true fiddle of the system to bypass the planning laws. When we call for services we hear "yes yes", but nothing happens.

The community of Gungahlin is a community, and we are now growing to a stage where we are able to fight for our rights in the true Democratic fashion, via the polling booths. We can vote for people who would support our rights as a community. I feel a strong association with the other residents of Gungahlin, not with Belconnen.

My children go to the Holy Spirit School in Nicholls. That school, and Catholic parish, services the residents of Gungahlin. There must be as many students from other Gungahlin suburbs as there are from Nicholls. This is also a sign of a combined community, not one split between Molonglo and Ginninderra.

By separating Nicholls from Gungahlin you are using a "divide and conquer" attitude. It means that Gungahlin will again be insignificant electorally. And what will happen in the next distribution when Gungahlin grows further, is this solution a narrow sighted "quick win" policy for a few minority politicians?

I request that you reconsider this proposal. Perhaps a solution would be to move all Gungahlin to Ginninderra and making that a 7 member electorate would be less divisive. The boundaries should be made on a Community basis, not to protect some minority MPs.

Phil Murphy
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(part of Gungahlin not part of Belconnen)