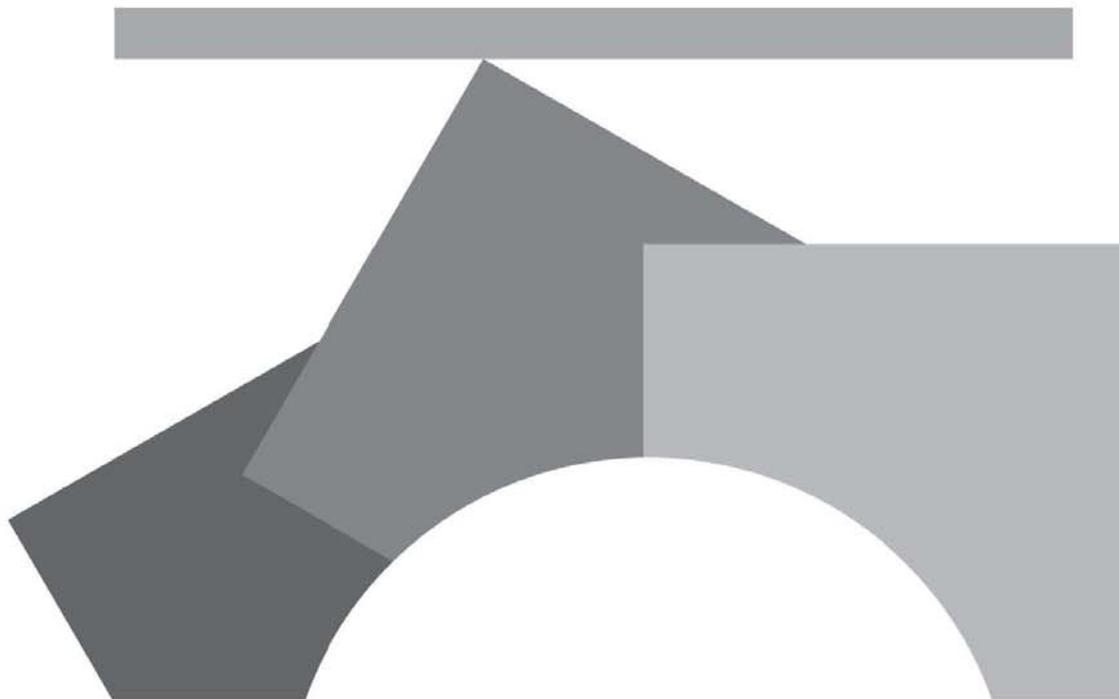




Redistribution Report





Redistribution Report



ACT Legislative Assembly

Electoral Boundaries

Redistribution 2007



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Dear Attorney General

I submit to you the report of the augmented ACT Electoral Commission concerning the 2007 redistribution of the Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly electoral boundaries.

This report is submitted in accordance with section 53 of the *Electoral Act 1992*.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Roger Beale", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Roger Beale AO
Chairperson

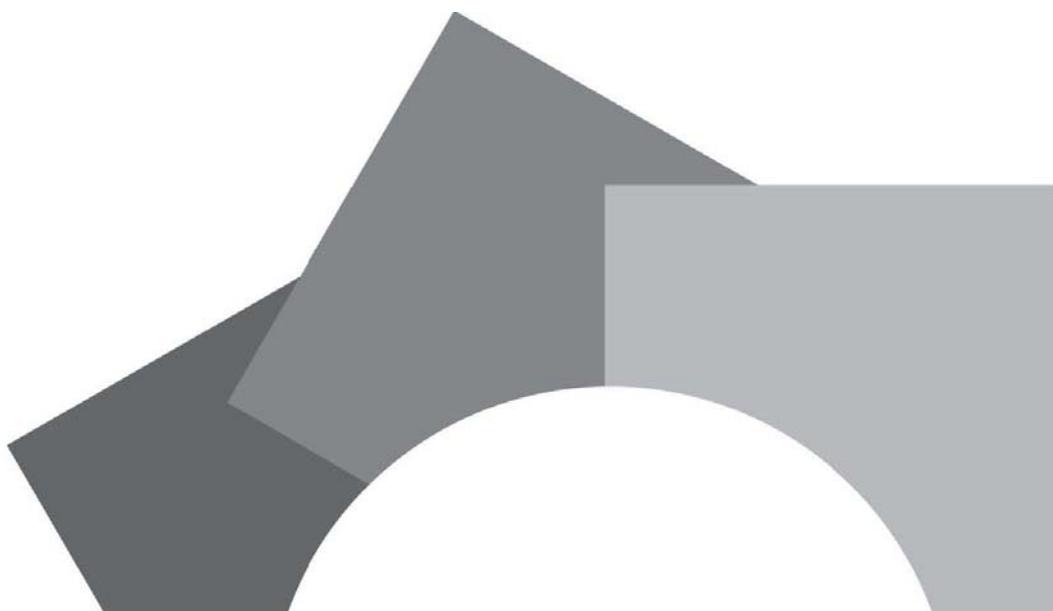
31 August 2007

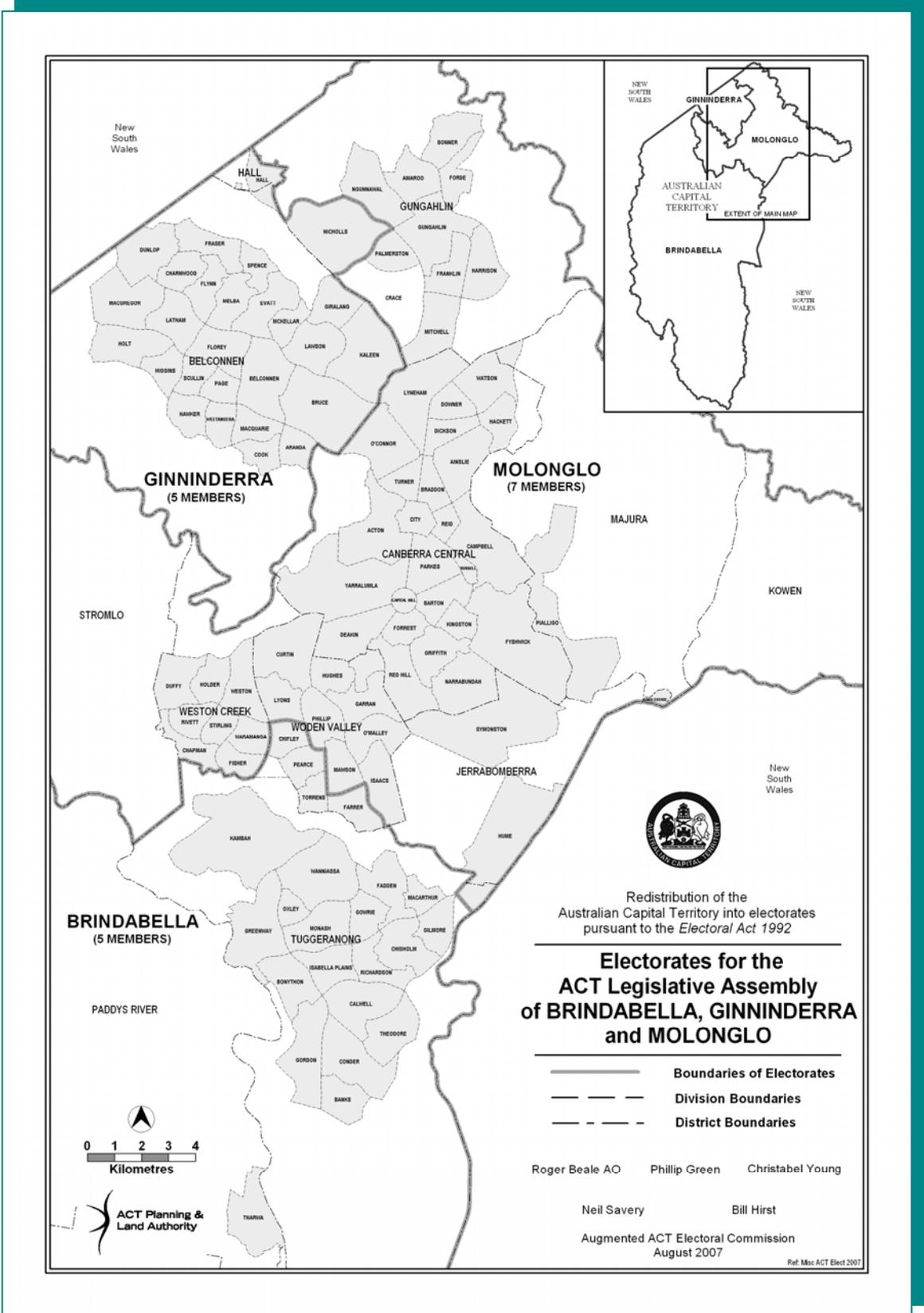
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**Determination
by the Augmented ACT Electoral Commission**





Final boundaries as determined by the Augmented ACT Electoral Commission.

Electoral (Determination of Redistribution of Electorates for the ACT Legislative Assembly) Notice 2007

Notifiable instrument NI 2007 —

made under the

Electoral Act 1992, s 35 (Redistribution of electorates)

The Augmented Australian Capital Territory Electoral Commission determines that:

- (a) The boundaries of the Legislative Assembly electorates into which the Australian Capital Territory is to be redistributed are as shown on the map certified by the members of the Augmented Commission and lodged in file number 07/14934 at the office of the Australian Capital Territory Electoral Commissioner; and
- (b) The names of the electorates and the number of members of the Legislative Assembly to be elected from each electorate, are:
 - (i) Brindabella (5 members);
 - (ii) Ginninderra (5 members); and
 - (iii) Molonglo (7 members).

A simplified map of the electoral boundaries is attached to this notice for information purposes.



Roger Beale AO



Phillip Green



Christabel Young



Neil Savery

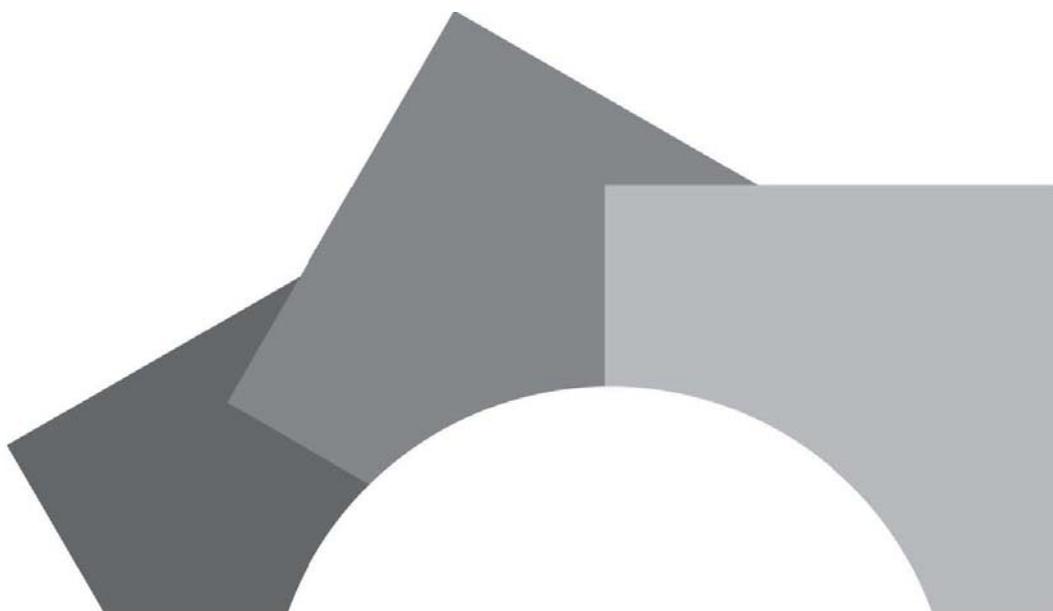


Bill Hirst

Augmented Australian Capital Territory Electoral Commission

31 August 2007

**Statement by the
Augmented ACT Electoral Commission**



Statement by the Augmented ACT Electoral Commission of its reasons for its redistribution of the ACT Legislative Assembly electoral boundaries

This statement by the Augmented ACT Electoral Commission sets out the results of the Augmented Commission's investigation of the objections against the Augmented Commission's proposal under section 52 of the *Electoral Act 1992* and sets out the reasons for the Augmented Commission's redistribution of the ACT Legislative Assembly electoral boundaries under section 35 of the Electoral Act.

Summary of the redistribution determined by the Augmented ACT Electoral Commission

After considering the 4 written objections to the electoral boundaries proposed by the Augmented Commission on 25 July 2007, the Augmented Commission decided to adopt the boundaries proposed by the Augmented Commission. The Augmented Commission proposed that the existing boundaries should be altered by transferring the suburb of Farrer from the electorate of Molonglo to the electorate of Brindabella.

Therefore the Augmented Commission intends to determine, in accordance with section 35 of the Electoral Act, that the ACT is to be divided into three electorates as follows:

- **BRINDABELLA**, a five member electorate comprising the district of Tuggeranong (excluding the suburb of Hume), the Woden Valley suburbs of Chifley, Farrer, Pearce and Torrens and the districts of Booth, Coree, Cotter River, Paddys River, Rendezvous Creek, Tennent and Mount Clear;
- **GINNINDERRA**, a five member electorate comprising the districts of Belconnen and Hall (including the entire Village of Hall) and the Gungahlin suburb of Nicholls; and
- **MOLONGLO**, a seven member electorate comprising the districts of Gungahlin (excluding the suburb of Nicholls), Canberra Central, Weston Creek, Woden Valley (excluding the suburbs of Chifley, Farrer, Pearce and Torrens), Jerrabomberra (including the entire suburb of Hume), Kowen, Majura, and Stromlo.

The Augmented Commission comprises the members of the ACT Electoral Commission (Chairperson, Mr Roger Beale AO; Electoral Commissioner, Mr Phillip Green; and Commission Member, Dr Christabel Young) and members of the Redistribution Committee (the Chief Planning Executive, ACT Planning and Land Authority (Mr Neil Savery), the acting Commissioner for Surveys (Mr Bill Hirst) and a person appointed by the ACT Electoral Commission, the Regional Director, ACT Office, Australian Bureau of Statistics (Ms Karen Macdonald)). (Ms Macdonald was on leave and unavailable to attend the final meeting of the Augmented Commission.)

Objections to the Augmented Commission's proposed redistribution

The Augmented Commission met on 28 August 2007 to investigate 4 objections made in accordance with section 52 of the Electoral Act to the Augmented Commission's proposed redistribution of the ACT Legislative Assembly's electoral boundaries dated 25 July 2007. The objections were made by:

- Ian Ruecroft, Palmerston
- Bogey Musidlak, Convenor, Proportional Representation Society of Australia (ACT Branch)
- David Menzel, Chair, Woden Valley Community Council
- Mathew Cossey, ACT Secretary, Australian Labor Party

Summaries of objections

A brief summary of each of the 4 objections follows.

Ian Ruecroft, Palmerston

This resident of Palmerston follows up his comment submitted to the Redistribution Committee and his objection to the Redistribution Committee's proposal with a further objection to the Augmented Commission's proposed boundaries. Mr Ruecroft states that he believes the Augmented Commission's proposal is a considerable improvement to the option proposed by the Redistribution Committee. However, he restates his view that Gungahlin should not be split between two electorates and indicates that Nicholls should be transferred from Ginninderra to Molonglo. Mr Ruecroft states that "The ACT Electoral Commission has many options that could be explored to provide flexibility for future growth within electorates". Mr Ruecroft does not offer a specific alternative to the proposed boundaries.

Bogey Musidlak, Convenor, Proportional Representation Society of Australia (ACT Branch)

This objection reiterates the view expressed by the Convenor of the Proportional Representation Society (ACT Branch) in his suggestion to the Redistribution Committee and in his objection to the Redistribution Committee's proposal: that there should be no change to the present boundaries.

The objection applauds the Augmented Commission's proposal to retain Palmerston in Molonglo, but argues that the further information provided by the Augmented Commission about past redistribution projections supports the Society's view that Farrer should not be transferred from Molonglo.

The objection argues that variations between past redistribution projections compared to actual enrolments on polling day have tended to understate the election day enrolments of Brindabella and Ginninderra, and overstate the election day enrolment of Molonglo. The only case in which the Molonglo election day variation from the enrolment quota exceeded the projected variation was in 1998, when Molonglo's quota was only 0.10% higher than the quota projected during the redistribution process. The objection argues

that this trend for Molonglo to be generally overstated “assuages fears about Molonglo’s likely status in October 2008.”

The objection urges the Augmented Commission to explore whether this trend is likely to continue and recommends that Farrer should remain in Molonglo.

David Menzel, Chair, Woden Valley Community Council

This objection from the Chair of the Woden Valley Community Council follows his objection to the Redistribution Committee’s proposal, which did not specifically object to the proposal to transfer Farrer from Molonglo to Brindabella. This further objection notes that at its 1 August 2007 meeting, the Council “expressed strong opposition to this proposal and very considerable disappointment that the continuing bifurcation of Woden appears to be preferred to a number of other options which maintain the integrity of communities of interest. In addition our meeting also strongly expressed the hope that the Augmented Commission might see fit to recommend options that would restore the integrity of Woden’s other three suburbs into one electorate.”

The objection agreed with earlier objections made by Mr Reynolds, the Gungahlin Community Council and Mr Davenport.

The objection does not put forward any specific alternative boundaries to those proposed by the Augmented Commission.

Matthew Cossey, ACT Secretary, Australian Labor Party

This objection from the ACT Secretary of the Australian Labor Party states that the Augmented Commission erred in its conclusion and that the original proposal of the Redistribution Committee should stand.

The objection notes that the original Redistribution Committee proposal was in accordance with Mr Cossey’s suggestion to the Redistribution Committee, which argued that the redistribution should aim to protect the principle of one-vote, one-value and accordingly minimise the variances from quota of all electorates.

Mr Cossey notes that, while ACT Labor has stated that it would be ideal if all Gungahlin suburbs were in one electorate, he is of the view that, if all Gungahlin suburbs cannot be accommodated in one electorate, there should be a more even spread of Gungahlin suburbs between the electorates of Molonglo and Ginninderra. He argues that Gungahlin would have greater representation if there were a critical mass of electors in both electorates.

Mr Cossey states that, while he prefers both Palmerston and Farrer to be transferred as originally proposed, if only one suburb was to be transferred, it should be Palmerston. He notes that “The total accumulated variance from quota for all three electorates by moving Farrer into Brindabella is 6.49%, however it is only 5.73% for the Palmerston into Ginninderra option.” He argues that moving Palmerston only would therefore better protect one-vote, one-value than moving Farrer only.

Consideration of the objections

Whether to hold another public hearing

The first matter related to the objections considered by the Augmented Commission was whether it was required to hold a public hearing in accordance with section 49(2) of the Electoral Act. That section provides:

- (2) For the purpose of investigating an objection, the augmented commission shall hold a public hearing, unless it is of the opinion that—
 - (a) the matters raised in the objection (or substantially the same matters) were raised in suggestions or comments given to the redistribution committee in accordance with the notice under section 41 (1) (Suggestions and comments about redistribution); and
 - (b) the objection is frivolous or vexatious.

Section 52 of the Electoral Act provides that section 49 applies to the investigation of objections to the Augmented Commission’s proposal as if the investigation were an investigation under that section. The Augmented Commission takes the application of section 49 by section 52 to allow it to take account of matters raised in objections made to the Redistribution Committee’s proposal.

The Augmented Commission noted that section 49(2), by the use of the word “and” at the end of paragraph (a), appeared to require that both paragraphs (a) and (b) had to be satisfied if a public hearing was not to be required. Taken literally, this would require a public hearing to be held into all objections that were not frivolous or vexatious, regardless of whether they had raised new matters or not. However, the Augmented Commission was advised by the Electoral Commissioner that the use of the word “and” in this context was the result of a drafting error made by the *Legislation (Consequential Amendments) Act 2001*, which was a machinery amendment that unintentionally changed the meaning of this clause, which previously and correctly used the word “or”. The Augmented Commission noted that the Electoral Legislation Amendment Bill 2007 presented in the Legislative Assembly on 23 August 2007 contained an amendment to correct this mistake.

The Augmented Commission concluded that it was appropriate to give effect to the legislative intent of this provision and that the test to be applied to the objections on hand was whether the matters raised (or substantially the same matters) were raised in suggestions, comments or objections related to the Redistribution Committee’s proposal.

For the reasons given below, the Augmented Commission decided that the 4 objections to its proposal did not raise matters that were substantially different from the matters raised by the various suggestions, comments and objections previously made. As a result, the Augmented Commission decided that it was not required to hold a public hearing into the objections. In making this decision, the Augmented Commission was mindful that a public hearing into the Redistribution Committee’s proposal had been held, and that the general issues raised in the latest objections were canvassed at that public hearing.

Consideration of Mr Ruecroft's objection

The Augmented Commission considered that Mr Ruecroft's objection, which was essentially to the inclusion of Nicholls in Ginninderra, did not raise any substantial new matters. The Augmented Commission noted that the splitting of Gungahlin between 2 electorates was one of the key matters canvassed in all the submissions and addressed by both the Redistribution Committee and the Augmented Commission in their proposals.

The Augmented Commission noted that Mr Ruecroft did not suggest any alternative boundaries that would satisfy the criteria in the Electoral Act that would have avoided splitting Gungahlin between electorates.

The Augmented Commission also noted that it had endeavoured to minimise the division of Gungahlin between electorates by rejecting the Redistribution Committee's proposal to transfer Palmerston from Molonglo to Ginninderra.

For these reasons the Augmented Commission did not consider it could uphold Mr Ruecroft's objection.

Consideration of Mr Musidlak's objection

The Augmented Commission considered that Mr Musidlak's objection, which argued in favour of retaining the existing boundaries, did not raise any substantial new matters. In particular, the Augmented Commission noted that Mr Musidlak had raised similar objections to the Redistribution Committee's proposal.

Mr Musidlak's objection argued that variations between past redistribution projections compared to actual enrolments on polling day have tended to understate the election day enrolments of Brindabella and Ginninderra, and overstate the election day enrolment of Molonglo. The Augmented Commission was not persuaded that the past examples cited by Mr Musidlak enabled the Augmented Commission to be confident that Molonglo would not exceed the permitted 5% variation from the quota at the 2008 election if no changes were made to the boundaries.

The Augmented Commission noted the arguments it put forward in its previous statement: that population projections are not predictions or forecasts, but are simply illustrations of growth and change that might occur if certain assumptions were to prevail; and that estimates of future enrolment levels made using population projections were subject to a range of uncertainties. The Augmented Commission considered that there were a range of relevant factors that indicated that the identified past trends may not be repeated in 2008. These included: the fact that the projections used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the redistribution were based on 2001 Census data, as 2006 Census data were not available when the projections were prepared; that the electoral roll could change significantly in the near future because of the activity generated by the forthcoming federal election; and that most of the growth expected in the period between the present and the 2008 election was expected to be in the Molonglo electorate. In any case, the Augmented Commission considered that the projected enrolment for Molonglo, being only 201 electors short of the permitted maximum, was too close for it to be confident that a variation of less than 5% from the quota would be met.

Given these arguments, the Augmented Commission remained of the view that it is necessary to reduce the size of Molonglo in order to meet the statutory requirement in section 36(b) of the Electoral Act to endeavour to ensure, as far as practicable, that the number of electors in an electorate at the time of the next general election of members of the Legislative Assembly will not be greater than 105%, or less than 95%, of the expected quota for the electorate at that time.

For these reasons the Augmented Commission did not consider it could uphold Mr Musidlak's objection.

Consideration of Mr Menzel's objection

The Augmented Commission considered that Mr Menzel's objection, which was essentially to the splitting of Woden Valley between the electorates of Molonglo and Brindabella, did not raise any substantial new matters. The Augmented Commission noted that the splitting of Woden Valley between 2 electorates was another of the key matters canvassed in several of the submissions and addressed by both the Redistribution Committee and the Augmented Commission in their proposals.

The Augmented Commission noted that the substantial changes to the boundaries needed to include all of Woden Valley in one electorate – including the suggestion that Brindabella be made the 7 member electorate – had been examined by the Augmented Commission and rejected on the basis that they would violate the requirement in section 36(c)(iv) of the Electoral Act requiring the Augmented Commission to duly consider the existing boundaries.

For these reasons the Augmented Commission did not consider it could uphold Mr Menzel's objection.

Consideration of Mr Cossey's objection

The Augmented Commission considered that Mr Cossey's objection, which argued in favour of retaining the Redistribution Committee's proposed changes, did not raise any substantial new matters. The Augmented Commission noted that the requirement to meet the 5% variation from the quota and the splitting of Gungahlin were addressed by both the Redistribution Committee and the Augmented Commission in their proposals.

The Augmented Commission noted Mr Cossey's comments regarding one-vote, one-value. The Augmented Commission noted that the Electoral Act did not explicitly refer to one-vote, one-value. Rather, it implicitly sought to meet the desirability of achieving one-vote, one-value through the mechanism of requiring each electorate to be within 5% of the quota at the time of the next election. The Augmented Commission did not consider that this requirement extended to providing that each electorate had to be as close to the quota as possible. The Augmented Commission took the view that its principal aim was to ensure that each electorate was within the required 5% of the quota and, provided that this was met, then the provisions of section 36(c), requiring consideration of range of issues such as community of interests and boundaries of existing electorates, provide guidance for the Augmented Commission in selecting the best option.

On this basis, the Augmented Commission considered that its proposal to transfer only the suburb of Farrer from Molonglo to Brindabella best satisfied both the requirement to

ensure each electorate was within 5% of the quota and the requirements of section 36(c), particularly the requirement to duly consider existing boundaries.

The Augmented Commission did not accept that Mr Cossey's suggestion, that Gungahlin residents would have greater representation if there were a critical mass of electors in both electorates, was relevant to the redistribution criteria. The Augmented Commission noted that while the criteria related to community of interests tended to support keeping whole districts together, none of the criteria related explicitly to maximising representation.

With regard to Mr Cossey's alternative position, that if only one suburb was to be transferred it should be Palmerston, not Farrer, the Augmented Commission considered that the arguments it put forward in its proposal in favour of transferring Farrer only still stood. The Augmented Commission considered that there was no requirement to minimise the variations from the quotas in the electorates, provided that each electorate was projected to be within 5% of the quota at the time of the next election.

For these reasons the Augmented Commission did not consider it could uphold Mr Cossey's objection.

Conclusion

For the reasons given above, the Augmented Commission did not uphold any of the objections to its proposal to transfer the suburb of Farrer from the electorate of Molonglo to the electorate of Brindabella.

As a result, for the reasons given by the Augmented Commission in its statement dated 25 July 2007, the Augmented Commission has decided to adopt the Augmented Commission's proposal as the final boundaries for the ACT Legislative Assembly.

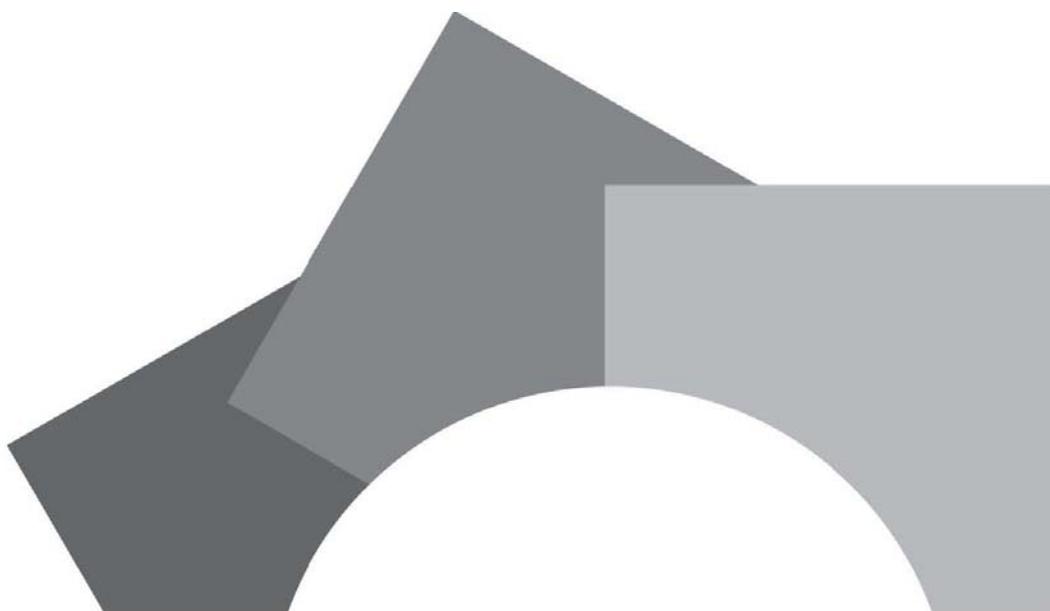
Next stage of the redistribution process

The Augmented Commission will formally complete the redistribution process by publication of a notifiable instrument of determination under section 35 of the Electoral Act and publication of a report concerning the redistribution under section 53 of the Electoral Act.

Augmented ACT Electoral Commission
Roger Beale AO — Phillip Green — Christabel Young
Neil Savery — Bill Hirst

31 August 2007

**Augmented ACT Electoral Commission's
proposed redistribution**





Boundaries proposed by the Augmented ACT Electoral Commission.

Augmented ACT Electoral Commission's proposed redistribution

Statement by the Augmented ACT Electoral Commission

This statement by the Augmented ACT Electoral Commission under section 51 of the *Electoral Act 1992* sets out the substance of the Augmented Commission's findings and conclusions concerning the Redistribution Committee's proposed redistribution and sets out particulars of the Augmented Commission's proposed redistribution under section 50 of the Electoral Act.

Summary of the Augmented ACT Electoral Commission's proposed redistribution

After considering the 8 written objections to the electoral boundaries proposed by the Redistribution Committee and the further spoken submissions presented at the public hearing on 18 July 2007, the Augmented Commission decided to propose a different redistribution to that proposed by the Committee.

The Augmented Commission proposes to alter the Redistribution Committee's proposed redistribution to leave the Gungahlin suburb of Palmerston in the electorate of Molonglo, and to retain the proposed transfer of the Woden suburb of Farrer from the electorate of Molonglo to the electorate of Brindabella.

Therefore the Augmented Commission proposes in accordance with section 50 of the *Electoral Act 1992* that the ACT be divided into three electorates as follows:

- **BRINDABELLA**, a five member electorate comprising the district of Tuggeranong (excluding the suburb of Hume), the Woden Valley suburbs of Chifley, Farrer, Pearce and Torrens and the districts of Booth, Coree, Cotter River, Paddys River, Rendezvous Creek, Tennent and Mount Clear;
- **GINNINDERRA**, a five member electorate comprising the districts of Belconnen and Hall (including the entire Village of Hall) and the Gungahlin suburb of Nicholls; and
- **MOLONGLO**, a seven member electorate comprising the districts of Gungahlin (excluding the suburb of Nicholls), Canberra Central, Weston Creek, Woden Valley (excluding the suburbs of Chifley, Farrer, Pearce and Torrens), Jerrabomberra (including the entire suburb of Hume), Kowen, Majura, and Stromlo.

In the opinion of the Augmented Commission, this proposal is significantly different from the Redistribution Committee's proposal. As a result, in accordance with section 51(2)(c) of the Electoral Act, written objections against this proposal will be invited in a formal notice to be notified under the *Legislation Act 2001*.

The Augmented Commission comprises the members of the ACT Electoral Commission (Chairperson, Mr Roger Beale AO; Electoral Commissioner, Mr Phillip Green; and Commission Member, Dr Christabel Young) and members of the Redistribution Committee (the Chief Planning Executive, ACT Planning and Land

Authority (Mr Neil Savery), the acting Commissioner for Surveys (Mr Bill Hirst) and a person appointed by the ACT Electoral Commission, the Regional Director, ACT Office, Australian Bureau of Statistics (Ms Karen Macdonald)).

Objections to the Redistribution Committee's proposed redistribution

The Augmented Commission met on 4 July 2007 to investigate 7 objections made in accordance with section 46 of the Electoral Act to the Redistribution Committee's proposed redistribution of the ACT Legislative Assembly's electoral boundaries published on 31 May 2007. The Augmented Commission also agreed to consider an additional objection received two days after the close of the objection period on 28 June 2007. The objections were made by:

- Ian Ruecroft, Palmerston
- Jonathon Reynolds, Ngunnawal
- Alan Kerlin, President, Gungahlin Community Council Inc.
- Martin Gordon, Flynn
- Bogey Musidlak, Convenor, Proportional Representation Society of Australia (ACT Branch)
- David Lissimore, Media Officer, Tuggeranong Community Council Incorporated
- David Menzel, Chair, Woden Valley Community Council
- John Davenport, Farrer

As some matters raised in the objections were not raised in suggestions or comments given to the Redistribution Committee, the Augmented Commission was required to hold a public hearing into the objections under section 49(2) of the Electoral Act. This public hearing was held at 10.00 am on 18 July 2007 at the office of the ACT Electoral Commission, 12 Moore St, Canberra City.

The following persons made spoken submissions at the public hearing:

- Martin Dunn, on behalf of Bogey Musidlak, Proportional Representation Society of Australia (ACT Branch), who had made a written suggestion and objection
- Alan Kerlin, Gungahlin Community Council, who had made a written suggestion and objection
- Jonathon Reynolds, who had made a written objection.
- Also in attendance to assist the Augmented Commission were Oanh Nguyen and Jan Pryor from Elections ACT and Rhonda de Vos from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

The Augmented Commission met immediately after the public hearing to consider the matters raised at the hearing.

Summaries of objections

A brief summary of each of the 8 objections follows.

Ian Ruecroft, Palmerston

This resident of Palmerston objects to the proposed redistribution as it “further fragments the Gungahlin community and disadvantaged a community that has been politically neglected”. The objection states: “The Redistribution Committee’s proposal has failed to comprehensively explore viable alternatives relating to ACT electoral boundaries; and failed to appreciate the disadvantage, of being split over two electorates, for Gungahlin as a community of common interest. The proposal endorses an option that compounds the electoral disadvantage existing for Gungahlin voters and further fragmented our voting powers.” Mr Ruecroft strongly recommends that the Redistribution Committee reconsider their proposal, and recommends that the committee develops processes to ensure that changes are made to legislation, to prevent reoccurrence of this issue.

Jonathon Reynolds, Ngunnawal

This resident of Ngunnawal objects to three aspects of the proposed redistribution:

- The transfer of Farrer from Molonglo to Brindabella;
- The transfer of Palmerston from Molonglo to Ginninderra; and
- The consideration of uncertainty associated with the projection of anticipated elector numbers by the Redistribution Committee at the time of the next election.

With regard to the transfer of Farrer, Mr Reynolds states that the transfer of Farrer, and particularly placing the electorate boundary along Beasley Street, is disruptive to the redistribution criteria related to communities of interests and the boundaries of divisions. Mr Reynolds also states that there is no substantive basis for the transfer of Farrer as the current boundaries meet the numerical criteria (ie without consideration of any uncertainties associated with the projected change in elector numbers).

With regard to the transfer of Palmerston, Mr Reynolds states that there is no basis for the transfer of Palmerston as the current boundaries meet the numerical criteria. Mr Reynolds also states: “by redistributing Palmerston to the electorate of Ginninderra this would further disenfranchise the community of interest known as the “Gungahlin District”. This will occur through the isolation of the Divisions (suburbs) of Nicholls and Palmerston in to a separate electorate from the rest of Gungahlin. Unfortunately on this point I note that previous Redistribution Committees have only considered this matter in accordance with 36(c)(v) that specifically makes reference to Divisions, not Districts.”

With regard to the projected elector numbers for 2008 used by the Redistribution Committee, Mr Reynolds states: “The figures used by the Redistribution Committee should be considered authoritative based on the best available information and sources at the time. Any reasonable person interpreting the Act could not be easily lead to believe that there is specific latitude for the Redistribution Committee to be able to ‘speculate’ what may or may not occur outside of the figures they present for the purpose of calculating quotas. I reject the assertion that ‘the Committee considered that

it is necessary to leave a margin for error to allow for the possibility that the enrolment projections may not accurately forecast the actual enrolment relativities of the three electorates at the time of the next election'. Simply stated this is a black and white issue – either the figures are either correct or they are not. If they are incorrect then the basis for any analysis of a redistribution is fundamentally flawed.”

Mr Reynolds summarises his position by stating that, as all the electorates are projected to be within acceptable quota levels, there is no need for change to the boundaries.

Alan Kerlin, President, Gungahlin Community Council Inc.

This objection reiterates the points made by the Gungahlin Community Council (GCC) in its suggestion to the Redistribution Committee. The objection states: “the GCC is concerned that the current anomaly with the electoral boundary between Ginninderra and Molonglo that leaves just Nicholls in a different electorate should not continue indefinitely. This has resulted in our community being under-represented in each of these electorates, leading to disadvantage for our community in the way of planning, services and infrastructure provision. It was apparent from the Committee’s report that considerable weight was given to this argument, and we appreciate this. We had similar problems making the numbers add up to an undivided Gungahlin area.”

The objection continues: “Of even greater concern to us is that the electorate of Molonglo stretches from near Tuggeranong all the way to the northern ACT border, wrapping all the way around Ginninderra as well. The result of this is that we are represented by some people who themselves live around an hour’s weekday travel time from Gungahlin – we don’t see much of them, and they have a far lower appreciation for the issues facing the Gungahlin community. ... We object to this proposal as not addressing the key issues facing the Molonglo electorate now and not planning for it in the future.”

The objection proposes to address this by making Brindabella the 7-member electorate, comprising all of Tuggeranong, Weston Creek and Woden (other than the suburb of Hughes) as previously raised in his written suggestion. This would then provide for “Two 5-member electorates north of the river [which] would provide for the future population growth areas, and contain the electorates within fairly close geographical and social proximity – quite different from the current situation.” Ginninderra would remain largely unchanged under this proposal, retaining the Gungahlin suburb of Nicholls, but losing Hall to Molonglo and gaining Stromlo from Molonglo. The objection continues: “Unfortunately with the current numbers, one Gungahlin suburb (likely to continue as Nicholls) would still be split off from the rest of Gungahlin. However, we would find this a far more acceptable solution than the Committee’s proposal, given that our proposal would result in a major retraction of the geographic spread of Molonglo. It would bring our elected members closer to our area, and would be set up so as to improve further as population grows in our area.”

The objection also proposes an alternative to the current legislative requirement: to divide the ACT into three 7-member electorates. The objection asks that the Augmented Commission convey this proposal to the ACT Government.

Martin Gordon, Flynn

This objection by a Flynn resident supports the transfers of Palmerston and Farrer as proposed by the Redistribution Committee. The submission suggests “that a clearer boundary between Ginninderra and Molonglo would be the use of Gungahlin Drive and inclusion of the suburb of Crace in Ginninderra rather than Molonglo. The elector disturbance is minimal and describing the boundary is intuitively easier and clearer on the ground than just the Palmerston transfer.”

Bogey Musidlak, Convenor, Proportional Representation Society of Australia (ACT Branch)

This objection reiterates the Proportional Representation Society’s suggestion to the Redistribution Committee that there should be no change to the present boundaries.

The objection argues that “the Redistribution Committee should have obtained and evaluated further information before deciding that it wasn’t ‘acceptable to propose that the existing boundaries should remain unchanged’.” The objection states: “Unless there are strong grounds for believing the Committee’s revised projections to be understating Molonglo’s relative numbers, they should be taken at face value, and the conclusion drawn that it won’t be until January or February 2009 that Molonglo steps beyond the 5% tolerance that is prescribed as a maximum latitude for October 2008. Before any changes are made, the monthly rate at which Molonglo is approaching the limits of tolerance deserves lengthier consideration than apparently given by the Redistribution Committee.”

The objection suggests examining movements in the rolls at previous election roll closes to determine whether enrolments in Molonglo have declined or increased relative to the other electorates during roll close periods.

The objection also discusses voting trends in terms of effective votes and wasted votes in the 7-member electorate compared to the 5-member electorates, and states: “More Molonglo voters are required for each of its MLAs to be elected to the Assembly but at the same time, fewer wasted votes are associated with the election of each Molonglo MLA. In spite of the disparity in average enrolments and quotas, electors of Molonglo benefit from having a higher proportion of effective votes and relatively fewer wasted votes.”

The objection concludes: “we believe that the onus is on the Augmented Redistribution Committee [sic] to adduce and present sufficient evidence of some statistical rigour to translate the Redistribution Committee’s concerns about inadvertently exceeding the maximum tolerance allowed for projected enrolments in October 2008 into an imperative to take immediate action to alter boundaries. If the Augmented Redistribution Committee is unable to quantify particular effects, they are more likely than not to be rather small when expressed in terms of the helpful metric of months closer to exceeding the 5% election-day tolerance, and hence in those circumstances remaining with the current boundaries would be the best course of action available in the absence of evidence of great current public disquiet. It is not satisfactory for the Redistribution Committee to have introduced notions of a general desirable “margin of error”, or have avoided couching of reasonable concerns about the “risk of failing to comply with paragraph 36(b)” in terms of the monthly rate at which the limits of statutory maximum tolerances are being approached. Premature changes to boundaries should be avoided when the electors of Molonglo are demonstrably advantaged by some

of the features of current arrangements. Any risk of failure to comply with statutory requirements relating to projected enrolments must be real rather than merely capable of being imagined if thousands of voters are to be affected by boundary changes.”

David Lissimore, Media Officer, Tuggeranong Community Council Incorporated

This objection from the Tuggeranong Community Council notes that the Redistribution Committee used revised enrolment projections in its proposal that were different from the figures provided to the public and used by the Tuggeranong Community Council in making its suggestion to the Redistribution Committee. The submission concludes “I have used the figures and tables you subsequently advised but cannot, without almost total disintegration of all the electorates, improve on your published proposal of the electoral boundaries”.

David Menzel, Chair, Woden Valley Community Council

This objection states that “The Woden Valley Community Council supports the principle of equal representation for electors though also believes that it is preferable to avoid splitting districts i.e. that each of the Canberra ‘towns’ be represented as a whole. It is however recognised that this is difficult to achieve with the changing demographics of the city combined with the current legislation governing the number and size of electorates. While not formally objecting to the current proposal as such we would like to suggest that the terms of reference for the next ACT Redistribution Committee be expanded to consider alternate electorate arrangements with a view to amending legislation if and as required.”

John Davenport, Farrer

This objection by a Farrer resident states that: “It does not make sense to remove only one suburb from the Woden Valley. Farrer is geographically part of the Woden Valley not the Tuggeranong Valley. Politicians from Brindabella would have little interest in issues in the Woden Valley and we would not be properly represented in the Assembly, compared with other nearby Woden Valley suburbs. Farrer residents would be disadvantaged. Our ACTION buses operate to Woden not Tuggeranong. Issues that arise in the Woden Valley involve Farrer residents. We are not concerned with issues in Tuggeranong. The Woden Plaza is our nearest major shopping centre, not the Tuggeranong Hyperdome. Our water, sewerage, gas, electricity and phone services are provided through Woden Valley suburbs, not from Tuggeranong. I therefore request that the suburb of Farrer remain in Molonglo and that you find some other solution to population variations within electorates.”

Discussion at the public hearing

The discussion at the public hearing focussed on the following issues:

- Whether the projected enrolments at the time of the 2008 election required any change to the boundaries, given that all three electorates were, on the projections, within the required 5% tolerance, in the context that Molonglo was projected to be 4.79% above the quota at the time of the 2008 election;
- If a change was to be made, whether the Redistribution Committee's proposed transfer of Farrer and Palmerston would be the best option;
- Whether a preferable change would be a minimal change involving the transfer of only one suburb;
- Whether a preferable change would be to make Ginninderra a 7 member electorate, comprising Belconnen, Gungahlin and parts of North Canberra; and
- Whether a preferable change would be to make Brindabella a 7 member electorate, comprising Tuggeranong, Weston Creek and most of Woden Valley.

Mr Dunn, on behalf of the Proportional Representation Society of Australia (ACT Branch), argued in favour of making no change to the existing boundaries.

Mr Kerlin, on behalf of the Gungahlin Community Council, argued in favour of making Brindabella a 7 member electorate.

Mr Reynolds argued in favour of making Ginninderra a 7 member electorate, and presented a new proposal that included Belconnen, Gungahlin and those parts of North Canberra to the west of Northbourne Avenue in Ginninderra, with the existing 5 member electorate of Brindabella increased by the addition of Farrer and Mawson, and with Molonglo altered to a 5 member electorate consisting of Weston Creek, the remainder of Woden Valley, South Canberra and the remainder of North Canberra.

While not able to be present at the public hearing, the President of the Tuggeranong Community Council, Ms Rosemary Lissimore, informed the Augmented Commission by email on 17 July 2007 that "The only submission we will definitely not agree to is the Gungahlin [Community Council] one."

Consideration of the objections and the discussion at the public hearing

In considering the objections to the Redistribution Committee's proposed boundaries, the Augmented Commission was mindful that its deliberations were subject to and constrained by section 36 of the Electoral Act.

Section 36 of the Electoral Act sets out the criteria under which a redistribution is to be conducted. This section prescribes that the Augmented Commission, in making a redistribution of electorates, shall:

- (a) ensure that the number of electors in an electorate immediately after the redistribution is within the range permitted by the *Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988* (Cwlth), section 67D(2) [not greater than 110%, or less than 90%, of the quota];
- (b) endeavour to ensure, as far as practicable, that the number of electors in an electorate at the time of the next general election of members of the Legislative Assembly will not be greater than 105%, or less than 95%, of the expected quota for the electorate at that time ascertained in accordance with the formula set out in the *Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988* (Cwlth), section subsection 67D(1); and
- (c) duly consider —
 - (i) the community of interests within each proposed electorate, including economic, social and regional interests;
 - (ii) the means of communication and travel within each proposed electorate;
 - (iii) the physical features and area of each proposed electorate;
 - (iv) the boundaries of existing electorates; and
 - (v) the boundaries of divisions and sections fixed under the *Districts Act 2002*.

The Augmented Commission considers that the 10% tolerance set out in the Self-Government Act and the 5% tolerance set out in the Electoral Act are intended to provide for the principle of “one vote, one value” in ACT elections. That is, each person's vote should be worth the same as any other person's vote. This view was adopted by the 2007 Redistribution Committee, and by previous Augmented Commissions.

The Augmented Commission considers that s36(b) places on it a heavy responsibility to ensure as far as practicable that the number of voters will not fall outside these two numerical tolerances, and that as a result this obligation must be met even if it implies some difficulty in fully satisfying one or more of the subjective criteria which the Augmented Commission must duly consider under section 36(c) of the Electoral Act. Nevertheless, the Augmented Commission also considers that it must give as much weight to the section 36(c) criteria as possible, within the constraints of meeting the numerical tolerances.

Whether to leave the current boundaries unchanged

In considering the objections to the Redistribution Committee's proposal, and the reasons put forward by the Redistribution Committee for its proposal, the Augmented Commission took the view that the first matter to consider was whether the existing boundaries would meet the numerical requirements of section 36 without any changes.

In its proposal, the Redistribution Committee published the following table showing the enrolment figures for April 2007 and the revised projected enrolment figures for October 2008 on the current electoral boundaries.

Electorate	Number of members	Enrolment 17 April 2007	% above or below quota 2007	Projected enrolment October 2008	% above or below quota 2008
Brindabella	5	67 633	-2.13%	68 124	-3.01%
Ginninderra	5	67 096	-2.91%	67 643	-3.70%
Molonglo	7	100 232	3.60%	103 051	4.79%

The following table shows the enrolment figures as at 23 July 2007.

Electorate	Number of members	Enrolment 23 July 2007	% above or below quota 2007
Brindabella	5	68 135	-2.28%
Ginninderra	5	67 442	-3.27%
Molonglo	7	101 487	3.97%

These tables clearly show that the current boundaries would, if they remained unchanged, meet the requirement to be within +/- 10% of the quota at the time of making the redistribution, expected to be in the near future.

However, as discussed by the Redistribution Committee, it is particularly noteworthy that the enrolment for Molonglo for October 2008 is projected to be 4.79% above the quota at that time. Expressed another way, it is projected that Molonglo, at 103,051 electors, will be 201 electors below the number of electors (no more than 105% of the quota at the time of the next election, or 103,252 electors) which the Augmented Commission is enjoined by the Act to "endeavour to ensure, as far as practicable" will not be exceeded at the next general election.

The Act clearly required the Redistribution Committee in making its proposal to consider the number of electors at a future date. This required projections involving consideration of a number of factors including demography, the location and pace of residential development and matters affecting the rate of electoral enrolments. This is inevitably an imprecise science, and the Act makes it quite clear that the Augmented Commission's obligation is to do all that it practicably can to avoid breaching the upper

or lower bounds prescribed in the Act. Accordingly when projections lie close to either of those bounds the Committee said that it was “necessary to leave a margin for error to allow for the possibility that the enrolment projections may not accurately forecast the actual enrolment relativities of the three electorates at the time of the next election. Without wishing to put an absolute number on the desirable margin for error, the Committee considered that a margin of 0.21%, or 201 electors (by which Molonglo is short of 105% of the quota), was too small to allow the Committee to be satisfied that it had fulfilled the statutory requirement to endeavour to ensure, as far as practicable, that the number of electors in an electorate at the time of the next general election of members of the Legislative Assembly will not be greater than 105%, or less than 95%, of the expected quota for the electorate at that time (as set out in section 36 of the Electoral Act).”

This conclusion was addressed at length in the objections to the Redistribution Committee’s proposal and at the public hearing. In particular, the objections by Mr Reynolds and Mr Musidlak argued that the projections ought to be taken at face value and that there was not sufficient justification for the Committee to consider it desirable to allow for a margin for error.

The Augmented Commission notes that the projected enrolment statistics used by Redistribution Committee essentially have three components: population projections prepared by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), expected housing developments submitted by the ACT Planning and Land Authority, and current enrolment figures derived from the joint Commonwealth/ACT electoral roll.

The methodology used by the ABS in preparing the projected enrolment statistics was described in the *Guidelines for submissions – Current and projected electoral enrolment statistics*, published by the Redistribution Committee. This document is available at www.elections.act.gov.au/adobe/Guidelines&Stats2007.pdf.

The Augmented Commission notes that population projections are not Predictions or forecasts, but are simply illustrations of the growth and change in population which would occur if certain assumptions about future levels of fertility, mortality, internal migration and net overseas migration were to prevail over the projection period.

The Augmented Commission also notes that the impact of expected housing developments on the electoral roll is subject to a range of uncertainties, such as actual completion time of construction, occupation rates, the eligibility of occupants for enrolment and actual elector behaviour.

In addition, the Augmented Commission is also aware that the state of completeness of the electoral roll – the proportion of eligible persons who are actually correctly enrolled – varies over time, particularly in relation to the election cycle. It is apparent that the ACT electoral roll is most complete at the time when an election roll close occurs, and tends to be less complete between elections. Evidence for this can be seen in the series of enrolment statistics published in the course of this redistribution. Fluctuations in the state of the electoral roll, and reasons for it, are canvassed in the recent article published by the Democratic Audit of Australia, *A shrinking Australian electoral roll?* by Peter Brent and Simon Jackman, available at <http://democratic.audit.anu.edu.au/papers/20070620brentjackmanaecroll.pdf>.

These factors support the Redistribution Committee's view that it is desirable to allow for a margin for error in the projections of the enrolment statistics and that this margin is of particular importance when projections lie close to an upper or lower bound.

Evidence that enrolment projections used for ACT redistribution purposes are subject to a margin for error can be found by examining previous ACT redistributions. The following table shows the projected enrolment for each forthcoming election used in each previous redistribution and the actual enrolment at each election. The last two columns show the difference between the projections and the actual enrolments, both in absolute numerical terms and in terms of the calculated variation from the relevant quota. Note that, because the total of the projected enrolments is different from the total of the actual enrolments, the quotas for each set of data are different, and each set of quotas adds to the appropriate total.

Redistribution year / Election year	Projected enrolment	Variation from quota at projection	Actual enrolment at election	Actual variation from quota at election	Actual difference in enrolment	Actual difference in variation from quota
1993/1995						
Brindabella	58020	-1.31%	58327	0.69%	307	2.00%
Ginninderra	58487	-0.52%	56749	-2.04%	-1738	-1.52%
Molonglo	83382	1.31%	81883	0.97%	-1499	-0.34%
1996/1998						
Brindabella	61152	0.48%	61042	1.12%	-110	0.64%
Ginninderra	57912	-4.85%	56969	-5.63%	-943	-0.78%
Molonglo	87865	3.12%	87237	3.22%	-628	0.10%
2000/2001						
Brindabella	63202	-0.92%	64020	-0.43%	818	0.49%
Ginninderra	62384	-2.21%	63267	-1.60%	883	0.61%
Molonglo	91302	2.23%	91328	1.46%	26	-0.77%
2003/2004						
Brindabella	64325	-2.54%	65279	-1.83%	954	0.71%
Ginninderra	64312	-2.56%	65271	-1.85%	959	0.71%
Molonglo	95758	3.64%	95548	2.63%	-210	-1.01%

This table shows that there have been substantial differences – up and down - between projections and actual enrolments in all cases, both in numerical terms and in terms of variation from quota. The average absolute variation from projections has been 0.81% and in only one case in 12 has the variation been less than 0.21%. The Augmented Commission believes that this demonstrates that the Redistribution Committee was correct in concluding that leaving boundaries unchanged with Molonglo short of the permissible 5% allowance by a margin of 0.21%, or 201 electors, would run a significant risk of Molonglo exceeding the 5% allowance at the time of the 2008 election.

Given this analysis, the Augmented Commission is of the view that it is necessary to reduce the size of Molonglo in order to meet the statutory requirement in section 36(b) of the Electoral Act to endeavour to ensure, as far as practicable, that the number of electors in an electorate at the time of the next general election of members of the Legislative Assembly will not be greater than 105%, or less than 95%, of the expected quota for the electorate at that time.

Whether to alter the location of the 7 member electorate

Given the Augmented Commission's view that a change was necessary to reduce the size of the existing electorate of Molonglo, the Augmented Commission turned to the various suggestions for altering the location of the 7 member electorate.

Alan Kerlin, the President of the Gungahlin Community Council, argued that the geographic spread of Molonglo, from Weston Creek through Woden, South Canberra and North Canberra to Gungahlin, made it difficult for elected members to represent the wide variety of communities in the electorate. Mr Kerlin suggested reducing the size of Molonglo by making it a 5 member electorate, and making Brindabella a 7 member electorate, comprising Tuggeranong, Weston Creek and most of Woden Valley.

Mr Reynolds suggested making Ginninderra a 7 member electorate, including Belconnen, Gungahlin and those parts of North Canberra to the west of Northbourne Avenue in Ginninderra, with the existing 5 member electorate of Brindabella increased by the addition of Farrer and Mawson, and with Molonglo altered to a 5 member electorate consisting of Weston Creek, the remainder of Woden Valley, South Canberra and the remainder of North Canberra. One aim of this proposal was to include all of Gungahlin in the same electorate.

At the public hearing, discussion took place concerning the concept that it would be desirable to make a significant change at the current redistribution, along the lines of the changes proposed above, in order to allow for future expected growth areas, so as to minimise the need for changes at future redistributions.

The Augmented Commission does not accept that it would be desirable to make a significant change at the current redistribution, for the purpose of minimising the need for changes at future redistributions. The Augmented Commission considers itself bound by section 36 to only consider those factors listed in that section. Thus the Augmented Commission is required to ensure that as far as practicable it does not breach the quota bounds at the time of the next election, and to duly consider the other matters listed under the section. One of those matters is to duly consider the boundaries of existing electorates. This argues for caution in changing boundaries. A more radical reshaping of the electorate map might be appropriate in the future to give fuller effect to the "community of interest" criteria, and to allow for patterns of growth, but that time has not yet come.

The Augmented Commission is sympathetic with the concerns of the Gungahlin community, particularly in relation to the current split of Gungahlin between two electorates, and the fact that Gungahlin is one of several districts included in Molonglo. This matter is considered further below.

The Augmented Commission notes that only representatives and/or residents of Gungahlin have argued for changing the location of the 7 member electorate. No other

submissions making similar proposals have been received from residents or representatives of any other areas.

In short the Augmented Commission does not support changing the location of the 7 member electorate at this time, but it is a matter that might well be considered again in later redistributions.

Whether the Redistribution Committee's proposed transfer of Farrer and Palmerston is the best option

Having decided that it was necessary to reduce the size of Molonglo, and that it was not appropriate to alter the location of the 7 member electorate, the Augmented Commission considered whether the Redistribution Committee's proposed transfer of Farrer and Palmerston was the best option.

Several public submissions and much of the discussion at the public hearing expressed the desirability of stability of the electoral boundaries. This consideration is effectively listed in section 36(c)(iv) of the Electoral Act, which requires the Augmented Commission to duly consider the boundaries of existing electorates.

The Augmented Commission noted that the Redistribution Committee's proposal to transfer Farrer from Molonglo to Brindabella and to transfer Palmerston from Molonglo to Ginninderra was intended to achieve several objectives:

- ensuring beyond doubt that all three electorates would be within the required variation from the quota by 2008;
- bringing the number of electors per member closer together in each electorate, in accordance with the 'one vote, one value' objective implicit in the requirement to ensure all electorates are within 5% of the quota; and
- reducing the likelihood that the boundaries will need to be changed at the next redistribution due before the 2012 election, by allowing for future growth areas, thereby respecting the criteria to duly consider the boundaries of existing electorates.

While the Augmented Commission agreed that the Redistribution Committee's proposal achieved these objectives, the Augmented Commission was also sympathetic with the public submissions that argued in favour of stability of electoral boundaries and in favour of minimising the splitting of the Gungahlin district and further splitting the Woden Valley.

The Augmented Commission accordingly considered the options of reducing the size of Molonglo by transferring only Farrer or only Palmerston. The following tables show the projected outcomes.

Alternative proposed electorates: Transferring Farrer to Brindabella only

Proposed electorate	Number of members	Enrolment April 2007	% above or below quota 2007	Projected enrolment October 2008	% above or below quota 2008
Brindabella	5	70 131	1.48%	70 597	0.51%
Ginninderra	5	67 096	-2.91%	67 643	-3.70%
Molonglo	7	97 734	1.02%	100 578	2.28%

Alternative proposed electorates: Transferring Palmerston to Ginninderra only

Proposed electorate	Number of members	Enrolment April 2007	% above or below quota 2007	Projected enrolment October 2008	% above or below quota 2008
Brindabella	5	67 633	-2.13%	68 124	-3.01%
Ginninderra	5	71 100	+2.89%	71 639	+1.99%
Molonglo	7	96 228	-0.54%	99 055	+0.73%

It can be seen that either of these options would place all three electorates within the projected 5% tolerance at the time of the next election. The largest variation would see Ginninderra 3.70% below the quota in 2008, if Farrer is the only suburb transferred. The Augmented Commission is satisfied that it is not likely that any electorate will exceed the 5% enrolment tolerance at the 2008 election under either of these models.

Transferring only one suburb under either of these options would minimise the disruption to the existing boundaries while also reducing the splitting of suburbs between districts, thereby giving effect to the community of interests and geographic criteria in section 36(c) of the Electoral Act as well as the criterion relating to the boundaries of the existing electorates.

Which suburb to transfer – Farrer or Palmerston?

Having decided that it was necessary to reduce the size of Molonglo, that it was not appropriate to alter the location of the 7 member electorate, and that it was sufficient and desirable to transfer only one suburb, the Augmented Commission considered which suburb would be the best to transfer.

The Augmented Commission agreed with the Redistribution Committee that the only two suburbs that were feasible to transfer were Farrer and Palmerston, for the reasons given by the Committee.

The Augmented Commission considered one objection received specifically in relation to the proposed transfer of Farrer from Molonglo to Brindabella. Mr John Davenport of Farrer opposed the transfer as “It does not make sense to remove only one suburb from the Woden Valley. Farrer is geographically part of the Woden Valley not the Tuggeranong Valley.” The Augmented Commission noted that Brindabella has included three Woden Valley suburbs since its inception.

The Community Councils of Tuggeranong and Woden did not object to the proposed transfer of Farrer.

Mr Reynolds also objected to the transfer of Farrer, in the context of arguing that there was no need to change the boundaries at all. Mr Reynolds stated that the transfer of Farrer, and particularly placing the electorate boundary along Beasley Street, would be disruptive to the redistribution criteria related to communities of interests and the boundaries of divisions.

The Augmented Commission considered that this disruption to a community of interests had to be weighed against the other criteria, notably the need to meet quota bounds. The Augmented Commission agreed with the Redistribution Committee's view that an electorate boundary constituted by Beasley Street, being the border between Farrer and Mawson, would be less than ideal. However, the Augmented Commission noted in particular that it is required to duly consider the boundaries of divisions and sections, and that Beasley Street is a division boundary.

At the public hearing, a suggestion was made that the electorate boundary could follow the fence line behind the houses on the Mawson side of Beasley Street. The Augmented Commission does not support this suggestion, as it would require splitting a division (suburb) between two electorates and could be a source of confusion to electors. At all previous elections, it has been a simple matter to describe electoral boundaries to electors by reference to their suburb of residence.

The Augmented Commission noted the argument that community of interest considerations were more relevant in areas where there was a current high rate of change and where much of the community infrastructure was still in the process of being put in place. In particular, several objections related to the splitting of Gungahlin between electorates, and objected to further splitting Gungahlin beyond the inclusion of Nicholls in Ginninderra. The Augmented Commission also noted that the Gungahlin Community Council included Nicholls in Ginninderra in its proposed alternative redistribution.

With regard to the stability of the existing electoral boundaries, the Augmented Commission noted the advice of the ACT Planning and Land Authority that most of the anticipated future land developments in the ACT would take place in the electorates of Molonglo and Ginninderra, and that comparatively few developments were planned for Brindabella. As stated in the Redistribution Committee's report: "Growth is expected in the various new and expanding Gungahlin suburbs, in the various urban infill areas in central Canberra, and in the proposed new District of Molonglo, to the north of Weston Creek. No significant growth is expected in Brindabella as there are no plans for substantial new housing developments in that electorate. Some growth may occur in Ginninderra with the development of Lawson and west Macgregor."

This planned development activity indicates that, of the 5 member electorates, it would be preferable for Brindabella to be above the quota and Ginninderra below it (which is the projected result for the transfer of Farrer), compared to the reverse (which is the projected result if Palmerston was to be transferred).

The Augmented Commission considered that, taken together, the above factors indicated that the transfer of Farrer was preferable to the transfer of Palmerston.

Names of the proposed electorates

The Augmented Commission shares the view of the Committee that the names adopted in 1993 would appear to have gained general community acceptance and does not propose to change the names.

However, the Augmented Commission notes that the name of the new district proposed to be sited to the north of Weston Creek, is to be Molonglo. It understands that this district will not be populated at the time of the 2008 election. The Augmented Commission suggests that consideration may need to be given to changing the name of the Molonglo electorate at the time of the next redistribution, in order to avoid confusion between the district name and the electorate.

Changes to the number of members to be elected in each electorate

The objection from the Gungahlin Community Council suggested a change in the number of members elected in the various electorates, to provide for three 7 member electorates. The Augmented Commission notes that it does not have any power under the Electoral Act to consider this as a viable option in making its proposed redistribution. Section 34 of the Electoral Act specifies that the ACT must be divided into one electorate returning 7 members, and two electorates returning 5 members.

The Augmented Commission notes the ACT Electoral Commission's 30 April 2002 *Submission to the ACT Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Legal Affairs Inquiry into the appropriateness of the size of the Legislative Assembly for the ACT and options for changing the number of members, electorates and any other related matter*, available at <http://www.elections.act.gov.au/adobe/SizeOfAssemblySubmission.pdf>. This submission expressed the Commission's view that the following two principles would further enhance the ACT's electoral system:

- Electorates should each return the same number of Members; and
- The total number of Members should be an odd number – accordingly there should be an odd number of electorates.

This Augmented Commission notes adoption of these principles would have the beneficial effect of removing the issue of where to place unequal sized electorates from consideration at future redistributions.

Conclusion

For the reasons given above, the Augmented Commission proposes to alter the Redistribution Committee's proposed redistribution to leave the Gungahlin suburb of Palmerston in the electorate of Molonglo, and to retain the proposed transfer of the Woden suburb of Farrer from the electorate of Molonglo to the electorate of Brindabella.

Next stage of the redistribution process

As the Augmented Commission has decided to alter the proposal of the Redistribution Committee by effectively transferring the suburb of Palmerston from one electorate to another, the Augmented Commission considers that its proposal is significantly different from the Redistribution Committee's proposal, within the meaning of section 51(2)(c) of the Electoral Act. Consequently, there will be a further opportunity for public objections.

Accordingly, the Augmented Commission intends to prepare a written notifiable instrument for publication on the ACT's Legislation Register inviting written objections to this proposal.

Written objections to the Redistribution Committee's proposed redistribution can be lodged with the ACT Electoral Commission within 28 days after the publication of the notice under the *Legislation Act 2001*.

Objections should be lodged at:
ACT Electoral Commission
Level 2, 12 Moore Street
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Postal Address: PO Box 272, CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608
Phone: (02) 6205 0033, Fax: (02) 6205 0382
Email: elections@act.gov.au

Who considers objections?

Objections to the Augmented Commission's proposal will be considered by the Augmented Commission. The Augmented Commission may hold public hearings into objections to its proposed redistribution. After consideration of any objections to this proposal, the Augmented Commission will make a final determination of the electoral boundaries for the ACT Legislative Assembly.

Augmented ACT Electoral Commission
Roger Beale — Phillip Green — Christabel Young
Neil Savery — Bill Hirst — Karen Macdonald

25 July 2007

Appendix A: Projected electoral enrolment statistics methodology

ACT Electoral Commission July 2007

The following statistics have been compiled for the 2006/2007 redistribution of ACT electoral boundaries in preparation for the 2008 election for the ACT Legislative Assembly. The statistics are shown for ACT Statistical Local Areas (generally suburbs) in alphabetical order (in Table 1), and also according to the existing electoral boundaries for the ACT Assembly (in Tables 2 to 4).

The enrolment projections are derived from population projections and from electoral enrolments as at 17 April 2007. These enrolments are shown in an earlier set of statistics published in this series. This publication shows the electoral enrolments as at 23 July 2007.

The population projections were calculated using Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) projections relating to Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) defined according to the Australian Standard Geographic Classification (ASGC) – 2005 (ABS Cat. No. 1216.0).

The SLA projections also incorporate information gained from forecasts of new occupied dwellings as provided by the ACT Government. This data takes into account the growth of Canberra's population due to expected developments between June 2006 to June 2009.

The enrolment information used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in calculating its projections was supplied by the Australian Electoral Commission and was current as at 17 April 2007.

The compilation of these projections was undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as a consultancy project for the ACT Electoral Commission.

Methodology for the projections

The general technique employed for the projections was the cohort-component method, widely accepted as the most accurate age/sex population projection method. It involves applying fertility and mortality rates and migration rates/levels to the base population to produce a projected population, which in turn becomes the base for projecting the next year, and so on.

A three-tiered approach was taken to the process of calculating the projected enrolments.

1. The ACT population was projected by age and sex from June 2005 to June 2009.
2. The populations of all ACT SLAs were projected by age and sex and constrained to the total at 1.
3. Actual enrolments as at 17 April 2007 were used to calibrate the SLA population projections, resulting in projected enrolments as at 18 October 2008.

1. Projections of the total population of the ACT

The base population for the ACT cohort-component projections was the preliminary ABS 30 June 2005 Estimated Resident Population. This incorporated results from the 2001 Census of Population and Housing and subsequent ABS population data.

The assumptions for fertility and mortality were from Population Projections 2004 to 2011 (ABS Cat. No. 3222.0). While the fertility assumption was irrelevant for short-term projections of persons aged 18 and over, the mortality assumption was slightly adjusted to reflect more recent years' observed death levels. The migration assumptions, based closely on the medium scenario ("B") in Population Projections were:

	Net Overseas Migration	Net Interstate Migration
2005/2009 (per annum)	600	500

2. Projections of the populations of the SLAs (suburbs)

The base population for the SLA cohort-component projections was the preliminary 30 June 2005 SLA age/sex Estimated Resident Population. The fertility, mortality and migration assumptions were based on an assessment of SLA-specific levels and trends observed over the past five to ten years. At each yearly cycle in this process, the SLA projections were constrained to sum to the ACT-level projection, helping to produce more reliable SLA results.

In addition to trend analysis, the SLA net migration assumptions incorporated forecasts of new occupied dwellings as provided by the ACT Government. To these forecasts persons-to-dwelling ratios derived from the 2001 Census were applied, giving new migration capacity for SLAs. This was then combined with estimates of underlying migration for existing SLA residents.

The age/sex distribution for the migration assumptions were based on overseas and inter-regional migration rates used in the calculation of published ABS SLA age/sex population estimates, which were originally derived from 2001 Population Census migration data.

The SLA projection results were collapsed into the age group 18 years or more and these were then interpolated to give results as at 17 April 2007 and 18 October 2008.

3. Projected enrolments in SLAs

The SLA propensities of persons to be enrolled were calculated as the ratio of enrolments as at 17 April 2007 to the projected population aged 18 years or more at the same date. These propensities were then applied to the projected population aged 18 and over as at 18 October 2008 to give the projected enrolments by SLA. Minor adjustments were made for apparent enrolment lags in some SLAs.

Disclaimer

Any population projections are subject to some degree of uncertainty because it is impossible to exactly predict future trends, particularly the future level of migration. Projection of the population of small areas is especially hazardous. However, care has been taken to produce the best possible projections from the data currently available.

It is important to recognise that the projection results given in this document essentially reflect the assumptions made about future fertility, mortality and migration trends. While the assumptions are formulated on the basis of an objective assessment of demographic trends over the past decade and their likely future dynamics, there can be no certainty that they will be realised.

While ABS takes responsibility for the methodology employed, in accordance with ABS policy regarding small area population projections the assumptions used are the final responsibility of the client, and the projections are not official ABS population statistics.

The projections may be referred to as "...projections prepared by the ABS according to assumptions reflecting prevailing trends and anticipated new dwelling occupancies agreed to by the ACT Electoral Commission...".

No liability will be accepted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics for any damages arising from decisions or actions based upon this population projection consultancy service.

Appendix B: Constitution of the Augmented ACT Electoral Commission's proposed electorates

Table 1: Australian Capital Territory

Suburb	Actual persons enrolled 23 July 2007	Projected persons enrolled 18 October 2008	% change
Acton	387	398	2.84%
Ainslie	3618	3605	-0.36%
Amaroo	3459	3533	2.14%
Aranda	1846	1808	-2.06%
Banks	3170	3108	-1.96%
Barton	720	929	29.03%
Belconnen Town Centre	2049	2282	11.37%
Belconnen - SSD Bal	40	38	-5.00%
Bonython	2388	2635	10.34%
Braddon	2369	2347	-0.93%
Bruce	2172	2350	8.20%
Calwell	4161	4154	-0.17%
Campbell / Duntroon / Majura	3917	3918	0.03%
Chapman	2196	2221	1.14%
Charnwood	2135	2118	-0.80%
Chifley	1736	1718	-1.04%
Chisholm	3869	3902	0.85%
City	394	548	39.09%
Conder	3310	3317	0.21%
Cook	2181	2189	0.37%
Curtin	3922	3860	-1.58%
Deakin	2065	2169	5.04%
Dickson	1475	1428	-3.19%
Downer	2437	2430	-0.29%
Duffy	2302	2328	1.13%
Dunlop	3987	4156	4.24%
Evatt	4177	4146	-0.74%
Fadden	2497	2472	-1.00%
Farrer	2563	2473	-3.51%
Fisher	2329	2291	-1.63%
Florey	3657	3623	-0.93%
Flynn	2614	2584	-1.15%
Forrest	976	1010	3.48%
Fraser	1669	1632	-2.22%

Table 1: Australian Capital Territory

Suburb	Actual persons enrolled 23 July 2007	Projected persons enrolled 18 October 2008	% change
Fyshwick	27	28	3.70%
Garran	2341	2252	-3.80%
Gilmore	1954	1997	2.20%
Giralang	2561	2562	0.04%
Gordon	5443	5529	1.58%
Gowrie	2455	2426	-1.18%
Greenway	859	932	8.50%
Griffith	3108	3089	-0.61%
Gungahlin-Hall - SSD Bal	3363	4479	33.18%
Hackett	2219	2226	0.32%
Hall	242	244	0.83%
Harman	47	57	21.28%
Hawker	2254	2215	-1.73%
Higgins	2269	2235	-1.50%
Holder	2082	2008	-3.55%
Holt	3516	3554	1.08%
Hughes	2233	2211	-0.99%
Hume	10	10	0.00%
Isaacs	1883	1838	-2.39%
Isabella Plains	2948	2954	0.20%
Jerrabomberra	0	0	0.00%
Kaleen	5773	5705	-1.18%
Kambah	11896	11676	-1.85%
Kingston	1902	2053	7.94%
Kowen	18	18	0.00%
Latham	2762	2756	-0.22%
Lyneham	3216	3215	-0.03%
Lyons	1733	1832	5.71%
McKellar	2010	2040	1.49%
Macarthur	1157	1164	0.61%
Macgregor	2559	2500	-2.31%
Macquarie	1714	1711	-0.18%
Mawson	2145	2135	-0.47%
Melba	2487	2479	-0.32%
Mitchell	2	2	0.00%
Monash	4174	4092	-1.96%
Narrabundah	4154	4147	-0.17%

Table 1: Australian Capital Territory

Suburb	Actual persons enrolled 23 July 2007	Projected persons enrolled 18 October 2008	% change
Ngunnawal	6094	5990	-1.71%
Nicholls	4801	4857	1.17%
Oaks Estate	202	203	0.50%
O`Connor	3730	3676	-1.45%
O`Malley	583	662	13.55%
Oxley	1291	1280	-0.85%
Page	1987	1974	-0.65%
Palmerston	3995	3996	0.03%
Parkes	2	2	0.00%
Pearce	1923	1910	-0.68%
Phillip	1400	1537	9.79%
Pialligo	88	88	0.00%
Red Hill	2233	2239	0.27%
Reid	1172	1146	-2.22%
Richardson	2255	2250	-0.22%
Rivett	2348	2328	-0.85%
Russell	0	0	0.00%
Scullin	2028	1981	-2.32%
Spence	1922	1890	-1.66%
Stirling	1550	1539	-0.71%
Stromlo	7	7	0.00%
Symonston	321	309	-3.74%
Theodore	2712	2745	1.22%
Torrens	1705	1674	-1.82%
Tuggeranong - SSD Bal	22	24	9.09%
Turner	2084	2250	7.97%
Wanniassa	6031	5995	-0.60%
Waramanga	1948	1900	-2.46%
Watson	3212	3256	1.37%
Weetangera	2030	2014	-0.79%
Weston	2519	2459	-2.38%
Weston Creek-Stromlo - SSD Bal	42	46	9.52%
Yarralumla	2345	2330	-0.64%
Remainder of ACT	179	170	-5.03%
Total	237064	238818	0.74%

Note: Gungahlin - Hall - SSD Bal includes Harrison, Forde and Bonner.

Table 2: Brindabella

Suburb	Actual persons enrolled 23 July 2007	Projected persons enrolled 18 October 2008	% change
Banks	3170	3108	-1.96%
Bonython	2388	2635	10.34%
Calwell	4161	4154	-0.17%
Chifley	1736	1718	-1.04%
Chisholm	3869	3902	0.85%
Conder	3310	3317	0.21%
Fadden	2497	2472	-1.00%
Gilmore	1954	1997	2.20%
Gordon	5443	5529	1.58%
Gowrie	2455	2426	-1.18%
Greenway	859	932	8.50%
Isabella Plains	2948	2954	0.20%
Kambah	11896	11676	-1.85%
Macarthur	1157	1164	0.61%
Monash	4174	4092	-1.96%
Oxley	1291	1280	-0.85%
Pearce	1923	1910	-0.68%
Richardson	2255	2250	-0.22%
Theodore	2712	2745	1.22%
Torrens	1705	1674	-1.82%
Tuggeranong - SSD Bal	22	24	9.09%
Wanniassa	6031	5995	-0.60%
Remainder of ACT	179	170	-5.03%
Total	68135	68124	-0.02%
Quota	69724	70240	
Variation from quota	-2.28%	-3.01%	

Table 3: Ginninderra

Suburb	Actual persons enrolled 23 July 2007	Projected persons enrolled 18 October 2008	% change
Aranda	1846	1808	-2.06%
Belconnen - SSD Bal	40	38	-5.00%
Belconnen Town Centre	2049	2282	11.37%
Bruce	2172	2350	8.20%
Charnwood	2135	2118	-0.80%
Cook	2181	2189	0.37%
Dunlop	3987	4156	4.24%
Evatt	4177	4146	-0.74%
Florey	3657	3623	-0.93%
Flynn	2614	2584	-1.15%
Fraser	1669	1632	-2.22%
Giralang	2561	2562	0.04%
Hall	242	244	0.83%
Hawker	2254	2215	-1.73%
Higgins	2269	2235	-1.50%
Holt	3516	3554	1.08%
Kaleen	5773	5705	-1.18%
Latham	2762	2756	-0.22%
Macgregor	2559	2500	-2.31%
Macquarie	1714	1711	-0.18%
McKellar	2010	2040	1.49%
Melba	2487	2479	-0.32%
Nicholls	4801	4857	1.17%
Page	1987	1974	-0.65%
Scullin	2028	1981	-2.32%
Spence	1922	1890	-1.66%
Weetangera	2030	2014	-0.79%
Total	67442	67643	0.30%
Quota	69724	70240	
Variation from quota	-3.27%	-3.70%	

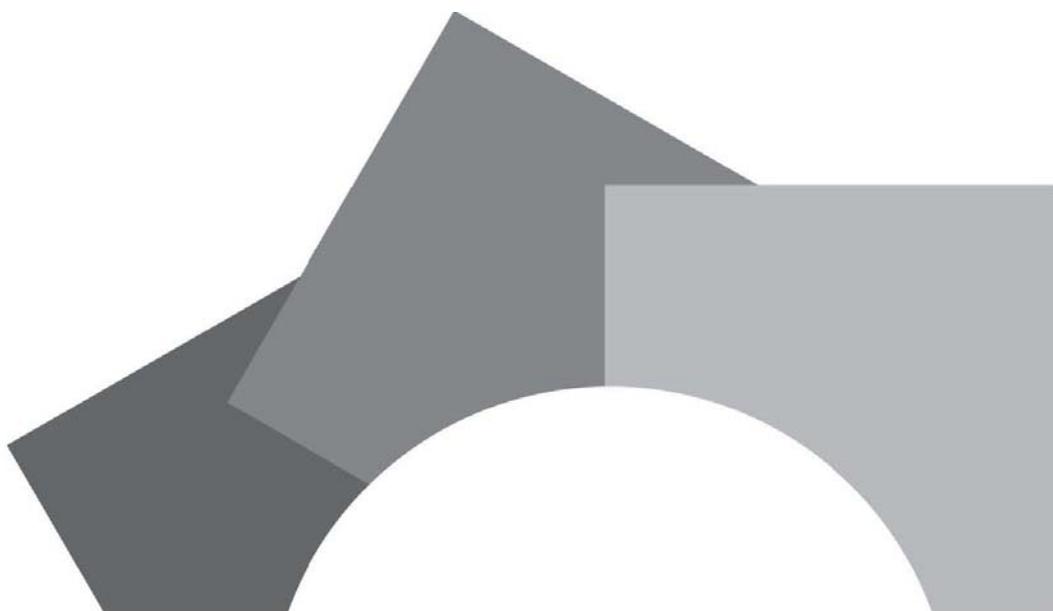
Table 4: Molonglo

Suburb	Actual persons enrolled 23 July 2007	Projected persons enrolled 18 October 2008	% change
Acton	387	398	2.84%
Ainslie	3618	3605	-0.36%
Amaroo	3459	3533	2.14%
Barton	720	929	29.03%
Braddon	2369	2347	-0.93%
Campbell / Duntroon / Majura	3917	3918	0.03%
Chapman	2196	2221	1.14%
City	394	548	39.09%
Curtin	3922	3860	-1.58%
Deakin	2065	2169	5.04%
Dickson	1475	1428	-3.19%
Downer	2437	2430	-0.29%
Duffy	2302	2328	1.13%
Farrer	2563	2473	-3.51%
Fisher	2329	2291	-1.63%
Forrest	976	1010	3.48%
Fyshwick	27	28	3.70%
Garran	2341	2252	-3.80%
Griffith	3108	3089	-0.61%
Gungahlin-Hall - SSD Bal	3363	4479	33.18%
Hackett	2219	2226	0.32%
Harman	47	57	21.28%
Holder	2082	2008	-3.55%
Hughes	2233	2211	-0.99%
Hume	10	10	0.00%
Isaacs	1883	1838	-2.39%
Jerrabomberra	0	0	
Kingston	1902	2053	7.94%
Kowen	18	18	0.00%
Lyneham	3216	3215	-0.03%
Lyons	1733	1832	5.71%
Mawson	2145	2135	-0.47%
Mitchell	2	2	0.00%
Narrabundah	4154	4147	-0.17%
Ngunnawal	6094	5990	-1.71%
O`Connor	3730	3676	-1.45%
O`Malley	583	662	13.55%

Table 4: Molonglo

Suburb	Actual persons enrolled 23 July 2007	Projected persons enrolled 18 October 2008	% change
Oaks Estate	202	203	0.50%
Palmerston	3995	3996	0.03%
Parkes	2	2	0.00%
Phillip	1400	1537	9.79%
Pialligo	88	88	0.00%
Red Hill	2233	2239	0.27%
Reid	1172	1146	-2.22%
Rivett	2348	2328	-0.85%
Russell	0	0	
Stirling	1550	1539	-0.71%
Stromlo	7	7	0.00%
Symonston	321	309	-3.74%
Turner	2084	2250	7.97%
Waramanga	1948	1900	-2.46%
Watson	3212	3256	1.37%
Weston	2519	2459	-2.38%
Weston Creek-Stromlo - SSD Bal	42	46	9.52%
Yarralumla	2345	2330	-0.64%
Total	101487	103051	1.54%
Quota	97614	98336	
Variation from quota	3.97%	4.79%	

**Redistribution Committee's
proposed redistribution**





Boundaries proposed by the Redistribution Committee.

Redistribution Committee's proposed redistribution

Summary of the Redistribution Committee's proposed redistribution

The 2007 ACT Redistribution Committee proposes in accordance with section 43 of the *Electoral Act 1992* that the current electoral boundaries in the Australian Capital Territory be altered as follows:

- The suburb of Farrer be transferred from Molonglo to Brindabella; and
- The suburb of Palmerston be transferred from Molonglo to Ginninderra.

The proposed electorates are as follows:

BRINDABELLA, a five member electorate comprising the district of Tuggeranong (excluding the suburb of Hume), the Woden Valley suburbs of Chifley, Farrer, Pearce and Torrens and the southern remainder of the ACT;

GINNINDERRA, a five member electorate comprising the districts of Belconnen and Hall (including the entire Village of Hall) and the Gungahlin suburbs of Nicholls and Palmerston; and

MOLONGLO, a seven member electorate comprising the districts of Gungahlin (excluding the suburbs of Nicholls and Palmerston), Canberra Central, Weston Creek, Woden Valley (excluding the suburbs of Chifley, Farrer, Pearce and Torrens), Jerrabomberra (including the entire suburb of Hume), Kowen, Majura, and Stromlo.

Overall statistical summary

Quotas and maximum and minimum numbers of electors

	ACT	5 member electorates	7 member electorate
17 April 2007			
Actual enrolment	234 961		
Quotas		69 106	96 748
Not more than 110% of the quota		76 016	106 422
Not less than 90% of the quota		62 196	87 074
October 2008			
Projected enrolment	238 818		
Quotas		70 240	98 336
Not more than 105% of the quota		73 752	103 252
Not less than 95% of the quota		66 728	93 420

Existing electorates: statistical summary

Proposed electorate	Number of members	Enrolment April 2007	% above or below quota 2007	Projected enrolment October 2008	% above or below quota 2008
Brindabella	5	67 633	-2.13%	68 124	-3.01%
Ginninderra	5	67 096	-2.91%	67 643	-3.70%
Molonglo	7	100 232	3.60%	103 051	4.79%

Proposed electorates: statistical summary

Proposed electorate	Number of members	Enrolment April 2007	% above or below quota 2007	Projected enrolment October 2008	% above or below quota 2008
Brindabella	5	70 131	1.48%	70 597	0.51%
Ginninderra	5	71 100	2.89%	71 639	1.99%
Molonglo	7	93 730	-3.12%	96 582	-1.78%

For a detailed break down of these statistics see Appendix A.

Legal requirements

Commencement of the redistribution process

Section 37 of the *Electoral Act 1992* (the Electoral Act) provides that a redistribution of the electoral boundaries of the ACT shall begin as soon as practicable after the commencement of the period of 2 years ending on the expiration of the 3rd Saturday in October in the year in which the next ordinary election is due to be held.

The Redistribution Committee

Under section 39 of the Electoral Act, the ACT Electoral Commission is required to appoint a Redistribution Committee for the purposes of each redistribution. Before appointing this Redistribution Committee, the Commission gave careful consideration to the appointment of the fourth member of the Committee. The Commission appointed this Redistribution Committee on 12 December 2006. Notice of the appointment of the Redistribution Committee was notified on the ACT Legislation Register on 21 December 2006.

The Redistribution Committee consists of the Electoral Commissioner (Mr Phillip Green, who is chairperson of the Redistribution Committee), the Chief Planning Executive, ACT Planning and Land Authority (Mr Neil Savery), the Commissioner for Surveys (Mr Frank Blanchfield) and a person appointed by the ACT Electoral Commission, the Regional Director, ACT Office, Australian Bureau of Statistics (Ms Karen Macdonald).

Invitation to submit suggestions and comments

In accordance with section 41 of the Electoral Act, the Redistribution Committee invited written suggestions relating to the redistribution, and written comments on those suggestions, by written notice published in the Canberra Times and the ACT Legislation Register on 8 February 2007. The closing date for suggestions was 8 March 2007. The closing date for comments on these suggestions was 22 March 2007.

Redistribution criteria

Section 36 of the Electoral Act sets out the criteria under which a redistribution is to be conducted. This section (as applied to a Redistribution Committee by section 43 of the Electoral Act) prescribes that a Redistribution Committee, in making a redistribution of electorates, shall:

- (a) ensure that the number of electors in an electorate immediately after the redistribution is within the range permitted by subsection 67D(2) of the *Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988* (the Self-Government Act) of the Commonwealth;
- (b) endeavour to ensure, as far as practicable, that the number of electors in an electorate at the time of the next general election of members of the Legislative Assembly will not be greater than 105%, or less than 95%, of the expected quota for the electorate at that time ascertained in accordance with the formula set out in subsection 67D(1) of the *Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988* of the Commonwealth; and

- (c) duly consider —
- (i) the community of interests within each proposed electorate, including economic, social and regional interests;
 - (ii) the means of communication and travel within each proposed electorate;
 - (iii) the physical features and area of each proposed electorate;
 - (iv) the boundaries of existing electorates; and
 - (v) the boundaries of divisions and sections fixed under the *Districts Act 2002*.

Section 67D of the Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988 of the Commonwealth prescribes that:

(1) In this section:

“**quota**”, in relation to an electorate for the Territory, means the number calculated in accordance with the formula:

$$\frac{\text{Number of Territory electors} \times \text{Number of electorate members}}{\text{Number of Territory members}}$$

where:

“**Number of Territory electors**” means the number of electors of the Territory;

“**Number of electorate members**” means the number of members to be elected by the electorate;

“**Number of Territory members**” means the number of members of the Assembly.

(2) A distribution or redistribution of the Territory into electorates is not to result in any electorate having, immediately after the distribution or redistribution:

- (a) a number of electors of the Territory greater than 110% of its quota; or
- (b) a number of electors of the Territory less than 90% of its quota.

Objections

Written objections to the Redistribution Committee’s proposed redistribution can be lodged with the ACT Electoral Commission by no later than 28 June 2007.

Objections should be lodged at:

ACT Electoral Commission
 Level 2, 12 Moore Street
 CANBERRA ACT 2601

Postal Address: PO Box 272, CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608
 Phone: (02) 6205 0033, Fax: (02) 6205 0382
 Email: elections@act.gov.au

Who considers objections?

Objections to the Redistribution Committee’s proposal will be considered by the Augmented ACT Electoral Commission. The Augmented Commission consists of the Chairperson of the ACT Electoral Commission (Mr Roger Beale), the Electoral Commissioner (Mr Phillip Green, who is chairperson of the Redistribution Committee), the third member of the ACT Electoral Commission (Dr Christabel Young) and the other members of the Redistribution Committee: the Chief Planning Executive

(Mr Neil Savery), the Commissioner for Surveys (Mr Frank Blanchfield) and the Regional Director, ACT Office, Australian Bureau of Statistics (Ms Karen Macdonald). The Augmented Commission may hold public hearings into objections to the proposed redistribution.

Numbers of electors

Numbers of electors immediately after the redistribution

Paragraph 36(a) of the Electoral Act requires the Committee to ensure that the number of electors in an electorate immediately after the redistribution is within the range permitted by subsection 67D(2) of the Self-Government Act. The Committee has had recourse to several sets of enrolment statistics in the course of the redistribution.

Before appointing the Redistribution Committee, the ACT Electoral Commission obtained from the Australian Electoral Commission the latest available enrolment statistics for the ACT, broken down by suburb. These enrolment statistics were compiled on 18 August 2006. These statistics were used to project the enrolment figures by suburb at the time of the next election. They were made available for the information of people lodging submissions (see the following section).

The *Guidelines for submissions* published by the Committee concurrently with the call for public suggestions and comments included the enrolment statistics compiled on 18 August 2006 and the then latest available statistics from 6 February 2007.

This report includes updated enrolment statistics compiled on 17 April 2007. The Committee considered that these figures were sufficient for ensuring the criterion related to current enrolment will be met under its proposed redistribution. However, the Augmented ACT Electoral Commission may further consult the Australian Electoral Commission before it makes its final determination, to ensure that the final determination is made against the latest enrolment statistics.

Numbers of electors at the time of the next general election

Paragraph 36(b) of the Electoral Act requires the Committee to endeavour to ensure, as far as practicable, that the number of electors in an electorate at the time of the next general election is within the range of not greater than 105% nor less than 95% of the quota at that time. The next general election is due to be held on 18 October 2008 under section 100 of the Electoral Act.

In order to comply with this criterion, the ACT Electoral Commission engaged the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to project enrolment at the suburb level as at 18 October 2008. The projected enrolment statistics were calculated by the ABS according to assumptions accepted by the Electoral Commission on the basis of advice provided by the ACT Government, using the number of electors enrolled in each suburb as at 18 August 2006. A detailed description of the methodology used to calculate the projected enrolment statistics is included in the introduction to those statistics, which are available from the Electoral Commission (see www.elections.act.gov.au/adobe/Guidelines&Stats2007.pdf).

The Committee met on 3 April 2007 to discuss the public suggestions and comments received. At that meeting, the Committee noted that the Australian Electoral

Commission (AEC) had begun undertaking increased enrolment stimulation activities in early 2007, including an extensive national targeted door-knock. This activity had significantly increased the number of electors enrolled in the ACT. In particular, the new enrolments generated indicated that the electorate of Molonglo appeared to be growing at a faster rate, compared to Brindabella and Ginninderra, than was projected by the ABS using the enrolment data provided by the AEC in August 2006. As a result, the Committee agreed that there was a need to obtain more up-to-date projected enrolment statistics for October 2008 in the light of the recent changes to the electoral roll. The Committee obtained the latest enrolment statistics for each suburb on 17 April 2007, following the completion of the round of door-knocks conducted by the AEC. The Committee provided these statistics to the ABS, who used them to provide updated projections of the enrolment in each suburb for October 2008. These statistics (included at Appendix A) have been used as the basis for the proposed redistribution in this report.

The Committee notes that the enrolment projections for October 2008 are just that: projections based on current enrolment statistics and anticipated population changes, taking past population growth and projected housing developments into account. The Committee is also aware that the current electoral roll is not at its optimal level of accuracy, as there has not been a formal 'roll close' for an election since October 2004. The Committee also notes that there will be two roll closes before the October 2008 ACT election, for the Federal election due at the end of 2007 and for the ACT election itself. These events are likely to lead to significant changes to the ACT electoral roll. As the projected enrolment totals for October 2008 are simply estimates, they cannot be expected to be totally accurate. The Committee considers that it is necessary to leave a margin of error to allow for the possibility that enrolment projections to suburb level may not accurately forecast the actual enrolment relativities of the three electorates at the time of the next election.

Quotas

At 17 April 2007 there were 234,961 electors on the roll for the ACT. The quota for the five member electorates determined in accordance with section 67D of the Self-Government Act is 69,106, the permitted minimum enrolment (not less than 90% of the quota) is 62,196, and the permitted maximum enrolment (not greater than 110% of the quota) is 76,016. The quota for the seven member electorate is 96,748, the permitted minimum enrolment is 87,074 and the permitted maximum enrolment is 106,422.

The ABS projects that there will be 238,818 electors on the roll for the ACT in October 2008. Therefore the quota for the five member electorates at that time determined in accordance with subsection 67D(1) of the Self-Government Act is 70,240, the permitted minimum enrolment (not less than 95% of the quota) is 66,728 and the permitted maximum enrolment (not greater than 105% of the quota) is 73,752. The quota for the seven member electorate is 98,336, the permitted minimum enrolment is 93,420 and the permitted maximum is 103,252.

The other redistribution criteria

The criteria set out in paragraph 36(c) of the Electoral Act — community of interests, means of communication and travel, physical features and area, boundaries of existing electorates and boundaries of divisions and sections fixed under the *Districts Act 2002* — are subservient to the two objectives of enrolments in proposed electorates being within a range of 5% above or below the quota at the time of the next election and

current enrolments being within 10% above or below the quota. However, given these two constraints the Committee sought to ensure that the other criteria were given maximum possible effect. In particular, the Committee considered that these criteria were best met by avoiding, where possible, splitting suburbs and districts and by selecting boundaries which clearly separate communities.

Suggestions and comments

Five suggestions were lodged with the Redistribution Committee by the close of the suggestions period on 8 March 2007. Two comments on the suggestions were received by the closing date on 22 March 2007. Copies of the suggestions and comments may be viewed at the Commission's office or obtained from its website, www.elections.act.gov.au.

Brief summary of suggestions

Matthew Cossey, ACT Secretary, Australian Labor Party, ACT Branch

This suggestion notes that Molonglo is estimated to be close to 5% above the quota at the time of the 2008 election. The suggestion notes that "the vast majority of high-growth suburbs such as Gungahlin (excluding Nicholls), Barton, Braddon, Turner, Kingston and Phillip" are in Molonglo and that "This significantly heightens the chance that with no change to current boundaries the electorate of Molonglo may well exceed the limits set by the legislation by the time of the next ACT election." The suggestion supports stability in the electoral boundaries, but suggests that "some minimal change on this occasion, in reducing the electorate of Molonglo, would be appropriate in seeking to achieve the above [one vote, one value] principle."

The suggestion does not propose which changes should be made, but notes that it would be ideal if all the Gungahlin suburbs were contained within one electorate. However, the suggestion recognises "that having some Gungahlin suburbs in the Ginninderra electorate is the only way to maintain the current electoral structure without major or radical change."

Alan Kerlin, President, Gungahlin Community Council Inc.

This suggestion states that "the current anomaly with the electoral boundary between Ginninderra and Molonglo that leaves Nicholls in a different electorate should not be allowed to continue. This has resulted in our community [Gungahlin] being under-represented in each of these electorates, leading to disadvantage for our community in the way of planning, services and infrastructure provision."

The suggestion proposes to address this by making Brindabella the 7-member electorate, comprising all of Tuggeranong, Weston Creek and Woden. This would then provide for "Two 5-member electorates north of the river [which] would provide for the future population growth areas, and contain the electorates within fairly close geographical and social proximity – quite different from the current situation."

The suggestion also proposes an alternative to the current legislative requirement to divide the ACT into two 5-member electorates and one 7-member electorates: to change the number of members to 19 in a 5-5-3-3-3 configuration.

Gary Kent, President, Liberal Party of Australia, ACT Division

This suggestion submitted that there should be no change to the present boundaries. The suggestion stated that "A rearrangement of boundaries should ordinarily only commence when the forecast populations of enrolled voters exceeds statutory thresholds. The suggestion stressed the importance of "the public desire for continuity of boundaries." The suggestion notes that any further sub-division of town centres would further divide existing community of interests and cut across dominant physical features and sub-divide zones of travel and communications. The suggestion opposes any further shift of Gungahlin suburbs to Ginninderra.

Bogey Musidlak, Convenor, Proportional Representation Society of Australia (ACT Branch)

This suggestion submitted that there should be no change to the present boundaries. Arguments put forward in favour of making no change included:

- That there was a community expectation that electoral boundaries would seldom change;
- That stability of electoral boundaries was one of the features of the Hare-Clark electoral system listed in the official case in favour of Hare-Clark distributed during the 1992 referendum on the choice of electoral systems in the ACT; and
- That the current boundaries satisfy all the relevant criteria and should be retained.

The suggestion also called for a simplified redistribution process to be suggested to the Legislative Assembly, whereby, where the actual and projected enrolments stood well within the tolerances, the Redistribution Committee would be empowered to make a final determination to the effect that the boundaries would remain unchanged, without the need for a public consultation phase.

Bob Sutherland, Secretary, Weston Creek Community Council

This suggestion supported keeping Weston Creek entirely within the electorate of Molonglo. The suggestion also recommended that the redistribution avoid splitting local communities as much as possible.

Brief summary of comments

Theodore Ian Ruecroft, Palmerston

This comment by a Gungahlin resident argues that Gungahlin has suffered disadvantage by being split between Ginninderra and Molonglo, and states that "the Electoral Commission has a responsibility to work with the Gungahlin community to explore every possible solution to the current situation and implement changes that will ensure that Gungahlin is contained within one electorate for the 2008 ACT election and for future elections. If it is not possible to develop a suitable option that contains all communities of common interests within the same electorate, then there is a need to develop a process that rotates the disadvantage. ... it is time that other districts are disadvantaged."

Rosemary Lissimore, President, Tuggeranong Community Council Incorporated

This comment proposes making the following changes to the current boundaries:

- Moving Chifley, Pearce and Torrens from Brindabella to Molonglo, and moving all of Weston Creek from Molonglo to Brindabella.
- Moving all of Gungahlin currently in Molonglo to Ginninderra.

The Committee's proposed boundaries

The following paragraphs examine some of the options the Committee considered before arriving at its proposed boundaries.

Retaining the current boundaries unchanged

Two of the submissions – from the Proportional Representation Society of Australia (ACT Branch) and the Liberal Party of Australia, ACT Division – suggested that, as the projected enrolments for each electorate for October 2008 were within the required tolerance of 5% from the quota, the current boundaries should not be changed. The submissions stressed the importance of providing stability of electoral boundaries.

The Committee noted that these submissions were made in the context of the projected enrolment totals calculated by ABS on the basis of the enrolment statistics extracted from the roll in August 2006. Based on these projections Molonglo would be 4.38% over the quota in October 2008, with Brindabella 2.91 % under the quota and Ginninderra 3.22% under the quota.

At its meeting on 3 April 2007, the Committee expressed its concern that these projections may have underestimated the growth rate in Molonglo, given the changes to the numbers of electors on the electoral roll that occurred in early 2007 described above. As a result of this concern, the Committee sought revised enrolment projections for October 2008 from the ABS.

The enrolment figures for April 2007 and the revised projected enrolment figures for October 2008 on the current electoral boundaries are:

Proposed electorate	Number of members	Enrolment April 2007	% above or below quota 2007	Projected enrolment October 2008	% above or below quota 2008
Brindabella	5	67 633	-2.13%	68 124	-3.01%
Ginninderra	5	67 096	-2.91%	67 643	-3.70%
Molonglo	7	100 232	3.60%	103 051	4.79%

Of particular note, it is projected that the enrolment for Molonglo for October 2008 will be 4.79% above the quota at that time. Expressed another way, it is projected that Molonglo, at 103,051 electors, will be 201 electors below the maximum permitted

number of electors: no more than 105% of the quota at the time of the next election, or 103,252 electors.

As discussed above, in relation to the projected numbers of electors enrolled at the time of the next election, the Committee considered that it is necessary to leave a margin for error to allow for the possibility that the enrolment projections may not accurately forecast the actual enrolment relativities of the three electorates at the time of the next election. Without wishing to put an absolute number on the desirable margin for error, the Committee considered that a margin of 0.21%, or 201 electors (by which Molonglo is short of 105% of the quota), was too small to allow the Committee to be satisfied that it had fulfilled the statutory requirement to endeavour to ensure, as far as practicable, that the number of electors in an electorate at the time of the next general election of members of the Legislative Assembly will not be greater than 105%, or less than 95%, of the expected quota for the electorate at that time (as set out in section 36 of the Electoral Act).

For this reason, the Committee did not consider it acceptable to propose that the existing boundaries should remain unchanged.

The Committee noted that both Brindabella and Ginninderra were projected to be below the quota at the time of the next election in October 2008 – with Brindabella projected to be 3.01% below the quota and Ginninderra projected to be 3.70% below.

In this light, the Committee noted the suggestion submitted by the ACT Branch of the Australian Labor Party, which stated that “if no change is made to the boundaries as part of this redistribution then there will be a significant difference of variance from quota between the electorate of Molonglo compared with the two five member electorates of Brindabella and Ginninderra. ... ACT Labor believes that the Committee should still seek to best protect the principle of ‘one vote, one value’ and accordingly look to minimise such variances.”

Given that the Committee had determined that Molonglo would need to be reduced in size to ensure that it fell within the required range at the time of the next election, the Committee decided to examine both the boundary between Brindabella and Molonglo and the boundary between Ginninderra and Molonglo. The Committee considered that there would be merit in adjusting all three electorates to bring each of them closer to the relevant quotas in October 2008. Such a change would achieve several objectives:

- ensuring beyond doubt that all three electorates would be within the required variation from the quota by 2008;
- bringing the number of electors per member closer together in each electorate, in accordance with the ‘one vote, one value’ objective implicit in the requirement to ensure all electorates are within 5% of the quota; and
- reducing the likelihood that the boundaries will need to be changed at the next redistribution due before the 2012 election, by allowing for future growth areas, thereby respecting the criteria to duly consider the boundaries of existing electorates.

The Ginninderra boundary

The Committee turned first to the Ginninderra boundary.

The Committee noted the suggestions and comments calling for Nicholls to be included in the same electorate as the rest of Gungahlin, and for all of Gungahlin to be included in one electorate. The Committee agreed that the inclusion of Nicholls in Ginninderra is not ideal. Accordingly, the Committee examined a number of options to determine whether an alternative proposal could be identified that included Nicholls in the same electorate as the rest of Gungahlin that also met the criteria in paragraph 36(c) to the same or to a greater extent than the current boundaries.

None of the suggestions or comments proposed a specified set of boundaries for Ginninderra that would achieve the objectives of placing all Gungahlin suburbs in one electorate while ensuring that Ginninderra was within the 5% variation from the quota in 2008. The Gungahlin Community Council suggested making Brindabella the 7 member electorate and making two 5 member electorates north of the river, with Ginninderra “a predominantly Belconnen electorate” and Molonglo encompassing north and south Canberra plus Gungahlin. This suggestion does not address the fact that Belconnen by itself is too small to constitute a 5 member electorate, being 9.81% below quota in April 2007 and projected to be 10.61% below quota in 2008. The suggestion does not indicate which other suburbs should be included with Belconnen to make a suitable 5 member electorate.

Mr Ruecroft from Palmerston in Gungahlin commented that Gungahlin should be in one electorate, and that some other area should be included in Ginninderra with Belconnen in order to meet the numerical criteria. However, he did not nominate which areas should be included.

The Tuggeranong Community Council recommended placing all of Gungahlin with Belconnen in a 5 member electorate. Such an electorate would dramatically exceed the 5% enrolment tolerance in 2008 and could not be considered.

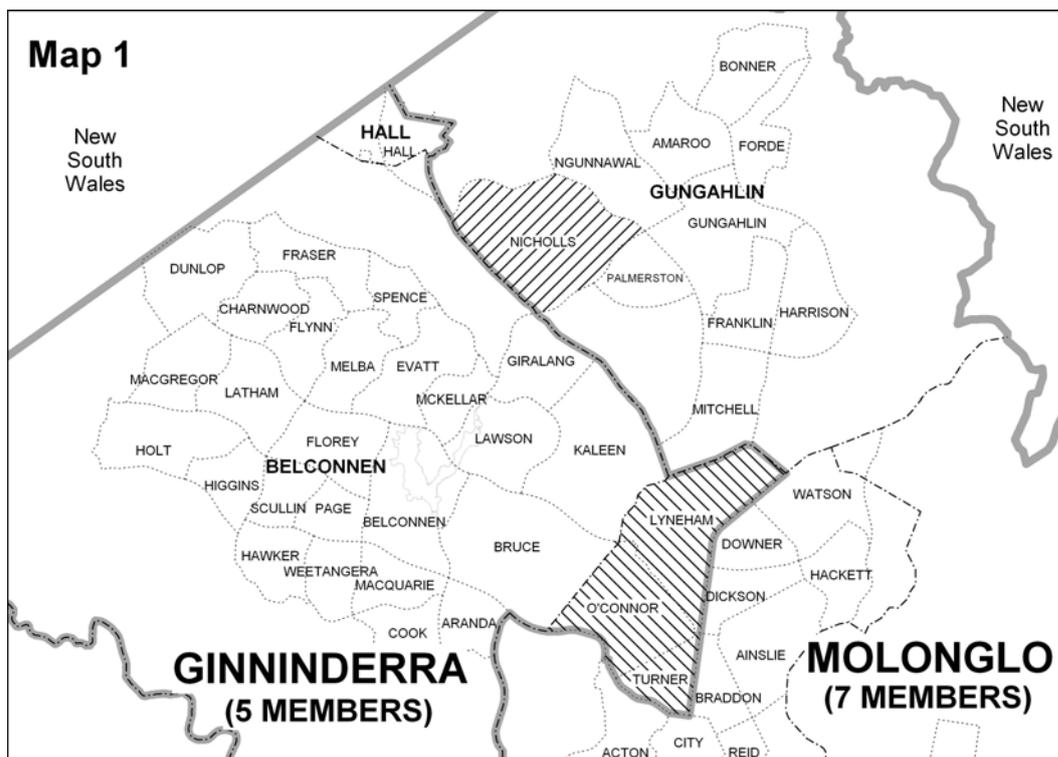
In the absence of any achievable guidance from the public submissions the Committee considered the following options.

Option 1: Transferring Nicholls from Ginninderra to Molonglo and transferring Lyneham and/or O'Connor and/or Turner from Molonglo to Ginninderra

The Committee considered transferring Nicholls from Ginninderra to Molonglo and transferring various combinations of Lyneham, O'Connor and Turner from Molonglo to Ginninderra. The following table shows the results of these combinations.

Suburbs transferred from Molonglo to Ginninderra (with Nicholls transferred to Molonglo)	Proposed electorate	% above or below quota 2007	% above or below quota 2008
Lyneham	Ginninderra	-5.17%	-6.04%
	Molonglo	+5.22%	+6.46%
O'Connor	Ginninderra	-4.50%	-5.38%
	Molonglo	+4.74%	-5.99%
Lyneham and O'Connor	Ginninderra	+0.13%	-0.80%
	Molonglo	+1.43%	+2.73%
Lyneham, O'Connor and Turner	Ginninderra	+3.02%	+2.40%
	Molonglo	0.64%	+0.44%

Map 1 shows the boundaries that would apply if Nicholls was transferred from Ginninderra to Molonglo and Lyneham, O'Connor and Turner was transferred from Molonglo to Ginninderra.



It can be seen that transferring just Lyneham or just O'Connor would not be sufficient to place Ginninderra within the 5% tolerance in 2008. However, transferring a combination of Lyneham and O'Connor, or a combination of Lyneham, O'Connor and Turner, would place Ginninderra within the 5% tolerance.

The option of including Lyneham and O'Connor in Ginninderra with Nicholls transferred to Molonglo was considered in both the 2000 and 2003 redistributions. In each case, this option was rejected for the following reasons, endorsed by the current Committee.

The boundary between O'Connor and Turner runs along David Street, a relatively minor road fronted by houses in both O'Connor and Turner. The Committee considers that this would be a poor boundary, as roads fronted by houses are not ideal as electoral boundaries as they divide close communities of interests. The boundary between Lyneham and the suburbs to the east would follow Northbourne Avenue, which would be a more appropriate boundary.

The Committee considered that Lyneham and O'Connor share significant communities of interests with the adjacent north Canberra suburbs, such as Watson, Downer, Dickson and Turner. These suburbs were developed at similar times and share similar socio-economic characteristics, as well as transport links, schools and shopping and employment facilities. 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.

The Committee was also concerned that transferring Lyneham and O'Connor to Ginninderra would insert a "wedge" in Molonglo that would disrupt the continuity of Molonglo by isolating Gungahlin from north Canberra in the electorate.

Including Turner in the transferred suburbs would avoid using David Street as a boundary and would allow the use of Barry Drive and Northbourne Avenue as a boundary instead. However, transferring all three of these suburbs would further disrupt the communities of interests these suburbs share with the adjacent north Canberra suburbs.

For these reasons, and the fact that this would represent a substantial change to the electoral boundaries, the Committee considered that neither of these options was very suitable.

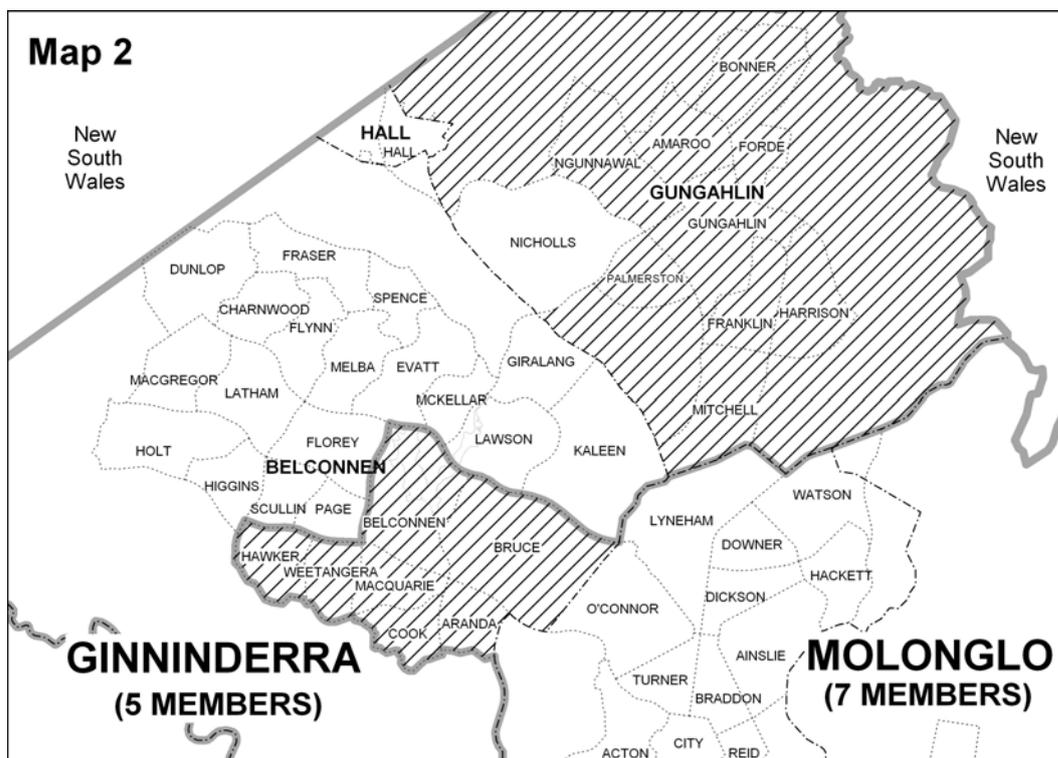
Option 2 Transferring all of Gungahlin and Mitchell from Molonglo to Ginninderra and transferring parts of Belconnen from Ginninderra to Molonglo

The Committee also looked at the option of transferring all of Gungahlin and Mitchell from Molonglo to Ginninderra and transferring parts of Belconnen from Ginninderra to Molonglo. Again, an option along these lines was considered in the 2003 redistribution and rejected.

The Committee considered the following option as providing the neatest boundary that best satisfied the numerical criteria.

Suburbs transferred from Ginninderra to Molonglo (with all of Gungahlin transferred to Ginninderra)	Proposed electorate	% above or below quota 2007	% above or below quota 2008
Aranda, Belconnen town centre, Bruce, Cook, Hawker, Macquarie and Weetangera	Ginninderra	+0.26%	+1.13%
	Molonglo	+1.34%	+1.34%

Map 2 shows the boundaries that would apply under this option.



This proposal meets the desired outcome suggested by several public submissions of placing Gungahlin wholly in one electorate. However, under this option, uniting Gungahlin in one electorate would come at the cost of removing a substantial portion of Belconnen from Ginninderra.

As discussed in the 2003 redistribution, the Committee considered splitting Belconnen in this way would disrupt several communities of interests. It would separate the excised shopping, leisure and employment facilities in the Belconnen town centre from the nearby Belconnen suburbs left in Ginninderra. It would also divide several school catchment areas. The suburbs proposed to be transferred to Molonglo include Belconnen town centre, Calvary Hospital, the Australian Institute of Sport, the Canberra Stadium, the Hawker sporting ovals, the University of Canberra, Radford College, Hawker College, Canberra High, Fern Hill Park and the Jamison Centre, all of which have strong connections with the rest of Belconnen. While many of these institutions also have connections with other parts of Canberra, their location in Belconnen arguably makes their Belconnen connections stronger.

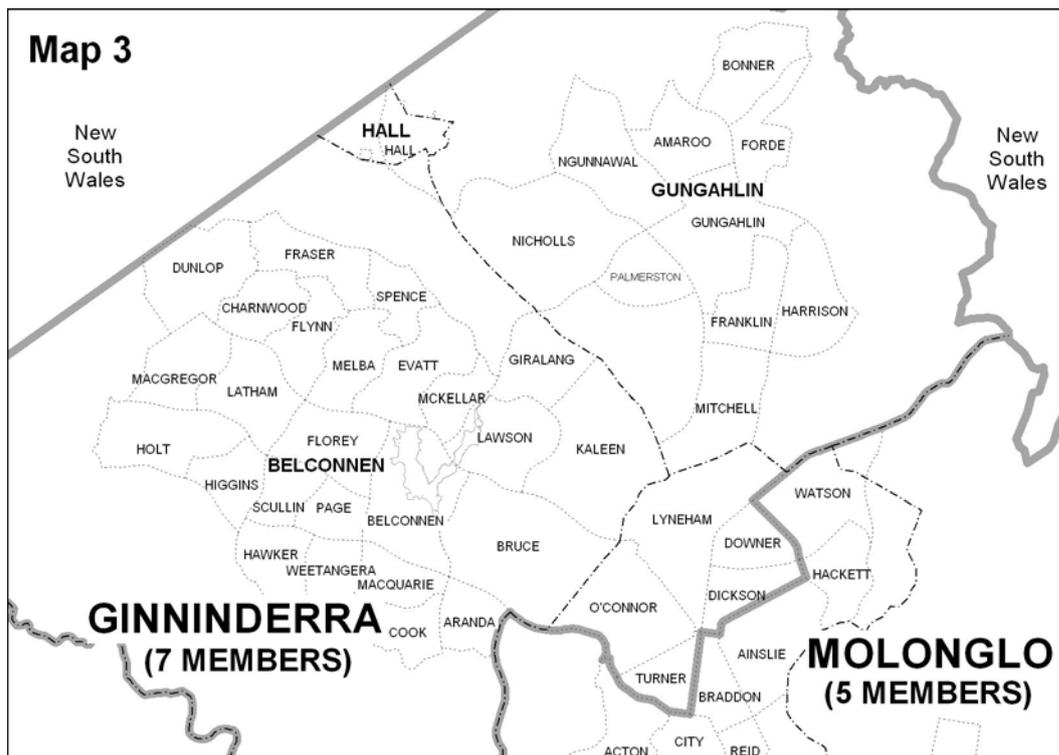
While the Committee recognised that the inclusion of parts of Gungahlin in Ginninderra disrupts the community of interests that exist within Gungahlin, the Committee considered that the division of Belconnen under this option would disrupt significantly greater interests than the current boundaries. In addition, this proposal is significantly at odds with the criteria related to having regard to existing boundaries. In particular, it would involve the transfer of 14,250 electors (on the April 2007 enrolment figures) from Ginninderra to Molonglo, and the transfer of 16,437 electors from Molonglo to Ginninderra. In total, this proposal would require 30,687 electors to change electorate. By comparison, there were 4,766 electors enrolled in Nicholls in April 2007.

For these reasons the Committee rejected this option.

Option 3: Making Ginninderra the seven member electorate, consisting of Belconnen, Gungahlin, Hall and Mitchell and the Central Canberra suburbs of Dickson, Downer, Lyneham, O'Connor and Turner

This proposal was considered by the Committee to be the best mix of suburbs that could constitute a 7 member electorate including Belconnen and Gungahlin. As these two areas are not of themselves large enough to constitute a 7 member electorate, it is necessary to include some North Canberra suburbs to make up the numbers.

Map 3 shows the boundaries that would apply under this option.



The Committee considered that this option was not satisfactory on a number of grounds. It would involve dramatic change to the existing boundaries and the transfer of a large number of electors from Molonglo to Ginninderra. It would separate the communities of interests that exist between the various north Canberra suburbs that would be divided by this proposal. The proposed boundary along Majura Avenue between Ainslie and Dickson would also be less than ideal as it presents less of an obstacle to community interaction compared to more major roads like the Tuggeranong Parkway or Hindmarsh Drive.

For these reasons, the Committee rejected this option.

It can be seen from the above table that, in terms of the numerical criteria, the only suitable option is to transfer Palmerston from Molonglo to Ginninderra. As the transfer of Ngunnawal from Molonglo to Ginninderra would put Ginninderra 4.83% over the quota in 2008, the Committee considers that this option would not be suitable given its misgivings over the fact that the existing Molonglo is projected to be 4.79% over the quota in 2008.

While the Committee is mindful of, and sympathetic with, the arguments in favour of keeping Gungahlin suburbs together in the one electorate, the Committee views the transfer of Palmerston from Molonglo to join Nicholls in Ginninderra as the minimum change necessary (in relation to the Ginninderra-Molonglo boundary) to ensure that each electorate is within the required statistical allowances. It would also minimise public confusion and maintain continuity of existing boundaries as far as practicable.

The Committee notes that there are strong links between Nicholls and Palmerston, as they were among the first Gungahlin suburbs developed and share transport links with and proximity to Belconnen, being the closest Gungahlin suburbs to Belconnen. The Committee also notes that the borders of Palmerston that would form the new electoral boundary will present a clear boundary, with Gungahlin Drive between Palmerston and the adjacent suburbs Gungahlin and Franklin, and Nudurr Drive between Palmerston and the yet to be developed suburb of Crace.

The Committee also notes that the transfer of Palmerston from Molonglo to Ginninderra would place Ginninderra a projected 1.99% over the quota in 2008. The Committee considers this to be a reasonable outcome, as Ginninderra is currently growing at a slower rate than Molonglo. Therefore, placing Ginninderra over the quota in 2008 will see Ginninderra moving towards the quota after 2008 if current trends continue.

The Committee is aware that this proposal will attract criticism from the Gungahlin community. However, in considering the available options, as discussed above, the Committee is of the view that the transfer of Palmerston from Molonglo to Ginninderra is the best available change that will ensure that the requirements of the Electoral Act are met.

The Brindabella boundary

Having decided that the best option for addressing the Ginninderra-Molonglo boundary was the transfer of Palmerston from Molonglo to Ginninderra, the Committee turned to the boundary between Brindabella and Molonglo.

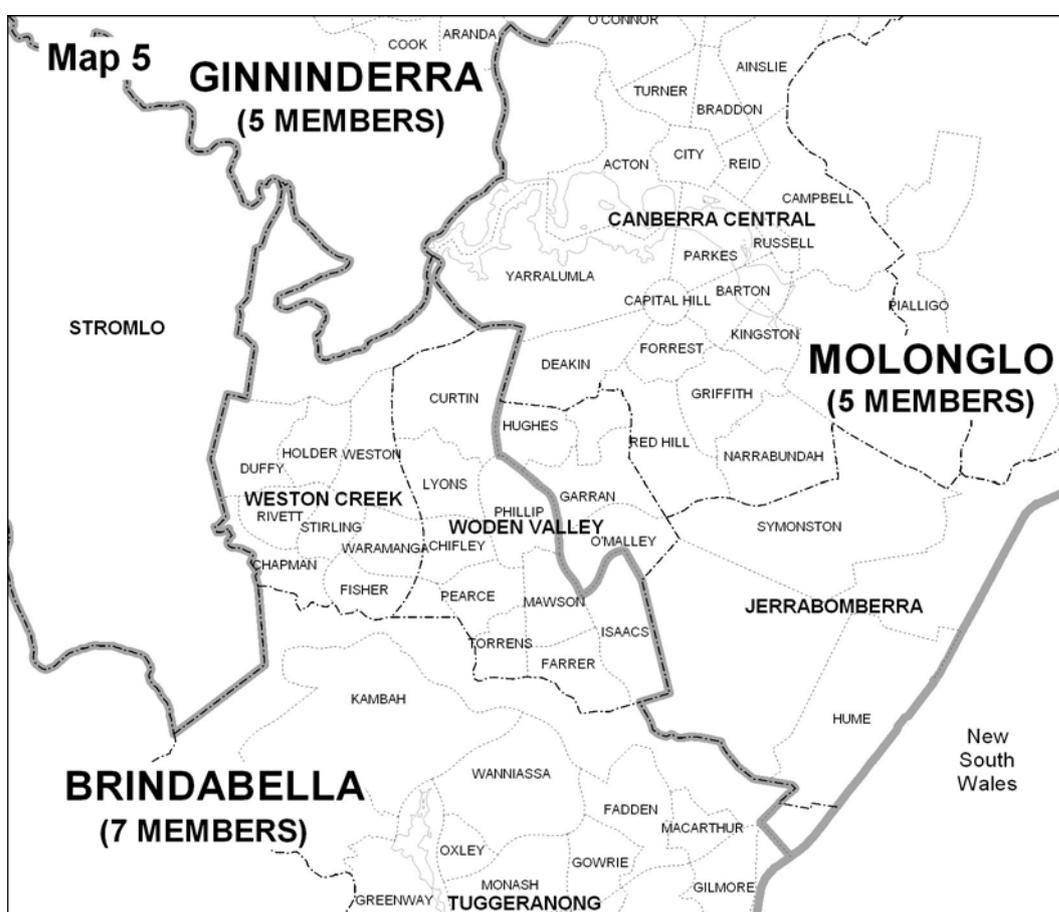
If Palmerston was to be transferred from Molonglo to Ginninderra and Brindabella was to be unchanged, the following table sets out the numerical result.

Proposed electorate	Number of members	Enrolment April 2007	% above or below quota 2007	Projected enrolment October 2008	% above or below quota 2008
Brindabella	5	67 633	-2.13%	68 124	-3.01%
Ginninderra	5	71 100	+2.89%	71 639	+1.99%
Molonglo	7	96 228	-0.54%	99 055	+0.73%

It is projected that if left unchanged under this model, Brindabella will be 3.01% below the quota in 2008, whereas Ginninderra would be 1.99% above the quota and Molonglo would be 0.73% above the quota in 2008. As the population projections indicate that Molonglo is growing at a faster rate than Brindabella, the Committee considered that it was desirable to alter the Brindabella-Molonglo boundary to bring Brindabella closer to the quota in 2008.

An alternative considered but rejected by the Committee was suggested by the Gungahlin Community Council: making Brindabella a 7 member electorate, consisting of the Districts of Tuggeranong, Weston Creek and Woden Valley. The Committee noted that this model could not meet the numerical criteria in 2008 without excising some Woden Valley suburbs from the southern electorate and including them in the central electorate

Map 5 shows one possible set of boundaries that could provide for Brindabella as a 7 Member electorate while meeting the statistical criteria.



The Committee did not consider that such a dramatic change would be satisfactory if it simply exchanged one division of a set of Woden Valley suburbs between two electorates with another different set of divided suburbs.

The Committee then turned to the consideration of the existing 5 member electorate of Brindabella.

As the inclusion of the Woden suburbs of Chifley, Pearce and Torrens has been a feature of Brindabella since that electorate was created in 1993, the Committee considered that these suburbs should remain in Brindabella. As a result, the Committee

considered that the only option available to increase the size of Brindabella was to consider the transfer from Molonglo to Brindabella of one or more Woden suburbs adjacent to Chifley, Pearce and Torrens and to the Tuggeranong District. The Committee considered that it would not be appropriate to include one or more Weston Creek suburbs in Brindabella, given the strength of feeling expressed in the public submissions towards splitting Districts unnecessarily and the legislative criteria aimed at considering physical features, community of interests and means of communication and travel.

This reasoning limited the available options to the transfer from Molonglo to Brindabella of Farrer by itself, or Farrer and Mawson, or Farrer and Isaacs. The following table sets out the results of the available options.

Suburbs transferred from Molonglo to Brindabella (with Palmerston transferred from Molonglo to Ginninderra)	Proposed electorate	% above or below quota 2007	% above or below quota 2008
Farrer	Brindabella	+1.48%	+0.51%
	Ginninderra	+2.89%	+1.99%
	Molonglo	-3.12%	-1.78%
Farrer and Mawson	Brindabella	+4.58%	+3.55%
	Ginninderra	+2.89%	+1.99%
	Molonglo	-5.34%	-3.06%
Farrer and Isaacs	Brindabella	+4.18%	+3.12%
	Ginninderra	+2.89%	+1.99%
	Molonglo	-5.05%	-3.65%

It can be seen that the transfer of either set of two suburbs would place Brindabella more than 3% above the quota in 2008, and place Molonglo more than 3% below the quota in 2008. The Committee considers that such a large variation from the quota in 2008 would not be desirable. Accordingly, the Committee considers that the transfer of Farrer only would give the most desirable numerical results, with Brindabella 0.51% above the quota in 2008 and Molonglo 1.78% below the quota in 2008.

As with the proposed transfer of Palmerston from Molonglo to Ginninderra, the Committee is mindful of and sympathetic with the arguments in favour of avoiding the splitting of Districts between electorates. However, the Committee notes that Woden has been split between Brindabella and Molonglo since the first redistribution of the ACT into three Legislative Assembly electorates in 1993. As the Committee considers that Brindabella needs to be increased to take account of past and expected future growth in Molonglo, the Committee views the transfer of Farrer from Molonglo to join Chifley, Pearce and Torrens in Brindabella as the minimum change necessary (in relation to the Brindabella-Molonglo boundary) to ensure that each electorate is within the required statistical allowances. Again, of the available options, this change would impact on the smallest number of electors and would maintain continuity of existing boundaries as far as possible.

The Committee notes that the transfer of Farrer disrupts the community of interests that exist between Farrer and its neighbouring Woden suburbs, particularly Mawson and Isaacs. In particular, the Committee notes that the new electorate boundary constituted by Beasley Street, being the border between Farrer and Mawson, is less than ideal. Along this boundary, there are nearly 40 dwellings on the Farrer side of Beasley Street that face that street and around 70 dwellings on the Mawson side of Beasley Street. Past Redistribution Committees have avoided the need to place electorate boundaries along residential streets such as Beasley Street by using major arterial roads and natural corridors as boundaries. However, given the lack of options available, the Committee considers that the use of this boundary is unavoidable.

The Committee notes that the new boundary between Farrer and Isaacs will present a more suitable boundary as it will run along the major thoroughfare of Yamba Drive.

The Committee also notes that there are community and transport links between Farrer and Chifley, Pearce and Torrens in Brindabella, with Farrer sharing a border with Torrens. Farrer is also part of the priority enrolment area for Melrose High School, which includes Chifley, Pearce and Torrens in Brindabella as well as Isaacs, Mawson and O'Malley and part of Phillip in Molonglo. Farrer also shares transport links with, and proximity to, Tuggeranong in Brindabella, and shared access with Kambah to the Farrer Ridge Nature Reserve.

Future growth trends

In making its proposed redistribution, the Committee was mindful of likely future growth trends in the different parts of the ACT. In the context of the requirement to duly consider the boundaries of existing electorates, the Committee considered it useful to propose boundaries that could absorb some of the likely future growth between the 2008 and 2012 elections, to minimise the need for change at the next redistribution.

The following table summarises the result of the transfer of Palmerston from Molonglo to Ginninderra and the transfer of Farrer from Molonglo to Brindabella.

Proposed electorate	Number of members	Enrolment April 2007	% above or below quota 2007	Projected enrolment October 2008	% above or below quota 2008
Brindabella	5	70 131	1.48%	70 597	0.51%
Ginninderra	5	71 100	2.89%	71 639	1.99%
Molonglo	7	93 730	-3.12%	96 582	-1.78%

This proposed set of boundaries would see Molonglo below the relevant quota in 2008, with Brindabella and Ginninderra above the quota. As most of the growth areas in the ACT are expected to be in Molonglo leading up to 2012, this will allow for projected growth in Molonglo and subsequently minimise the need for changes to boundaries in the redistribution before the 2012 election. Growth is expected in the various new and expanding Gungahlin suburbs, in the various urban infill areas in central Canberra, and in the proposed new District of Molonglo, to the north of Weston Creek. No significant growth is expected in Brindabella as there are no plans for substantial new housing developments in that electorate. Some growth may occur in Ginninderra with the development of Lawson and west Macgregor.

Changes to the number of members to be elected in each electorate

The submission from the Gungahlin Community Council suggested a change in the number of members elected in the various electorates. The Committee did not consider that it was appropriate for it to have a view on this issue as it is outside its statutory functions. Section 34 of the Electoral Act specifies that the ACT must be divided into one electorate returning seven members, and two electorates returning five members.

Conclusion

The Committee agreed that the requirement in paragraph 36(c)(iv) of the Electoral Act that existing boundaries must be duly considered, was an indication that the legislature placed considerable weight on stability of electoral boundaries. Two of the suggestions stressed the importance of providing stability of electoral boundaries and recommended that boundaries remain unchanged. However, the Committee noted that the statistical requirements in paragraphs 36(a) and 36(b) have primacy over the factors to be duly considered under paragraph 36(c).

Revised enrolment projections for the time of the 2008 election, taking into account recent changes to the electoral roll up to April 2007, indicated that Molonglo was projected to be only around 200 electors short of the permitted maximum. The Committee therefore decided that it could not propose retaining the existing boundaries without running the risk of failing to comply with paragraph 36(b). This paragraph requires the Committee to endeavour to ensure, as far as practicable, that the number of electors in an electorate at the time of the next general election is within the range of not greater than 105% nor less than 95% of the quota at that time.

After considering the range of options described above, the Committee decided that it should make changes that affected as few electors as possible, while retaining the character of the existing boundaries. Consequently, the Committee has proposed transferring a second Gungahlin suburb, Palmerston, to join Nicholls in Ginninderra; and proposed transferring a fourth Woden suburb, Farrer, to join Chifley, Pearce and Torrens in Brindabella.

The Committee noted, and had considerable sympathy with, the suggestions that urged the inclusion of all of the suburbs in a District in the same electorate, with particular reference to Gungahlin. However, the Committee also noted that this issue was at the forefront of the thinking of the 2000 Redistribution Committee, which took the view that transferring Nicholls from Molonglo to Ginninderra would best satisfy all of the criteria in section 36 of the Electoral Act. While agreeing with this view, this committee joins with its predecessor in expressing its regret at the necessity to further split the district of Gungahlin. However, as discussed above, all of the identified available options require splitting one or more districts somewhere. The committee considers that its proposed boundaries result in disruption to the minimum number of electors possible while also meeting the statistical requirements.

Names of electorates

In the first distribution of electoral boundaries in 1993, the then Committee also had the duty to propose names for the electorates. In naming the electorates the Committee was sensitive to the need to avoid confusion with Commonwealth electoral divisions and took cognisance of names that had a common theme and some tangible connection with their respective electorates. The names adopted in 1993 would appear to have gained general community acceptance.

None of the submissions received canvassed changing the names of any of the electorates.

The Committee accordingly proposes that Brindabella, Ginninderra and Molonglo be retained as the respective names of the southern, north-western and central electorates of the Australian Capital Territory.

Redistribution Committee for the Australian Capital Territory
Phillip Green — Neil Savery — Frank Blanchfield — Karen Macdonald

30 May 2007

Appendix A: Constitution of the Redistribution Committee's proposed electorates

Proposed Electorate of Brindabella

Suburb	Actual persons enrolled 17 April 2007	Projected persons enrolled 18 October 2008	% change
Banks	3081	3108	0.88%
Bonython	2390	2635	10.25%
Calwell	4117	4154	0.90%
Chifley	1735	1718	-0.98%
Chisholm	3836	3902	1.72%
Conder	3249	3317	2.09%
Fadden	2475	2472	-0.12%
Farrer	2498	2473	-1.00%
Gilmore	1958	1997	1.99%
Gordon	5504	5529	0.45%
Gowrie	2433	2426	-0.29%
Greenway	791	932	17.83%
Isabella Plains	2918	2954	1.23%
Kambah	11799	11676	-1.04%
Macarthur	1149	1164	1.31%
Monash	4095	4092	-0.07%
Oxley	1286	1280	-0.47%
Pearce	1951	1910	-2.10%
Richardson	2255	2250	-0.22%
Theodore	2699	2745	1.70%
Torrens	1684	1674	-0.59%
Tuggeranong - SSD Balance	24	24	0.00%
Wanniassa	6034	5995	-0.65%
Remainder of ACT	170	170	0.00%
Total	70131	70597	0.66%
Quota	69106	70240	
Variation from quota	1.48%	0.51%	

Proposed Electorate of Ginninderra

Suburb	Actual persons enrolled 17 April 2007	Projected persons enrolled 18 October 2008	% change
Aranda	1833	1808	-1.36%
Belconnen Town Centre	2036	2282	12.08%
Belconnen - SSD Balance	38	38	0.00%
Bruce	2116	2350	11.06%
Charnwood	2131	2118	-0.61%
Cook	2216	2189	-1.22%
Dunlop	3944	4156	5.38%
Evatt	4175	4146	-0.69%
Florey	3579	3623	1.23%
Flynn	2615	2584	-1.19%
Fraser	1645	1632	-0.79%
Giralang	2566	2562	-0.16%
Hall	244	244	0.00%
Hawker	2249	2215	-1.51%
Higgins	2258	2235	-1.02%
Holt	3488	3554	1.89%
Kaleen	5755	5705	-0.87%
Latham	2775	2756	-0.68%
McKellar	1999	2040	2.05%
Macgregor	2530	2500	-1.19%
Macquarie	1721	1711	-0.58%
Melba	2484	2479	-0.20%
Nicholls	4766	4857	1.91%
Page	1987	1974	-0.65%
Palmerston	4004	3996	-0.20%
Scullin	2000	1981	-0.95%
Spence	1905	1890	-0.79%
Weetangera	2041	2014	-1.32%
Total	71100	71639	0.76%
Quota	69106	70240	
Variation from quota	2.89%	1.99%	

Proposed Electorate of Molonglo

Suburb	Actual persons enrolled 17 April 2007	Projected persons enrolled 18 October 2008	% change
Acton	398	398	0.00%
Ainslie	3614	3605	-0.25%
Amaroo	3411	3533	3.58%
Barton	718	929	29.39%
Braddon	2260	2347	3.85%
Campbell / Duntroon / Majura	3937	3918	-0.48%
Chapman	2197	2221	1.09%
City	360	548	52.22%
Curtin	3898	3860	-0.97%
Deakin	2069	2169	4.83%
Dickson	1448	1428	-1.38%
Downer	2434	2430	-0.16%
Duffy	2289	2328	1.70%
Fisher	2331	2291	-1.72%
Forrest	975	1010	3.59%
Fyshwick	28	28	0.00%
Garran	2297	2252	-1.96%
Griffith	3088	3089	0.03%
Gungahlin-Hall - SSD Balance	2986	4479	50.00%
Hackett	2265	2226	-1.72%
Harman	57	57	0.00%
Holder	2026	2008	-0.89%
Hughes	2211	2211	0.00%
Hume	10	10	0.00%
Isaacs	1867	1838	-1.55%
Jerrabomberra	0	0	
Kingston	1818	2053	12.93%
Kowen	18	18	0.00%
Lyneham	3200	3215	0.47%
Lyons	1705	1832	7.45%
Mawson	2143	2135	-0.37%
Mitchell	2	2	0.00%
Narrabundah	4121	4147	0.63%
Ngunnawal	6034	5990	-0.73%
Oaks Estate	203	203	0.00%
O'Connor	3666	3676	0.27%
O'Malley	581	662	13.94%

Proposed Electorate of Molonglo

Suburb	Actual persons enrolled 17 April 2007	Projected persons enrolled 18 October 2008	% change
Parkes	2	2	0.00%
Phillip	1404	1537	9.47%
Pialligo	88	88	0.00%
Red Hill	2231	2239	0.36%
Reid	1168	1146	-1.88%
Rivett	2363	2328	-1.48%
Russell	0	0	
Stirling	1552	1539	-0.84%
Stromlo	7	7	0.00%
Symonston	309	309	0.00%
Turner	2000	2250	12.50%
Waramanga	1925	1900	-1.30%
Watson	3133	3256	3.93%
Weston	2493	2459	-1.36%
Weston Creek-Stromlo - SSD Bal	46	46	0.00%
Yarralumla	2344	2330	-0.60%
Total	93730	96582	3.04%
Quota	96748	98336	
Variation from quota	-3.12%	-1.78%	

Appendix B: Projected electoral enrolment statistics methodology

The statistics used in this proposal have been compiled for the 2007 redistribution of ACT electoral boundaries in preparation for the 2008 election for the ACT Legislative Assembly. The statistics are shown for ACT Statistical Local Areas (generally suburbs).

The enrolment projections are derived from population projections and from electoral enrolments as at 17 April 2007.

The population projections were calculated using Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) projections relating to Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) defined according to the Australian Standard Geographic Classification (ASGC) – 2005 (ABS Cat. No. 1216.0).

The SLA projections also incorporate information gained from forecasts of new occupied dwellings as provided by the ACT Government. This data takes into account the growth of Canberra's population due to expected developments between June 2006 to June 2009.

The enrolment information used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in calculating its projections was supplied by the Australian Electoral Commission and was current as at 17 April 2007.

The compilation of these projections was undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as a consultancy project for the ACT Electoral Commission.

Methodology for the projections

The general technique employed for the projections was the cohort-component method, widely accepted as the most accurate age/sex population projection method. It involves applying fertility and mortality rates and migration rates/levels to the base population to produce a projected population, which in turn becomes the base for projecting the next year, and so on.

A three-tiered approach was taken to the process of calculating the projected enrolments.

1. The ACT population was projected by age and sex from June 2005 to June 2009.
2. The populations of all ACT SLAs were projected by age and sex and constrained to the total at 1.
3. Actual enrolments as at 17 April 2007 were used to calibrate the SLA population projections, resulting in projected enrolments as at 18 October 2008.

1. Projections of the total population of the ACT

The base population for the ACT cohort-component projections was the preliminary ABS 30 June 2005 Estimated Resident Population. This incorporated results from the 2001 Census of Population and Housing and subsequent ABS population data.

The assumptions for fertility and mortality were from Population Projections 2004 to 2011 (ABS Cat. No. 3222.0). While the fertility assumption was irrelevant for short-term projections of persons aged 18 and over, the mortality assumption was slightly adjusted to reflect more recent years' observed death levels. The migration assumptions, based closely on the medium scenario ("B") in Population Projections were:

	Net Overseas Migration	Net Interstate Migration
2005/2009 (per annum)	600	500

2. Projections of the populations of the SLAs (suburbs)

The base population for the SLA cohort-component projections was the preliminary 30 June 2005 SLA age/sex Estimated Resident Population. The fertility, mortality and migration assumptions were based on an assessment of SLA-specific levels and trends observed over the past five to ten years. At each yearly cycle in this process, the SLA projections were constrained to sum to the ACT-level projection, helping to produce more reliable SLA results.

In addition to trend analysis, the SLA net migration assumptions incorporated forecasts of new occupied dwellings as provided by the ACT Government. To these forecasts persons-to-dwelling ratios derived from the 2001 Census were applied, giving new migration capacity for SLAs. This was then combined with estimates of underlying migration for existing SLA residents.

The age/sex distribution for the migration assumptions were based on overseas and inter-regional migration rates used in the calculation of published ABS SLA age/sex population estimates, which were originally derived from 2001 Population Census migration data.

The SLA projection results were collapsed into the age group 18 years or more and these were then interpolated to give results as at 17 April 2007 and 18 October 2008.

3. Projected enrolments in SLAs

The SLA propensities of persons to be enrolled were calculated as the ratio of enrolments as at 17 April 2007 to the projected population aged 18 years or more at the same date. These propensities were then applied to the projected population aged 18 and over as at 18 October 2008 to give the projected enrolments by SLA. Minor adjustments were made for apparent enrolment lags in some SLAs.

Disclaimer

Any population projections are subject to some degree of uncertainty because it is impossible to exactly predict future trends, particularly the future level of migration. Projection of the population of small areas is especially hazardous. However, care has been taken to produce the best possible projections from the data currently available.

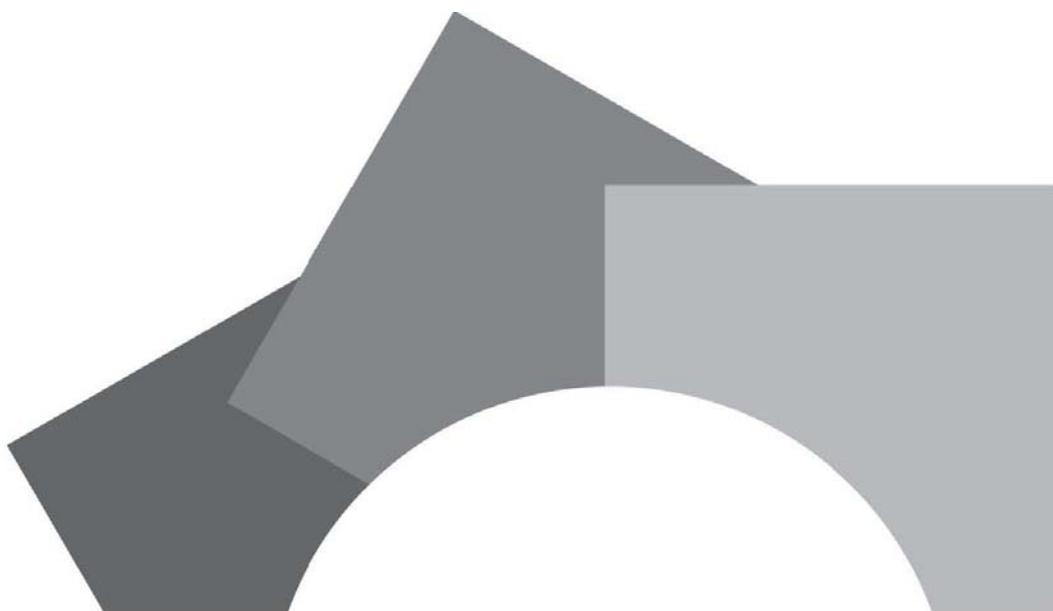
It is important to recognise that the projection results given in this document essentially reflect the assumptions made about future fertility, mortality and migration trends. While the assumptions are formulated on the basis of an objective assessment of demographic trends over the past decade and their likely future dynamics, there can be no certainty that they will be realised.

While ABS takes responsibility for the methodology employed, in accordance with ABS policy regarding small area population projections the assumptions used are the final responsibility of the client, and the projections are not official ABS population statistics.

The projections may be referred to as "... projections prepared by the ABS according to assumptions reflecting prevailing trends and anticipated new dwelling occupancies agreed to by the ACT Electoral Commission ...".

No liability will be accepted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics for any damages arising from decisions or actions based upon this population projection consultancy service.

Appendices



Appendix A: Composition of the Augmented ACT Electoral Commission and the Redistribution Committee

Members of the Augmented ACT Electoral Commission

Roger Beale AO	Chairperson
Phillip Green	Electoral Commissioner
Christabel Young	Member of the ACT Electoral Commission
Neil Savery	Chief Planning Executive, ACT Planning and Land Authority
Bill Hirst	Acting Commissioner for Surveys
Karen Macdonald	Regional Director, ACT Office, Australian Bureau of Statistics

Members of the Redistribution Committee

Phillip Green	Electoral Commissioner
Neil Savery	Chief Planning Executive, ACT Planning and Land Authority
Frank Blanchfield	Commissioner for Surveys (before 3 April 2007)
Bill Hirst	Acting Commissioner for Surveys (from 3 April 2007)
Karen Macdonald	Regional Director, ACT Office, Australian Bureau of Statistics

Appendix B: Redistribution timetable

Formation of Redistribution Committee	12 December 2006
Suggestions period open	8 February 2007
Suggestions period closes	8 March 2007
Comments period opens	9 March 2007
Comments period closes	22 March 2007
Proposed redistribution published	31 May 2007
Objections period closes	28 June 2007
Public hearing into objections	10 am – 12 pm 18 July 2007
Proposed Redistribution by the Augmented ACT Electoral Commission published	26 July 2007
Objections period closes for second proposal	23 August 2007
Determination of redistribution notified	10 September 2007
Announcement of final redistribution	11 September 2007
Report submitted to Minister	28 September 2007
Report tabled in the Legislative Assembly	16 October 2007

Appendix C: Suggestions

Suggestions lodged with the Redistribution Committee pursuant to section 41(1)(a) of the *Electoral Act 1992*:

1. Matthew Cossey, ACT Secretary Australian Labor Party (ACT Branch)	page 84
2. Alan Kerlin, President Gungahlin Community Council Inc PO Box 260, GUNGAHLIN ACT 2914	page 86
3. Gary Kent, President Liberal Party of Australia (ACT Division) PO Box 66 DEAKIN WEST ACT 2600	page 89
4. Bogey Musidlak, Convenor Proportional Representation Society of Australia (ACT Branch) 14 Strzelecki Crescent NARRABUNDAH ACT 2604	page 91
5. Bob Sutherland, Secretary Weston Creek Community Council PO Box 3701, WESTON CREEK ACT 2611	page 94

Note: These suggestions were submitted using a variety of media and have been reformatted for this publication. The content is identical to the original submission and every effort has been made to preserve the original format.



AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY
Australian Capital Territory Branch



**Redistribution Committee
ACT Electoral Commission
Level 2, 12 Moore St
CANBERRA ACT 2601**

Dear Redistribution Committee Members

I make the following submission to the Redistribution Committee as the Secretary and Registered Party Officer of the Australian Capital Territory Branch of the Australian Labor Party (ACT Labor).

In making this submission I note the Redistribution Committee is bound by section 36 of the Electoral Act and section 67D of the Commonwealth *Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988*.

Further, I specifically refer to the requirements of the Electoral Act and the Self-Government Act that provides that the Redistribution Committee and the augmented Electoral Commission shall; -

(a) ensure that the number of electors in an electorate immediately after the redistribution is within the range of not greater than 110%, or less than 90% of the quota;

(b) endeavour to ensure, as far as practicable, that the number of electors in an electorate at the time of the next general election of members of the Legislative Assembly will not be greater than 105%, or less than 95%, of the expected quota for the electorate at that time; and

(c) duly consider -(i) the community of interests within each proposed electorate, including economic, social and regional interests; (ii) the means of communication and travel within each proposed electorate; (iii) the physical features and area of each proposed electorate; (iv) the boundaries of existing electorates; and (v) the boundaries of divisions and sections fixed under the *Districts Act 2002*.

In making the following points I acknowledge that no changes were made to the electoral boundaries following the redistribution process in 2003 and that on current projections all three electorates will fall within the acceptable range of the expected quota at the time of the 2008 Election.

That stated, I am concerned that, while within the limits set by legislation, if no change is made to the boundaries as part of this redistribution then there will be significant difference of variance from the quota between the electorate of Molonglo compared with the two five member electorates of Brindabella and Ginninderra.

**Suggestion from Australian Labor Party (ACT Branch).
Page 1 of 2.**

Of more concern would be that with no change to the boundaries and with the current population growth estimates the electorate of Molonglo at the next election would be reaching the upper permissible limit of variance from the quota, at 4.38%. Furthermore it is the electorate of Molonglo that contains the vast majority of high-growth suburbs such as Gungahlin (excluding Nicholls), Barton, Braddon, Turner, Kingston and Phillip.

This significantly heightens the chance that with no change to current boundaries the electorate of Molonglo may well exceed the limits set by the legislation by the time of the next ACT Election.

While the legislation allows for a 5% positive or negative variance on the estimated quota for an electorate at the time of the next election, ACT Labor believes that the Committee should still seek to best protect the principle of '*one vote, one value*' and accordingly look to minimise such variances.

Although ACT Labor has always advocated for stability in the electoral boundaries it would appear that some minimal change on this occasion, in reducing the electorate of Molonglo, would be appropriate in seeking to achieve the above principle.

I note that the Redistribution Committee of the Australian Electoral Commission made changes to the boundaries of the Federal Electorates of the ACT to correct the differential between the two seats caused by the high growth in the northern part of Canberra.

A minimal redistribution of ACT electoral boundaries is not done as easily while still protecting some discrete 'community of interest' issues.

ACT Labor has previously noted its concern over the separation of the suburb Nicholls from the electorate that contains the majority of other suburbs that make up the Gungahlin region. ACT Labor has previously stated that it would be ideal if all of the Gungahlin suburbs were contained within the one ACT Electorate, however as noted in our submission in 2000 we recognise that having some Gungahlin suburbs in the Ginninderra Electorate is the only way to maintain the current electoral structure without major or radical change.

While my recommendation to the Redistribution Committee on this occasion is for minimal change I believe that in light of the continuing population trends and the pressure they are placing on the current ACT electoral boundary structure, the Committee should give consideration to foreshadowing some more significant electoral boundary change options for future redistributions.

I look forward to viewing Committee's Proposed Redistribution Report.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Cossey
ACT Secretary
Australian Labor Party

8 March 2007

Suggestion from Australian Labor Party (ACT Branch).
Page 2 of 2.

RECEIVED

0 8 MAR 2007

ACT ELECTORAL
COMMISSION

**Gungahlin
Community
Council Inc.**

PO Box 260
Gungahlin ACT 2912

Phone: 0408 771633
Email: info@gcc.asn.au
Web: www.gcc.asn.au

Mr Philip Green
ACT Electoral Commissioner
PO Box 272
CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608
By email: elections@act.gov.au

8 March 2007

Dear Mr Green

The Gungahlin Community Council Inc. (GCC) is an incorporated, not for profit, community-based association operating within the Gungahlin region of the Australian Capital Territory.

The district represented by the Council covers an area in the north to northwest of the Territory between the ACT/NSW border and the Barton Highway, Federal Highway/Northbourne Avenue to the South and East.

The objective of the council as defined in its constitution is:

- To preserve and improve the social, cultural, economic and environmental well being of Gungahlin and the Gungahlin Community.

To achieve these objectives the Council undertakes to:

- consult with members of the Gungahlin community
- represent the Gungahlin community, and lobby authorities on the community's behalf
- provide a non-political environment where members of the community can express their aspirations, concerns and suggestions
- provide a public forum where members of the community can obtain information, support and opportunities to network with others
- advise, support and assist any organisation with compatible objectives to those that have been adopted by the Council
- liaise with members of the public, legislators, officials and community representatives
- to provide appropriate information and opinions on matters relevant to the Gungahlin community.

Suggestion from Gungahlin Community Council Inc.
Page 1 of 3.



In line with achieving these objectives, the Gungahlin Community Council wishes to lodge the following submission to the 2007 electoral boundary review.

The Gungahlin Community Council, which is now 15 years old, is concerned that the current anomaly with the electoral boundary between Ginninderra and Molonglo that leaves just Nicholls in a different electorate should not be allowed to continue. This has resulted in our community being under-represented in each of these electorates, leading to disadvantage for our community in the way of planning, services and infrastructure provision.

In the interests of correcting this situation, I wish to put to you a suggestion for boundary realignment that stays within the current 7-5-5 legislative situation, and another that considers options if the breakdown of representation was to change.

7-5-5 member solution

Currently the Molonglo electorate stretches from the northern ACT boundary down through most of the Woden area and around to the west. There is not much consideration of the "common community of interest" provision in this layout. The committee is faced with merely 'tinkering' with this current situation, or making a substantial change now builds in provision for future shifts.

Population growth in the next decade will occur mainly in the Gungahlin, Molonglo and City areas - mostly north of the Molonglo River. Therefore any boundary realignment should take into account this growth by setting the electorates up for incremental changes rather than wholesale. The current electorates do not provide for this.

The Molonglo River is a natural boundary to aim for, but the numbers do not work for a 7-5-5 distribution at this point. However our modelling has shown that Brindabella would work as the 7-member electorate, including all of the suburbs south of the river except for South Canberra itself.

Two 5-member electorates north of the river would provide for the future population growth areas, and contain the electorates within fairly close geographical and social proximity - quite different from the current situation. Ginninderra could remain as a predominantly Belconnen electorate, and Molonglo would encompass South and North Canberra, plus Gungahlin.

As population grows at Gungahlin and then Molonglo, subsequent boundary realignments could see the Molonglo electorate retreat from South Canberra to the river/lake.

With this alignment, the Gungahlin community could be assured of dealing with relatively 'local' elected representatives, and with the entire community within the one electorate - preferably from this review.

Then as population continues to grow, there would likely be an increase in the number of members, so an additional two members could be introduced to one of the northern electorates, while maintaining the overall odd-number total.



Electorate restructure

Maintaining the current 7-5-5 structure presents inherent problems with maintenance of the democratic principles of the original legislation. With larger geographical electorates and as the electorate populations increase, it becomes harder to ensure a diversity of candidates. Bigger equals more money required to mount a campaign, favouring established parties to the detriment of minority parties and independent candidates. It could be argued that a government such as the ACT's with no upper house needs a diversity of elected members to maintain accountability. Governments with absolute majorities are not in the ACT community's interest, as accountability is essentially limited to once every four years only.

The options for redividing the ACT electorates within the current 17 members are very limited, as there are the over-riding provisions that each electorate and the overall number must all have odd numbers of members. The solution of least change with respect to total number of members is to change to 19, in a 5-5-3-3-3 configuration. This would ensure smaller electorates are within the campaigning reach of a broader diversity of candidates, individual communities of interest have more opportunity to 'connect' with their local members, and electorate boundaries are more closely aligned with those communities. Subsequent boundary alignments could also more easily accommodate population shifts.

Our modelling shows that these boundaries could be configured with two 5-member electorates south of the river (divided into Tuggeranong and Woden/Weston/South Canberra), and three 3-member electorates north of the river (divided into roughly Gungahlin, Belconnen, and North Canberra). Some division of communities would occur between the three northern electorates over the next couple of electorate periods due to expected population growth, but again in this model, at least the electorates would have close geographical and social links, making any division less of an issue than it currently is.

Thank you for your consideration of these proposals.

Regards,

Alan Kerlin
President Gungahlin Community Council



The Liberal Party of Australia

A.C.T. DIVISION INCORPORATED

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23 FEB 2007

ACT ELECTORAL
COMMISSION

The Redistribution Committee
ACT Electoral Commission
Po Box 272
Civic Square ACT 2608

Dear Mr Green and colleagues

The Liberal Party of Australia – ACT Division submits that the Redistribution Committee should make no change to the boundaries of the existing ACT electorates on this occasion. We support the existing boundaries for the following reasons.

1. The population projections provided by the Commission forecast that if the ACT electoral boundaries remain unchanged, then existing constituencies will remain *within the statutory tolerance* for ACT electorate sizes. A rearrangement of boundaries should ordinarily only commence where the forecast populations of enrolled voters exceed statutory thresholds. That trigger does not exist on this occasion and there are no other apparent extraordinary circumstances to warrant a reconfiguration.
2. It is more important to satisfy the *public desire for continuity of boundaries*, than to eliminate all variance as far as it is possible. In previous redistributions, parties of all political colours have submitted to this Committee that the Canberra public is seeking consistency and certainty in boundary positioning. By avoiding disruptive and confusing changes in the past, the Commission has both enhanced the integrity of the current electoral system and provided continuity of linkage between citizens and their respective MLAs. It should be remembered that one of the reasons Canberra voters voted for the Hare Clark system in 1992 was the argument in the official referendum booklet that this system would mean that "boundaries will seldom change."
3. The present configuration of ACT electorates is one that avoids sub-division within the existing town-centres, so far as it is possible (with only four suburbs separated from their closest town-centres). If a suburb or two were redistributed prior to 2004 just to minimise variance from quota, then such changes would inevitably:
 - further divide existing *community of interests*;
 - cut across the dominant physical features of the landscape (including ridgelines and valleys); and
 - sub-divide zones of travel and communication within the current electorates.

The strongest population growth is projected in the electorate of Molonglo. There is strong growth in Gungahlin, however there are other hotspots of growth throughout the electorate

62730449

2002

Liberal Party - ACT DIV

23/02/07 FRI 13:47 FAX 62730449

Suggestion from Liberal Party of Australia (ACT Division).
Page 1 of 2.



The Liberal Party of Australia

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Web: www.canberraliberals.org.au

including in Turner, Braddon, the City, Barton, Kingston, O'Malley and Phillip. Given that the projected population growth is greatest in Molonglo, then the most obvious rearrangement options would either involve hiving off parts of Gungahlin into Ginninderra (to join Nicholls) or parts of southern Woden into Brindabella (to join the suburbs flanking Mount Taylor). We consider that changes in either category would be unacceptable, because such options would unnecessarily divide communities of interest.

Particular regard should be given to the fact that Gungahlin is a new community and, as such, is relatively disadvantaged in terms of services and infrastructure. It is important for such a community to have as unified and strong a voice as is possible in the Legislative Assembly. We therefore oppose any further shift of Gungahlin suburbs into Ginninderra, notwithstanding projected growth. It cannot be assumed that the present government will follow policies which have underpinned strong population growth in the ACT in previous years. Notwithstanding recent jobs growth in Commonwealth departments, the ACT Labor government has rationed land release at levels below market demand in order to drive land prices artificially high.

For the reasons given above, we submit there is insufficient imperative to make any boundary adjustment for the 2008 election.

Yours sincerely

SIGNED 23/2/2007

Gary Kent
President

62730449

003

Liberal Party - ACT Div

23/02/07 FRI 13:48 FAX 62730449

Suggestion from Liberal Party of Australia (ACT Division).
Page 2 of 2.

Proportional Representation Society of Australia - ACT Branch.txt
From: bogey musidlak
Sent: Thursday, 8 March 2007 1:55 AM
To: Elections
Subject: electoral boundaries should remain unchanged

7 March 2007

B.Musidlak

6295 8137 (h)
Crescent

14 strzelecki

6289 8773 (w)

Narrabundah 2604

Dear Redistribution Committee Members

On behalf of the Proportional Representation Society of Australia (Australian Capital Territory Branch), I am pleased to attach a submission that there should be no change to the existing electoral boundaries.

We also urge the Committee to recommend that in future the redistribution process should be capable of being simplified in instances as clear-cut as the current one.

Yours sincerely

Bogey Musidlak

Convenor

Send instant messages to your online friends <http://au.messenger.yahoo.com>

Page 1

**Suggestion from Proportional Representation Society (ACT Branch).
Page 1 of 3.**

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08 MAR 2007

ACT ELECTORAL
COMMISSION

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA
(AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BRANCH)

LEAVE THE BOUNDARIES UNCHANGED AND EXPEND AS LITTLE EFFORT AS POSSIBLE ON REDISTRIBUTION PROCESSES OF THIS KIND

The Proportional Representation Society of Australia (Australian Capital Territory Branch) submits that there should be no change to the existing electoral boundaries, and, in view of the current boundaries simply not having been an issue in recent times, urges the Redistribution Committee to resist any last-moment proposals for change.

An expectation of stable boundaries under Hare-Clark

The appreciation by voters of a high level of stability in electoral arrangements goes back to the start of the campaign for our voter-empowering Hare-Clark system. Expectations of stable boundaries were repeatedly placed before the people when we were deciding the nature of our future electoral system. For example, in the 1991 pamphlet **How to make your vote really count**, the Hare-Clark Campaign Committee prominently contrasted *stable boundaries* under Hare-Clark with *frequent boundary changes* under single-member electorates.

In the official case for the Proportional Representation (Hare-Clark) System sent to voters in 1992, the following comments were made in relation to *stability* (bold type face has been introduced to emphasise the key words in the current context).

A voting system should also provide *stability*: a government with broad support should not be 'held to ransom' by parties with a very small share of the primary vote, **nor should voters face constantly-changing electoral boundaries.**

Under the ACT version of Hare-Clark, a quota of at least 12.5% of the vote will be needed to win a seat; this will exclude parties with very little popular support.
Boundaries will seldom change.

Following implementation of the Hare-Clark system, to date the expectations of Hare-Clark supporters have been met. The ACT Branch of the Proportional Representation Society of Australia (ACT Branch) has been a strong supporter of minimising changes to ACT electoral boundaries, so long as the boundaries still provide for broadly equal representation.

- in 1996 we were among the organisations submitting that there should be no change at all as a result of that review;
- in 2000, along with the Liberal and Labor Parties, we suggested moving the suburb of Nicholls from Molonglo to Ginninderra in order to deal with the projected imbalances at the time of the 2001 general elections if the previous boundaries had remained the same, and noted that the best-available population projections at the time indicated no change would be needed in 2004;
- in 2003, we argued for no change and suggested that the Committee recommend fast-tracking be possible when current and projected populations fall within statutory tolerance limits and there has been no public agitation for boundary changes prior to the call for submissions.

Suggestion from Proportional Representation Society (ACT Branch).
Page 2 of 3.

The ACT Branch is pleased that an earlier Redistribution Committee stated explicitly of its proposed transfer of Nicholls that “this is the minimum change necessary to ensure that each electorate is within the required statistical tolerance” and observed as a more general principle that “change should affect as few electors as possible”.

All other Redistribution Committees since the first set of boundaries came up for review in 1996 have adopted a similar approach. The ACT Branch continues to be heartened that voters’ interests are being placed at the forefront of how the Hare-Clark system operates here, and that flawed proposals calling for extensive change have been duly examined but have received relatively short shrift in the past.

The current boundaries satisfy all the relevant criteria and should be retained

Under the Electoral Act, three criteria relating to proposed electorates that must be given due consideration by the Redistribution Committee are economic, social and regional community of interests, means of communication and travel, and physical features and area. These criteria are clearly intended to help identify natural communities and groupings of suburbs, taking account of the physical and social geography of the ACT. As these patterns are essentially unchanged since the last redistribution, it would be very disturbing to voters to find major changes at the next election.

The Redistribution Committee is also required to give due consideration to the boundaries of existing electorates in making its proposed distribution. In the current circumstances, where population shifts other than in parts of Molonglo have been fairly minor, the inclusion of this criterion reinforces the evident intention to promote stability of electoral boundaries, and to discourage any thought of a substantial redrawing of boundaries. The departures from the quota in August 2006 were modest at 1.7% and 2.2% below in the five-member electorates, and 2.7% above in Molonglo, well within the 10% tolerance allowed. These discrepancies have widened very slowly since April 2003.

Australian Bureau of Statistics estimates put enrolments in Brindabella and Ginninderra at the time of the next election respectively 2.9% and 3.2% below the territory quota, and place Molonglo, with expected growth again very strong in several inner-city suburbs, 4.4% above, still well within the allowed 5% tolerance either way. In these circumstances, no changes of significance are warranted, and the ACT Branch urges the Redistribution Committee to wind up the current proceedings as quickly as possible.

Time to simplify clear-cut redistribution proceedings

The ACT Branch believes that, beyond retaining unchanged boundaries and reaffirming the sound principles espoused and articulated plainly by earlier Redistribution Committees, the Committee should take the initiative and suggest to the Assembly that our redistribution process be simplified by allowing an immediate final determination whenever actual and projected enrolments fall within the respective statutory tolerances and there has not been public clamour for major alteration to the boundaries.

When change is neither required nor called for, absolutely nothing is to be gained from mimicking superfluous elements of an elaborate process originally designed around the extensive inter-party argy-bargy associated with federal redistributions of single-member electorates.

**Suggestion from Proportional Representation Society (ACT Branch).
Page 3 of 3.**

Your local voice

■ ■ ■ weston creek
 ■ ■ ■ community
 ■ ■ ■ council

www.wccc.com.au

info@wccc.com.au

Telephone (02) 6288 8975
 PO Box 3701
 WESTON CREEK ACT 2611

4 March 2007

Redistribution Committee
 ACT Electoral Commission
 PO Box 272
 CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608

RECEIVED

06 MAR 2007

ACT ELECTORAL
 COMMISSION

Dear Committee Members

ACT Legislative Assembly Electoral Boundaries Redistribution 2007

The Weston Creek Community Council (WCCC) welcomes this opportunity to contribute to the ACT Legislative Assembly Electoral Boundaries Redistribution 2007 public discussion.

There is a strong belief in our district that Weston Creek is a distinct and generally homogeneous community which has different characteristics compared to other districts in the ACT. One of these differences is the ageing of the population since our last submission to an electoral boundaries re-distribution inquiry in June 2003. The ageing of Weston Creek's population is compounded by the opportunities to build further aged care accommodation within the district. Weston Creek's central location is an advantage in the siting of aged care hostels and nursing homes as relatives and friends seek a central location for the convenience of being easily able to travel from all over Canberra to visit them.

There is a strong community bond in the district which was reinforced following the disastrous fires which devastated Duffy and parts of Chapman and Holder in 2003. The community came together to offer support and succour to friends and neighbours and the close bonds created by the disaster have remained.

Compared to other districts in Canberra, Weston Creek is a compact area separate from other districts and splitting of the district into different electorates would be felt more severely in Weston Creek than elsewhere.

The WCCC recommends that the Electoral Commission avoid splitting local communities as much as possible. The community council is also of the view that Weston Creek should remain in the electorate of Molonglo.

Yours faithfully



Bob Sutherland
 Secretary, Weston Creek Community Council

Established 1991

ABN: 52 841 915 317

Weston Creek Citizens Council Inc.

Reg. no. A 2637

**Suggestion from Weston Creek Community Council.
 Page 1 of 1.**

Appendix D: Comments

Comments lodged with the Redistribution Committee pursuant to section 41(1)(b) of the *Electoral Act 1992*:

1. Theodore Ian Ruecroft 42 Brinkley Cct PALMERSTON ACT 2913	page 96
2. Rosemary Lissimore, President Tuggeranong Community Council Inc PO Box 436 ERINDALE CENTRE ACT 2903	page 97

Note: These comments were submitted using a variety of media and have been reformatted for this publication. The content is identical to the original submission and every effort has been made to preserve the original format.

Theodore Ian Ruecroft
42 Brinkley Cct
Palmerston
ACT 2913

As a Gungahlin resident I would like to express my concern that the current electoral distribution disadvantages the Gungahlin community in an unnecessary and unfair way. The Gungahlin community is a "community of common interests" just the same as Belconnen, Weston Creek, Tuggeranong and other clearly identified communities. There is a need to identify communities of common interests as one of the main factors in establishing ACT electoral boundaries.

I believe that the ACT Electoral Commission needs to consider committing resources into exploring a range of options relating to electoral boundaries. This should be done in an effort to resolve the current issues and to provide the ACT community with a transparent and socially equitable model for electing members of the ACT Legislative Assembly.

There can be no dispute that Gungahlin is a disadvantaged community in relation to the way voters are split into two electorates. This has resulted in our under representation within the ACT Legislative Assembly and an associated lack of provision of services for the Gungahlin community. Under the current model Gungahlin makes up a small portion of the Ginninderra electorate and minor portion of the Molonglo electorate. Members of the ACT Legislative Assembly appear to consider the district as insignificant in relation to community issues.

In April 2007 Gungahlin will celebrate the 15th anniversary of our community. Facilities and services provided of other ACT communities, during their development stages, have not been available to Gungahlin; although the financial contributions made from land sales, rates and taxes from the Gungahlin district have made significant contributions to the ACT's finances. Every audit comparing services and/ or facilities, within the ACT community, confirms that Gungahlin is a disadvantaged community and this situation has only deteriorated over recent years.

I believe that the Electoral Commission has a responsibility to work with the Gungahlin community to explore every possible solution to the current situation and implement changes that will ensure that Gungahlin is contained within one electorate for the 2008 ACT election and for future elections. If it is not possible to develop a suitable option that contains all communities of common interests within the same electorate, then there is a need to develop a process that rotates the disadvantage.

Gungahlin can be wholly contained within either the Molonglo or Ginninderra electorate, however this may impact on other parts of these electorate. At this time it may not be possible to structure electoral boundaries unless one or more communities of common interests are disadvantaged. If this is the case it is time that other districts are disadvantaged. Gungahlin has been split into two electorates for a number of ACT elections. In the 2008 ACT election, all Gungahlin suburbs should be contained within one electorate, how this is achieved is a challenge the ACT Electoral Commission will need to deal with.

Yours sincerely

T.I. Ruecroft

Comment from Theodore Ian Ruecroft.
Page 1 of 1.



Tuggeranong Community Council Incorporated
Supported by a grant from the ACT Government

President: Rosemary Lissimore
PO Box 436
Erindale Centre ACT 2903

Phone/Fax: (02) 62921843
email: tccorg@optusnet.com.au
Web page www.tuggcc.com

Registration Committee
 ACT Electoral Commission
 PO Box 272
 Civic Square
 ACT 2608.

Attention Mr Phillip Green- Electoral Commissioner.

The Tuggeranong Community Council Inc. welcomes this opportunity to comment on the five suggestions received by you for the 2007 Redistribution of Electoral Boundaries for the ACT. Each year we put suggestions forward and of course the easy answer to your email is to leave things as they are and this has been the case for many years. We believe the time has come to face reality and to look to the future when making these very important decisions.

We have studied the five suggestions, each of the suggestions submitted are very interesting and well informed, we believe that they do not meet the criteria as laid out in your press release. Although we cannot be sure of the voting numbers in the electorates we believe that a reasonable solution and estimate of the voting community is portrayed in our following response.

ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES REDISTRIBUTION

Tuggeranong Community Council response, to Media Release (Phillip Green, 7 February 2007), requesting suggestions to redistribution of ACT Legislative Assembly Electoral Boundaries.

The council has studied the actpla/ACTLIC boundaries plan of September 2003.

Council suggestions are:

BRINDABELLA

Release CHIFLEY, PEARCE & TORRENS to the Molonglo electorate.
 Include in electorate, DUFFY, HOLDER, WESTON, RIVETT, STIRLING,
 WARAMANGA, CHAPMAN & FISHER.

This 'boundary' follows the Division Boundary between Weston Creek and Woden Valley.
 No change to 5 member representation.

MOLONGLO

Include CHIFLEY, PEARCE & TORRENS,
 Release DUFFY, HOLDER, WESTON, RIVETT, STIRLING, WARAMANGA,
 CHAPMAN & FISHER to the west of the electorate into Brindabella electorate, release

Comment from Tuggeranong Community Council.
Page 1 of 2.

NGNUNNAWAL, AMAROO, GUNGAHLIN, PALMERSTON, HARRISO & MITCHELL to the north of the electorate into the Ginninderra electorate.
No change to 7 member representation.

GINNINDERRA

Release no suburbs but include NGUNNAWAL, AMAROO, GUNGAHLIN, PALMERSTON, HARRISON & MITCHELL into new boundary.
New boundary between Ginninderra and Molonglo again follows Division Boundary between electorates. No change to 5 member representation.

I believe these suggestions are valid and should address the % above or below quota 2008 to be closer to equal and, therefore, to be fair to persons wishing to represent the constituencies.

*Rosemary Lissimore
President
Tuggeranong Community Council
12.3.07*

**Comment from Tuggeranong Community Council.
Page 2 of 2.**

Appendix E: Objections to the Redistribution Committee's proposed redistribution

Objections lodged with the Augmented ACT Electoral Commission pursuant to section 46 of the *Electoral Act 1992*:

1. Ian Ruecroft 42 Brinkley Cct PALMERSTON ACT 2913	page 100
2. Jonathon Reynolds 45 Yarrowonga Street NGUNNAWAL ACT 2913	page 101
3. Alan Kerlin, President Gungahlin Community Council Inc PO Box 260, GUNGAHLIN ACT 2914	page 104
4. Martin Gordon 86 Companion Crescent FLYNN ACT 2615	page 109
5. Bogey Musidlak, Convenor Proportional Representation Society of Australia (ACT Branch) 14 Strzelecki Crescent NARRABUNDAH ACT 2604	page 110
6. David Lissimore, Media Officer Tuggeranong Community Council Inc PO Box 436 ERINDALE CENTRE ACT 2903	page 114
7. David Menzel, Chairperson Woden Valley Community Council PO Box 280 WODEN ACT 2606	page 115
8. John Davenport 11 Hagelthorn Street FARRER ACT 2607	page 116

Note: These objections were submitted using a variety of media and have been reformatted for this publication. The content is identical to the original submission and every effort has been made to preserve the original format.

Ian Ruecroft
42 Brinkley Cct
Palmerston
ACT 2913

Re: The proposed changes to the ACT Legislative Assembly electoral boundaries for the 2008 election.

Dear Mr Green,

Having given consideration to the decision made in relation to reconfiguring the ACT Legislative Assembly electoral boundaries for the 2008 election; I would like to lodge an objection to the Redistribution Committee's proposal.

I believe that the proposed redistribution further fragments the Gungahlin community and disadvantaged a community that has been politically neglected for a considerable amount of time. The Redistribution Committee's proposal has failed to comprehensively explore viable alternatives relating to ACT electoral boundaries; and failed to appreciate the disadvantage, of being split over two electorates, for Gungahlin as a community of common interest. The proposal endorses an option that compounds the electoral disadvantage existing for Gungahlin voters and further fragmented our voting powers.

I believe that any system which perpetuates disadvantage to a section of the community is fundamentally flawed and requires amendment. I strongly recommend that the Redistribution Committee reconsider their proposal. I further recommend that the committee develops processes to ensure that changes are made to legislation, to prevent reoccurrence of this issue.

Yours sincerely

Ian Ruecroft

**Objection from Ian Ruecroft.
Page 1 of 1.**

JSR-270607

45 Yarrowonga Street
Ngunnawal ACT 2913

Phone: 0418 812 281

27/06/2007**Mr Phillip Green**
ACT Electoral Commissioner**ACT Electoral Commission**
Level 2, 12 Moore Street
CANBERRA ACT 2601**Objection to proposed electoral redistribution 2007**

Dear Sir,

I wish to lodge a formal objection against the proposed electoral redistribution 2007.

The basis of my objection is outlined in the following points:

1. Objection to moving Farrer from Molonglo to Brindabella Electorate:

The Redistribution Committee is highly inconsistent with its own previous recommendations and redistribution decisions that have specifically avoided and precluded the creation of electoral boundaries that are disruptive to communities of interest as referred to by 36(c)(i) and the boundaries of Divisions as referred to by 36(c)(v) of the Act¹.

In the proposed distribution the Redistribution Committee 2007 has freely admitted:

"In particular, the Committee notes that the new electorate boundary constituted by Beasley Street, being the border between Farrer and Mawson, is less than ideal. Along this boundary, there are nearly 40 dwellings on the Farrer side of Beasley Street that face that street and around 70 dwellings on the Mawson side of Beasley Street. Past Redistribution Committees have avoided the need to place electorate boundaries along residential streets such as Beasley Street by using major arterial roads and natural corridors as boundaries."

¹ Unless otherwise explicitly specified references to the word Act are deemed to mean the ACT Electoral Act 1992 (1992-71)

Objection from Jonathon Reynolds.
Page 1 of 3.

My position against the redistribution is further supported by the fact that whilst the number of electors, within the current electoral boundaries will meet the quota criteria as defined in 36(a) and 36(b) of the Act, and will continue to meet this criteria with the revised forecasts, revised data and subsequent projection calculations, there is no substantive basis for the division (suburb) of Farrer to be moved in to the electorate of Brindabella.

2. Objection to moving Palmerston from Molonglo to Ginninderra Electorate:

I argue that that whilst the number of electors, within the current electoral boundaries will meet the quota criteria as defined in 36(a) and 36(b) of the Act, and will continue to meet this criteria with the revised forecasts, revised data and subsequent projection calculations, there is no basis for the division (suburb) of Palmerston to be moved through redistribution in to the electorate of Ginninderra.

It could further be argued that by redistributing Palmerston to the electorate of Ginninderra this would further disenfranchise the community of interest known as the "Gungahlin District". This will occur through the isolation of the Divisions (suburbs) of Nicholls and Palmerston in to a separate electorate from the rest of Gungahlin.

Unfortunately on this point I note that previous Redistribution Committees have only considered this matter in accordance with 36(c)(v) that specifically makes reference to Divisions, not Districts.

3. Objection to speculation of anticipated elector numbers by the Redistribution Committee at the time of the next election.

The figures used by the Redistribution Committee should be considered authoritative based on the best available information and sources at the time.

Any reasonable person interpreting the Act could not be easily lead to believe that there is specific latitude for the Redistribution Committee to be able to "speculate" what may or may not occur outside of the figures they present for the purpose of calculating quotas.

I reject the assertion that *"the Committee considered that it is necessary to leave a margin for error to allow for the possibility that the enrolment projections may not accurately forecast the*

Page 3

actual enrolment relativities of the three electorates at the time of the next election”.

Simply stated this is a black and white issue – either the figures are either correct or they are not. If they are incorrect then the basis for any analysis of a redistribution is fundamentally flawed.

To summarise my position in regard to the proposed redistribution as it current stands: I object for the need for there to be any variation to existing electoral boundaries on the basis that with the evidence as provided by the Redistribution Committee, in accordance with the provisions of the relevant Acts, all the electorates will be still within acceptable quota levels, without the need for change at the next election.

I trust that these objections are given serious consideration and acted upon in an appropriate manner.

Yours Faithfully



Jonathon Reynolds

Objection from Jonathon Reynolds.
Page 3 of 3.

Mr Philip Green
 ACT Electoral Commissioner
 PO Box 272
 CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608
 By email: elections@act.gov.au

26 June 2007

Dear Mr Green

The Gungahlin Community Council (GCC) wishes to lodge the following objection to the proposed 2007 electoral boundary review.

As stated in our previous submission, the GCC is concerned that the current anomaly with the electoral boundary between Ginninderra and Molonglo that leaves just Nicholls in a different electorate should not continue indefinitely. This has resulted in our community being under-represented in each of these electorates, leading to disadvantage for our community in the way of planning, services and infrastructure provision. It was apparent from the Committee's report that considerable weight was given to this argument, and we appreciate this. We had similar problems making the numbers add up to an undivided Gungahlin area.

Of even greater concern to us is that the electorate of Molonglo stretches from near Tuggeranong all the way to the northern ACT border, wrapping all the way around Ginninderra as well. The result of this is that we are represented by some people who themselves live around an hour's weekday travel time from Gungahlin – we don't see much of them, and they have a far lower appreciation for the issues facing the Gungahlin community.

We have remodelled the electorates using the revised population projections, which were surprisingly different from the numbers provided and used for our original submission. The variances cast some doubt over the projection method that was previously used. We have remodelled a solution that conforms to the current 7-5-5 legislative situation, and another that considers the three seven-member electorate solution that has been the topic of public debate in recent weeks.

7-5-5 member solution

As stated in our original submission, the Molonglo electorate does not currently have much consideration of the 'common community of interest' provision. We predicted that the committee would be faced with merely 'tinkering' with this current situation, or making a substantial change to build in provision for future shifts and correct the Molonglo sprawl. The proposed solution from the Committee did indeed opt for a minimal change, with yet another Gungahlin suburb shifted into Ginninderra. We object to this proposal as not addressing the key issues facing the Molonglo electorate now and not planning for it in the future.



**Gungahlin
 Community
 Council Inc.**

PO Box 260
 Gungahlin ACT 2912

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**Objection from Gungahlin Community Council Inc.
 Page 1 of 5.**



Population growth in the next decade will occur mainly in the Gungahlin, Molonglo and City areas - mostly north of the Molonglo River. Therefore any boundary realignment should take into account this growth by setting the electorates up for incremental changes rather than wholesale. The current electorates do not provide for this, nor do the proposed boundaries address it.

In our previous submission, we pointed out that:

- The Molonglo River is a natural boundary to aim for, but the numbers do not work for a 7-5-5 distribution at this point. However, our modelling has shown that Brindabella would work as the 7-member electorate, including all of the suburbs south of the river except for South Canberra, Deakin and Hughes.
- Two 5-member electorates north of the river would provide for the future population growth areas, and contain the electorates within fairly close geographical and social proximity – quite different from the current situation. Ginninderra could remain as a Belconnen electorate, and Molonglo would encompass South and North Canberra, plus Gungahlin.
- As population grows at Gungahlin and then Molonglo, subsequent boundary realignments could see the Molonglo electorate retreat from South Canberra to the river/lake.

We have remodelled this solution using the new population projections, with the following results:

Assembly Reps	Quota
17	14,060

Electorate	Quotas	Members	Variance
Brindabella	7.231	7	3.20%
Ginninderra	4.808	5	-3.99%
Molonglo	4.961	5	-0.79%

The exact distribution is shown on the map in Attachment 1. Unfortunately with the current numbers, one Gungahlin suburb (likely to continue as Nicholls) would still be split off from the rest of Gungahlin. However, we would find this a far more acceptable solution than the Committee's proposal, given that our proposal would result in a major retraction of the geographic spread of Molonglo. It would bring our elected members closer to our area, and would be set up so as to improve further as population grows in our area.

As population grows, there would likely be an increase in the number of members, so an additional two members could be introduced to one of the northern electorates, while maintaining the overall odd-number total, or preferably all electorates could be converted to 7 members, as below.

2

Objection from Gungahlin Community Council Inc.
Page 2 of 5.



Electorate restructure

As mentioned in our previous submission, we feel that a government such as the ACT's with no upper house needs a diversity of elected members to maintain accountability. Governments with absolute majorities are not in the ACT community's interest, as accountability is essentially limited to once every four years only.

We are swayed by recent public debate that has pointed out that the best way to achieve minority or independent representation is via the larger seven-member electorates. We recognise this is counter to our previous arguments, but the evidence doesn't support that position.

Using our modelling tool with the new population projections, we were able to relatively easily come up with a solution for three seven-member electorates, as shown in Attachment 2 and the following table. This solution would have all of Gungahlin and most of Belconnen in Ginninderra, Molonglo covering North and South Canberra plus Woden, and Brindabella also including Weston. The division of a small part of Belconnen out of Ginninderra would likely be corrected at the next boundary review.

Assembly Reps	Quota
21	11,382

Electorate	Quotas	Members	Variance
Brindabella	7.024	7	0.34%
Ginninderra	6.819	7	-2.66%
Molonglo	7.157	7	2.20%

Conclusion

In summary then, GCC does not support the minimal change proposal put forward by the Electoral Redistribution Committee. It is a minimal change scenario that exacerbates the division of Gungahlin and does nothing to correct the sprawl and unrepresentative nature of Molonglo.

Instead we reiterate our previous proposal for two five-member electorates covering the northern half of Canberra, albeit with some temporarily continued division of Gungahlin between them, and a seven-member electorate covering the southern half of Canberra.

Although it is beyond the scope of the Committee's powers, we also request that our support for the three seven-member electorate model is conveyed to the Government.

Thank you for your consideration of these proposals.

Regards,


 Alan Kerlin
 President Gungahlin Community Council

3 

RECEIVED

05 JUN 2007

86 Companion Crescent
Flynn ACT 2615
P 02-62589372

ACT ELECTORAL
COMMISSION

Redistribution Committee
ACT Electoral Commission
Level 2, 12 Moore Street
Canberra ACT 2601.

Dear Committee Members,

Objection to Redistribution

I refer to your proposed redistribution of boundaries, and find that they are quite sound. In terms of population movements the transfer of Palmeston and Farrer are reasonable changes and involve minimal disturbance to boundaries.

I would suggest that a clearer boundary between Ginninderra and Molonglo would be the use of Gungahlin Drive and inclusion of the suburb of Crace in Ginninderra rather than Molonglo. The elector disturbance is minimal and describing the boundary is intuitively easier and clearer on the ground than just the Palmeston transfer.

I congratulate you on your proposals, and trust you will adopt my objection.

Yours sincerely,



Martin Gordon
1 June 2007

Objection from Martin Gordon.
Page 1 of 1.

Please find attached an objection to the proposed changes in ACT electoral boundaries by the Proportional Representation Society of Australia (Australian Capital Territory Branch). I am available to assist the Augmented Redistribution Committee with any further inquiries that it might wish to make.

Bogey Musidlak
Convenor
Proportional Representation Society of Australia (Australian Capital Territory Branch)
14 Strzelecki Crescent
Narrabundah 2604
6289 8773 (w)
6295 8137 (h)

Objection from Proportional Representation Society (ACT Branch).
Page 1 of 4.

**PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA
(AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BRANCH)**

The Proportional Representation Society of Australia (Australian Capital Territory Branch) acknowledges the good intentions of the Redistribution Committee in carrying out additional work in the light of evidence of faster growth in Molonglo than indicated in projections released at the time in February when submissions were invited from the public.

However, while the principle of minimum disruption to voters has been respected within the Committee's search for proposed new boundaries that foreshadow what is likely to come in the future if the number of MLAs remains unchanged, we believe that the evidence presented to date is insufficient to unleash the disruption that would come with changed boundaries for the 2008 elections.

Hare-Clark supporters have consistently and unashamedly argued that (retention of) the boundaries of existing divisions be given major weight in deliberations when population projections reveal numbers within maximum tolerances on the next election day. That numerical information that is currently in the public arena points to Molonglo remaining within the election-day statutory limits until at least early 2009 as it appears to be taking 18 months for it to move from 3.60% above quota to 4.79% above. The rate of movement is not much faster than implicit in the earlier published figures of 2.73% above quota in August 2006 and 4.38% in October 2008.

In our view, the Redistribution Committee should have obtained and evaluated further information before deciding that it wasn't "acceptable to propose that the existing boundaries should remain unchanged". Such information could have included:

- evidence of some ongoing acceleration in the relative growth of Molonglo (what is discernible from published material suggests that anything of this nature is modest); or
- a convincing discussion of what has happened in the recent past when the rolls were closed for an election and how the major door-knocking activity of the Australian Electoral Commission of early 2007 that caused the Committee some apprehension about the statutory limits being met in October 2008 if current boundaries remained unchanged was likely to impact on the roll closures for the next national and ACT elections.

Unless there are strong grounds for believing the Committee's revised projections to be understating Molonglo's relative numbers, they should be taken at face value, and the conclusion drawn that it won't be until January or February 2009 that Molonglo steps beyond the 5% tolerance that is prescribed as a maximum latitude for October 2008. Before any changes are made, the monthly rate at which Molonglo is approaching the limits of tolerance deserves lengthier consideration than apparently given by the Redistribution Committee.

It would have been helpful to those trying to assess the Committee's reasoning to have a detailed discussion of whether there is tangible evidence of continuing growth in Molonglo enrolments that suggests the projected figure of 4.79% above quota will occur appreciably earlier than October 2008. Alternatively or concurrently, a more

**Objection from Proportional Representation Society (ACT Branch).
Page 2 of 4.**

complete discussion of what has happened to departures from quota when previous closes of roll occurred the last few times should have been included.

If roll closures have mainly or always resulted in Molonglo shifting *noticeably* closer towards the 5% election-day tolerance limits, then clearly the Committee's reasons for acting now rather than in advance of the 2012 elections would be given greater support. On the other hand, were Molonglo's numbers to have declined relative to those in the other electorates during roll closures on past occasions, one would need to make the argument about what was more likely to happen in both 2007 and 2008 on the basis of relevant past information including times when significant AEC doorknock activity of the type that produced changes alarming the Redistribution Committee this time occurred.

When people in two suburbs are potentially being put through inconvenience prematurely, additional effort should be put into establishing whether the fears of statutory limits being exceeded are exaggerated, and presenting that information openly, especially when information currently in the public domain points to at least three months' margin of safety in relation to Molonglo's projected enrolments.

The electors of the ACT deserve to have decisions seen to be made on the basis of the best-available qualitative or quantitative information rather than essentially a statement of general concern about how close to the tolerance limits projections are apparently getting.

It is worth pointing out that electors of Molonglo waste relatively fewer votes even though the quota for election there is likely to be more than 10% above those in Ginninderra and Brindabella. This is because of the shift from at least 83.3% of formal votes being effective (helping to elect one or more candidates) in the five-member electorates of Brindabella and Ginninderra to at least 87.5% in seven-member Molonglo, in the absence of extensive exhaustion of votes. While more voters contribute to the election of each MLA in Molonglo, there are fewer wasted votes that can on average be associated with each available vacancy.

To make that assessment of the advantages and disadvantages for Molonglo's electors more concrete, it is best to examine the outer edges of tolerance in October 2008 based on the projected number of ACT electors being 238,818 as set out on page 2 of the report on the proposed redistribution for the next elections.

While relatively fewer people tend to vote in Molonglo than is the proportion in either of the other two electorates, the criteria on which the Redistribution Committee makes its decisions revolve around electors rather than voters.

The greatest number of electors Molonglo could have in October 2008 would be 103,252 as set out on page 2 of the Committee's report. In that case, the associated quota for election would become 12,907 votes. In similar vein, the minimum number of electors in either of the other two electorates would be 66,728 and the associated notional quota of 11,122 votes.

In the view of the Proportional Representation Society of Australia (Australian Capital Territory Branch), the most important thing to note is not the extent of the

**Objection from Proportional Representation Society (ACT Branch).
Page 3 of 4.**

maximum possible discrepancy in quotas but the extremely high proportion of effective votes in both cases.

In Molonglo, the maximum proportion of wasted votes would be just under 12.5% if all electors exercising the franchise cast a formal vote and indicated sufficient preferences for no part of their vote to become exhausted. Associated with each of the seven MLAs would be a notional maximum of 1,844 wasted votes when averages are taken simply on the basis of the number of electors. In the other two electorates, a maximum of 11,121 wasted votes would be notionally spread among five elected members, making for an average of at most 2,225.

More Molonglo voters are required for each of its MLAs to be elected to the Assembly but at the same time, fewer wasted votes are associated with the election of each Molonglo MLA. In spite of the disparity in average enrolments and quotas, electors of Molonglo benefit from having a higher proportion of effective votes and relatively fewer wasted votes. They therefore have no real grounds for complaint as the existence for them of a seven-member electorate provides both compensation in terms of effective votes, and also additional contestability of the vacancies as has been borne out in numbers of nominations in the past and how voting patterns have been reflected more closely in the representation that followed.

The Proportional Representation Society of Australia (Australian Capital Territory Branch) asks that the additional information adverted to above be obtained and analysed thoroughly by the Augmented Redistribution Committee before it agrees to any change in the current boundaries. If within this new material are pointers that Molonglo is actually likely to be more than three months shy of exceeding the maximum projected tolerance in October 2008, the boundaries for the 2008 elections should clearly remain unchanged.

Otherwise, we believe that the onus is on the Augmented Redistribution Committee to adduce and present sufficient evidence of some statistical rigour to translate the Redistribution Committee's concerns about inadvertently exceeding the maximum tolerance allowed for projected enrolments in October 2008 into an imperative to take immediate action to alter boundaries. If the Augmented Redistribution Committee is unable to quantify particular effects, they are more likely than not to be rather small when expressed in terms of the helpful metric of months closer to exceeding the 5% election-day tolerance, and hence in those circumstances remaining with the current boundaries would be the best course of action available in the absence of evidence of great current public disquiet.

It is not satisfactory for the Redistribution Committee to have introduced notions of a general desirable "margin of error", or have avoided couching of reasonable concerns about the "risk of failing to comply with paragraph 36(b)" in terms of the monthly rate at which the limits of statutory maximum tolerances are being approached. Premature changes to boundaries should be avoided when the electors of Molonglo are demonstrably advantaged by some of the features of current arrangements. Any risk of failure to comply with statutory requirements relating to projected enrolments must be real rather than merely capable of being imagined if thousands of voters are to be affected by boundary changes.

**Objection from Proportional Representation Society (ACT Branch).
Page 4 of 4.**



RECEIVED
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08 JUN 2007
ACT ELECTORAL
COMMISSION
ACT ELECTORAL
COMMISSION

Tuggeranong Community Council Incorporated
Supported by a grant from the ACT Government

President: Rosemary Lissimore
PO Box 436
Erindale Centre ACT 2903

Phone/Fax: (02) 62921843
email: tccorg@optusnet.com.au
Web page www.tuggcc.com

Registration Committee
ACT Electoral Commission
PO Box 272
Civic Square
ACT 2608

ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES REDISTRIBUTION

Attention Mr Phillip Green; Electoral Commissioner

Since our telephone conversation the other day, I have revisited the 'Electoral Boundaries' situation.

As I stated the figures I used did not, unfortunately, agree with the ones that appeared later. You did agree that some of the tables were misleading and out of date. Consequently my submission, forwarded to you by the council President Rosemary Lissimore was also incorrect.

I have used the numbers and tables you subsequently advised but cannot, without almost total disintegration of all the electorates, improve on your published proposal of redistribution of the electoral boundaries, Canberra Times 31 May 2007.

The Tuggeranong Community Council would request that if your Electoral Commission requests input on possible changes to the electoral boundaries in the future, the numbers of the persons on the Electoral Role given by your office are correct.

David Lissimore
Media Officer
TCC
7 June '07

Objection from Tuggeranong Community Council Inc.
Page 1 of 1.

ATT: The ACT Redistribution Committee
ACT Electoral Commission

Dear Redistribution Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the 'Proposed Redistribution of the ACT into Electorates for the Legislative Assembly, ACT Legislative Assembly Electoral Boundaries Redistribution 2007'.

The Woden Valley Community Council supports the principle of equal representation for electors though also believes that it is preferable to avoid splitting districts i.e. that each of the Canberra 'towns' be represented as a whole. It is however recognised that this is difficult to achieve with the changing demographics of the city combined with the current legislation governing the number and size of electorates.

While not formally objecting to the current proposal as such we would like to suggest that the terms of reference for the next ACT Redistribution Committee be expanded to consider alternate electorate arrangements with a view to amending legislation if and as required.

Yours Sincerely

Chris Erett

On behalf of

David Menzel, Chair of the Woden Valley Community Council

PO Box 280, Woden, ACT 2606
Email: wvcc@bigpond.net.au
Ph. 6281 0096
Fax 6281 0092
Web www.wvcc.org.au

Objection from Woden Valley Community Council Inc.
Page 1 of 1.

Received after close of Objection period - Mr John Davenport.txt

Sent: Saturday, 30 June 2007 3:48 PM
To: Elections
Subject: Molonglo Redistribution

Good afternoon,

I heard on the radio that there is a proposal to remove the suburb of Farrer from the electorate of Molonglo and transfer it to Brindabella.

I would like to object to this proposal for the following reasons:

- * It does not make sense to remove only one suburb from the Woden Valley
- * Farrer is geographically part of the Woden Valley not the Tuggeranong Valley.
- * Politicians from Brindabella would have little interest in issues in the Woden Valley and we would not be properly represented in the Assembly, compared with other nearby Woden Valley suburbs. Farrer residents would be disadvantaged.
- * Our ACTION buses operate to Woden not Tuggeranong.
- * Issues that arise in the Woden Valley involve Farrer residents. We are not concerned with issues in Tuggeranong.
- * The Woden Plaza is our nearest major shopping centre, not the Tuggeranong Hyperdome.
- * Our water, sewerage, gas, electricity and phone services are provided through Woden Valley suburbs, not from Tuggeranong.

I therefore request that the suburb of Farrer remain in Molonglo and that you find some other solution to population variations within electorates.

Thank You
John Davenport
11 Hagelthorn Street
Farrer ACT 2607
Phone 6286 4775

Page 1

**Objection from John Davenport.
Page 1 of 1.**

Appendix F: Objections to the Augmented ACT Electoral Commission's proposed redistribution

Objections lodged with the Augmented ACT Electoral Commission pursuant to section 52 of the *Electoral Act 1992*:

1. Matthew Cossey, ACT Secretary Australian Labor Party (ACT Branch) GPO Box 3065 CANBERRA ACT 2601	page 118
2. Theodore Ian Ruecroft 42 Brinkley Cct PALMERSTON ACT 2913	page 120
3. Bogey Musidlak, Convenor Proportional Representation Society of Australia (ACT Branch) 14 Strzelecki Crescent NARRABUNDAH ACT 2604	page 121
4. David Menzel, Chairperson Woden Valley Community Council PO Box 280 WODEN ACT 2606	page 124

Note: These objections were submitted using a variety of media and have been reformatted for this publication. The content is identical to the original submission and every effort has been made to preserve the original format.



AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY
Australian Capital Territory Branch

Augmented ACT Electoral Commission
Level 2, 12 Moore St
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Commissioners and Committee Members

Objection to Augmented Commission's Redistribution Proposal

As Secretary and Registered Officer of the Australian Labor Party (ACT Branch) I write to object to the determination of the Augmented ACT Electoral Commission's (the Commission) conclusions regarding the redistribution of the ACT Legislative Assembly Electoral Boundaries. I believe the Commission has erred in its conclusion and that the original proposal of the Redistribution Committee should stand.

As I indicated in my original submission to the Redistribution Committee, while the legislation allows for a 5% positive or negative variance on the estimated quota for an electorate at the time of the next election, ACT Labor believes that the Committee, and now the Commission, should still seek to best protect the principle of 'one vote, one value' and accordingly look to minimise such variances.

As the Commission's own Redistribution Statement indicates, the parameters and tolerances stipulated in the Act are intended to provide for the principle of "one vote, one value" in ACT Elections. That being accepted, the original proposal of the Redistribution Committee meant that the difference between the variance from quota for each electorate was significantly lower than the difference between the variance from quota for each electorate as a result of the Commission's proposal.

On this basis alone the Commission should provide a final proposal in line with the original recommendation of the Redistribution Committee i.e. move Palmerston into Ginninderra and Farrer into Brindabella.

21 Torrens Street, Braddon ACT 2612 GPO Box 3065, Canberra ACT 2601
telephone (02) 6247 4066 facsimile (02) 6247 3865 email info@act.alp.org.au www.act.alp.org.au



Objection from Australian Labor Party (ACT Branch).
Page 1 of 2.

ACT Labor has previously noted its concern over the separation of the suburb Nicholls from the electorate that contains the majority of other suburbs that make up the Gungahlin region.

ACT Labor has previously stated that it would be ideal if all of the Gungahlin suburbs were contained within the one ACT Electorate, however as noted in our submission in 2000 we recognise that having some Gungahlin suburbs in the Ginninderra Electorate is the only way to maintain the current electoral structure without major or radical change.

In light of that, I am strongly of the view that if all of the Gungahlin suburbs can not be accommodated in the one electorate then for the purposes of achieving better representative democracy there should be a more even spread of Gungahlin suburbs between the electorates of Molonglo and Ginninderra. The residents of Nichols specifically, and all Gungahlin residents generally, would have greater representation if there were a critical mass of Gungahlin electors based in both electorates. Gungahlin as a region would then be served by the MLAs of both electorates and the residents of Nicholls would no longer be the single suburb in the electorate of Ginninderra that is separate from the region of which it is part.

This goes further to the question of if only one suburb is to be redistributed out of Molonglo then which should it be. While my position still remains that both Farrer and Palmerston should both be redistributed out of Molonglo, if the Commission determines that only one is to be redistributed then it should in fact be Palmerston.

Further to the argument above regarding Palmerston being redistributed into Ginninderra, the Commission's own figures provide the most compelling argument for such a decision within the context of only moving one suburb.

The total accumulated variance from quota for all three electorates by moving Farrer into Brindabella is 6.49%, however it is only 5.73% for the Palmerston into Ginninderra option. In seeking to best protect the "one vote, one value" principle the redistribution of Palmerston into Ginninderra is the better outcome of the two options.

I hope the Commission will reconsider its proposal and I am happy to provide further argument or clarification on my support for the original Redistribution Committee's recommendation or at the very least the redistribution of Palmerston into Ginninderra as opposed to Farrer into Brindabella.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Cossey
ACT Secretary
Australian Labor Party

22 August 2007

Objection from Australian Labor Party (ACT Branch).
Page 2 of 2.

Ian Ruecroft
42 Brinkley Cct
Palmerston
ACT 2913

Re: Changes to ACT Legislative Assembly electoral boundaries proposed by the Augmented ACT Electoral Commission August 2007

Dear Mr Green,

Having considered the available information, related to the changes proposed by the Augmented ACT Electoral Commission to the ACT Legislative Assembly electoral boundaries; I would like to lodge an objection to the proposal.

I believe that the proposal is a considerable improvement to the option put forward by Redistribution Committee on the 31st May 2007. However, the Gungahlin suburb of Nicholls is still in the electorate of Ginninderra, whilst the remainder of Gungahlin is in the electorate of Molonglo. This division of Gungahlin into two electorates continues to disadvantage a community that has been politically neglected for a considerable amount of time. This neglect has resulted in the lack of provision of services and facilities comparative to other areas of the ACT.

I believe that any system which perpetuates disadvantage to a section of the community is fundamentally flawed and requires correction. The ACT Electoral Commission has many options that could be explored to provide flexibility for future growth within electorates.

Communities of common interest are clearly identified within the ACT. A strategy to reconfigure ACT Legislative Assembly electoral boundaries is required to stabilise electoral boundaries and provide geographically practical electorates, which recognise communities of common interest as an identified consideration.

I strongly recommend that the Redistribution Committee/ Augmented ACT Electoral Commission reconsider the current proposal and work toward a comprehensive solution. I further recommend that the committee evaluate current legislation with a view to developing strategies to provide a practical solution to the issues related to current ACT Legislative Assembly electoral boundaries. If legislative changes are required; these should be drafted for consideration.

Yours sincerely

Theodore Ian Ruecroft
10th August 2007

**Objection from Ian Ruecroft.
Page 1 of 1.**

From: bogey musidlak
Sent: Thursday, 23 August 2007 4:42 AM
To: Elections
Subject: newly-published enrolment particulars support keeping Farrer in Molonglo

Attachments: ACT Augmented 2007.doc
Hello

Please find attached an objection by the Proportional Representation Society of Australia (Australian Capital Territory Branch) to the proposed changes in ACT electoral boundaries as set out in the July Statement by the Augmented ACT Electoral Commission. I am available to assist the Augmented Commission with any further inquiries that it might wish to make.

Bogey Musidlak
Convenor
Proportional Representation Society of Australia (Australian Capital Territory Branch)
14 Strzelecki Crescent
Narrabundah 2604
6289 8773 (w)
6295 8137 (h)

Objection from Proportional Representation Society (ACT Branch).
Page 1 of 3.

Newly-published enrolment information greatly strengthens the case for not altering current ACT electorate boundaries

The Proportional Representation Society of Australia (Australian Capital Territory Branch) acknowledges the significant improvement in the 2008 electoral boundaries as proposed by the Augmented ACT Electoral Commission following this year's opportunities for Canberrans to make their views known in writing and orally.

Many will join us in applauding the fact that the electors of Palmerston have been spared the unnecessary disruption of being moved out of Molonglo prior to next October's general elections. Others will welcome the Augmented Commission's firm reiteration of the desirability of retaining communities of interest as much as possible, and of avoiding making grandiose plans for a future that might be quite different (for instance, were there a change in the number of MLAs), when legislative requirements refer just to the current situation and that projected for the next polling day.

The ACT Branch also appreciates the publication in the July statement by the Augmented Commission of additional information about enrolments somewhat along the lines that we suggested were important in our objection to the previous proposal.

However, we draw different conclusions from that extra material about enrolments than does the Augmented Commission. In our view, it greatly strengthens the case for retaining the current boundaries rather than moving Farrer from Molonglo to Brindabella, and we urge that course upon the Augmented Commission in the absence of convincing additional countervailing information.

The ACT Branch notes in particular that on the past two occasions, when expressed in terms of quotas, the election-day projections in relation to Molonglo were greatly overstated, by around 0.8% of a quota in 2001 and 1.0% in 2004.

A more modest overstatement by 0.3% of a quota occurred in 1995 and in 1998 there was an understatement by 0.1% of a quota, arising as earlier rapid growth in parts of Brindabella came to an end. We note that in any repetition of the last case, Molonglo would still remain within allowable tolerances in October 2008. In other words, all the additional information assuages fears about Molonglo's likely status in October 2008.

Of course, the most relevant information in terms of possibly describing differential growth patterns is the most recent as, among other things, it reflects the extent to which any ongoing changes in trends are not fully captured in the projection methodology. This could arise because of increases in the numbers of children approaching enrolment age, changes in family patterns of settlement within suburbs or other predominantly-demographic factors, or it could be driven more by net effects in each pre-election flurry of notified changes of address just before the rolls are closed.

Closer inspection of the tabulated data on page 11 of the Augmented Commission's report shows that the assuaging phenomena of 2001 and 2004 arose because election-day enrolments for both Brindabella and Ginninderra were noticeably higher than projected numbers, while those for Molonglo were around the anticipated mark.

**Objection from Proportional Representation Society (ACT Branch).
Page 2 of 3.**

This indicates that the projection methodology hasn't been adequately capturing changing phenomena in Brindabella and Ginninderra to the degree achieved in Molonglo. In fact, the discrepancies arising from underestimates in the smaller electorates increased in both absolute and relative (to either the quota or projected enrolments) terms from 2001 to 2004, and it would therefore require something especially noteworthy to start reversing or completely obliterate that trend.

The key task now is to establish whether there are solid grounds for believing there has been a major turnaround subsequently that brings with it some real uncertainty about whether the legislated tolerance limits would be at serious risk of being breached in October 2008 if current boundaries remained unchanged.

Without access to the details of enrolment data, the ACT Branch is unable to conduct the type of multivariate analysis that would attribute such past sizeable discrepancies principally to changes in family composition, or to greater pre-election movements than anticipated, or other potential key explanatory factors.

However, through ACT Administration's ample expertise, it should be possible for the Augmented Commission to explore whether the unmistakable evidence of the immediate past has been superseded by new phenomena tending to point in a different direction (either specific events or observations, or a convincing reason for a greater propensity for accuracy in the projection methodology in Brindabella or Ginninderra).

Unless sound reasons for asserting a complete break from what has transpired at the two most recent elections can be identified and clearly articulated, it would be premature to move Farrer between electorates. Electors in that suburb should not be inconvenienced as long as projected figures and the most relevant associated evidence from the past about their likely accuracy continue to indicate that Molonglo will remain within tolerance limits for at least three months beyond polling day.

The ACT Branch submits that, if the Augmented Commission wishes to persist with its proposal to shift the electors of Farrer from Molonglo to Brindabella, it bears the onus of demonstrating what new phenomena create tangible uncertainty in relation to Molonglo in a direction different from that experienced in both 2001 and 2004.

Our hope is that the Augmented Commission will undertake the requisite investigations of why 2001 and 2004 projections for Ginninderra and Brindabella were noticeably understated, instead of jumping at likely shadows on the basis of some abstract or generalised uncertainty surrounding available empirical information.

The Proportional Representation Society of Australia (Australian Capital Territory Branch) remains quietly confident that if this is done with some energy and rigour, the electors of Farrer will be left to vote in Molonglo in October 2008. That is certainly what we recommend on the basis of the additional helpful empirical evidence about how well the projection methodology appears to perform in practice that was made available in the July statement of the Augmented Commission.

**Objection from Proportional Representation Society (ACT Branch).
Page 3 of 3.**

From: Woden Valley Community Council
 Sent: Saturday, 4 August 2007 10:58 PM
 To: Elections
 Subject: Continuing bifurcation of Woden

Dear Augmented ACT Electoral Commission,

At its 1 August 2007 meeting the Woden Valley Community Council considered the July 2007 Statement of the Augmented Commission's and their proposal to transfer Farrer to the electorate of Brindabella.

The meeting expressed strong opposition to this proposal and very considerable disappointment that the continuing bifurcation of Woden appears to be preferred to a number of other options which maintain the integrity of communities of interest. In addition our meeting also strongly expressed the hope that the Augmented Commission might see fit to recommend options that would restore the integrity of Woden's other three suburbs into the one electorate.

Our meeting believes that, for too long, Woden has fallen between the cracks at the southern end of the elongated Molonglo Electorate and at the northern end of the Brindabella electorate.

The meeting considers that steps to redress this situation should be taken sooner rather than later.

WVCC noted and agrees with Mr Reynolds statement that the transfer of Farrer, and particularly placing the electorate boundary along Beasley Street, is disruptive to the redistribution criteria related to communities of interests and the boundaries of divisions. Mr Reynolds also states that there is no substantive basis for the transfer of Farrer as the current boundaries meet the numerical criteria (ie without consideration of any uncertainties associated with the projected change in elector numbers).

WVCC concurs with Mr Alan Kerlin from Gungahlin Community Council: ³Of even greater concern to us is that the electorate of Molonglo stretches from near Tuggeranong all the way to the northern ACT border, wrapping all the way around Ginninderra as well We object to this proposal as not addressing the key issues facing the Molonglo electorate now and not planning for it in the future.²

WVCC agrees with Mr John Davenport, Farrer, that "Farrer is geographically part of the Woden Valley not the Tuggeranong Valley and that (the

Commission) find some other solution to population variations within electorates.²

WVCC is unsure on what basis the The Augmented Commission states that "A more radical reshaping of the electorate map might be appropriate in the future to give fuller effect to the ³community of interest² criteria, and to allow for patterns of growth, but that time has not yet come."

**Objection from Woden Valley Community Council Inc.
 Page 1 of 2.**

WVCC believes that a relatively frequent reshaping of electoral boundaries aimed at maintaining communities of interest is preferable to cutting large swathes through communities of interest aimed simply at satisfying the numerical criteria.

WVCC appreciates the opportunity to again put forward it's views on these matters and looks forward to hearing back from you.

Sincerely,

David Menzel

Chair, Woden Valley Community Council

**Objection from Woden Valley Community Council Inc.
Page 2 of 2.**