
From: bogey musidlak
Sent: Thursday, 2 June 2011 2:08 PM
To: Elections
Subject: objection to proposed redistribution
Attachments: ACT redistribution objection.doc

Hello

Please find attached a submission from the ACT Branch of the Proportional Representation Society of Australia objecting to the proposal to alter a boundary in the Mollnglo Valley.

Bogey Musidlak
Convenor

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BRANCH)

LEAVE MOLONGLO VALLEY BOUNDARIES UNCHANGED

The Proportional Representation Society of Australia (Australian Capital Territory Branch) warmly applauds the Redistribution Committee's recommendation that Palmerston and Crace be transferred from Molonglo to Ginninderra, as such a decision would cause the minimum possible disruption to voters while ensuring compliance with the mandatory legislative framework that is in operation.

We object though to the premature proposed boundary change in the Molonglo Valley that would include those areas north of the Molonglo River within Molonglo rather than in Ginninderra where they have been to date.

Even though, as the Redistribution Committee has indicated, only four current electors would be affected, a sudden change along these lines solves does not solve any additional problems, as there are none further that must be tackled. By proposing the immediate placement of all these anticipated future growth areas exclusively within Molonglo, the Committee appears to be slanting the discussion necessary in around four years' time, as this change would result in the bulk of predictable population growth occurring in Molonglo, and continue to skew future elector-to-MLA ratios that are published at the start of each redistribution process.

In the Society's view, the best time to deal thoroughly with these specific matters is when the salient conditions in the lead-up to the 2016 general election are clearer. At the time of the next redistribution process, there will be far better information on current and projected enrolments in all the suburbs where significant development activity is occurring or anticipated, and the outcome of any concerted attempt to change the size of the Legislative Assembly will also be known.

The Society notes that there has not been any public agitation for an immediate change of the nature being proposed.

A change in Molonglo Valley boundaries should therefore not be made currently in accordance with some subsidiary principle of redistribution practice, but await a full and informed public discussion during the term of the next Assembly when far more of the key relevant facts will be known or can be estimated or projected much more confidently.

Abandonment of this premature proposal would best uphold the accepted and welcome past practice of causing minimum disruption to voters within the stipulations of the legislation covering redistributions.

The Proportional Representation Society of Australia (Australian Capital Territory Branch) has consistently pointed to stability of electoral boundaries as an anticipated and appreciated feature of the Hare-Clark system. When detailed consideration is given to our boundaries during the term of the next Assembly, if there is to be no change in its size, the starting point should be the current longstanding layout of boundaries in the Molonglo Valley.

We trust that this matter can be resolved quickly without unnecessary excessive diversion of ACT government resources.