

Proposed changes to ACT Legislative Assembly electoral boundaries

Dear Commissioners –

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposals.

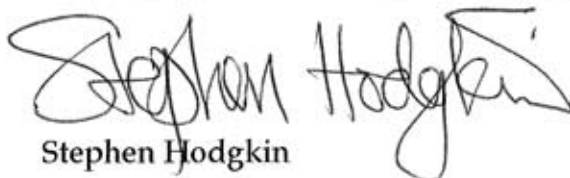
Of the two proposals, I believe the first – the one that retains the integrity of Canberra's Inner North — is much better.

Primarily because the inner North has been a community for many decades, while Gungahlin has not. Bike paths, bus routes, Haig Park, all cross Northbourne Avenue. We see ourselves as "inner North" residents – it's a term that's been around for as long as I can remember. So splitting us between two electorates seems unnatural.

Another reason: the best way of redistributing boundaries would minimise moves of suburbs in and out of electorates, as population changes happen. In the second proposal, as Gungahlin grows, surely Turner, O'Connor and Lyneham would before long have to be moved back to join their other inner North neighbours in Molonglo? This would be disruptive for people living there.

So I support the first proposal, in which Crace and Palmerston would be transferred from Molonglo to Ginninderra.

Thank you for the work you're doing –



Stephen Hodgkin