



Suggestion 12

Josh Wyndham-Kidd

3 pages


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Dear Commissioners,

Please find below my suggestions for the upcoming redistribution of federal electorates in the ACT.

I have attempted to draw boundaries to maximise connectivity and community of interest links between the different parts of each seat, and in line with current and projected population requirements of the Electoral Act.

It may be relevant to declare that I am a financial member of the ACT Greens, but I am submitting these suggestions on my own behalf.

Best wishes,

Josh Wyndham-Kidd

Suggested electorates

The proposed northern electorate would include all suburbs in the Gungahlin district; Hall; and the Belconnen suburbs of Charnwood, Dunlop, Evatt, Florey, Flynn, Fraser, Giralang, Higgins, Holt, Kaleen, Latham, Lawson, Macgregor, McKellar, Melba, Scullin and Spence. It would also include the Jervis Bay Territory. This electorate would contain the majority of electors from the former Fenner electorate and could retain this name.

The proposed central electorate would include all suburbs in Central Canberra; the Belconnen suburbs of Aranda, Belconnen, Bruce, Cook, Hawker, Macquarie, Page and Weetangera; and the Woden Valley suburbs of Curtin, Garran, Hughes and Lyons. This electorate would also include the part of Phillip north of Hindmarsh Drive, as well as Fyshwick, Hume and Oaks Estate. It would also include Norfolk Island. Because this electorate would cover central Canberra, and in keeping with capital city electorates in other states, this electorate could be named Canberra.

The proposed southern electorate would include all suburbs in the Tuggeranong, Weston Creek, Molonglo, and southern rural districts; and the Woden Valley suburbs of Chifley, Farrer, Isaacs, Mawson, O'Malley, Pearce and Torrens. This electorate would also include the part of Phillip south of Hindmarsh Drive, and the Coree district that includes Uriarra. The majority of the land area of this electorate would be made up of the Namadgi National Park, and could be named Namadgi in line with the previous third electorate for the ACT.

Rationale

The geography and population of the ACT necessitates the division of the Territory into a northern electorate mostly composed of Belconnen and Gungahlin suburbs, a central electorate taking in the entirety of Central Canberra, and a southern electorate mostly composed of Tuggeranong, Weston Creek, Molonglo Valley and Woden Valley suburbs.

Other options, such as including Gungahlin suburbs in a central Canberra electorate, would split communities of interest elsewhere and necessitate the creation of an electorate that included both Belconnen and Weston districts, which are not strongly connected by transport or other links. A strong community preference has been expressed in previous redistributions in the ACT to avoid splitting districts as much as possible.

Suggested boundaries have been drawn as much as possible to reflect the divisions between districts and between suburbs, the natural boundaries provided by the Murrumbidgee and Molonglo Rivers, and existing ACT electorate boundaries.

Importantly, these seats are projected to be in line with population requirements in the Act.

The Woden Valley is divided clearly between the central and southern electorates by Hindmarsh Drive. Belconnen is divided by suburb in such a way as to maximise connectivity between the northern and western suburbs and the rest of the Fenner electorate, and the southern and eastern suburbs and the remainder of the Canberra electorate.

