



Comment on objections 14

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I support a number of objections to the new ACT Electoral division proposed to be named after historian Charles Bean. As remarked by Mike Kelly in his submission, it is totally unacceptable for the AEC to continue the gobsmacking gender imbalance represented by electorates names in Australia. It is time to recognise women who have contributed to our civil society as well as rightly recognise our First Nations peoples (as raised by Patrick Connell and many other objectors). As pointed out by Dr Megan Hemming in her submission, it is 2018, not 1950. It is time to be proactive about changing the misogynistic and racist discourse that has shaped the recording of Australian history.

It is a complete no-brainer that the AEC return to the shortlisted names and agree that Ningali Cullen, indigenous activist and co-chair of the National Sorry Day Committee, amongst other significant contributions she made to Indigenous recognition in Australia, is the perfect name for this new electorate in 2018. This is also supported by the ACT's recognition of reconciliation through our newly established public holiday Reconciliation Day on 28 May.