



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL
TERRITORY**

Submission COB6

Emily

Further views on the ACT proposed redistribution

OB4 – disagree with changing ‘Bean’ for Queen Nellie Hamilton.

- Mr Jacey has not bothered to make any arguments in favour of this individual.
- Her connection to the ACT seems to be doubtful
- Nellie Hamilton seems not to have lived in Ginninderra for long after Bobby died, spending most of her time in the greater Queanbeyan area.
 - ‘Nellie Hamilton seems not to have lived in Ginninderra for long after Bobby died, spending most of her time in the greater Queanbeyan area.’
(<https://www.familyhistoryact.org.au/queennelliehamilton#:~:text=Queen%20Nellie%20Hamilton%20was%20probably,a%20talented%20drover%20and%20cricketer> and <https://heritage.hall.act.au/display/1939/person/2188/nellie-hamilton.html#:~:text=Nellie%20Hamilton%20is%20one%20of,on%20behalf%20of%20her%20people.>)
- Her connection to Queanbeyan has been recognised, with the Nellie Hamilton Centre in Crawford Street and her story being told as part of the QPRC Heritage Festival in 2025 (<https://citynews.com.au/2025/queen-nellie-honoured-in-sculpture-and-art/#:~:text=The%20new%20Nellie%20Hamilton%20Centre,of%20the%20QPRC%20Heritage%20Festival>)
- No information has been presented as to why an ACT electorate should be named for her, a little cursory investigation suggests that the electorate including Queanbeyan, which is in New South Wales, would be more fitting.

OB6 – disagree with, and you might want to have a look at the naming guidelines which advises that geographic names should be avoided.

- North of what and south of what?
- For people who live in Canberra, north and south refers to which side of the lake they live on, so would ACT central be those who live in the lake? I know there are stories about the lake, but I think they moved everyone before flooding it last century. And the way Molonglo Valley is growing it’s going to end up in an electorate with the lake which would be a bit of problem for the north/south thing.
- The district of Canberra Central is on both sides of the lake, so that might be a bit confusing, how are people going to differentiate between ACT Central and Canberra Central?

OB12 – disagree with getting rid of the ‘Bean’ and changing to the name ‘Namadgi’

1. disagree with getting rid of the name ‘Bean’
 - No evidence as to why Charles Bean was a deeply racist man, without providing evidence this is just name calling
 - Referring to what Malcom Bourke said, who just said he was an anti-semite without providing any evidence, so also just name calling

2. disagree with renaming to 'Namadgi'
 - I've lived in Canberra for more than 25 years and I couldn't point to the street or the national park on an unlabelled map. This seems like an over-egged claim.

OB13 – disagree with removing 'Bean' and renaming 'Ngunnawal'

1. disagree with getting rid of the name 'Bean'
 - The idea that when people hear 'Bean' they think of Rowan Atkinson's character is a claim presented without evidence and assumes that most Canberrans know who both Mr Bean and Rowan Atkinson are. It's been a while since there was any new material with Mr Bean in it.
2. disagree with the name 'Ngunnawal'
 - There is more than one language group for the ACT. It would not be appropriate to name for only one group. The National Museum of Australia has said 'The Ngunnawal, Ngunawal and Ngambri peoples have lived in the country that is now the Canberra region for more than 20,000 years.'
 - Just because the Ngunnawal were the first to make a claim to the land doesn't mean they should be given favourable treatment over the other groups who have a claim to the land which is in the ACT.

OB18 – agree with keeping 'Bean', 'Canberra' and 'Fenner'

OB20 – disagree with getting rid 'Bean' and changing to 'Namadgi'

1. disagree with getting rid of the name 'Bean'
 - No evidence is provided for the view that he is '... locally considered controversial for racist and antisemitic views'. Rather lazy but surely what we've come to expect of the Greens.
 - I have to ask if what the Greens say above has any basis. There have been very few ideas on the proposed redistribution arguing against the name 'Bean', and this is emphasised when compared to the last redistribution where '... more than 40 names offered as an alternative to 'Bean' are displayed in Table E.'
 - And out of interest, the Greens couldn't be bothered saying anything at the last redistribution when the name 'Bean' was presented for consideration and agreed to.
2. disagree with changing to 'Namadgi'
 - for reasons outlined above
 - the use of a name previously isn't actually a reason to re-use it

Some general comments

- From the ACT Redistribution Committee in April 2018 (emphasis added):

77. The Redistribution Committee observed the guideline that locality or place names should generally be avoided. Accordingly, the names of Brindabella, Molonglo, **Namadgi** and Stromlo were not considered by the Redistribution Committee as preferred names.

- And the previous redistribution didn't think there were good reasons to use 'Namadgi' or 'Ngunnawal'
- I couldn't look at reports before this as they're not on the AEC website.
- As it seems like people can't be bothered to research but just want to make baseless comments, here's what was said in the last report about Bean and Monash on page 62:

Members of the augmented Electoral Commission noted that Charles Bean and Sir John Monash had what at times was a strained and uneasy relationship on both sides. This relationship has been described as a long enmity that started at Gallipoli and continued well after the war. Similarly, it has been observed that Charles Bean did not like Sir John Monash and Sir John Monash did not like Charles Bean, but at times they needed to get on and did so. In later years each acknowledged the efforts of the other with, for example, Charles Bean praising Sir John Monash's organisational and logistics skills as a general and ranking him as the best in the Allied command. During the 1920s, Sir John Monash advised Charles Bean that the official history was a great work and offered his papers to Bean.