



Submission S7

Dr Mark Mulcair

SUGGESTIONS FOR 2025 ACT FEDERAL REDISTRIBUTION

Dear Committee Members,

Please find my Suggestions for the 2025 ACT federal redistribution

I hope these Suggestions will help you in your deliberations.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Dr Mark Mulcair

INTRODUCTION

I am grateful for the opportunity to offer my Suggestions to the 2025 ACT redistribution.

I am a completely independent person, with no affiliation to any political party or organization, but I have always had a strong interest in redistributions and electoral boundaries. In recent years, there has been a growing group of us that have emerged to offer our opinions and suggestions, to complement and provide alternatives to the usual political party submissions.

While I am currently not a resident of ACT, I have lived there in the past, and have a fairly good familiarity with the local geography and community of interest throughout Canberra.

I hope that my Suggestions will be of benefit to the Committee in their deliberations.

GENERAL COMMENTS

With only three Divisions and only minor changes needed, this redistribution should be simple and uncontroversial.

The population projections show strong growth in the southern Division of Bean, which is projected to be above tolerance at the projection time. The other two seats – Canberra and Fenner – are predicted to have slower growth and to lie at the bottom of tolerance.

Therefore, the obvious thing to do is to transfer a few thousand electors from south to north, with Bean contracting to provide an excess to Canberra, which can then be donated on to Fenner. This allows all Divisions to be brought close to quota while still clearly maintaining their existing character.

The geography of Canberra means that there are different options for specific suburbs to be transferred between seats. I would not have any objection to other proposals with slightly different arrangements; however, I think there is no need at all for any radical redrawing of the current boundaries.

Since all three seats are usually fairly safe for Labor, ACT redistributions have almost no serious political implications on a two-party basis. I do note that the Division of Bean is now extremely marginal versus a local independent, and it seems to me that any necessary southward movement would improve the independent's chances. The other two seats would see no real change in political outlook.

SUGGESTIONS

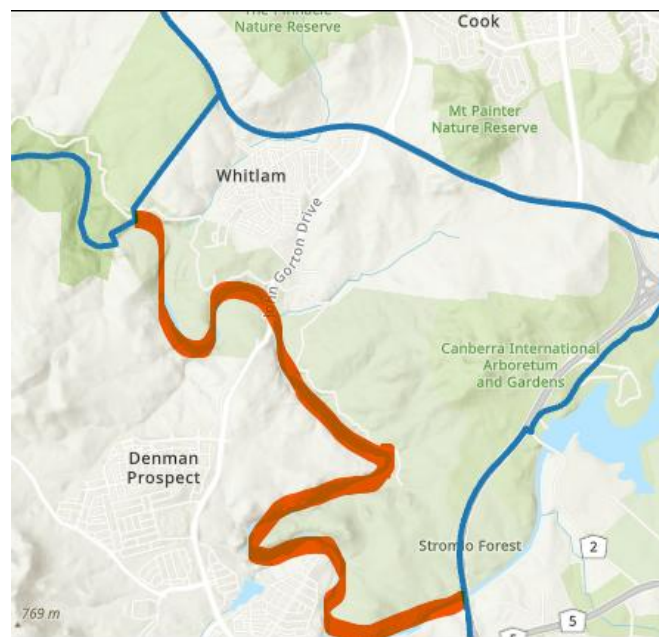
BEAN

Bean is the fastest growing Division in the ACT, and is projected to be outside tolerance at the projection time. It needs to lose around 8000 – 9000 electors, and practically these can only be to Canberra.

I suggest two transfers:

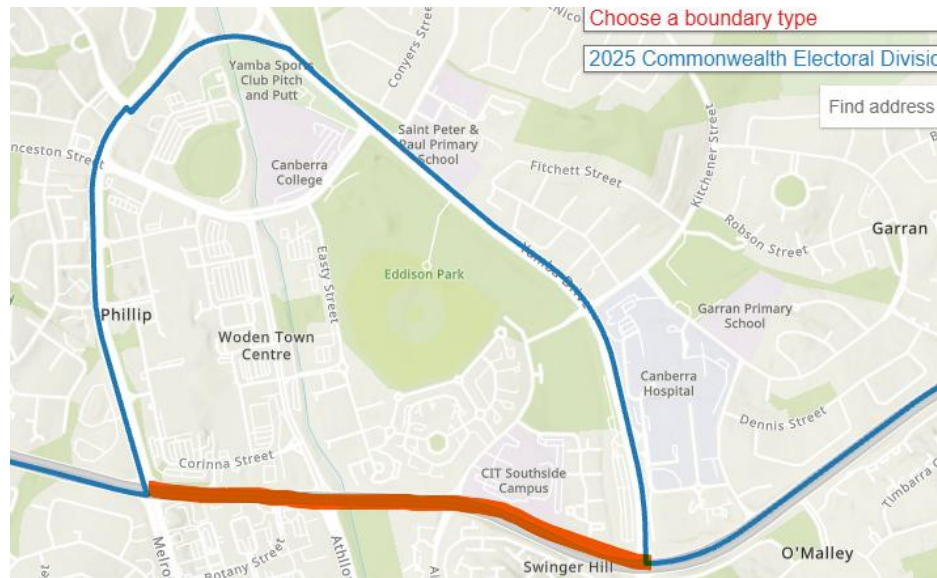
- The suburb of Whitlam, as well as the surrounding rural areas. This is the only part of Bean that lies north of the Molonglo River, so it seems sensible to remove it, using the river as a strong new boundary in the area.

This arrangement splits Molonglo Valley, but this does have the advantage of allowing this high-growth region to be split between two different seats, instead of having all the population increase bottled up in Bean.



- Woden Town Centre. The Division of Canberra already contains the northern suburbs of Woden, so this gain is a logical extension. It seems inevitable that the Woden area will remain split unless there are major changes elsewhere, so the Town Centre would fit just as well in Canberra as it does in Bean.

I suggest simply straightening the boundary along Hindmarsh Drive – this is a major arterial road in this part of Canberra, and is already used for large parts of the existing boundary. It seems very logical to me to simply connect the two parts of the current boundary together.



BEAN		Current	Projected
Existing		114,006	123,608
- Whitlam	To Canberra	985	2859
- Phillip (north of Hindmarsh Drive)	To Canberra	3253	5179
NEW		109,768	1155,70

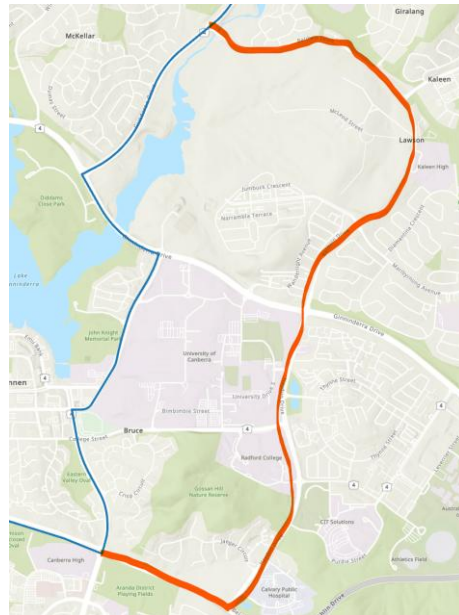
(The SA2s 'Molonglo East' and 'Arboretum' are also transferred, but have 0 electors so are not included in the above calculation)

CANBERRA

The gains from Bean take Canberra outside tolerance, and it needs to shed a few thousand electors to the Division of Fenner. Fortunately, Fenner is at the bottom of tolerance and can easily accept this.

I suggest making a change around central Belconnen, adopting Haydon Drive and Baldwin Drive as the new boundary. This transfers all of Lawson plus the western part of Bruce to the Division of Fenner.

These two suburbs are very close to Belconnen Town Centre, which is currently in Fenner. With this arrangement, a simple extension of the existing boundary is all that is needed – this is preferable to making a split of Gungahlin or a more significant change elsewhere.



CANBERRA		Current	Projected
Existing		102,602	109,175
+ Whitlam	From Bean	985	2859
+ Phillip (north of Hindmarsh Drive)	From Bean	3253	5179
- Lawson	To Fenner	1277	1331
- Bruce (west of Haydon Drive)	To Fenner	1083	1197
NEW		104,480	114,685

FENNER

The Division of Fenner is brought almost exactly on quota with this gain. It remains a Division containing Gungahlin and most of Belconnen.

FENNER		Current	Projected
Existing		105,271	111,742
+ Lawson	From Canberra	1277	1331
+ Bruce (west of Haydon Drive)	From Canberra	1083	1197
NEW		107,631	114,270