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Penny

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, Penny - Redistribution QLD - Submission

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Submission details

Submission: Names
Details: I disagree with Caitlin, it is not appropriate to name electorates after places in the bible or names from the bible. Doing so would only alienate voters.
electorate names should reflect Australia's shared civic identity, geography, history and heritage, rather than religious references or biblical figures.

There is also an important distinction between recognising the historical influence of religion in Australia's history and using religious names for parliamentary electorates.

Electorate names are public symbols.

They should ideally be inclusive and meaningful to people of all faiths and those with no religious affiliation. A biblical reference could be interpreted as giving one religious tradition a special place in Australia's secular democratic institutions.
I urge the Redistribution Committee to bear in mind the naming guidelines, which are pretty sensible.