

To The Redistribution Committee,

Re: Choice of names for new ACT electorates for ACT Legislative Assembly Elections

I am writing with specific regard to the question of names for the soon-to-be-established electorates. While many wiser than I will weigh in around the precise boundaries of the electorates, I feel I have a proposal for the naming that others may not have considered, but which may yet prove to be the best proposal yet received – not just to this submission process, but, indeed, to any submission process anywhere ever.

With no further ado: the five new ACT electorates should be named after the five Planeteers, Gi, Kwame, Linka, Ma-Ti, and Wheeler.

The logic behind this is inescapable. Firstly, note the ordinal correspondence between the number of proposed electorates (five) and the number of Planeteers (five). There is a pleasant harmony to this matching of sets.

But why the Planeteers when other options for sets of five are available?

Well, the five Planeteers are special in that their powers combined create Captain Planet. Here is the beautiful congruity of their names as applied to the ACT electoral boundaries – while each Planeteer is an individual, it is the combination of the five Planeteers that creates something new, emergent, and greater than the sum of its parts: Captain Planet. Similarly, the five ACT electorates will each be unique and remarkable, but also components of a far greater, more powerful thing - the ACT itself. Captain Planet is known for his commitment to conservation, and he is thus a suitable emblem for the ACT – “the bush capital” – which has natural wonders the envy of many other regions.

I understand that you may hesitate to name electorates after the Planeteers as it may not be clear which electorate should receive each name. However, there is again a clear answer to this. Please see the table below. Note that I have assumed a rough allocation of electoral boundaries, as informed by this blog post: <http://www.tallyroom.com.au/22917>.

Planeteer	Element	Region	Area of Canberra
Gi	Water	Malaysia	Woden
Kwame	Earth	Africa	Tuggeranong
Linka	Wind	Eastern Europe	Belconnen
Ma-Ti	Heart	Brazil	Inner North/South
Wheeler	Fire	USA	Gungahlin

Firstly, the most central electorate is the beating heart of Canberra – including Civic, Parliament House, and the Legislative Assembly itself. It is thus apt to be named “Ma-Ti” and associated with this Planeteer, who had the ability to instill passion and caring in all those he met.

Woden has the virtue of being named “Gi” and associated with the element water due to its iconic relationship with the popular Cotter Dam. This electorate is also sandwiched between other electorates, acting like a riverbed through which people and vehicular traffic flow. Malaysia, the birthplace of Gi, is proximate to Singapore – itself a thoroughfare for international travelers.

What do you find north of Brazil, Ma-Ti’s home? The USA of course! Thus the Gungahlin-focussed electorate would be known as “Wheeler”, named after the USA’s contribution to the Planeteers team. Wheeler is urban and street-smart, an appropriate mascot for the rapidly-developing

Gungahlin area. Also, as light rail will facilitate north-south transit between Gungahlin and Civic, this will come to parallel the close relationship between the North and South Americas.

Who does Wheeler love to flirt with? None other than Linka – while their homelands are geographically close, their relationship is complex and vexed by the politics of the Cold War Era. It hardly needs saying then that a Belconnen-based electorate should be named “Linka”. The titular Linka loves birds and is a master of strategy and logic – could there be a more suitable name for an electorate bounding Belconnen, which is host not only to much avian life, but also the ABS offices?

Finally, let us not forget an electorate based around Tuggeranong or, as it will doubtless be known, “Kwame”. Tuggeranong is the Africa of the ACT – a rich and diverse area, yet one often seen as homogenous and undeveloped. The Planeteer Kwame hailed from Zimbabwe, Africa, and he thus makes a great namesake for this region.

In 1993, the Redistribution Committee made the honourable decision of naming the three electorates after place names of Aboriginal origin. Not only did this create a harmonious theme uniting the three electorates, it also bore homage to Australia’s original inhabitants. Now, in 2014, the Redistribution Committee can take a logical next step, selecting another coherent theme for naming the electorates.

The Earth unites many peoples, from many lands, and the Planeteers represented this. Similarly, the ACT unites diverse peoples: southsiders, northsiders, people who grew up here, people who came here as part of a grad programme, etc. Our unique place as the nation’s capital ought to be recognized with the names of our electorates, and there is no choice of than that of Gi, Kwame, Ma-Ti, Linka, and Wheeler.

May our powers combine,

Joel Dignam