

Redistribution Committee

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The Committee,

I have submitted an electronic proposal to the Committee proposing:

- 5 Electorates in conformance with the requirements of the Electoral legislation (numerical requirements, and meet the other requirements, in large part by keeping whole towns together if possible);
- Proposed names for all 5 Electorates (the retention of the existing 3 names) plus Gungahlin and Woden-Weston, being respectively a northern and a southern electorate.

### **Numerical Summary**

The 5 Electorates enrolment details are as follows (from the most northerly to most southerly):

<b>Electorate</b>	<b>2015 quota</b>	<b>2016 quota</b>	<b>Population change numbers</b>
Gungahlin	92.39%	95.87%	4,023
Ginninderra	103.42%	103.79%	2,424
Molonglo	103.91%	103.09%	1,819
Woden-Weston	100.83%	99.02%	1,195
Brindabella	99.45%	98.24%	1,500

### **Approach**

The approach I have taken is to utilise existing boundaries if helpful, and use new boundaries to seek to incorporate entire town populations in one Electorate if possible. Apart from having to split Belconnen into Ginninderra and Gungahlin, and Tuggeranong into Brindabella and Woden-Weston all the Electorates incorporate entire towns.

In 2020 I expect that all the electorates as proposed will still be within tolerance, and minimal boundary changes will be necessary at a future redistribution.

### **Description**

**Gungahlin** takes in all of Gungahlin, areas west of the Federal Highway, Mitchell, Hall, and also Kaleen, Giralang, Bruce and Lawson from Belconnen. This means that entire suburbs and generally major Roads, such as Belconnen Way, William Slim Drive, Eastern Valley Way and Ginninderra Drive are used as boundaries.

Large areas of Bruce and the developing suburbs of Lawson are close to Gungahlin and as new and developing areas much in common with Gungahlin's new and growing suburbs.

The road links from Gungahlin also naturally link to the south and Kaleen, Giralang, Bruce and Lawson are adjacent to the Gungahlin Drive Extension. The links to Lyneham, O'Connor, Turner, and Acton are less strong and the latter are geographically more separated by the substantial area of the Canberra Nature Reserve, accordingly I would not include these suburbs in a Gungahlin based electorate.

I had considered the inclusion of Evatt and Mackellar in place of Bruce, but the boundary in Copland Drive is less clear than that with Bruce.

The enrolment of the proposed electorate sufficient for a quota at the present time and at the time of the next election.

**Ginninderra** as an existing electorate is too small to be a five member electorate in a 17 member Assembly, but too big to be an electorate in a 25 member Assembly.

The transfer to Gungahlin of Crace, Nicholls, Hall, Kaleen, Giralang, Bruce and Lawson is explained above, but growth in West Belconnen and increasing population in the Belconnen town centre means that the proposed electorate is growing steadily. The combination of Barton Highway, Williams Slim Drive, Ginninderra Drive, Eastern Valley Way, Belconnen Way and the Molonglo River make for recognisable and well defined boundaries.

As indicated above I had considered the inclusion of Evatt and Mackellar in place of Bruce, but the boundary in Copland Drive is less clear than that with Bruce.

The enrolment of the proposed electorate sufficient for a quota at the present time and at the time of the next election.

**Molonglo** is proposed to be a Molonglo River spanning electorate, incorporating both the Inner North and Inner South. These older areas of Canberra being in one electorate makes more sense than, for example splitting the Inner North into a Belconnen or Gungahlin based electorate. The geographical distribution of Canberra's population makes a Molonglo River spanning electorate unavoidable.

The enrolment of the inner north and inner south is sufficient for a quota at the present time and at the time of the next election.

**Woden-Weston** as a new electorate is intended to take the place of those areas where the existing Molonglo and Brindabella electorates retreat. The geographical logic of this electorate means that it takes in all of Woden, Weston Creek, and the growing Molonglo Valley, together with Kambah which is the oldest suburb of Tuggeranong and which is large enough by its own transfer from Brindabella to resolve the elector surplus of Brindabella.

The enrolment of the proposed electorate sufficient for a quota at the present time and at the time of the next election. Although I expect future population growth to be quite strong after 2016.

With **Brindabella** I have sought to carve off an entire suburb (Kambah) and this broadly meets the numerical requirements for Brindabella. I have added Jerrabomberra District, Beard, and Oaks Estate to that of Hume to increase elector numbers and propose to incorporate that part of Tuggeranong District 1 east of Athlon Drive into Brindabella also ([note the electronic map fails to show this](#)). These additional areas abut Queanbeyan and connect together. The elector numbers are small but the

transfer means that the boundary and connection with Queanbeyan is clearer, together with Brindabella becoming the clearly southern electorate in this boundary revision.

The enrolment of the proposed electorate sufficient for a quota at the present time and at the time of the next election.

### **Naming approach**

The three existing Electorate names seek to recognise aboriginal names and connection to the region. These have given rise to geographically based and quite logical names for the existing three Electorates. I have maintained them, and in adding two new names sought to follow practice elsewhere where generally geographical names are used (Canada, New Zealand, Britain, most Australian States, although not the US which uses numbers). There are exceptions where names of prominent people are named, such as former Prime Ministers, Premiers and so on, but generally geographical names are preferred.

To avoid partisan rancour I have proposed that the northerly Electorate be called Gungahlin, as it entirely contains Gungahlin (which is an aboriginal name), and is likely to do so for some considerable time. The new southern Electorate incorporates two existing towns Woden and Weston, and a hyphenated name incorporating both seems workable and descriptive. It is unlikely that in the foreseeable future that any of these names will become inappropriate due to significant population movements.

### **Conclusion**

I look forward to hearing further from the Committee and wish you well in your deliberations.

Martin Gordon

19 November 2014