

# **REDISTRIBUTION OF ACT ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES**

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## **Introduction:**

I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the ACT redistribution. Although I am from Melbourne, I lived in Canberra for several years and am very familiar with the layout of the city. I am not associated with any political party; I am an interested “layman” with no interest in using redistributions to secure a favourable political outcome. I hope the Commission will find independent submissions from myself and others valuable and helpful.

## **General Strategy:**

The proposed five electorates can correspond fairly naturally with the major Town Centres of Canberra: Gungahlin, Belconnen, Inner North/Inner South, Woden/Weston Creek, and Tuggeranong. The numbers do not match exactly; for example, Belconnen is too large to fit in a single electorate, so part of Belconnen will need to be removed to a Gungahlin or Inner electorate. However, these combinations of Town Centres clearly provide an obvious starting point as the basis for the five new electorates.

## **Boundaries:**

Canberra generally consists of a series of well-defined suburbs anchored on a Town Centre, and bounded by wide avenues, natural features, and/or open space. A network of major roads and boulevards provides strong connections both within and between individual Town Centres.

This makes drawing electorates a relatively easy exercise. Suburbs boundaries almost always naturally align to clear physical or man-made features, and highway/freeway standard roads provide connections between different parts of proposed electorates.

The Committee’s graphics tool does not allow the inclusion of partial suburbs, so there are a couple of small differences between my submitted map and my “real” boundaries. These are discussed below.

## **Naming:**

To avoid voter confusion, I would suggest not using any of the three existing names. I would also suggest not using the names of any Town Centres, since not all Town Centres can be accommodated within a single electorate. I have proposed five unique, neutral-sounding names for the new electorates, although I am sure the Committee and other contributors will come up with many suitable alternatives.

## **ELECTORATE 1: “Palmerston”**

I propose the northern-most electorate consist of:

- All of Gungahlin
- The Belconnen suburbs of Bruce, Kaleen, Giralang, and Lawson.
- Hall Village
- The locality of North Lyneham (the part of Lyneham north/west of Northbourne Avenue, Mouat Street, and Ginninderra Drive).

Hall is a better fit in Gungahlin than Belconnen, and including it in the northern electorate allows the use of the strong boundary of Barton Highway in this area. The four Belconnen suburbs are geographically close to Gungahlin and have easy access via the upgraded Gungahlin Drive freeway and William Slim/Gundaroo Drives. Their inclusion allows the use of Canberra University, Lake Ginninderra, and the currently unpopulated Lawson area as clear divides between electorates.

North Lyneham is a discrete area that is somewhat cut off from the rest of Lyneham, and is arguably a better fit in this electorate than with the remainder of the Inner North. (The map does not allow me to show this area as part of my proposed electorate).

I suggest “Palmerston”, a large suburb in the south of Gungahlin, as a suitable name for an electorate straddling Gungahlin and north-east Belconnen.

## **ELECTORATE 2: “Kippax”**

I suggest this electorate consist of:

- The remainder of Belconnen not included in the electorate of Palmerston.
- The (currently rural and undeveloped) part of Molonglo Valley north of the Molonglo River.

The remaining suburbs of Belconnen provide the right number of electors and form a strong community of interest. There is no need to include any part of the Inner North in a Belconnen electorate.

“Kippax”, a shopping/community centre in West Belconnen, seems a reasonable choice for an electorate based on southern and western Belconnen.

## **ELECTORATE 3: “Griffin”**

I suggest this electorate consist of:

- All of Inner North (including Civic), apart from North Lyneham
- All of Inner South
- Symonston, Fyshwick, and the Airport Precinct.

- Oaks Estate, Beard, and the Canberra Avenue corridor linking these with Symonston
- Majura District and the rural forested east of the ACT

Inner North and Inner South have almost exactly the right number of electors, so it makes sense to include both in a single electorate. These areas look to Civic as their main focus rather than Belconnen or Woden.

It makes logical sense for the Airport precinct and rural forested areas further east to be included in this electorate, as well as the Oaks Estate and areas adjacent to Queanbeyan. Canberra and Pialligo Avenues are the primary roads in this area, and both lead back to Inner Canberra. The Canberra Avenue corridor linking Oaks Estate and Beard to Symonston is also included here to make the electorate contiguous, but this cannot be shown easily on the Committee's mapping tool.

Given the association of the name with Inner Canberra, I suggest "Griffin" as an appropriate name for this electorate.

#### **ELECTORATE 4: "Arrawang"**

I suggest this electorate consist of:

- All of Woden Valley
- All of Weston Creek
- The Tuggeranong suburb of Kambah
- The new Molonglo Valley development (south of the Molonglo River).
- The old Stromlo forested area.
- Most of Jerrobomberra, including Hume.

Woden Valley plus Weston Creek and surrounding areas do not have quite enough electors for an electorate, but Kambah is a logical addition. Kambah is a large, discrete suburb in the north of Tuggeranong, with Athllon Drive and nature reserves forming clear boundaries from other suburbs in Tuggeranong. Both Athllon Drive and Tuggeranong Parkway provide easy links to Woden and Weston Creek.

Logically, the new developments in Molonglo Valley plus the rural Stromlo area also fit in this electorate. The more rural and forested areas west of the Murrumbidgee River, however, are a better fit in the southernmost electorate.

Mount Arrawang is a prominent local feature which divides Tuggeranong from Weston Creek, so "Arrawang" would seem a suitable name for this electorate.

#### **ELECTORATE 5: "Tharwa"**

I suggest this electorate consist of:

- All of Tuggeranong, except Kambah
- The township of Tharwa

- All of the remaining rural and forested areas in south and west ACT, including the Namadgi and Tidbinbilla National Parks, and the Paddys and Cotter River region.

It is logical for the southernmost electorate to contain most of rural ACT, as all roads in this district generally lead back to Tuggeranong, and the (sparse) population would look to Tuggeranong for services. The Murrumbidgee River would form a logical border between the rural parts of this electorate and Arrawang.

“Tharwa”, after the small rural township south of Tuggeranong, seems a good choice for an electorate incorporating Tuggeranong and southern rural ACT.