

# Woden Valley Community Council Inc.

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ACT Electoral Commission  
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## 2015 Redistribution

Dear Sir/Madam,

The recent amendments to the ACT Electoral Act 1992 Section 34 requiring that *'the ACT must be divided into five electorates'* and *'that five members must be elected from each electorate'* had for the first time an opportunity to align the current five districts with the new five electorates. We know from past redistributions of the electoral boundaries that suburbs were split from their districts giving them no or little recognition within their electorates or elected members representing them.

Sadly the amendments to the Electoral Act did not remove the requirement in *Part IV—Electorates, Factors relevant to redistribution - 30 (b) endeavour to ensure, as far as practicable, that the number of electors in an electorate at the time of the next general election of members of the Legislative Assembly will not be greater than 105%, or less than 95%, of the expected quota for the electorate at that time ascertained in accordance with the formula set out in subsection 67D (1) of the Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988 of the Commonwealth.*

The current districts were first drawn up by the National Capital Development Commission (NCDC), in what was known as the Y plan. The polycentric design aligns suburbs within their respective districts: Canberra Central, Woden/Weston, Belconnen, Tuggeranong and Gungahlin.

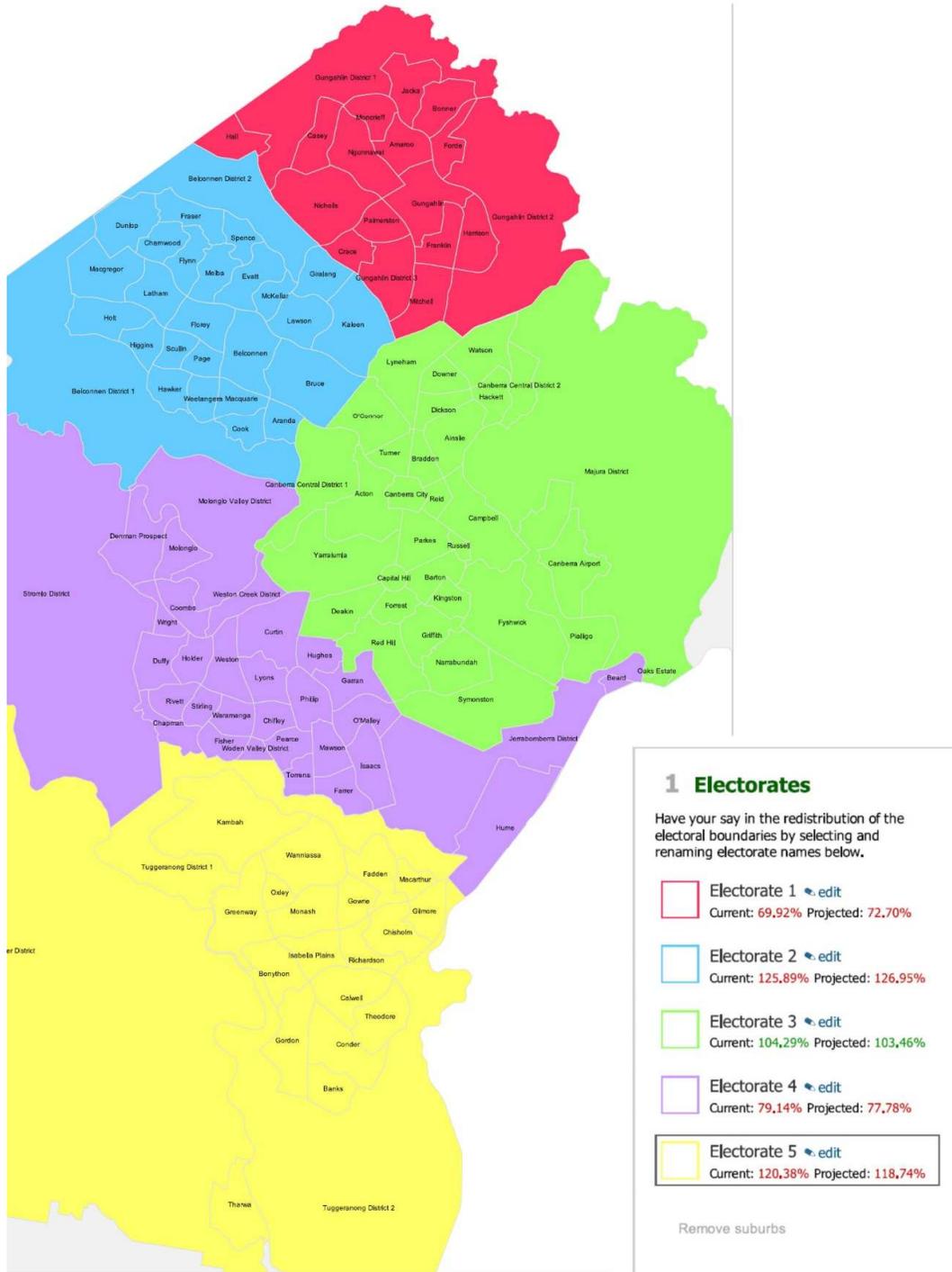
The new district of Molonglo which is projected to have a population of around 59 000 in 20 years' time could well become a new electorate itself. Though at this time and



NCDC Y Plan

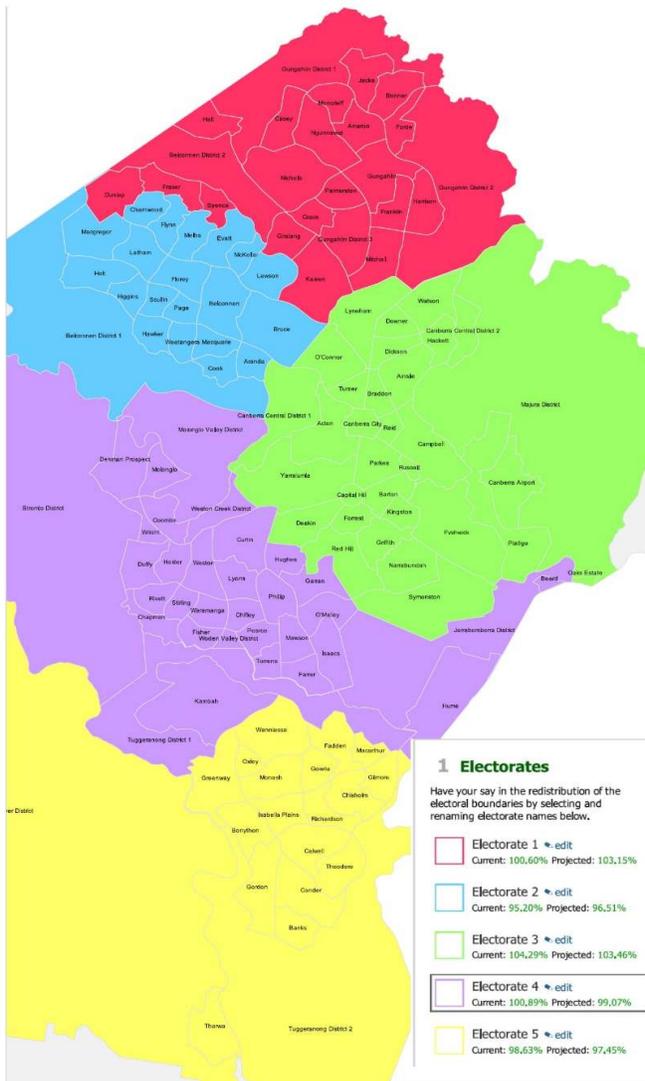
with its current proximity to Weston aligning Molonglo to the Woden/Weston district makes geographical sense.

The new user friendly graphical electorate mapping tool highlights the issues within the current ACT electoral Act. To align the electorates with the clearly defined districts, will not meet the criteria as mentioned previously in part 4 section 30b of the ACT electoral act 1992.

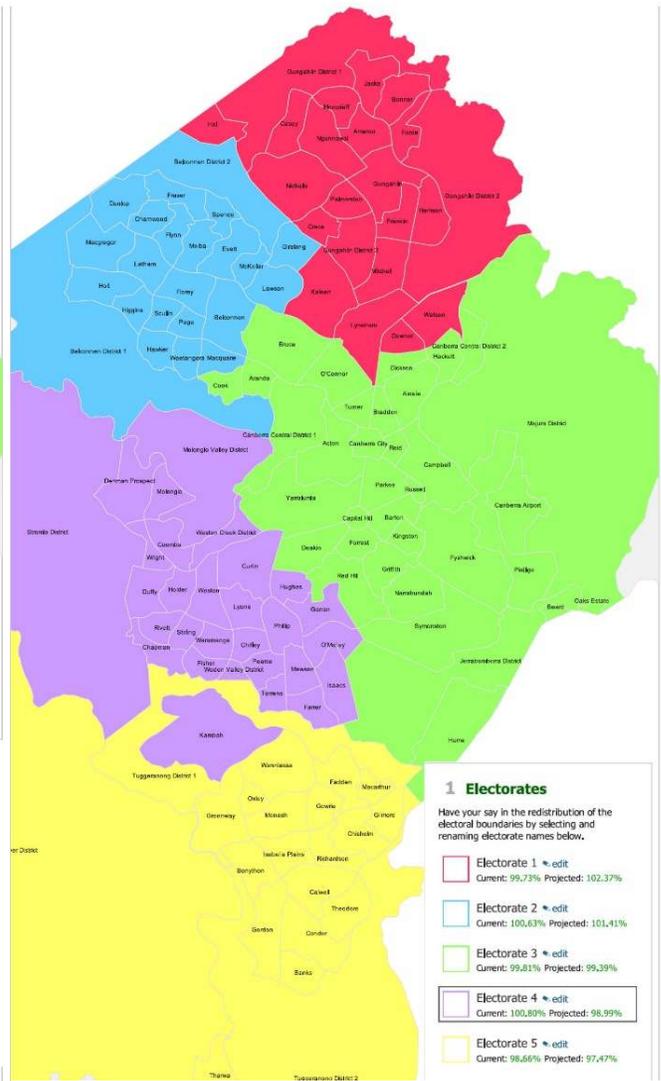


*New Electorates aligned with current districts*

Canberra central which includes North and South Canberra is the only district that fits current and projected population requirements for one electorate. To amend the other electorates would see Kambah removed from Tuggeranong and included into the Woden/Weston/Molonglo district/electorate. More concerning is the amendment required for Gungahlin to meet projections will see several suburbs of Belconnen removed and included in the Gungahlin district/electorate. To include suburbs of North Canberra to the Gungahlin electorate would be more problematic as this will mean that the Canberra central district/electorate would have to seek other suburbs to meet projections. Which would mean more suburbs of Belconnen removed.



Option 1 - Kambah, Dunlop, Fraser, Spence, Giralang and Kaleen removed from Districts



Option 2 - Kambah, Kaleen, Lyneham, Downer, Watson, Bruce, Aranda and Cook removed from Districts

Both Molonglo and Gungahlin will continue to be future population growth areas in the ACT. Option 1 and Option 2 are the only realistic outcomes for the new electoral boundaries, with some slight tweaking of Belconnen suburbs in Option 1.

The commission may seek to try and split all districts to create new electoral boundaries. The WVCC would strongly object to this redistribution.

While the WVCC does not support suburbs being split from their districts, we understand the current restraints by the Act as it stands. This issue will need to be addressed by the ACT legislative assembly for future redistributions.

The names of the current electorates could be retained though using the current district names would be the more suitable for the new electorates. For the simplicity of having single name electorates, the electorate/district name of Woden/Weston and Molonglo would need to be changed. The council doesn't have a suggestion on a name at this time.

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