

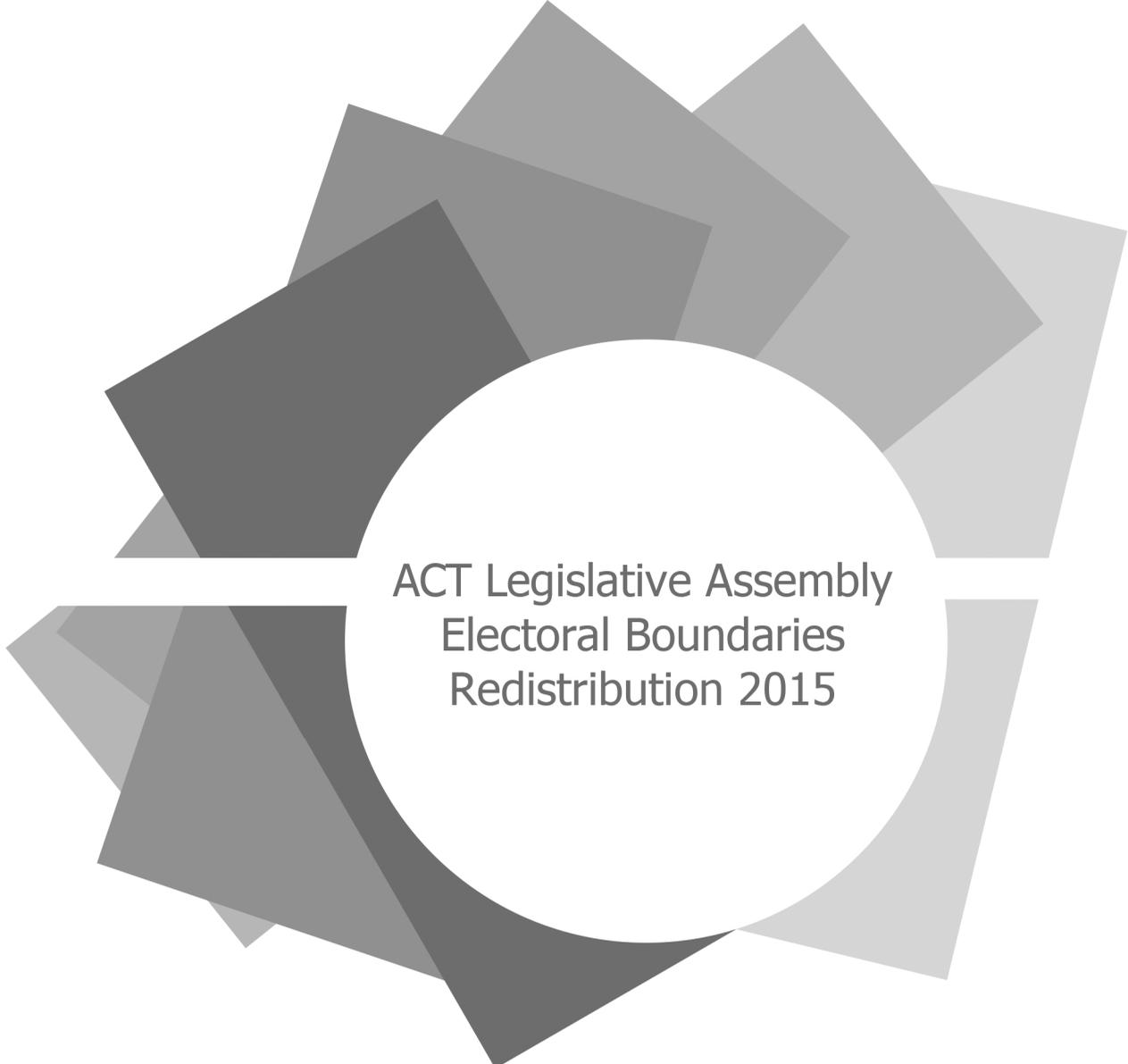


ACT Legislative Assembly
Electoral Boundaries
Redistribution 2015

Statement by the Augmented ACT Electoral Commission
of its reasons for its proposed redistribution of the
ACT Legislative Assembly electoral boundaries



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ACT Legislative Assembly Electoral Boundaries Redistribution 2015

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ACT Legislative Assembly Electoral Boundaries Redistribution 2015

Statement by the Augmented ACT Electoral Commission of its reasons for its proposed redistribution of the ACT Legislative Assembly electoral boundaries

This statement by the Augmented ACT Electoral Commission under section 51 of the *Electoral Act 1992* sets out the results of the Augmented Commission's investigation of the objections against the Redistribution Committee's proposal under section 49 of the Electoral Act and sets out the reasons for the Augmented Commission's proposed redistribution of the ACT Legislative Assembly electoral boundaries under section 50 of the Electoral Act.

Summary of the redistribution proposed by the Augmented ACT Electoral Commission

After considering 8 written objections to the electoral boundaries proposed by the Redistribution Committee (also taking account of 2 late submissions and noting 1 objection was withdrawn), the Augmented Commission has decided to adopt the boundaries proposed by the Redistribution Committee unchanged.

The Augmented Commission proposes that the ACT be divided into 5 electorates as follows:

Brindabella, a 5-Member electorate comprising the district of Tuggeranong (excluding the suburb of Kambah and that portion of Tuggeranong District adjacent to Kambah to the west of Athllon Drive) and the districts of Booth, Cotter River, Paddys River, Rendezvous Creek, Tennent and Mount Clear;

Ginninderra, a 5-Member electorate comprising the district of Belconnen (excluding the suburbs of Evatt, Giralang, Kaleen, Lawson and McKellar and that portion of Belconnen District adjacent to the Barton Highway);

Kurrajong, a 5-Member electorate comprising the districts of Canberra Central, Jerrabomberra (including the entire suburb of Hume), Kowen and Majura;

Murrumbidgee, a 5-Member electorate comprising the districts of Molonglo Valley, Weston Creek, Woden Valley, Coree (including the village of Uriarra) and Stromlo, the Tuggeranong suburb of Kambah, and that portion of Tuggeranong District adjacent to Kambah to the west of Athllon Drive; and

Yerrabi, a 5-Member electorate comprising the districts of Gungahlin and Hall, the Belconnen suburbs of Evatt, Giralang, Kaleen, Lawson and McKellar and that portion of Belconnen District adjacent to the Barton Highway.

As the Augmented Commission has accepted the proposal of the Redistribution Committee without change, the proposal of the Augmented Commission is not, within the meaning of section 51(2)(c) of the Electoral Act, significantly different from the Redistribution Committee's proposal. Consequently, there are no further opportunities for public objections. The Augmented Commission will formally complete the redistribution process in the near future by publication of a notifiable instrument of determination under section 35 of the Electoral Act and publication of a report concerning the redistribution.

The Augmented Commission comprises the members of the ACT Electoral Commission (Chairperson, Mr Roger Beale AO; Electoral Commissioner, Mr Phillip Green; and Commission Member, Ms Dawn Casey) and members of the Redistribution Committee (the Chief Planning Executive, ACT Planning and Land Authority (Ms Dorte Ekelund), the Surveyor-General (Mr Jeffrey Brown) and a person appointed by the ACT Electoral Commission, the Regional Director, ACT Office, Australian Bureau of Statistics (Ms Cassandra Gligora)).

Map of final boundaries



Objections to the Redistribution Committee's proposal

The Augmented Commission met on 5 May 2015 to investigate 8 objections made in accordance with section 46 of the Electoral Act to the Redistribution Committee's proposed redistribution of the ACT Legislative Assembly's electoral boundaries published on 31 March 2015. The Augmented Commission also noted that a 9th objection was withdrawn at the request of the objector.

The Augmented Commission also received 2 additional submissions after the close of the objection period on 28 April 2015. The Augmented Commission decided to address the substance of these submissions in this statement of reasons while noting that they were not formal objections.

Note that the term "objections" is used in the Electoral Act to denote submissions made in response to proposed redistributions published by the Redistribution Committee. In practice, these submissions may be opposed to or supportive of the proposed redistributions. Therefore use of the word "objections" does not necessarily imply that a submission denoted as an objection is opposed to the proposal under review.

The objections were made by:

Objections from organisations:

- Weston Creek Community Council
- Woden Valley Community Council

Objections from individuals:

- Arno Mikli
- Chris Erett
- David Roberts
- Matthew Watts
- Nathan Bennett
- Tim Walshaw

(The objection submitted by Joel Dignam was withdrawn at his request.)

Late submissions from individuals received after the close of the objection period:

- Andrew Fraszczak
- Tim O'Hanlon

Copies of the objections and the late submissions can be obtained from the Elections ACT website at:

www.elections.act.gov.au/electoral_boundaries/redistributions/2015_redistribution or from the office of the ACT Electoral Commission.

Summaries of objections

A brief summary of each of the 8 objections and the 2 late submissions follows.

Weston Creek Community Council

The Weston Creek Community Council supports the proposed changes to the ACT electorate boundaries. The Council supports the electorate name of Murrumbidgee.

The council notes that as Molonglo Valley increases in population consideration should be given to the suburb of Kambah being moved back to Brindabella at a future redistribution.

Woden Valley Community Council

The Woden Valley Community Council supports the proposal for all Woden Valley suburbs to be included within the same electorate. The Council supports the proposed name of Murrumbidgee for the Woden/Weston Creek/Molonglo Valley/Kambah electorate.

Arno Mikli

Mr Mikli objects to naming the central Canberra electorate Kurrajong. Mr Mikli recommends naming the electorate Yarralumla.

Chris Erett

Mr Erett states that legislation should be changed so that electorates can be aligned with towns/districts. He states that the theoretical equal representation of the current arrangements do not result in equal representation in practice. Mr Erett proposes electorate boundaries based on district boundaries that do not meet the numerical requirements set out in the Electoral Act.

David Roberts

Mr Roberts objects to the increase in the size of the Assembly to [sic] 27 members. Mr Roberts would like the redistribution to be performed again with the result being 3 electorates of 7 members, giving a total of 21 members.

Matthew Watts

Mr Watts states that he is pleased with the general approach taken in the proposed redistribution. However, Mr Watts believes the village of Hall should be kept with the Ginninderra electorate.

Nathan Bennett

Mr Bennett is supportive of the proposed redistribution but notes he is sad that his suggestion to name an electorate after former Chief Minister Trevor Kaine was not adopted.

Tim Walshaw

Mr Walshaw notes that the proposed electorate of Kurrajong has the highest projected enrolment of the proposed electorates and that the neighbouring electorate of Yerrabi has the second smallest proposed enrolment. Mr Walshaw suggests moving the suburb of Downer from Kurrajong to Yerrabi to close the gap in projected enrolment size. Mr Walshaw states that the aim of a redistribution is to have all electorates as near the same population size as possible and not to have any unnecessary variances in the population.

Andrew Fraszczak

Mr Fraszczak's late submission proposes that the Assembly be comprised of 21 members, with three 5-member electorates and two 3-member electorates. He proposes boundaries aligned with district boundaries.

Tim O'Hanlon

Mr O'Hanlon's late submission proposes that the name Ginninderra, or as an alternative, the name Gungaderra, should be applied to the proposed electorate that includes Gungahlin; and that the name Wittanjinna be applied to the electorate based on Belconnen.

Whether to hold a public hearing into the objections

Before considering the substance of the objections, the Augmented Commission's first task was to decide whether it was necessary to hold a public hearing into some or all of the objections.

Section 49 of the Electoral Act (Investigation of objections) provides:

- (1) The augmented commission shall investigate each objection made in accordance with section 46.
- (2) For the purpose of investigating an objection, the augmented commission shall hold a public hearing, unless it is of the opinion that —
 - (a) the matters raised in the objection (or substantially the same matters) were raised in suggestions or comments given to the redistribution committee in accordance with the notice under section 41 (1) (Suggestions and comments about redistribution); or
 - (b) the objection is frivolous or vexatious.

The Augmented Commission did not consider that any of the objections received were frivolous or vexatious. Therefore the task of the Augmented Commission was to decide if any of the matters raised in the objection (or substantially the same matters) were not raised in suggestions or comments given to the Redistribution Committee.

As discussed further below, the Augmented Commission did not consider that any of the objections raised substantial new matters that had not been canvassed in the first round of suggestions and comments. Therefore the Augmented Commission did not consider that it was necessary to hold a public hearing into any of the objections. Nevertheless, the Augmented Commission gave full consideration to each objection, as discussed in detail in the following section.

The objections submitted by the Weston Creek Community Council and the Woden Valley Community Council indicated support for the proposed names and boundaries, and hence did not raise any new matters.

The objection submitted by Chris Erett (and the late submission by Andrew Fraszczak) proposed altering the number of members to be elected in each electorate in order to avoid the splitting of district boundaries. A number of suggestions also canvassed this issue, hence these objections did not raise any new matters. As altering the number of members to be elected in each electorate is beyond the power of the Augmented Commission, this issue is not able to be considered at a public hearing.

The objection submitted by David Roberts proposed altering the number of members to be elected to the Assembly. As this is beyond the power of the Augmented Commission, this matter is not able to be considered at a public hearing.

The objection submitted by Arno Mikli objected to naming the central Canberra electorate Kurrajong and recommended that the electorate be named Yarralumla. While these specific names were not canvassed in any of the public suggestions or comments, the substance of the material points raised by Mr Mikli – the appropriate choice of electorate name, in particular naming an electorate using the name of an existing suburb or district – was raised in the context of several of the suggestions. This issue was canvassed at length by the Redistribution Committee, which specifically noted that it would not be appropriate to name an electorate Yarralumla. The Augmented Commission was satisfied that substantially the same matters raised by Mr Mikli in his objection were raised in the suggestions and comments within the meaning of section 49 of the Electoral Act. The Augmented Commission also noted that no other objections were received in relation to the use of the name Kurrajong. Therefore the Augmented Commission did not consider it necessary to hold a public hearing in relation to this objection.

The objection submitted by Matthew Watts proposed including the village of Hall in the Belconnen-based Ginninderra electorate. The placement of Hall was addressed in many of the suggestions, with most of these suggestions proposing that Hall be included in the Gungahlin-based electorate. The Augmented Commission also noted that no objections to the inclusion of Hall in the Gungahlin-based electorate had been received by any inhabitants of Hall. Therefore the Augmented Commission did not consider it necessary to hold a public hearing in relation to this objection.

The objection submitted by Nathan Bennett noted his sadness that his suggestion of naming an electorate after Trevor Kaine had not been adopted. As this matter had been specifically raised in Mr Bennett's original suggestion, the Augmented Commission did not consider it necessary to hold a public hearing in relation to this objection.

The objection submitted by Tim Walshaw proposed moving the suburb of Downer from Kurrajong to Yerrabi to bring these electorates closer in projected enrolment size. The placement of Downer had been canvassed in many of the public suggestions. The Augmented Commission noted that this objection would have resulted in boundaries that were not contiguous and would therefore have been inconsistent with the criteria set out in section 36 of the Electoral Act. The Augmented Commission did not consider it necessary to hold a public hearing in relation to this objection.

The late submission by Tim O'Hanlon proposes that the name Ginninderra, or as an alternative, the name Gungaderra, should be applied to the proposed electorate that includes Gungahlin; and that the name Wittanjirra be applied to the electorate based on Belconnen. Again, the substance of the material points being raised by Mr O'Hanlon – the appropriate choice of electorate name, in particular naming an electorate using the name of an existing suburb or district – was raised in the context of several of the suggestions (noting that the name Gungaderra was raised in suggestions). The Augmented Commission was satisfied that substantially the same matters raised by Mr O'Hanlon in his objection were raised in the suggestions and comments within the meaning of section 49 of the Electoral Act.

Investigation of the objections

In investigating the objections to the Redistribution Committee's proposed boundaries, the Augmented Commission was mindful that its deliberations were subject to and constrained by sections 34 and 36 of the Electoral Act.

Section 34 of the Electoral Act provides that the ACT must be divided into 5 electorates and that 5 members must be elected from each electorate.

Section 36 of the Electoral Act sets out the criteria under which a redistribution is to be conducted. This section prescribes that the Augmented Commission, in making a redistribution of electorates, shall:

- (a) ensure that the number of electors in an electorate immediately after the redistribution is within the range permitted by the *Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988* (Cwlth), section 67D(2) [not greater than 110%, or less than 90%, of the quota];
- (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 the *Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988* (Cwlth), section subsection 67D(1); and
- (c) duly consider —
 - (i) the community of interests within each proposed electorate, including economic, social and regional interests;
 - (ii) the means of communication and travel within each proposed electorate;
 - (iii) the physical features and area of each proposed electorate;
 - (iv) the boundaries of existing electorates; and
 - (v) the boundaries of divisions and sections fixed under the *Districts Act 2002*.

Objections proposing changes to the number of members to be elected

The objection submitted by Chris Erett (and the late submission by Andrew Fraszczak) proposed altering the number of members to be elected in each electorate in order to avoid the splitting of district boundaries. The objection submitted by David Roberts proposed altering the number of members to be elected to the Assembly. As the total number of members to be elected and the number of members to be elected in each electorate is fixed by section 34 of the Electoral Act, these proposed changes are beyond the power of the Augmented Commission.

Accordingly, these objections cannot be upheld.

Objection to the placement of Hall

The objection submitted by Matthew Watts stated:

I believe Hall should ideally be kept with Ginninderra. While government planners had long attempted to ignore Hall's unique appeal as a village that pre-dates Canberra, I believe there is little connection between Hall and Gungahlin, and many residents would rather visit the Belconnen Town Centre for their bulk purchases. Hall will never become part of Gungahlin, in that the ACT Government has promised a nature corridor between it and nearby suburbs of Gungahlin, whereas I understand no such undertaking has been made in relation to what is listed on the map as "Belconnen District 2". Maintaining Hall's small population within the Ginninderra electorate would have an extremely minor impact on the calculation of electorate boundaries. Also, from an historical perspective, the Belconnen District and the Hall District are quite connected, to the extent that the traditional Village of Hall extended into what is now the District of Belconnen

The ACT Surveyor-General's office advised the Augmented Commission that, at the time of the establishment of the ACT, the village of Hall was included in Hall District. At that time, the Hall District extended southwards from the most northerly point of the ACT boundary to Ginninderra Creek, which means the present day suburbs of Amaroo, Bonner, Casey, Jacka, Ngunnawal, Nicholls and Moncrieff all fall within land that was originally part of the Hall District. In 1976 the Hall district was significantly reduced in size to encompass the village of Hall, while the district of Gungahlin was extended to include the bulk of the original Hall District.

While the boundary between the district of Hall and the district of Belconnen has changed to a minor degree over time, this advice indicates that the village of Hall has been contained within the Hall District since the establishment of the ACT.

Given the above, the Augmented Commission considers there to be a stronger historical connection between Hall and the Gungahlin District.

Turning to the factors set out in section 36(c) of the Electoral Act, the Augmented Commission notes that the closest suburb to Hall is the Gungahlin suburb of Nicholls, including the Gold Creek/Ginninderra Village complex. It also notes that all of the Belconnen and Gungahlin suburbs that adjoin the Barton Highway, the main access route to Hall, are contained within the proposed Yerrabi electorate. If Hall was to be included in the Ginninderra electorate, it would be the only residential area north of the Barton Highway that was not in the Yerrabi electorate.

While it can be expected that some residents of Hall would shop, work and go to school in parts of Belconnen proposed to be included in the Ginninderra electorate, this would also be true of residents of the 5 Belconnen suburbs proposed to be included in the Yerrabi electorate. It would also be expected, given the proximity of Hall to Gungahlin and the access routes off the Barton Highway, that some residents of Hall would also shop, work and go to school in Gungahlin.

The Augmented Commission also noted that no objections to the proposed inclusion of Hall in Yerrabi had been received from residents of Hall.

Taking the above considerations into account, the Augmented Commission is satisfied that it is more appropriate to include the village of Hall in the proposed Yerrabi electorate. Accordingly, the Augmented Commission did not uphold Mr Watts' objection.

Objection to the placement of Downer

The objection submitted by Tim Walshaw stated:

In the recently published proposed electorate redistribution, the electorate of Kurajong [sic] has the highest population with a proposed population of 57969, yet the neighbouring electorate of Yaarabi [sic] is the second smallest with a proposed population of 55070.

I suggest that these electorates be made more equal by moving the suburb of Downer, population 2654, from the electorate of Kurajong [sic] to the electorate of Yaraabi [sic]. The aim of a redistribution is to have all the electorates as near the same population size as possible, and not to have any unnecessary variances in the populations.

The Augmented Commission notes that Downer is not contiguous with the proposed electorate of Yerrabi and that adoption of this proposed boundary change would establish Downer as an "island" in the electorate of Kurrajong.

The Augmented Commission does not accept that this proposal is feasible and would consider such a change to contradict the requirements of section 36(c) of the Electoral Act, which requires the Augmented Commission to duly consider elements such as: community of interests within each proposed electorate; means of communication and travel within each proposed electorate; and the physical features and area of each proposed electorate. The Augmented Commission considers that these criteria effectively rule out electorates that are not contiguous.

With regard to Mr Walshaw's general contention that "The aim of a redistribution is to have all the electorates as near the same population size as possible, and not to have any unnecessary variances in the populations", the Augmented Commission did not accept that this was correct. The Augmented Commission notes that section 36(b) of the Electoral Act requires the Augmented Commission to endeavour to ensure that each electorate is within the range of +/-5% of the average enrolment at the time of the next general election. The Electoral Act does not specify that each electorate should have as near the same enrolled population as possible. The Augmented Commission considers that the intent of the permitted +/-5% tolerance is to enable the proposed boundaries to be designed so as to give effect to the non-numerical criteria set out in section 36(c) of the Electoral Act.

For the above reasons, the Augmented Commission did not uphold Mr Walshaw's objection.

Objection to the name of Kurrajong electorate

The objection submitted by Arno Mikli stated:

I am writing to object to the naming of the central Canberra electorate to Kurrajong.

There is already a town in NSW by that name, mile [sic] away along the Hawkesbury River. If there is a problem with calling the electorate Molonglo because of possible confusion with the Molonglo Valley area, as stated in the report (page 17), then there is a problem with applying Kurrajong.

The grounds on which the name was chosen are weak, and the populace will have difficulties relating to it in the same way that they can with, say, Brindabella or Murrumbidgee.

The sole geographical basis given was one small point at North Weston Park (Kurrajong Point), and an artificial one at that, and not a long river (Murrumbidgee) or significant lake (Ginninderra). By contrast, many would not even have heard of Kurrajong Point.

The presence of kurrajong trees in the electorate is unlikely to be common knowledge, nor is the long-renamed Kurrajong Hill. Naming an electorate after trees is also unprecedented and does not reflect the 2015 ACT Redistribution Committee's own stated view on electorate names.

These have been defined as "The [The 2015 ACT Redistribution Committee] noted the theme adopted for the current electoral boundaries following the initial 1993 distribution of boundaries: using names of Aboriginal origin relating to physical features associated with the landscape of each electorate. The Committee considered that this theme remained appropriate, and noted that this theme was supported by a number of the public submissions...The Committee noted that its view that it should not use existing district or suburb names prevented it from proposing names that would otherwise be suitable as electorate names" (pages 17-18)

This view (not a requirement, though it has been treated as such) is far too restrictive. Is Kurrajong the best that could be found - even after asking Aboriginal authorities as they have stated? It would appear so. The committee has admitted that it had difficulties in finding local words for, say, Black Mountain or Mount Ainslie. Their view is thus likely to become a major problem in naming future electorates. ...

Mr Mikli goes on to recommend the name Yarralumla as an alternative. He notes that there is no formal legal requirement preventing the adoption of existing district or suburb names.

This objection turns on two key issues: whether it is appropriate to use the names of existing suburbs or districts as electorate names; and whether Kurrajong is a suitable name for the Canberra Central-based electorate.

In its reasons for its proposed redistribution, the Redistribution Committee noted that it considered it important to avoid any confusion between electorate names and districts and suburbs. This issue arose in particular in relation to the continued use of the name Molonglo in the context of the recent development of the new Molonglo Valley District. It also arose in relation to suggestions made that the Gungahlin/part Belconnen-based electorate be called Gungahlin. The Redistribution Committee specifically mentioned Yarralumla as an example of a suburb name that would not be suitable as an electorate name.

The Augmented Commission agrees with the Redistribution Committee that it is important to avoid any confusion between electorate names and the names of districts and suburbs. The Augmented Commission is concerned that an electorate named after a district or suburb contained within (or even outside of) that electorate could cause undue confusion in the minds of the general public. For example, calling the proposed electorate of Yerrabi (which is proposed to contain all of Gungahlin and 5 Belconnen suburbs) by the name of Gungahlin could give rise to the reasonable conclusion that the elected members of that electorate only represented the named district. Similarly, giving an electorate the same name as a suburb such as Yarralumla could give rise to the conclusion that the elected members only represented that suburb.

While Mr Mikli is correct in pointing out that there is no formal legal requirement preventing the adoption of existing district or suburb names, the Augmented Commission is satisfied that this is an appropriate rule of thumb to adopt in order to avoid any confusion.

While Mr Mikli puts forward several sound arguments in favour of the adoption of the name Yarralumla for the Canberra Central-based electorate, the Augmented Commission is satisfied that it is appropriate to reject this name because of the need to avoid confusion with the suburb name.

Turning to Mr Mikli's objection to the name Kurrajong, the Augmented Commission notes that he objects to the use of Kurrajong because it is the name of a town in NSW. The Augmented Commission does not accept that this is a valid ground for objection given that there can be little possibility of confusion in this case in relation to a name used in another jurisdiction, compared to the confusion that could arise by use of an ACT district or suburb name.

Mr Mikli goes on to argue that the grounds on which Kurrajong was chosen are weak, and that people would have difficulty in relating to it.

The Augmented Commission does not agree that Kurrajong is not a suitable name for the Central Canberra-based electorate. As noted by the Redistribution Committee, Kurrajong Hill was the name used by early settlers for the site now known as Capital Hill, the site of the Australian Parliament House. The Augmented Commission notes that Kurrajong Hill featured prominently on the maps used during the 1912 design competition for the national capital that resulted in the adoption of Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin's plan for Canberra. The maps prepared for that competition used Kurrajong Hill as a key feature from which radiated several main axial lines that were taken up in the Griffin Plan. These axial lines exist today in the form of Commonwealth Avenue/Northbourne Avenue, Kings Avenue, Brisbane Avenue, Sydney Avenue, Canberra Avenue, Hobart Avenue, Melbourne Avenue, Adelaide Avenue and Perth Avenue, as well as the line drawn between new Parliament House, old Parliament House, the Australian War Memorial and Mount Ainslie.

The Augmented Commission also notes that the name Kurrajong is in current use in the ACT through its association with Hotel Kurrajong, itself named after nearby Kurrajong Hill. A notable resident of Hotel Kurrajong was Prime Minister Ben Chifley, who lived and died in the hotel. Hotel Kurrajong is listed on the Register of the National Estate and the ACT Heritage Register.

Contrary to Mr Mikli's assertion, the Redistribution Committee did not simply propose to name the electorate after the kurrajong tree. The Redistribution Committee pointed out the derivation of the name Kurrajong from the name of the tree primarily to demonstrate the Aboriginal heritage of the word.

The Augmented Commission is satisfied that the name Kurrajong is an appropriate name for an Assembly electorate. There is a strong historical connection with Kurrajong Hill and the name continues to be used for Kurrajong Point and the Hotel Kurrajong. The Augmented Commission also considers that the proposed electorate name appears to have received general public acceptance, given that there was only one objection to its use.

For the above reasons, the Augmented Commission did not uphold Mr Mikli's objection.

Objection proposing to name an electorate after Trevor Kaine

The objection submitted by Nathan Bennett reiterated his suggestion that an electorate be named after the late Chief Minister, Trevor Kaine. This name was considered and rejected by the Redistribution Committee in favour of its theme of adopting names of Aboriginal origin with a connection with the local landscape. The Augmented Commission agrees that the theme adopted by the Redistribution Committee is appropriate and also notes that it does not consider it appropriate to use the names of individuals for electorates for the Assembly at this time.

Objection to the names of Ginninderra and Yerrabi electorates

The late submission by Tim O'Hanlon proposes that the name Ginninderra, or as an alternative, the name Gungaderra, should be applied to the proposed electorate that includes Gungahlin; and that the name Wittanjirra be applied to the electorate based on Belconnen. Mr O'Hanlon argues that the name Ginninderra has a longer historical connection with areas now contained within the Gungahlin District.

While this submission was received after the deadline for objections, the Augmented Commission agreed to address it in this statement of reasons.

The Augmented Commission notes that the name Ginninderra was first associated with an Assembly electorate in the 1993 redistribution, before suburban development commenced in Gungahlin. At that first redistribution, Ginninderra consisted solely of the districts of Belconnen and Hall. In subsequent redistributions, Ginninderra expanded to include first the Gungahlin suburb of Nichols and later the Gungahlin suburbs of Crace and Palmerston.

Section 36(c)(iv) of the Electoral Act provides that the Augmented Commission is to duly consider the boundaries of existing electorates. Given that the proposed electorate of Ginninderra, consisting entirely of Belconnen suburbs, contains more of the current electorate of Ginninderra than does the proposed electorate of Yerrabi, the Augmented Commission is of the view that the proposed Belconnen-based electorate should retain the name Ginninderra. The Augmented Commission notes that the proposed electorate still contains Lake Ginninderra and a significant portion of Ginninderra Creek.

The Augmented Commission does not favour the use of the name Gungaderra, as this does not fit within the theme of adopting names of Aboriginal origin associated with the landscape. Gungaderra is not itself a word of Aboriginal origin; rather it is a combination of the words Gungahlin and Ginninderra.

The Augmented Commission does not favour the use of the name Wittanjirra as this is an alternative spelling of Weetangera. The use of this name would be contrary to the view taken by the Redistribution Committee and the Augmented Commission that suburb names should not be used.

For the above reasons, the Augmented Commission did not agree with Mr O'Hanlon's submission.

Conclusion

For the reasons given above, the Augmented Commission proposes to adopt the Redistribution Committee's proposed names and boundaries unchanged.

Next stage of the redistribution process

As the Augmented Commission has accepted the proposal of the Redistribution Committee without change, the proposal of the Augmented Commission is not, within the meaning of section 51(2)(c) of the Electoral Act, significantly different from the Redistribution Committee's proposal. Consequently, there are no further opportunities for public objections. The Augmented Commission will formally complete the redistribution process in the near future by publication of a notifiable instrument of determination under section 35 of the Electoral Act and publication of a report concerning the redistribution under section 53 of the Electoral Act.

Augmented ACT Electoral Commission
Roger Beale AO — Phillip Green — Dawn Casey
Dorte Ekelund — Jeffrey Brown — Cassandra Gligora

18 May 2015