

## PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA – ACT BRANCH

This is the Submission of the Proportional Representation Society of Australia – ACT Branch for the redistribution of ACT Legislative Assembly electorates.

The Electoral Act 1992 section 36 specifies the factors to be taken into account in the redistribution. Broadly, sub-sections 36 (a) and (b) require that the electorates be of roughly equal size, while sub-36(c)(iv) five other considerations. The PR Society generally interprets these as suggesting:

- Changes should be minimised. Section 36(c)(iv) states that consideration should be given to “the boundaries of existing electorates”.
- As far as possible, existing districts should be kept intact. Section 36(c)(v) states that consideration should be given to “the boundaries of divisions and sections fixed under the Districts Act 2002”. Moreover, the other three considerations – communities of interest (s36(c)(i)), means of communications and travel (s36(c)(ii)) and physical features (s36(c)(iii)) – generally align with district boundaries.

Current electorate boundaries generally align with the districts, with addition or excision of a few suburbs needed to comply with the requirement that the electorates be broadly numerically equal in size. Thus:

- Yerrabi is based on Gungahlin and Hall (with a few suburbs from Belconnen)
- Ginninderra is broadly based on Belconnen (less a few suburbs)
- Kurrajong is based on Canberra Central
- Murrumbidgee is based on Weston Creek, Woden Valley and Molonglo Valley (plus a suburb from Tuggeranong)
- Brindabella is based on Tuggeranong (less a suburb)

We would maintain that the best interpretation of section 36(c) leaves this structure intact.

Based on the population data, all five electorates are within the current population tolerance, but at the time of the next election Yerrabi will be too large and Ginninderra and Brindabella would be too small (see the table).

<b>Electorate</b>	<b>Current size (relative to equal sized electorates)</b>	<b>Size at next election (relative to equal sized electorates)</b>
Yerrabi	108.24	<b>114.63</b>
Ginninderra	94.17	<b>92.12</b>
Kurrajong	103.52	103.29
Murrumbidgee	100.79	101.40
Brindabella	93.28	<b>88.56</b>

To address this, we would suggest the following changes, based on making minimal adjustments and keeping districts intact as far as possible:

- Leave Kurrajong unchanged – it is the correct size and its boundaries follow the district boundaries.
- Reduce the size of Yerrabi by returning suburbs excised from Belconnen to Ginninderra (Evatt, McKellar, Giralang and Lawson).

- Increase the size of Brindabella by adding “Kambah West” ie the portion of Kambah West of Drakeford Drive (currently part of the Murrumbidgee). Unfortunately, adding all of Kambah would make the electorate too large.
- Move Aranda and Cook from Ginninderra to Murrumbidgee to ensure all electorate fit within the size tolerances.

After this set of changes:

- Yerrabi would comprise Gungahlin and Hall plus one suburb from Belconnen (Kaleen)
- Ginninderra would comprise Belconnen less the suburbs of Kaleen, Aranda and Cook
- Kurrajong would comprise Central Canberra
- Brindabella would comprise Tuggeranong less “Kambah East”
- Murrumbidgee would comprise Weston Creek, Woden Valley and Molonglo Valley plus “Kambah East” from Tuggeranong and two suburbs from Belconnen (Aranda and Cook).

These proposed changes would leave all five electorates within the tolerances specified in sub-sections 36 (a) and (b), ie

<b>Electorate</b>	<b>Current size (relative to equal sized electorates)</b>	<b>Size at next election (relative to equal sized electorates)</b>
Yerrabi	92.03	98.33
Ginninderra	103.42	101.79
Kurrajong	103.52	103.29
Murrumbidgee	96.40	97.55
Brindabella	104.63	99.03

We propose no change to the electorate names.

Martin Dunn  
Deputy Convenor

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