

COMMENTS ON SUGGESTIONS: ACT REDISTRIBUTION 2014/5

(Dr Mark Mulcair)

General Comments:

There has been very close agreement between all the submissions, with all of the suggestions using the Town Centres of Gungahlin, Belconnen, Inner North plus Inner South, Woden plus Weston Creek, and Tuggeranong as a clear basis for their boundaries.

There is almost universal agreement to top up the numbers in the Woden/Weston seat by adding Kambah from Tuggeranong, and for the Gungahlin seat to make up numbers by adding suburbs from eastern Belconnen.

The only real differences are the suggestions for naming, and the specific suburbs transferred to top up the Gungahlin seat.

Naming:

About half of the submissions retain the names Brindabella, Molonglo, and Ginninderra, or use the names of Town Centres (e.g. 'Gungahlin', 'Woden-Weston', etc) for the electorates. I would still recommend that five completely new names be used to avoid voter confusion.

Several other submissions agreed that 'Griffin' was a suitable name for the central electorate, while at least one suggested 'Palmerston' for the name of the Gungahlin-based electorate.

Which Belconnen/Inner North suburbs to include with Gungahlin?

I suggest the suburbs of Kaleen, Giralang, Lawson and Bruce be added to the Gungahlin seat. While adding Bruce forces the seat south of Ginninderra Drive, it allows the use of William Slim Drive (a fairly major road), Lake Ginninderra, and the University of Canberra as clear boundaries between the two electorates.

Mackellar and/or Evatt are geographically closer to Gungahlin, so there is a case for their inclusion. However, these suburb boundaries follow side streets, and are not particularly clear "on the ground". I think William Slim Drive is much stronger and clearer.

I suggested that the North Lyneham locality be included in the Gungahlin seat. This is a somewhat discrete area, detached from the rest of Lyneham by Ginninderra Drive, and fits quite well in the electorate. I would not support the inclusion of the remainder of Lyneham (e.g. The Greens submission), or any other part of the Inner North in the Gungahlin seat. I note that the Greens' submission pushes this rapidly-growing electorate towards the high end of quota, whereas logic suggests it should be kept under.

There is no need to include any part of the Inner North in Belconnen, and virtually all submissions agree with this.