

4 March 2019

Mr Damian Cantwell AM
ACT Electoral Commissioner
Elections ACT
PO Box 272
Civic Square ACT 2608

Dear Mr Cantwell

I am pleased to provide the Canberra Liberals submission for the 2019 redistribution of the ACT's Legislative Assembly electorates.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Elections ACT for the opportunity to make a submission.

Yours sincerely



John Czielsa
President
Canberra Liberals

Overview

The Canberra Liberals note that the main challenge faced by the Redistribution Committee is the high population growth rate in the north of Canberra, especially in the Gungahlin district compared with the lower growth rate in the south, especially in Tuggeranong.

This has created a situation where it is impossible to correct the “anomalies” from the previous redistribution to keep all suburbs and communities of interest normally associated with the geographic districts, or areas associated with town centres, together. This is especially apparent in the cases of Tuggeranong and Kambah and the various Belconnen suburbs currently included in Yerrabi.

Kambah presents the largest issue as there are few practical alternatives to splitting Kambah, keeping part of the suburb within Murrumbidgee while including part in Brindabella. While splitting a suburb is not ideal other alternatives would also split communities of interest in ways that would not serve those communities well. Given that future growth rates will likely result in a situation where the remainder of Kambah can be included in Brindabella in the 2023 redistribution, the Canberra Liberals believe including part of Kambah in Brindabella in this redistribution is a better alternative than taking a selection of suburbs from the Woden Valley district to include in Brindabella or including all of Kambah in Brindabella and taking a number of Tuggeranong suburbs and including them in Murrumbidgee.

In summary the Canberra Liberals propose the following changes:

- Yerrabi to lose Evatt, McKellar and Belconnen District 2 which will be added to Ginninderra
- Ginninderra to gain Evatt, McKellar and Belconnen District 2
- Kurrajong to lose Deakin which will be added to Murrumbidgee
- Murrumbidgee to gain Deakin and lose Kambah East
- Brindabella to gain Kambah East

The changes proposed by the Canberra Liberals to the existing electorate boundaries represent a minimalist approach that places the community of interest in each electorate at the forefront.

Requirements of the Electoral Act

As the Elections ACT outlines, the Electoral Act and the Self-Government Act provide that the Redistribution Committee and the Augmented Electoral Commission shall –

- (a) ensure that the number of electors in an electorate immediately after the redistribution is within the range of 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; 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.

Demographics

The redistribution proposed by the Canberra Liberals ensures both that the number of electors in all electorates immediately after the redistribution is within the required range of not greater than 110%, or less than 90% of the quota and that the number of electors in all electorates at the time of the next ACT Assembly election will not be greater than 105%, or less than 95%, of the expected quota.

Brindabella	Current: 101.90%	Projected: 96.62%
Murrumbidgee	Current: 96.13%	Projected: 97.26%
Kurrajong	Current: 99.55%	Projected: 99.37%
Ginninderra	Current: 104.56%	Projected: 102.06%
Yerrabi	Current: 97.85%	Projected: 104.70%

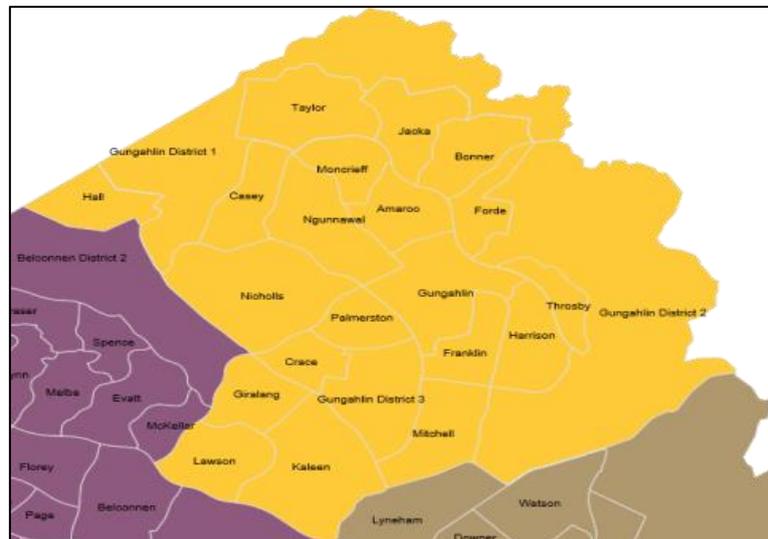
Names of Electorates

The Canberra Liberals do not support a change in name of any of the electorates. The current names have wide public acceptance and any change would likely lead to a degree of confusion amongst members of the public in the lead up to the 2020 election.

Electorates

Yerrabi

The Canberra Liberals propose that Yerrabi lose Evatt, McKellar and Belconnen District 2 and that these be added to the electorate of Ginninderra.



Ginninderra

The Canberra Liberals propose that Ginninderra gain Evatt, McKellar and Belconnen District 2. These suburbs and areas are part of the Belconnen district on which the electorate of Ginninderra is based and have a strong community of interest with the suburbs in the electorate of Ginninderra.

hub for Deakin residents and Deakin is therefore a good fit with the community of interest centred on the Woden Valley district.



Brindabella

The Canberra Liberals propose that Brindabella gain Kambah East. Kambah is a part of Tuggeranong district and has strong community of interest with the other Tuggeranong suburbs that comprise the bulk of the Brindabella electorate. While splitting a suburb is not ideal, other alternatives also split communities of interest. Future growth rates will likely result in a situation where the remainder of Kambah can be included in the Brindabella electorate in the 2023 redistribution, creating an electorate that would include all Tuggeranong suburbs.



Map of proposed changes to all electorates

