

2nd June 2019

12 Hutt Street
Yarralumla
ACT 2600

ACT Electoral Commission redistribution@act.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in regard to the proposed redistribution of the ACT Legislative Assembly electoral boundaries in regard to the new changes for the electorates of Kurrajong and Murrumbidgee.

I can see that from a cartographer's point of view, moving Deakin and Yarralumla and splitting Kambah makes a very nice simple design for the electorate of Murrumbidgee.

That however is an insufficient reason for these changes to occur.

Firstly, the suburb of Kambah is currently in Murrumbidgee. The proposal is to split Kambah and move Kambah West from Murrumbidgee to Brindabella and leave Kambah East in Murrumbidgee. This seems an unnecessary change for the residents of Kambah who as suburb I presume would prefer to retain their local interests within the strong community of Kambah.

Secondly, Yarralumla and Deakin share a history and character with the adjoining suburbs of inner south and inner north, to a much greater extent than they do with the adjoining newer suburbs of Curtin, Hughes and Garran. Yarralumla was first settled in the 1920s and along with Ainslie are the two oldest suburbs in Canberra.

Thirdly, Yarralumla's community of interest with the inner south is reinforced by geography. Yarralumla is geographically separated from Weston Creek, Molonglo, Curtin and Woden Valley by large expanses of open space whereas it geographically abuts Deakin which in turn abuts the other inner south suburbs.

Fourthly, within the next couple of years large housing developments are planned for Woden, Curtin and Yarralumla. These developments will have a large impact on the population for the electorate of Kurrajong. This significant increase in the population, will remove the need for a change of boundaries for Yarralumla and Deakin.

Finally, Yarralumla also shares Lake Burley Griffin and its shoreline and adjacent areas with other Central Canberra suburbs like Acton, Barton and Kingston reinforcing Yarralumla's links with those suburbs. Managing Lake related issues and liaising with Commonwealth entities responsible for the Lake such as the National Capital Authority will be made more difficult and inefficient the more ACT electorates are involved.

Furthermore, as much of Yarralumla is designated land under the National Capital Plan under the Committee's proposal responsibility will be split between Legislative Assembly members for Kurrajong and Murrumbidgee in planning and matters involving NCA, resulting in further inefficiencies and duplication.

Therefore I am opposed to the proposal to move Yarralumla from the Kurrajong electorate to the Murrumbidgee electorate for the reasons stated above.

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Gillespie

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