



Inner South Canberra Community Council

ACT Electoral Commission
redistribution@act.gov.au

The Inner South Canberra Community Council (ISCCC) is a voluntary, not for profit, community-based organisation that operates as a peak body for suburban residents groups in inner south Canberra. The ISCCC's objective is to preserve and improve the social, cultural, economic and environmental well being of Inner South Canberra and the Inner South Canberra community.

The Deakin Residents Association and the Yarralumla Residents Association are both member groups of the Inner South Canberra Community Council and under our constitution each has two representatives on our Committee. The Council joins with both of these member Associations in opposing the proposed changes to the electoral boundaries that would see Deakin and Yarralumla transferred to the Murrumbidgee electorate.

Need to comply with the Electoral Act

The Electoral Act requires a redistribution to adhere strongly to the current existing electoral boundaries. Kurrajong and Murrumbidgee electorates sit comfortably within current and projected enrolment quotas. It is only because of the proposal to move West Kambah to Brindabella that there is a need to increase the numbers in Murrumbidgee.

As suggested in the submission of the Yarralumla Residents Association, the Redistribution Committee could meet its objective by leaving Kambah West and part of Kambah East in Murrumbidgee and moving the balance of Kambah East to Brindabella. This would involve a change to only one electoral boundary rather than two. It would also impact on part of one suburb only rather than three suburbs.

Changes in population numbers

The risk with the Redistribution Committee's proposal is a yo-yo situation where rapid population growth in Molonglo and urban infill in Woden risks a further redistribution at the following election that will see Deakin and/or Yarralumla moving back again to Kurrajong. The Redistribution Committee's Report recognises Molonglo as an area of high growth in the ACT, and Molonglo and Curtin have both been identified in the ACT Planning Strategy 2018 as urban intensification localities. If, as expected, the population in Murrumbidgee increases and exceeds 5% above the quota the logical response would be to move Deakin and/or Yarralumla back to Kurrajong. This will cause further disruption to residents as well as ACT Government Ministers and Members.

Community of interest

The Deakin Residents Association and the Yarralumla Residents Association have found no support amongst their members for the proposed move. Residents have a strong community of interest with other inner south suburbs such as Deakin, Manuka, Griffith and Forrest rather than Woden Valley, Weston Creek and Molonglo. In its survey of members, for example, the Yarralumla Residents Association found that 94 % of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that Yarralumla has a stronger

community of interest with other inner south suburbs rather than with suburbs in the electorate of Murrumbidgee. 81% of respondents also agreed or strongly agreed that Yarralumla has similar social, economic and planning and environmental issues to inner south suburbs rather than the existing Murrumbidgee suburbs.

The proposed redistribution would create a situation where a couple of our member residents associations will be in a different electorate, doubling the number of local members the Council will need to deal with, from 5 to 10, on issues affecting the inner south. The workload will increase significantly for the ISCCC, our member residents groups, the 10 local Members of the Legislative Assembly for Kurrajong and Murrumbidgee, and relevant Government directorates.

Physical features and area

The community of interest of Deakin and Yarralumla with the inner south is reinforced by geography. Residential areas of Deakin and Yarralumla are geographically separated from Weston Creek, Molonglo, and the Woden Valley whereas they adjoin the other inner south suburbs.

Yarralumla 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.

Similarly, as significant areas of Deakin and Yarralumla are *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 other matters involving the NCA, resulting in further inefficiencies and duplication.

In conclusion, the ISCCC considers there are strong grounds for the Redistribution Committee to retain Deakin and Yarralumla within the electorate of Kurrajong.



Marea Fatseas
Chair

3 June 2019