

From: [Arno Mikli](#)
To: [redistribution](#)
Subject: 2015 Electoral Realignment - Objection
Date: Tuesday, 28 April 2015 5:42:05 AM

I am writing to object to the naming of the central Canberra electorate to Kurrajong.

There is already a town in NSW by that name, mile away along the Hawkesbury River. If there is a problem with calling the electorate Molonglo because of possible confusion with the Molonglo Valley area, as stated in the report (page 17), then there is a problem with applying Kurrajong.

The grounds on which the name was chosen are weak, and the populace will have difficulties relating to it in the same way that they can with, say, Brindabella or Murrumbidgee.

The sole geographical basis given was one small point at North Weston Park (Kurrajong Point), and an artificial one at that, and not a long river (Murrumbidgee) or significant lake (Ginninderra). By contrast, many would not even have heard of Kurrajong Point.

The presence of kurrajong trees in the electorate is unlikely to be common knowledge, nor is the long-renamed Kurrajong Hill. Naming an electorate after trees is also unprecedented and does not reflect the 2015 ACT Redistribution Committee's own stated view on electorate names.

These have been defined as "The [The 2015 ACT Redistribution Committee] noted the theme adopted for the current electoral boundaries following the initial 1993 distribution of boundaries: using names of Aboriginal origin relating to physical features associated with the landscape of each electorate. The Committee considered that this theme remained appropriate, and noted that this theme was supported by a number of the public submissions...The Committee noted that its view that it should not use existing district or suburb names prevented it from proposing names that would otherwise be suitable as electorate names" (pages 17-18)

This view (not a requirement, though it has been treated as such) is far too restrictive. Is Kurrajong the best that could be found - even after asking Aboriginal authorities as they have stated? It would appear so. The committee has admitted that it had difficulties in finding local words for, say, Black Mountain or Mount Ainslie. Their view is thus likely to become a major problem in naming future electorates. In the instance of this electorate, some modifying of their view that the committee has stuck to is a good idea.

I recommend the name **Yarralumla** as far more suitable than Kurrajong because the following.

- The electorate has a Yarralumla Bay and Yarralumla elevation near Dunrossil Drive (more substantial or natural than Kurrajong Point).
- The word is a local (Ngunnawal) Aboriginal word, (at least apparently) meaning "echo". Kurrajong is not a local word.
- The name is far better known than Kurrajong and has long-term local associations. It's one of the oldest settled in areas in Canberra, close to Capital Hill and includes the Governor General's residence.
- The name has more widespread and visible usage in the electorate, albeit in its south.

- It does spill over into the Shire of Yarrawlunla in NSW, but then again , so does the Murrumbidgee.
- A reminder that there is no formal legal requirement that the Committee "should not use existing district or suburb names".