

Overview

The Canberra Liberals note that the main challenge faced by the Redistribution Committee is the low population growth rate in the South of Canberra. Previous redistributions have created a situation where it is impossible to correct some anomalies in the electorates and keep all suburbs normally associated with the geographic districts or areas associated with town centres together.

Kambah presents the largest issue as there are few practical alternatives to splitting Kambah, keeping part of 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 2027 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 or inner south suburbs and including them in Murrumbidgee.

Any of these adjustments, as noted above, would not only further split communities of interest but also carry of the risk of requiring more substantial adjustments in the redistribution prior to the 2028 ACT election with some larger sized suburbs moving from one electorate for the purpose of the 2024 redistribution needing to be returned to their old electorate for the 2028 election.

The Canberra Liberals propose that stability and simplicity should also be factors taken into account when undertaking a redistribution, along with minimising the number of electors impacted by electorate boundary changes whenever this is practical.

The Canberra Liberals note under the current electoral boundaries all electorates sit within the legislated range of not greater than 110%, or less than 90% of the quota. As such we propose no changes to the electoral boundaries in the ACT.

If the Redistribution Committee is endeavouring to reach as far as practicable, that the number of electors in an electorate will not be greater than 105%, or less than 95%, of the expected quota then the Canberra Liberals would propose making the minimalist change possible to ensure voters are not unduly effected by unnecessary change. Currently only Brindabella sits outside of this threshold by less than 1%. In order to bring Brindabella over the 95% threshold we would submit to making the following changes:

Move the localities of Beard, Hume, Jerrabomberra District, and Symonston from Kurrajong to Brindabella.

This would increase the Brindabella quota to 95.13% and only effect around 500 voters made up of 4 distinct communities in: Territory run facilities, retirement living, long term accommodation, and some rural properties. These communities can easily be contacted about this small change. Overall this change will provide continuity to the majority of ACT voters in their current electorates and their relationship with their current representatives.

In summary the Canberra Liberals propose the current electoral boundaries remain in place as all current legislative requirements are being met. However, if the redistribution committee is endeavouring to reach the 95% threshold, we would propose a minimalist change as outlined above.

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 election Assembly will not be greater than 105%, or less than 95%, of the expected quota.

Yerrabi

Current: 99.05% Projected: 99.78%

Ginninderra

Current: 103.54% Projected: 102.94%

Kurrajong

Current: 98.27% Projected: 103.12%

Murrumbidgee

Current: 99.13% Projected: 98.68%

Brindabella

Current: 99.63% Projected: 95.13%