

Your local voice



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The Secretary
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ACT Legislative Assembly Electorates
ACT Electoral Commission
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19 February 2019

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**Submission in Relation to the ACT Legislative Assembly Electoral
Boundaries for the 2020 ACT Assembly Election**

I am writing on behalf of the Weston Creek Community Council (WCCC) in relation to the proposed ACT Legislative Assembly Electoral Boundaries for the 2020 ACT Election.

Council is of the opinion that the current boundaries serve Canberra fairly well and would prefer minor tinkering with these boundaries as they satisfy to a high degree the criteria:

- (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.*

Council suggests the following electorates:

1. **Yerrabi** – move Lawson, McKellar and Evatt to Ginninderra. Based on the elector projections this will mean that Yerrabi will be 96.32%

currently and projected to be 102.39%. This will mean that only two suburbs in Belconnen will now be part of Yerrabi. A better outcome.

2. **Ginninderra** – accept Lawson, Mackellar and Evatt. 3 more Belconnen Suburbs return to Ginninderra. Ginninderra will be 106.09% currently and is projected to be 104.36%. Again, a better outcome.
3. **Kurrajong** – move Symonston, Beard, Oaks Estate, Hume and Jerrabomberra District to Brindabella. Kurrajong is currently at 103.52% and projected to be 102.31% with these moves.
4. **Murrumbidgee** – move **3,500** electors from Kambah East to Brindabella. Murrumbidgee is currently 100.93% and projected to be 101.55%.
5. **Brindabella** – accept **3,500** electors from Kambah East as well as Symonston, Beard, Oaks Estate, Hume and Jerrabomberra District. Currently at 94.14% and projected to be 89.39%. This is not ideal for the areas being moved but it is probably the best outcome.

Calculations for the Move of 3,500 Electors from Murrumbidgee to Brindabella.

By Council calculations the quota for each Electorate in 2020 is **59818** and with a 5% variation this gives a low minimum of **56827** and a maximum of **62809**.

At present, in this proposal, Murrumbidgee sits at **60745** and Brindabella at **53471** electors in the projected enrolments. Both satisfy the current requirements. Murrumbidgee has **3918** electors which it could move to Brindabella and still satisfy the projected 95%.

Brindabella needs **3356** electors to meet the minimum number of electors so we would satisfy both requirements with the movement of **3500** electors from Kambah East to Brindabella. To do this, there is a need to make a split in the Kambah suburbs. It doesn't work to move Kambah West (the smaller of the two Kambah areas) as that results in Murrumbidgee at **60745** minus **4824** which brings it in at **55901** - below the quota by **926** electors. There does not appear to be another suburb or area which could be easily moved into Murrumbidgee to make up this shortfall.

You could place one of the Kambah Districts into Brindabella such as Kambah West and then move Deakin into Murrumbidgee but this is far from ideal to have Murrumbidgee run to the Lodge and the Australian Parliament and more particularly, to move Deakin out of Kurrajong.

To move any other suburbs would be to change geographical boundaries such as moving Farrer and/or Torrens out of Woden to Brindabella - they would be forgotten and really without representation.

The only way that Council sees this to keep most of the people in Districts together is to split Kambah. Council considers that Kambah

will progressively move back to Brindabella as Molonglo grows and this is the first part of that journey.

Three Potential Divisions of Kambah East

Council is of the opinion that the electors should be moved from Kambah East to Brindabella as these electors seem to have a closer affiliation with neighbouring areas than Kambah West electors do.

It is not easy to predict how you can determine 3,500 electors from Kambah East so Council has proposed three possibilities:

1. All those electors east of the boundary of Sulwood Drive, Inkster Street through Section 353 to Drakeford Drive and along to Athlon Drive.
2. The dividing line could be moved to the East to cover all electors east of Mannheim Street including those living on the east side, from Sulwood Drive, Athlon Drive and take all those living south of Summerland Crescent as it heads westward to the Tuggeranong Parkway
3. In a slightly similar way again take those electors east of Mannheim Street [including those on the east side] and then from the Mannheim Street/Summerland Circuit intersection through Section 443 to the Tuggeranong Parkway.

All of these suggestions are subject to calculating what is the best fit for 3,500 electors to move to the Brindabella electorate. Yes, it includes splitting the Kambah Suburb. Kambah has 11,000 electors approximately, so it is half the size of Weston Creek with 8 suburbs each of around 2 to 3,000 electors. It should really come as no surprise that it needs to be split into smaller population areas. Indeed, the Redistribution Committee has already done that with separate figures for Kambah East and Kambah West.

In this sense then, Council has made this suggestion to split off 3,500 electors.

Council would be pleased to discuss this submission at any time.

Tom Anderson
Chairman
Weston Creek Community Council