

Dear Commissioners,

I wish to lodge a proposal for the redistribution of the ACT Legislative Assembly in response to your invitation of 5 February.

I appreciate the user friendliness of the online redistribution tool. I would refer you to a submission I have made online and which I propose as my only proposal.

I make the following observations about existing and projected enrolments and current boundaries and then why I have arrived at the proposal I have.

The five existing territory electorates meet the existing 10% variation from quota tolerance, but the electorates of Brindabella, Ginninderra and Yerrabi do not in 2020, where the tolerance is 5%. The former two electorates been under quota and Yerrabi over quota.

The differential growth in urban areas and electorates means that Brindabella is both the smallest electorate numerically and projected to decline in elector numbers. Yerrabi is already well above quota and projected to grow strongly. If the two electorates were next to each other a relatively simple transfer from one to the other would largely solve the imbalance, unfortunately the two electorates are at opposite ends of the Canberra and changes are necessary to all five electorates.

The northward movement overall of boundaries will continue until Gungahlin is fully developed or other developments occur elsewhere in Canberra which reshape elector growth.

Reuniting all of Tuggeranong in Brindabella is not possible as the entirety of Kambah is too big either in 2019 or 2020. At the redistribution in 2023 for 2024 it might be possible for Kambah to be included in Brindabella. In the interim I propose the inclusion of part of Woden (O'Malley, Isaacs and Farrer) and all of the district of Jerrabomberra. This is numerically satisfactory, includes a close by group of suburbs, essentially south of Hindmarsh Drive and a district which is closely associated with Tuggeranong, and which means that the proposed Kurrajong is within 5% of the upper tolerance in 2020.

All of Gungahlin can be included in Yerrabi, all of Weston Creek in Murrumbidgee, all of the Inner North in Kurrajong, all of Tuggeranong (except Kambah) in Brindabella. The towns of Belconnen, Woden and the Inner South are split, but there is no arrangement that conforms to quota requirements that would do otherwise, or would mean splits of other towns. Gungahlin is too small for one electorate, Belconnen too large, Tuggeranong is too large.

Yerrabi possibly at the future redistribution is 2023 may be able to lose Kaleen, which I suspect will be to Ginninderra.

The proposed inclusion of Bruce and Aranda in Kurrajong may invite criticism as spanning the O'Connor Ridge, but both suburbs are immediately adjacent to the inner north, many electors in Aranda are as likely to share links with the inner north as they are the rest of Belconnen, and the west boundary of Aranda and Bruce is a major road, and the two suburbs are closely linked to the inner north via bus routes and Barry Drive.

The total number of electors proposed to be moved are 26,507 (26,446), i.e. less than 9% of electors. Brindabella retains all existing electors, Yerrabi has a loss of electors to Ginninderra, whilst Ginninderra, Kurrajong and Murrumbidgee have exchanges of electors.

In future redistributions I anticipate a further movement of boundaries northwards.

I look forward to your draft proposals.

Martin Gordon

15 February 2019