

ACT Redistribution Committee
ACT Electoral Commission
By online submission

28/02/2023

Dear Redistribution Committee Members

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input as part of the public suggestion phase of the redistribution for the 2024 Election.

ACT Labor recognises that population projections are complex in an ever-moving landscape of a growing city. The recent difference between population projections and the results of the 2022 Census further highlights this challenge. Notwithstanding this, ACT Labor recognises Elections ACT does its utmost to accurately project population growth with all relevant information available to it and I thank all members involved for their work.

ACT Labor provides the following submission using the data advised by Elections ACT as well as consideration of the recent population projections released by the ACT Government to 2060.

ACT Labor notes the requirements during any redistribution 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;
- 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
- Due consideration be given to -
 1. The community of interests within each proposed electorate, including economic, social and regional interests;
 2. The means of communication and travel within each proposed electorate;
 3. The physical features and area of each proposed electorate;
 4. The boundaries of existing electorates; and
 5. The boundaries of divisions and sections fixed under the *Districts Act 2002*.

Based on the projections and the requirements of the legislation, ACT Labor provides this brief submission to contribute to the Committee's preliminary deliberations.

I look forward to engaging further with the Commission on this process.

Kind regards



Ash van Dijk
ACT Labor Secretary

Brindabella

As highlighted in ACT Labor's 2019 ACT Election redistribution submission, it is our understanding when the boundaries were determined for the 2016 Election, that it was expected Kambah would have to be relocated into Brindabella to balance out the fast-growing Molonglo district with the slower rate of growth in the Tuggeranong district. Kambah was split into two parts for the 2020 Election as that growth was beginning.

It appears that for 2024, the growth in the Murrumbidgee electorate and the lack of future growth in Brindabella will necessitate the inclusion of more suburbs into Brindabella. Including all of Kambah makes sense when considering the suburb of Kambah is generally more closely aligned with Brindabella as a community of interest rather than Murrumbidgee with the Mount Taylor Nature Reserve serving as a natural border between the two electorates and whilst it would bring Brindabella over a quota, would provide a buffer to slower growth in Brindabella into the future.

Recommendation: Include Kambah in Brindabella.

Murrumbidgee and Kurrajong

By redistributing all of Kambah into Brindabella it becomes necessary to consider the boundaries for Murrumbidgee and Kurrajong, as Murrumbidgee falls below the ideal quota.

Whilst moving all of Kambah into Brindabella sees Murrumbidgee fall outside of the desired +/- 5% range by the Electoral Commission, population projections highlight the Molonglo region will see the highest level of growth of any ACT region in coming years.

Further shifts between the boundaries of Kurrajong and Murrumbidgee would further muddle the distinct communities of interest of the Inner South and the Woden Valley, noting the shift of Yarralumla and Deakin into Murrumbidgee in the redistribution for the 2020 Election.

ACT Labor submits that the boundaries between Murrumbidgee and Kurrajong remain as they are to ensure that the relevant communities of interest can be maintained as far as practicable, whilst expecting significant growth in Murrumbidgee into the future.

Recommendation: No redistribution required.

Yerrabi and Ginninderra

ACT Labor submits no changes necessary to the boundaries of either the Yerrabi or Ginninderra electorates, given the expected projections move both electorates closer to a quota.

Recommendation: No redistribution required.