

Submission to
Redistribution of
Australian Capital Territory
electoral districts

Darren McSweeney

9 November 2014

I would like to take this opportunity to lodge a submission to the Redistribution Committee for the proposed redistribution of electoral districts in the Australian Capital Territory.

My interest in this regard is entirely personal, I have no professional qualifications in politics and I have made this proposal without regard to political implications of the boundary changes. As I am not affiliated with any political party or activist group, I believe my proposal is made without bias or interest and therefore represents an independent, reasonable and unpartisan proposal. As I do not live within the Territory, I believe that my views, while obviously lacking on-the-ground local knowledge, can be objective toward local biases.

This redistribution comprises a significant departure from the normal redistribution process, in that the determination to increase the members of the Legislative Assembly to 25 renders the usual arguments for minimal changes invalid and major revisions to the electorates are necessary.

Due to the significant changes required, I propose that the existing electorate names of Ginninderra, Molonglo and Brindabella be retired and completely replaced with new electorates. This will avoid confusion when referring to electorates and eliminate any potential stigma in distinguishing between the "original" and "new" electorates. To further avoid confusion I suggest that names currently or previously used in Federal electoral divisions also not be used.

In keeping with the established tradition of the Redistribution Committee, I propose using commonly recognised place names of Aboriginal origin that are associated with areas encompassed by each electorate. In addition, I have suggested some names that reflect the cadastral history of the region incorporating the Australian Capital Territory.

While I personally prefer using distinct geographic features, such as main roads, railways or rivers as electoral boundaries, the convention within the Australian Capital Territory is to use whole suburb boundaries. Therefore whole suburbs, have been used as electoral boundaries wherever possible unless a geographic feature provides a clear and strong boundary.

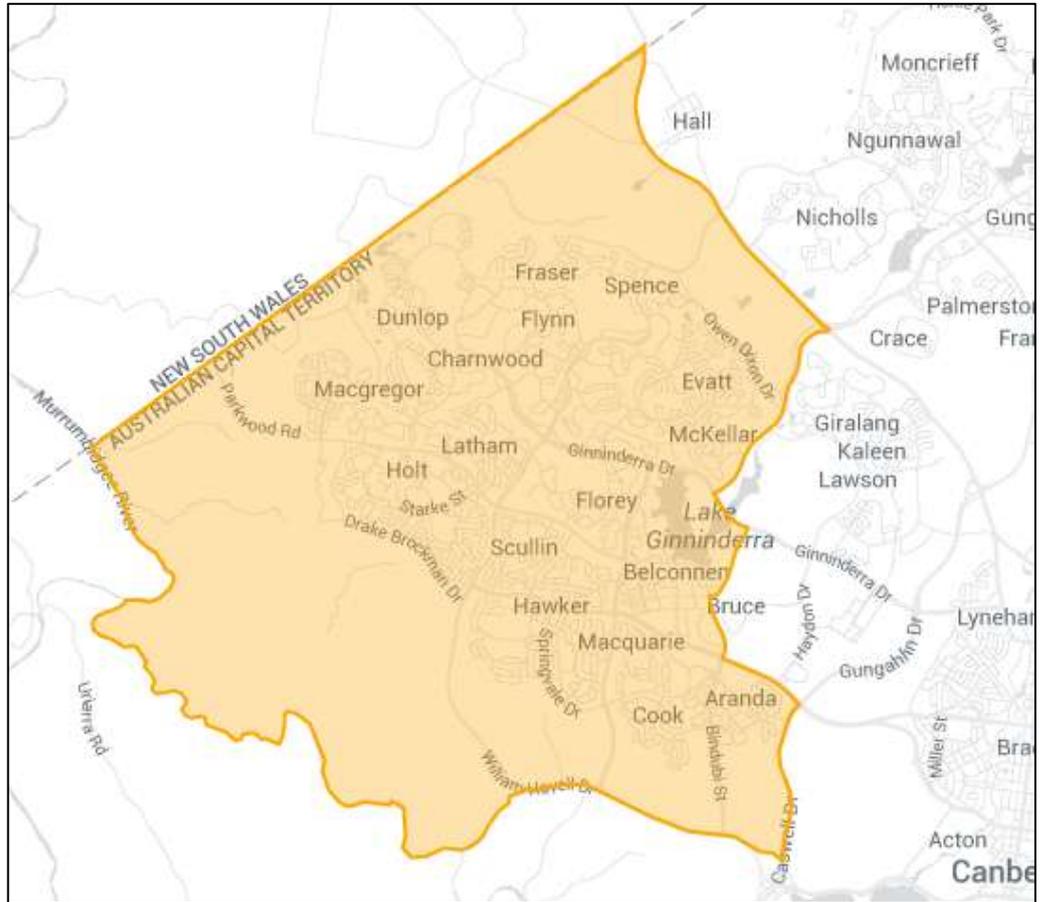
Obviously the ideal solution would be for each District and its environs to be contained within a separate electorate. This would mean Belconnen, Gungahlin, Central Canberra, Woden Valley, Weston Creek and Tuggeranong would comprise a separate electorate each. Unfortunately, this is not even close to possible, so Districts must be combined or split to achieve the desired results.

Furthermore, each electorate needs to be comprised of approximately one-fifth of the electoral population. As the population projections show disparities in each district, it is unfortunate, but necessary that some districts will need to be split to meet the numerical conditions. Belconnen alone contains more than 25 per cent of the enrolled population, Tuggeranong some 23 per cent, while Woden Valley and Weston Creek districts are only 17 per cent combined. Gungahlin is currently projected to contain only 14 per cent of enrolled persons.

Electorate 1: Jarramlee

Current: 103.42% Projected: 103.79%

Comprising the suburbs of Aranda, Belconnen, Charnwood, Cook, Dunlop, Evatt, Florey, Flynn, Fraser, Hawker, Higgins, Holt, Latham, Macgregor, Macquarie, McKellar, Melba, Page, Scullin, Spence and Weetangera.



This electorate, essentially replacing the existing Ginninderra, is focussed on the Belconnen District. Unfortunately, on both the current and projected enrolments,

the entire Belconnen District contains in excess of 25 per cent of the total population and is well over the numerical limits to be contained within one electorate. Therefore, part of the District must be transferred to another electorate. I have chosen the four suburbs closest to Gungahlin, being Giralang, Kaleen, Lawson and Bruce. These four suburbs are somewhat separated physically from Belconnen with undeveloped open space and the northern end of Lake Ginninderra in Lawson and the University of Canberra in Bruce separating the suburbs from the rest of Belconnen.

In using distinct geographic boundaries, I would suggest the Murrumbidgee River, Molonglo River, Deep Creek and William Hovell Drive to Caswell Drive. Using suburb boundaries, none of the Molonglo Valley District is included in this electorate.

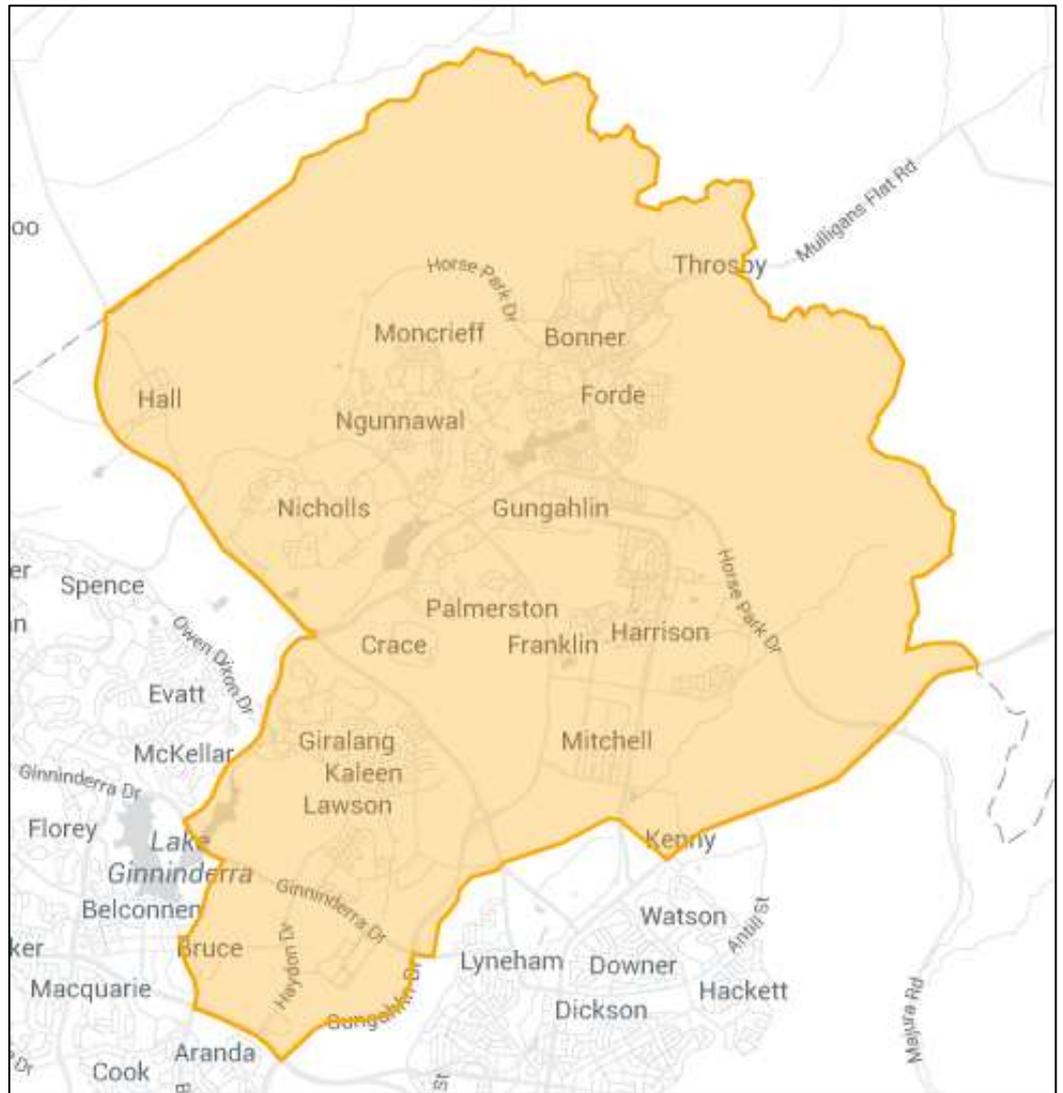
The electorate is named *Jarramlee* for the Jarramlee Ponds in Dunlop. This keeps with the tradition of common Aboriginal names in the region. Other suggestions for names include *Umbagog* or the former cadastral parish name *Weetangera*.

Electorate 2: Gungaderra

Current: 92.39% Projected: 95.87%

Comprising the suburbs of Amaroo, Bonner, Bruce, Casey, Crace, Forde, Franklin, Giralang, Gungahlin, Hall, Harrison, Jacka, Kaleen, Lawson, Mitchell, Moncrieff, Ngunnawal, Nicholls and Palmerston.

This new electorate includes all of the suburbs in Gungahlin as well as the four suburbs in Belconnen of Bruce, Giralang, Kaleen, and Lawson. This electorate is placed at the lower end of population figures to allow for the strong predicted growth as



the District develops. By combining Gungahlin with the additional suburbs in Belconnen, this electorate has avoided combining any of the more established suburbs of North Canberra.

The electorate is named *Gungaderra* after several key features of the District. The Gungaderra Creek, Gungaderra Grasslands Nature Reserve and Gungaderra Homestead all share this name, demonstrating a strong affinity with the District. An alternative name for the electorate could be *Goorooyarroo*, named for the former administrative parish and Nature Reserve.

Electorate 3: Narrabundah

Current: 104.35% Projected: 103.52%

Comprising the suburbs of **Acton, Ainslie, Barton, Beard, Braddon, Campbell, Canberra Airport, Canberra City, Capital Hill, Deakin, Dickson, Downer, Forrest, Fyshwick, Griffith, Hackett, Hume, Jerrabomberra, Kingston, Kowen, Lyneham, Majura, Narrabundah, O'Connor, Oaks Estate, Parkes, Pialligo, Red Hill, Reid, Russell, Symonston, Turner, Watson and Yarralumla.**



This new electorate essentially replaces the majority of the former Molonglo

electorate. It comprises the central Canberra area, the airport, the industrial areas around Hume and Fyshwick and eastern parts of the Territory. I would suggest using Yarralumla Creek as a boundary between the Molonglo River and Carruthers Street before following suburb boundaries.

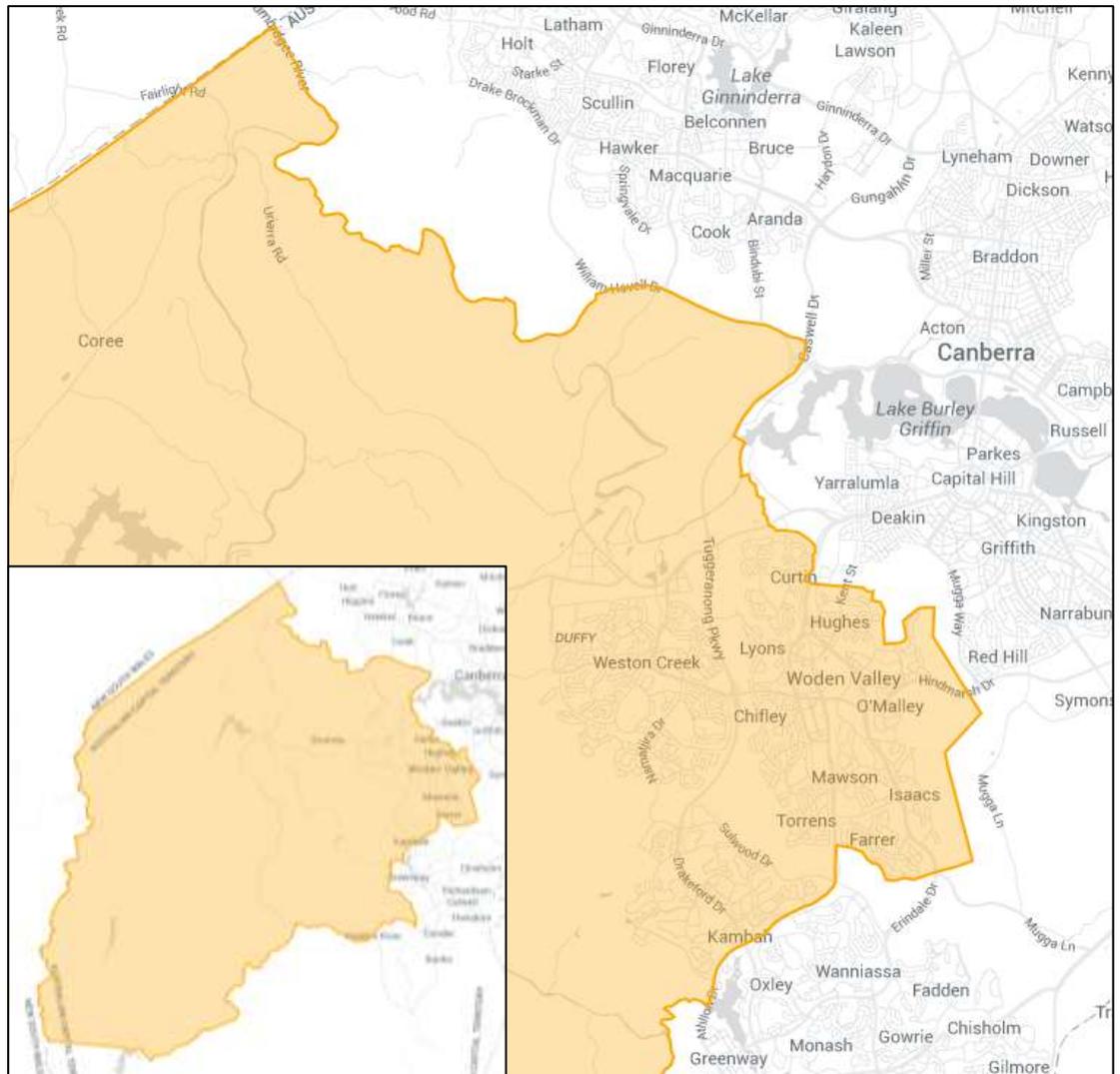
The elector numbers in this electorate are the highest of all five proposals, but as this region comprises the older, more-established and industrial areas this will help protect the electorate from future declines in population.

The name *Narrabundah* has been selected as it reflects the name of a suburb and the former cadastral parish of Narrabundah which covered the area around Capital Hill prior to becoming part of the Australian Capital Territory. An alternative name would be *Majura*, after Mt Majura and the suburb, being a major feature in the electorate.

Electorate 4: Urayarra

Current: 101.16% Projected: 99.33%

Comprising the suburbs of **Chapman, Chifley, Coombs, Coree, Cotter, Curtin, Denman Prospect, Duffy, Farrer, Fisher, Garran, Holder, Hughes, Isaacs, Kambah, Lyons, Mawson, Molonglo, Molonglo Valley, O'Malley, Paddys River, Pearce, Phillip, Rivett, Stirling, Stromlo, Torrens, Uriarra, Waramanga, Weston and Wright.**



This electorate comprises all of Woden Valley and Weston Creek Districts and the

newly developed District of Molonglo Valley. It also crosses the Murrumbidgee River to take in the villages in the northern part of the Territory as they are much more closely aligned with and share a greater community of interest with the Districts of this electorate. Unfortunately, as the number of electors in the Tuggeranong District exceeds the required limits on both current and projected figures, it cannot be wholly contained within the one electorate. For this reason, I also propose that the suburb of Kambah be included in Urayarra.

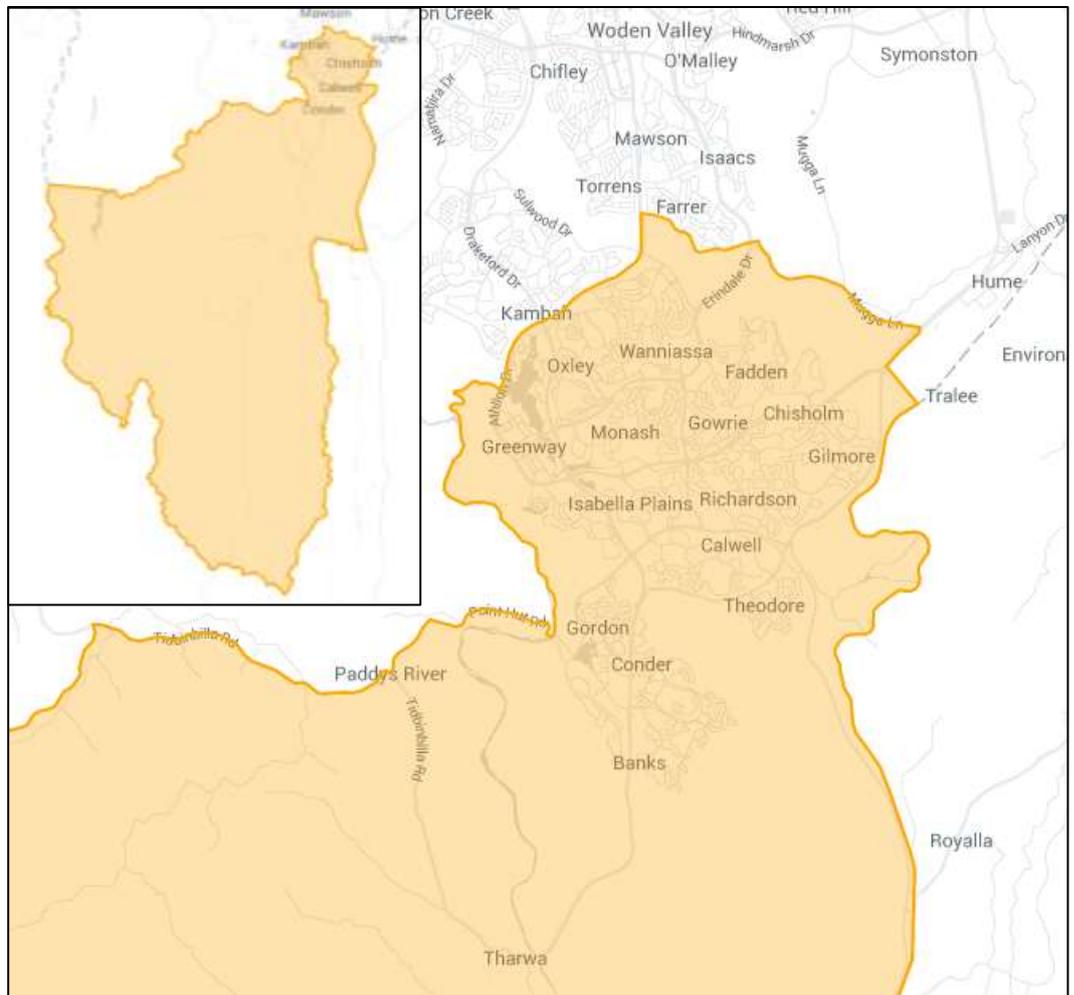
The southern boundary would follow the Murrumbidgee River to Point Hut Road, then along Tidbinbilla Road, Corin Road and then a line of sight to Mount Ginini on the Border with NSW.

The name *Urayarra* has been chosen to reflect the historical cadastral parish of Urayarra in the Cowley County prior to the establishment of the Australian Capital Territory. Alternative names could include *Tidbinbilla*, *Stromlo* or *Coree*.

Electorate 5: Tharwa

Current: 98.68% Projected: 97.50%

Comprising the suburbs of **Banks, Bonython, Booth, Calwell, Chisholm, Conder, Fadden, Gilmore, Gordon, Gowrie, Greenway, Isabella Plains, Macarthur, Monash, Mount Clear, Oxley, Rendezvous Creek, Richardson, Tennent, Tharwa, Theodore and Wanniasa.**



This electorate is made up of most of the old Brindabella electorate, except that west of the Murrumbidgee

River, only the southern portion of the Territory is included.

Unfortunately, the Tuggeranong District is too large to be included in the one district, so some suburbs must be transferred. The northernmost suburb of Kambah is almost its own District, and with almost the same number of electors as the entire Weston Creek District could be considered self-sufficient. For this reason, I have elected to include the entire suburb of Kambah with its northern neighbours Weston Creek and Woden Valley.

The name *Tharwa* recognises the town and cadastral parish of the same name. Tharwa is the oldest official settlement in the Territory and should be honoured with an electorate name. If alternative names were to be considered *Gigerline* could be considered. I would recommend that an obvious candidate such as *Namadgi* be avoided to remove any confusion with the former Federal Division of the same name.