



THE FEDERAL  
REDISTRIBUTION  
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL  
TERRITORY

# Public suggestion 7

Darren McSweeney

7 pages

# Introduction

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Following the 2014 entitlement determination, the Australian Capital Territory is entitled to receive two electoral divisions. This is the same number of divisions as previously, which is slightly disappointing, as this means that the Australian Capital Territory remains one of the most under-represented states or territories in Australia.

In some ways we can claim that this is the first in a new era of redistributions. No state or territory has undergone a redistribution in the almost three years since South Australia was finalised in March 2012. Also, this is the first redistribution to make use of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' new Australian Statistical Geography Standard, which replaced the Australian Standard Geographical Classification following the 2011 Census. Finally, the lodgement process has changed, with online lodgement of suggestions being used for the first time. In a sense, the redistribution process can be seen to be refreshed with a new attitude to ensuring that all divisions clearly reflect genuine communities of interest.

Obviously, on the enrollment numbers provided both divisions are within the current tolerance, but would both be outside the tolerance at the projected time. Canberra is under tolerance and Fraser is over, so Fraser must lose electors. As there are only two divisions, there is really only one decision to make, and that is where to draw the line between Canberra and Fraser, or in this case, how much of Fraser to transfer to Canberra.

The current division boundary very neatly and cleanly rests along the Molonglo River and Lake Burley Griffin for its entire length, however this clean division is obviously no longer possible, so some suburbs north of the river will need to be transferred to Canberra.

There is one other matter to consider involving the names of divisions, in particular the name of the northern division of Fraser.

## General Principles

I have attempted to use clear and recognisable boundaries wherever possible. This includes main roads, in particular highways and rivers. I would rarely consider using suburb or locality boundaries on occasions where no alternative exists, as these boundaries are used extensively throughout the territory. Obviously, unlike all other states and territories, the lack of Local Government means there are no LGA boundaries to consider.

Some proposals champion the minimalist approach and scorn other suggestions that seek to move larger numbers of people. The fallacy of this approach is to assume that the current boundaries are not only sufficient, but ideal. As the only mandatory criterion in Section 66 of the Commonwealth Electoral Act is the numeric criterion, there is almost always a less than satisfactory outcome in at least a few divisions. At times it may in fact be desirable to transfer a greater number of electors in some areas of the state to better unite similar communities. Also, in any redistribution in which a division is created or abolished, greater disruption and transfer of electors is inevitable.

The other fallacy in redistributions is those that champion almost equal divisions as near to the quota as possible. As there are only two divisions, this argument is lessened somewhat, as any gains of one division are identical to losses in the other division.

As I have no political affiliations or memberships, I believe my proposal can be relied on to be impartial, reflecting community of interest concerns without any regard to the political implications. I have not considered or examined the voting patterns of communities, and I am not aware of the local party or member concerns to shore up their own political fortunes.

# Suggested Boundary

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As **Canberra** is under tolerance and **Fraser** over tolerance, some areas north of the Molonglo River must be included in Canberra. I suggest boundary changes in two distinct areas, namely the Molonglo Valley and Central Canberra or Civic.

The Molonglo Valley district is a new district of Canberra and will – by the time the next redistribution is due – certainly contain a much greater number of new homes, people and electors than the enrolment projections predict. It would be undesirable to split this district in the future, so we should look to make this adjustment now. The area proposed to be included in the Molonglo Valley district will cross the Molonglo River and stretch from Weston Creek to Belconnen, so the boundary must move either north or south to accommodate the entire district. As the initial stages of development are toward Weston Creek in the south, I propose that the boundary include the entire Molonglo Valley district in Canberra, with its links to Weston Creek and Woden. Therefore the boundary should divert north from Molonglo River at Deep Creek to William Hovell Drive to the Tuggeranong Parkway. I propose Deep Creek instead of Coppins Crossing Road, as the road will likely be used as a means of transport within the district in the early stages.

As there are not many – if any – residents in this area, Canberra still needs to gain electors. While the division named Canberra contains the suburb of Parkes, Parliament House and many government departments, it does not contain the city centre that bears its name.

Therefore, I propose that the central Canberra area around Acton, Civic and Reid be transferred. This area will ensure that enough electors are transferred and create a strong division with the same character as the existing divisions.

From the Tuggeranong Parkway, the boundary shall continue along Parkes Way to Clunies Ross Street, along Barry Drive and Sullivans Creek to Masson Street. I had considered using Sullivans Creek as the boundary only, but this will split the Australian National University, which should remain within the one division.

From Masson Street, the boundary heads north along Northbourne Avenue as far as Wakefield Avenue, then back down Limestone Avenue and along Anzac Parade to join the existing boundary at Lake Burley Griffin. This ensures that enough electors are transferred to keep both divisions stable and arrest the continuous northward encroachment of Canberra into Fraser.

# Name of Division of Fraser

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There is one other issue that needs to be addressed one way or another at this division and that is what to do with the Division of Fraser. With the recent passing of the twenty-second Prime Minister John Malcolm Fraser, a division named in his honour should certainly be considered.

The problem occurs in that there is already a division bearing the name Fraser. This division was proclaimed in December 1974, one year before Mr Fraser became Prime Minister and was named for the member for the Division of Australian Capital Territory, Mr Jim Fraser.

It is obviously not possible to name two divisions with the same name. Therefore, there are three options available:

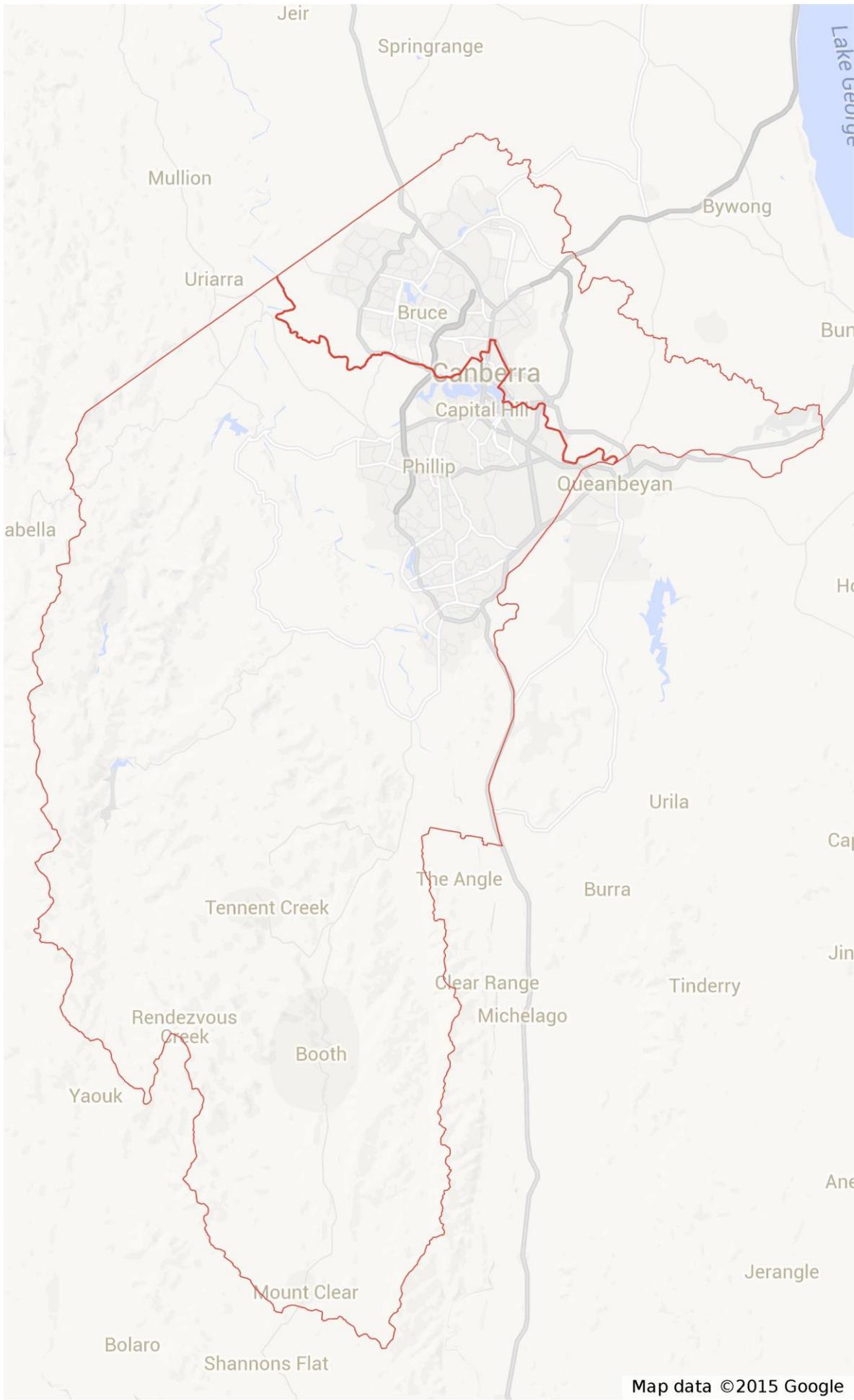
- Do nothing, Fraser is named for Jim Fraser, and it was proclaimed first. Malcolm Fraser misses the honour of having a division named for him, an attitude apparently applied to the sixth Prime Minister, Joseph Cook.
- Rededicate the Division of Fraser to both Jim and Malcolm Fraser. This would be easy to achieve, and Malcolm Fraser would be sufficiently honoured. However, apart from residing in the city as a member of Parliament and Prime Minister, Malcolm Fraser shares little connection with the northern suburbs of Canberra.
- Rename the current Division of Fraser, retiring the name for the next Parliament, and thereby allowing a new Division of Fraser to be proclaimed at a later redistribution in Malcolm Fraser's home state of Victoria. This would not be the first time a division name is abolished and reinstated at a later date; however this would be the first time it reinstated in a different state or territory to the original name. A new name would be needed at this redistribution for the existing Division of Fraser.

For the purposes of this redistribution I have not made any change to the name of the Division of Fraser. However, should the committee deem that a new division name is required, I would suggest "Overall" in honour of the father of modern Canberra and Commissioner of the National Capital Development Commission Sir John Wallace Overall. His contributions finally realised Walter Burley Griffin's vision and literally shaped the modern districts of Canberra – including Belconnen, located within the division – transforming Canberra from the "Bush Capital" into a modern city, as well as selecting the design and chairing the committee for the new Parliament House.

# Data Tables

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Canberra		Current	Projected
Total		135,709	143,980
Existing Canberra		128,007	135,838
Gains From Fraser	Molonglo	22	22
	Acton	600	602
	Braddon	3,327	3,564
	Civic	1,722	1,799
	Reid	1,159	1,212
	Turner	872	943
Fraser		Current	Projected
Total		133,915	144,914
Existing Fraser*		133,915	144,914
Losses to Canberra	Molonglo	22	22
	Acton	600	602
	Braddon	3,327	3,564
	Civic	1,722	1,799
	Reid	1,159	1,212
	Turner	872	943
*Fraser includes Jervis Bay Territory			



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