

# TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS



Phone: 1300 502 819  
Email: [clientservices@sparkandcannon.com.au](mailto:clientservices@sparkandcannon.com.au)  
Web: [www.sparkandcannon.com.au](http://www.sparkandcannon.com.au)

Adelaide | Brisbane | Canberra | Darwin | Hobart | Melbourne | Perth | Sydney

---

## **PUBLIC INQUIRY OF THE AUGMENTED ELECTORAL COMMISSION FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**CONDUCTED IN CANBERRA MONDAY 4 JUNE 2018 AT 9.30AM**

BEFORE:

**MR TOM ROGERS**

(Electoral Commissioner, Australian Electoral Commission)

**MR DAVID KALISCH**

(Australian Statistician and member of the Australian Electoral Commission)

**MS JOANNE REID**

(senior Divisional Returning Officer for the Australian Capital Territory)

**MR JEFF BROWN**

(Surveyor-General of the Australian Capital Territory)

**DR MAXINE COOPER**

(Australian Capital Territory Auditor-General)

MR ROGERS: Well, good morning everybody, and it being 9.30, we will start off. Welcome to the augmented Electoral Commission for the ACT's inquiry into objections. I would like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional  
5 Custodians of the Land on which we meet today and pay my respects to their Elders both past and present.

My name is Tom Rogers, and I am the Australian Electoral Commissioner and I am chairing this inquiry today. The other member of the Australian Electoral  
10 Commission present today is Mr David Kalisch, on my right, who is the Australian Statistician. The other members who make up the augmented Electoral Commission are Dr Maxine Cooper, the ACT Auditor-General, on my left. And to my far right is, Ms Joanne Reid, the senior Divisional Returning Officer for the ACT. And to my far left is, Mr Jeff Brown, the  
15 Surveyor-General of the ACT.

Part 4 of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* sets out the requirements to be followed in conducting redistributions. This redistribution of the ACT is required because the ACT's entitlement to seats in the House of  
20 Representatives has increased from two to three.

In accordance with section 66 of the Electoral Act, the Redistribution Committee for the ACT has prepared a proposal for the redistribution of the ACT into three federal electoral divisions. The proposal, together with written  
25 reasons for the proposal required by section 67 of the Electoral Act, was released by the Redistribution Committee on Friday 6 April of this year. In accordance with section 68 of the Electoral Act, interested individuals and organisations were invited to make written objections to the proposed redistribution and to provide written comments on those objections. A total of  
30 75 objections and 30 comments on objections were received within the required timeframes.

The augmented Electoral Commission is required by sub-section 72(1) of the Electoral Act to consider all objections lodged in relation to the redistribution  
35 proposal and all comments on objections. The inquiry here today, provides the opportunity for members of the public to make submissions about those objections.

The Electoral Act also specifies how the redistribution process is conducted and which factors are taken into account. Sub-section 73(4) of the Electoral  
40 Act states that the primary consideration for the augmented Electoral Commission is that each electoral division meet certain numerical requirements in the form of the current enrolment quota and the projected enrolment quota and acceptable tolerances around these two quotas.

5 Subject to an electoral division satisfying those numbers, sub-section 73(4) also requires that we have regard to communities of interest within electoral divisions. That's economic, social, and regional interests. We have to have regard to means of communication and travel within electoral divisions, and the physical features and areas of electoral divisions. The boundaries of existing electoral divisions are also considered, although that is of lesser importance to all the other considerations. Boundaries may change, often there has to be compensating adjustments to make sure the electoral divisions are within those numerical tolerances.

15 I would also note for the ACT, the external territories of Jervis Bay and Norfolk Island must be included in an electoral division in their entirety and where more than one division exists these territories must be in different electoral divisions.

20 The inquiry today will be recorded, and transcripts of proceedings will be made available as part of the augmented Electoral Commission's report, and therefore, will be on the Australian Electoral Commission's website, once the report has been tabled in Parliament.

25 I would also like to draw your attention to the fact that we may have some members of the media present today. If so, I would ask them to consider similar rules to what would occur at a parliamentary hearing. To ensure that the reason we are all here today is to focus on the opportunity for speakers to have their say, and for proceedings to run smoothly. Should media have a question, I would ask that they speak to Evan, who might be in the room, chap at the back, and that questions are taken outside of the room, and not inside the room.

30 We would ask people making their submissions to come to the table in front, and please state your name before you commence your presentation. Now, with such a high level of interest in this redistribution, we would like to ensure that everyone present is able to make a submission. To enable that to happen, I am going to ask that you keep your remarks to no more than 10 minutes, and depending on how we go today with timing, if there is any space left at the end, we can invite people back up to reinforce something that they would like to say but we have got to keep to ten minutes, and the way we are going to do this is that someone over there, will keep time and provide a warning at the eight-minute mark, and at 10 minutes, we will politely ask you to stop talking. That is not designed to prevent you from putting your point across, but because we have so many people, if we don't do that, it will mean that people later in the day will be prevented from talking, and I am not sure that is a good outcome for anybody.

After this inquiry, we will then deliberate. We will endeavour to make a public announcement as soon as practicable, after the hearing.

5 One other point today is, that we are here to listen to you. We are not here to  
debate what it is that you are telling us. So, the only time we will ask you a  
question, is if we have not understood something you have said, or we would  
like you to expand a little on a particular point but not to debate the material  
and likewise, the members of the augmented Commission here today are not  
10 here to answer questions about the redistribution. Now, I have a list, which is  
largely the order in which people appear today. I will call people up by name.  
I would ask you to step up, say your name and tell us what it is that you like to  
tell us. Then we will continue that way, and depending on timing, we may have  
one or two breaks during the day as well. That being said, let us get under  
15 way. I would like to ask Dr Brendan Nelson to step up and make his  
announcement please. Good morning Dr Nelson.

DR NELSON: Good morning, Mr Rogers and I thank the augmented  
Electoral Commission for this opportunity. My name is Brendan Nelson. I am  
20 the Director of the Australian War Memorial and I appear this morning to  
strongly support the suggestion that the new federal electorate be named in  
honour of Charles Bean. Charles Bean was a true national icon of this  
country's history. Where that expression is a much abused one in relation to  
the contribution made by Australians in contemporary, and previous life.  
25 Charles Bean was chosen by his own colleagues, fellow correspondents, to be  
the official First World War correspondent. He landed with the Australian  
troops on Gallipoli, mid-morning on 25 April 1915. He stayed with them at the  
Front through the entire war. He was wounded three times. He was almost  
killed on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May 1915 at Gallipoli, rescuing a wounded Australian  
30 soldier. He was recommended for a Military Cross, but of course did not  
receive it, because he was a civilian.

But in Pozieres France in July and August 1916 he was witness to 23,000  
Australian dead and wounded in six weeks. 6,800 dead, five Victoria Crosses,  
35 he was almost killed twice on 31 July getting back from the Front, and all he  
wrote in his diary was 'blackened men everywhere, torn, and whole, dead for  
days'. A mortally wounded Australian had asked him at Pozieres, if he'd be  
remembered in Australia? From there he conceived, and resolved at its end,  
he'd build the finest memorial and museum to these men of the Australian  
40 Imperial Force, and to the nurses. He would also, over a quarter of a century,  
write and edit the 12 volumes of the official history of the First World War.  
He was a man who was a product of his age, as perhaps all of us are, or at least  
most of us. But unlike others, as he went through his life, he shed some of the  
prejudices of his generation and the Australia within which he lived.

It has been said of Charles Bean, that he was an anti-Semite, and to some extent, yes, he harboured anti-Semitic views. And unlike others however, in shedding prejudices and ideas and attitudes founded in ignorance, in the late  
5 1930's he actively campaigned for the resettlement of Jews from Eastern Europe into Australia, in fact a seven million square mile parcel of land, in the northern part of Western Australia. He also, in 1945, in *War Aimed for a Plain Australia*, he wrote that Australian children must be taught, that past attitudes to foreigners and strangers, were characteristic of attitudes of a bygone age. In  
10 fact, what he wrote precisely, was that they were signs of, and I quote, 'Old world ignorance.' It's also been said that in some of the submissions to the Commission contesting the name of Bean that he was responsible for the deaths of Australians because he, along with Sir Keith Murdoch, had frustrated the elevation of General Sir John Monash to lead the Australian Corps in 1918  
15 and that in doing so he had been responsible for Australian deaths. Nothing could be further from the truth. Bean was particularly committed to Brudenell White and he regarded Sir John Monash as someone who was largely unknown to the Australian soldiers.

20 During Monash's leadership of the Australian Corp from June until November 1918, Australia sustained 35,000 casualties, dead, wounded and prisoners. That was more than was sustained in 1916. Further to that, Charles Bean on 8 October 1931 described John Monash as being Australia's  
25 greatest military leader and he said he was probably the ablest and most successful British Corps commander in France.

Charles Bean was also a man that was deeply committed to egalitarianism, not once but twice he refused a knighthood and on the second occasion, in writing to the Governor-General explaining why he wouldn't accept it, whilst  
30 expressing admiration for those who were so knighted, he said that he'd seen too much and that the conferral of such awards, in his view, created false values and we should as a nation commit ourselves to true values.

Some have argued that his relationship to Canberra was somewhat tenuous.  
35 He spent six years at the Tuggeranong Homestead, officially researching and writing those official histories. He moved to Sydney on medical advice because in part as a consequence of the extraordinary things he'd done and seen through the first world war he was suffering from a respiratory disorder and he was recommended to live in a climate that was perhaps more conducive to his  
40 health. But clearly, he spent an inordinate amount of his time here overseeing the construction of the Australian War Memorial, the most sacred institution in Canberra and certainly a place which from (indistinct) vision and legacy is a place that does not demean our former foes. There is no triumphalism and paradoxically whilst called a war memorial, it's actually a place that's about

love and friendship.

I'd also like to say in relation to Charles Bean that he was a man when  
Australia for the six decades of the 20th Century, our political class was deeply  
5 wedded to White Australia policy. In the 1940s Charles Bean was a man who  
was arguing for immigration from countries that were not Anglo-Celtic ones  
and he said, as I said earlier, he lamented that, 'The perpetuation of a senseless  
colour line' - to quote Charles Bean himself. He felt that Australia should open  
10 itself to immigrants from a wide variety of nations and that was at a time, as I  
say, when our political class and Australians generally were fearfully, in  
particularly, but not only, of Asians, but Australians who were not like  
themselves.

If this new electorate is to be named in honour of Charles Bean, which I  
15 strongly believe it should do, it would do a number of things. It will remind  
those Australians that we had a man who was witness to, observed and  
recording a national Australian character and identity. He, for example, in  
reflecting on whether it was all worth it, World War I, that so deeply scarred  
us, we emerged with 62,000 dead, we lived with another 60,000 who died  
20 within 10 years of returning. He wrote that to fail would be worse than death,  
to be the kind of man to give way when your mates were trusting to your  
firmness, this was the prospect, he said, with which his men could not live, that  
life was very dear but life was not worth living unless they could be true to  
their ideal of Australian manhood.

25 I also believe very strongly that if the Commission does accept what it has  
suggested, and recommended at this stage, to have his name for this electorate,  
that it will be a case of us accepting the truth needs to speak to history. We  
also need to be constantly reminded of a man who was, as I say, egalitarian,  
30 who committed his entire life to recording the history of World War I. To his  
greatest legacy, beyond that of course was the Australian War Memorial, and  
in doing so he gave our nation a greater belief in ourselves, a deeper  
understanding of what it means to be Australian. And I'd also say that that  
legacy, and in articulating the vision for the Australian War Memorial, he said,  
35 'Here is their spirit in the heart of the land they loved and we regard the record  
which they themselves made.' It's an essential part of our self-diplomacy, of  
understanding what it means to be Australian and I strongly recommend that  
the Commission name the electorate in honour of Bean and that is not in any  
way to diminish the arguments in support of any other individual. Thank you.

40

MR ROGERS: Next, if we could have Dr David Nott and Brian Cox please.

MR COX: Good morning and thank you for allowing me – my name is  
Brian Cox, I'm a former Australian Electoral Commissioner and I'm here to

5 speak to support the case for naming the new division after Dr Lewis Nott.

Mr Chairman, what I have to say has two basic themes. The first point of my focus is to look at the process being followed, and the second one is to talk  
5 about some relative merits of the serious options for naming the division.

Now, Mr Chairman, as a matter of process - - -

10 MR ROGERS: If it's possible for you to speak up just a little bit. We've got some problems hearing at the back of the room. I'm not sure whether we could – there is a microphone, yes, that would be perfect. Thank you very much.

15 MR COX: I was saying I have two themes to look at. One is the process to be followed or being followed, and the second one is the relative merits of the serious contenders for naming of the division. I'm just concerned about the naming of the division, nothing else.

MR ROGERS: Thank you.

20 MR COX: Now, as to process, it concerns me that at the objections and comments on objections' stages of the overall process many new names have been introduced. Now, the Electoral Act provides for public input in stage 1, that is suggestions on drawing the boundaries of the divisions and on naming the divisions. That's where the public is invited to enter their first thoughts,  
25 new thoughts.

The Act also provides that the suggestions must be lodged within a stated period, that's 30 days, of the gazetted notice of the redistribution. Now, the guidelines published by the Australian Electoral Commission, at the start of the  
30 redistribution process, are guidelines to assist people who are interested in having a say in the boundaries and in the names and those guidelines state this:

35 *All submissions lodged by the legislative deadlines will be considered during the redistribution process. Submissions received after 6 pm on the specified day are not able to be considered as part of the redistribution process.*

40 Now, Mr Chairman, I ask you to note the words 'redistribution process' in that section of the guidelines that I just read out and I suggest that the phrase 'redistribution process' goes beyond just the Redistribution Committee stage right through to the stage we're at now, and the deadlines should apply there. It seems to me that – well it's obvious of course that the Redistribution Committee considered all of the names that have been put forward by people such as me in the initial suggestion stage. But then in the comments – the

objections and comments on objections a great many additional names were introduced. Now it seems to me, Mr Chairman, that those latter two stages were being used by many people as a vehicle to introduce names which should, if they were serious, have been introduced in the original suggestion stage and I seriously question whether this Electoral Commission should consider new names introduced at that stage.

I do think that the legislator has considered that this whole process should have a beginning and an end and it shouldn't be drawn out indefinitely. If you consider additional names where will the whole process end and I add to that that names that have been introduced in the latter stage of the process don't have the opportunity of being subject to the same public scrutiny and comment as the names which were introduced in the proper initial stages, that's my (indistinct) there. As to the merits of the names. If the augmented Electoral Commission agrees with what I've just put about process then I suggest the focus will be or should be essentially on the report and the names in the Redistribution Committee's report and in the objections and comments on the objections other than those parts of the comments and objections which include new names. Mr Chairman, you and your colleagues are well aware that the Redistribution Committee after looking at all the matters put forward for divisions shortlisted three names, Bean, Cullen and Nott, and it was supportive of naming an electoral division after each of these individuals.

Mr Chairman, I agree with that shortlisting but not with the selection of Bean over Nott or the manner in which the Redistribution Committee chose Bean in the end. I pointed out my reason for that in one of my comments, written comments which you already have. As to Charles Bean I have not criticised him as others have done for reasons which Dr Nelson has touched upon and I admire his work. It extends not only to the Australian War Memorial but also to the establishment of the Australian Archives and I have or have had a connection with both those organisations and so from those connections I am very well aware of Charles Bean's work, a volunteer guide at the War Memorial and a former Director General of the National Archives. So I think I have some credentials there. Having said that I would put to you that Bean's selection is now so controversial and seemingly divisive in the light of the public debate which has taken place and the publication of the Committee's report, that is it's difficult to imagine that the augmented Commission could choose him in the end.

Moreover, whatever his undoubted merits are in granting outstanding service to the country which is one of the criteria properly used by the Redistribution Committee, little information has been provided other than providing outstanding service to the ACT community in which he lived. The fact he lived here for six years as Dr Nelson mentioned does not constitute an

outstanding contribution to the community, nothing compared with what I've given to you previously in relation to Dr Nott. Just to conclude those comments I acknowledge that the case for Mr Bean is strong, but why wasn't it put forward in the suggestion stage. In other words it would not have come forward at all had the Redistribution Committee by some means which we're not aware looked at his name amongst many others which were not included in the original suggestions. As to Ngingali Cullen's name, she, like Bean, did not emerge in the suggestion stage. That has been supported by an absolute avalanche of seemingly organised politically correct correspondence, that's to newspapers I think and also in the objection stage and comments on the objections.

Her work is admirable and not just her work, she of course is an admirable and astonishing character. She was one of the Stolen Generation I've read and I do not for a moment diminish her national contribution. But locally, Mr Chairman, beyond the creation of the work towards the creation of Reconciliation Place in Canberra, her contribution to the overall community in the ACT is hard to find. Whereas the case of Nott, if you read the papers that I have submitted already in writing, four papers, Dr Nott's contribution locally was enormous.

MR ROGERS: Mr Cox, we're over the 10 minute mark so if you could conclude your remarks that would be very helpful at this stage.

MR COX: I didn't hear an eight minute warning.

MR ROGERS: Okay.

MR COX: The Redistribution Committee recognised and stated the good reasons set out in page 72 of its report as to why Dr Nott was a suitable name. There are lots of substantial reasons in favour of Dr Nott but there is no baggage attached as some have argued in the case of Mr Bean. So I conclude with these words, Mr Chairman, why not Nott? He was known to many Canberra people in the 1930s, 40s and 50s and we are a thinning out race, so this many well be the last serious opportunity to recognise Dr Nott in the way that is now under consideration. I urge you to do it. Thank you.

MR ROGERS: Thank you.

MR COX: Dr David Nott is Dr Nott's son and he would like to say something.

DR NOTT: Thank you very much for hearing what we have to say, also thank you very much for what you have done in the past. I have been in Canberra

since 1931, son of Dr Lewis Nott and when he died in 1951 I was 20 years of age. I'd only known him for 20 years but what years they have been. You have information that I have submitted previously on the background of his amazing career, his very successful and World War I experience and all the things he's done for Canberra. While we are not criticising Mr Bean or Mrs Cullen, they have both done amazing things, both terrific people, but don't equal in any way at all what my father has done for Canberra. And I think what he's done for Canberra is ceaseless work in the Advisory Council in public and particularly when he first came to Canberra as a federal parliamentary member of the electorate of Herbert in far north Queensland, in fact most of far north Queensland and very early on he arrived in Canberra as a federal member of parliament. He talked about the amazing fact of Canberra people not having (indistinct) sent to Canberra to work, he came to Canberra to live, yet they didn't have a vote.

This was mentioned as a closing (indistinct) and (indistinct) speech in 1926 made it quite clear his continuing interest in the vote for Canberra people. He pushed for that very heavily through the whole of the time he lived in Canberra. He was a member of and a Chair for many years of the Advisory Committee. He was critical of the Advisory Council as a toothless tiger and should be replaced as soon as possible by a legislative council to let the Canberra people have a vote. Not the important people, not the big people but everybody in Canberra was going to get a vote. I was very involved for a lot of time in listening to him, hearing him talk, go to public meetings, harassing the Government, harassing the important people and making himself quite unpopular at some (indistinct) and up till I think '49 when they said to him (indistinct) he was asked by the Liberal Party if he'd stand, for the first time Canberra had a vote, would he stand as a member of the Liberal Party and although he was good friends with most of the Liberal members he said 'No, I stand independent of any party in the interests of the party and of all the people, tied to no party and embarrassed by no hamstringing party loyalties'.

We know what he means, he won the election and he became the first man in Parliament for the ACT, it was a statement of his popularity. It's particularly exciting because he won that electorate, that election as an independent and of particular interest in every election since then, in fact I think 18 or 19 elections, the winning member has been in every case except one a member of the Labor party. So this was a courageous vote to get my father into Parliament. He was the last independent Member of Parliament, member of federal parliament for the ACT electorate. What we're doing is to remember his good works in Canberra, his achievements, the repertory theatre company, soup kitchens, his tireless work as a doctor, his 14 years as the hospital superintendent, his dedicated work for the RSL.

His win in 1949 meant he was the first ever member of the ACT. We will always remember he was first, raising your interest in knowing who was the first person to climb Everest, we all know who he was and we should. Who was the second and the third I don't remember, I don't know if anyone else  
5 remembers. Recently a 14-year-old child climbed Mt Everest, but till someone had climbed Everest, someone had been a member of parliament as a first elected we remember, we must remember. Lewis Nott is a major part of the history of the Territory not just a part of the history of Canberra, of the ACT Territory. He must be remembered. Thank you.

10

MR ROGERS: Thank you very much.

DR NOTT: Could I ask the Commission to vote yes for accepting photos of Dr Nott.

15

MR ROGERS: Certainly.

DR NOTT: Just so you know there are two on here. Just to know what he looks like, he's a real person. You may keep that, thank you.

20

MR ROGERS: Thank you very much. Okay, Trevor Sharkie.

MR SHARKIE: Thank you very much for the opportunity to appear before the augmented Electoral Commission of the ACT. As this is my first time to  
25 actually write to a government body to object to a name, in this case the electoral name, but I have inquired about names for new suburbs of Canberra. So I thought that it was very pleasing to receive 75 objections to a name of boundaries and even more pleased when 70 of those objections were for the name of the new electorate alone. Now I grew up in Sydney, lived in the  
30 electorate of Reid, named after George Reid, a former, New South Wales Premier and the fourth Prime Minister of Australia. I can recall sitting in front of a television watching the then Prime Minister Robert Gordon Menzies deliver his campaign speech. I looked around the lounge room of my house and saw that I was the only person in the lounge room watching the television.  
35 I was 16. The only person in our family unable to vote. When I think back I was quite happy to be in an electorate named after George Reid.

After reading some of the majority of the submissions objecting to the name of the new electorate in the ACT, I would like to mention a couple of words in  
40 those objections to the name of Bean. The words I wrote down were uncomfortable, gender balance and of some suggestions, deserving. Uncomfortable with Bean, the gender balance, of the two electorates named after people in the ACT and more deserving of the people they had suggested. I will give you an example of an electorate in Victoria concerning names. The

electorate of Batman. John Batman is described as a grazier, entrepreneur, explorer, a leading member of the Port Phillip Association and this description comes from around 1820s and sounds like a fine, upstanding citizen. He was also thought of as a controversial figure, due to his dealings with Aboriginal people. His neighbour, when he lived in Van Diemen's Land, artist John Glover, said of Batman:

*He was a rogue, a thief, cheat, a liar and a murderer of blacks and the vilest man I have ever known.*

10

Now, we might find bad things about a lot of people that others see as fine, upstanding citizens. Being a journalist and association with the Australian War Memorial, this could be but for the naming of an electorate with anti-Semitic and a very strong dislike for one of the better commanders of the Great War, John Monash, a man who was responsible, in my view, for shortening that war, on the Western Front - Charles Edwin Woodrow Bean - has his name on the wall in the Australian War Memorial, a more appropriate place.

15

I don't know if you have reconsidered the new name for the electorate of Corangamite, named after May Cox. As the sitting member, Sarah Henderson, has said that she doesn't want to be known as the Member for Cox - rather Corangamite. Now, May was an author and a swimming teacher and implemented a swimming program in the early 20th century that is still used today, VICSWIM. Do you not think that an aquatic centre in Victoria may be more appropriate than a Federal electorate?

25

In my submission to the Australian Electoral Commission I listed eight suggestions for the name of the new electorate. There are two women – 'Stree't, after Lady Jessie May Street; 'Curley', after Sylvia Curley OAM; an Indigenous person, 'Namitjira' after Albert Namitjira and the rest were male: 'Lincoln', for Lincoln Ross Hall OAM; 'Blackburn', Sir Richard Blackburn OBE; 'Hope', A.D Hope AC OBE; 'Fraser' after James Reay Fraser and 'Eddison' after Walter Herbert Eddison.

30

When putting this list forward I thought they were good people, indeed, fine, upstanding citizens who had contributed to this country's history and in some cases to the local area. You may have found something in their background that I have missed and so would eliminate some or all of them. But what I hadn't included and by reading the submissions I would support Ngingali Cullen, taken from her mother at the age of four, the first Aboriginal student to graduate from Concordia College in Adelaide, a nurse, Aboriginal activist, community development worker, a health worker and her link to Canberra, working on the Sorry Day committee at ATSIC. The name suggested for the electorate was 'Cullen'. May I mention the ACT Place Naming Committee,

40

which has 12 members and two names of suburbs in the ACT - just examples I'm giving here. The suburbs are Wright, named after the poet Judith Wright and Coombs, named after the first Governor of the Reserve Bank, H.C Nugget Coombs. They were apparently very good friends for 25 years - very good friends. In suburb locations, they are next to each other.

I'm not aware of what the Commission would consider a favourable number of objections to a proposed electorate name with about 142,000 citizens and the proposed number of about 99,000. But for me, 75 objections sounds like a good representation of the electorate, or the 72 people who objected who live in the electorate of Canberra. Although there were no objections from the ACT Labor Party or the Government but one from the ACT Liberal Party. Probably the Labor Party thought that the names of the five new electorates were enough for the election now that we have 25 members. Those names are Brindabella, Kurrajong, Ginninderra, Yerrabi and Murrumbidgee.

I know it is yours which is the final decision on this electorate name but I hope you give due consideration to the submissions of the 75 people and those people who stood before you today who strongly feel about the subject. Could I just say to this inquiry that holding an inquiry about the electorate names or boundaries in those electorates - could it possibly be held in the electorate? I found it very difficult getting here this morning. I live in the electorate. Also when I was submitting my submission, I went to the AEC office. It's across the road. I noticed the number of people arriving for work in that office with coffee. Could you make it something to do to get their own cups and save the environment? Thank you very much.

MR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr Sharkie. So next we have Rebecca Lamb, Ann Filmer and Gerry Nussio.

MS LAMB: Good morning. Thank you for this opportunity to endorse my support and that of the community group, Minders of Tuggeranong Homestead. We're an incorporated organisation. We consist mainly of a non-profit community group that helps to promote the many aspects of the Tuggeranong Homestead and its long history. As a foundation member of MOTH, I fully support the nomination of the naming of the electorate. It is through my involvement with MOTH that the many historically important phases of the homestead's long history, since European contact with the local Aboriginal community to the present day, contributes to the greater knowledge of the Tuggeranong district.

I acknowledge there are many citizens who are worthy of commemoration in some form. However, because World War One war historian Charles Bean is a nationally significant Australian who lived and worked at the homestead and

subsequently married a local woman, his connection to the local community stands as a strong testimony to his contribution to the local and national identity. I am pleased to have this opportunity to expand upon my support for the following reasons: I grew up in Canberra, living next door to John and  
5 Nellie Balfour. The Balfour family lived at Tuggeranong while John Balfour worked with Bean as a fellow war historian from October 1919 to May 1925.

It was through this everyday contact with the Balfour family that I became aware of the monumental work that had been undertaken by Bean and the team  
10 of historians at the homestead to document the official war history of Australia's involvement. I was able to read the history and visualise the full impact of World War One and connect it with the Tuggeranong Homestead. To commence his work, Bean retreated to these tranquil surroundings at the homestead, when the Cunningham family vacated it so that he could  
15 concentrate on the task before him.

It was through World War One veteran Andy Cunningham and Erskine Crawford, who later joined the team of writers that Bean first decided he would move there. Bean realised that, for the health of his workers and food for the  
20 soul, there needed to be provision for all forms of relaxation: horse riding, family picnics to the Murrumbidgee River, socials and sport. He built a concrete cricket pitch. He began a formidable team, the Tuggeranong Twisters, which comprised local players. District players from Michelago, Tharwa, Williamsdale, Queanbeyan and further afield played every weekend  
25 during the summer at Tuggeranong.

Bean used his car to transport the bags of concrete or cement to the homestead from the Tuggeranong railway siding. The tennis court also became a focus for weekly gatherings by the historians and many local families. The local  
30 farming community and Duntroon officers and cadets gathered regularly at Tuggeranong. Henry Gullet, a noted fellow war historian who lived nearby at Lambrigg, worked closely with Bean while at Tuggeranong. A well-known Catholic priest, Father Haydon, was a frequent visitor. Bean formed many firm friendships through these social activities and today the local community  
35 fondly remembers his generous contributions.

A silver tea service was donated by Bean as a cricket team prize and is still used and admired within the recipient's family. It was through tennis matches that Bean met his future wife Ethel, or known as Effie ,Young who was a nurse  
40 at Queanbeyan Hospital. The couple were married in 1921 and returned to live at Tuggeranong. Effie's family had connections to the Tuggeranong District from the 1840s. Fellow historian George Lowery later married Mary McGee the daughter of a Tuggeranong school master Francis McGee. The McGee and Morrison families, local colonial settlers, are still firmly connected to the

Tuggeranong region. Bean employed the inimitable Paddy Byrne as a gardener, a handyman and butcher to the historian and his wife Elizabeth as a part time cook and domestic helper. When Paddy Bryne's small son Billy accidentally fell into a septic tank near the house it was Bean who helped to rescue him. Other well-known housekeepers were Effie Bean's aunt, Mrs Mabel Pike, who lived nearby on the homestead and Mrs Margaret Maxwell. These hardworking women kept the fires burning and the meals on the table for the historians and their growing families. There is a commemorative room and pictorial exhibitions at the Tuggeranong homestead where the lives of Bean and the historians are reflected.

Bean's bravery under fire is legendary, his conduct exemplary and his character generous. He possessed forethought and his vision to establish the Australian War Memorial became reality on its completion in 1941 and in 2017 it hosted over one million visitors. Through his writing, his forethought and responsibility to the Australian people, he captured the true spirit of the thousands of Australians, ordinary Australians who had served. In 1930 Bean established the New South Wales Parks and Playgrounds Association whereby Australian children could benefit from fresh air, exercise and play in the belief they would become stronger Australians and community leaders. Bean was instrumental in establishing the National Archives, the principal office is located here in Canberra. He realised Australia's national story needed to be kept safely and told honestly. The nation owes much to Bean, his life, values and his character.

It is indeed timely and appropriate to commemorate him as a local and national identity in the naming of the electorate in his memory. I have one other brief submission that was given to me in order for me to read it out if that's permissible. Please excuse my voice, I do have a voice problem.

MR ROGERS: If you could read out who the person is making the submission?

MS LAMB: Of course. I'm reading it out on behalf of Jennifer Horsfield who is a local writer and historian and also a member of Minders of Tuggeranong Homestead. It's a very brief paragraph or two but thank you for the opportunity.

*Bean was a man whose integrity and modesty of character deserve our admiration in these times when so many public figures shamelessly seek power, wealth and influence. Bean worked hard and selflessly all of his life to advance goals which he regarded as worthwhile but that brought him no personal fame, wealth or other rewards. He refused the offer of a knighthood, believing such titles were incompatible with the*

5 *democratic society. He devoted his intellectual life to recording the story of the first AIF and spent many tiring years keeping alive the plans for the National War Museum when the Depression threatened to derail his project. Bean was dedicated to the cause of education for all young Australians and he promoted through the parks and playgrounds movement the value of outdoor play and exploration as an important part of childhood. He was a man worthy of commemoration by 21<sup>st</sup> Century Australians.*

10 I also have a small brief submission on behalf of the Tuggeranong Homestead management, Gerry Nussio is the Manager and Ann Filmer, also Manager, are sitting right beside me (indistinct).

15 *The legacy of Australia's first official war correspondent has been immortalised in Canberra's Tuggeranong Homestead. Charles Bean, journalist and historian, is recognised with a dedicated room at the homestead where much of his iconic work was written. Proposals to name a new electorate based in the Tuggeranong area have been welcomed by the current custodians of the building, recognising a man who chronicled the worst of human nature through his writings and was honourable enough to recognise his mistakes. In addition to*  
20 *documenting Australia's involvement in the Great War, Bean was instrumental in the creation of the War Memorial. His experience at Gallipoli, the Western Front and France spurred him to honour those*  
25 *young men who were lost in the name of freedom. While much has been made of the opposition to John Monash because of race and religion prejudice, it has to be remembered that not only was his opposition and that of compatriot, Keith Murdoch, ignored but Bean recognised he was wrong in his prejudice and set about advocating for a multicultural*  
30 *Australia later in his life.*

35 *The creation of the Bean electorate should be seen as a celebration of contemporary cultural values where lessons of the past are learnt and evolve into a positive embracing community. The homestead with historic grounds and buildings offer a quiet retreat in the hustle of the growing Tuggeranong Valley and was a quiet retreat for Bean and his staff for five and a half years. While Bean and his team of clerks, librarians, map makers and historians set about ensuring the history of our nation-making involvement in conflict was accurately recorded, he*  
40 *also constructed some of Canberra's earliest sporting areas, giving his staff a welcome recreational area. The rooms where Bean and his team worked are beautifully maintained in the section of the historic homestead, including the special room, a dedicated room paying tribute to Bean and his team of historians. Bean was appointed official war*

5                    *correspondent by the then Minister (indistinct) and landed with the Australian troops at Anzac Cove where he stayed until the December 1915 evacuation. From 1916 until the end of the war in 1918 Bean observed every AIF engagement in France, returning to Australia with more than 300 hand written journals which form part of his proposed national war memorial.*

10                    *Bean was an integral part of the national landscape in Canberra well before the first sitting of the federal parliament in that city. He moved to Sydney in 1925 on medical advice but maintained his driving role in the development of the War Memorial, officiating the official opening in 1941. Charles Bean died in Sydney in 1968 but left a history and legacy that cannot be forgotten, thanks in part to the care and patronage of Tuggeranong Homestead.*

15

And that's all I have to say, thank you.

MR ROGERS: Thank you very much. Could we have Chris Bettle please?

20 MR BETTLE: Is it all right if I just put this up on this board here while I'm speaking?

MR ROGERS: Sure.

25 MR BETTLE: My name is Chris Bettle and I'm a former parliamentary officer and among many other jobs I was also once a soldier in the British Army, I just thought I'd mention that, and thank you for hearing me today. A week on from the first ACT reconciliation public holiday and the well-attended events in Glebe Park and the united recent contestation of C.E.W. Bean's  
30 attitude towards General Monash's Jewishness, I would like to make a few remarks based on his own writings on Mr Bean's claim to have his name given to the new ACT electorate. In a submission to the Electoral Commission and in a letter to the *Canberra Times* I have seriously proposed the name Andy Cunningham for the new electorate and I continue to seriously propose it.  
35 Apart from time away at school and university and fighting abroad for the duration of the First World War, Andy Cunningham spent his entire life in what is now the new electorate, successively at Tuggeranong Homestead (indistinct) Homestead and later in the (indistinct) I also maintain that the sheer range of his activities both good and bad entitle him to be seen as a fair dinkum  
40 and historically complex representative of the district in question. It was not initially my intention to denigrate or even comment on any of the other proposed names, many obviously worthy, however from the start special prominence has been given to the name of C.E.W. Bean who spent 5.5 years years at Tuggeranong before moving to Sydney for the better weather, and of

course played a huge role in the production of the official history of the First World War and in the establishment not only of the Australian War Memorial but also the whole ANZAC myth itself.

5 To somewhat contest that memorialisation of Bean I would like to quote two  
brief passages from one of his most acclaimed books and mention also one  
further aspect of another of his seminal works. In my eyes Bean was above all  
an apologist, so badly needed, and thus so warmly embraced, in what was  
indeed a dire time in Australia's history, but someone whose ideas should very  
10 properly be re-examined as ongoing propositions to assess in other words  
whether they are timeless or they are not. I'm well aware that Bean is surely  
one of the least read of Australia's greatest authors, I decided to have a look at  
two of his best known works, namely *Anzac to Amiens*, his 1946 summary of  
the 15 I gather, not 12, 15 volumes of the official history of the First World  
15 War which Bean variously wrote and edited and in addition his earlier 1911  
*On The Wool Tracks*, an account of time spent in the far west of New South  
Wales where he got his initial glimpse of and taste for the style of outback  
white male workers who he went on to idealise as soldiers.

20 Reading his books came as quite a shock, I could hardly believe what I was  
reading. Without any particular need to give credit, I asked myself was what  
he was saying in these passages in any way acceptable even when it was  
written, let alone now? Here are two examples, both from his 1946 *Anzac to*  
*Amiens*, one from the first chapter, 'Australia in 1914', the other from the last  
25 chapter, chapter 21, 'The Anzac Legacy'. Before reading these two short  
passages I would like to remind you that Bean, the budding (indistinct) born in  
1879 had first attended school in Bathurst, New South Wales, where, in 1824  
under Governor Brisbane, martial law was famously declared against the local  
Aborigines, at a time when the word 'war' there and elsewhere in Australia  
30 was common parlance to describe the relation between the colonisers and the  
ambitious landowners.

From Chapter 1 of *Anzac to Amiens*, and I have condensed two sentences into  
one for brevity's sake, 'In Australia the feeling that in 1815 the world had  
35 finally entered the age of general and almost perpetual peace was all the more  
natural as war had never happened there,' Australia,

40 *in the 126 years from the day when Captain Arthur Phillip since 11*  
*ships landed there 1,100 white folk in the strange silence of grass and*  
*gum trees at Sydney Cove, to that on which the same foreshore clanged*  
*with the world of trams and crowds in the hub of Sydney's 800,000*  
*people, for four generations, pioneers, squatters, farmers, city folk had*  
*gone their ways without a serious thought of being interfered with*  
*except within the law.*

Then in the final chapter, Chapter 21, 'The Anzac Legacy,' Bean repeats this bland, this blind claim of pervasive peace in Australia combined here with one of his famous paeans of praise for the 'virility' engendered by Australian country life which for him Australian country life is the very essence of the so-called Anzac spirit, the 'core of Australia' according to Bean. 'What was abnormal was the British command of the sea had given us in Australia,' and 'us in Australia' is defined back in Chapter 1 as 'only four and a half million white people (and perhaps 100,000 Australian blacks)',

10

*had given us in Australia 126 years of freedom without fighting for it, and what was admirable in our conditions was the factor or combination of factors that during those peaceful years kept alive and indeed apparently increased the will and capacity of Australians to preserve that freedom. It may be conjectured that, as so often in history, the nation's virility was largely due to the comparative sanity and simplicity of the country life from which even the inhabitants of our great cities were not yet widely separated.*

20 Meanwhile in *On the Wool Tracks*, a book of 296 pages depicting the then, in 1911, current daily life in western New South Wales, there are exactly five brief references to what he calls 'the blacks' and on one occasion 'the Mulga blacks'. The two references that have been glossed as sympathetic, namely a report of someone's desire to take over the ownership and thus the services of a skilled black tracker and the willingness of white workers to work alongside Australian blacks and Maoris, no reference to equal pay for them, but their distinct objection to working alongside Chinamen, or as American negroes, are more bizarre than the three occasions when the blacks, called the Mulga blacks, are merely dismissed. Again elsewhere in the same book he describes the centre of Australia as, and I quote, 'uninhabited'.

To finish I would like to offer two alternative perspectives in opposition to the interview point. These two perspectives are not, I would affirm, in any way anachronistic, one being from the 1930s when Bean was still engaged in the (indistinct) the other from about the time of Bean's death in 1958. The first is from Christoph Caldwell, the English aviation enthusiast, not unlike Andy Cunningham in that respect, a popular novelist but best known, if known at all, as a Marxist literary critic. He was born in 1907 and died in 1937 fighting for the Resistance in the Spanish Civil War. In his study *Romance and Realism* he was writing of Kipling but also of colonial literature and colonial mores more generally. He could well have been speaking of Bean's Aussie bush heroes along with their antecedents and I quote, 'In imperialism bourgeoisdom abandoned the peaceful consolation of bourgeois (indistinct) rights for the violent inauguration of them in places where they are not. Its mercenary

servants engaged in this task must therefore be brave physically and possessed of a real love of violence and force for its own sake,' and therefore presumably weren't qualified for soldiering.

5 My second and last alternative perspective comes from the novelist Doris Lessing, who was born in 1919 while her perhaps most famous novel *The Golden Notebook* was published in 1962, six years before Bean's death, last page. Lessing is writing here of the apparent discord between the private and the public face of Soviet Russia. Further examination however reveals the  
10 surprising kinship between violence and sentimentality. As she says, 'The composites, the choirs, the dance troupes were all distinguished by a certain coy whimsicality, a sentimentality. Monstrous cruelties produced these qualities in the arts.'

15 MR ROGERS: Mr Bettle, we're just over time, so if you could wrap up to the conclusion that would be very good.

MR BETTLE: I would summarise what she's saying that violence and sentimentality are the two sides of the same coin. The manifestations are  
20 different, this analysis corresponds in character with Australia's repeated willingness to employ military force in often questionable and fiercely publicly disputed military engagements overseas, while at home simultaneously and especially during the 1990s and since, expending enormous quantities of government funds on reengineering in our children the otherwise dying myths  
25 of the Anzac stereotype. In the some no doubt small matter of the naming of this new electorate can we please not continue down this path. Last sentence.

MR ROGERS: We – this is your last sentence?

30 MR BETTLE: Yes, it is.

MR ROGERS: Okay.

MR BETTLE: Better to choose the name of Andy Cunningham, a candid  
35 warts and all but true local representative of the southern ACT rather than to further perpetuate the pernicious myth synonymous with Bean of the blood and birth of the Australian nation at Gallipoli, when, unnoticed by some, blood had already been shed in quite sufficient quantities right here where the birth of the nation in its present form was in truth not always painless, peaceful or  
40 glorious.

MR ROGERS: Thank you. Mr Tom Anderson.

MR ANDERSON: Good morning.

MR ROGERS: Good morning, if you could say your name and away you go.

MR ANDERSON: Okay. Tom Anderson, I chair the Weston Creek  
5 Community Council and I've chaired that for the last – well since 2010. Thank  
you for the opportunity to elaborate on our submission to the inquiry and I'll  
try and be brief and I'd also like to thank the staff here for helping me with my  
personal situation. I've said in the submission, and this is about electoral  
boundaries no more, I've said in our submission that Woden has been affected  
10 by the electoral boundaries under the ACT - - -

MR ROGERS: If I could just ask you to speak into the microphone, it's just  
easier for everyone to hear. Thank you very much.

MR ANDERSON: I've said in the submission that Woden has been affected  
15 by the electoral boundaries under the ACT government. You only need to look  
at what has happened here over the time that Woden has been split as an  
electorate. Woden was split 8/3 in the suburbs from 1995 to 2008 and increase  
that from 8/4 from 2008 to 2016 and they were split between ACT electorates  
20 of Molonglo and Brindabella in the ACT. What then happened was that  
employment had dropped markedly, the buildings were run down and boarded  
up, shops have closed over the years. So my plea to you is to consider the  
consequences of your decision on the boundary between electorates of Bean  
and Canberra. In my view what happened was the ACT politicians really  
25 didn't care for Woden as there were not enough votes there to map. Since  
2016, Woden is in the one electorate with Weston Creek and Molonglo and the  
suburb of (indistinct) and there are five members now who have responsibility  
for these areas and the corner has turned. It seems now that there is investment  
and employment returning to the town centre and there is a focus on it.

30 My concern is that splitting Woden again could leave it out in the cold once  
more. If nothing more could be done I would urge the committee to include all  
of Phillip in the electorate of Bean because that includes the town centre. What  
you have proposed at the current time is to have the town centre for eight  
35 suburbs of Woden and the District of Western Creek and Molonglo in the  
electorate of Canberra whereas the others are all in the electorate of Bean. So  
it would seem to me to make common sense for the town centre for all of those  
areas to be within the same electorate or else you would lose out with Lyons  
and Curtin, Garran and Hughes. But the town centre for the remaining and the  
40 vast majority of people and districts would be with the people that it services.  
When you look at the statistics in the calculation Phillip can be included in  
Bean with the proposed projections for 2022 as it shows 1,741 electors, that  
would take you up to 101,156 while Canberra reduces to 96,894. They're both  
within the stated limits, and if you take Norfolk Island out and place it in

Canberra and Hume, you almost bring the suburb of Lyons in as well.

I think we're less than 200 short in the projections. So quite – that's all I wanted to say, I just urge you to reconsider that and put at least all of Phillip in that electorate, because that is the town centre for Woden, Weston Creek and Molonglo and it would just seem to make sense to do that. Thank you.

MR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr Anderson. Alexander Paine. Good morning, Mr Paine, if you could perhaps use the microphone, say your name and then we're eager to hear your submission.

MR. PAINE: My name is Alexander Paine and I appear to speak on behalf of the very strong credentials that Lewis Nott be commemorated in the name of our new electorate. Lewis Nott studied medicine at Sydney University and newly married in 1913 travelled with his wife Doris to Scotland where he continued his medical training at Edinburgh and Glasgow Universities. The following year at the outbreak of World War One Dr Nott enlisted in the Royal Scots Greys and saw service on the Western Front where he was wounded and twice mentioned in despatches. In December 1916 he resigned his commission to resume his medical studies in Scotland and became fully qualified in the Colleges of Surgeons and Physicians. Back in his native Queensland Lewis Nott was appointed medical superintendent of the Mackay District Hospital and from 1924 to 1927 was Mayor of Mackay. In 1925 he won the federal seat of Herbert, defeating Ted Theodore who had resigned as Queensland Premier in order to enter federal politics. But he lost office at the following federal election in 1928.

With the relocation of the Commonwealth Parliament to Canberra in 1927 Dr Nott settled here, quickly grew to love Canberra and began a long and fruitful involvement with the developing Canberra community. To quote the Australian Dictionary of Biography, 'he identified with the community's aspirations and promoted its interests.' In 1928 he presented petitions from the people of Canberra seeking representation in federal parliament and it was largely due to him that the ACT gained its own representative in the federal Parliament. Again in 1928 he was appointed to a board to inquire into the administration of the Canberra Community Hospital and in 1929 he was appointed medical superintendent, holding the position UNTIL 1934 and later from 1941 to 1949. Quoting again from the Australian Dictionary of Biography, 'Not only did he contribute to the development of the hospital and its school of nursing, he also fought to ensure that patients received the best possible care. His ability to relate to people was unquestionable.'

After serving on the new Federal Capital Territory Advisory Council from 1935 to 1949, Lewis Nott stood as an independent candidate in the 1949

federal election and was selected as the ACTs first Member of the House of Representatives. Described as having a strong social conscience and a compassionate concern for the underprivileged Lewis Nott also made major contributions to Canberra life, promoting relief for the needy during the  
5 Depression, involving himself in the arts as a founder of the Canberra Repertory Society and the Canberra Philharmonic Society. He was also involved in Legacy and in the creation of the Horticultural Society of Canberra. In short I think it is fair to regard him as having been a founding father of the early Canberra community. In summing up, Dr Lewis Nott through his  
10 seminal and long sustained contribution in politics, medicine and socially to the early life and growth of the Canberra community is in my view uniquely qualified to be commemorated in the name of the forthcoming third ACT federal electorate. Thank you.

15 MR ROGERS: Thank you Mr Paine. Ladies and gentlemen, we might just call a very quick break. If we break now whatever the time is, about five to 11 for five minutes and then we'll be back here and commencing at 11.00, and I think the next person up is Anne Carroll and we'll start that at 11.00. So thank you.

20

**ADJOURNED** [10.52 am]

**RESUMED** [11.04 am]

25 MR ROGERS: We might get underway, ladies and gentlemen. I think we said before the break that Anne Carroll would be the next to talk.

MS CARROLL: Yes, still good morning Chairman and members of the committee. I am Charles Bean's granddaughter. In the interests of objectivity  
30 I will use quotations from others. References to those recognised sources are contained in the printed version of this submission. 'Bean's story is not rare. It is unique. Its achievements and legacies – ' - - -

MR ROGERS: Excuse me, if you could just use the - - -

35

MS CARROLL: Sorry.

MR ROGERS: Thank you.

40 MS CARROLL: Quote, 'Bean's story is not rare, it is unique in its achievements and legacies, it will never be matched. The most sacred building in Canberra is not Parliament House, it is the Australian War Memorial, the vision of Bean.' Charles Bean's connections to the proposed electorate are strong. After the Great War he chose to bring his history writing team to live

in Tuggeranong where they developed strong, significant, deep, personal and ongoing connections to this area and the community. Charles Bean is of national significance, ‘His life story offers an opportunity to trace the development of Australia in its formative decades. His constancy of character, his personal growth and the opinion he held and his role in shaping the national opinion provides a means of calibrating national change.’

Charles Bean was not one dimensional, he was many things, a teacher, barrister, judge’s associate, journalist, author, war correspondent, historian, father of the Australian War Memorial and instrumental in the formation of what is now known as the National Archives of Australia. He was an archivist, a visionary, social reformer, conservationist and a tireless advocate for education and he placed planning for green open spaces for the well-being and health of the community. Quote, ‘Bean as an uncompromising seeker of truth throughout his life and in everything he did he sought truth at every level of extraction in everything large and small.’ Quote,

*He was an advocate of liberty, equality, fraternity. Liberty to seek the truth and state it, equality of opportunity and all that this involves, and fraternity, the resolve to progress by helping our fellow men forward and not by thrusting them back.*

Quote, ‘He was unassuming, physically brave, morally courageous.’ He recognised the importance of fairness to Australians. Quote, ‘That general determination to stand by one’s mate and to see he gets a fair deal, whatever the cost to oneself means more to Australia can yet be reckoned. Whatever the results, and they are sometimes uncomfortable, may it long be the country’s code.’ Family and education shaped him. His middle name, Woodrow, is taken from a family member who was the son of our hero in ‘Tom Brown’s Schooldays’ who stood up against bullying of a young boy at Rugby School. Charles Bean was strongly influenced by the Arnold tradition of education that emerged from Rugby School. Quote,

*It’s a form of humanitarianism, emphasising individual self-worth and qualities associated with good character, trust and reliability, honesty, openness, self-discipline, self-reliance, independent thought and action, friendship and concern for the common good over selfish or sectional interests.*

Quote, ‘If there is anything of anti-Semitism in his opposition to Sir John Monash’s advancement in World War One it needs to be balanced against his public and private regret in later years that he judged Monash too harshly.’

Quote, in a letter from Charles Bean to Murdoch on 2 June 1918, ‘But Monash

is a very capable man and as he is there now and further changes do no good I intend to work loyally by him.’

5 I remember Charles Edwin Woodrow Bean who was in his mid-60s when I was born in 1944, to my mother his adopted daughter Joyce, the Beans’ only child. My brother Edward Bean Le Couteur carries his name. As a child I was puzzled that he had a bullet in his right thigh. Lately I have wondered if it acted as a providential spur, sparking the responsibility he felt to Australia and its citizens to honour the loss of so many lives through his well-known military works and his lesser known social missionary work both in print and prose. 10 Quote, ‘A full appreciation of his contribution to Australian history requires that both sides of the man, military and civil, be weighed in the balance.’ Quote, ‘As a commentator he showed a notable flexibility of mind such as his celebrated recantation of appeasement and his re-thinking of the White 15 Australia policy’. Quote, ‘If there was a list of Charles Bean’s special characteristics, dedication and perseverance would stand high.’

Quote,

20 *Charles Bean lamented the displacement of Aboriginals from traditional lands and recognised in European Australians a deep sense of obligation that compelled acknowledgement of Aboriginals as worthy of special consideration as original inhabitants of this land.*

25 He was a visionary. Two books written by him for Australians at pivotal times confirm this social missionary side of Charles Bean, *In Your Hands, Australians*, written in November 1918. draws upon his frontline experiences in the Great War to articulate the values and actions required in peacetime by every day Australians to ensure a compassionate, educated and healthy nation. 30 Quote, ‘The task to be faced is the making this land the best country in the world, the best, freest and most progressive.’ In 1943 he followed it with *War Aims of a Plain Australian*, again emphasising in building a nation the importance of communities, education, town planning, open space and physical activity, health and the environment.

35 He became involved in the town planning association and in 1930 founded the parks and playground movement in New South Wales. A Mitchell Library file testifies to the time and energies he devoted to that cause in a total honorary capacity.

40

Quote,

*Bean was driven by a persistent, if not passionate abhorrence of unequal social conditions, compassion for the poor, a commitment to*

*democracy and an optimistic belief that universal education could cure almost all ills.*

As A.W. Bazley recorded,

5

*Charles Bean could not be persuaded to submit his history volumes as the theses for a doctorate and it was only through the intervention of Sir John Monash, then vice-chancellor of Melbourne University and other friends, that the volumes were accepted by that university which conferred on him the degree of Doctorate Literature.*

10

MR ROGERS: Eight minutes.

MS CARROLL: In 1959 he accepted an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from Australian National University. He could have been known as Sir Charles Bean, but, quote, 'More than once he refused a knighthood, he lived the life of a modest public man.' I recall my grandfather speaking about the Australian War Memorial's Hall of Memory, those wonderful words in those stained glass windows are worthy of consideration and time does not permit me to list them now. In the places above the pool of reflection the roll of honour has at his insistence no rank, no awards because in death all who gave their lives are heroes. Naming the electorate after Charles Bean, quote, 'Recognises a person of the strongest moral codes who acknowledged his own limitations, who was not afraid of the truth and recognises his life and multi-dimensional works dedicated to others.' It is appropriate that the electorate lies in Canberra and that it embraces Tuggeranong and surrounds.

20

25

Charles Bean lived, worked, visited and from here he chose his life's partner. Where the writer of the official histories was born and the great national monument of the Australian War Memorial stands and attracts worldwide visitations and where the National Archives holds our records. It honours an Australian who personally carried to his end the weight of the horrors of man's inhumanity to man, who is not embittered by that mental and physical burden but who on the contrary worked tirelessly for the good of all men, who strove to make all mean something for a better future for Australia and Australians in towns, cities and beyond. Spoken in Canberra by Dr Brendan Nelson, 'If you think back over the 20<sup>th</sup> century there are a small number of Australians that have burrowed into our hearts and even fewer that have burrowed into our soul. Charles Bean was one of the few.' And spoken to Tuggeranong by Justice Geoff Lindsay, 'We are all of us better off for the life and example of Charles Edwin Woodrow Bean.' And could I please submit to the Committee several documents?

30

35

40

MR ROGERS: Certainly, if you could pass those to the Secretariat that would

be good, received.

MS CARROLL: The copies of those two books I mentioned because they're out of print.

5

MR ROGERS: Thank you very much.

MS CARROLL: And the article from the first quote, and I need to give you this because it gives you the quotes or I can send it electronically to you.

10

MR ROGERS: If you hand it to the Secretariat that would be fine.

MS CARROLL: That has the full quotes.

15

MR ROGERS: Thank you very much.

MS CARROLL: Thank you.

20

MR ROGERS: Peter Rees. Good morning, Mr Rees, if you could say your name.

MR REES: Good morning.

25

MR ROGERS: I advise you to speak through the microphone thank you very much.

30

MR REES: I'm here to support the proposal to name the electorate after Charles Bean. I am the author of the biography of Charles Bean, *Bearing Witness*, and in the writing of my book I suggest that Bean has become - - -

MR ROGERS: If you could just scoot over and hold that very close to your hand, otherwise it's very hard for people at the back to hear.

35

MR REES: Sure.

MR ROGERS: Thank you very much.

40

MR REES: In writing my book I suggest that Charles Bean has become, and I quote, 'An arcane presence somewhere in the nation's consciousness of the Great War, the recipient of nodding recognition that he did something great but often with little understanding beyond that.' I think the misguided commentary from his critics over recent weeks demonstrates that quite amply. I would like to bring some balance back to this discussion. Let me turn to Bean's relationship with General John Monash on which much of the criticism has

focussed. It is true that at the height of war Bean made an unwise comment in his private diary, later made public, about ‘pushy Jews’ in reference to Monash. Like several senior figures in the AIF in World War One Bean at times had a difficult relationship with Monash. Largely this stemmed from his doubts about Monash’s capacity to command at Gallipoli rather than frank anti-Semitism. Bean and Keith Murdoch favoured General Brudenell White to lead the Australian Corps on the Western Front.

White had masterminded the Gallipoli evacuation and as they saw it the troops would be safer under his steady command. Bean later wrote that he regretted any such reference and that he and Keith Murdoch were wrong in their poor assessment of Monash on the Western Front. As he noted in the gift of his diaries and papers to the Australian War Memorial, and I quote, ‘These writings represent only what at the moment of making them I believed to be true.’ He continues in the third person, ‘The diaries were jotted down almost daily with the object of recording what was then in the writer’s mind. Often he wrote them when very tired and half asleep. Also not infrequently what he believed to be true was not so.’ That was a prescient caution given the current debate. Far from being a lifelong critic of Monash, in the late 1920s, for instance, Bean acknowledged him as a, ‘Greatest military leader and as the great commander of the AIF.’

Bean also wrote to Monash after a controversy erupted following the publication of ghost written articles under his name, concern for his reputation. Monash responded that he was very much indebted to Bean for his helpful and understanding letter. Later Monash not only supported the conferring of a Doctor of Literature from Melbourne University on Bean but also praised his official history as ‘a great work’. This is hardly what would have been expected if there was bad blood between these two men. Fundamentally they shared a singular concern for the reputation of the AIF troops. Monash had commanded them brilliantly on the Western Front and Bean was writing the official history of these events involving Monash and the troops. Bean’s accusers have traduced him on the issue of blood and race. Let me quote from a letter he wrote to the Sydney Morning Herald in January 1953.

*In my youth, it seemed to be almost universally believed that qualities such as courage or gentleness were ‘in the blood of some people ruthlessness and savagery in the blood of others.’ The belief had become part of our language. When I went to the World War I ... (reads) ... inborn in Germans and Japanese and not in say an Englishman or Dutchman.’*

Bean would also write, as I quote in my book –

*Wartime propaganda everywhere found every receptive soil in the practically universal belief that the moral qualities of any nation are innate in our blood ... (reads) ... were not innate, or racial and unchangeable.*

5

This was a clear repudiation of racism and anti-Semitism. For Bean, it was national tradition that was important. He saw this as the critical factor that sets nations apart from each other. In a young country like Australian, where tradition is necessarily recent, he had seen it as his task to identify, highlight and shape public perception of national values and achievements.

15 What he saw on the World War I battlefields, not least being shot himself, made him a pacifist. In World War II Bean was very critical of the, as he put it, inflammatory racist vilification of the Japanese in official Australian propaganda. Further, before World War I, in his book, *The Dreadnought of the Darling*, he lamented the displacement of Aborigines from traditional lands and recognised that European Australians had an obligation to acknowledge Aborigines as the country's original inhabitants. He actually planned to write a book on the Aborigines but World War I intervened.

20

These were the antithesis of the racist views that existed about Aborigines at the time and which persisted for far too long in the years ahead. Bean was ahead of his time.

25 Phillip Knightley, in his book, *The First Casualty*, writes that –

*Almost all World War I British war correspondents identified with the war effort. Inventory censorship of dispatches became largely unnecessary as journalists fell in with military ... (reads) ... by the propaganda machine.'*

30

35 Knightley observes that Bean was different, as he put it, 'Only one correspondent did not remain silent' and his criticism was muted by his intense nationalism. This was Charles Bean. Somewhat to the amazement of the British correspondents, he set himself a task of visiting on the day of the battle or soon afterwards every important trench or position occupied by Australian troops at Gallipoli and France, accepting little second-hand information.

40 When the war ended, Bean did not join in the celebrations, instead he drove to the battlefield at Fromelles, the scene of the dreadful Australian carnage, the worst 24 hours in Australian military history. As I write in my book, it was as if he wanted to pay homage to the dead. This was the day they had fought for but would never see. Bean found the bones of Australians still there. This only reinforced his vow after the slaughter at Pozieres that Australians should

not have died in vain. Of course, the consequence of this was the creation of the Australian War Memorial.

5 Bean identified with the ordinary troops, eschewing the safety of headquarters to follow the men into battle for four years. Unlike the British history, his narrative was not written for the generals but for the diggers, for all Australians. Bean's account of the Anzacs on Gallipoli and on the western front not only challenged the traditions of military history, they set the parameters for how Australian history would be recorded. In this, they  
10 observed the perpetual and pervasive cultural influence.

At Bean's funeral service, his friend, the media executive, Angus McLaughlin, spoke as he put it, 'A hole in the integrated man in whom 'were none of the contradictions, the conflicting values that dwell in so many men.' There were  
15 no hidden vanities lurking the modest exterior.'

In the wake of the Great War, Bean was fervently determined that Australia must avoid the pitfalls of the old world. Bean was idealistic, even utopian, in his aspirations for the nation, especially in education and town planning. In  
20 this, he could be seen as one of the rare figures who managed to affect the way Australians regard themselves and their country.

Arthur Bazley, who worked closely with him for 25 years, could lay claim to knowing him as well as anyone. In a letter in 1939 to Bean's mother, he  
25 praised him not just as he put it 'the guiding spirit of the Australian War Memorial but also as a practical idealist possessed of all the noble virtues, courage, humility, honesty, selflessness, public spiritness.'

As Brudenell White said in 1919 –  
30

*That man faced death more times than any other man in the AIF and had no glory to look for either. What he did, and he did wonders, was done from a pure sense of duty.*

35 Sir Robert Menzies once observed that Bean was a man and scholar of self-effacing modesty. Menzies also described him as the greatest Australian of his generation. Personally, Bean had no doubt that the greatest Australians were the diggers with whom he had rubbed shoulders on the battlefields but without him their story would have been incomplete. This was Charles Bean's  
40 unique contribution to the story of a generation of Australians who went to war. He knew the price they had paid.

Of the 23 years Bean spent writing and editing the official history, six were spent at Tuggeranong Homestead. Bean is therefore a worthy figure to be

remembered by naming the new electorate after him. He's a figure in whom the residents of the electorate could take pride and his presence in the national consciousness may be just a little less arcane and deservedly so. Thank you.

5 MR ROGERS: Thank you. Next up is Kim Rubenstein please. If I could ask you to say your name and perhaps use the microphone as well so that everyone can hear - easier to hear your submissions.

MS RUBENSTEIN: Thank you. Thank you, my name is Kim Rubenstein,  
10 I'm a professor in the ANU College of Law. I'm a former director of the Centre for International and Public Law and the inaugural convenor of the ANU Gender Institute. I thank the commission for giving the public the opportunity to make further representations to this Committee in relation to the redistribution. My proposition and desire to present is a simple one which is  
15 linked to my scholarship in relation to citizenship, not in relation to my very intense engagement with questions to do with section 44 of the Constitution, but rather in terms of my broader scholarship on citizenship being a question of active citizenship and the representation of women in the Australian constitutional system.

20

Since 1995 I have been researching and working on questions to do with women's involvement in our system of representative democracy. As many of you will know, women were not part of the framing of the Australian Constitution because formally, at the time of Federation, it was only women in  
25 Adelaide and in Western Australian who had the capacity to be active citizens.

Since that time of course there have been formal changes to women's capacity to be members of Parliament House and to be members of our system of representative democracy and to be members in our Commonwealth  
30 Parliament.

It is for that reason that I am particularly passionate about improving women's representation in our Australian constitutional system given the fact there are over 50 per cent of women in the electorate in the Commonwealth and  
35 representation is about that, about representation, and even though women are not one monolithic group, there is an undeniable reality that women's life experience leads to different engagement with our polity.

Even though there have been formal changes to our system of representation,  
40 there are informal restrictions for a range of different reasons why there are still not equal numbers of women in our parliamentary system and it is for that reason that we need to pay more attention to how we can encourage women, young women, to be thinking about themselves as future members of our Parliament and one simple way to do that is to remind women that their active

citizenship and contribution is valued within our community and naming electorates after women is one manner in which this can be done. This is not a question of political correctness, this is simply a matter of being correct in terms of fulfilling a commitment to representation democracy.

5

So when this committee has the opportunity to rename or to name a new electorate, I would be advocating that it is important to consider what the current representation is in Canberra. Now the current representation of course has one male name and one geographic name so in my proposition it's simple, that the new name should be the name of a woman.

Now, it is not a question of saying that this is affirmative action that is not worthy of affirmation because it's not as if there are no women that can be named appropriately. Indeed, one of the shortlisted names is that of a woman. So my proposition is that the simple answer to the Committee's decision as to what the name should be for the new electorate in Canberra of course is the name of Ngingali Cullen.

Now, I would further say that in relation to representations of citizenship in Australia, that the representation of Indigenous Australians is an ongoing issue and so this is a double bonus for this Committee because not only is it a woman's name that I am saying should be affirmed, but she is also an Indigenous woman who was an Aboriginal activist and worked on National Sorry Day. So it would be a statement to all the community about the importance of women's active citizenship in this country and recognising the important role of Indigenous women in that activity. So that is my simple proposition that I would like to place. I might not take up the 10 minutes. I would just like to remind and, of course, the Committee is aware of its own guidelines in relation to the naming of new electorates. I note, and this is of course making a point that I earlier made that when new electoral divisions, one of the guidelines when naming new electoral divisions, the names of former deceased prime ministers should be considered, the fact we do not have a woman former deceased prime minister is a point I'm making and again naming a new electorate after a woman is another step that would assist in changing the tide and encouraging women to recognise that this community recognises and values and affirms women's citizenship.

Finally, I have made no comments in relation to the other names that have been proposed. My proposal is simply on a basic principle that I think should be guiding the Committee. I did listen to Brendan Nelson's comments this morning and he ended with the point that Charles Bean was an egalitarian. So if there is a desire to also take into account individuals like Bean and like others who are committed to egalitarianism, then it is a simple proposition that this new electorate should be named after a woman and Ngingali Cullen would

be an appropriate name, thank you.

MR ROGERS: Thank you. Greg Marks.

5 MR MARKS: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. My name is  
Greg Marks. I appear here in an independent capacity. I haven't prepared a  
formal written statement because I have made a submission and that's available  
obviously. Instead I'll just provide some context to my submission and a little  
bit about myself as well as context.

10

But first of all, I'd like to pick up the fact that at the very beginning of  
proceedings today the chairman acknowledged and gave his respect to the  
Aboriginal people of this area, the elders past and present and my submission,  
as it turns out, is about an elder, a past elder and one I think is a very important  
15 person in the history of Canberra.

So I think those acknowledgements, we have to take them very seriously, I'm  
sure you do, and that's what I'm attempting to do with this submission.

20 Myself I have an arts degree at (indistinct) of Canberra and a Masters of  
international law which specialises in Indigenous rights in international law  
and I have worked in the areas of Aboriginal education, Aboriginal programs,  
Aboriginal policy for many years in the Northern Territory and in Canberra.  
So my submission is not just an accidental (indistinct) or fancy, but something  
25 that I've thought about for a while.

In terms of Canberra, as an officer of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs,  
I was tasked with the Department's position on the naming of  
Namadgi National Park. I was also tasked with the negotiation with  
30 the Wreck Bay Aboriginal community about their land rights and although  
that's the Jervis Bay Territory it's submitted it's part of the ACT. So I've got  
some (indistinct) with the Aboriginal affairs of this Territory and just on  
general personal interest in the history of the Territory of the ACT and coming  
out of that sort of interest, I've noticed, you can't help but notice once you start  
35 to look at the history of the ACT, the important role played by an Aboriginal  
leader at the very start of settlement in the ACT. That is a person called  
Onyong, it's spelt differently, and it's probably an abbreviation of the name of  
the creek which flows into the eastern side of Lake George where he was born  
and his country or his mother's country was there. But in those early days,  
40 those first days of settlement, he became wide-known and widely respected by  
the white settlers and in particular he had a close relationship with Cotter,  
Garrett Cotter. In my submission, I gave Cotter the wrong first name, I had  
James, it should have been Garrett.

But this is quite an important relationship both in the particulars and in its general significance, I think, because Onyong maintained a traditional life. He was sort of leader of a group of the Ngambri people and it's generally thought that the name 'Canberra' comes from Ngambri and, as I say, he was widely  
5 known and widely respected amongst those early settlers. Garrett, himself, was a former convict and I think he was working out through ticketed leave and that sort of thing where they became friends and Garrett got exiled to the south of Murrumbidgee at some stage for allegedly having stolen a horse and living in that country, probably the first white person to do so. He then became very  
10 friendly with Onyong. Onyong was a great shower of the country to him so Cotter went on to become established as a successful pastoralist. He had a property eventually out at Upper (indistinct), someone mentioned Upper (indistinct) earlier today and Onyong used to stay at that property at times.

15 So that this goes back, I think, to the very early – the beginnings of Canberra and the ACT as a settlement region, so it's very early colonial times, the 1830s, and the connection of Onyong and his group of people – and the descendants still live in Canberra. His descendants still live in Canberra, as do Cotter's descendants still live in Canberra. It's an important part of the establishment of  
20 this area and it's the sort of – although the coming of white settlement had enormous consequences for Aboriginal society, a part of that coming of white settlement, close relationships developed at times between Aboriginal people, of significance, and white people and the fact that a convict becomes eventually a landholder and his family becomes an established family in the  
25 Canberra region is part of the Australian story as well.

Actually after having written this submission, because I thought for a long time that Onyong is insufficiently recognised in the ACT that – he is recognised in some respects, there is a rural road out east of Lake George named after him,  
30 there's a walking track now by the Canberra Reserves, Cotter, named after him. If you go out to Upper (indistinct) there's a plaque on a stone out there acknowledging Cotter and his friend, Onyong. But nevertheless I think to many people in Canberra the name is not well-known and I think it should be because it denotes so much of our shared experience. And actually after  
35 preparing this submission, I thought back over my own family, I hadn't thought of this at the time of preparing this submission but in my own family. One of my forebears was on the Second Fleet and not as a marine. He worked his way out of ticket of leave, he got a land grant on the Hawkesbury River, eventually became a pastoralist in north western New South Wales and had very close  
40 relationships with Aboriginal people. My grandmother was largely brought up by an elderly Aboriginal couple of whom she was very fond to about 13 and drought pushed the family off the land.

So I hadn't actually thought of that in making this submission but it's really

part of the Australian story. I think the connections, and I haven't weighed into the discussion about Mr Bean and all that, and without detracting from Bean and his legacy these sort of connections I think go much deeper, much deeper and particularly with Onyong he mainly lived in the new proposed new  
5 electorate. That was his area that he spent his time and also Cotter's, and so he was buried at (indistinct) which is for people familiar with the ACT it's just near Tharwa. His grave was disturbed, he was reburied somewhere on Tharwa Hill, so there's this ongoing connection. So I think that it would be in my view an excellent name, and taking into account the guideline too that Aboriginal  
10 names may be used where possible, I think it's an excellent proposal. Thank you.

MR ROGERS: Thank you very much, Mr Marks. Guy de Cure. Can I ask you to speak into the microphone as well please, that would be great.  
15

MR DE CURE: My name's Guy de Cure. I'm a member of the ALP.

MR ROGERS: You have to hold it very close because otherwise it is almost impossible for – thank you.  
20

MR DE CURE: My name is Guy de Cure, I'm a member of the ALP but don't represent it. I have my own views on this.

MR ROGERS: If you could just speak up. We've got troubles down the back hearing, it would be great, thank you.  
25

MR DE CURE: My concern is the use of the name 'Canberra', particularly when you've got three places because the name is the name of the member in the parliamentary chamber and therefore it's effectively a political tool, and Canberra is not an effective tool in Australian politics. There are certain parts  
30 of Australian politics which make an issue of Canberra, right, so my personal view is the name of the Canberra electorate should be 'Fenner' because that's the area – that was his stamping ground, the place where he lived. He worked in Acton and lived somewhere in there by reputation anyway in primary  
35 schools when I was in Canberra at that time, in the inner south somewhere. I don't know the particular details and am not particularly interested but that's his general area, that's Canberra of that time.

So it's appropriate and also he demonstrated skills of, you know, intelligence and curiosity and diligence and energy which we would like to encourage all our members to exhibit.  
40

I also threw in the name 'Ngunnawal' essentially as a place holder. It's a suitable name and it's of a group that's related to Canberra but I'm not terribly

fussed about that aspect.

My main concern is the ‘Canberra’ thing. The other argument I would use is that if you’re looking at state capitals the central area of the city is called South  
5 Sydney or (indistinct) whatever, the greater metropolitan area or the urban area is also known by the same name. We don’t have that in Canberra, we have Civic for law and retail, you have Russell Hill for military, you have, you know, Anzac Parade for the Anzacs or the people who’ve served, you’ve got Parkes for the Parliament, they’re all different. It’s multi-centred and you’ve  
10 also got Fyshwick which is where a lot of the business world is. So I thought there’s not quite the same urgency to use the city name somewhere in the city. Those are the two arguments I would make about that central and I don’t think I need to say too much more. Thank you.

15 MR ROGERS: Thank you very much. Megan Hemming.

MS HEMMING: Thank you for this privilege of speaking on Ngunnawal land. I would like to start by acknowledging the Ngunnawal Elders, past,  
20 present and future and acknowledging their great contribution to this country and this proposed new electorate. Of the existing 150 federal electoral divisions, 15 are named after women, that’s just 10 per cent. Women are honoured in an additional five Divisions which are named after families or husband/wife pairs. In stark contrast, 92 Divisions are named after men, that’s  
25 61 per cent, three of which are Aboriginal men. An additional 38 Divisions are named after geographical features or places. Of this 38, 11 of the places are also named after white men, thus a full 69 per cent of all electorates have names that directly or indirectly honour men, almost all of whom were white. The achievements for which these men have been honoured toward colonial occupation such as explorers, surveyors and engineers and early political and  
30 government roles.

Overall, the names of our federal electoral divisions place heavy emphasis on achievement in the political and judicial arenas, plus in a few other professions such as the military and the sciences. These are all professions from which  
35 women have historically been excluded, and indeed they are professions in which women still struggle to achieve representation today. To suggest that these historically male dominated professions built modern Australia is ludicrous. This would suggest that so many others such as nurses, doctors, midwives and teachers did not play a role and do not deserve to be  
40 remembered. To suggest that men, and predominantly white men, contributed more than two-thirds of the effort in building our nation is just downright insulting the women and to Australians of colour. Too much of Australia is already named after white colonists while the original Aboriginal names, many of which had been in use for thousands of years, have been discarded or lost.

When naming anything in modern Australia, whether it's a suburb, a street or an electoral division we should first seek to honour the existing names. In the ACT this means we should first seek to identify Ngunnawal, Ngambri or other  
5 local Aboriginal names. Either an existing place name, the name of a locally significant Aboriginal person such as the Elder that was suggested by the previous speaker, or even names of locally significant plants and animals would be preferable to the name of yet another white person. Using these names plays a vital role in keeping precious language and culture alive. We're  
10 not at risk of losing the history of white colonisation, as has been amply demonstrated by the submissions made here this morning which provide extensive detail on the lives of notable local white men. But the history of our land's First Peoples slips through our fingers like smoke.

15 Too much has already been lost. What remains is precious beyond measure and it must be remembered and conserved. Once the existing names of a place have been considered, the achievements of local women should be considered, most especially the achievements of local Aboriginal women. Only after all possible Aboriginal or female names have been considered should we seek  
20 additional white men to honour. It will be a long and difficult battle to seek the renaming of existing places. I don't imagine that I'd be successful in trying to convince the people in this room that Mt Kosciusko should now regain its original Aboriginal name. This makes it all the more important that the opportunity to name something new should be grasped as a small, a very small  
25 way to make redress for past injustice. Here is such an opportunity for redress. I implore you to take this opportunity to honour not another white man, particularly not one of debatable anti-Semitic tendencies but to embrace and to honour the true diversity of this country, its peoples, its languages and its cultures. Thank you.

30 MR ROGERS: Thank you, Doctor. Matt Byrne. Mr Byrne, if you could speak into the microphone and say your name?

35 MR BYRNE: Thank you, my name is Matt Byrne, I am the Secretary of the ACT Branch of the Labor party. Thank you for the opportunity to come here and speak on the redistribution process. I'd like to talk mainly about the boundaries of the Divisions. Look, the Labor Party has made clear our position when it comes to this process in our submissions and to the comments on the objections as well, you'll have them already submitted by us. Look, essentially  
40 the Labor Party is broadly happy with the draft boundaries that were released and presented to the community after consultation process by the Commission. We think that they align with community expectations around what the natural boundaries for federal Divisions are in the ACT.

They align closely with the political history of the ACT and the last time we had three Divisions the boundaries aligned relatively closely, or at least within them, of the last time we had three Divisions in the House of Representatives. So, broadly, we're comfortable with Divisions that were reported by the commission.

Where we think there may be some room for consideration is that we take the view that in the ACT, when it comes to communities of interest, most Canberrans relate to that by the suburb in which they live in or which they, you know, they have their recreation or employment or the like, that for us is the geographic area in which most Canberrans can relate to. So as we've said in our comments to the objections we think that it would be sensible for the committee to consider whether the populated areas of Symonston and Phillip should be included in the Division with the rest of the suburb with which they reside and it would be a simple process of making the boundary at Symonston, Monaro Highway and Canberra Avenue would incorporate that (indistinct) the rest (indistinct) Civic to a Division of there. And Phillip, Melrose Drive and Yamba Drive if you move those – if you move the division up to that other boundary you have a ready clear division which would incorporate all of the suburb of Phillip within the Division of Bean. So - - -

MR ROGERS: Sorry, could I just ask you to repeat that last bit just again?

MR BYRNE: Melrose Drive and Yamba Drive I think would incorporate Phillip or the suburb of Phillip I think inside the Division. We think that broadly speaking the parameters of the Divisions that were released by the Commission I think reflect what most Canberrans want. They reflect certainly the submissions that were put in by the vast majority of Canberrans who participated in this process. We don't endorse any suggestion that major edits or amendments to the drafts that you've released should be done. We think that these align with – we also think one of the reasons for that is because I think the population changes that happened to the ACT moving further north, the boundaries we suggested probably give the most flexibility for changes in the future as well.

So I think going to the so-called Y-axis I think makes it too messy and I think actually creates too many opportunities for disrupting communities and (indistinct) whereas the more horizontal boundaries that are put forward in your drafts I think are made for the best, most relatable boundaries.

In regards to the name of the electorate I don't really have anything to say beyond what we put in our submissions. If anyone has any questions I'm happy to answer them but apart from that I think that covers off.

MR ROGERS: Thank you very much. So Kim Fischer and Stephen Bounds who I think are appearing together. If I could ask you to say your name before you start talking?

5 MS FISCHER: Yes, so Kim Fischer and Stephen Bounds, we are from the ACT, not representing any organisation. We've had a strong interest in these three seats for about 14 years. There are three topics that we would like to talk about today. I will talk about the electorate names and Stephen will talk about the redistribution of boundaries, and finally I'd like to touch on the onerous  
10 nature of the consultation process. We did not initially make a submission on the electorate names because I think most people expected 'Namadgi' to be selected again. That said, I think it's an outrage that the AEC can develop its own list of names for the ACT electorates and end up with one single name from a short list of 70 (indistinct) who is a non-indigenous Australian not from  
15 a culturally and linguistically diverse background. It sends a message that post-war migrants have not made a significant contribution to Australian society. There are 100's of migrant families that settled in the ACT after the Snowy Mountain Scheme. I am one of the 40 per cent of Canberrans who come from a diverse background, yet the AEC process seems to forget that we  
20 exist.

Parliament House is less than a kilometre from here, but its architect Romaldo Giurgola was not even placed on the short list, despite being a candidate and an  
25 Australian and being deemed worthy of an obituary in the *New York Times* when he died. I would like to ask the AEC to explain why he wasn't even included in your list. I was pleased that my article in the *Canberra Times* inspired the Italian community to put in a submission in support of his selection for the name of the seat. If he was chosen it would get an enthusiastic reaction from not only the Italian community but the multicultural community  
30 in general as we are often forgotten. 25 years ago there was a concerted effort to recognise and to use more names of Indigenous significance such as Namadgi and Uluru. Very few of the 150 electorates celebrate Australians of ethnic diversity. It is weird the AEC overlooked these new movements and went backwards. I ask the AEC to advise its process to ensure that names from  
35 diverse origins are also considered for selection as electorate names, both for this distribution and redistributions in the future.

MR BOUNDS: I would like to briefly touch on – sorry, Stephen Bounds.

40 MR ROGERS: Thank you.

MR BOUNDS: I would like to briefly touch on the choice of the AEC to split the Belconnen (indistinct). Most of my examples will cite examples relevant to the north side, there are similar issues that apply to the south side and Woden

as well.

As people here would know, Canberra's town centres have a very strong identity among Canberra residents. Our view is that these should be the  
5 highest priority unit of communities of interest to preserve when drawing (indistinct) boundaries. The current proposal means that our children will live in one electorate and have to attend school in another. Children in Scullin, Page and Florey are all sent to Belconnen High School and (indistinct) College which is now in a different electorate. Even the polling places (indistinct)  
10 residents and now they will actually be going across the road to (indistinct). As Mr Kalisch would know, the ABS recently did work to look at people's movements around the local Canberra (indistinct) through mobile phone data. You will see that there is very, very strong (indistinct) people move around Canberra and we think it's important that we have a politician that actually  
15 represents everyone who works and lives within that same boundary (indistinct) to try and preserve that.

Now of course we know it's inevitable some compromises will be necessary to keep within size limits but my personal disappointment was that the  
20 Redistribution Committee hasn't provided any comparison of the argument with the proposals. It's simply noted some submissions (indistinct) the chosen model and it hasn't actually justified its choice (indistinct), looked at two options and said why do you think one option is better than the other? I think that it's not sufficient to provide justifications of relevant merits of the options.  
25 You know, if this was a legal process I think this lack of agreement would be subject to further challenge. I think that's it's important that the AEC is transparent in why it's made the choices it has.

MS FISCHER: On that note I would like to make a comment on the  
30 consultation process itself. There was a view in the community that making a submission to the Redistribution Committee serves no purpose, that at the end of the day the AEC will do as it wishes. Well while it is important for the AEC to create seats without gerrymander or political influence, I do believe that everyone who takes the time to make submissions through this onerous process  
35 or submissions, objections (indistinct) inquiry should feel that they had a fair hearing when reading the final report. Despite the appearance of consultation, including this inquiry, the AEC has a history of not actually listening. The suggestion of Bean came out of the blue. If the AEC is genuinely interested in consultation it should make a dedicated effort to get in touch with core  
40 communities, culturally and linguistically diverse communities through radio, ethnic newspapers and letters to community groups. I want to see more diversity in this room.

Finally, when was the last time the AEC made significant changes to draft

boundaries as a result of these kind of consultation processes? If there is no reasonable chance of our views being taken into account, it would be more (indistinct) for the public if these consultation processes were not undertaken at all. So I think that's all we both have to say. I'm happy to take any questions.

5

MR ROGERS: Thank you. Fiona Carrick. Ladies and gentlemen, the other process that we have today is that people have made submissions that they would like to have read into the official proceedings, I'm not sure how many of those we have at the moment but there would be five or six, I'm going to ask a member of the Secretariat to now read those in. If you could say on whose behalf you're reading them in at each time that would be great.

10

MISS TAYLOR: I'm Nicole Taylor, the National Redistributions Manager. The first submission I'll read is from John and Rosemary Howard.

15

*Our objection was made because the AEC is responsible for the integrity of the electoral processes in Australia and its territories, and we wish to draw the AEC's attention to the lack of integrity inherent in the current Norfolk Island electoral process.*

20

*The decision by the Australian Government to remove Norfolk Island's self-government effective 1 July 2016 and place Norfolk Island within an electorate of the ACT, means that the voting intentions of the people on the Island are now diluted to being included with approximately 150,000 residents of one of the now three ACT electorates who live in entirely different circumstances.*

25

*Norfolk Island, by Orders-in-Council, was established as a distinct and separate entity and territory of Australia. Given Norfolk Island is very different from Canberra in terms of economic, cultural, social and regional interests and physical features, flora, fauna and climate, as outlined in our objection, the interests of the people of Norfolk Island cannot be served by its inclusion in an ACT electorate.*

30

35

*The democratic rights of those voting on Norfolk Island are also not served by the Islanders voting in the ACT but having New South Wales legislation incrementally imposed on them without the people of Norfolk Island having the ability to vote and be represented in this regard.*

40

*We suggest that the AEC must refuse to include Norfolk Island in any ACT electorate. The voting rights and arrangements must be agreed with the people of Norfolk Island to enable good governance on the*

*separate entity of Norfolk Island appropriate to its unique circumstances.*

5 *As a first step, this will require, we believe, the AEC to oversight a referendum on the island to enable the islanders belatedly to vote for the manner in which they have governed, namely as an independent entity, an entity in partnership with Australia or as part of Australia. We note that Tahiti and New Caledonia are voting along these lines in November this year in terms of their future relationship with France.*

10 *We are currently travelling to Guernsey, one of the Channel Islands. The Channel Islands are British Territories. While they are largely self-governing, the UK has some responsibility for ensuring good governance on the Island. The UK and the Channel Islands work in partnership which has worked extremely well for more than 1,000 years.*

15 *It is suggested that the Channel Island's model of partnership with the UK could be directly applicable to that between Norfolk Island and Australia.*

20 *Only when the Norfolk Islanders get to vote on the relationship they want with Australia, and a reasonable governance model agreed, can the ongoing electoral arrangements for the islands be formulated.*

25 *The AEC must take responsibility for ensuring appropriate electoral arrangements for the islanders so that good governance of the island can be assured.*

30 I will now read a submission from Clare McPherson and Mervyn Buffet.

35 *We, as residents of Norfolk Island, wish to object to being included in an ACT electorate. Our island home is 120,000 kilometres off the Australian coast and is in fact closer to New Zealand than to Australia.*

40 *The island was first occupied by the Polynesians, then the English and lastly by those from Pitcairn Island who were a mix of Tahitian women and English sailors from the 'Bounty'. Those settlers from Pitcairn arrived on Norfolk Island in 1856 when Australia was not even thought of as a nation and did not exist. So those settlers never thought of themselves as coming to Australia.*

*Even so, Norfolk Islanders have fought in every war in the*

*Australian armed forces and by comparison have made a greater contribution per head of population than Australia. Those that fought and died did so to preserve their way of life.*

5 *We are isolated, our main industry is tourism, our only export is Kentia Palm Seed and it is plainly obvious we have very little in common with an ACT electorate. We have been placed under New South Wales laws and have no vote in New South Wales and are summarily placed in an ACT electorate. Where is the democracy?*

10 *Democracy is about participation in the governing process and it is not democratic in any sense of the word to include Norfolk Island in an ACT electorate and to do so leaves this island even further isolated and struggling to have its voice heard and its interests best met.*

15 *If you listen carefully, you will hear the voices of those that died and fought to preserve our way of life adding to the objections of us privileged to be living here at this time. We hope you are listening.*

20 *We wish to participate in person at the inquiry held by the augmented Electoral Commission for the ACT to provide additional information concerning the electoral division in which Norfolk Island is located.*

25 *To make this address in person we'd need to do the following:  
Friday 1 July fly Norfolk Island to Sydney. We would have to leave on the Friday as there are only limited flights from the island. It's \$1,800 for two people return, then we would need to return Friday 8 June.*

30 *\$650 from Sydney to Canberra return, two people.*

35 *Accommodation, food, transport et cetera for a week \$1,900, loss of wages \$350, pay person to look after farm at \$600.*

40 *Total cost \$5,300.*

I will now read a submission from Edith Hamilton.

40 *I write in response to the Commission's invitation to members of the public to provide comment on the proposed name being considered for the new electorate in the ACT.*

*Your invitation invited contact in the form of a letter. In the year 2018 I prefer cyber contact and trust this receives the same acknowledgement. However, I was unable to locate a specific email*

*address so have addressed my response to the AEC general email contact address.*

5 *To say I am astounded and appalled that this name is being considered as most preferable, has attracted statements of approval from such notable citizens as Dr Brendan Nelson, Director Australian War Memorial, and may even be the final choice is, to put it mildly, indeed.*

10 *There is ample reliable, historical and empirical evidence. The latest available in Ross Coulthart's recently published biography of Charles E. W. Bean's unabashed and unremorseful anti-Semitism. Mr Bean's renowned and bold investigative journalism has provided Australians and the wider world with matchless historical records of the strategies, failures and horrors of Australia's role in World War I.*  
15 *However, his malicious and virulent post-war campaign designed to undermine the deserved and just recognition of the achievements of General Sir John Monash cannot be discounted. Sir John Monash has only recently been credited undeniably and gratefully with shortening the duration of this dreadful conflict of nations with his original, bold and enterprising military strategies employed in its closing stages.*

20 *Mr Beans' pusillanimous efforts to deny Monash's just honour were aided and abetted successfully, regrettably, by the willing participation and falsification of evidence by Keith Murdoch, newspaper journalist, later owner. If I may be permitted a personal observation, this careless treatment of the facts persists in the manner of news dissemination by his descendants today. Thankfully, this honourable Australian has finally been recognised after many years of diligent accredited scholarship denying the misinformation and prejudice set in motion by Mr Bean and his accomplice, Keith Murdoch.*  
25  
30

35 *The persistent, unpleasant, malicious and insulting language used by Charles Bean in his propaganda campaign against Jewish people generally, and thinly disguised animosity and contempt for John Monash familial history, is beneath contempt. It belongs to a time in history that is shameful to all Australians and should receive no accolade despite other worthy achievements of this complex Australia.*

40 *It would be a moral outrage to disregard this graceless prejudice and set this unpleasant aspect of Charles E. W. Bean's persona in the perpetuity of electoral acknowledgement by giving his name to this new proposed ACT electorate.*

The next submission I will read is from Ernst Willheim.

*I am unable to be physically present at the inquiry.*

5

*I appreciate the opportunity to make this short statement.*

*As I see it, there are two sets of issues.*

- *Is Bean an appropriate name for the division?*
- *Are there other more appropriate names?*

10

*Bean's shocking anti-Semitic writings are on the public record. That he may have changed his views later, is beside the point. Who would be comfortable living in a Division named after a person known for having made such awful comments. Naming a Division after a person who made those awful comments would be especially demoralising for persons of Jewish ethnicity. But surely all Australians should object.*

15

20

*Bean is known for writing about war. I suggest this is not the most appropriate contribution to be honoured. I suggest there are many other Australians, from other walks of life, including women, who have made significant contributions, persons not born in Australia and Indigenous Australians associated with Canberra, after whom the naming of electorates would be more appropriate.*

25

The next submission is from the C. E. W. Bean Foundation.

*On behalf of the Bean Foundation, I am writing to support the name of 'Bean' for a new seat in the Federal Territory. I apologise for not writing this submission before the deadline. Our Foundation held a board meeting at the Australian War Memorial this date. I thought, given the gravity of the issue, I should await formal authority to write. The Board has given that authority by unanimous vote.*

30

35

*We are aware of the submission, in support of Bean, lodged by Dr Brendan Nelson, Director of the Australian War Memorial and a member of our board. We are also aware of the submissions by Kerry Stokes and Anne Carroll. Another board member, Paul Kelly, has written compellingly in support of Bean in the pages of The Australian. We endorse what these three members of the War Memorial community and Mr Kelly have written and feel no need to repeat their arguments.*

40

5 *Allegation that Bean was anti-Semitic do not withstand serious analysis. Ms Carroll deals with allegations in a compelling exegesis. Mr Bean was not so much against John Monash as a partisan for Brudenell White. His utterances at any one moment, need to be assessed against the whole of a life well lived and all else that he said.*

10 *Our Foundation was established during the Centenary of Federation to celebrate the contribution to journalism, and the truth by generations of Australian correspondents, who reported on war, including photographers, artists, broadcasters, and cameraman. Choosing Charles Bean for our name was obvious. He had landed at Gallipoli in 1915 and was often within range of*  
15 *enemy fire. At the Dardanelles, and later on the Western Front, he reported action wherever it was, relying on his eyes, and interviews with those involved. Bean was following the canons of writing contemporary history.*

20 *What he wrote, published or unpublished, became the basis of the raw materials for a thorough official history of Australians in all theatres. Bean was seeing, reporting and gathering. His vision was an Official History at whatever length was required, and the*  
25 *preservation of documents and artefacts in a Commonwealth Institution, purposely created to commemorate Australians at war.*

30 *Truth is said to be the first casualty of war. The phrase may be correct about other nations, at other times, it was not true of Bean 1915 to 18, nor true of the team assembled by him to write the many volumes of the Official History. Bean wrote truthfully about what he saw of war; he relied on censors to block what they thought sensitive, rather than do that job for him.*

35 *The Official History stands as a classic of Australian literature, though Bean admired Australian soldiers to a depth, almost beyond finding words, to express how he felt, he did find those words. His published writings were not glorification. Certainly, those writings served to enhance what earlier critics assailed as mythology. Yet those words survive such facile characterisation to stand on their*  
40 *own as hard etched analysis. The lifetime opus of Bean served a transcendent truth.*

*The Australian War Memorial fulfilled Bean's original vision. In the decades since his death, the Memorial has become so much*

5 *more. At its core remains the Bean vision, for a repository for records and artefacts, a place for scholars and visitors of all ages. The Bean dedication to truth, the meticulous preservation of all military documents, regardless of what they reveal, has made the Australian War Memorial preeminent among such institutions. The AWM did not suffer from the filching of files, as happened with the Imperial War Museum in London. Scholars of the Great War must scrutinise Australian holdings to affirm the records they are relying on, are complete.*

10 *Bean had the vision to create an institution located in the ACT that truly belongs to every Australian. His historical writing will inform serious scholarship on the Great War - not necessarily the last word, but most certainly the beginning for all research.*

15 *The standard Bean set for reportage, has been the standard for all correspondents who have followed.*

20 *He deserves the honour of a federal electorate named after him.*

*Rodney Cavalier, AO Chairman.*

25 *Notes: 1) Despatched from the computer of the first chairman of the Foundation, Tony Eggleton, because we needed to send this you before I return to Bowral.*

30 *2) Board members who authorised this submission are: Margy Burn, Karen Middleton, Michael Brissenden, Warwick Costin, John Faulkner, Paul Kelly, Greg Melick, Mark Riley, and Patrick Walters. Brendan Nelson was attending a funeral, he strongly encourages our submission.*

The next submission I will read is from David Wedgwood.

35 *I hereby request that the augmented Electoral Commission for the Australian Capital Territory consider the following in relation to the names of the proposed redistribution of electoral divisions in the ACT.*

40 *(1) The current proposed names for the divisions include two Australian men and Canberra, the City in which virtually all ACT voters live.*

*(2) As I submitted to the previous ACT redistribution, the name*

*'Canberra' is inconsistent with Commissions naming guidelines.*

5 (3) *While those guidelines allow the retention of place names for the CBD's of the capital cities of original states, all of which existed at the time of Federation, Canberra meets none of these criteria.*

10 (4) *The ACT has elected the first:*  
(a) *Woman in the House of Representatives to be a Cabinet Minister administering a Department.*  
(b) *Women as head of government.*  
(c) *Cabinet with equal representation of women and men and*  
(d) *Parliament with more women as MP's for men as MP's.*

15 (5) *The absence of a division named after a woman is therefore, more acutely obvious in the ACT.*

20 (6) *Given the above, I submit that the central electorate be renamed from 'Canberra' to 'Churche'r.*

25 (7) *The late Elizabeth 'Betty' Churcher AO, was nationally, and internationally, famous as a leader in the Arts in Australia as the Director of the National Gallery of Australia. She initiated the building of new galleries on the eastern side of the building opened in March 1998 to house large scale temporary exhibitions. She changed the name of the gallery from the Australian National Gallery to its current title. During her tenure, the museum also purchased Golden Summer, Eaglemont by Arthur Streeton, which was the last great picture from the Heidelberg School still in*  
30 *private hands.*

35 (8) *Naming the central ACT electorate 'Churcher' would refocus the electorate from the Australian Parliament to the great Australian institutions contained within it, including the National Gallery of Australia, the National Library, the National Museum of Australia, the Australian War Memorial, the National Archives, the National Science and Technology Centre, the Museum of Australian Democracy, the National Portrait Gallery, and the High Court.*

40 (9) *Further, it would remove the confusion that the electorate represents all of Canberra, or that it represents the Australian Parliament itself, because of the use of the name of the City to mean the Australian Parliament in media shorthand.*

5 10) *Should the augmented Electoral Commission also consider the many objections to the naming of the southern electorate warrant any alternative name, then I submit the name 'Namadgi' be reinstated as the name of that Electorate.*

*I apologise to the augmented Electoral Commission for the lateness of this submission but request that it be given consideration.*

10 The final submission I will read is from Martin Gordon. Martin Gordon had intended to appear but was unable to do so.

*ACT redistribution presentation for June 2018.*

15 *I thank the Committee for the opportunity to speak today.*

20 *Involvement to date: During this redistribution process, I have put forward a suggestion; comments on suggestions; and an objection. As I was overseas at the suggestion stage, my submission was narrative in style, and I have modified boundaries subsequently, to reflect electorate projections.*

25 *I had proposed the new division be called 'Griffin' (which would have reflected the contribution of Walter and Marion Griffin to the development of this City). That said, I have no issue with the naming of the new division 'Bean'. A diversion of a popular contemporary character should not be an obstacle to recognition of a significant historian in Australia's development. I note that people have referred to Bean being anti-Semitic. Given the massive change of popular attitudes over the years and that of Bean also, this does not seem to be a good reason to disregard him.*

30 *In a more recent era, a Federal Minister noted Two Wongs don't equal a White. He later rose to lead his party and is honoured with a federal division named after him. Are we going to abolish the name 'Calwell', who was a notorious racial bigot?*

40 *Monash, all his abilities aside, not only had to contend with sensitivity about his faith but also his ethnic origin as a German, in a conflict where the primary central power was Germany. Perhaps in a sign of the maturity of our nation, and the massive change of attitudes in the century or so, we can finally come around to recognise by the naming of federal divisions both 'Bean' and 'Monash' in this round of redistributions. I would also add that a*

*good many of Australia's people have German heritage.*

*Details: I had proposed the use of Hindmarsh Drive as a boundary and originally a different split of Belconnen.*

5

*I would maintain the Hindmarsh Drive boundary for its entire length and not change the Commissioner's proposals. Simplicity is best.*

10

*With Fenner and Canberra, I would strongly suggest that the Commissioner's use as boundaries Ginninderra Drive and Kingsford Smith Road in preference to their proposals. As well, the elector numbers work out just fine.*

15

*Firstly, reflecting the logic of simple is usually best, two main road boundaries are obviously clearer than the use of a myriad of smaller roads they propose. Secondly, the community of interest is more logical. To illustrate: if the Australian Statistician went for a lunchtime walk along the Commissioners' proposed boundary for Bean, in Canberra, in the centre of Belconnen and Bruce you might wonder why the divisional boundary snakes along Eastern Valley Way past apartment towers, the swimming centre, Lake Ginninderra College, a bowling alley, McDonalds, a vast retirement complex and university campus along Aikman Way, when alternatively the boundary might run along Ginninderra Drive and Kingsford Smith Drive, the former of which is used in part as least, as a Territory boundary and is much clearer.*

20

25

*In summary:*

30

- *keep the names as proposed, no change.*
- *I have no strong feeling regarding the placement of Norfolk Island.*
- *I have indicated my preference for the splitting of Belconnen an enhancement.*

35

- *I have indicated my preference for the splitting of Woden, no change.*
- *I have indicated my preference for the placement of Symonston, no change.*

40

MR ROGERS: All right. Thank you. Ladies and gentlemen, we are just expecting one other person and we are probably going to conclude fairly shortly, but what we might do to give that person a chance to arrive is to just have a quick five minute break, and then we'll resume for a few minutes and see whether that individual is able to get here. So, thank you.

**ADJOURNED**

**[12.23 pm]**

**RESUMED**

**[12.32 pm]**

5

MR ROGERS: Right, ladies and gentlemen, we'll just reconvene for the final part of the session and I think our final submitter today is Fiona Carrick and if I could ask you to use the microphone at the same time and say your name for the purpose of the record, that would be great.

10

MS CARRICK: My name is Fiona Carrick, I'm the president of the Woden Valley Community Council. Today I'd like to make my representation about the boundaries. According to the Women's Centre for Health Matters' interactive map, the Woden bus interchange and Haig Park have recently been identified where places women feel the most unsafe in Canberra. The

15

population growth and environmental impacts are leading to densification in our town centre.

20

Woden, Canberra's first town centre is centrally located, an employment hub and has duplicated roads that provide bus route of transit from surrounding regions. The Woden town centre services around 10,000 people in Woden, Weston Creek and Molonglo communities. While Woden should be thriving, facilities have closed forcing residents to drive to other districts for social and other recreational amenity. This leaves Woden with little social activity and

25

Cities are the people that live in them. Within cities, geographical communities, town centres, are identified for the provision of facilities and services, hubs where people can live, work and play. These communities are important for the health and wellbeing of people. They provide places for

30

people to meet leading to reduced sites of social isolation and reduced mental health issues.

35

One of the key principles of Canberra's urban structure has been a hierarchy of centres has been developed. With each town centre having a centre acting as a focal point for higher order retail functions, commercial centres, offices and community facilities. These centres were to have continued expansion of services and facilities as opposed to the (indistinct) of them.

40

All town centres, including Woden, should have the services and facilities they need for the community to thrive. Woden is central, with public transport access from all directions, it should be a hub for services and facilities so they are accessible. To build strong and resilient communities through social inclusion and mentoring relationships, Governments provide facilities for

people to get together for activity and wellbeing in the community.

5 While we acknowledge that more apartments will bring more people to the town centre and that there is a role for Government and a private sector in the provision of community facilities, we believe that the Government is better placed to provide community facilities that do not raise revenue. For example, a community centre, a CIT, a multi-purpose sports hall and a publicly funded pool.

10 The provision of non-profit community facilities by the Government will provide confidence for the private sector to invest in commercial facilities, for example, cafes, restaurants (indistinct) economy.

15 The Territory Plan precinct codes are important because they guide development, in particular, how land is used and what can be built. Woden's precinct code provides for the densification of Woden which the Woden Valley Community Council supports but it does not provide planning and protection for a holistic precinct.

20 For example, we have a building hierarchy whereby the whole entire Woden core can be from 16-storeys to 28-storeys in the centre whereas all other areas of Canberra have mixed building heights with the tall buildings judiciously placed so they don't overshadow public amenity and major detriment to residents. For example, our bidding hierarchy overshadows our Woden town square, provides for 28-storey buildings around our Woden town square.

25 So, all in all, we've got some issues in Woden and we need a strong advocate. We need a representation of parliament, a member of parliament that will represent us and that's all I've got to say.

30 MR ROGERS: Great, thank you very much.

Ladies and gentlemen, unless there were further speakers, I am now going to conclude the hearing. I thank everybody for attending today and the Commission will now continue with our deliberations, thank you very much.

**ADJOURNED**

**[12.37 pm]**