



# Comment on objections 25

Council of Italo-Australian Organisations (C.I.A.O)

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**COUNCIL OF ITALO-AUSTRALIAN ORGANISATIONS  
(C.I.A.O.) Centro Culturale Italiano**

Australian Electoral Commission

By email: [fedredistribution@aec.gov.au](mailto:fedredistribution@aec.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to strongly object to the name 'Bean' given to the proposed third Federal electorate for the Australian Capital Territory.

I understand that the Australian Electoral Commission sees fit to name the soon to be third Federal electorate in the Australian Capital Territory after Australia's official war correspondent at Gallipoli, Charles Bean.

It is the view of many in our community that it would be grossly inappropriate for the new electorate in the ACT to be named after someone who, we understand, was open about their racist views about people from other countries, particularly the Jewish community.

The Italian community in the ACT has worked hard with successive governments over many years to ensure that the ACT remains a multicultural, harmonious and inclusive society that embraces all cultures, religions and languages. The local Italian community believes that today the ACT is a peaceful and all-embracing community that welcomes people from all cultures and draws on their skills to make our city the best it can be.

It is against this evolution of our community over the past 50 or so years that we believe the ACT deserves our electorates to reflect what is happening in our contemporary society. Branding our third Federal electorate 'Bean' well and truly misses the mark in reflecting and celebrating the diversity of population and contributions in the great city we have today.

On behalf of the Italian community of the ACT I strongly suggest that the third federal electorate be named 'ALDO' after the late Romaldo Giurgola OA .

Mr Giurgola was a long term resident of Canberra and designed Parliament House, Australia's seat of government. He was much loved member of our community for many years who contributed so much. Mr Giurgola is about to receive a knighthood from the Italian government in recognition of his outstanding work.

Our community firmly believes that Bean should be recognised in the context of his contribution along with the other 102,000 people who were involved in the war and gave the ultimate sacrifice – their lives for this country. Bean should be recognised in the Australian War Memorial.

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Franco Barilaro  
President  
Council of Italo- Australian Organisations