



Comment on objections 27

ACT Labor

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ACT Redistribution Committee
Australian Electoral Commission
Submission lodged online

{{Date}}

To the members of the Redistribution Committee,

ACT Labor welcomes the ability to make comments on the objections received by the ACT Redistribution Committee.

We would like to thank the members of the Redistribution Committee for their work in putting together a well-considered set of proposed divisions for the ACT.

We wish to make comments on objections lodged regarding the proposed divisions and the proposed names of the divisions.

Boundaries

ACT Labor affirms our support for the draft boundaries that were published by the Redistribution Committee in April.

We agree with the rationale of other submissions made during the drafting process who note that the communities of interest that comprise the ACT - based on geography and population - best suit a northern division mostly comprised of Gungahlin and Belconnen suburbs, a southern electorate mostly comprised of Tuggeranong, Weston Creek/Molonglo and Woden Valley suburbs and a central electorate taking in the entirety of central Canberra and supplemented by suburbs from Belconnen and Woden.

These boundaries satisfy the population criteria set out by the Redistribution Committee and also allow for the least disruptive options for re-drawing boundaries when population growth demands a redistribution in the future.

ACT Labor acknowledges concerns from Woden residents about the proposed southern boundary of the central Canberra electorate falling on Hindmarsh Drive. The boundary splits an easily recognised community of interest in and around the central Woden area. As per our original submission, it would be appreciated if the Redistribution Committee could take the community's concerns into account and consider whether the boundary could be moved to ensure the community of interest in the Woden suburb of Phillip is retained.

It also remains our view that creating divisions along those that suggest a Gungahlin-Canberra north line, a Belconnen-Weston Creek/Molonglo-Woden line and a Tuggeranong-Woden-Canberra south line as suggested by the Canberra Liberals are not satisfactory as they split communities of interest and connect districts who are not serviced by strong transportation or other community links.

The suggestion raised in the objection lodged by Josh Wyndham-Kidd to locate all of the suburb of Symonston within the proposed division of Canberra is one we believe that is

worthy of consideration by the Redistribution Committee.

Names of Divisions

ACT Labor notes that the majority of objections submitted relate to the proposed names of the new divisions, especially the proposed name of the southern division *Bean*.

ACT Labor reiterates our policy, that it is our preference to name new divisions after prominent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people or an appropriate Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander placename and we stand by our submission that we made in the initial drafting and consultation phase of this process.

If the Redistribution Committee is to consider an alternative to *Bean* than we would suggest that the most appropriate alternative is *Cullen*.

We endorse the arguments in favour of *Cullen* outlined in the Redistribution report, and also recognise her career in the Australian Public Service. Naming a division *Cullen* would additionally stand as a testament to the contribution of the public service in shaping the identity and culture of the ACT:

Ngingali Cullen was a co-chair of the National Sorry Day Committee that worked to achieve wide recognition of the wrongs suffered by Aboriginal people across Australia. A proposal initiated by Ms Cullen led to the Journey of Healing campaign launched by the National Sorry Day Committee in 1999. First moving to Canberra in 1992 as a health policy officer for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, Ms Cullen was seconded to the Office of Indigenous Affairs, to the National Sorry Day Committee. Ngingali Cullen advocated for the stolen generation memorials, being designed for Reconciliation Place, Canberra, to include consultation with the stolen generation and non-indigenous persons who staffed the institutions and foster homes to ensure the wording for the memorial was a reflective dedication to all those involved.

'*Cullen*' is considered to be an appropriate name for an electoral division located in the Australian Capital Territory as she was a long term resident of the Australian Capital Territory and in recognition of her significant role in the establishment of the stolen generation memorials in Reconciliation Place, Canberra.

We strongly urge the Committee to consider the public debate that has ensued from this process and engage the public in a more inclusive way in the future. One suggestion to how a future Redistribution Committee might improve this process would be to release a shortlist of names for public consultation before going to a vote.

Thank you again for the opportunity to make comment on the objections to the proposed redistribution of the ACT.

Kind regards
Matthew Byrne
Secretary, ACT Labor