



Comment on suggestion 4

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2 pages

Comments

For such a small area, there are certainly a large number of options to consider.

It seems that there is generally two trains of thought in regard to the northern most division, involving whether Belconnen or Gungahlin should be split. I opted for Gungahlin, as a distinct boundary could be drawn within the district and the eastern parts of Gungahlin are more directly related to the suburbs in North Canberra. Utilising parts of Belconnen requires a zig-zag line that is less clean and distinct. It also results in a handful of Belconnen suburbs being physically separated from Inner Canberra by large areas of open space.

In the south, it appears that most suggestions unite Tuggeranong with parts of Woden. Weston Creek in some cases almost seems an afterthought, and Molonglo Valley even more so, with several suggestions persisting in dividing the district along the river. I suggest that the committee avoids this, as with the number of electors in the district, and being in its early development, the entire Molonglo Valley district should stay united within a single division. Some suggestions that use Hindmarsh Dr in Woden, continue this through Weston Creek, which was a proposal I had considered. I see no problem with using Hindmarsh Dr as a boundary along its entire length should this be considered.

Suggestions that include Belconnen and Weston Creek together as one division do not adhere to communities of interest as well as other suggestions. There is limited communication between these districts at present, although with the spread of the Molonglo Valley district, this will be reduced somewhat. Weston Creek looks toward Woden for services and thus should be more aligned with Woden rather than Belconnen.

Division Names

I do not support a revival of Namadgi as a division name, as I have already outlined in my original submission. In this modern era, divisions should be named for Australians as outlined in the Guide to naming divisions. There are certainly a large number of worthy Australians for consideration, and a geographic descriptor should not be considered. I do not support Stromlo as a division name for the same reason.

Likewise, I do not support the suggestion of Molonglo or Brindabella as a division name. The problems with these suggestion are compounded as they duplicate the name of a current or recently abolished Territory Legislative Assembly district, and furthermore, the suggestion of Brindabella proposes that the division cover an entirely different area to the existing Territory district.

While I acknowledge the considerable achievements of both Walter and Marion Griffin, in particular to their contributions to the landscape of modern day Canberra, I can't help but be influenced by the fact that Walter Griffin was an American who spent time in Australia and died in India. Marion Mahony Griffin was also an American, and upon her husband's death returned to America to live. I would suggest that neither would have considered themselves to be honorary Australians and therefore, I feel rather than the new division being named Griffin that the honour should go to an Australian worthy of recognition.

I would not object should the committee determine that the name Campbell be applied to the new division, however, once again, I feel that as a nation we should have moved on from naming divisions after original pioneers, settlers or explorers. There are many worthy contributors in the fields of science, arts, politics, statehood, community and social services that should nowadays be considered before explorers or settlers.

I am not as familiar with Michael and Honor Thwaites as I am some other suggestions, apart from what is written in the suggestion. Should the Committee determine that these two individuals were to be honoured with a division named Thwaites, I would not have strong objections. Of course, having a division named for a woman is always a benefit.

A division named Nott after Dr Lewis Windermere Nott or Hancock for Sir William Keith Hancock KBE FBA would certainly fit the bill as would my suggestion of Shakespeare, or my suggestion at the previous redistribution of Overall. Mr Shakespeare is a prominent figure in the media landscape of the Australian Capital Territory. He was co-founder (with his father) of the Canberra Times daily newspaper and later on founded Capital Television, the first television station within the territory. His contributions helped shape and influence much of the current landscape of modern Canberra and his legacy remains with the newspaper and television continuing to survive to this day.

Conclusion

In closing, I would like to thank the Committee for their efforts, and express hope that, with this opportunity to leave a lasting legacy on the electors of the Australian Capital Territory with their direction, the Committee sees fit to create a division that truly provides adequate representation for all Canberrans.

I would also like to support the closing remarks from Jeff Waddell regarding the insight that Martin Gordon's submission is able to provide. Running three suggestion periods, simultaneous with objections in a fourth state has been somewhat a monumental task. I certainly appreciate the efforts that have gone into every contributor of the current round of redistributions, particularly those that saw to lodge suggestions for more than one state.