



Objection 16

Campbell Rhodes

2 pages

To whom it may concern,

This is to formally express my objection to the proposed name of the third electorate for the Australian Capital Territory in the redistribution of 2018.

While the boundaries are unobjectionable and the addition of a third division is long overdue, I submit to the AEC that the proposed name of Bean is not appropriate for the new seat.

The AEC's proposal is to name the seat for C.E.W. Bean, the prominent historian during World War I and founder of the Australian War Memorial. I wish to express my objection on the following grounds:

- Charles Bean was openly anti-Semitic, and expressed these views frequently in his private diary, which is now a matter of public record. In describing General Sir John Monash, Bean recorded: *We do not want Australia represented by men mainly because of the ability, natural and inborn in Jews, to push themselves forward.* He had also described Monash, and all Jews, as 'pushy' and expressed clear racial prejudice against Jewish people. ^{i ii iii}

As an alternative to Bean, I offer the following suggestions:

- Division of Bimberi, after Bimberi Peak, the mountain which dominates the area of the proposed division. This is, however, also the name of the ACT's juvenile justice centre and may have negative connotations for residents.
- Division of Namadgi, after Namadgi National Park. This name was previously used for Canberra's third seat between 1996 and 1998, but electoral division names can be resurrected, as has happened with, among others, the Division of Scullin and the Division of Watson.
- Division of Griffin, after Marion Mahony Griffin who produced the architectural drawings of early Canberra, and her husband Walter Burley Griffin who had a tangential involvement with the design.
- Division of Nott, after Lewis Nott, the first person to represent the A.C.T. in the Commonwealth Parliament.

In light of the fact that very few Indigenous people or women are honoured in the naming of divisions, I would encourage the AEC to consider an Indigenous person or a woman, or an Indigenous woman, as an alternative to Bean as a namesake.

Kind regards,

Campbell Rhodes

ⁱ Mark Dapin, 'Historian Charles Bean caught up in his own war of words', *The Australian*, 6 December 2014
<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/arts/review/war-historian-charles-bean-caught-up-in-his-own-war-of-words/news-story/8c41b6d09992c48a4f30d356676320d6>

ⁱⁱ Max Prisk, 'The pen versus the sword', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 8 November 2008
<https://www.smh.com.au/news/national/the-pen-versus-the-sword/2008/11/07/1225561136011.html>

ⁱⁱⁱ Stephen Loosley, 'War and jealousy', *The Spectator*, April 2015
<https://www.spectator.co.uk/2015/04/war-and-jealousy/>