



Objection 38

Martin Gordon

3 pages

Augmented Redistribution Committee for the Australian Capital Territory

The Committee,

I wish to lodge an objection with the commissioners proposals for the Australian Capital Territory announced on 6 April.

Naming

The proposal for the naming of the new Division as Bean in honour of the late historian is quite sound and appropriate, although it reinforces the reality of the under-representation of women amongst the names of Divisions.

Boundaries

Having proposed that Hindmarsh Drive be used as boundary, its adoption along with that of the Tuggeranong Parkway means that the entirety of Tuggeranong, Weston Creek and Molonglo are within one Division. The splitting of Woden is unavoidable in almost any imaginable arrangement.

I would expect in time the enrollments of Bean would rise with developments in Molonglo.

With Fenner and Canberra, I had considered a different boundary between them as preferable. Given the inclination of the committee to rely upon long continuous road boundaries, I was somewhat surprised with the ones chosen to divide Fenner and Canberra, namely Belconnen Way, Eastern Valley Way, Aikman Drive, William Slim Drive and the Barton Highway, in addition to Kingsford Smith Drive and Ginninderra Drive. The suburb boundary of Belconnen and Bruce cuts awkwardly though the eastern edge of the centre of Belconnen. This means that two quite inter-connected central Belconnen locales the University of Canberra and the centre of Belconnen are in entirely different Divisions.

My alternative boundary that would unite the central parts of Belconnen in one Division and logically connect then to Civic etc in the centre of Canberra would run as follows; commencing at the intersection of Ginninderra Drive and the Belconnen/Inner North boundary, run westwards along Ginninderra Drive to it intersects Kingsford Smith Drive and then runs south till it meets the proposed Bean/Canberra boundary. The implicit elector numbers comply with current numbers and projected numbers requirements.

As for Canberra the shape of Canberra under my proposal is well defined following two roads through Belconnen.

This configuration means that:

- two very obvious main road boundaries are used, which are readily explicable;
- adjacent areas on both sides of the Barton Highway are in one Division (as is the case with ACT Legislative Assembly boundaries);
- 700 hectares of CSIRO land on the southern side of the Barton Highway which will eventually developed into housing will be at the centre of the Fenner Division between Gungahlin and Belconnen;
- this configuration reflects more closely the previous alignment of Fraser (as Fenner was previously) when the ACT had three federal seats;
- that Fenner with the fastest growth will not be the largest Division in terms of projected enrollments (as the commissioners propose);
- in future it is likely that Ginninderra may form a continuous boundary to the NSW border as Fenner continues to grow.

Conclusion

I wish the commissioners well in their deliberations.

Martin Gordon

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