



Objection 39

Josh Wyndham-Kidd

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19 April 2018

Dear Commissioners,

I'd like to thank you for your work on the ACT redistribution. It's an excellent demonstration of the thoroughness and independence of the Commission and will serve Canberra well as it grows in the years ahead.

I'm very glad that the Commission has decided to divide the ACT into northern, central and southern seats. These communities of interest make sense and the boundaries are clear and logical.

I'd like to raise two small objections to the proposed boundaries.

First, I would support retaining all of Symonston within the proposed seat of Canberra. The residents of the residential villages in Symonston have been split from their closest suburbs and shopping areas in Red Hill and Narrabundah. The nearest large shopping areas in Phillip and Fyshwick are also contained in the seat of Canberra, and the main bus route 80 that runs past the caravan parks is entirely contained within the new seat of Canberra except for several stops along Hindmarsh Drive. The community is clearly more strongly linked with the rest of the proposed seat of Canberra than with the proposed seat of Bean.

This change would allow for aligning federal boundaries with the existing boundaries of the ACT Legislative Assembly electorate of Kurrajong. It would also locate another national research institution (Geoscience Australia) within the remit of the future MP for the new seat of Canberra, along with other major institutions like CSIRO. This would allow for a coherence of representation for major national research institutions and their staff.

The necessary changes to reunite Symonston in the seat of Canberra are small. Boundaries could be drawn to match the Kurrajong boundaries entirely, incorporating Hume into the seat. Alternatively, the boundary between Canberra and Bean could be set at Monaro Hwy / Lanyon Drive, running to the NSW border. While the strong boundary of Hindmarsh Dr is useful, its main utility is in explaining the boundary of the seat in the Woden Valley district. In an area where confusion about boundaries is much less likely, I would argue that maintaining clear communities of interest between residential areas is a higher priority.

Second, I would be interested to know whether any communication has been received from residents of Norfolk Island. If any Norfolk Island residents ask for their residence to be retained within the seat of Canberra, which contains Parliament House and other significant capital institutions, I would support their objections.

Again, many thanks for your thorough work and best wishes for the remainder of the process.

Best wishes,

Josh Wyndham-Kidd