



Objection 62

Sue Johnson

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From: Sue Johnson
To: [FedRedistribution - ACT](#)
Subject: Proposed renaming of the federal electorate of Canberra.
Date: Thursday, 3 May 2018 4:48:55 PM

To: ACT Redistribution Secretariat

It is proposed to change the name of the federal electorate of Canberra to Bean.

While Charles Bean is an important Australian in relation to WW1 history I am not pleased with the choice of Bean as the name of our electorate.

There is another famous Bean, Mr Bean the comic character who is a subject of ridicule and some say is humourous. To change the name of the electorate of Canberra to Bean leaves open the high probability of jokes and derogatory talk about Canberra because of the name Bean. I for one as a resident of Canberra are not only sick and tired of 'Canberra bashing' due to the seat of government being here I don't see any point in giving people outside Canberra more fodder to continue with this practice. More importantly, providing this new reason for 'Canberra bashing' and the jokes that will inevitably come is disrespectful to Charles Bean.

I believe it is the responsibility of the committee tasked with this job to consider all possible ramifications of using one name or another. Using Charles Bean's family name does have the potential to attach unwanted negativity to that family name.

While Charles Bean has made an admirable contribution to Australia there are many others that have also made wonderful contributions to our country. Staying with the theme of WW1 for the moment, there are people like Sir John Monash and Major General Harold Edward "Pompey" Elliott who, in my opinion, very much deserve to be honoured in such a way and perhaps are even more deserving.

I am not the only Canberran who questions the choice of Bean. I included a link to a very good article suggesting a number of others who have made outstanding contributions to our city. While WW1 heroes are valid choices our high achieving locals are also deserving contenders.

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/why-the-seat-of-bean-other-canberrans-contributed-far-more-20180501-p4zcna.html>

Changing the electoral boundaries is not of concern to me, my concern is simply around the selected name of Bean.

Thank you for considering my contribution.

Regards

Sue Johnson.

Resident of the electorate of Canberra