



# Objection 72

Ann Smith

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**From:** Ann Smith  
**To:** [FedRedistribution - ACT](#)  
**Subject:** Objection to naming of new electorate of Bean  
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I wish to object to the naming of the new southern electorate in the Australian Capital Territory.

Unfortunately for voters in the electorate, the name of 'Bean' immediately lends itself to jokes and comedy routines. I need not go into details.

More seriously, CEW Bean was associated with the area for six years only, during the initial work on the official history of Australian participation in WWI. In contrast, Aboriginal people may have been associated with the area for closer to 60,000 years—certainly for 25,000 years, considering the 2016 revised carbon 14 date for the Birrigai Rock shelter within the electorate's boundaries.

So why not choose an Aboriginal name for the electorate? We could start with the name of the homestead occupied by Bean and his staff for those mere six years, Tuggeranong, which is now with name of the electorate's major human settlement. More knowledgeable minds than mine could come up with plenty of other suitable names for what I believe was an important meeting place for local tribes.

If our electoral system can celebrate white achievers only, what a pity that the name of Farrer has been given already to another electorate. It was within the proposed 'Bean' electorate that William Farrer did his nation-changing research on wheat.

Focussing on the Bean name is yet another example of WWI jingoism. This War and its failures are not the only event of significance in Australia's history. CEW Bean is not the only historian ever of this country.

Thank goodness that at present my address has been allocated to the proposed electorate of Canberra!

Ann Smith