



# Suggestion 11

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5 pages

# SUGGESTIONS FOR ACT FEDERAL REDISTRIBUTION 2017

Please accept my Suggestions for the 2017 ACT Federal Redistribution.

I am an independent person with a strong interest in the redistribution process, with no affiliation to any political party or organisation. While I am originally from Victoria, I lived in Canberra for many years during the 2000s, and am very familiar with the geography of the ACT.

At recent state and federal redistributions, a small group of independent contributors has emerged (which seems to be increasing each time) who are not associated with any political party but have a strong interest in the redistribution process. While we often don't have the same ideas or approaches, we share the common ideal of drawing boundaries purely on merit and not to further any partisan agenda.

I hope my suggestion can be of benefit to the Committee.

Dr Mark D Mulcair

## **Introduction:**

With only three Divisions involved, this redistribution is fairly straightforward.

The enrolment figures continue to show strong growth in northern Canberra (Gungahlin area) and some parts of the inner city, with more stagnant growth elsewhere. With the creation of a new seat, both existing ACT Divisions will need to lose the equivalent of about half a quota's worth of electors.

I suggest that the simplest and best thing to do is to return to the pattern of seats that existed when Canberra previously had three Divisions (1996-1998). I am recommending that Fenner and Canberra contract northwards, with a new Division created in the southern part of the ACT.

## **Boundaries:**

Canberra's geography consists of clearly established suburbs, separated from each other by major natural or man-made features. This makes drawing boundaries very straightforward, as suburb boundaries almost always align to a major road, parkland, or open space.

I have tried to draw boundaries to keep the major Town Centres together. It seems inevitable that Belconnen and Woden will need to be split, but I have chosen strong boundaries through these areas in Ginninderra Drive and Hindmarsh Drive. I have also been able to keep all of the other Town Centres (Gungahlin, Inner North, Inner South, Weston Creek, and Tuggeranong) united in their respective seats.

## **Quota:**

All of my proposed Divisions would fall within the required 10% tolerance at the present time. Due to the strong growth in Gungahlin, I have left my proposed Fenner towards the lower end of tolerance compared to the other two seats. At the projection time, all three seats would be very close to quota.

## **Naming:**

I recommend that Fenner and Canberra retain their existing names. It seems very logical to me for the central, Civic-based seat to take the name 'Canberra'.

I propose a resurrection of the name 'Namadgi' for the new southern seat. The original Namadgi only existed for a few years, but many former residents would have at least some connection with the name. My proposed 'Namadgi' would be quite similar to the former Division, being based on Tuggeranong and containing other southern parts of the ACT.

## **Political Implications:**

There is no requirement for "political fairness", but in any case for the ACT it is not really relevant. All 3 Canberra seats would remain fairly safe for Labor.

## **FENNER:**

My proposed Division of Fenner would consist of:

- All of Gungahlin, including the Hall area.
- The part of Belconnen north of Kama Nature Reserve, William Hovell Drive, Kingsford Smith Drive, and Ginninderra Drive.
- The North Lyneham area (the part of Lyneham north of Ginninderra Drive and Mouat Street).

Fenner remains based on Gungahlin in the north, but is forced to give up its share of Inner North, and parts of Belconnen to meet the lower quota. I suggest Ginninderra Drive as the most suitable boundary through the Belconnen area; it is a significant road that is surrounded by non-residential areas (Lake Ginninderra, the University of Canberra, and Bruce Stadium) for large parts of its length.

The North Lyneham area is largely cut off from neighbouring suburbs in all directions, so is not an obvious fit in either Fenner or Canberra. I have included it in this Division to make for a neater boundary, but it could also fit comfortably with the rest of Lyneham in Canberra.

This would be clearly the fastest growing Division in the ACT, so I have left it towards the lower end of tolerance.

<b>FENNER</b>		
<b>EXISTING</b>	<b>142575</b>	<b>151481</b>
to Canberra	51133	52253
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>91442</b>	<b>99228</b>
Dev from quota	-4.90%	-0.50%

## CANBERRA

My proposed Division of Canberra would consist of:

- All of the Inner North, except for North Lyneham.
- All of the Inner South.
- The part of Belconnen south of Kama Nature Reserve, William Hovell Drive, Kingsford Smith Drive, and Ginninderra Drive.
- The part of Woden north of Hindmarsh Drive.
- Fyshwick, Beard, and the Oaks Estate area.
- The rural areas in the east of the ACT, including Majura and Kowen.

With the gains from Fenner, the Division of Canberra moves decisively northwards and focusses on Civic and the inner suburbs. This seat would unite most of the major shopping, entertainment, educational, transportation, and sporting facilities in Canberra.

I suggest that Hindmarsh Drive is the most suitable boundary through Woden. Like Ginninderra Drive, it is one of the most significant roads in the area, and has large tracts of open space and non-residential areas along its length. I suggest running the boundary down Hindmarsh Drive, then along Canberra Avenue to the NSW border, to include the small residential areas around Oaks Estate.

My proposed boundary along Canberra Avenue excludes HMAS Harman. If the Committee feels that Harman would fit better in Canberra, it would simple to adjust the boundary to run somewhere further south.

<b>CANBERRA</b>		
<b>EXISTING</b>	<b>145771</b>	<b>147616</b>
from Fenner	51133	52253
to Namadgi	99855	98680
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>97049</b>	<b>101189</b>
Dev from quota	+1.0%	+1.5%

## NAMADGI

My proposed Division of Namadgi would consist of:

- All of Tuggeranong
- All of Weston Creek
- All of the new Molonglo Valley area (south of the river)
- The part of Woden south of Hindmarsh Drive
- The remaining undeveloped areas around Symonston and Harman
- Tharwa and all of the rural and forested areas in the south and west of the ACT.

This is somewhat similar to the previous incarnation of Namadgi, taking in Tuggeranong, southern Woden, and the remaining rural areas of the ACT. However, due to the increased quota, it needs to take in additional areas. In keeping with the idea of uniting Town Centres wherever possible, I suggest including all of Weston Creek and the newly developing Molonglo suburbs in this seat. The Tuggeranong Parkway would be a strong north-south connection between the main parts of this seat.

I think it makes sense to unite all of the rural areas around Cotter, Tidbinbilla, Tharwa, and Namadgi in a single seat. The main connections from these parts of the ACT (Tharwa Road and Cotter Road) run back to Tuggeranong and Weston Creek, so there would at least be a direct connection between the urban and rural parts of the seat.

‘Namadgi’ seems to me to be an obvious candidate for the new Division’s name. The Namadgi National Park is a prominent feature and very familiar name for locals, and the would be some familiarity for longer-term residents in Tuggeranong from the previous Division of Namadgi.

<b>NAMADGI</b>		
<b>EXISTING</b>		
from Canberra	99855	98680
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>99855</b>	<b>98680</b>
Dev from quota	+ 3.9%	-1.0%