Summary

Naming of electoral divisions

The Redistribution Committee was unanimous in its proposal to rename the Division of Fraser to ‘Fenner’, in honour and recognition of the contribution of the distinguished scientist Professor Frank Fenner AC, CMG, MBE, FAA, FRS, FRACP, FRCP. Professor Fenner was a renowned virologist whose major achievements, the eradication of smallpox, control of Australia’s rabbit plague through the use of the myxoma virus and his work on malaria in Papua New Guinea, have helped reduce human suffering.

In making these proposals, the Redistribution Committee had regard to the guidelines ‘Guidelines for naming federal electoral divisions’ (the guidelines), which are reproduced as Appendix G to this report. Ultimately the Redistribution Committee’s proposed electoral division names have been offered for the reasons set out in Chapter 2 of this report.
With respect to the current Division of Fraser, the Redistribution Committee was unanimous in deciding:

- the Division of Fraser should not be co-named in honour of both the former member for the Australian Capital Territory, James Fraser, and the former Prime Minister, the Rt Hon. John Malcolm Fraser AC CH, and
- the Division of Fraser should be renamed.

In deciding to rename the Division of Fraser, the Redistribution Committee was mindful of the suggestions and comments on suggestions which proposed altering the name of the Division of Fraser to enable the name ‘Fraser’ to be used as the name of a Victorian division in honour of the former Prime Minister, the Rt Hon. John Malcolm Fraser AC CH, in the future. The Redistribution Committee notes that such an approach would be consistent with the guideline that consideration should be given to naming electoral divisions after former Prime Ministers. By making this change, the Redistribution Committee has made this option available to future Redistribution Committees.

The Redistribution Committee would like to recognise and acknowledge the significant contribution made by the former member for the Australian Capital Territory, James Fraser, to the community, including as:

- member of the Australian Capital Territory Advisory Council (1949–51),
the Member for the Australian Capital Territory in the House of Representatives (1951–70), and
Vice-Chairman of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Australian Capital Territory (1957–70).

In addition to the five names in Table G, the Redistribution Committee considered using the name of one of the individuals identified in Appendix H as the new name for the current Division of Fraser. The Redistribution Committee unanimously proposes renaming the Division of Fraser to ‘Fenner’ in honour and recognition of the contribution of the distinguished scientist Professor Frank Fenner AC, CMG, MBE, FAA, FRS, FRACP, FRCP. Professor Fenner was a renowned virologist whose major achievements, the eradication of smallpox, control of Australia’s rabbit plague through the use of the myxoma virus and his work on malaria in Papua New Guinea, have helped reduce human suffering.

The Redistribution Committee also considers that ‘Fenner’ is an appropriate name for a division located in the Australian Capital Territory, given Professor Fenner’s long association with the Australian National University. In 1949 he was appointed Foundation Professor of Microbiology at the John Curtin School of Medical Research, becoming Director of the school in 1967, and was the foundation Director of the Centre for Resources and Environmental Studies in 1973.

Professor Fenner received many prestigious awards during his lifetime acknowledging his contributions to science, including:

- Japan Prize (1988)
- Centenary Medal (2001)
- Clunies Ross Lifetime Contribution National Science and Technology Award (2002), and
- Prime Minister’s Prize for Science (2002).