



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL
TERRITORY**

Submission OB17

ACT Labor



ACT Labor Submission to Federal Redistribution Committee for the Australian Capital Territory.

Submitted by ACT Labor Secretary Caitlin Cook on behalf of ACT Labor

ACT Labor would like to thank the Australian Electoral Commission and the Redistribution Committee for the Australian Capital Territory for their work to date.

We acknowledge the goal of the Australian Electoral Commissioner in making this redistribution process more accessible and available to the public and are pleased to see a range of submissions and ideas.

A fair, transparent and trusted electoral system is key to the success of our democracy.

ACT Labor has developed this submission based on the key principles of:

- retaining or improving existing communities of interest where possible, including those reflected in districts, suburbs and localities
- electorates are more numerically equitable
- accommodating the differing rates of expected growth and decline across the territory
- using strong and identifiable features as electorate boundaries where possible.

Importantly, the proposed changes in this submission meet the numerical requirements of the redistribution and projected enrolment quotas for the ACT.

BEAN

The Molonglo Valley district is one of the fastest growing areas in the ACT. Growth is not evenly distributed within the district, the newer and still developing localities of Denman Prospect and Whitlam are projected to grow at a faster rate than the established localities of Wright and Coombs.

ACT Labor proposes a division of the Molonglo Valley that recognises these different stages of growth and the differing community connections. Retaining Wright and Coombs in Bean and moving Denman Prospect and Whitlam to Canberra promotes long term sustainability by distributing areas of high enrolment across electorates.

This submission distributes Molonglo Valley growth to minimise the risk of any single electorate growing too rapidly beyond quota before the next redistribution.

Wright and Coombs – connection to Weston Creek

Wright and Coombs are more established suburbs than Whitlam and Denman Prospect. Connections to services including shopping, schools, transport and community services are orientated southward and eastward towards Weston Creek which sits firmly within Bean.

Wright and Coombs are an obvious grouping of suburbs sharing transport routes, roads and local services. Eg Charles Weston Primary School as being in the shared priority enrolment areas.

These established community connections make Wright and Coombs a natural fit for the Bean electorate alongside the broader Weston Creek community.

Denman Prospect and Whitlam - connection to Canberra Central District

Denman Prospect and Whitlam are newer, still-developing localities on the eastern side of the Molonglo Valley District. The Committee itself noted that the construction of the Molonglo River Bridge and development of the localities of Bandler and Sulman, to the east Whitlam will better connect the Molonglo Valley District with the Canberra Central District.

ACT Labor acknowledges that dividing any district between electorates carries the risk of fragmenting a community of interest.

However, the proposed division of the Molonglo Valley District is not arbitrary. It reflects genuine differences in the stage of development, community connections and transport orientation of the district's localities. Wright and Coombs are established suburbs with existing community ties to Weston Creek and Bean. Denman Prospect and Whitlam are emerging suburbs whose future connections (as recognised by the Committee itself) run eastward toward the Canberra Central District. The proposed boundary therefore respects rather than cuts across the emerging community structure of the Molonglo Valley District.

ACT Labor proposes the below SA2s for Bean:

Proposed Electorate	Projected enrolment as at 8 April 2030
ACT – South West	396
Banks	3,654
Bonython	2,578
Calwell	4,132
Canberra East	276
Chapman	2,254
Chifley	1,824
Chisholm	4,036
Conder	3,556
Coombs	4,519
Duffy (full)	2,586
Fadden	2,225
Farrer	2,766
Fisher	2,369
Gilmore	1,890
Gordon (ACT)	5,991
Gowrie (ACT)	2,224
Greenway	5,065
Holder	2,061
Hume	15
Isaacs	1,821
Isabella Plains	3,332
Kambah	11,866
Macarthur	1,053
Mawson	2,381
Monash	4,213
Mount Taylor	0
Namadgi	43
O'Malley	782
Oxley (ACT)	1,295
Pearce	1,981
Phillip	6,079
Richardson	2,199
Rivett	2,557
Stirling	1,629
Theodore	2,804
Torrens	1,816
Tuggeranong	27
Tuggeranong – West	8

Wanniassa	5,704
Waramanga	1,916
Weston	2,960
Wright	3,134
TOTAL	114,017

CANBERRA

Woden – keeping suburbs connected

Lyons, Curtin, Hughes and Garran form a cohesive and well-connected community of interest in Woden. ACT Labor believes these suburbs are best kept together within a single electorate. While these suburbs sit within or adjacent to the Woden Valley District boundary, their residents share strong day-to-day connections that transcend the administrative district boundary including shared schools, retail and community facilities.

The ACT Government's Light Rail Stage 2B project is planned to extend light rail from the city centre southward through the inner south of Canberra, with a proposed alignment running through or adjacent to the suburbs of Lyons, Curtin, Garran and Hughes. This planned corridor will:

- Directly connect Lyons, Curtin, Garran and Hughes to the Canberra Central District via light rail, reinforcing and deepening these suburbs' existing orientation toward the city centre.
- Create a shared transport spine that binds Deakin, Yarralumla, Forrest, Lyons, Curtin, Garran and Hughes together as communities served by the same light rail corridor
- Strengthen the community of interest between these suburbs and the broader Canberra electorate, as residents will share light rail as their primary public transport connection to the city, to employment precincts and to the Parliamentary Triangle.

Macquarie

This submission proposes that Macquarie remain in the Division of Canberra rather than be transferred to Fenner.

Macquarie is closely linked to Cook, including through their shared Jamison retail catchment, it's connection to Cook and Aranda is also reflected in local transport patterns, with the Route 32 bus service operating almost entirely within those three suburbs.

On this basis, ACT Labor believes the electorate boundary should follow the major arterial roads of Coulter Drive and Belconnen Way, rather than Redfern Street, which is a smaller residential two-way street and a less logical dividing line.

Crace

ACT Labor proposes that Crace remain in the Division of Fenner. On measures including school catchments, transport routes, walkability and arterial road connections, Crace is more closely tied to Gungahlin, and to a lesser extent Belconnen, than the inner north.

Crace is relatively disconnected from nearby populated inner north suburbs such as Lyneham, Watson and Downer, and would be better represented as part of an electorate that covers the breadth of Gungahlin.

ACT Labor proposes the below SA2s for Canberra:

Proposed Electorate	Projected enrolment as at 8 April 2030
Acton	784
Ainslie	4,108
Aranda	1,791
Arboretum	3
Barton	1,371
Black Mountain	0
Braddon	5,267
Bruce	4,635
Campbell	4,332
Canberra Airport	36
Canberra East	404
Civic	2,278
Cook	2,292
Curtin	4058
Deakin	2,325
Denman Prospect	5479
Dickson	3,748
Downer	3,020
Duntroon	1,475
Forrest	1,600
Fyshwick	20
Garran	2233
Giralang	2,499
Griffith (ACT)	5,357
Hackett	2,432
Hughes	2316
Kaleen	5,397
Kenny	5
Kingston (ACT)	5,070
Kowen	15
Lake Burley Griffin	0
Lawson	1,331
Lyneham	4,351
Lyons	2050
Macquarie	2212

Majura	98
Mitchell	1
Molonglo Corridor	2
Narrabundah	5,586
Norfolk Island	1,253
O'Connor (ACT)	4,271
Parkes (ACT) – North	294
Parkes (ACT) – South	0
Red Hill	3144
Reid	1,719
Russell	0
Scrivener	78
Turner	3,239
Watson	5,166
Whitlam	2859
Yarralumla	2,454
TOTAL	114458

FENNER

ACT Labor agrees with moving Hawker and Weetangera to Fenner using Coulter Drive up to Belconnen Way as a clear boundary.

ACT Labor proposes the below SA2s for Fenner:

Proposed Electorate	Projected enrolment as at 8 April 2030
Amaroo	3,894
Belconnen	4,965
Bonner	4,123
Casey	4,367
Charnwood	2,168
Dunlop	5,064
Evatt	3,930
Florey	3,437
Flynn (ACT)	2,628
Forde	2,750
Franklin	3,722
Fraser	1,545
Gooromon	2
Gungahlin	5,614
Gungahlin – East	0
Gungahlin – West	0
Hall	253
Harrison	4,207
Higgins	2,529
Holt	4,464
Jacka	357
Jervis Bay	230
Latham	2,657
Macgregor (ACT)	4,669
Macnamara	20
McKellar	1,889
Melba	2,365
Molonglo Corridor	9
Moncrieff	3,344
Ngunnawal	7,518
Nicholls	4,746
Page	2,063
Palmerston	3,986
Scullin	1,939
Spence	1,859
Strathnairn	2,389
Taylor	6,592
Throsby	2,429
West Belconnen	3

Hawker	2204
Weetangera	2109
Crace	3010
TOTAL	116,049