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Finley Sales

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# Sales, Finley - Redistribution ACT - Submission on the proposed ACT redistribution

## Personal details

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## Submission on the proposed ACT redistribution details

**Category:** Boundaries  
**Details:** Combination of proposal and feedback. Aiming to suggest a far less radical and more straightforward redistribution proposal as well as discussion of Norfolk Island's place in the redistribution.

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# Australian Capital Territory, Jervis Bay, & Norfolk Island federal redistribution

Finley Sales

In my view, the current federal redistribution draft proposal for the Eastern Territories has been needlessly complicated. Like with the current Tasmanian redistribution, the AEC appears to be single-mindedly focusing on one issue, in this case uniting the district of Woden, to the detriment of other, in my opinion, far more important issues. This has resulted in a far more radical overhaul than necessary and some truly puzzling choices, moving whole districts and fragmenting others, when moving a single suburb (or even only part of it) in an already divided district would solve the problem. Not to mention the entire federal territory that is proposed to jump electorates which is its own problematic item.

The transfer of Crace from Fenner to Canberra is probably the more outrageous proposal here. There are only two exits out of the suburb and they are both in the north, out into what would become an entirely different electoral division. Crace would become a pene-enclave of a metropolitan electoral division, an impressive feat generally, but an issue that needs to be kept in mind when drawing borders in the suburbanite hell that is the non-Griffonian portions of northern Greater Canberra. This shift is also entirely unnecessary, there is absolutely no reason why Gungahlin needs to be cut up at all. Under the proposed draft borders, Macquarie could simply be left where it is and no part of Gungahlin would need to be altered in any way. We also don't need to move Mitchell and Kenny and their collective 6 electors.

While I can understand, and support in principle, the move to kill off Canberra's south Beconnen panhandle and unite the district more in Fenner, when it comes at the price of a broader mangling of the eastern territories' electoral divisions it cannot come to pass. It's a generally inoffensive split and the change still leaves an electoral division boundary running through the middle of a district, leaving all of eastern Belconnen still in Canberra.

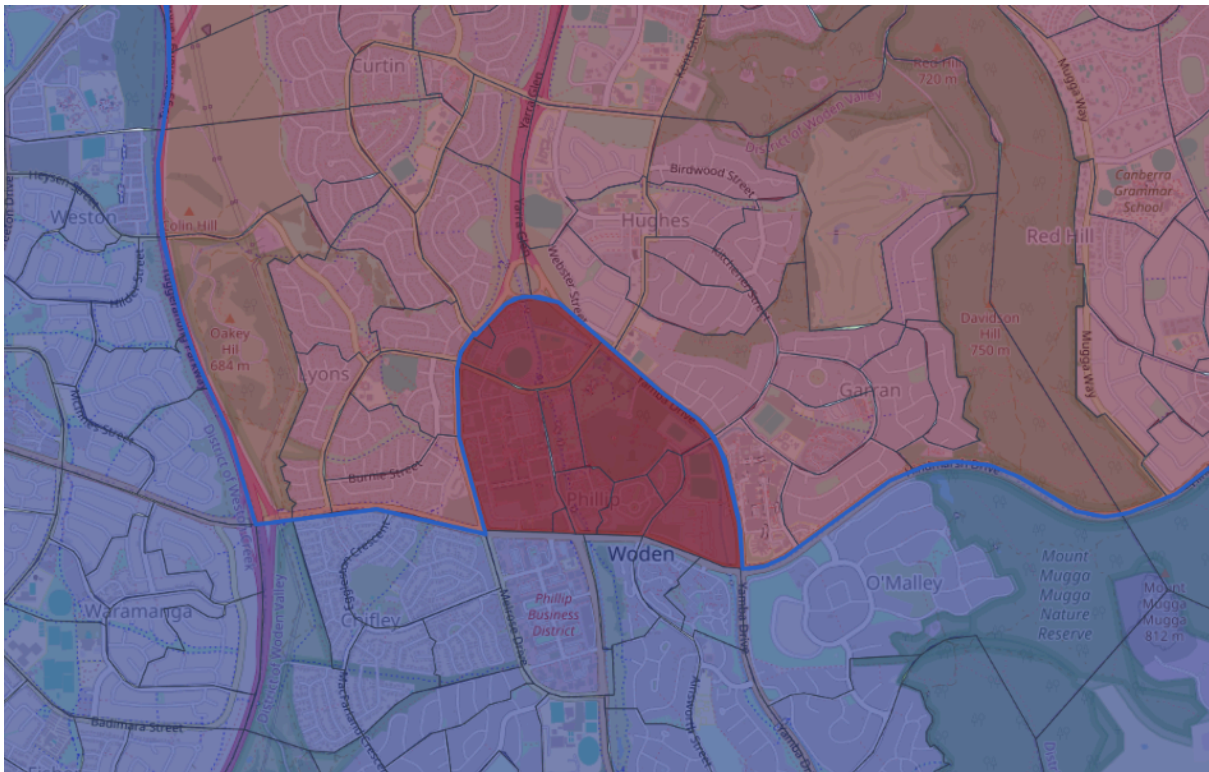
I am strongly opposed to transferring Norfolk Island from Bean to Canberra. The external territories are all already quite marginalised, being represented by Senators for specific territories other than themselves, included in redistributions under the same naming convention, and being separated from the rest of their electoral divisions by thousands of kilometres of ocean, but to move one into an electoral division named for a city that is practically synonymous with an entirely other territory is a whole nother step in the wrong direction. Norfolk Island is represented by "Senators for the Australian Capital Territory", and is included in an electoral division across the ocean nearly two thousand kilometres away. Under RRMA it is classified as remote compared to the rest of its electoral division's metropolitan classification. Under ASGS Remoteness Classification, Norfolk Island is under "Very Remote Australia" compared to the rest of either the ACT's mix of "Major Cities in Australia", at the opposite end of the spectrum, and "Inner Regional Australia" (for the southern villages and uninhabited parts of the territory). When it comes to communities of interest Norfolk Island is almost systematically forced to be ignored. That being said, Bean is still the best place for it. Bean is the least metropolitan of the three ACT electoral divisions

and it contains the only inhabited non-metropolitan places in the ACT, Urriara and Tharwa. When it comes to a community of shared interest in the ACT, this is the closest thing the Norfolk people have. It also carries the benefit of not having a geographic name so integral to a single territory. The city of Canberra is practically synonymous with the Australian Capital Territory, and for good reason, the percentage of the territory's population that resides outside of it is barely a rounding error. With three electoral divisions and two populated external territories, at least one remains purely ACT and that electorate should be the one whose name inherently implies that. Most people are unaware that Norfolk Island and Jervis Bay are even a part of the ACT's parliamentary delegation catchment group, and this move would reinforce that ignorance among everyone. This may result in campaigners and candidates overlooking the territory even more than they already do, leading to even worse democratic outcomes for Norfolk Islanders than they already receive. Moving Norfolk Island into the Electoral Division of Canberra would be the worst part of this proposal if Crace wasn't so ludicrously egregious, and I do truly hope that the proposal to do so is quashed as the redistribution is further developed.

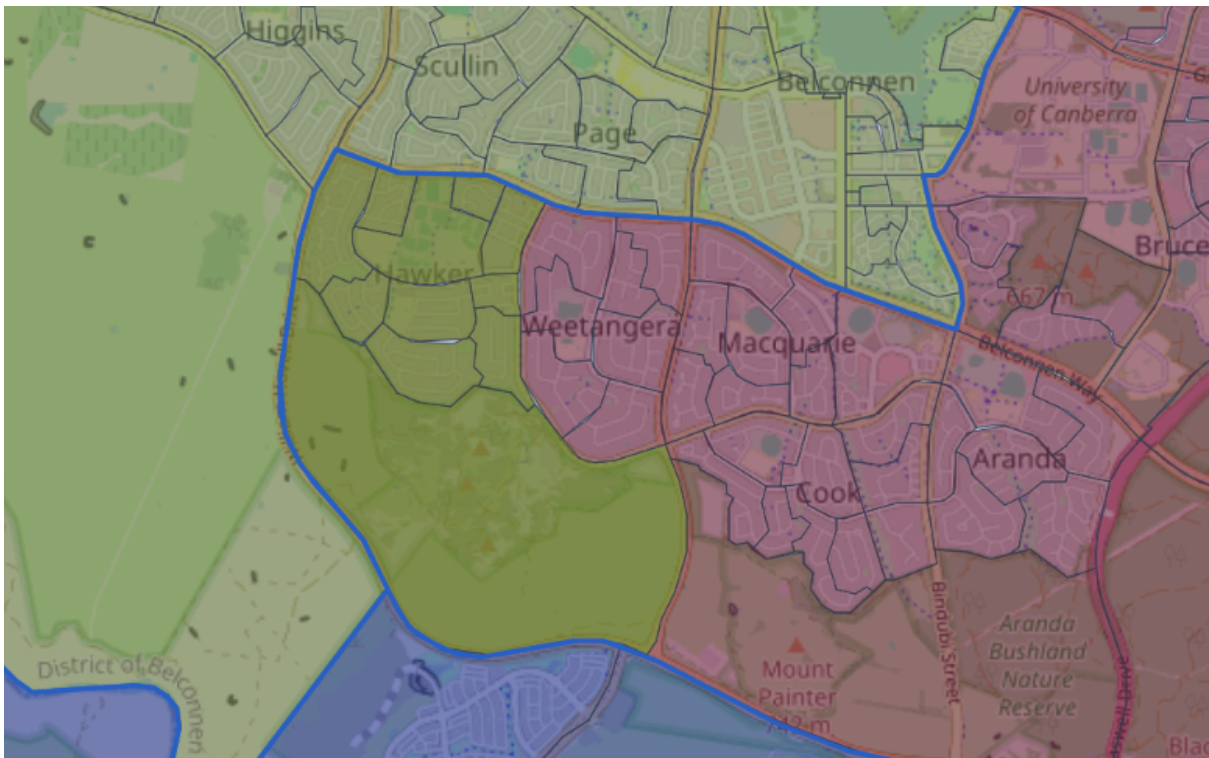
The unification of Woden in Bean feels like a solution looking for a problem. The district of Woden being split is not a real issue of concern and what it comes at the expense of is far too much to justify the change. However this does not mean a change in Woden should be overlooked. A proposal for an elegant redistribution is to simply and solely move Phillip from Bean to Canberra. The suburb is already jutting out of an otherwise straight line and by itself puts the entire redistribution into quota. You don't even have to move the whole suburb, the portions of Phillip south of Hindmarsh Drive could be left in Bean for a lovely smooth border and it would still put everything in quota. Alternatively, if we really want to do something about that southern Belconnen panhandle, there's enough wiggle room to do so. With all of Phillip moved to Canberra, both Hawker and Weetangera could be transferred back from Canberra to Fenner and Canberra would just barely remain in quota, Hawker alone would also work and result in a much safer quota adherence. With a consistent Canberra—Bean Hindmarsh Drive boundary we can still safely transfer Hawker to Fenner and it would actually result in a more even distribution between Fenner and Canberra that if we don't. I would personally go for the Hinmarsh border and only Hawker moving from Fenner to Canberra, but any of these options would work satisfactorily.

Molonglo being moved to Canberra is simply unnecessary given what I've said above, but I also believe that it should stay grouped with Weston Creek in whatever electoral division it resides, there is a clear community of interest there that's far more applicable than what it would be grouped with in Canberra.

Below is my proposal for the redistribution with current boundaries overlaid, darker colours denote gained territory:



The suburb of Phillip would see its 10 SA2s north of Hindmarsh Drive transferred from Bean to Canberra.



The suburb of Hawker would see its entirety transferred from Canberra to Fenner, as would the centre SA2 of Molonglo Corridor.

No other changes would be made.