



**REDISTRIBUTION OF FEDERAL ELECTORAL DIVISIONS IN THE ACT  
SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS ON SUGGESTIONS**

In accordance with section 64 of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (the Electoral Act), the Electoral Commissioner invites interested persons or organisations to make written suggestions, from Wednesday 25 October 2017, about the redistribution of federal electoral divisions for the House of Representatives in the ACT; and to make written comments on the suggestions which are lodged.

**WHY IS A REDISTRIBUTION REQUIRED?**

A redistribution of federal electoral divisions in the ACT is required following a determination on Thursday 31 August 2017 of the number of members of the House of Representatives to which each state and territory will be entitled at the next federal general election. The ACT's entitlement increased from two to three members of the House of Representatives. As a result of this determination, Norfolk Island is not entitled to a member of the House of Representatives.

On Wednesday 4 September 2017, in accordance with section 59 of the Electoral Act, the Electoral Commission directed that a redistribution of the ACT commence.

**WHO WILL CONDUCT THE REDISTRIBUTION?**

The redistribution will be conducted by a Redistribution Committee appointed by the Electoral Commission in accordance with section 60 of the Electoral Act.

The Electoral Act requires that the Redistribution Committee for the ACT comprise the Electoral Commissioner, the senior Divisional Returning Officer for the ACT, and two senior officials based in the ACT.

**LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR A REDISTRIBUTION**

In making its proposed redistribution, the Redistribution Committee is bound by section 66 of the Electoral Act.

The number of electors in each proposed electoral division must not deviate by more than 10 per cent above or below the current enrolment quota. The current enrolment quota for the ACT was determined by the Electoral Commissioner to be 96,115.

As far as practicable, the Redistribution Committee will ensure that the number of electors enrolled in each electoral division at Thursday 13 January 2022 (the projection time) will not deviate by more than 3.5 per cent above or below the projected enrolment quota of 99,699.

The actual and projected enrolment figures, current and projected enrolment quotas, and the redistribution timetable, are available on the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) website: [www.aec.gov.au/act-redistribution](http://www.aec.gov.au/act-redistribution)

Section 66 of the Electoral Act also provides that the Redistribution Committee:

*'give due consideration, in relation to each proposed Electoral Division, to:*

- (i) community of interests within the proposed Electoral Division, including economic, social and regional interests;*
- (ii) means of communication and travel within the proposed Electoral Division;*
- (iv) the physical features and area of the proposed Electoral Division; and*
- (v) the boundaries of existing Divisions in the State or Territory'*

Consideration of existing boundaries is subordinate to the other factors set out above.

Under section 56AA of the Electoral Act, until such time as Norfolk Island is entitled to a member of the House of Representatives, it is to be included in an electoral division in the ACT. Where there is more than one electoral division in the ACT, the Electoral Act requires that Norfolk Island be in a different electoral division to the Jervis Bay Territory.

The Jervis Bay Territory is currently part of the Division of Fenner and Norfolk Island is currently part of the Division of Canberra.

## **THE BOUNDARIES OF THE ELECTORAL DIVISIONS WILL CHANGE**

Inserting a new federal electoral division will require consequential changes to be made to the boundaries of existing federal electoral divisions.

## **THE REDISTRIBUTION PROCESS**

The redistribution is carried out in accordance with the Electoral Act. The key stages of the redistribution process are as follows.

### **Step 1 - Suggestions**

Any interested person or organisation who wishes to make suggestions relating to the boundaries or names of electoral divisions, has until **6pm Australian Eastern Daylight Time (AEDT) Friday 24 November 2017** to lodge them in writing with the Redistribution Committee via the means listed in the 'How to lodge a suggestion or comment on a suggestion' section below. Suggestions received after the prescribed lodgement time cannot be considered.

People or organisations making suggestions are requested, where practical, to provide any paper maps in A4/A3 size to facilitate copying.

### **Step 2 - Comments on the suggestions**

The suggestions will be available for public inspection **from Monday 27 November 2017** at the office of the senior Divisional Returning Officer for the ACT (50 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra) and on the AEC's website ([www.aec.gov.au/act-redistribution](http://www.aec.gov.au/act-redistribution)). Any comments on the suggestions must be lodged in writing with the Redistribution Committee by **6pm (AEDT) Friday 8 December 2017**. Comments received after the prescribed lodgement time cannot be considered.

### **Step 3 - Redistribution proposal**

After considering the written suggestions and comments, the Redistribution Committee will propose a redistribution of federal electoral divisions for the ACT. Maps showing the proposed boundaries and names of electoral divisions will then be published in selected newspapers and on the AEC website and will be made available at the AEC office in the ACT.

### **Step 4 - Objections to the proposed redistribution**

Objections to the proposed redistribution must be lodged within 28 days of the publication of the proposed redistribution. There is a further 14 day period for lodgement of written comments on any objections.

### **Step 5 - Objections considered by the augmented Electoral Commission**

The augmented Electoral Commission for the ACT considers all objections and comments on objections. The augmented Electoral Commission comprises the members of the Redistribution Committee together with the Chairperson of the AEC and the third member of the Electoral Commission.

### **Step 6 - The second redistribution proposal**

After it has considered all objections and comments, the augmented Electoral Commission will make its own proposed redistribution.

### **Step 7 - Further objections**

If, in the opinion of the augmented Electoral Commission, their proposal is significantly different from the Redistribution Committee's proposal, the augmented Electoral Commission will invite further objections.

### **Step 8 - Final determination**

After considering all submissions the augmented Electoral Commission will make a final determination of boundaries and names of the electoral divisions for the ACT by notice published in the *Commonwealth Government Notices Gazette*.

For more information about the redistribution process visit the AEC's website: [www.aec.gov.au/act-redistribution](http://www.aec.gov.au/act-redistribution)

## HOW TO LODGE A SUGGESTION OR A COMMENT ON A SUGGESTION

Suggestions and comments on suggestions should be lodged via the AEC website at [www.aec.gov.au/act-redistribution](http://www.aec.gov.au/act-redistribution). Suggestions and comments on suggestions can also be submitted:

- by email to: [FedRedistribution-ACT@aec.gov.au](mailto:FedRedistribution-ACT@aec.gov.au)
- in person to: Redistribution Committee for the ACT, Australian Electoral Commission, 50 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra
- by mail to: Redistribution Committee for the ACT, Australian Electoral Commission, Locked Bag 4007, Canberra ACT 2601
- by fax to: 02 6293 7660.

## PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS ON SUGGESTIONS

The Electoral Act requires that submissions to the Redistribution Committee be made publicly available. Copies of all submissions will be made available in full for public inspection at the office of the senior Divisional Returning Officer for the ACT (50 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra), in accordance with the Electoral Act.

All submissions will also be published in full on the AEC's website and included in reports produced by the Redistribution Committee and the augmented Electoral Commission.

Signatures and address details of people and organisations that lodge written submissions will be removed prior to publication.

It is strongly recommended those wishing to make suggestions or comments on suggestions read the 'Guidelines for making a suggestion.'

## MORE INFORMATION

Persons or organisations intending to make submissions to the Redistribution Committee are urged to take account of the requirements of the Electoral Act. In particular, those making submissions are advised to ensure their submissions are in the physical possession of the Redistribution Committee for the ACT's secretariat by the relevant closing time.

A wide range of information is available on the AEC's website, including:

- further information about the federal redistribution process in the ACT, including an indicative timetable and background information – [www.aec.gov.au/act-redistribution](http://www.aec.gov.au/act-redistribution)
- information about current electoral divisions in the ACT – [www.aec.gov.au/profiles/index.htm](http://www.aec.gov.au/profiles/index.htm)
- Guidelines for making a submission – [www.aec.gov.au/Electorates/Redistributions/guidelines-for-submissions.htm](http://www.aec.gov.au/Electorates/Redistributions/guidelines-for-submissions.htm)
- Guidelines for naming federal electoral divisions – [www.aec.gov.au/Electorates/Redistributions/guidelines.htm](http://www.aec.gov.au/Electorates/Redistributions/guidelines.htm)
- the legal requirements for a federal redistribution as outlined in Part IV of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* – [www.aec.gov.au/Elections/australian\\_electoral\\_system/Electoral\\_Legislation.htm](http://www.aec.gov.au/Elections/australian_electoral_system/Electoral_Legislation.htm)
- general information about the redistribution process – [www.aec.gov.au/Electorates/Redistributions/](http://www.aec.gov.au/Electorates/Redistributions/)

Further information can be obtained from the Redistribution Secretariat:

Phone number: 02 6160 2616

Email address: [FedRedistribution-ACT@aec.gov.au](mailto:FedRedistribution-ACT@aec.gov.au)

Tom Rogers  
Electoral Commissioner