



Redistribution of the Northern Territory into electoral divisions

FEBRUARY 2017

Report of the augmented Electoral Commission for the
Northern Territory

Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918

Feedback and enquiries Feedback on this report is welcome and should be directed to the contact officer.

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The report should be cited as *augmented Electoral Commission for the Northern Territory, Redistribution of the Northern Territory into electoral divisions*.

The augmented Electoral Commission for the Northern Territory (the augmented Electoral Commission) has undertaken a redistribution of the Northern Territory. In developing and considering the impacts of the redistribution, the augmented Electoral Commission has satisfied itself that the electoral divisions meet the requirements of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (the Electoral Act). The augmented Electoral Commission commends its redistribution for the Northern Territory.

This report is prepared to fulfil the requirements of section 74 of the Electoral Act.

Augmented Electoral Commission for the Northern Territory, Darwin

The Hon Dennis Cowdroy OAM QC
Chairperson

Mr David Kalisch
Member

Mr Tom Rogers
Member

February 2017

Mr Mick Sherry
Member

Mr Craig Sandy
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About this report

This report outlines the redistribution of the Northern Territory and the augmented Electoral Commission's reasons supporting this redistribution.

The report consists of the following sections:

- **Executive summary**

- **Chapter 1: Background and context**

This chapter outlines the legislative requirements of the redistribution from the release of the Redistribution Committee's proposed redistribution to the determination of the names and boundaries of electoral divisions by the augmented Electoral Commission.

- **Chapter 2: The augmented Electoral Commission's redistribution and reasons for the redistribution**

This chapter outlines the augmented Electoral Commission's redistribution and the reasons for this redistribution. Also included is the augmented Electoral Commission's approach to formulating the names and boundaries of electoral divisions.

- **Chapter 3: Implementation of the redistribution**

This chapter outlines what the implementation of the redistribution means in practice for residents of the Northern Territory, the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and the Territory of Christmas Island.

- **Appendices**

Abbreviations and glossary

Word or acronym	Meaning
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACST	Australian Central Standard Time – ACST is equal to Coordinated Universal Time plus 9.5 hours (UTC +9.5)
AEC	Australian Electoral Commission
augmented Electoral Commission	augmented Electoral Commission for the Northern Territory
augmented Electoral Commission for the Northern Territory	The Electoral Commission, augmented by the members of the Redistribution Committee for the Northern Territory
current enrolment quota	(Number of electors enrolled in a state or territory on the day the redistribution commences)/(Number of members of the House of Representatives the state or territory is entitled to) The current enrolment quota for this redistribution is 64 786
EBMS	Electoral Boundary Mapping System – a modification of commercially available mapping software which automatically calculates the revised actual and projected enrolments when boundaries are moved
Electoral Act	<i>Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918</i>

Word or acronym	Meaning
Electoral Commission	The Electoral Commission is headed by a Chairperson, who is selected from a list of names of three eligible Judges submitted to the Governor-General by the Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Australia. The other members are the Electoral Commissioner and a non-judicial member, currently the Australian Statistician
Gazette	<i>Commonwealth Government Notices Gazette</i> – gazette notices contain a range of information about legislation, including proclamations and notices of Commonwealth government departments and courts, and other notices required under Commonwealth law
general election	A general election of the members of the House of Representatives
guidelines	Guidelines for naming federal electoral divisions
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters	Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters – the role of this Committee of the Australian Parliament is to inquire into and report on such matters relating to electoral laws and practices and their administration as may be referred to it by either House of the Parliament or a Minister
localities	Localities are official bounded areas used in the address of a property and are defined over pastoral and rural living areas
projected enrolment quota	(Number of electors projected to be enrolled in a state or territory at the projection time)/(Number of members of the House of Representatives the state or territory is entitled to) The projected enrolment quota for this redistribution is 70 688
projection time	The projection time is generally the end of the period of three years and six months after the final determination of electoral division boundaries and names are published in the Gazette. There are circumstances where this time may be varied The projection time for this redistribution is Friday 7 August 2020
redistribution	A redistribution of electoral divisions is the process where electoral divisions and their names and boundaries are reviewed, and may be altered, to ensure, as near as practicable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ each state and territory gains representation in the House of Representatives in proportion to their population, and ▪ there are a similar number of electors in each electoral division for a given state or territory
Redistribution Committee	Redistribution Committee for the Northern Territory
Redistribution Committee for the Northern Territory	The Electoral Commissioner, Australian Electoral Officer for the Northern Territory, the Surveyor-General of the Northern Territory and the Auditor-General for the Northern Territory
SA1	Statistical Area 1 – SA1s are the smallest unit at which the ABS makes available disaggregated Census data. The SA1s which have been used in this redistribution are those which applied at the 2011 Census of Population and Housing
SA2	Statistical Area 2 – SA2s consist of one or more SA1s and wherever possible are based on officially gazetted state/territory suburbs and localities. In urban areas, SA2s largely conform to whole suburbs but can be a combination of suburbs. The SA2s which have been used in this redistribution are those which applied at the 2011 Census of Population and Housing
suburbs	Suburbs are official bounded areas used in the address of a property and are defined over the Alice Springs, Katherine, Palmerston and Darwin municipalities

Executive summary

This report outlines the augmented Electoral Commission for the Northern Territory's (the augmented Electoral Commission's) redistribution of the Northern Territory into two electoral divisions.

The augmented Electoral Commission has adopted all elements of the Redistribution Committee for the Northern Territory's (Redistribution Committee) proposed redistribution.

The two electoral divisions in the Northern Territory are therefore the Division of Lingiari and the Division of Solomon.

The Division of Lingiari consists of:

- the Alice Springs Municipality, Barkly Shire, Belyuen Community Council, Central Desert Shire, Coomalie Community Government Council, East Arnhem Shire, Katherine Municipality, Litchfield Municipality, MacDonnell Shire, Roper Gulf Shire, Victoria Daly Shire, Wagait Shire, West Arnhem Shire and West Daly Region,
- the towns of Alyangula, Nhulunbuy and Yulara,
- the unincorporated areas north and east of Litchfield Municipality, south-east of Coomalie Shire, and west of Litchfield and Palmerston Municipality,
- part of the Palmerston Municipality, specifically the suburbs of Farrar, Johnston, Mitchell, Yarrowonga and Zuccoli,
- Tiwi Islands,
- Groote Eylandt,
- the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, and
- the Territory of Christmas Island.

The Division of Solomon consists of:

- the Darwin Municipality,
- the Palmerston Municipality, with the exception of the suburbs of Farrar, Johnston, Mitchell, Yarrowonga and Zuccoli, and
- the unincorporated areas of the Darwin Rates Act Area and East Arm.

Background

A redistribution of electoral divisions is the process where electoral divisions and their names and boundaries are reviewed, and may be altered, to ensure, as near as practicable:

- each state and territory gains representation in the House of Representatives in proportion to their population, and
- there are a similar number of electors in each electoral division for a given state or territory.

The Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 (the Electoral Act) makes provision for the conduct of redistributions, including procedures, processes and timelines to be followed and how and when public consultation is to occur.

A redistribution of electoral divisions in the Northern Territory was required as more than seven years have elapsed since the last redistribution was determined. The Northern Territory remains entitled to two members of the House of Representatives.

The redistribution process commenced with a direction from the Electoral Commission on Thursday 15 October 2015.

The Redistribution Committee released its proposed redistribution on Friday 9 September 2016. Interested individuals and parties were invited to make written objections on the proposed redistribution and written comments on objections via notices published in:

- the *Commonwealth Government Notices Gazette* (the Gazette) on Friday 9 September 2016,
- the *NT News* and *The Weekend Australian* on Saturday 10 September 2016,
- the *Palmerston Sun* on Tuesday 13 September 2016,
- *The Atoll* on Thursday 15 September 2016,
- *The Islander* and the *Centralian Advocate* on Friday 16 September 2016, and
- the *Koori Mail* on Wednesday 21 September 2016.

Four objections were made available for public perusal on Monday 10 October 2016. One comment on objections was made available from Monday 24 October 2016. An inquiry into objections was held on Tuesday 22 November 2016 in Darwin at which two submissions were made.

The augmented Electoral Commission found the written submissions made throughout the redistribution process, together with the submissions presented by those participating in the inquiry, to be a valuable contribution and is appreciative of the time and effort expended by all those who contributed. The redistribution has been informed by a thorough consideration of these submissions and the augmented Electoral Commission has taken them into account in making its determination. However, the augmented Electoral Commission felt unable to implement some aspects of these submissions for the reasons set out in Chapter 2 of this report.

This redistribution complies with all relevant provisions of the Electoral Act.

Legislative requirements

The Electoral Act requires the Northern Territory to be divided into the same number of electoral divisions as the number of members of the House of Representatives to be chosen in the Northern Territory at a general election. As the Northern Territory is entitled to two members of the House of Representatives, the augmented Electoral Commission has redistributed the Northern Territory into two electoral divisions.

In making its redistribution, the Electoral Act imposes two strict numerical requirements on the augmented Electoral Commission. These two numerical requirements provide an overall constraint to ensure that there are approximately equal numbers of electors in each electoral division so that each elector in the Northern Territory has equality of representation in the House of Representatives.

All electoral divisions are required to be not more than plus 10 per cent, or less than minus 10 per cent, of the current enrolment quota. At the end of Thursday 15 October 2015, the day on which the redistribution commenced, 129 571 electors were enrolled in the Northern Territory. The current enrolment quota was therefore 64 786. As the Electoral Act requires electoral divisions to be within plus or minus 10 per cent of this quota, the augmented Electoral Commission was required to construct electoral divisions which contain between 58 308 and 71 264 electors.

All electoral divisions are also required to be not more than plus 3.5 per cent, or less than minus 3.5 per cent, of the projected enrolment quota at the projection time of Friday 7 August 2020. As the number of electors projected to be enrolled in the Northern Territory at this time is 141 376, and the projected enrolment quota is 70 688, the augmented Electoral Commission was required to construct electoral divisions which are projected to contain between 68 214 and 73 162 electors on Friday 7 August 2020.

In relation to each electoral division, the augmented Electoral Commission is also required by the Electoral Act to give due consideration to:

- i. community of interests within the electoral division, including economic, social and regional interests,
- ii. means of communication and travel within the electoral division,
- iv. the physical features and area of the electoral division, and
- v. the boundaries of existing electoral divisions in the Northern Territory, with this factor being subordinate to the consideration of i, ii and iv.

The augmented Electoral Commission can only balance the different criteria against each other so far as they affect each of the two electoral divisions in the Northern Territory, and try and achieve the best balance overall. Given the primacy of the two numerical requirements, it is impossible to satisfy all the statutory criteria to the same extent.

The augmented Electoral Commission is also required to locate the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and the Territory of Christmas Island in the same electoral division in the Northern Territory.

Redistribution of the Northern Territory

The redistribution covers:

- the names of the two electoral divisions, and
- where to draw the boundary between the two electoral divisions.

Names of electoral divisions

The Redistribution Committee proposed retaining the names of the Division of Lingiari and the Division of Solomon.

Support for retaining the names of both electoral divisions was noted in one objection.

The augmented Electoral Commission adopted the Redistribution Committee's retention of the names of both electoral divisions for the reasons set out in Chapter 2 of this report.

Boundaries of electoral divisions

In determining the boundaries of electoral divisions in a territory, the Electoral Act requires the augmented Electoral Commission to ensure the enrolment numbers for each electoral division remain within the two ranges of the permissible maximum and minimum number of electors in an electoral division.

While the Northern Territory's entitlement to members of the House of Representatives remains at two, the augmented Electoral Commission was required to alter the divisional boundaries as neither electoral division fell within the range for the permissible maximum and minimum number

of projected electors as at Friday 7 August 2020. As a consequence, the augmented Electoral Commission was obligated to alter the existing divisional boundaries until this requirement could be met.

The augmented Electoral Commission noted that the Redistribution Committee's proposal met the requirements of the Electoral Act and proposed electoral divisions that can accommodate growth while keeping existing communities of interest together where possible and providing strong and readily identifiable features as boundaries where possible. Further, the augmented Electoral Commission noted the Redistribution Committee's proposal was consistent with the suggestions and comments on suggestions received.

In the augmented Electoral Commission's opinion, the objections to the proposed redistribution, comment on objections and submissions to the inquiry did not improve on the proposed redistribution, and some did not meet the two statutory numerical requirements. The augmented Electoral Commission therefore agreed to implement the Redistribution Committee's proposal without change.

Electoral movements

Overall, 2 680 electors enrolled in the Northern Territory (or 2.07 per cent of all electors enrolled in the Northern Territory on Thursday 15 October 2015) will change their federal electoral division as a result of this redistribution.

Implementation of this redistribution

Changes to electoral divisions as a result of this redistribution will apply from the day on which a notice of determination is published in the Gazette. This notice will be published on Tuesday 7 February 2017.

Electoral events will not be contested on these new federal electoral divisions until a writ is issued for a general election following the expiry or dissolution of the House of Representatives.

Chapter 1

Background and context

This chapter outlines the legislative requirements of the redistribution from the release of the Redistribution Committee's proposed redistribution to the determination of the names and boundaries of electoral divisions by the augmented Electoral Commission.

1. A redistribution of electoral divisions is the process whereby electoral divisions and their names and boundaries are reviewed, and may be altered, to ensure, as near as practicable:
 - each state and territory gains representation in the House of Representatives in proportion to their population, and
 - there are a similar number of electors in each electoral division for a given state or territory.

Compliance with legislative requirements

2. The *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (the Electoral Act) specifies that a redistribution process should be undertaken when:
 - the number of members of the House of Representatives to which a state or territory is entitled has changed (relative population change)
 - the number of electors in more than one-third of the electoral divisions in a state (or one of the electoral divisions in the Australian Capital Territory or the Northern Territory) deviates from the average divisional enrolment by more than plus or minus ten per cent for a period of more than two months, or
 - a period of seven years has elapsed since the last redistribution process was determined.¹
3. The procedures to be followed in conducting a redistribution process are also specified in the Electoral Act. Appendix A summarises the legislative requirements which have been followed in conducting this redistribution. Each of these requirements is discussed in further detail in this chapter.

Background to this redistribution

4. The steps followed from the commencement of the redistribution of the Northern Territory to the release of the Redistribution Committee's proposed redistribution are outlined in Chapter 1 of the Redistribution Committee's report: *Proposed redistribution of the Northern Territory into electoral divisions*.²

¹ Sub-section 59(2) of the Electoral Act specifies when a redistribution process should be undertaken.

² Redistribution Committee for the Northern Territory, *Proposed redistribution of the Northern Territory into electoral divisions*, June 2016, page 8–15

Requirement to conduct a redistribution of electoral divisions in the Northern Territory and commencement

5. Paragraph 59(2)(c) of the Electoral Act requires that a redistribution process commence when a period of seven years has elapsed since the last redistribution. As the last redistribution of the Northern Territory was determined on Friday 19 September 2008, a redistribution process was required to commence within 30 days of Saturday 19 September 2015.³
6. In accordance with sub-section 59(1) of the Electoral Act, the Electoral Commission published a notice in the *Commonwealth Government Notices Gazette* (the Gazette) on Thursday 15 October 2015 directing that a redistribution of the Northern Territory into two electoral divisions commence.⁴

Current enrolment quota

7. Section 65 of the Electoral Act requires the Electoral Commissioner, as soon as practicable after the redistribution process commences, to determine the current enrolment quota or average divisional enrolment using the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Number of electors enrolled in the Northern Territory as at the end of the day on which the redistribution commenced (Thursday 15 October 2015)}}{\text{Number of members of the House of Representatives to which the Northern Territory is entitled}}$$

8. In calculating this quota, sub-section 65(2) of the Electoral Act provides that:
 - where the result is less than 0.5, the number is rounded down to the nearest whole number, or
 - where the result is equal to or greater than 0.5, the number is rounded up to the nearest whole number.
9. Table A shows the figures used to calculate the current enrolment quota and the resultant range of the permissible maximum and minimum number of electors in an electoral division (discussed further in the section titled ‘Statutory requirements for the making of a redistribution’).

Table A: Current enrolment quota and permissible range for the Northern Territory

Number of electors enrolled in the Northern Territory as at the end of the day on which the redistribution commenced (Thursday 15 October 2015)	129 571
Number of members of the House of Representatives to which the Northern Territory is entitled	2
Current enrolment quota for the Northern Territory	64 786
Permissible maximum number of electors in an electoral division (current enrolment quota + 10 per cent)	71 264
Permissible minimum number of electors in an electoral division (current enrolment quota – 10 per cent)	58 308

3 Paragraph 59(2)(c) of the Electoral Act requires the redistribution to commence within 30 days after the expiration of the period of seven years.

4 Section 55A of the Electoral Act provides that when the Electoral Commissioner has determined the Northern Territory is entitled to two or more members of the House of Representatives, a reference to a State in Part IV of the Electoral Act includes a reference to the Northern Territory.

10. The Electoral Commissioner signed a written instrument on Wednesday 21 October 2015, as required by sub-section 65(1) of the Electoral Act, determining the quota of electors for the purposes of the redistribution to be 64 786.
11. As part of the redistribution process, the augmented Electoral Commission is required to ensure that the number of electors in an electoral division is not more than plus 10 per cent or less than minus 10 per cent of the current enrolment quota (see Appendix B).

Enrolment projections and projected enrolment quota

12. When determining a redistribution, the augmented Electoral Commission is required by paragraph 73(4)(a) of the Electoral Act to ensure, as far as practicable, that the number of electors enrolled in the electoral division at the projection time will not be more than plus 3.5 per cent or less than minus 3.5 per cent of the projected enrolment quota (see Appendix B). This quota is calculated using the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Estimated total number of electors enrolled in the Northern Territory at the projection time (Friday 7 August 2020)}}{\text{Number of members of the House of Representatives to which the Northern Territory is entitled}}$$

13. For the purposes of this redistribution, projected enrolment has been estimated by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The enrolment figures, together with the projected enrolment and processes used to calculate these projections, were made available on the AEC website when the invitation was extended to interested parties to submit suggestions and comments on suggestions.
14. Table B shows the figures used to calculate the projected enrolment quota and the resultant range of the permissible maximum and minimum number of electors in an electoral division at the projection time (discussed further in the section titled 'Statutory requirements for the making of a redistribution').

Table B: Projected enrolment quota and permissible range for the Northern Territory

Estimated total number of electors enrolled in the Northern Territory at the projection time (Friday 7 August 2020)	141 376
Number of members of the House of Representatives to which the Northern Territory is entitled	2
Projected enrolment quota for the Northern Territory	70 688
Permissible maximum number of electors in an electoral division at the projection time (projected enrolment quota + 3.5 per cent)	73 162
Permissible minimum number of electors in an electoral division at the projection time (projected enrolment quota – 3.5 per cent)	68 214

Release of proposed redistribution of the Northern Territory

15. Sub-section 66(1) of the Electoral Act requires the Redistribution Committee to make a proposed redistribution, with section 67 requiring that written reasons for the proposed redistribution be provided.
16. In its report *Proposed redistribution of the Northern Territory into electoral divisions*, the Redistribution Committee outlined its proposed redistribution of the Northern Territory and in Chapter 2 explained the reasons supporting its proposal.⁵ On Friday 9 September 2016, this report was made available on the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) website and in the AEC office located in the Northern Territory.
17. In addition, and as required by sub-section 68(1) of the Electoral Act, the following information was also made available at the AEC office in the Northern Territory from Friday 9 September 2016:
 - maps showing the names and boundaries of each proposed electoral division in the Northern Territory, and
 - copies of the six suggestions and one comment on suggestions made to the redistribution.

Invitation for interested parties to submit objections and comments on objections

18. The Redistribution Committee is required by sub-sections 68(1) and (2) of the Electoral Act to draw attention to the redistribution material available for inspection at AEC offices in the Northern Territory and to invite written objections relating to the proposed redistribution of the Northern Territory and written comments on objections via:
 - a notice published in the Gazette on a Friday,
 - a notice published in two newspapers circulating throughout the Northern Territory, and
 - notices published in such regional newspapers circulating in regions affected by the proposed redistribution as determined by the Redistribution Committee.
19. The notice was published in the Gazette on Friday 9 September 2016. Newspaper notices were published in:
 - the *NT News* and *The Weekend Australian* on Saturday 10 September 2016,
 - the *Palmerston Sun* on Tuesday 13 September 2016,
 - *The Atoll* on Thursday 15 September 2016,⁶
 - *The Islander* and the *Centralian Advocate* on Friday 16 September 2016,⁷ and
 - the *Koori Mail* on Wednesday 21 September 2016.⁸

⁵ Redistribution Committee for the Northern Territory, op. cit., page 21–29

⁶ *The Atoll* is published on a fortnightly basis and covers the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

⁷ *The Islander* is published on a fortnightly basis and covers the Territory of Christmas Island

⁸ *The Koori Mail* is published on a fortnightly basis and is the national indigenous newspaper.

20. In accordance with section 68 of the Electoral Act, these notices included a brief outline of the proposed redistribution, where to view the proposed redistribution, how to participate in the process and where to find further information.⁹ As required by paragraph 68(1)(d), the notices published in the *Palmerston Sun* and the *NT News* included maps showing the names and boundaries of each proposed electoral division in the Northern Territory.
21. Table C presents information on the options for making an objection or comment on an objection, and the extent to which these options were used.

Table C: Options to make an objection or comment on an objection

Options	Objections		Comments on objections	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Form upload on AEC website	2	50.00%	1	100.00%
Email	2	50.00%	0	0.00%
Mail	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Fax	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
In person	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Total	4	100.00%	1	100.00%

22. Interested parties were able to submit written objections from Friday 9 September 2016 until 6pm (ACST) on Friday 7 October 2016, the 4th Friday after the publication of the Gazette notice.¹⁰ During this time, four objections were received by the Electoral Commission (see Appendix C).
23. As required by sub-section 69(2) of the Electoral Act, copies of these objections were made available to members of the public for perusal at the office of the Australian Electoral Officer for the Northern Territory in Darwin from Monday 10 October 2016, the 5th Monday after the publication of the Gazette notice. The objections were also published on the AEC website on this date.
24. Interested parties were able to submit written comments on objections received from Monday 10 October 2015 until 6pm (ACST) on Friday 21 October 2015, the 6th Friday after the publication of the Gazette notice.¹¹ During this time, one comment on objections was received by the Electoral Commission (see Appendix D).
25. As required by sub-section 69(4) of the Electoral Act, a copy of this comment on objections was made available to members of the public for perusal at the office of the Australian Officer for the Northern Territory in Darwin from Monday 24 October 2016, the 7th Monday after the publication of the Gazette notice. The comment on objections was also published on the AEC website on this date.

⁹ A disc included in *Proposed redistribution of the Northern Territory* into electoral divisions provided the material which sub-section 68(1) of the Electoral Act specifies is to be made available at each office of the AEC in the territory undergoing redistribution.

¹⁰ This requirement is specified by paragraph 68(2)(a) of the Electoral Act.

¹¹ This requirement is specified by paragraph 68(2)(b) of the Electoral Act.

Augmented Electoral Commission for the Northern Territory

- 26. Sub-section 70(1) of the Electoral Act specifies that, for the purposes of a redistribution of the Northern Territory, an augmented Electoral Commission for the Northern Territory is established. The membership of the augmented Electoral Commission is specified by sub-section 70(2).
- 27. The membership of the augmented Electoral Commission for the Northern Territory is outlined in Table D.

Table D: Membership of the augmented Electoral Commission for the Northern Territory

Position on the augmented Electoral Commission	Name	Basis for membership
Chairperson	The Hon. Dennis Cowdroy OAM QC	Chairperson of the Electoral Commission
Member	Mr David Kalisch	non-judicial member of the Electoral Commission
Member	Mr Tom Rogers	Electoral Commissioner
Member	Mr Mick Sherry	Australian Electoral Officer for the Northern Territory
Member	Mr Craig Sandy	Surveyor-General of the Northern Territory
Member	Ms Julie Crisp	Auditor-General for the Northern Territory

Note: Shading indicates the members of the Redistribution Committee (chaired by Mr Rogers).

- 28. The augmented Electoral Commission met on:
 - Monday 21 November 2016, and
 - Tuesday 22 November 2016.

Consideration of objections and comments on objections by the augmented Electoral Commission

- 29. The augmented Electoral Commission is required by sub-section 72(1) of the Electoral Act to consider all objections and comments on objections.
- 30. In formulating its redistribution of the Northern Territory, the augmented Electoral Commission considered each of the four objections and one comment on objections. The augmented Electoral Commission found the written submissions made throughout the redistribution process to be a valuable contribution and is appreciative of the time and effort expended by all those who contributed.
- 31. Chapter 2 and Appendix E outline the key themes contained in these objections and comments on objections, and how the augmented Electoral Commission responded to them, having regard to the requirements of the Electoral Act.

Inquiry by the augmented Electoral Commission into objections

32. Sub-section 72(3) of the Electoral Act requires the augmented Electoral Commission to hold an inquiry into an objection unless it is of the opinion:
 - the matters raised in the objection were raised, or are substantially the same as matters that were raised, in:
 - suggestions relating to the redistribution lodged with the Redistribution Committee; or
 - comments lodged with the Redistribution Committee; or
 - the objection is frivolous or vexatious.
33. Analysis of the four objections to the proposed redistribution indicated the matters to be inquired into as the:
 - electoral division in which Wagait Shire is to be located;
 - use of suburb and statistical area boundaries as electoral division boundaries;
 - electoral division in which Litchfield Municipality is to be located;
 - electoral division in which the suburbs of Farrar, Johnston, Mitchell, Zuccoli and Yarrowonga are to be located;
 - alignment of federal electoral division boundaries with territory electoral division boundaries; and
 - origin of enrolment projections.
34. The manner in which inquiries into objections is to be conducted by the augmented Electoral Commission is specified in sub-sections 72(4) to 72(9) of the Electoral Act.
35. The augmented Electoral Commission held one inquiry on Tuesday 22 November 2016 in Darwin.
36. Invitations to attend the inquiry were sent to those who made objections to the proposed redistribution or commented on objections. A notice of invitation was placed in the *NT News* on Saturday 12 November 2016 and in the *Palmerston Sun* on Tuesday 15 November 2016.
37. Appendix F lists those who made submissions to the inquiry and a transcript is included with this report. The augmented Electoral Commission found the submissions presented by those participating at the inquiry to be a valuable contribution and is appreciative of the time and effort expended by those who contributed.
38. The augmented Electoral Commission's response to the matters raised at the inquiry is summarised in Chapter 2 and Appendix E.

Conclusion of consideration of objections by the augmented Electoral Commission

39. Sub-section 72(2) of the Electoral Act requires the augmented Electoral Commission to conclude its consideration of the objections before the expiration of 60 days after the close of comments on objections. As comments on objections closed on Friday 21 October 2016, the augmented Electoral Commission was required to conclude its consideration by Tuesday 20 December 2016.
40. Consideration of objections by the augmented Electoral Commission was concluded on Monday 5 December 2016.

Statutory requirements for the making of a redistribution

41. Section 73 of the Electoral Act requires the augmented Electoral Commission to adhere to specific criteria in determining boundaries of electoral divisions.
42. The augmented Electoral Commission endeavoured to ensure that the number of electors in each Northern Territory electoral division would:
 - meet the requirement of sub-section 73(4) of the Electoral Act for the number of electors in an electoral division to not be less than 90 per cent or more than 110 per cent of the current enrolment quota of 64 786 electors (Table A indicates the number of electors enrolled in each electoral division in the Northern Territory must therefore be between 58 308 and 71 264), and
 - meet the requirement of paragraph 73(4)(a) of the Electoral Act for the number of electors projected to be in an electoral division to not be less than 96.5 per cent or more than 103.5 per cent of the projected enrolment quota of 70 688 at the projection time of Friday 7 August 2020 (Table B indicates the number of electors projected to be enrolled in each electoral division in the Northern Territory at the projection time of Friday 7 August 2020 must be between 68 214 and 73 162).
43. The augmented Electoral Commission also gave due consideration to the requirements of paragraph 73(4)(b) of the Electoral Act:
 - i. community of interests in the electoral divisions including economic, social and regional interests,
 - ii. means of communication and travel in the electoral division,
 - iv. the physical features and area of the electoral divisions, and
 - v. the boundaries of existing electoral divisions, with this factor being subordinate to consideration of factors i, ii and iv.
44. Further details regarding these requirements are in Appendix B.
45. Appendix G outlines the mechanics of constructing electoral divisions.

Public announcement by the augmented Electoral Commission

46. Once its inquiries into objections are completed, sub-section 72(10) of the Electoral Act requires the augmented Electoral Commission to:
 - make a proposed redistribution of the territory, and
 - make a public announcement.
47. While the augmented Electoral Commission is able to choose the means by which this public announcement is issued,¹² sub-section 72(12) requires the following content:
 - the substance of the augmented Electoral Commission's findings or conclusions on the initial objections to the Redistribution Committee's proposed redistribution,
 - the augmented Electoral Commission's proposed redistribution of the territory, and
 - a statement whether, in the opinion of the augmented Electoral Commission, its proposed redistribution is significantly different from the Redistribution Committee's proposed redistribution.¹³
48. The augmented Electoral Commission did not consider their proposed redistribution to be significantly different to that of the Redistribution Committee. The text of the augmented Electoral Commission's public announcement, which was made on Wednesday 7 December 2016, is at Appendix H.

Determination made by the augmented Electoral Commission for the Northern Territory

49. In accordance with sub-section 73(1) of the Electoral Act, the names and boundaries of electoral divisions for a territory are determined when the augmented Electoral Commission publishes a notice in the Gazette.
50. The text of the notice published in the Gazette on Tuesday 7 February 2017 is at Appendix I.

¹² Paragraph 72(10)(b) of the Electoral Act states the announcement may be made by a statement to the media or by other expeditious means.

¹³ In the event the augmented Electoral Commission considers their proposed redistribution to be significantly different to that of the Redistribution Committee, paragraph 72(12)(d) specifies the inclusion of additional information in the public announcement.

Chapter 2

The augmented Electoral Commission's redistribution and reasons for the redistribution

This chapter outlines the augmented Electoral Commission's redistribution and the reasons for this redistribution. Also included is the augmented Electoral Commission's approach to formulating the names and boundaries of electoral divisions.

Augmented Electoral Commission's redistribution of the Northern Territory

51. The augmented Electoral Commission was required to redistribute the Northern Territory into two electoral divisions.
52. There are two components to the augmented Electoral Commission's redistribution:
 - the names of the two electoral divisions, and
 - where to draw the boundaries between the two electoral divisions in the Northern Territory.
53. The augmented Electoral Commission decided to adopt the proposal of the Redistribution Committee, as outlined in *Proposed redistribution of the Northern Territory into electoral divisions*, without change.
54. The two electoral divisions in the Northern Territory are therefore the Division of Lingiari and the Division of Solomon.
55. The Division of Lingiari consists of:
 - the Alice Springs Municipality, Barkly Shire, Belyuen Community Council, Central Desert Shire, Coomalie Community Government Council, East Arnhem Shire, Katherine Municipality, Litchfield Municipality, MacDonnell Shire, Roper Gulf Shire, Victoria Daly Shire, Wagait Shire, West Arnhem Shire and West Daly Region,
 - the towns of Alyangula, Nhulunbuy and Yulara,
 - the unincorporated areas north and east of Litchfield Municipality, south-east of Coomalie Shire, and west of Litchfield and Palmerston Municipality,
 - part of the Palmerston Municipality, specifically the suburbs of Farrar, Johnston, Mitchell, Yarrowonga and Zuccoli,
 - Tiwi Islands,
 - Groote Eylandt,
 - the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, and
 - the Territory of Christmas Island.

56. The Division of Solomon consists of:
- the Darwin Municipality,
 - the Palmerston Municipality, with the exception of the suburbs of Farrar, Johnston, Mitchell, Yarrowonga and Zuccoli, and
 - the unincorporated areas of the Darwin Rates Act Area and East Arm.

Augmented Electoral Commission's approach to naming electoral divisions

57. The naming of federal electoral divisions has been the subject of a number of recommendations from parliamentary committees. The 'Guidelines for naming federal electoral divisions' (the guidelines) were developed by the AEC from recommendations made by the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters in 1995 in its *Report on the Effectiveness and Appropriateness of the Redistribution Provisions of Parts III and IV of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*. The guidelines were offered to interested persons when this redistribution was advertised, and are publicly available on the AEC website (see Appendix J).
58. The Redistribution Committee proposed retaining the names of the Division of Lingiari and the Division of Solomon.¹⁴
59. One objection to the proposed redistribution supported retaining both names.¹⁵
60. In the absence of arguments in support of altering the names of the two electoral divisions, the augmented Electoral Commission concluded the Redistribution Committee's proposal should be adopted. The electoral divisions will continue to be known as the Division of Lingiari and the Division of Solomon.

Augmented Electoral Commission's approach to formulating electoral boundaries

61. In deciding whether to amend the Redistribution Committee's proposal to incorporate a concept submitted in an objection, comment on objection or submission to the inquiry, the augmented Electoral Commission was mindful whether the suggested amendment would improve the Redistribution Committee's proposal. As the augmented Electoral Commission's formulation of electoral divisions must conform to the requirements of the Electoral Act, potential amendments were also analysed with respect to the requirements of sub-section 73(4) of the Electoral Act.
62. The primary requirement was to ensure each electoral division remains within the permissible maximum and minimum number of electors around the projected enrolment quota (see Table B) and the current enrolment quota (see Table A). In modifying the boundaries of either electoral division proposed by the Redistribution Committee, the augmented Electoral Commission was therefore required to ensure that both electoral divisions continued to fall within the permissible ranges for the maximum and minimum number of electors in an electoral division.

¹⁴ Redistribution Committee for the Northern Territory, op. cit., page 20

¹⁵ OB4 – Australian Labor Party NT Branch referred to the names of both electoral divisions in the Northern Territory.

63. Similarly, when considering adjusting the boundary of an electoral division to better reflect one community of interest, the augmented Electoral Commission observed that such an adjustment could prompt concerns about one or more different communities of interest.

Adjusting the boundaries of existing electoral divisions

64. In constructing their proposal, the Redistribution Committee considered it would result in electoral divisions which:
- could accommodate growth in the Northern Territory,
 - kept existing community of interests, as represented by local government areas, together where possible,
 - used strong and readily identifiable features, such as major roads, as boundaries, where possible,
 - minimised the movement of electors between the two electoral divisions, where possible, and
 - was consistent with suggestions and comments made by interested individuals to the redistribution process.¹⁶
65. The Redistribution Committee made changes to the boundaries of both electoral divisions.¹⁷
66. The augmented Electoral Commission considered the Redistribution Committee's proposal and agreed with its proposals.
67. Where an alternative to the Redistribution Committee's proposal was advocated, the augmented Electoral Commission considered whether modifications should be made to address the alternative. The following paragraphs, together with Appendix E, outline the augmented Electoral Commission's decision with respect to the alternatives offered.

The electoral division in which the Wagait Shire is located

68. The Redistribution Committee proposed locating the Wagait Shire in the proposed Division of Lingjari.¹⁸
69. One objection was received advocating the Wagait Shire should be located in the proposed Division of Solomon on the basis of community of interest and transport links.¹⁹
70. The augmented Electoral Commission noted the one submission made in this objection. However, adoption of this idea would create an electoral division which is non-contiguous. While there are several electoral divisions which are non-contiguous, including the Division of Lingjari, these electoral divisions are linked by bridges or incorporate islands. The augmented Electoral Commission therefore considered that the suggested concept, namely altering the proposed boundary to incorporate the Wagait Shire into the Division of Solomon, was not sufficiently persuasive.
71. The augmented Electoral Commission concluded the Redistribution Committee's proposal should stand unchanged and Wagait Shire should be located in the Division of Lingjari.

¹⁶ Redistribution Committee for the Northern Territory, op. cit., page 6

¹⁷ *ibid.*, page 21

¹⁸ *ibid.*, page 5

¹⁹ OB1 – Lorraine Gardner advocated this change. COB1 – Darren McSweeney referred to this matter. I1 – Lorraine Gardner and I2 – Jeff Waddell referred to this matter.

72. The augmented Electoral Commission observed there is potential for future population growth in the area in and surrounding the Wagait Shire and notes that, should this occur, the electoral division in which the Wagait Shire is located could change in the future.

The Redistribution Committee's proposal should be adopted without alteration

73. The Redistribution Committee proposed altering the boundary between the two divisions such that:
- the entirety of the Litchfield Municipality is located in the proposed Division of Lingiari, requiring the transfer of the suburbs of Holtze, Knuckey Lagoon, Micket Creek and part of Shoal Bay from the Division of Solomon to the proposed Division of Lingiari, and
 - parts of the Palmerston Municipality are located in the proposed Division of Lingiari, requiring the transfer of the suburbs of Farrar, Johnston, Mitchell, Zuccoli and part of Yarrowonga from the Division of Solomon to the proposed Division of Lingiari.²⁰
74. Two objections supported the Redistribution Committee's proposed redistribution.²¹ One objection observed that the boundary proposed by the Redistribution Committee is simple, strong and logical.
75. The augmented Electoral Commission noted the support expressed for the Redistribution Committee's proposal.
76. The augmented Electoral Commission therefore concluded that the Redistribution Committee's proposal was sound and should stand unchanged.

The electoral divisions should remain unchanged

77. In its report, the Redistribution Committee noted it was necessary to alter the divisional boundaries as neither electoral division fell within the range for the permissible maximum and minimum number of projected electors as at Friday 7 August 2020. Accordingly, the Redistribution Committee was obligated to alter the existing divisional boundaries until this requirement could be met.²²
78. One objection advocated that the Redistribution Committee's proposal should not be adopted and instead the boundary between the two electoral divisions should be left unchanged.²³
79. The augmented Electoral Commission noted:
- the primary factor for consideration in determining electoral divisions is to ensure the two numerical requirements of the Electoral Act would be met,
 - the electoral divisions as they existed at the commencement of the redistribution only met one of the two numerical requirements, and
 - leaving the electoral divisions unaltered would not meet the requirements of the Electoral Act.
80. The augmented Electoral Commission therefore concluded the Redistribution Committee's proposal was sound and there was not a need for any further alterations to be made to the Redistribution Committee's proposed boundary between the two electoral divisions.

²⁰ Redistribution Committee for the Northern Territory, op. cit., page 5

²¹ Objections which referred to this matter: OB2 – Jeff Waddell and OB3 – Darren McSweeney. COB1 – Darren McSweeney also referred to this matter.

²² Redistribution Committee for the Northern Territory, op. cit., page 19

²³ OB4 – Australian Labor Party NT Branch advocated this issue. COB1 – Darren McSweeney also referred to this matter.

The electoral division in which the suburbs of Farrar, Johnston, Mitchell, Zuccoli and Yarrowonga are located

81. The Redistribution Committee proposed that parts of the Palmerston Municipality be located in the proposed Division of Lingjari, requiring the transfer of the suburbs of Farrar, Johnston, Mitchell, Zuccoli and part of Yarrowonga from the Division of Solomon to the proposed Division of Lingjari.²⁴
82. Two objections supported the Redistribution Committee's proposal.²⁵ One objection advocated that these suburbs, due to a shared community of interest, should be retained with the remainder of the Palmerston Municipality in the proposed Division of Solomon.²⁶
83. The augmented Electoral Commission noted:
 - the primary factor for consideration in determining electoral divisions is to ensure the two numerical requirements of the Electoral Act would be met, and
 - retaining Palmerston Municipality in its entirety in the proposed Division of Solomon would not enable these two numerical requirements to be met.
84. The augmented Electoral Commission therefore concluded the Redistribution Committee's proposal should stand unchanged and the suburbs of Farrar, Johnston, Mitchell, Zuccoli and Yarrowonga should be located in the Division of Lingjari.

The electoral division in which the Litchfield Municipality is located

85. The Redistribution Committee proposed the entirety of the Litchfield Municipality be located in the proposed Division of Lingjari, requiring the transfer of the suburbs of Holtze, Knuckey Lagoon, Micket Creek and part of Shoal Bay from the Division of Solomon to the proposed Division of Lingjari.²⁷
86. Three of the objections received supported the Redistribution Committee's proposed location of the Litchfield Municipality.²⁸ However, while two objections supported the Redistribution Committee's proposal in its entirety, one objection advocated that only the portion of the Litchfield Municipality located in the Division of Solomon should be transferred to the Division of Lingjari.
87. The augmented Electoral Commission noted:
 - the primary factor for consideration in determining electoral divisions is to ensure the two numerical requirements of the Electoral Act would be met, and
 - moving only the Litchfield Municipality would not enable these two numerical requirements to be met.
88. The augmented Electoral Commission therefore concluded the Redistribution Committee's proposal should stand unchanged and Litchfield Municipality should be located in the Division of Lingjari.

24 Redistribution Committee for the Northern Territory, op. cit., page 5

25 Objections which referred to this matter: OB2 – Jeff Waddell and OB3 – Darren McSweeney, COB1 – Darren McSweeney also referred to this matter.

26 OB4 – Australian Labor Party NT Branch referred to this matter.

27 Redistribution Committee for the Northern Territory, op. cit., page 5

28 Objections which referred to this matter: OB2 – Jeff Waddell, OB3 – Darren McSweeney and OB4 – Australian Labor Party NT Branch. 12 – Jeff Waddell referred to this matter.

The alignment of federal electoral division boundaries with territory electoral division boundaries, suburb boundaries and statistical area boundaries

89. In constructing the boundaries of proposed electoral divisions, the Redistribution Committee sought to:
- avoid splitting Statistical Area 1s (SA1s)²⁹, where possible,
 - follow cadastral boundaries,³⁰ where possible, and
 - keep to administrative boundaries, where possible.³¹
90. One objection observed that the boundaries selected by the Redistribution Committee were not always readily observable as suburb and statistical areas are not always clearly defined.³²
91. The augmented Electoral Commission noted that the boundary proposed is likely to become a major road in the future as the suburbs of Zuccoli and Mitchell expand into the area south of Lambrick Avenue. Accordingly, the alternative proposed would not result in an improved outcome.
92. One objection argued that regard should be given to the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly divisional boundaries in order to ensure that Legislative Assembly divisions are not split across multiple federal electoral divisions.³³
93. The augmented Electoral Commission notes that Legislative Assembly divisions can be used to identify communities of interests. However, under the Electoral Act community of interests within electoral divisions is subject to the numerical requirements being met. Ensuring that federal electoral divisions adhere to Legislative Assembly divisional boundaries would result in federal electoral divisions which would be outside the numerical requirements of the Electoral Act.
94. The augmented Electoral Commission therefore concluded that the boundaries proposed by the Redistribution Committee should not be altered and the Redistribution Committee's proposal should stand unchanged.

Enrolment projections

95. For the purposes of this redistribution, projected enrolment as at Friday 7 August 2020 was calculated by the ABS.³⁴ Three papers explaining the calculations to derive these projections were made available on the AEC website in February 2016.³⁵
96. One objection submitted that, at the time the redistribution commenced on Thursday 15 October 2015, the Division of Lingiari was experiencing levels of under-enrolment, with consequential impact on the derivation of the enrolment projections. This objection further advocated that the augmented Electoral Commission should alter the enrolment projections.³⁶

29 See Appendix G for a discussion of how the AEC uses SA1s. SA1s are the smallest unit at which ABS makes available disaggregated Census data. At the time of the 2011 Census, there were 54 805 SA1s with populations in the range of 200 – 800. SA1s, which are part of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard, are defined by the ABS and remain stable between censuses. The SA1s used for this redistribution were defined for the 2011 Census.

30 Cadastral boundaries are the boundaries of private and public properties and land parcels, including Crown land.

31 Redistribution Committee for the Northern Territory, *op. cit.*, page 26

32 The matter was referred to by OB3 – Darren McSweeney.

33 The matter was referred to by OB4 – Australian Labor Party NT Branch. COB1 – Darren McSweeney and I2 – Jeff Waddell also referred to this matter.

34 Redistribution Committee for the Northern Territory, *op. cit.*, page 11

35 These papers are available at: <http://www.aec.gov.au/Electorates/Redistributions/2015/nt/enrolment-projections.htm>

36 The matter was referred to by OB4 – Australian Labor Party NT Branch. COB1 – Darren McSweeney also referred to this matter.

97. The augmented Electoral Commission noted that the electoral roll is continuously updated. The electoral roll is constantly increasing and decreasing as electors enrol or re-enrol and are added to the electoral roll, move between electoral divisions or are removed from the electoral roll. Further, it was noted that these effects are more readily seen when looking at the monthly enrolment figures,³⁷ which also show that while the level of enrolment increases prior to an electoral event, it may also decrease in the months following an electoral event. The augmented Electoral Commission considered the arguments offered in support of altering the enrolment projections were not sufficient to warrant change.
98. The augmented Electoral Commission concluded the enrolment projections are sound and should stand unchanged.

Movement of electors between electoral divisions

99. The Redistribution Committee noted that, as the electoral divisions in existence at the start of the redistribution did not satisfy the range permitted by the Electoral Act for the maximum and minimum number of projected electors in an electoral division at the projection time, it was necessary to alter the boundary between the two electoral divisions until both of the ranges permitted by the Electoral Act for the maximum and minimum number of electors in an electoral division were met.³⁸
100. The augmented Electoral Commission was also obligated to place the boundary between the two electoral divisions such that the two ranges permitted by the Electoral Act would be met.
101. As the augmented Electoral Commission adopted the Redistribution Committee's proposal without amendment, the extent of elector movements between electoral divisions is unchanged from that proposed by the Redistribution Committee.³⁹
102. Table E outlines the extent of elector movements resulting from the augmented Electoral Commission's redistribution.

Table E: Summary of movement of electors between electoral divisions

	Number	Percentage
Electors remaining in their electoral division	126 891	97.93%
Electors transferred to another electoral division	2 680	2.07%
Total	129 571	100.00%

103. In making this redistribution, the augmented Electoral Commission notes that section 56A of the Electoral Act requires the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and the Territory of Christmas Island to be included in the same electoral division of the Northern Territory.
104. The augmented Electoral Commission decided to retain the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and the Territory of Christmas Island in the Division of Lingjari.

37 Sub-section 58(1) of the Electoral Act requires the Electoral Commissioner to ascertain the number of electors enrolled in each electoral division in each state and the Australian Capital Territory as at the close of a day in the month and to publish a statement in the Gazette presenting these numbers. Monthly enrolment is also published on the AEC website at: http://www.aec.gov.au/Enrolling_to_vote/Enrolment_stats/gazetted/index.htm

38 Redistribution Committee for the Northern Territory, op. cit., page 18–19

39 *ibid.*, page 27

Redistribution of the Northern Territory – by electoral division

105. For each of the electoral divisions in the Northern Territory, Table F presents:

- initial enrolment based on enrolment figures as at Thursday 15 October 2015,
- percentage variation from the current enrolment quota,
- projected enrolment as at Friday 7 August 2020,
- percentage variation from the projected enrolment quota, and
- the approximate area of each electoral division.

Table F: Summary of electoral divisions

Electoral division	Enrolment as at Thursday 15 October 2015		Projected enrolment as at Friday 7 August 2020		Approximate area
	Number	Percentage variation from the current enrolment quota	Number	Percentage variation from the projected enrolment quota	
Lingiari	64 552	-0.36%	69 914	-1.09%	1 348 157.94 km ²
Solomon	65 019	0.36%	71 462	1.09%	190.61 km ²
Total	129 571		141 376		

106. Numerical summaries of the electoral divisions are provided in Appendix K.

Chapter 3

Implementation of the redistribution

This chapter outlines what the implementation of the redistribution means in practice for residents of the Northern Territory, the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and the Territory of Christmas Island.

107. In accordance with sub-section 73(1) of the Electoral Act, the electoral divisions described in this report came into effect from Tuesday 7 February 2017 as this is the day on which the augmented Electoral Commission published a notice in the Gazette determining the names and boundaries of electoral divisions in the Northern Territory.
108. However, members of the House of Representatives will not represent or contest these electoral divisions until after a writ is issued for a general election following the expiration or dissolution of the House of Representatives.
109. In practice, this means:
 - electors will continue to be represented by the members of the House of Representatives who were elected at the most recent federal general election on Saturday 2 July 2016 or at a by-election held after this date,
 - members of the House of Representatives represent the electoral divisions which were in place at the most recent federal general election on Saturday 2 July 2016,
 - where relevant, allowances for members of the House of Representatives are calculated based on the electoral divisions in place at the most recent federal general election,
 - from Tuesday 7 February 2017, enrolment statistics will be published based on the electoral divisions described in this report,⁴⁰ and
 - from Tuesday 7 February 2017, members of the House of Representatives are able to request copies of the electoral roll for any electoral division which includes all or part of the electoral division for which they were elected.⁴¹

When do the new electoral divisions apply?

110. While the names and new boundaries of electoral divisions apply from Tuesday 7 February 2017, electoral events will not be contested on these new electoral divisions until a writ is issued for a general election following the expiration or dissolution of the House of Representatives.

⁴⁰ Section 58 of the Electoral Act requires the Electoral Commissioner to publish on a monthly basis, via a notice in the Gazette, the number of electors enrolled in each electoral division, the average divisional enrolment for each state and territory and the extent to which each electoral division differs from the average divisional enrolment.

⁴¹ Item 15 of sub-section 90B(1) of the Electoral Act specifies the information from the electoral roll which can be supplied to a member of the House of Representatives whose electoral division is affected by a redistribution.

Do I need to do anything to change my electoral division?

111. Individuals do not need to take any action where their electoral division changes as the result of a redistribution. Section 86 of the Electoral Act requires the AEC to:
- transfer the elector to the new electoral roll, and
 - notify the elector their electoral division has changed.⁴²

For how long will the new electoral divisions apply?

112. Sub-section 73(1) of the Electoral Act provides that the new electoral divisions apply until the determination of the next redistribution via publication of a notice in the Gazette. This determination may be made as a result of sub-section 73(1) or sub-section 76(6) of the Electoral Act.

On which electoral divisions would a by-election be contested?

113. By-elections are conducted using the electoral divisions which existed prior to the determination of the redistribution, as provided by sub-sections 73(6) and (7) of the Electoral Act.

How do I find out if my electoral division has changed?

114. You can check your enrolment by using the AEC's online enrolment verification facility available at: www.aec.gov.au/check. For privacy reasons, your electoral enrolment will only be confirmed if the details you enter are an exact match to your details on the electoral roll.
115. Alternatively, you can contact the AEC on 13 23 26 or use the 'Find my electorate' tool on the AEC website at electorate.aec.gov.au, which will enable you to find:
- which federal electorate you live in,
 - a profile and map of your electoral division, and
 - the name of the incumbent member of the House of Representatives for your electoral division.

Do I need to know my electoral division to enrol or update my enrolment details?

116. No, all you need to do is provide the details of your residential address and the AEC will tell you which electoral division you are enrolled for. You can enrol by using:
- the AEC's online enrolment service available at: www.aec.gov.au/enrol/,
 - using the single page online form available from the AEC website,
 - completing and printing a PDF enrolment form available from the AEC website and returning it to the AEC, or
 - picking up an enrolment form at any AEC office or Australia Post outlet and returning it to the AEC.

⁴² Sub-section 86(3) provides for this notification to be via a notice published in a newspaper or a notice delivered to the elector's address.

Where can I find information about the new electoral divisions?

117. Maps and descriptions of the new electoral divisions are available on the AEC website.

Where can I find information about the electoral divisions which applied at the 2016 federal election?

118. Maps and descriptions of previous electoral divisions are available on the AEC website.

Is geospatial data for the new electoral divisions available?

119. Individual state/territory boundaries are available on the relevant redistribution page and on the *Maps and Spatial Data* page of the AEC website.

Appendices

Appendix A: Summary of compliance with legislative requirements

Provision of the Electoral Act	Requirement	Compliance
ss.68(1)	Maps showing the names and boundaries of each proposed electoral division, copies of suggestions and comments on suggestions and reasons for the proposed redistribution to be made available in each AEC office in the state	The required information was made available in the AEC office in the Northern Territory from Friday 9 September 2016
ss.68(1) and (2)	Invitation to peruse maps showing the names and boundaries of each proposed electoral division, copies of suggestions and comments on suggestions and reasons for the proposed redistribution and to make written objections and written comments on objections	Gazette notice published on Friday 9 September 2016 Newspaper notices were published in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the <i>NT News</i> and <i>The Weekend Australian</i> on Saturday 10 September 2016, ▪ the <i>Palmerston Sun</i> on Tuesday 13 September 2016, ▪ <i>The Atoll</i> on Thursday 15 September 2016, ▪ <i>The Islander</i> and the <i>Centralian Advocate</i> on Friday 16 September 2016, and ▪ the <i>Koori Mail</i> on Wednesday 21 September 2016
para 68(2)(a)	Objections close at 6pm on the 4th Friday after publication of the Gazette notice	Objections closed at 6pm (ACST) on Friday 7 October 2016
ss.69(2)	Objections made available for public perusal starting on the 5th Monday after publication of the Gazette notice	Objections were made available in the office of the Australian Electoral Officer for the Northern Territory and on the AEC website on Monday 10 October 2016
para 68(2)(b)	Comments on objections close at 6pm on the 6th Friday after publication of the Gazette notice	Comments on objections closed at 6pm (ACST) on Friday 21 October 2016
ss.69(4)	Comments on objections made available for public perusal starting on the 7th Monday after publication of the Gazette notice	Comments on objections were made available in the office of the Australian Electoral Officer for the Northern Territory and on the AEC website on Monday 24 October 2016

Provision of the Electoral Act	Requirement	Compliance
ss.72(1)	Consideration of all objections and comments on objections received by the statutory timeframe	The augmented Electoral Commission considered each of the four objections and one comment on objections received
ss.72(3)	Inquiry/inquiries into objections held (if required)	An inquiry into objections was held in Darwin on Tuesday 22 November 2016
ss.72(2)	Consideration of objections is to conclude before the expiration of 60 days after the close of comments on objections	Consideration of objections by the augmented Electoral Commission was concluded on Monday 5 December 2016
para 72(10)(b)	The augmented Electoral Commission announces the proposed redistribution	The augmented Electoral Commission announced its proposed redistribution on Wednesday 7 December 2016
ss.72(12) and (13)	Further objection period – if required	A further objection period was not required
ss.73(1)	Determination of names and boundaries of electoral divisions published in the Gazette	The names and boundaries of electoral divisions were determined by a notice published in the Gazette on Tuesday 7 February 2017
s.74	Reasons for the determination are stated in writing	The augmented Electoral Commission's reasons for the determination are stated in Chapter 2 and Appendix E of this report
s.56A	Until the Electoral Commissioner determines the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands or Christmas Island is entitled to a member of the House of Representatives, a redistribution of the Northern Territory shall be such that both territories are included in the same electoral division	The augmented Electoral Commission has decided to retain the Territories of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Christmas Island in the Division of Lingiari

Appendix B: Operation of statutory requirements for the making of a redistribution

Section 73 of the Electoral Act requires the augmented Electoral Commission to abide by the following requirements:

- make a determination of the names and boundaries of the electoral divisions of the Northern Territory by a notice published in the Gazette,
- ensure the number of electoral divisions the Northern Territory is divided into equals the number of members of the House of Representatives to be chosen in the Northern Territory at a general election, and
- abide by the following requirements:

(4) In making the determination, the augmented Electoral Commission:

(a) shall, as far as practicable, endeavour to ensure that the number of electors enrolled in each Electoral Division in the State or Territory will not, at the projection time determined under section 63A, be less than 96.5% or more than 103.5% of the average divisional enrolment of that State or Territory at that time; and

(b) subject to paragraph (a), shall give due consideration, in relation to each Electoral Division, to:

(i) community of interests within the Electoral Division, including economic, social and regional interests;

(ii) means of communication and travel within the Electoral Division;

(iv) the physical features and area of the Electoral Division; and

(v) the boundaries of existing Divisions in the State or Territory;

and subject thereto the quota of electors for the State or Territory shall be the basis for the redistribution, and the augmented Electoral Commission may adopt a margin of allowance, to be used whenever necessary, but in no case shall the quota be departed from to a greater extent than one-tenth more or one-tenth less.

(4A) When applying subsection (4), the augmented Electoral Commission must treat the matter in subparagraph (4)(b)(v) as subordinate to the matters in subparagraphs (4)(b)(i), (ii) and (iv).

These statutory requirements are expressed in a hierarchical order.

The purpose of paragraph 4(a) is suggested by its history. It has undergone some transformation since the *Commonwealth Electoral Legislation Amendment Act 1983* stipulated that boundaries were to be drawn, as far as practicable, to achieve equal numbers of electors in each of a state's electoral divisions three-and-a-half years after a redistribution. By 1984 'it was observed that the three-and-a-half year rule had in some areas forced the adoption, on purely numerical grounds, of boundaries which took little account of perceived community of interest'.⁴³ Therefore, in 1987,

⁴³ Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters, *Report on the Effectiveness and Appropriateness of the Redistribution Provisions of Parts III and IV of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*, December 1995, paragraph 4.3

the rule was relaxed to permit a measure of tolerance to plus or minus two percent from average projected enrolment. Subsequently, the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters concluded that:

the numerical criteria do not allow “due consideration”, in the words of the Act, to be given to the qualitative factors. Rather, the political parties and others attempting to frame electoral boundaries essentially find themselves engaged in a mathematical modelling exercise. In order to relax the enrolment requirements to that extent necessary to allow a realistic degree of flexibility the Committee recommends ... that subsections 66(3)(a) and 73(4)(a) of the Electoral Act be amended, so as to extend the variation from average divisional enrolment allowed three-and-a-half years after a redistribution from two to 3.5 per cent.⁴⁴

The Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters also, in the same report, refers to its recommended amendment as one that ‘would maintain substantial restrictions on malapportionment [and] would allow other legitimate policy objectives to be more effectively met’.

Paragraph 4(a) follows this recommendation. The terms of the recommendation, and the discussion which preceded it, make clear the purpose of paragraph 4(a), as it now stands, and how it was intended to interact with the other criteria set out in the sub-paragraphs of paragraph (b), to which also ‘due consideration’ must be given. The augmented Electoral Commission has considered the objections, comment on objections and submissions to the inquiry and made its redistribution on this basis.

In summary, the primary criteria are to:

- endeavour to ensure that the number of electors in the electoral divisions are within a range of 3.5 per cent below or above the projected enrolment quota at the projection time, and
- ensure that current enrolments are within 10 per cent below or above the current enrolment quota.

The secondary criteria are community of interests, means of communication and travel, and physical features and area. The augmented Electoral Commission also considers the boundaries of existing electoral divisions; however this criterion is subordinate to the others.

44 *ibid.*, paragraph 4.11

Appendix C: Objections to the proposed redistribution of the Northern Territory

Four written objections were received.

No.	Submitted by	Topics referred to	Divisions referred to
OB1	Lorraine Gardner	Division boundaries	Lingiari and Solomon
OB2	Jeff Waddell	Division boundaries	Lingiari and Solomon
OB3	Darren McSweeney	Division boundaries	Lingiari and Solomon
OB4	Australian Labor Party NT Branch	Division names and division boundaries	Lingiari and Solomon

Appendix D: Comments on objections to the proposed redistribution of the Northern Territory

One written comment on objections was received.

No.	Submitted by	Topics referred to	Divisions referred to	Objections referred to in comment
COB1	Darren McSweeney	Division boundaries	Lingiari and Solomon	OB1
				OB2
				OB4

Appendix E: Augmented Electoral Commission's response to themes contained in objections, comments on objections and in submissions to the inquiry into objections

Objections and comments on objections recommend ...	Submission		The augmented Electoral Commission has concluded ...
	No.	Submitted by	
the names of both electoral divisions in the Northern Territory should be retained	OB4	Australian Labor Party NT Branch	the electoral divisions will be known as the Division of Lingiari and the Division of Solomon, as proposed by the Redistribution Committee
Wagait Shire should be located in the Division of Solomon	OB1	Lorraine Gardner	to retain the Wagait Shire in the Division of Lingiari, as proposed by the Redistribution Committee
	I1	Lorraine Gardner	
Wagait Shire should not be located in the Division of Solomon but should remain in the Division of Lingiari, as proposed by the Redistribution Committee	COB1	Darren McSweeney	to retain the Wagait Shire in the Division of Lingiari, as proposed by the Redistribution Committee
	I2	Jeff Waddell	
the boundary proposed by the Redistribution Committee should be adopted	OB2	Jeff Waddell	to adopt the boundaries as proposed by the Redistribution Committee
	OB3	Darren McSweeney	
	COB1	Darren McSweeney	
the boundary between the two electoral divisions not be altered	OB4	Australian Labor Party NT Branch	the boundary between the two electoral divisions be altered, as proposed by the Redistribution Committee
the Palmerston suburbs of Farrar, Johnston, Mitchell, Zuccoli and Yarrowonga should be included in the Division of Lingiari, as proposed by the Redistribution Committee	OB3	Darren McSweeney	to retain the Palmerston suburbs of Farrar, Johnston, Mitchell, Zuccoli and Yarrowonga in the Division of Lingiari, as proposed by the Redistribution Committee
	COB1	Darren McSweeney	
Palmerston suburbs should not be located in the Division of Lingiari, as proposed by the Redistribution Committee, but should remain in the Division of Solomon	OB4	Australian Labor Party NT Branch	to retain the Palmerston suburbs of Farrar, Johnston, Mitchell, Zuccoli and Yarrowonga in the Division of Lingiari, as proposed by the Redistribution Committee
the suburb of Gunn should remain in the Division of Solomon, as proposed by the Redistribution Committee	OB3	Darren McSweeney	to retain the suburb of Gunn in the Division of Solomon, as proposed by the Redistribution Committee
in the area of the suburb of Zuccoli, the boundary should follow the creek bed south of Lambrick Avenue	OB3	Darren McSweeney	the boundary between the two divisions at this point will remain as proposed by the Redistribution Committee
the entirety of the Litchfield Municipality should be included in the Division of Lingiari, as proposed by the Redistribution Committee	OB4	Australian Labor Party NT Branch	to retain the Litchfield Municipality in the Division of Lingiari, as proposed by the Redistribution Committee
	COB1	Darren McSweeney	
	I2	Jeff Waddell	

Objections and comments on objections recommend ...	Submission		The augmented Electoral Commission has concluded ...
	No.	Submitted by	
regard should be given to the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly divisional boundaries in order to ensure that Legislative Assembly divisions are not split across multiple federal electoral divisions	OB4	Australian Labor Party NT Branch	while Legislative Assembly divisions could be used to identify communities of interest, this factor is a secondary consideration under the requirements of the Electoral Act
regard should not be given to the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly divisional boundaries in determining federal electoral divisions	COB1 I2	Darren McSweeney Jeff Waddell	while Legislative Assembly divisions could be used to identify communities of interest, this factor is a secondary consideration under the requirements of the Electoral Act
the enrolment projections should be adjusted to account for under-enrolment in the Division of Lingjari when the redistribution commenced	OB4	Australian Labor Party NT Branch	the enrolment projections provided when the suggestions period opened will remain unadjusted
the enrolment projections should not be adjusted	COB1	Darren McSweeney	the enrolment projections provided when the suggestions period opened will remain unadjusted

OB = objection received, COB = comment on objection received and I = inquiry participant (refer to Appendix C, Appendix D or Appendix F for full list)

Appendix F: Inquiry into objections

Two submissions were made at the inquiry held by the augmented Electoral Commission in Darwin on Tuesday 22 November 2016.

No.	Participant
I1	Lorraine Gardner
I2	Jeff Waddell

Appendix G: Constructing electoral boundaries

The AEC maintains the electoral roll on the basis of alignment to Statistical Area 1s (SA1s),⁴⁵ and is able to provide data on enrolments and projected enrolments at this level. Accordingly, in formulating its proposals, the augmented Electoral Commission used SA1s as its basic building blocks. The SA1s have defined boundaries and are of differing sizes and shapes. In cases where the augmented Electoral Commission considered that a particular SA1 boundary was inappropriate for use as an electoral division boundary, the SA1 was split to provide a more meaningful boundary.

The indicative area of electoral divisions in the Northern Territory has been calculated by aggregating the area of:

- all land-based SA1s;
- any parts of land-based SA1s; and
- any lakes, ponds, rivers, creeks, wetlands or marshes not already included in land-based SA1s, that are contained within the divisional boundary of each electoral division.

Areas are calculated on the Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA94) spheroid using the AEC's Electoral Boundary Mapping System (EBMS), developed within the 'MapInfo Professional' software package.

The augmented Electoral Commission used EBMS as an aid to modelling various boundary options. This system was also made available for public use at the office of the Australian Electoral Officer for the Northern Territory in Darwin.

⁴⁵ SA1s are the smallest unit at which ABS makes available disaggregated Census data. There are 54 805 SA1s with populations in the range of 200 – 800. SA1s, which are part of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard, are defined by the ABS and remain stable between censuses. The SA1s used in this redistribution are those which applied at the 2011 Census of Population and Housing.

Appendix H: Announcement of the augmented Electoral Commission's proposed redistribution

The text of the augmented Electoral Commission's public announcement of their proposed redistribution, issued on Wednesday 7 December 2016, is reproduced below.

Augmented Electoral Commission decides names and boundaries of federal electoral divisions in the Northern Territory

The augmented Electoral Commission for the Northern Territory today announced the outcome of its deliberations on the names and boundaries of the two federal electoral divisions in the Northern Territory.

The Hon. Dennis Cowdroy OAM QC, the presiding member, thanked the individuals and organisations who contributed to the redistribution of the Northern Territory by providing written submissions throughout the redistribution process, and who participated in the inquiry on Tuesday 22 November 2016. All objections, comments on objections and submissions to the inquiry were carefully considered by the augmented Electoral Commission.

'After a thorough consideration of these contributions, the augmented Electoral Commission has adopted the redistribution proposed by the Redistribution Committee for the Northern Territory without change,' Mr Cowdroy said.

The full proposal was detailed in the Redistribution Committee's report of Friday 9 September 2016: *Proposed redistribution of the Northern Territory into electoral divisions*.

This will see:

- the entirety of the Litchfield Municipality located in the proposed Division of Lingiari
 - This will involve the transfer of the suburbs of Holtze, Knuckey Lagoon, Micket Creek and part of Shoal Bay from the Division of Solomon to the proposed Division of Lingiari.
- parts of the Palmerston Municipality located in the proposed Division of Lingiari
 - This will involve the transfer of the suburbs of Farrar, Johnston, Mitchell, Zuccoli and part of Yarrowonga from the Division of Solomon to the proposed Division of Lingiari.

The augmented Electoral Commission have therefore proposed that:

- the proposed Division of Lingiari will consist of:
 - the Alice Springs Municipality, Barkly Shire, Belyuen Community Council, Central Desert Shire, Coomalie Community Government Council, East Arnhem Shire, Katherine Municipality, Litchfield Municipality, MacDonnell Shire, Roper Gulf Shire, Victoria Daly Shire, Wagait Shire, West Arnhem Shire and West Daly Region,
 - the towns of Alyangula, Nhulunbuy and Yulara,
 - the unincorporated areas north and east of Litchfield Municipality, south-east of Coomalie Shire, and west of Litchfield and Palmerston Municipality,
 - part of the Palmerston Municipality, specifically the suburbs of Farrar, Johnston, Mitchell, Yarrowonga and Zuccoli,
 - Tiwi Islands,
 - Groote Eylandt,
 - the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, and
 - the Territory of Christmas Island.

- the proposed Division of Solomon will consist of:
 - the Darwin Municipality,
 - the Palmerston Municipality, with the exception of the suburbs of Farrar, Johnston, Mitchell, Yarrowonga and Zuccoli, and
 - the unincorporated areas of the Darwin Rates Act Area and East Arm.

A full overview of the augmented Electoral Commission's conclusions on objections to the Redistribution Committee's proposed redistribution is available.

The augmented Electoral Commission notes this proposal is not significantly different from the proposal of the Redistribution Committee and therefore no further input from members of the public will be sought.

The names and boundaries of the federal electoral divisions for the Northern Territory will apply from Tuesday 7 February 2017 when a notice of determination is published in the Commonwealth Government Notices Gazette. Electoral events will not be contested on these new federal electoral divisions until a writ is issued for a general election following the expiry or dissolution of the House of Representatives.

Overview maps will be available on the AEC website on Tuesday 7 February 2017. Detailed maps and a report outlining the augmented Electoral Commission's reasons for its formal determination will be tabled in the Federal Parliament and will subsequently be made publicly available.

More information about the Northern Territory federal redistribution is available on the AEC website.

Editor's notes:

A Redistribution Committee is appointed for the state or territory in which a redistribution has commenced.

The Redistribution Committee for the Northern Territory consisted of:

- the Electoral Commissioner,
- the Australian Electoral Officer for the Northern Territory,
- the Surveyor-General of the Northern Territory, and
- the Auditor-General for the Northern Territory.

The Redistribution Committee is responsible for considering inputs from the public and making a proposed redistribution.

The augmented Electoral Commission considers any objections to a proposed redistribution and makes a final determination of the names and boundaries of the redistributed divisions. The augmented Electoral Commission for the Northern Territory consists of:

- the Chairperson of the Electoral Commission,
- the non-judicial member of the Electoral Commission, currently the Australian Statistician,
- the Electoral Commissioner,
- the Australian Electoral Officer for the Northern Territory,
- the Surveyor-General of the Northern Territory, and
- the Auditor-General for the Northern Territory.

Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Christmas Island

Under section 56A of the Electoral Act, until such time as the Territory of the Christmas Islands or the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Island is entitled to a member of the House of Representatives, each Territory is to be included in an electoral division in the Northern Territory.

As part of a determination on Thursday 13 November 2014 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, it was determined that:

- the Territory of Christmas Island was not entitled to a member of the House of Representatives, and
- the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Island was not entitled to a member of the House of Representatives.

Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Island will therefore need to be located in the same electoral division in the Northern Territory, namely the proposed Division of Lingiari.

Appendix I: Determination of electoral divisions in the Northern Territory by the augmented Electoral Commission

The text of the augmented Electoral Commission's determination of electoral divisions in the Northern Territory, published in the Gazette on Tuesday 7 February 2017, is reproduced below.

Determination of names and boundaries of federal electoral divisions in the Northern Territory

As determined by the then acting Electoral Commissioner on Thursday 13 November 2014, the Northern Territory is entitled to two members of the House of Representatives.

Pursuant to sub-section 73(1) of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (the Electoral Act), the augmented Electoral Commission for the Northern Territory has determined the names of the two electoral divisions are:

- Lingjari
- Solomon

Pursuant to sub-section 73(1) of the Electoral Act, the augmented Electoral Commission for the Northern Territory has determined that the boundaries of these electoral divisions are as shown on the maps displayed on the Australian Electoral Commission website at www.aec.gov.au/Electorates/Redistributions and lodged in file number 16/961 at the National Office of the Australian Electoral Commission in Canberra.

The augmented Electoral Commission for the Northern Territory has made decisions in accordance with the requirements of section 56A and sub-sections 73(3), 73(4) and 73(4A) of the Electoral Act.

Subject to the provisions of the Electoral Act, the electoral divisions determined by this notice will apply from Tuesday 7 February 2017 until the next determination of names and boundaries of electoral divisions in the Northern Territory is published in the *Commonwealth Government Notices Gazette* pursuant to sub-section 73(1) or sub-section 76(6) of the Electoral Act.

The Hon. Dennis Cowdroy OAM QC
Chairperson
Augmented Electoral Commission for the Northern Territory

Appendix J: Guidelines for naming federal electoral divisions

Determining the names of federal electoral divisions is part of the process of conducting a federal redistribution within a state or territory.

The criteria used by redistribution committees to propose the names of electoral divisions, and used by augmented electoral commissions to determine the names of electoral divisions, have previously been the subject of recommendations from the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters. From these recommendations, a set of guidelines were developed as a point of reference only.

It should be noted that redistribution committees and augmented electoral commissions are in no way bound by the guidelines.

Naming after persons

In the main, electoral divisions should be named after deceased Australians who have rendered outstanding service to their country.

When new electoral divisions are created the names of former Prime Ministers should be considered.

Federation Divisional names

Every effort should be made to retain the names of original federation electoral divisions.

Geographical names

Locality or place names should generally be avoided, but in certain areas the use of geographical features may be appropriate (e.g. Perth).

Aboriginal names

Aboriginal names should be used where appropriate and as far as possible existing Aboriginal divisional names should be retained.

Other criteria

The names of Commonwealth electoral divisions should not duplicate existing state districts.

Qualifying names may be used where appropriate (e.g. Melbourne Ports, Port Adelaide).

Names of electoral divisions should not be changed or transferred to new areas without very strong reasons.

When two or more electoral divisions are partially combined, as far as possible the name of the new electoral division should be that of the old electoral division which had the greatest number of electors within the new boundaries. However, where the socio-demographic nature of the electoral division in question has changed significantly, this should override the numerical formula.

Appendix K: General description of how electoral divisions are constituted

The following tables show how each electoral division has been constructed. The unit to display this construction is Statistical Area 2s (SA2s).⁴⁶ Each SA2 comprises a number of SA1s. The SA1s and SA2s which applied at the 2011 Census of Population and Housing have been used.

Electoral divisions are displayed in alphabetical order.

Division of Lingiari

Division make up	Enrolment as at Thursday 15 October 2015	Projected enrolment as at Friday 7 August 2020
Electors retained from the former Division of Lingiari		
Alligator	2 226	2 387
Anindilyakwa	1 299	1 432
Barkly	1 622	1 789
Charles	2 237	2 382
Christmas Island	576	612
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	383	400
Daly	1 039	1 119
East Arnhem	4 962	5 451
East Side	2 761	2 905
Elsley	1 351	1 436
Flynn (NT)	2 106	2 242
Gulf	2 503	2 741
Howard Springs	2 072	2 224
Humpty Doo	4 683	5 139
Katherine	4 984	5 405
Koolpinyah	6	6
Larapinta	2 493	2 704
Mount Johns	1 802	1 876
Nhulunbuy	1 226	1 328
Petermann – Simpson	1 205	1 274
Ross	1 356	1 367
Sandover – Plenty	2 347	2 575
Tanami	1 872	2 050
Tennant Creek	1 726	1 794
Thamarrurr	1 360	1 518
Tiwi Islands	1 621	1 807
Victoria River	1 542	1 744
Virginia	1 767	1 924
Weddell	2 069	2 298
West Arnhem	3 063	3 374
Yuendumu – Anmatjere	1 613	1 721
Total electors retained from the former Division of Lingiari	61 872	67 024

⁴⁶ SA2s are an area defined in the Australian Statistical Geography Standard, and consist of one or more whole SA1s. Wherever possible, SA2s are based on officially gazetted state/territory suburbs and localities. In urban areas SA2s largely conform to whole suburbs and combinations of whole suburbs, while in rural areas they define functional zones of social and economic links. Geography is also taken into account in SA2 design.

Division make up	Enrolment as at Thursday 15 October 2015	Projected enrolment as at Friday 7 August 2020
Electors transferred from another electoral division into the Division of Lingiari		
Electors transferred from the former Division of Solomon		
Berrimah	295	283
Howard Springs	645	672
Koolpinyah	4	4
Palmerston – North	908	995
Palmerston – South	828	936
Total transferred from the former Division of Solomon	2 680	2 890
Total electors transferred from another electoral division into the Division of Lingiari	2 680	2 890
Total for the Division of Lingiari	64 552	69 914

Division of Solomon

Division make up	Enrolment as at Thursday 15 October 2015	Projected enrolment as at Friday 7 August 2020
Electors retained from the former Division of Solomon		
Alawa	1 385	1 539
Anula	1 624	1 783
Bakewell	1 968	2 196
Berrimah	343	162
Brinkin – Nakara	1 882	2 080
Buffalo Creek	18	18
Charles Darwin	5	5
Coconut Grove	1 817	1 951
Darwin Airport	16	13
Darwin City	2 541	2 708
Driver	1 845	2 121
Durack – Marlow Lagoon	2 472	2 772
East Arm	16	16
East Point	0	0
Fannie Bay – The Gardens	2 286	2 468
Gray	2 030	2 253
Jingili	1 129	1 245
Karama	3 133	3 483
Larrakeyah	2 232	2 431
Leanyer	3 190	3 551
Ludmilla – The Narrows	1 668	1 880
Lyons (NT)	1 963	2 166
Malak – Marrara	3 047	3 328
Millner	1 614	1 756
Moil	1 314	1 445
Moulden	1 881	2 152
Nightcliff	2 471	2 709
Palmerston – North	1 636	1 888
Palmerston – South	4	4
Parap	1 692	1 825
Rapid Creek	2 120	2 335
Rosebery – Bellamack	3 507	3 853
Stuart Park	2 583	2 817
Tiwi	1 538	1 610
Wagaman	1 304	1 436
Wanguri	1 253	1 370
Woodroffe	2 044	2 277
Woolner – Bayview – Winnellie	1 907	2 116
Wulagi	1 541	1 700
Total electors retained from the former Division of Solomon	65 019	71 462
Total for Division of Solomon	65 019	71 462

Division make up	Enrolment as at Thursday 15 October 2015	Projected enrolment as at Friday 7 August 2020
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Electors transferred from the former Division of Solomon to another electoral division

Electors transferred to Division of Lingjari		
Berrimah	295	283
Howard Springs	645	672
Koolpinyah	4	4
Palmerston – North	908	995
Palmerston – South	828	936
Total transferred to Division of Lingjari	2 680	2 890
Total electors transferred from the former Division of Solomon to another electoral division	2 680	2 890