



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Public suggestion 1

Martin Gordon

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The Commissioners,

I would like a submission for the redistribution of the federal divisional boundaries in the Northern Territory.

General observations

I have previously made submissions for the Northern Territory and make a few comments in passing. Firstly, the continuing differential growth in elector numbers in Darwin, Palmerston and the Darwin Rural area relative to the rest of the Territory continues. To roughly equalise the two Divisions of Solomon and Lingiari a relatively small transfer from Solomon to Lingiari is sufficient and significant exchanges of electors are unnecessary. The incorporation of the Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands in Lingiari should continue.

Proposals

Solomon currently comprises the entirety of Darwin, Palmerston and a portion of Litchfield Councils, with a current enrolment of 67,799 and a projected enrolment of 74,352 electors in 2020. Lingiari comprises the rest of the Northern Territory including the bulk of Litchfield Council.

I propose that Palmerston remain entirely within Solomon and that Litchfield be entirely within Lingiari. This appears to involve 649 and 676 electors now and in future. I had considered options such as excluding a number of Palmerston suburbs but they are either messy or unclear. The inclusion of Litchfield in Lingiari would enable the use of the Stuart Highway as a long continuous boundary, up to Vanderlin Drive intersection. To find an additional number of electors to approximately equalise enrolments between the two Divisions I propose that electors in Leanyer be transferred to Lingiari. Alternatives such as Karama involve less clear boundaries. I propose that from the Vanderlin Drive/Stuart Highway intersection that Vanderlin Drive be used as a boundary until the intersection with Lee Point Road then following this road to the sea. This boundary is very clear, and apart from the inclusion of Leanyer and Muirhead leaves Darwin Council largely intact. I note in passing that Vanderlin Drive is used a Ward boundary for the Darwin Council, which reinforces my point about its obviousness as a boundary.

Summary

In summary the addition of 3857 (4245) electors from Solomon as described would produce a Solomon with 63,842 (70,107) electors and Lingiari with 65,729 (71,269) electors.

I wish the commissioners well with their deliberations.

Martin Gordon

5 February 2016