



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Suggestion 2

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2 pages

Federal Redistribution Proposal

Northern Territory, 2024

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Boundaries

The 2 main problems with the current boundaries are that Lingiari must transfer voters to Solomon to remain within tolerance, and that Palmerston LGA is split between 2 electorates. To resolve both issues with minimal disruption, Palmerston LGA should be united into Solomon, whilst leaving everything else untouched.

Name Change (Solomon → Garramilla)

I express some concern on Solomon, named after Vaiben Louis Solomon (1853-1908), being retained as a name of an electoral division, especially in this location. Solomon's commitment towards the Territory can be disputed based on his decision in the 1903 Federal Election to parachute unsuccessfully into Boothby despite another seat, specifically Grey, containing the NT at the time. Furthermore, Solomon's election to state parliament was off the back of a campaign advocating for the White Australia Policy, which is particularly questionable for a seat where approximately 10% of the population is Indigenous (ABS, 2021), the highest of all metropolitan electorates.

The barriers to changing the name of Solomon would no bigger than most electorates as Solomon is a relatively new seat created in 2001 and not named after a former Prime Minister. Furthermore, removing the name will not reduce the number of seats named after women nor Indigenous Australians.

Garramilla, the Larrakia name for Darwin, is my proposed alternative name for Solomon. While the AEC usually recommends against geographic names, most other states/territories have an electorate named after their capital city (including the non-Federation seat of Canberra). Furthermore, the position of the seat in a corner of the Territory means the risk of the name becoming irrelevant to its position is almost non-existent.

Table of Enrolment Figures

	Current Boundaries		Proposed Boundaries	
	Current Enrolment	Projected Enrolment	Current Enrolment	Projected Enrolment
Solomon/Garramilla	72278 (-5.76%)	77887 (-6.63%)	77591 (+1.16%)	85700 (+2.73%)
Lingiari	81119 (+5.76%)	88951 (+6.63%)	75806 (-1.16%)	81138 (-2.73%)

Proposed Map (Darwin-Palmerston area)



Figure 1 - The proposed NT electoral map where red and black lines indicate LGA and proposed electoral boundaries respectively

References

1. Vaiben Louis Solomon (2023) *Wikipedia*. Available at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vaiben_Louis_Solomon (Accessed: 20 May 2024).
2. (2021) *Parliamentary handbook*. Available at: <https://handbook.aph.gov.au/Electorates> (Accessed: 20 May 2024).
3. Solomon (2021) *2021 Solomon, Census All persons QuickStats | Australian Bureau of Statistics*. Available at: <https://abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/CED702> (Accessed: 20 May 2024).
4. Darwin, Northern Territory (2024) *Wikipedia*. Available at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darwin,_Northern_Territory (Accessed: 20 May 2024).