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# Redistribution of the Northern Territory into electoral divisions

MARCH 2025

Report of the augmented Electoral Commission for  
the Northern Territory

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*Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*





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The augmented Electoral Commission for the Northern Territory (the augmented Electoral Commission) has undertaken a redistribution of the Northern Territory. In developing 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

The Hon. Susan Kenny AM KC  
**Chairperson**

Dr David Gruen AO  
**Member**

Mr Jeff Pope APM  
**Member**

Mr Geoffrey Bloom  
**Member**

Mr Robert Sarib  
**Member**

Mr Jara Dean  
**Member**

March 2025

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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 for the Northern Territory's (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 proposal. 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 Christmas Island and the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands.
- **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
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>
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

Word or acronym	Meaning
general election	a general election of the members of the House of Representatives
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	Also known as a suburb. Localities are official bounded areas used in the address of a property and are defined over pastoral and rural living areas
naming guidelines	Guidelines for naming federal electoral divisions
Northern Territory Rates Act Area	The Northern Territory Rates Act Area is an unincorporated area that is prescribed under the <i>Northern Territory Rates Act 1971</i> (NT) as land that, subject to exceptions, can have rates imposed on it by the Northern Territory Government. Presently the prescribed area comprises of residential and industrial areas generally between the City of Darwin and the City of Palmerston
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 83,419 electors
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 is published in the Gazette. There are circumstances where this time may be varied  The projection time for this redistribution is Monday 4 September 2028
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"> <li>▪ each state and territory gains representation in the House of Representatives in proportion to its the population of the state or territory, and</li> <li>▪ there are a similar number of electors in each electoral division for a given state or territory</li> </ul>
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 Northern Territory Surveyor-General and the Northern Territory Auditor-General
redistribution 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 redistribution quota for this redistribution is 76,699 electors
SA1	Statistical Area Level 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 2021 Census of Population and Housing
SA2	Statistical Area Level 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 2021 Census of Population and Housing
unincorporated area	An unincorporated area is any part of the Northern Territory that is not within a local government area

# 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 augmented Electoral Commission has retained the names of the Division of Lingjari and the Division of Solomon.

The Division of Lingjari consists of:

- Alice Springs Town Council,
- Barkly Regional Council,
- Belyuen Community Government Council,
- Central Desert Regional Council,
- Shire of Christmas Island,
- Shire of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands,
- Coomalie Community Government Council,
- East Arnhem Regional Council,
- Katherine Town Council,
- Litchfield Council,
- MacDonnell Regional Council,
- Roper Gulf Regional Council,
- Tiwi Islands Regional Council,
- Victoria Daly Regional Council,
- Wagait Shire Council,
- West Arnhem Regional Council,
- West Daly Regional Council,
- the unincorporated area<sup>1</sup> of Alyangula,
- the unincorporated area of Nhulunbuy, and
- the unincorporated area of Yulara.

The Division of Solomon consists of

- City of Darwin,
- City of Palmerston,
- Darwin Waterfront Precinct, and
- the Northern Territory Rates Act Area.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> An unincorporated area is any part of the Northern Territory that is not within a local government area.

<sup>2</sup> The Northern Territory Rates Act Area is an unincorporated area that is prescribed under the *Northern Territory Rates Act 1971* (NT) as land that, subject to exceptions, can have rates imposed on it by the Northern Territory Government. Presently the prescribed area comprises of residential and industrial areas generally between the City of Darwin and the City of Palmerston

# 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 its 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 had 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 22 February 2024.

The Redistribution Committee released its proposed redistribution on Friday 18 October 2024. Interested individuals and organisations 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 18 October 2024,
- *The Islander* on Friday 1 November 2024,
- the *NT News* and *The Weekend Australian* on Saturday 2 November 2024, and
- the *Koori Mail* on Wednesday 6 November 2024.

No objections to the proposed redistribution were received. As a result, neither comments on objections nor an inquiry into objections were required.

## 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 augmented Electoral Commission is required to adhere to two strict numerical requirements, as defined by the Electoral Act. 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 within the range of plus and minus 10 per cent of the redistribution quota.<sup>3</sup> At the end of Thursday 22 February 2024, the day on which the redistribution commenced, 153,397 electors were enrolled in the Northern Territory. The redistribution quota was therefore 76,699 electors. As the Electoral Act requires electoral divisions to be within the range of

<sup>3</sup> In accordance with section 65 of the Electoral Act, the redistribution quota was calculated using the formula: (Number of electors enrolled in the Northern Territory on the day the redistribution commenced) divided by (Number of members of the House of Representatives to which the Northern Territory is entitled).

plus and minus 10 per cent of this quota, the augmented Electoral Commission was required to construct two electoral divisions which contain between 69,030 and 84,368 electors.

All electoral divisions are also required to be within the range of plus and minus 3.5 per cent of the projected enrolment quota<sup>4</sup> at the projection time of Monday 4 September 2028.<sup>5</sup> As the number of electors projected to be enrolled in the Northern Territory at this time is 166,838, and the projected enrolment quota is 83,419 electors, the augmented Electoral Commission was required to construct two electoral divisions which are projected to contain between 80,500 and 86,338 electors on Monday 4 September 2028.

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.<sup>6</sup>

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 endeavour to 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 in each electoral division.

The augmented Electoral Commission is also required by section 56A of the Electoral Act to locate the Territory of Christmas Island and the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands in the same electoral division in the Northern Territory.

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

## Redistribution of the Northern Territory

The redistribution covers:

- the names of the two electoral divisions,
- where to draw the boundaries for the two electoral divisions in the Northern Territory, and
- which electoral division to locate the Territory of Christmas Island and the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands in.

### Names of electoral divisions

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

4 In accordance with sub-section 73(4)(a) of the Electoral Act, the projected enrolment quota is calculated using the formula: (Number of electors projected to be enrolled in the Northern Territory at the projection time) divided by (Number of members of the House of Representatives to which the Northern Territory is entitled).

5 The projection time for a redistribution is calculated in accordance with section 63A of the Electoral Act and is generally the end of the period of three months and six months after the final determination of electoral division boundaries and names is published in the Gazette. Further information about the calculation of the projection time for this redistribution is available in Redistribution Committee for the Northern Territory, *Proposed redistribution of the Northern Territory into electoral divisions*, October 2024, pages 8–9

6 Paragraph 73(4)(b) of the Electoral Act sets out the factors an augmented Electoral Commission is required to give due consideration to in making a redistribution. Sub-paragraph 73(4)(b)(iii), which required that consideration be given to the trend of population changes within the state or territory was removed from Wednesday 3 June 1987 by the *Commonwealth Electoral Amendment Act 1987*.

The augmented Electoral Commission adopted the Redistribution Committee's proposal to retain 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 electoral division boundaries as neither electoral division fell within the range for the permissible maximum and minimum number of projected electors as at Monday 4 September 2028. 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.

The augmented Electoral Commission noted that the Redistribution Committee's proposal met the requirements of the Electoral Act and proposed electoral divisions which:

- are more equitably balanced numerically across the Territory,
- can accommodate the differing rates of expected growth and decline across the Northern Territory,
- keep together or improve existing communities of interest, in some cases represented by local government areas, and suburbs, where possible, and
- use strong and readily identifiable features as electoral division boundaries, to the extent possible.

The augmented Electoral Commission therefore agreed to implement the Redistribution Committee's proposal without change for the reasons set out in Chapter 2 of this report.

## **Electoral division in which to locate the Territory of Christmas Island and the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands**

The Redistribution Committee proposed retaining the Territory of Christmas Island and the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands in the Division of Lingiari.

The augmented Electoral Commission noted that the Redistribution Committee's proposal met the requirements of the Electoral Act and therefore agreed to implement the Redistribution Committee's proposal without change for the reasons set out in Chapter 2 of this report.

## Elector movements

Overall, 5,015 electors enrolled in the Northern Territory (or 3.27 per cent of all electors enrolled in the Northern Territory on Thursday 22 February 2024) 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 was published on Tuesday 4 March 2025.

Electoral events will not be contested with reference to these new federal electoral divisions until after both of the following events have occurred:

- publication of the notice of determination on Tuesday 4 March 2025, and
- a writ has been 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 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 its 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 (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 over 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.<sup>7</sup>
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*.<sup>8</sup>

### **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

<sup>7</sup> Sub-section 59(2) of the Electoral Act specifies when a redistribution process should be undertaken.

<sup>8</sup> Redistribution Committee for the Northern Territory, op. cit., pages 7–14



Northern Territory was determined on Tuesday 7 February 2017, a redistribution process was required to commence within 30 days of Wednesday 7 February 2024.<sup>9</sup>

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 22 February 2024 directing that a redistribution of the Northern Territory into two electoral divisions commence.<sup>10</sup>

## Redistribution quota

7. Section 65 of the Electoral Act requires the Electoral Commissioner, as soon as practicable after the redistribution process commences, to determine the redistribution quota using the following formula:<sup>11</sup>

$$\frac{\text{Number of electors enrolled in the Northern Territory as at the end of the day on which the redistribution commenced (Thursday 22 February 2024)}}{\text{Number of members of the House of Representatives to which the Northern Territory is entitled}}$$

8. In calculating this quota, sub-section 65(2) of the Electoral Act provides that:
  - where the result includes a fraction less than 0.5, the number is rounded down to the nearest whole number, or
  - where the result includes a fraction 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 redistribution 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: Redistribution 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 22 February 2024)	153,397
Number of members of the House of Representatives to which the Northern Territory is entitled	2
Redistribution quota for the Northern Territory	76,699
Permissible maximum number of electors in an electoral division (redistribution quota plus 10 per cent)	84,368
Permissible minimum number of electors in an electoral division (redistribution quota minus 10 per cent)	69,030

10. As part of the redistribution process, the augmented Electoral Commission is required to ensure that the number of electors in an electoral division is within the range of plus 10 per cent and minus 10 per cent of the redistribution quota (see Appendix B).<sup>12</sup>

<sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> Section 55A of the Electoral Act provides that a reference in Part IV to a State includes a reference to a Territory where two or more members of the House of Representatives are to be chosen at a general election.

<sup>11</sup> The redistribution quota is to be calculated using the number, as nearly as can be ascertained by the Electoral Commissioner, of electors enrolled in the Northern Territory at the end of the day on which the redistribution commenced. This number is extracted from the AEC's Roll Management System.

<sup>12</sup> This is required by sub-section 73(4) of the Electoral Act.

11. The number of electors at the commencement date of Thursday 22 February 2024 at both the electoral division and Statistical Area Level 1s (SA1s) level were published on the AEC website when the invitation for interested parties to submit suggestions and comments on suggestions was made.<sup>13</sup>

## Enrolment projections and projected enrolment quota

12. When determining a redistribution, the augmented Electoral Commission is required by paragraph 73(4)(a) to ensure, as far as practicable, that the number of electors enrolled in the electoral division at the projection time will be within the range of plus 3.5 per cent and minus 3.5 per cent of the projected enrolment quota (see Appendix B). This quota is calculated using the following formula:

**Estimated total number of electors enrolled in the Northern Territory at the projection time (Monday 4 September 2028)**

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**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 calculated by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).<sup>14</sup>
14. Projected enrolment at the projection time of Monday 4 September 2028, together with the processes used by the ABS to calculate these projections, were published on the AEC website on Wednesday 15 May 2024. Publication occurred when the invitations were made for interested individuals and organisations to submit suggestions to the redistribution and comments on suggestions. The projections were made available at both the electoral division and SA1 level.<sup>15</sup>
15. 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 (Monday 4 September 2028)	166,838
Number of members of the House of Representatives to which the Northern Territory is entitled	2
Projected enrolment quota for the Northern Territory	83,419
Permissible maximum number of electors in an electoral division at the projection time (projected enrolment quota plus 3.5 per cent)	86,338
Permissible minimum number of electors in an electoral division at the projection time (projected enrolment quota minus 3.5 per cent)	80,500

- 13 See Appendix C for a discussion of how the AEC uses SA1s. SA1s are the smallest unit at which the ABS makes available disaggregated Census data. At the time of the 2021 Census, there were 61,845 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 currently in use were defined for the 2021 Census.
- 14 These enrolment projections are not predictions or forecasts. They illustrate what would happen to the Northern Territory's enrolment if assumed levels of the components of population change (births, deaths and migration) were to occur between the redistribution's commencement time of Thursday 22 February 2024 and projection time of Monday 4 September 2028.
- 15 Papers accompanying the published enrolment projections explained the assumptions used in calculating these enrolment projections.

# Release of proposed redistribution of the Northern Territory

16. 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.
17. In its report *Proposed redistribution of the Northern Territory into electoral divisions*, the Redistribution Committee outlined its proposed redistribution of the Northern Territory; Chapter 2 and Appendix F explained the reasons behind its proposal.<sup>16</sup> On Friday 18 October 2024, this report was made available on the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) website and in the AEC office located in the Northern Territory.
18. 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 18 October 2024:
  - maps showing the names and boundaries of each proposed electoral division in the Northern Territory, and
  - copies of the six suggestions made to the redistribution and one comment on suggestions which were received.

## Invitation for interested individuals and organisations to submit objections and comments on objections

19. The Redistribution Committee is required by sub-sections 68(1) and 68(2) of the Electoral Act to draw attention to the redistribution material able to be viewed at the AEC office 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.
20. The notice was published in the Gazette on Friday 18 October 2024. Newspaper notices were published in:
  - *The Islander* on Friday 1 November 2024,<sup>17</sup>
  - the *NT News* and *The Weekend Australian* on Saturday 2 November 2024, and
  - the *Koori Mail* on Wednesday 6 November 2024.<sup>18 19</sup>
21. 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. As required by paragraph 68(1)(d): the notices published in *The Islander*, *NT News* and *Koori Mail* included maps showing the names and boundaries of each proposed electoral division in the Northern Territory.

<sup>16</sup> Redistribution Committee for the Northern Territory, op. cit., pages 22–29 and 44

<sup>17</sup> *The Islander* is published on a fortnightly basis and covers the Territory of Christmas Island.

<sup>18</sup> *The Koori Mail* is the national Indigenous newspaper and is published fortnightly.

<sup>19</sup> A notice was prepared for publication in *The Atoll*, which is published on a fortnightly basis and covers the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands; however, the notice was not published due to circumstances beyond the control of the Redistribution Committee and the AEC.

22. Interested individuals and organisations were able to submit written objections from Friday 18 October 2024 until 6pm ACST on Friday 15 November 2024, the fourth Friday after the publication of the Gazette notice.<sup>20</sup> During this time, no objections were received by the Electoral Commission.
23. As a result of receiving no objections to the proposed redistribution, there was no basis to receive comments on objections.

## The augmented Electoral Commission for the Northern Territory

24. 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).
25. The membership of the augmented Electoral Commission for the Northern Territory is outlined in Table C.

**Table C: Membership of the augmented Electoral Commission for the Northern Territory**

Position on the augmented Electoral Commission	Name	Basis for membership
Chairperson	The Hon. Susan Kenny AM KC	Chairperson of the Electoral Commission
Member	Dr David Gruen AO	non-judicial member of the Electoral Commission
Member	Mr Jeff Pope APM	Acting Electoral Commissioner
Member	Mr Geoffrey Bloom	Australian Electoral Officer for the Northern Territory
Member	Mr Robert Sarib	Surveyor-General for the Northern Territory
Member	Mr Jara Dean	Auditor-General for the Northern Territory

**Note:**

1. Shading indicates the members of the Redistribution Committee (chaired by Mr Rogers).
  2. Mr Jeff Pope APM was appointed Acting Electoral Commissioner from Monday 16 December 2024. Mr Tom Rogers was Electoral Commissioner until Saturday 14 December 2024 and in this capacity had served as a member of the Redistribution Committee. Between Monday 1 July and Monday 22 July 2024, Mr Jeff Pope APM was the Acting Electoral Commissioner while Mr Rogers was absent from duty, as per paragraph 19(3)(b) of the Electoral Act.
  3. Mr Jara Dean was appointed Auditor-General for the Northern Territory from Friday 13 September 2024. Ms Julie Crisp was Auditor-General for the Northern Territory until Thursday 12 September 2024 and in this capacity had served as a member of the Redistribution Committee.
26. The augmented Electoral Commission is responsible for:
- considering all objections to the Redistribution Committee’s proposed redistribution and all comments on objections which were received by the specified lodgement times,
  - developing a proposed redistribution of the Northern Territory in accordance with the requirements of the Electoral Act,
  - conducting an inquiry into objections, should one be required,
  - determining the names and boundaries of electoral divisions in the Northern Territory, and
  - making the reasons for the augmented Electoral Commission’s determination available for public perusal.

<sup>20</sup> This requirement is specified by paragraph 68(2)(a) of the Electoral Act.

27. The augmented Electoral Commission met on Monday 16 December 2024.

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

28. The augmented Electoral Commission is required by sub-section 72(1) of the Electoral Act to consider all objections to the proposed redistribution and comments on objections which were received by the required specified lodgement times.
29. As no objections were received, consideration of objections and comments on objections by the augmented Electoral Commission was not required.

## Inquiry by the augmented Electoral Commission into objections

30. 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.
31. As no objections were received, an inquiry into objections was not required.

## Conclusion of consideration of objections by the augmented Electoral Commission

32. 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.
33. As no objections were received, the time restrictions of sub-section 72(2) were not applicable to the augmented Electoral Commission's development of this redistribution of the Northern Territory.

## Statutory requirements for the making of a redistribution

34. Section 73 of the Electoral Act requires the augmented Electoral Commission to adhere to specific criteria in determining boundaries of electoral divisions.
35. The augmented Electoral Commission endeavoured to ensure that the number of electors in each of the Northern Territory electoral divisions 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 redistribution quota of 76,699 electors (Table A indicates the number of electors enrolled in each electoral division in the Northern Territory must therefore be between 69,030 and 84,368), 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 at the projection time of Monday 4 September 2028 (Table B indicates the number of electors projected to be enrolled in each electoral division in the Northern Territory at the projection time of Monday 4 September 2028 must be between 80,500 and 86,338).
36. 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.
  37. Further details regarding these requirements are in Appendix B.
  38. The augmented Electoral Commission also gave due consideration to the requirement of section 56A of the Electoral Act for the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and the Territory of Christmas Island to be included in the same electoral division in the Northern Territory.<sup>21</sup>
  39. Appendix C outlines the mechanics of constructing electoral divisions.

## Public announcement by the augmented Electoral Commission

40. 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.
41. While the augmented Electoral Commission is able to choose the means by which this public announcement is issued,<sup>22</sup> 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 state/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.<sup>23</sup>

21 Section 56A requires this to occur until a member of the House of Representatives is to be chosen for either Territory at a general election. The most recent determination of the number of members of the House of Representatives each state and territory would be entitled to at the next general election was made on Thursday 27 July 2023. A copy of the determination is available on the AEC website.

22 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.

23 In the event the augmented Electoral Commission considers its 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.

42. The augmented Electoral Commission did not consider its 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 Tuesday 7 January 2025, is at Appendix D.

## Determination made by the augmented Electoral Commission for the Northern Territory

43. 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.
44. The text of the notice published in the Gazette on Tuesday 4 March 2025 is at Appendix E.

## 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.

## The augmented Electoral Commission's redistribution of the Northern Territory

45. The augmented Electoral Commission was required to adjust the boundaries of the two Northern Territory electoral divisions to ensure both would meet the two numerical parameters of the Electoral Act.
46. 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.
47. The components of the augmented Electoral Commission's redistribution are:
  - the names of the two electoral divisions,
  - where to draw the boundaries for the two electoral divisions in the Northern Territory, and
  - the electoral division in which to locate the Territory of Christmas Island and the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands.
48. To assist with readability, this Chapter's discussion of electoral division names will be followed by discussion of electoral division boundaries.

### **Names of electoral divisions**

49. The augmented Electoral Commission has adopted the Redistribution Committee's proposed names without change.
50. The two electoral divisions in the Northern Territory are therefore the Division of Lingiari and the Division of Solomon.
51. This is consistent with the 'Guidelines for naming federal electoral divisions' (the naming guidelines).
52. Appendix F presents some summary information about how the names of the Northern Territory electoral divisions meet the naming guidelines compared to how the names of Australian electoral divisions meet the naming guidelines.



## Boundaries of electoral divisions

53. The augmented Electoral Commission has adopted the boundaries proposed by the Redistribution Committee without change.

## Electoral division in which to locate the Territory of Christmas Island and the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands

54. The augmented Electoral Commission has adopted the Redistribution Committee's proposal to retain the Territory of Christmas Island and the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands in the Division of Lingiari.

## The augmented Electoral Commission's approach to naming electoral divisions in the Northern Territory

55. 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' were developed by the AEC from recommendations made by the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters in 1995 in *Electoral Redistributions: Report on the Effectiveness and Appropriateness of the Redistribution Provisions of Parts III and IV of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*. The naming guidelines are publicly available on the AEC website (see Appendix G for a copy), with attention directed to this availability when the redistribution was advertised.
56. The Redistribution Committee reviewed one alternative name for the Division of Solomon during the suggestions and comments on suggestions period but found the arguments provided were not compelling enough to warrant changing the name 'Solomon'. The Redistribution Committee proposed retaining the names of the Division of Lingiari and the Division of Solomon.<sup>24</sup>
57. The naming guidelines state that the names of electoral divisions should not be changed without very strong reasons to do so. Any decision to alter the name of an electoral division is not taken lightly.
58. The augmented Electoral Commission observed it was open to considering alternatives to the name 'Solomon'. In the absence of objections to the proposed redistribution presenting arguments to re-name the electoral division or offering alternative names, it did not consider there was support to do so at this time.
59. The augmented Electoral Commission concluded the Redistribution Committee's proposal should stand unchanged and should be adopted.
60. The electoral divisions will continue to be known as the Division of Lingiari and the Division of Solomon.

<sup>24</sup> Redistribution Committee for the Northern Territory, op. cit., pages 24–25

## Future consideration of electoral division names

61. In considering whether an existing electoral division name should be retained or retired, the starting point for any Redistribution Committee or augmented Electoral Commission is the range of ideas which are offered in the suggestions, comments on suggestions, objections, comments on objections and submissions made to the inquiry by individuals and organisations. Proponents for change ordinarily advocate:
  - a name is no longer appropriate and should be changed, and/or
  - alternative names and why they are more appropriate.
62. Those offering alternative names frequently seek to acknowledge the efforts of individuals or groups who may be unrecognised for their achievements. Naming an electoral division for such individuals or groups can often be seen as one way to address such imbalances and oversights.
63. The augmented Electoral Commission encourages individuals and organisations to continue to indicate where they consider electoral division names should be re-considered and to recommend alternative names that would better reflect community expectations when it comes to, for example, gender equality and social diversity. To enable as fulsome consideration of these recommendations as possible, the augmented Electoral Commission notes these propositions can be provided at many stages of a redistribution; however, there is considerable benefit in them being provided at the first available opportunity, that is, when suggestions to the redistribution are invited because this allows time for further information to be gathered.

## The augmented Electoral Commission's approach to formulating electoral division boundaries

64. In deciding whether to amend the Redistribution Committee's proposal, the augmented Electoral Commission would normally consider whether incorporation of a concept submitted in an objection, comment on objection or submission to the inquiry 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 to the Redistribution Committee's proposed electoral divisions were analysed with respect to the requirements of sub-section 73(4) of the Electoral Act.
65. 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 redistribution quota (see Table A). In modifying the boundaries of electoral divisions proposed by the Redistribution Committee, the augmented Electoral Commission was therefore required to ensure that each electoral division in the Northern Territory continued to fall within the two permissible ranges for the maximum and minimum number of electors in an electoral division.
66. 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.<sup>25</sup> In considering the many different communities of interests in developing a redistribution, the augmented Electoral Commission may consider multiple options before deciding on its final redistribution.

<sup>25</sup> What constitutes a community of interests may sometimes depend on relatively subjective assessment. Further, as noted above, any one individual may identify with and belong to multiple different communities of interest. For this and other reasons, an electoral division may therefore include many different communities of interest.

## Adjusting the boundaries of existing electoral divisions

67. In constructing its proposed redistribution, the Redistribution Committee noted that neither of the Divisions of Lingiari and Solomon satisfied the requirement of the Electoral Act to remain within the permissible maximum and minimum number of projected electors and therefore both must change.
68. To meet this requirement, the Redistribution Committee proposed adjusting the boundaries of the existing electoral divisions such that electors from the electoral division with higher projected enrolment (the Division of Lingiari) supplemented the electoral division which had to grow to satisfy the numerical requirements of the Electoral Act (the Division of Solomon). As a result, the Redistribution Committee proposed altering the current boundary between the Divisions of Lingiari and Solomon such that the parts of the City of Palmerston currently located in the Division of Lingiari are located in the proposed Division of Solomon. The Redistribution Committee therefore proposed transferring the suburbs of Farrar, Johnston, Mitchell, Zuccoli and part of the suburb of Yarrowonga from the Division of Lingiari to the proposed Division of Solomon.<sup>26</sup>
69. The Redistribution Committee considered that this proposed redistribution would result in electoral divisions which:
- limited the movement of electors between divisions, where possible,
  - provided strong boundaries between electoral divisions, to the extent possible,
  - avoided splitting local government areas, particularly in rural areas, noting these can be strong and recognisable boundaries,
  - accepted that splitting local government areas or localities may be appropriate where doing so provides for a strong physical boundary and/or a clearer community of interest, or where doing so meets the numerical requirements of the Electoral Act,
  - avoided splitting SA1s to the extent possible, while accepting that splitting some SA1s may be appropriate where doing so allows for a strong boundary, and
  - utilised the ranges around the redistribution quota and projected enrolment quota, to the extent possible.<sup>27</sup>
70. The augmented Electoral Commission considered the Redistribution Committee's proposal in the context of the requirements of the Electoral Act.

## The boundary between the proposed Division of Lingiari and the proposed Division of Solomon

71. The Redistribution Committee proposed altering the boundary between the two electoral divisions to align with the City of Palmerston boundary, which required moving the suburbs of Farrar, Johnston, Mitchell, Zuccoli and part of the suburb of Yarrowonga from the Division of Lingiari to the proposed Division of Solomon.<sup>28</sup> Reuniting the City of Palmerston in the one electoral division enabled the Redistribution Committee to create electoral divisions which would meet the two numerical parameters of the Electoral Act.<sup>29</sup>

<sup>26</sup> Redistribution Committee for the Northern Territory, op. cit., page 22

<sup>27</sup> Ibid., page 26

<sup>28</sup> Ibid., page 28

<sup>29</sup> Ibid., page 28

72. The augmented Electoral Commission considered the Redistribution Committee's proposal<sup>30</sup> alongside several alternative solutions to the Redistribution Committee's proposed redistribution, including:
- transferring part of the suburb of Holtze to the proposed Division of Solomon, and
  - transferring the suburb of Lee Point to the proposed Division of Lingiari, in addition to uniting the City of Palmerston in the proposed Division of Solomon.
73. In deciding against adopting an alternative solution, the augmented Electoral Commission considered there was a degree of uncertainty as to the level of elector growth in any of these alternative solutions. The augmented Electoral Commission was concerned that adopting an alternative solution could lead to a risk of the Divisions of Lingiari and Solomon falling outside of the numerical constraints in the near future. Further alterations in addition to those proposed by the Redistribution Committee were therefore not required.
74. The augmented Electoral Commission agreed with the Redistribution Committee that uniting the City of Palmerston entirely within the Division of Solomon created easily identifiable and strong electoral division boundaries. In reaching this decision, the augmented Electoral Commission noted the suburbs of Farrar, Johnston, Mitchell, Zuccoli and Yarrowonga have strong social connections with the other suburbs within the City of Palmerston and making these changes enable the two numerical parameters of the Electoral Act to be met. The augmented Electoral Commission also noted that the suburbs of Farrar, Johnston, Mitchell, Zuccoli and part of the suburb of Yarrowonga were in the Division of Solomon prior to the 2017 redistribution.
75. The augmented Electoral Commission concluded that:
- any adjustments to accommodate alternative boundaries within the requirements of the Electoral Act would not result in an improved redistribution at this time,
  - the Redistribution Committee's proposal was sound, and
  - for these reasons, the Redistribution Committee's proposal should stand unchanged.
76. The suburbs of Farrar, Johnston, Mitchell, Zuccoli and part of the suburb of Yarrowonga will be located in the Division of Solomon.

### The electoral division in which to locate the Territory of Christmas Island and the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands

77. In making this redistribution, the augmented Electoral Commission notes that section 56A of the Electoral Act requires that, until such time as the Territory of Christmas Island and the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands are entitled to choose a member of the House of Representatives at a general election, the two territories are to be included in the same electoral division of the Northern Territory.
78. At the most recent determination of entitlement to members of the House of Representatives on Thursday 27 July 2023, the Electoral Commissioner determined that the Territory of Christmas Island and the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands were not entitled to members in their own right.<sup>31</sup>
79. The Redistribution Committee proposed retaining the Territory of Christmas Island and the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands in the Division of Lingiari.<sup>32</sup>

<sup>30</sup> Ibid., page 22

<sup>31</sup> Ibid., pages 39–40

<sup>32</sup> Ibid., page 27

80. The augmented Electoral Commission observed that while the two territories could be transferred from the Division of Lingiari to the Division of Solomon, doing so would require additional changes to be made to the boundary between the two electoral divisions to ensure the two numerical requirements of the Electoral Act would continue to be met.
81. In the absence of strong arguments to alter the electoral division in which these two territories are located, the augmented Electoral Commission concluded:
  - any adjustments to accommodate changes within the requirements of the Electoral Act would not result in a more beneficial redistribution at this time,
  - the Redistribution Committee's proposal was sound, and
  - for these reasons, the Redistribution Committee's proposal should stand unchanged.
82. The Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and the Territory of Christmas Island will be retained in the Division of Lingiari.
83. At a time in the future, Parliaments may wish to give further consideration to the representation of the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and the Territory of Christmas Island.

### **Movement of electors between electoral divisions**

84. The Redistribution Committee noted it was required to alter the number of electors in both of the Northern Territory's two electoral divisions. As a consequence of making changes to the two existing electoral divisions in the Northern Territory, the Redistribution Committee proposed transferring 5,015 electors, or 3.27 per cent of electors enrolled in the Northern Territory at the commencement of the redistribution, to another electoral division.<sup>33</sup>
85. 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.
86. 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.
87. Table D outlines the extent of elector movements resulting from the augmented Electoral Commission's redistribution.

**Table D: Summary of movement of electors between electoral divisions**

	Number	Percentage
Electors transferred to another electoral division	5,015	3.27%
Electors remaining in their electoral division	148,382	96.73%
<b>Total</b>	<b>153,397</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

88. The composition of the Northern Territory's two electoral divisions is as presented in Table E.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid., page 26

**Table E: Composition of the Division of Lingiari and the Division of Solomon**

Division of Lingiari	Division of Solomon
Alice Springs Town Council	City of Darwin
Barkly Regional Council	City of Palmerston
Belyuen Community Government Council	Darwin Waterfront Precinct
Central Desert Regional Council	the Northern Territory Rates Act Area
Shire of Christmas Island	
Shire of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands	
Coomalie Community Government Council	
East Arnhem Regional Council	
Katherine Town Council	
Litchfield Council	
MacDonnell Regional Council	
Roper Gulf Regional Council	
Tiwi Islands Regional Council	
Victoria Daly Regional Council	
Wagait Shire Council	
West Arnhem Regional Council	
West Daly Regional Council	
the unincorporated area of Alyangula	
the unincorporated area of Nhulunbuy	
the unincorporated area of Yulara	

## Redistribution of the Northern Territory – by electoral division

89. For each of the electoral divisions in the Northern Territory, Table F presents:
- initial enrolment based on enrolment figures as at Thursday 22 February 2024,
  - percentage variation from the redistribution quota,
  - enrolment based on projected enrolment figures as at Monday 4 September 2028,
  - 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 22 February 2024		Projected enrolment as at Monday 4 September 2028		Approximate area
	Number	Percentage variation from the redistribution quota	Number	Percentage variation from the projected enrolment quota	
Lingiari	76,104	-0.78%	81,488	-2.31%	1,348,073 km <sup>2</sup>
Solomon	77,293	0.78%	85,350	2.31%	211 km <sup>2</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>153,397</b>		<b>166,838</b>		

90. Numerical summaries of the electoral divisions are provided in Appendix H. These summaries are provided to assist electors to identify the changes to the two 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.

91. In accordance with sub-section 73(1) of the Electoral Act, the electoral divisions described in this report came into effect from Tuesday 4 March 2025 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.
92. 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.
93. 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 or at a by-election,
  - members of the House of Representatives represent the electoral divisions which were in place at the most recent federal general election,
  - 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,<sup>34</sup>
  - from Tuesday 4 March 2025, enrolment statistics will be published based on the electoral divisions described in this report,<sup>35</sup> and
  - from Tuesday 4 March 2025, 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.<sup>36</sup>

## When do the new electoral divisions apply?

94. While the new names and boundaries of electoral divisions apply from Tuesday 4 March 2025, elections 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 after this date.

<sup>34</sup> See sub-section 67(3) of *Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017*.

<sup>35</sup> 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.

<sup>36</sup> 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?

95. 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.<sup>37</sup>

## For how long will the new electoral divisions apply?

96. 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?

97. Until the writ for the next federal general election is issued, any by-election will be conducted using the electoral divisions which existed prior to the determination of the redistribution, as provided by sub-sections 73(6) and 73(7) of the Electoral Act.

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

98. You can check your enrolment by using the AEC's online enrolment verification facility available at: [www.aec.gov.au/check](http://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.
99. Alternatively, you can contact the AEC on 13 23 26 or use the 'Find my electorate' tool on the AEC website at: [www.aec.gov.au/electorate](http://www.aec.gov.au/electorate), 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?

100. 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/](http://www.aec.gov.au/enrol/),
  - 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 and returning it to the AEC.

<sup>37</sup> 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?

101. 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 previous federal elections?

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

Is geospatial data for the new electoral divisions available?

103. 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 18 October 2024
ss.68(1) and 68(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 18 October 2024 Newspaper notices were published in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>The Islander</i> on Friday 1 November 2024</li> <li>▪ the <i>NT News</i> and <i>The Weekend Australian</i> on Saturday 2 November 2024, and</li> <li>▪ the <i>Koori Mail</i> on Wednesday 6 November 2024</li> </ul>
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 15 November 2024
ss.69(2)	Objections made available for public perusal starting on the 5th Monday after publication of the Gazette notice	No objections to the proposed redistribution were received
para 68(2)(b)	Comments on objections close at 6pm on the 6th Friday after publication of the Gazette notice	As no objections to the proposed redistribution were received, comments on objections could not be made
ss.69(4)	Comments on objections made available for public perusal starting on the 7th Monday after publication of the Gazette notice	As no objections to the proposed redistribution were received, comments on objections could not be made
ss.72(1)	Consideration of all objections and comments on objections received by the statutory timeframe	As no objections to the proposed redistribution were received, consideration of objections by the augmented Electoral Commission was not required
ss.72(3)	Inquiry into objections held (if required)	An inquiry into objections was not required

Provision of the Electoral Act	Requirement	Compliance
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 not required
para 72(10)(b)	The augmented Electoral Commission announces the proposed redistribution	The augmented Electoral Commission announced its proposed redistribution on Tuesday 7 January 2025
ss.72(12) and 72(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 4 March 2024
s.74	Reasons for the determination are stated in writing	The augmented Electoral Commission's reasons for the determination are stated in Chapter 2 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 Lingjari

## 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 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 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;*
  - and subject thereto the quota of electors for the State 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 redistribution quota be departed from to a greater extent than one-tenth more or one-tenth less.*
  - (4A) *When applying sub-section (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 73(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'.<sup>38</sup> Therefore, in 1987, the rule was relaxed to permit a measure of tolerance to plus or minus two percent from

<sup>38</sup> Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters, *Electoral Redistributions: Report on the Effectiveness and Appropriateness of the Redistribution Provisions of Parts III and IV of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*, 1995, paragraph 4.3

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 sub-sections 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 percent.<sup>39</sup>*

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 73(4)(a) follows this recommendation. The terms of the recommendation, and the discussion which preceded it, make clear the purpose of paragraph 73(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 73(4)(b), to which also ‘due consideration’ must be given.

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 redistribution 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.

<sup>39</sup> *ibid.*, paragraph 4.11

## Appendix C: Constructing electoral divisions

The AEC maintains the electoral roll on the basis of alignment to SA1s, 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 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 model various boundary options.

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

The text of the augmented Electoral Commission's public announcement of its proposed redistribution, as published on Tuesday 7 January 2025, is reproduced below.

## **Names and boundaries of federal electoral divisions in the Northern Territory decided**

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. Susan Kenny AM KC, 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.

"All suggestions and comments on suggestions informed the Redistribution Committee's proposal, and the Redistributions Committee's proposal was carefully considered by the augmented Electoral Commission," she said.

"After a comprehensive consideration, the augmented Electoral Commission has unanimously decided to adopt the redistribution proposed by the Redistribution Committee for the Northern Territory without change," she said.

The Northern Territory is undergoing a redistribution because more than seven years have elapsed since the last redistribution was determined.

This article contains a brief outline of:

- Electoral division names,
- Electoral division boundaries, and
- Next steps.

### **Electoral division names**

The two Northern Territory seats will continue to be known as the Divisions of Lingiari and Solomon.

### **Electoral division boundaries**

The augmented Electoral Commission has adopted all of the boundaries proposed by the Redistribution Committee for the Northern Territory.

The suburbs of Farrar, Johnston, Mitchell, Zuccoli and part of the suburb of Yarrowonga will now be part of the Division of Solomon, together with the rest of the City of Palmerston. Making this alteration will not only integrate the City of Palmerston into the same electoral division, but most importantly will ensure a more even distribution of electors across the two electoral divisions.

Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands will continue to be part of the Division of Lingiari.



## Next steps

The augmented Electoral Commission notes this proposal is not significantly different from the Redistribution Committee's proposal. 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 4 March 2025 when a notice of determination is published in the *Commonwealth Government Notices Gazette*. If a writ for a full federal election is issued before 4 March 2025 electoral events will not be contested on these new federal electoral divisions and if a writ is issued after 4 March 2024 electoral events will be contested on the new federal electoral division boundaries.

Overview maps will be available on the AEC website on Tuesday 4 March 2025. 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.

## Editor's notes:

- Initial proposal for the redistribution of the Northern Territory (Friday 18 October 2024)
- A full overview of the augmented Electoral Commission's conclusions on the Redistribution Committee's proposal are all available via the AEC website
- More information about the Northern Territory federal redistribution
- No objections to the proposed redistribution were received. As a result, neither comments on objections nor an inquiry into objections were required.

# Appendix E: 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 4 March 2025, is reproduced below.

## **Determination of names and boundaries of federal electoral divisions in the Northern Territory: 4 March 2025**

As determined by the Electoral Commissioner on 27 July 2023, 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](http://www.aec.gov.au/Electorates/Redistributions) and lodged in file number 2024/18080 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.

As provided for by sub-section 73(1) of the Electoral Act, and subject to the provisions of the Electoral Act, the electoral divisions determined by this notice will take effect on Tuesday 4 March 2025 and will apply 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.

Pursuant to sub-section 73(6) of the Electoral Act, until the next following expiration or dissolution of the House of Representatives, the redistribution does not affect the election of a new member to fill a vacancy happening in the House of Representatives.

The Hon. Susan Kenny AM KC

Chairperson

Augmented Electoral Commission for the Northern Territory

## Appendix F: Comparison of the Northern Territory electoral division names

Category	Northern Territory electoral divisions in this category as at Tuesday 4 March 2025	Australian electoral divisions in this category as at Tuesday 4 March 2025
Electoral division is named after one or more people	2 of 2 (100.0%)	116 of 150 (77.3%)
Electoral division is named after a man	2 of 2 (100.0%)	88 of 150 (58.7%)
Electoral division is named after a woman	0 of 2 (0.0%)	18 of 150 (12.0%)
Electoral division is jointly named	0 of 2 (0.0%)	10 of 150 (6.7%)
Electoral division is named after a former Prime Minister	0 of 2 (0.0%)	23 of 150 (15.3%)
Electoral division is named after a geographical feature	0 of 2 (0.0%)	34 of 150 (22.7%)
Electoral division is named for an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person or word	1 of 2 (50.0%)	24 of 150 (16.0%)
Electoral division is named for an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person	1 of 2 (50.0%)	8 of 150 (5.3%)
Electoral division is named for an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander word	0 of 2 (0.0%)	16 of 150 (10.7%)
Electoral division name is that of an original Federation electoral division	0 of 2 (0.0%)	35 of 150 (23.3%)

Source: Data available at: [www.aec.gov.au/Electorates/Redistributions/electoral-names.htm](http://www.aec.gov.au/Electorates/Redistributions/electoral-names.htm)

Note:

1. A jointly named electoral division is one which has been named for a husband and wife, for a family, or for a group of individuals with a common surname who may or may not be related.
2. Electoral divisions named for an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander word include those named for an anglicised version of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander word.
3. Federation electoral divisions are those which were in place for the 1901 election.

# Appendix G: 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 while redistribution committees and augmented Electoral Commissions consider the naming guidelines, they 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 and Torres Strait Islander names**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander names should be used where appropriate and as far as possible existing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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.

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 H: General description of how electoral divisions are constituted

The following tables show how each electoral division has been constructed and are intended to assist electors to identify if movements between the two electoral divisions as a result of this redistribution.

The unit to display this construction is Statistical Area Level 2s (SA2s).<sup>40</sup> Each SA2 comprises a number of SA1s. The SA1s and SA2s which applied at the 2021 Census of Population and Housing have been used. Some SA2s will appear in both of the following tables as they are not contained within the one electoral division but are in both electoral divisions.

Electoral divisions are displayed in alphabetical order.

### Division of Lingiari

Division composition	Enrolment as at Thursday 22 February 2024	Projected enrolment as at Monday 4 September 2028
Electors retained from the former Division of Lingiari		
Alligator	2,576	2,745
Anindilyakwa	1,495	1,708
Barkly	1,671	1,696
Berrimah	299	363
Charles	2,926	2,879
Christmas Island	606	739
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	399	487
Daly	1,132	1,227
East Arnhem	6,280	6,151
East Side	3,736	4,311
Eusey	1,489	1,539
Flynn	2,937	3,251
Gulf	2,875	3,087
Howard Springs	3,029	3,590
Humpty Doo	5,723	6,410
Katherine	6,764	7,117
Koolpinyah	6	6
Larapinta	3,294	3,546
Mount Johns	2,068	2,422
Nhulunbuy	1,812	2,074
Palmerston – South	0	0

<sup>40</sup> 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 of Lingiari (continued)

Division composition	Enrolment as at Thursday 22 February 2024	Projected enrolment as at Monday 4 September 2028
Petermann – Simpson	1,340	1,329
Ross	1,642	1,725
Sandover – Plenty	2,445	2,367
Tanami	2,135	2,185
Tennant Creek	1,914	1,949
Thamarrurr	1,717	1,733
Tiwi Islands	1,813	1,947
Victoria River	1,763	1,853
Virginia	2,117	2,421
Weddell	2,680	2,922
West Arnhem	3,772	4,056
Yuendumu – Anmatjere	1,649	1,653
<b>Total electors retained from the former Division of Lingiari</b>	<b>76,104</b>	<b>81,488</b>
<b>Total for the Division of Lingiari</b>	<b>76,104</b>	<b>81,488</b>

### Electors transferred from the former Division of Lingiari to another electoral division

#### Electors transferred to the Division of Solomon

Howard Springs	54	58
Palmerston – North	1,050	1,148
Palmerston – South	3,911	6,257
Virginia	0	0
<b>Total transferred to the Division of Solomon</b>	<b>5,015</b>	<b>7,463</b>
<b>Total electors transferred from the former Division of Lingiari to another electoral division</b>	<b>5,015</b>	<b>7,463</b>

## Division of Solomon

Division composition	Enrolment as at Thursday 22 February 2024	Projected enrolment as at Monday 4 September 2028
Electors retained from the former Division of Solomon		
Alawa	1,368	1,500
Anula	1,655	1,686
Bakewell	2,137	2,359
Berrimah	653	1,096
Brinkin – Nakara	1,893	2,023
Buffalo Creek	0	0
Charles Darwin	1	1
Coconut Grove	1,876	2,020
Darwin Airport	3	3
Darwin City	3,442	3,838
Driver	1,986	1,931
Durack – Marlow Lagoon	3,074	3,498
East Arm	22	21
East Point	2	1
Fannie Bay – The Gardens	2,429	2,512
Gray	2,430	2,584
Jingili	1,301	1,192
Karama	3,272	3,445
Larrakeyah	2,304	2,633
Leanyer	3,167	3,450
Ludmilla – The Narrows	1,856	2,016
Lyons	3,444	4,065
Malak – Marrara	3,220	3,500
Millner	1,641	1,732
Moil	1,400	1,526
Moulden	2,359	2,307
Nightcliff	2,545	2,749
Palmerston – North	1,794	1,831
Palmerston – South	3	4
Parap	1,883	1,848
Rapid Creek	2,076	2,214
Rosebery – Bellamack	4,124	4,437
Stuart Park	2,631	2,985
Tiwi	1,537	1,618
Wagaman	1,335	1,400
Wanguri	1,388	1,495

### Division of Solomon (continued)

Division composition	Enrolment as at Thursday 22 February 2024	Projected enrolment as at Monday 4 September 2028
Woodroffe	2,403	2,518
Woolner – Bayview – Winnellie	1,912	1,973
Wulagi	1,712	1,876
<b>Total electors retained from the former Division of Solomon</b>	<b>72,278</b>	<b>77,887</b>
<b>Electors transferred from another electoral division into the Division of Solomon</b>		
Electors transferred from the former Division of Lingiari		
Howard Springs	54	58
Palmerston – North	1,050	1,148
Palmerston – South	3,911	6,257
Virginia	0	0
<b>Total transferred from the former Division of Lingiari</b>	<b>5,015</b>	<b>7,463</b>
<b>Total electors transferred from another electoral division into the Division of Solomon</b>	<b>5,015</b>	<b>7,463</b>
<b>Total for the Division of Solomon</b>	<b>77,293</b>	<b>85,350</b>