



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Public suggestion 5

Country Liberals (Northern Territory)

22 pages

Suggestions Submission to the Redistribution Committee for the Northern Territory

On behalf of the Country Liberals (Northern Territory)





The Redistribution Committee for the Northern Territory
Level 7, TCG Centre
80 Mitchell Street
DARWIN NT 0800

Dear Committee Members,

I submit a Suggestions Submission on behalf of the Country Liberals (Northern Territory).

Our Suggestions Submission comprises of a summary of suggestions, commentary on the methodology, detailed description on the proposed changes and a map of the boundary change between the electorates of Lingiari and Solomon.

Should the Redistribution Committee wish to discuss the proposal and content of this Suggestions Submission please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Tory Mencshelyi
President, Country Liberals (Northern Territory)

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INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

This Suggestions Submission is made in response to the Australian Electoral Commissioner's invitation to members of the public to submit written suggestions about the redistribution of federal electoral boundaries in the Northern Territory.

The Country Liberals (Northern Territory) acknowledges that the Northern Territory will retain two electoral Divisions. We note that in making the proposed redistribution, the Redistribution Committee is required by the Act that:

- *the Northern Territory is 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 (sub-section 66(2) of the Electoral Act).*
 - *As the Northern Territory is entitled to two members of House of Representatives, as determined by the then acting Electoral Commissioner on 13 November 2014, the Redistribution Committee will proposed two electoral divisions for the Northern Territory.*
- *the Territory of the Christmas Islands and the Territory of Cocos (Keeling Island) are to be included in the same electoral division in the Northern Territory (section 56A of the Electoral Act)*
- *all suggestions and comments on suggestions received by the lodgement time (sub-section 64(4) of the Electoral Act)*
 - *All written suggestions received by 6pm ACST Friday 4 March 2016 and all written comments on suggestions received by 6pm ACST Friday 18 March 2016 will be considered by the Redistribution Committee in the development of their proposed redistribution.*
- *as far as practicable, the number of electors enrolled in each electoral division in the Northern Territory at the projection time would not be more than plus or minus 3.5 per cent of the projected enrolment quota (paragraph 66(3)(a) of the Electoral Act)*
 - *As far as practicable, the number of electors enrolled in each electoral division in the Northern Territory at the projection time of 7 August 2020 must be between 68 214 and 73 162.*
- *the number of electors enrolled in each electoral division in the Northern Territory would not be more than plus or minus 10 per cent of the current enrolment quota (sub-section 66(3) of the Electoral Act)*
 - *The number of electors enrolled in each electoral division in the Northern Territory must be between 58 308 and 71 264.*
- *in relation to each proposed electoral division, give due consideration to:*
 - *community of interests within the proposed electoral division, including economic, social and regional interests*
 - *means of communication and travel within the proposed electoral division*
 - *the physical features and area of the proposed electoral division, and*
 - *the boundaries of existing electoral divisions in the Northern Territory, with this factor being subordinate to the consideration i to iii (paragraph 66(3)(b) and sub-section 66(3A) of the Electoral Act)*

In preparing this submission, the Country Liberals (Northern Territory) has adhered strictly to the elector constraints as set out in the Act, and has also paid due regard to maintaining community of interests, means of communication and travel, physical features and existing boundaries.

METHODOLOGY

METHODOLOGY

HISTORY

Since the 2000 redistribution of the Division of the Northern Territory into the two seats of Solomon and Lingiari, the Divisions have remained largely unchanged. Solomon is considered the urban seat comprising of the cities of Darwin and Palmerston. Lingiari is considered the bush seat encompassing the remainder of the Northern Territory including the major townships of Alice Springs, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy as well as Cocos Island and Christmas Island.

ELECTORAL ENROLMENT

With current elector numbers in Solomon exceeding those in Lingiari by 9.4%, the 2016 Redistribution must see the further expansion of the geographically massive division of Lingiari to encroach on Darwin and Palmerston.

THE CL APPROACH

While the required change is not considered ideal, as it is difficult to argue that residents of Palmerston or Darwin share strong community of interests with those in remote NT, this Suggestion Submission by the Country Liberals (Northern Territory) endeavours to minimise the impact on electors.

The Suggestion Submission achieves the primary redistribution objective of balancing elector numbers while giving due consideration to other factors detailed in Clause 66 (3) (b) of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918.

The Suggestion Submission will focus on the Litchfield Municipality, which currently sits across both Lingiari and Solomon, and maintaining Solomon as the historically 'urban' seat containing Darwin and Palmerston.

NAMING OF DIVISIONS

The Country Liberals' (Northern Territory) submission does not recommend any changes to the names of existing electoral Divisions.

The current Division names - Lingiari and Solomon - are accepted by the community and there is nothing to be gained by changing them.

LITCHFIELD MUNICIPALITY

The Local Government Area of the Litchfield Municipality is currently split across the divisions of Solomon and Lingiari. This Municipality shares community of interest, means of communication and travel and physical features thus it is compelling that the portion currently within Solomon should be transferred to Lingiari. This includes the suburbs of Holtze, Knuckey Lagoon, and Mickett Creek.

DARWIN AND PALMERSTON

The above changes would see the division of Solomon comprised solely of the Local Government Areas of the City of Darwin and the City of Palmerston. Both current and projected elector numbers require the division of Lingiari to encroach on these LGA boundaries in this redistribution.

The Country Liberals (Northern Territory) considered the inclusion of Palmerston suburbs within Lingiari, potential options included the suburbs of Farrar, Johnston, Zuccoli and Mitchell. The demographic of these new suburbs contrasted vastly with the neighbouring suburbs of Virginia and Howard Springs and showed strong community of interest, means of communication travel and physical features with the remainder of Palmerston and hence we strongly recommend that these suburbs remain within the division of Solomon.

The Lingiari boundary shift to include the Litchfield Municipality should be extended to include the Suburbs of Karama and Holmes. These suburbs share ties with the neighbouring suburbs of Mickett Creek and Knuckey Lagoon.

BOUNDARIES OF EXISTING DIVISIONS

In previous redistributions, the Redistribution Committee has used existing electoral boundaries as a starting point for designing new ones.

Given that there is a single land boundary between the electoral Divisions of Lingiari and Solomon, the Country Liberals (Northern Territory) maintains that the changes should be along the existing boundary rather than dramatically departing from the strong communities of interest that are contained within the respective boundaries, and respected by the Australian Electoral Commission in the 2008 redistribution.

SUGGESTIONS

LINGIARI & SOLOMON

There is only one land boundary between the electoral Divisions of Solomon and Lingiari. As discussed previously, the electorate of Solomon has to transfer electors to Lingiari to remain within the allowable tolerance. To keep Darwin and Palmerston together, based on a very strong community of interest, the change must take place along the eastern boundary.

The Country Liberals (Northern Territory) proposes that the existing southern boundary remain, following the natural physical features of the land, Elizabeth River and Mitchells Creek. The existing boundary follows Radford Road to Taylor Road and across to the Stuart Highway.

The suburbs in the south of Solomon share a strong community of interest and means of communication and travel. For this compelling reason, there is no logical way that you could remove a single suburb or split the substantive fabric of Palmerston.

For that reason, we propose that the new boundary follow the Stuart Highway, an iconic and physical border, to Vanderlin Drive. Following Vanderlin Drive north, we then propose that the boundary travel along Mueller Road before linking back up to Vanderlin Drive. This proposal also follows the existing suburb boundaries.

This transfers the entire suburbs of Karama and Holmes into Lingiari. This change is proposed as those suburbs share a very strong community of interest with Knuckey Lagoon and Mickett Creek including facilities and services such as schools, postal services and shopping centres, as well as shared communication and travel.

As a result of this proposed change, Solomon, instead of comprising of three local government areas would consist of just two, the City of Darwin and City of Palmerston. The Litchfield Municipality would then fall entirely within Lingiari, instead of being split over the two electoral Divisions as it currently stands.

Our proposed boundary then circles around the suburbs of Leanyer and Muirhead, then north through to Buffalo Creek. As mentioned earlier, historically, Solomon is considered to be the 'urban' centred electoral Division and Lingiari is known as the 'bush' seat. This proposed change follows the significant historical precedence and identity of the existing electoral Divisions.

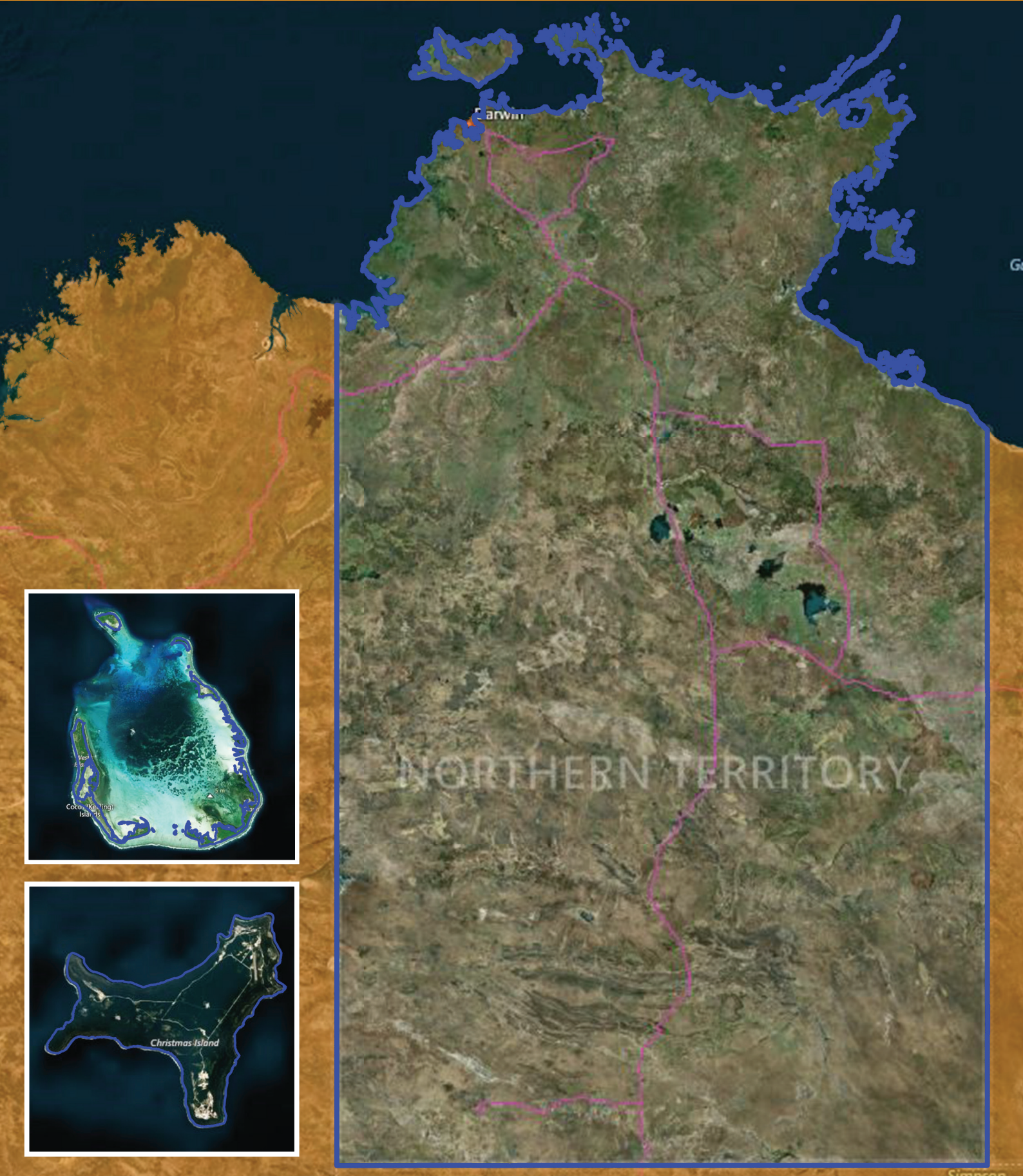
PROJECTED ENROLMENT AS A RESULT OF PROPOSED BOUNDARY CHANGE

DIVISION	OCT 2015		AUG 2020	
	129571	-	141376	-
Lingiari	65922	1.75%	71433	1.05%
Solomon	63649	-1.75%	69943	-1.05%

MAPS OF SUGGESTED DIVISIONS

Electoral District of Lingiari - Proposed New Boundaries

Actual: 65,922 (1.75%) • Projected: 71,433 (1.05%)



Electoral District of Solomon - Proposed New Boundaries

Actual: 63,649 (-1.75%) • Projected: 69,943 (-1.05%)





COUNTRY
LIBERALS

The logo for the Country Liberals party. It features the words "COUNTRY" and "LIBERALS" in a bold, sans-serif font. "COUNTRY" is in orange and "LIBERALS" is in white. A small white silhouette of a person with arms raised is positioned between the two words. Below the text is a white, curved swoosh line.