



Proposed redistribution of the Northern Territory into electoral divisions JUNE 2016

*Report of the Redistribution Committee for the
Northern Territory*

Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918

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

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

This report is prepared to fulfil the requirements of sections 66 and 67 of the Electoral Act.

Redistribution Committee for the Northern Territory, Darwin

Mr Tom Rogers
Chair

Mr Mick Sherry
Member

Mr Craig Sandy
Member

Ms Julie Crisp
Member

June 2016

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About this report

This report outlines the proposed redistribution of the Northern Territory's federal electoral divisions and the Redistribution Committee's reasons supporting this proposal.

The report consists of the following sections:

- **Executive summary**

- **Chapter 1: Background and context**

This chapter outlines the legislative requirements of the redistribution, ranging from the initial triggering of the process to the release of the proposed redistribution by the Redistribution Committee. The chapter explains how these requirements were met during the redistribution process, and also provides relevant information about the Northern Territory.

- **Chapter 2: Proposed redistribution and reasons for proposal**

This chapter outlines the Redistribution Committee's proposed redistribution and the reasons for this proposal. Also included is the Redistribution Committee's approach to formulating the proposed names and proposed boundaries of proposed electoral divisions.

- **Chapter 3: What's next?**

This chapter outlines the legislative requirements to be met following the release of the proposed redistribution, through to the final determination of the names and boundaries of electoral divisions in the Northern Territory.

- **Appendices**

This report does not reflect provisions implemented as a result of the *Territories Legislation Amendment Act 2016* which are due to commence on 1 July 2016.

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 for the Northern Territory	The Electoral Commission, augmented by the members of the Redistribution Committee for the Northern Territory
current enrolment quota	(Number of electors enrolled in a state or territory on the day the redistribution commences) / (Number of members of the House of Representatives the state or territory is entitled to) The current enrolment quota for this redistribution is 64 786
EBMS	Electoral Boundary Mapping System – a modification of commercially available mapping software which automatically calculates the revised actual and projected enrolments when boundaries are moved
Electoral Act	<i>Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918</i>

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

Executive summary

This report provides the Redistribution Committee for the Northern Territory's (the Redistribution Committee) proposed redistribution of the Northern Territory into two electoral divisions.

The Redistribution Committee proposes:

- retaining both names of the electoral divisions in the Northern Territory, and
- altering the boundaries of both electoral divisions in the Northern Territory.

This proposal is made available for public discussion and for appropriate modifications or adjustment by the augmented Electoral Commission for the Northern Territory (the augmented Electoral Commission) through the objection and comments on objection process (and inquiry process, if required). The augmented Electoral Commission will finalise the names and boundaries of electoral divisions after carefully considering objections and comments on objections (and oral submissions presented at any inquiry which may be held).

Background

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

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

The *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (the Electoral Act) indicates when a redistribution is to be conducted and the processes and timelines to be following in doing so, including how and when public consultation is to occur.

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

The redistribution process commenced with a direction from the Electoral Commission on Thursday 15 October 2015. Interested individuals and parties were invited to make written suggestions and written comments on suggestions relating to the redistribution via notices published in:

- the *Commonwealth Government Notices Gazette* (the Gazette) on Wednesday 3 February 2016,
- *The Atoll* on Thursday 4 February 2016,
- *The Islander* on Friday 5 February 2016,
- *The Northern Territory News* and the *Weekend Australian* on Saturday 6 February 2016, and
- *The Koori Mail* on Wednesday 10 February 2016.

Six written suggestions were made available for public perusal on Monday 7 March 2016, with one written comment on suggestions also made available on Monday 21 March 2016.

The Redistribution Committee found the written suggestions and comment on suggestions made to the redistribution to be valuable contributions and is appreciative of the time and effort expended by all those who contributed. In developing its proposal, the Redistribution Committee carefully considered all matters in each of these suggestions and the comment on suggestions. The redistribution proposal has been informed by these matters, and complies with all relevant provisions of the Electoral Act.

Legislative requirements

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

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

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

In relation to each proposed electoral division, the Redistribution Committee is also required by the Electoral Act to give due consideration to:

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

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

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

Proposed redistribution

The redistribution proposal covers:

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

Naming of proposed electoral divisions

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

Four of the six suggestions received addressed the issue of the naming of electoral divisions, with each advocating the existing names be retained.

The Redistribution Committee's reasons for this proposal are set out in Chapter 2 of this report.

Boundaries of proposed electoral divisions

The Redistribution Committee was required to alter the divisional boundaries as neither electoral division fell within the range for the permissible maximum and minimum number of projected electors as at Friday 7 August 2020. As a consequence, the Redistribution Committee was obligated to alter the existing divisional boundaries until this requirement could be met.

The Redistribution Committee sought to redraw the boundaries such that electors from the division with higher projected enrolment (the Division of Solomon) supplemented the electoral division which had to grow to satisfy the numerical requirements of the Electoral Act (the Division of Lingjari). As a result, the Redistribution Committee proposes altering the current boundary between the Divisions of Lingjari and Solomon such that:

- the entirety of the Litchfield Municipality is located in the proposed Division of Lingjari, requiring the transfer of the suburbs of Holtze, Knuckey Lagoon, Mickett Creek and part of Shoal Bay from the Division of Solomon to the proposed Division of Lingjari, and
- parts of the Palmerston Municipality are located in the proposed Division of Lingjari, requiring the transfer of the suburbs of Farrar, Johnston, Mitchell, Zuccoli and part of Yarrowonga from the Division of Solomon to the proposed Division of Lingjari.

In moving these areas, the Redistribution Committee was mindful to consider the legislative requirements.

The proposed Division of Lingjari will consist of:

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

- the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, and
- the Territory of Christmas Island.

The proposed Division of Solomon will consist of:

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

The Redistribution Committee considers the proposed redistribution of the Northern Territory will result in electoral divisions which:

- can accommodate growth in the Northern Territory,
- keep existing community of interests, as represented by local government areas, together where possible,
- use strong and readily identifiable features, such as major roads, as boundaries, where possible, and
- minimise the movement of electors between the two electoral divisions, where possible.

This proposal is also consistent with:

- the five suggestions which proposed changing the electoral divisions and boundaries to include all of the Litchfield Municipality in the proposed Division of Lingjari,
- the three suggestions and one comment on suggestion which proposed changing the electoral divisions and boundaries to include part of the City of Palmerston in the proposed Division of Lingjari,
- the three suggestions which proposed retaining the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and the Territory of Christmas Island in the proposed Division of Lingjari, and
- the two suggestions which proposed retaining the Tiwi Islands in the proposed Division of Lingjari.

Elector movements

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

Objection process

Interested individuals and organisations are able to consider the Redistribution Committee's proposed names and boundaries of electoral divisions for the Northern Territory, together with the Redistribution Committee's reasons for this proposed redistribution. Those interested can then provide objections to the proposal, together with comments on objections, for consideration by the augmented Electoral Commission.

All objections and comments on objections received, together with oral submissions made at any inquiry, will be considered by the augmented Electoral Commission as part of developing their proposed redistribution prior to making a final determination of the names and boundaries of electoral divisions in the Northern Territory.

Chapter 3 outlines the timetable for this determination to be made.

Implementation of this redistribution

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

The electoral divisions which applied at the federal general election on Saturday 2 July 2016 were therefore the same as those which applied at the 2013 federal general election.

Chapter 1

Background and context

This chapter outlines the legislative requirements of the redistribution, ranging from the initial triggering of the process to the release of the proposed redistribution by the Redistribution Committee. The chapter explains how these requirements were met during the redistribution process, and also provides relevant information about the Northern Territory.

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 their population, and
 - there are a similar number of electors in each electoral division for a given state or territory

Compliance with legislative requirements

2. The *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (the Electoral Act) specifies that a redistribution process should be undertaken when:
 - the number of members of the House of Representatives to which a state or territory is entitled has changed (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.¹
3. The procedures to be followed in conducting a redistribution process are also specified in the Electoral Act. Appendix A summarises the legislative requirements which have been followed in conducting this redistribution. Each of these requirements is discussed in further detail in this chapter.

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

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

- Paragraph 59(2)(c) of the Electoral Act requires that a redistribution process shall commence when a period of seven years has elapsed since the last redistribution. As the last redistribution of the Northern Territory was determined on Friday 19 September 2008, a redistribution process was required to commence within 30 days of Friday 19 September 2015.²

Number of members of the House of Representatives the Northern Territory is entitled to

- On Thursday 13 November 2014, the then acting Electoral Commissioner made a determination under sub-section 48(1) of the Electoral Act of the number of members of the House of Representatives each state and territory would be entitled to at the next general election.³
- As a result of this determination, the Northern Territory's entitlement remained at two members of the House of Representatives.⁴
- An explanation of how the representation entitlement of the Northern Territory has been calculated is in Appendix B.

Direction for a redistribution of the Northern Territory electoral divisions

- In accordance with sub-section 59(1) of the Electoral Act, the Electoral Commission published a notice in the *Commonwealth Government Notices Gazette* (the Gazette) on Thursday 15 October 2015 directing that a redistribution of the Northern Territory into two electoral divisions commence.

Projection time for equality of enrolments

- Section 63A of the Electoral Act provides for the calculation of a projection time for the equality of enrolments. Determining the projection time is an important part of the redistribution process as one of the requirements of the Electoral Act is for the number of electors projected to be enrolled in a proposed electoral division at a specified point in the future, known as the 'projection time', to fall within a mandated range.
- The starting time from which the projection time is calculated, as defined by sub-section 63A(5) of the Electoral Act, is the date at which the augmented Electoral Commission for the Northern Territory (the augmented Electoral Commission) will determine the names and boundaries of electoral divisions via publication of a notice in the Gazette. The starting time for the redistribution

2 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.

3 A copy of this determination is available on the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) website.

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

process for the Northern Territory is Tuesday 7 February 2017 as this is the date when the augmented Electoral Commission will cause the names and boundaries of electoral divisions in the Northern Territory to be published in the Gazette.

11. The Electoral Act provides for:
 - the ‘standard’ projection time, which is the period three years and six months after the starting time, or
 - an ‘earlier’ projection time, when the Electoral Commission is of the opinion a redistribution process will or may be required to be undertaken as a result of a change in the number of electoral divisions a state or territory is entitled to sooner than seven years after the starting time.⁵
12. On Monday 12 October 2015, the Electoral Commission noted there was no basis for an earlier projection time and the standard projection time of three years and six months would apply. The projection time for the Northern Territory is therefore Friday 7 August 2020.

Current enrolment quota

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

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

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

⁵ Sub-section 63A(3) provides that when the Electoral Commission considers a redistribution will be required sooner than seven years after the starting time, the earlier projection time is half-way between the projection time and the time when the Electoral Commission believes the redistribution will or may be required. To make this decision, the Electoral Commission utilises projected populations and the same process used to calculate the number of members of the House of Representatives each state and territory is entitled to, as detailed in Appendix B.

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

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

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

Enrolment projections and projected enrolment quota

18. When making a proposed redistribution, the Redistribution Committee is required by paragraph 66(3)(a) to ensure, as far as practicable, that the number of electors enrolled in the proposed electoral division at the projection time will not be more than plus 3.5 per cent or less than minus 3.5 per cent of the projected enrolment quota (see Appendix C). This quota is calculated using the following formula:

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

19. For the purposes of this redistribution, projected enrolment has been calculated by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The enrolment figures, together with the projected enrolment and processes used to calculate these projections, were made available on the AEC website when the invitation for interested parties to submit suggestions and comments on suggestions was made.
20. [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 proposed redistribution').

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

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

Appointment of the Redistribution Committee for the Northern Territory

21. Sub-section 60(1) of the Electoral Act specifies that a Redistribution Committee for the Northern Territory is required to be appointed by the Electoral Commission, via a written instrument, as soon as practicable after the commencement of the redistribution process. Section 60 also specifies the membership of the Redistribution Committee.
22. The membership of the Redistribution Committee for the Northern Territory (the Redistribution Committee) is outlined in [Table C](#).

Table C: Membership of the Redistribution Committee for the Northern Territory

Position on Redistribution Committee	Name	Basis for membership
Chair	Mr Tom Rogers	Electoral Commissioner
Member	Mr Mick Sherry	Australian Electoral Officer for the Northern Territory
Member	Mr Craig Sandy	Surveyor-General of the Northern Territory
Member	Ms Julie Crisp	Northern Territory Auditor-General

23. The Redistribution Committee is responsible for:
 - considering all suggestions to the redistribution and all comments on suggestions 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, and
 - making the proposed redistribution, including maps showing the names and boundaries of proposed electoral divisions, and the Redistribution Committee's reasons for the proposed redistribution available for public perusal.
24. The Redistribution Committee met on:
 - Friday 1 April 2016
 - Monday 4 April 2016

Invitation for interested parties to submit suggestions and comments on suggestions

25. The Electoral Commissioner is required by sub-sections 64(1) and 64(2) of the Electoral Act to invite written suggestions relating to the redistribution of the Northern Territory and written comments on suggestions via:
- a notice published in the Gazette on a Wednesday, and
 - a notice published in two newspapers circulating throughout the Northern Territory.
26. The notice in the Gazette was published on Wednesday 3 February 2016. Newspaper notices were published in:
- *The Atoll* on Thursday 4 February 2016,⁶
 - *The Islander* on Friday 5 February 2016,⁷
 - *The Northern Territory News* and the *Weekend Australian* on Saturday 6 February 2016, and
 - *The Koori Mail* on Wednesday 10 February 2016.^{8 9}
27. These notices included information about the steps followed in conducting a redistribution, how to participate in the process and where to find further information. [Table D](#) presents information on the options for making a suggestion or comment on a suggestion, and the extent to which these options were used.

Table D: Options to make a suggestion or comment on a suggestion

Options	Suggestions		Comments on a suggestion	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Form upload on AEC website	4	66.66%	1	100.00%
Email	2	33.33%	0	0.00%
Mail	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Fax	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
In person	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Total	6	100.00%	1	100.00%

28. Interested parties were able to submit written suggestions from Wednesday 3 February 2016 until 6pm (ACST) on Friday 4 March 2016, the 5th Friday after publication of the Gazette notice.¹⁰ During this time, six suggestions were received by the Redistribution Committee (see Appendix D).
29. As required by paragraph 64(3)(a) of the Electoral Act, copies of these suggestions were made available to the public for perusal at the office of the Australian Electoral Officer for the Northern Territory in Darwin from Monday 7 March 2016. The suggestions were also made available on the AEC website from this date.

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

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

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

⁹ Sub-section 64(2) of the Electoral Act notes that the newspaper notices do not need to be published on the same day as the Gazette notice.

¹⁰ This requirement is specified by paragraph 64(1)(a) of the Electoral Act.

30. Interested parties were able to submit written comments on suggestions received from Monday 7 March 2016 until 6pm (ACST) on Friday 18 March 2016, the 7th Friday after publication of the Gazette notice.¹¹ During this time, one comment on suggestions was received by the Redistribution Committee (see Appendix E).
31. From Monday 21 March 2016, interested parties were able to view these comments on suggestions on the AEC website.

Redistribution Committee's consideration of suggestions and comments on suggestions

32. The Redistribution Committee is required by sub-section 64(4) to consider all suggestions and comments on suggestions which were received by the required specified lodgement times.
33. The Redistribution Committee found the written suggestions and comment on suggestions made to the redistribution to be a valuable contribution and is appreciative of the time and effort expended by all those who contributed.
34. In formulating its proposed redistribution of the Northern Territory, the Redistribution Committee considered each of the six suggestions and one comment on suggestions. Appendix F outlines the key themes contained in these suggestions and comment on suggestions, and how the Redistribution Committee responded to them, having regard to the requirements of the Electoral Act.

Statutory requirements for the making of a proposed redistribution

35. Section 66 of the Electoral Act required the Redistribution Committee to adhere to specific criteria in forming the proposed electoral divisions.
36. The Redistribution Committee endeavoured to ensure that the number of electors in each proposed Northern Territory electoral division would:
 - meet the requirement of sub-section 66(3) of the Electoral Act for the number of electors in a proposed electoral division to not be less than 90 per cent or more than 110 per cent of the current enrolment quota of 64 786 electors (Table A indicates the number of electors enrolled in each proposed electoral division in the Northern Territory must therefore be between 58 308 and 71 264), and
 - meet the requirement of paragraph 66(3)(a) of the Electoral Act for the number of electors projected to be in a proposed 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 Friday 7 August 2020 (Table B indicates the number of electors projected to be enrolled in each proposed electoral division in the Northern Territory at the projection time of Friday 7 August 2020 must be between 68 214 and 73 162).

¹¹ This requirement is specified by paragraph 64(1)(b) of the Electoral Act.

37. The Redistribution Committee also gave due consideration to the requirements of paragraph 66(3)(b) of the Electoral Act:
- i. community of interests in the proposed electoral divisions including economic, social and regional interests,
 - ii. means of communication and travel in the proposed electoral division,
 - iv. the physical features and area of the proposed electoral divisions, and
 - v. the boundaries of existing electoral divisions, with this factor being subordinate to consideration of factors i, ii and iv.
38. Further details regarding these requirements are in Appendix C.
39. Appendix G outlines the mechanics of constructing proposed electoral divisions.

Population and enrolment in the Northern Territory

40. The periodic redrawing of electoral boundaries is required to:
- address changes in the population of a state or territory, which may result from natural increase, natural decrease, net overseas migration or net interstate migration, and/or
 - address changes in the distribution of electors in the state or territory.

The population of the Northern Territory

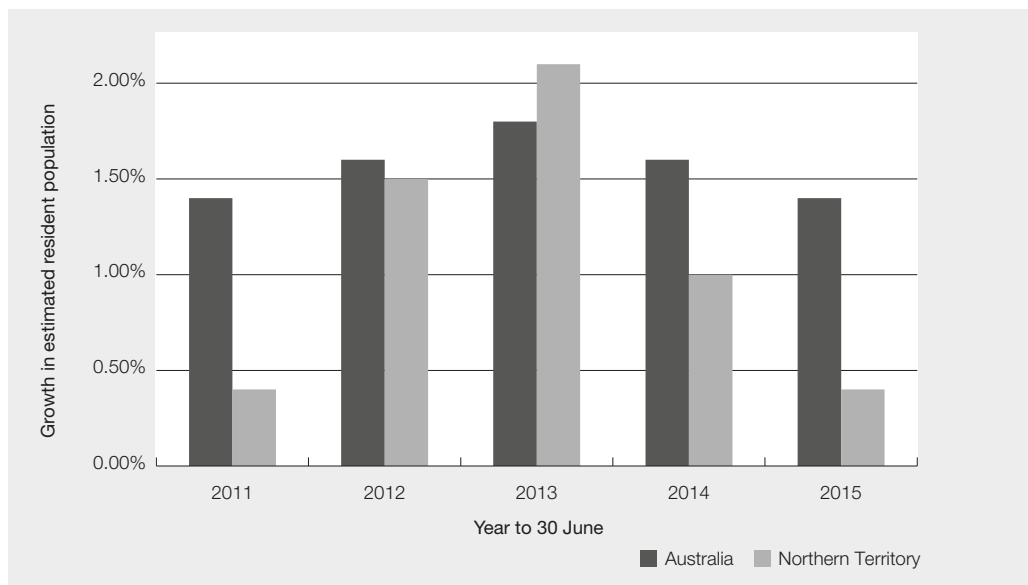
41. On Thursday 13 November 2014, the then acting Electoral Commissioner ascertained the Northern Territory's population was 246 478.¹² This represents growth of 6.26 per cent in population since the previous ascertainment of the population on Thursday 29 September 2011.
42. Similarly, [Figure A](#) shows the estimated resident population of the Northern Territory has grown annually over this period.^{13 14} However, from [Figure A](#) it is also evident that:
- growth of the estimated resident population of the Northern Territory has slowed, and
 - the estimated resident population for Australia as a whole is growing at a greater rate than is that of the Northern Territory.

¹² An explanation of how this population was ascertained is in Appendix B.

¹³ Estimated resident population is the ABS official estimate of the Australian population, which links people to a place of usual residence in Australia. Usual residence in Australia refers to that address at which the person has lived or intends to live for six months or more in a given reference year. Estimates of the resident population are based on Census counts by place of usual residence (excluding short-term overseas visitors in Australia), with an allowance for Census net undercount, to which are added the estimated number of Australian residents temporarily overseas at the time of the Census. For further information, see the explanatory notes in 3218.0 – Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2013–14, available at: www.abs.gov.au

¹⁴ The ABS estimated resident population is calculated on a different basis to the population ascertained on Thursday 13 November 2014.

Figure A: Growth of estimated resident population of the Northern Territory and Australia in the 12 months to 30 June, 2011 to 2015



Source: 3218.0 – Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2010–11
 3218.0 – Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2011–12
 3218.0 – Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2012–13
 3218.0 – Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2013–14
 3218.0 – Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2014–15

Where is population growth in the Northern Territory located?

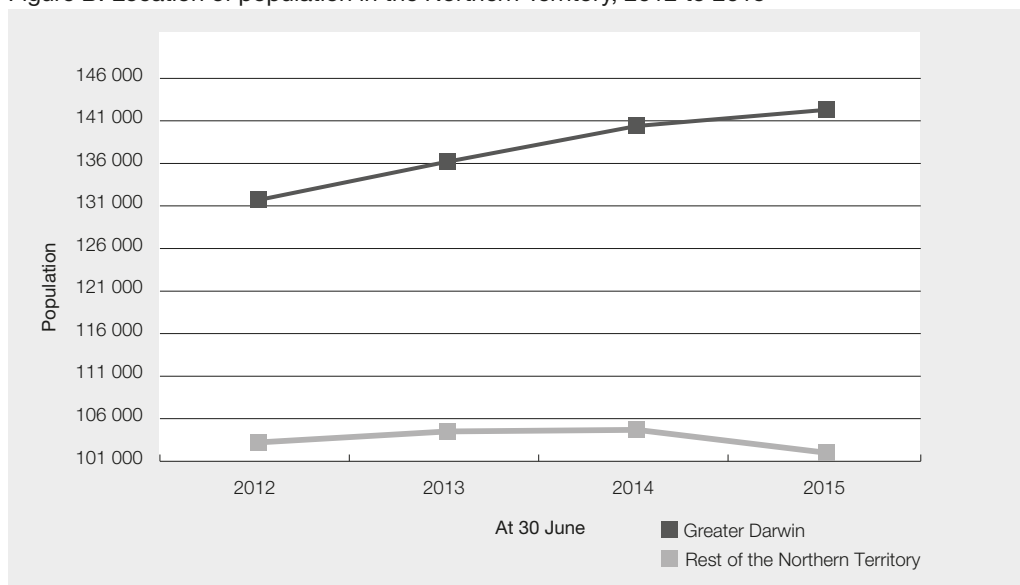
43. At June 2015, 58 per cent of the Northern Territory’s total population was located in the area of Greater Darwin.^{15 16} In 2014–15, Greater Darwin experienced the second fastest growth rate of all Australian capital cities. Overall, the population of the remainder of the Northern Territory decreased.¹⁷
44. **Figure B** shows that not only is there a significantly higher portion of residents living in the Greater Darwin area, but that much of the population growth has occurred in this part of the Northern Territory. In contrast, the estimated resident population in the rest of the Northern Territory has remained comparatively stable, but is beginning to decrease.

15 The ABS has defined Greater Darwin as consisting of the Statistical Area 3s (SA3s) of Darwin City, Darwin Suburbs, Litchfield and Palmerston. SA3s represent regions of between approximately 30 000 and 130 000 people, with their boundaries reflecting a combination of widely recognised informal regions as well as existing administrative regions such as State Government Regions in rural areas and local Government Areas in urban areas.

16 ABS, 3218.0 – Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2014–15

17 *ibid.*

Figure B: Location of population in the Northern Territory, 2012 to 2015



Source: 3218.0 – Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2011–12
 3218.0 – Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2012–13
 3218.0 – Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2013–14
 3218.0 – Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2014–15

- 45. The Northern Territory has the lowest population density of all states and territories in Australia, with a population density of 0.2 people per square kilometre (sq km). There is considerable variation within the Northern Territory. Between 2014 and 2015, the Statistical Area 2 (SA2)¹⁸ with the largest increase in population density was Darwin City which now has a population density of 170 people per sq km.¹⁹
- 46. The ABS has observed that, in the ten years to 2015, the centre of population in the Northern Territory has moved 36 kilometres north-west to be located roughly 45 kilometres south-west of the town of Katherine. This reflects strong population growth in the Greater Darwin area.²⁰

Enrolment in the Northern Territory

- 47. When the redistribution of the Northern Territory commenced on Thursday 15 October 2015, 129 571 electors were enrolled to vote. By the projection time of Friday 7 August 2020, it is projected the size of the federal electoral roll for the Northern Territory would have grown by 9.11 per cent to 141 376 electors.

¹⁸ 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.

¹⁹ ABS, op. cit.

²⁰ ibid.

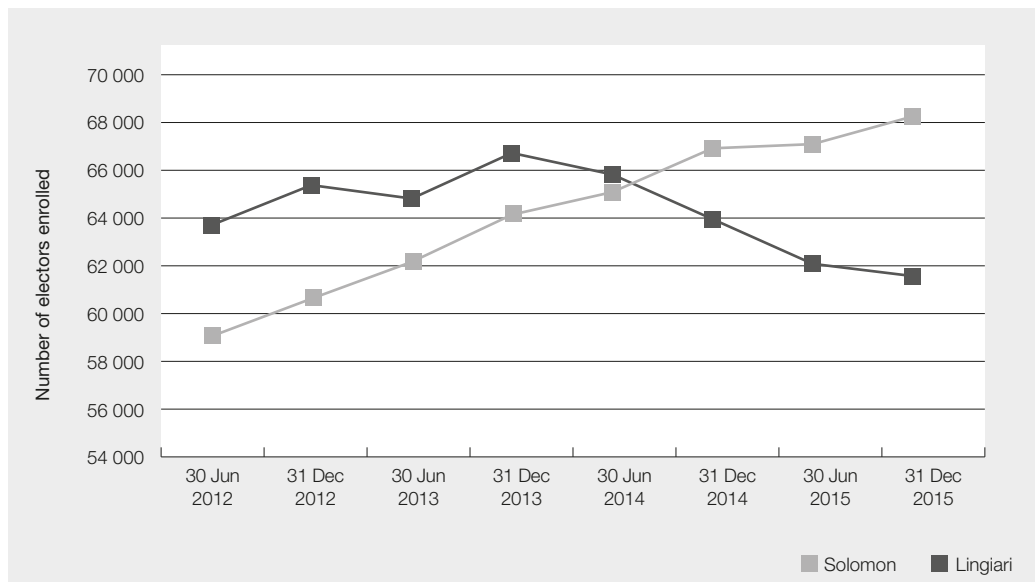
48. Table E shows that while both current electoral divisions are expected to grow in the period from Thursday 15 October 2015 to Friday 7 August 2020, the Division of Solomon is expected to grow at a faster rate than the Division of Lingiari.²¹ This aligns with the trends in population growth in the Northern Territory discussed previously.

Table E: Projected growth of current electoral divisions in the Northern Territory

Current electoral division	Enrolment as at Thursday 15 October 2015	Projected enrolment as at Friday 7 August 2020	Percentage growth
Lingiari	61 872	67 024	8.33%
Solomon	67 699	74 352	9.83%
Total	129 571	141 376	9.11%

49. Faster growth in the Division of Solomon is also consistent with enrolment trends in recent years. Figure C illustrates that not only are more electors enrolled in the Division of Solomon, but enrolment has grown steadily in the Division of Solomon while it has been decreasing in the Division of Lingiari.

Figure C: Enrolment in the Divisions of Lingiari and Solomon, 30 June 2012 to 31 December 2015



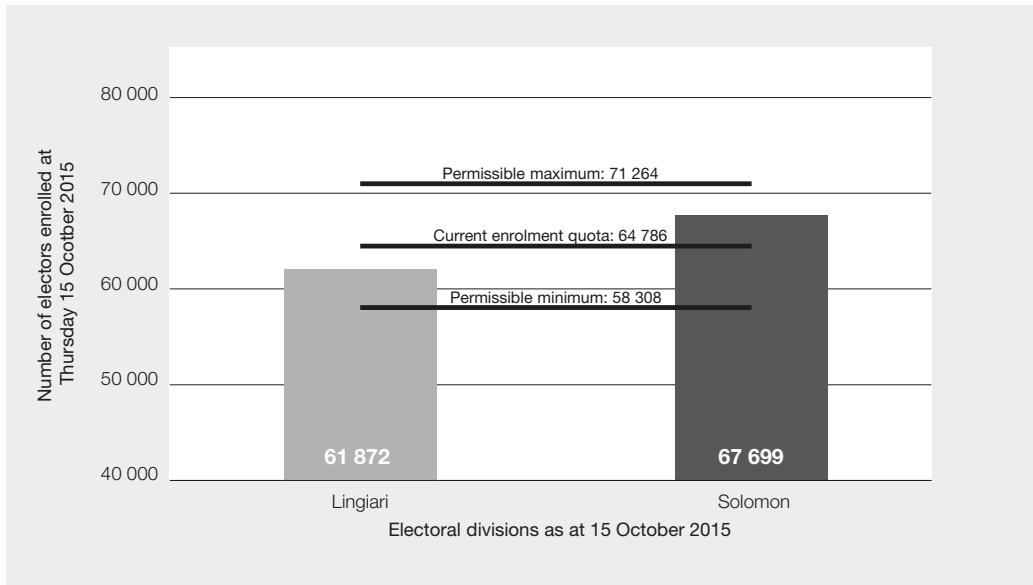
Source: Enrolment statistics available from www.aec.gov.au

50. As discussed previously, in making a proposed redistribution, the Electoral Act requires the Redistribution Committee to ensure the number of electors in each proposed Northern Territory electoral division would:
- not be less than 90 per cent or more than 110 per cent of the current enrolment quota of 64 786 electors, and

²¹ The current Division of Solomon encompasses the Darwin Municipality, the Palmerston Municipality, the unincorporated area of East Arm and parts of the Litchfield Municipality, specifically the suburbs of Knuckey Lagoon and Mickett Creek and parts of the suburbs of Holtze and Shoal Bay. The current Division of Lingiari encompasses the remainder of the Northern Territory, the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and the Territory of Christmas Island.

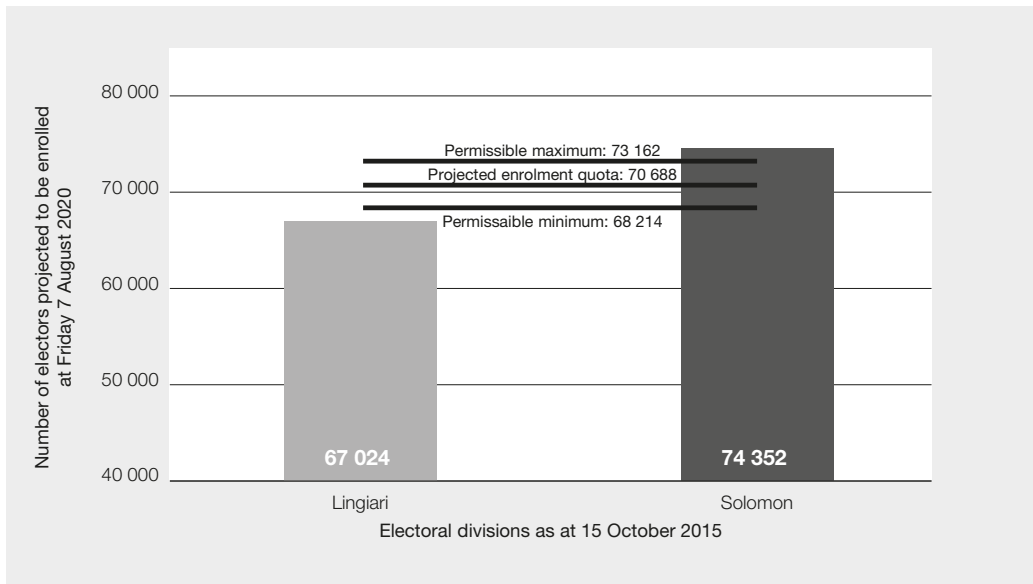
- not be less than 96.5 per cent or more than 103.5 per cent of the projected enrolment quota of 70 688 electors at the projection time of Friday 7 August 2020.
51. [Figure D](#) shows that, on the current boundaries, the number of electors enrolled in both the Divisions of Lingiari and Solomon meet the requirement to be not less than 90 per cent or more than 110 per cent of the current enrolment quota. However, [Figure E](#) indicates that neither electoral division meets the second requirement as:
- the Division of Lingiari, with a projected enrolment of 67 024 electors, is less than 96.5 per cent of the projected enrolment quota of 70 688 electors at the projection time of Friday 7 August 2020, and
 - the Division of Solomon, with a projected enrolment of 74 352 electors, is more than 103.5 per cent of the projected enrolment quota of 70 688 electors at the projection time of Friday 7 August 2020.
52. As a consequence, the Redistribution Committee was required to adjust the boundaries of both current electoral divisions to meet the requirements of the Electoral Act.

Figure D: Current Divisions of Lingiari and Solomon – enrolment as at Thursday 15 October 2015, current enrolment quota and permissible range of electors



Source: Available from www.aec.gov.au/nt-redistribution

Figure E: Current Divisions of Lingiari and Solomon – projected enrolment as at Friday 7 August 2020, projected enrolment quota and permissible range of electors



Source: Available from www.aec.gov.au/nt-redistribution

Chapter 2

Proposed redistribution and reasons for proposal

This chapter outlines the Redistribution Committee's proposed redistribution and the reasons for this proposal. Also included is the Redistribution Committee's approach to formulating the proposed names and proposed boundaries of proposed electoral divisions.

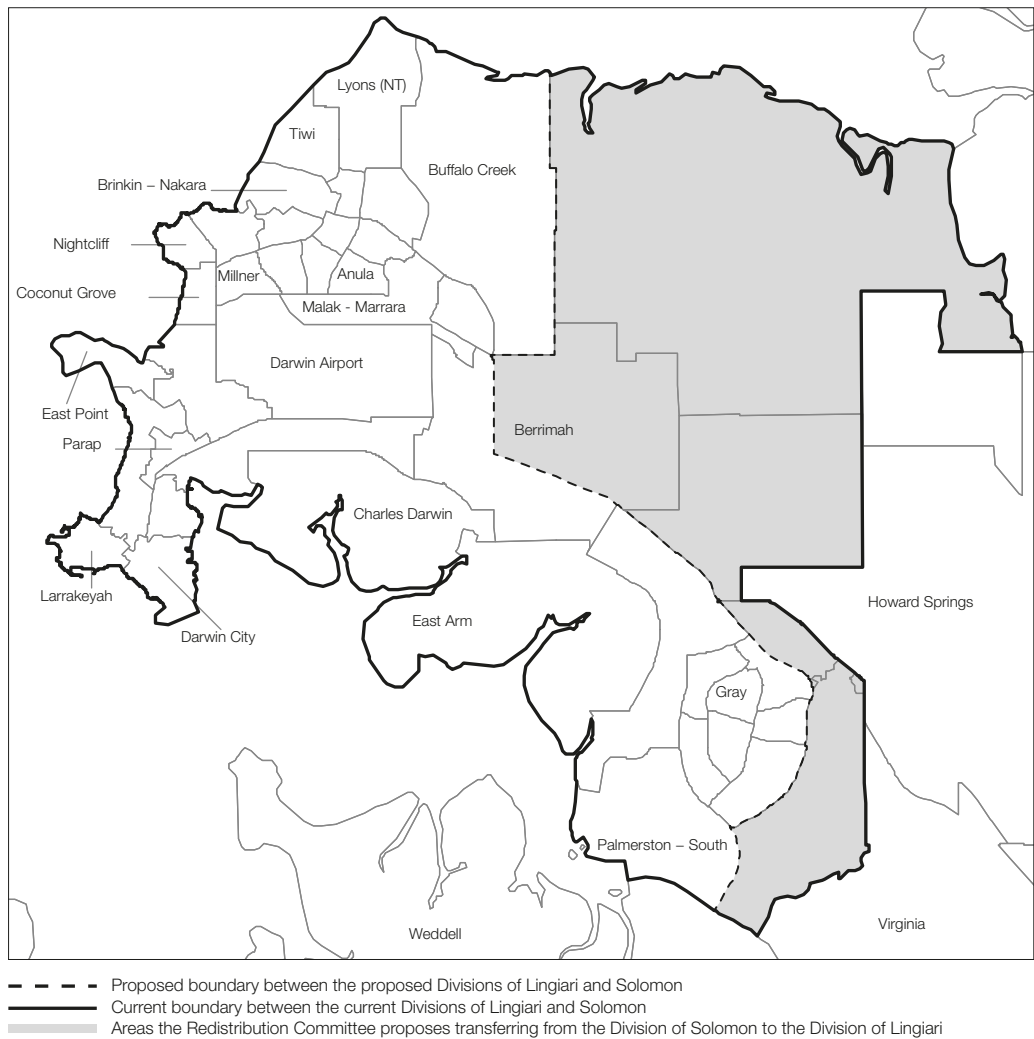
Redistribution Committee's proposed redistribution

53. There are two components to the Redistribution Committee's proposed redistribution:
 - the names of the two proposed electoral divisions, and
 - where to draw the boundary between the two proposed electoral divisions.
54. The Redistribution Committee proposes retaining the names of the Division of Lingiari and the Division of Solomon. This proposal is consistent with those suggestions received which advocated retaining the names of both electoral divisions.²²
55. The Redistribution Committee proposes altering the current boundary between the Divisions of Lingiari and Solomon such that:
 - the entirety of the Litchfield Municipality is located in the proposed Division of Lingiari, requiring the transfer of the suburbs of Holtze, Knuckey Lagoon, Mickett Creek and part of Shoal Bay from the Division of Solomon to the proposed Division of Lingiari, and
 - parts of the Palmerston Municipality are located in the proposed Division of Lingiari, requiring the transfer of the suburbs of Farrar, Johnston, Mitchell, Zuccoli and part of Yarrowonga from the Division of Solomon to the proposed Division of Lingiari.²³
56. As a result of these transfers, the proposed Division of Solomon will occupy a smaller geographic area than the current Division of Solomon, while the proposed Division of Lingiari will occupy a greater geographic area. The proposed Division of Lingiari will also continue to include the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, the Territory of Christmas Island, Groote Eylandt and the Tiwi Islands. [Figure F](#) shows the difference between the proposed and current boundaries for the two electoral divisions.

²² Retaining the names of both electoral divisions was advocated by: S2 – Jeff Waddell, S4 – Darren McSweeney, S5 – Country Liberals (Northern Territory), and S6 – Warren Snowdon MHR on behalf of the Australian Labor Party.

²³ On the current boundary, the suburb of Yarrowonga is located in both the Division of Lingiari and the Division of Solomon.

Figure F: Comparison of current and proposed electoral division boundaries



Note: This map shows selected SA2s of the Northern Territory.

Description of proposed boundary: At its most northerly point, the proposed boundary starts at the Northern Territory coast and follows the border between the Darwin Municipality and the Litchfield Municipality to the intersection of McMillans Road and Vanderlin Road. The proposed boundary continues to follow the border between the Darwin and Litchfield Municipalities along Vanderlin Drive in a southerly direction to the intersection of Vanderlin Drive and the Stuart Highway.

The proposed boundary continues following the border between the Darwin and Litchfield Municipalities, and the Palmerston and Litchfield Municipalities in a south-easterly direction along the Stuart Highway to the intersection with the suburb of Yarrowonga. From this point, the proposed boundary follows the eastern border of the suburbs of Palmerston City, Gunn, Bakewell (which follows Roystonea Avenue with the exception of the north-eastern corner of the suburb of Gunn when the suburb border deviates from Roystonea Avenue), Rosebery and Bellamack to Channel Island Road.

The proposed boundary follows Channel Island Road in a southerly direction to the Elizabeth River. At this point, the proposed boundary follows the Elizabeth River in a north-westerly direction to the coast, and then follows the coast in a clockwise direction to the point at which the Darwin and Litchfield Municipality borders meet the coast.

57. [Figure G](#) shows that, on the proposed boundaries, the number of electors enrolled in both proposed electoral divisions meet the requirement to be not less than 90 per cent or more than 110 per cent of the current enrolment quota of 64 786 electors. [Figure H](#) shows that, on the proposed boundaries, the number of electors projected to be enrolled in both proposed electoral divisions meet the requirement to be not less than 96.5 per cent or more than 103.5 per cent of the projected enrolment quota of 70 688 electors at the projection time of Friday 7 August 2020.
58. The Redistribution Committee considers that these movements will result in electoral divisions which:
- can accommodate ongoing growth in the Northern Territory,
 - keep existing community of interests, as represented by local government areas, together where possible,
 - use strong and readily identifiable features, such as major roads, as boundaries, where possible, and
 - minimise the movement of electors between the two electoral divisions, where possible.
59. This proposal is also consistent with parts of five of the six suggestions and the one comment on suggestions which proposed changes to the electoral divisions and boundaries. While each of the six suggestions and one comment on suggestions proposed changes to the boundaries, there was variation as to where the proposed boundary should be placed. The Redistribution Committee notes the proposal is consistent with:
- the five suggestions which proposed changing the electoral divisions and boundaries to include all of the Litchfield Municipality in the proposed Division of Lingjari,²⁴
 - the three suggestions and one comment on suggestion which proposed changing the electoral divisions and boundaries to include part of the City of Palmerston in the proposed Division of Lingjari,²⁵
 - the three suggestions which proposed retaining the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and the Territory of Christmas Island in the proposed Division of Lingjari,²⁶ and
 - the two suggestions which proposed retaining the Tiwi Islands in the proposed Division of Lingjari.²⁷

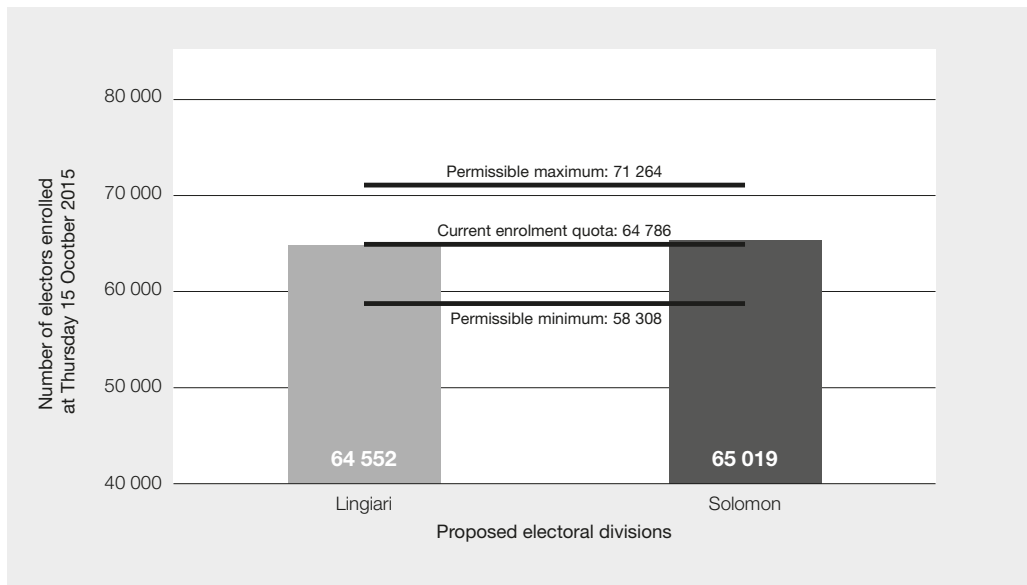
24 This matter was referred to by: S1 – Martin Gordon, S2 – Jeff Waddell, S3 – Dr Mark Mulcair, S4 – Darren McSweeney and S5 – Country Liberals (Northern Territory).

25 This matter was referred to by: S2 – Jeff Waddell, S3 – Dr Mark Mulcair, S4 – Darren McSweeney, S5 – Country Liberals (Northern Territory) and CS1 – Darren McSweeney.

26 This matter was referred to by: S1 – Martin Gordon, S4 – Darren McSweeney and S5 – Country Liberals (Northern Territory).

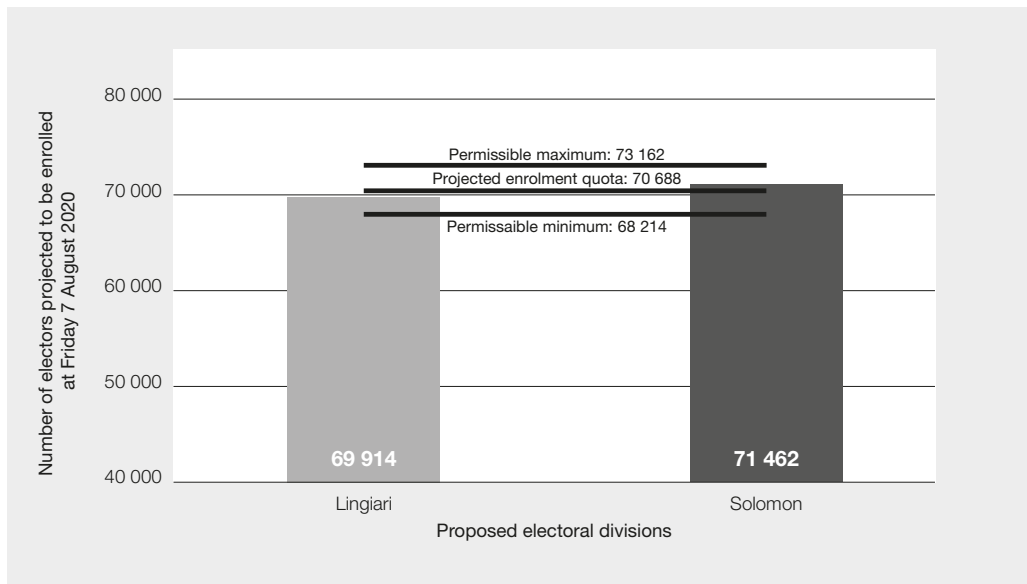
27 This matter was referred to by S4 – Darren McSweeney and S5 – Country Liberals (Northern Territory).

Figure G: Proposed Divisions of Lingjari and Solomon – enrolment as at Thursday 15 October 2015, current enrolment quota and permissible range of electors



Source: Available from www.aec.gov.au/nt-redistribution

Figure H: Proposed Divisions of Lingjari and Solomon – projected enrolment as at Friday 7 August 2020, projected enrolment quota and permissible range of electors



Source: Available from www.aec.gov.au/nt-redistribution

Redistribution Committee's approach to naming electoral divisions

60. The naming of federal electoral divisions has been the subject of a number of recommendations from parliamentary committees. The 'Guidelines for naming federal electoral divisions' (the guidelines) were developed by the AEC from recommendations made by the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters in 1995 in its *Report on the Effectiveness and Appropriateness of the Redistribution Provisions of Parts III and IV of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*. The guidelines were offered to interested persons when this redistribution was advertised, and are publicly available on the AEC website (see Appendix H).

Proposed names of electoral divisions in the Northern Territory

61. Of the six suggestions and one comment on suggestion received by the Redistribution Committee, four suggestions advocated retaining the names of both electoral divisions.²⁸ In supporting retention of the names of 'Lingiari' and 'Solomon', those making suggestions noted:
- these names honour distinguishable, unique and well deserving Australians,²⁹ and
 - the names are accepted by the community.³⁰
62. The decision to alter the name of an electoral division is not one which is taken lightly, with the guidelines noting that the names of electoral divisions should not be changed or transferred to new areas without very strong reasons. The Redistribution Committee notes strong reasons to change the existing names of electoral divisions in the Northern Territory have not been provided and that 'Lingiari'³¹ and 'Solomon'³² have been used as the names of electoral divisions in the Northern Territory since the establishment of two electoral divisions on Thursday 21 December 2000.³³
63. The Redistribution Committee proposes retaining the names of both of the current electoral divisions.

Redistribution Committee's approach to formulating proposed electoral boundaries

64. The Redistribution Committee's strategy for formulating the proposed electoral boundaries was based on, and conforms to, the requirements of the Electoral Act.
65. The Redistribution Committee acknowledged the importance of the principle of relative equality of the number of electors in electoral divisions and the flexibility provided by the numerical tolerances contained in the Electoral Act. The Redistribution Committee considered that, where necessary, the use of these tolerances allowed it to construct proposed electoral divisions which addressed all other criteria.

28 Retaining the names of both electoral divisions was advocated by: S2 – Jeff Waddell, S4 – Darren McSweeney, S5 – Country Liberals (Northern Territory), and S6 – Warren Snowdon MHR on behalf of the Australian Labor Party.

29 S4 – David McSweeney

30 S5 – Country Liberals (Northern Territory)

31 The Division of Lingiari is named in honour of Vincent Lingiari OAM 1908–88, who was a member of the Gurindji people from the Victoria River District.

32 The Division of Solomon is named in honour of Vaiben Louis Solomon 1853–1908, who has been described as the Northern Territory's founding father of federation.

33 The names and boundaries of the Divisions of Lingiari and Solomon were determined via publication of a notice in the Gazette on Thursday 21 December 2000. The first members to represent these divisions were elected at the general election on Saturday 10 November 2001.

66. Within the limits imposed by the numerical criteria and the other considerations, the Redistribution Committee acknowledged that it is also highly desirable that electoral boundaries be readily recognisable. Local government area boundaries, locality and suburb boundaries, main roads, waterways and other linear features able to be used as boundaries guided the Redistribution Committee, where appropriate.
67. The Redistribution Committee noted that a range of methods could be applied to achieve a proposed redistribution outcome for the Northern Territory. Suggestions proposed moving between, approximately, 1.54 and 48.82 per cent of electors into a different electoral division.
68. The six suggestions received by the Redistribution Committee fell into three categories:
- minimise the number of electors to be moved between electoral divisions by moving parts of the Litchfield Municipality and northern Darwin from the Division of Solomon to the proposed Division of Lingjari,³⁴
 - minimise the number of electors to be moved between electoral divisions by moving parts of the Litchfield Municipality and parts of the Palmerston Municipality from the Division of Solomon to the proposed Division of Lingjari,³⁵ or
 - redrawing the two electoral divisions such that parts of Darwin and Alice Springs are incorporated into each proposed electoral division.³⁶
69. Those making suggestions argued for the maintenance and/or strengthening of community of interest, the provision of clear and strong boundaries based on recognisable features and consideration of the means of communication and travel within the proposed electoral divisions.
70. In complying with the requirements of the Electoral Act, the Redistribution Committee also sought to apply the following principles in developing the boundaries of the proposed electoral divisions:
- minimise the movement of electors between electoral divisions as much as possible,
 - utilise the location of the existing electoral division boundary as a starting point,
 - avoid splitting Statistical Area 1s (SA1s)³⁷, where possible,
 - follow cadastral boundaries,³⁸ where possible,
 - keep to administrative boundaries, where possible, and
 - avoid separating cultural groups, where possible.
71. In formulating the redistribution proposal, the Redistribution Committee noted that, in order to meet the requirements of the Electoral Act, it was required to move electors from the current Division of Solomon to the proposed Division of Lingjari. The Redistribution Committee choose to minimise the number of electors to be moved by transferring parts of the Litchfield Municipality and parts of the Palmerston Municipality from the Division of Solomon to the proposed Division of Lingjari. This approach enables the entirety of the Litchfield Municipality to be united in the proposed Division of Lingjari instead of being split across two electoral divisions, as occurs with the current electoral divisions. The Redistribution Committee notes the eastern side of the Palmerston Municipality is a growth area, with the suburbs located in this area sharing a strong relationship with the towns of

34 This approach was advocated by: S1 – Martin Gordon and S5 – Country Liberals (Northern Territory).

35 This approach was advocated by: S2 – Jeff Waddell, S3 – Dr Mark Mulcair and S4 – Darren McSweeney

36 This approach was advocated by S6 – Warren Snowdon MHR on behalf of the Australian Labor Party

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

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

Howard Springs and Virginia.³⁹ For these reasons, together with the existence of readily identifiable boundaries, the Redistribution Committee proposes locating the entirety of the suburbs of Farrar, Johnston, Mitchell, Yarrowonga and Zuccoli,⁴⁰ which are on the eastern side of the Palmerston Municipality, in the proposed Division of Lingjari.

72. Table F outlines the extent of elector movements resulting from the proposed electoral divisions.

Table F: Summary of movement of electors between proposed electoral divisions

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

73. In making this proposal, the Redistribution Committee also notes that section 56A of the Electoral Act requires the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and the Territory of Christmas Island to be included in the same electoral division of the Northern Territory. The Redistribution Committee decided to retain the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and the Territory of Christmas Island in the proposed Division of Lingjari.

Proposed redistribution of the Northern Territory – by electoral division

74. The Redistribution Committee has examined each proposed electoral division, giving due consideration to the requirements of the Electoral Act. For each of the proposed electoral divisions in the Northern Territory, Table G presents:

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

Table G: Summary of proposed electoral divisions

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

³⁹ This point was also made by CS1 – Darren McSweeney.

⁴⁰ On the current boundary, the suburb of Yarrowonga is located in both the Division of Lingjari and the Division of Solomon.

75. Statistical summaries of the proposed electoral divisions are provided in Appendix J.
76. The Redistribution Committee's proposed electoral divisions are discussed in greater detail in the following paragraphs.

Proposed Division of Lingiari

77. The proposed Division of Lingiari shares boundaries with the proposed Division of Solomon, and the Divisions of Kennedy and Maranoa in Queensland, the Division of Grey in South Australia and the Divisions of Durack and O'Connor in Western Australia.
78. Enrolment in the current Division of Lingiari on Friday 7 August 2020 is projected to be 67 024 electors. The Division of Lingiari must therefore gain at least 1 190 electors, or up to 6 138 electors, from the existing Division of Solomon for it to fall within the permissible range for the maximum and minimum number of electors in an electoral division at the projection time.
79. The Redistribution Committee proposes altering the current boundary of the electoral division such that:
 - the entirety of the Litchfield Municipality is located in the proposed Division of Lingiari, requiring the transfer of the suburbs of Holtze, Knuckey Lagoon, Mickett Creek and part of Shoal Bay from the Division of Solomon to the proposed Division of Lingiari, and
 - parts of the Palmerston Municipality are located in the proposed Division of Lingiari, requiring the transfer of the suburbs of Farrar, Johnston, Mitchell, Zuccoli and part of Yarrowonga from the Division of Solomon to the proposed Division of Lingiari.⁴¹
80. Making this alteration will lead the proposed Division of Lingiari to gain 2 680 projected electors. This results in a projected enrolment for the proposed electoral division of 69 914 electors at Friday 7 August 2020, or a variation from the projected enrolment quota of minus 1.09 per cent.
81. The proposed Division of Lingiari will consist of:
 - the Alice Springs Municipality, Barkly Shire, Belyuen Community Council, Central Desert Shire, Coomalie Community Government Council, East Arnhem Shire, Katherine Municipality, Litchfield Municipality, MacDonnell Shire, Roper Gulf Shire, Victoria Daly Shire, Wagait Shire, West Arnhem Shire and West Daly Region,
 - the towns of Alyangula, Nhulunbuy and Yulara,
 - the unincorporated areas north and east of Litchfield Municipality, south-east of Coomalie Shire, and west of Litchfield and Palmerston Municipality,
 - part of the Palmerston Municipality, specifically the suburbs of Farrar, Johnston, Mitchell, Yarrowonga and Zuccoli,
 - Tiwi Islands,
 - Groote Eylandt,
 - the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, and
 - the Territory of Christmas Island.
82. The major Northern Territory townships located in the proposed Division of Lingiari are Alice Springs, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy.

⁴¹ A small part of the suburb of Yarrowonga is located in the current Division of Lingiari.

Proposed Division of Solomon

83. The proposed Division of Solomon shares a boundary with the proposed Division of Lingjari – see [Figure F](#).
84. Enrolment in the current Division of Solomon on Friday 7 August 2020 is projected to be 74 352 electors. A net reduction of at least 1 190 electors, or up to 6 138 electors, is therefore required for this electoral division to fall within the permissible range for the maximum and minimum number of electors in an electoral division at the projection time.
85. The Redistribution Committee proposes altering the current boundary of the electoral division such that:
 - the entirety of the Litchfield Municipality is located in the proposed Division of Lingjari, requiring the transfer of the suburbs of Holtze, Knuckey Lagoon, Mickett Creek and part of Shoal Bay from the Division of Solomon to the proposed Division of Lingjari, and
 - parts of the Palmerston Municipality are located in the proposed Division of Lingjari, requiring the transfer of the suburbs of Farrar, Johnston, Mitchell, Zuccoli and part of Yarrowonga from the Division of Solomon to the proposed Division of Lingjari.
86. Making this alteration will transfer 2 680 projected electors out of the Division of Solomon. This results in a projected enrolment for the proposed electoral division of 71 462 electors at Friday 7 August 2020, or a variation from the projected enrolment quota of plus 1.09 per cent.
87. The proposed Division of Solomon will consist of:
 - the Darwin Municipality,
 - the Palmerston Municipality, with the exception of the suburbs of Farrar, Johnston, Mitchell, Yarrowonga and Zuccoli, and
 - the unincorporated areas of the Darwin Rates Act Area and East Arm.

Chapter 3

What's next?

This chapter outlines the legislative requirements following the release of the proposed redistribution, through to the final determination of the names and boundaries of electoral divisions in the Northern Territory.

88. This report sets out the Redistribution Committee's proposed names and boundaries of electoral divisions for the Northern Territory, together with the Redistribution Committee's reasons for this proposed redistribution. Interested individuals and organisations are able to consider this proposal and provide their thoughts prior to the final determination of electoral division names and boundaries by the augmented Electoral Commission on Tuesday 7 February 2017.
89. Appendix I sets out the timetable for the remainder of this redistribution.

Invitation for objections

90. Written objections to any aspect of the proposed redistribution must be lodged with the Electoral Commission by 6pm (ACST) on Friday 7 October 2016.⁴² Any objections received after this time will not be able to be considered.

What can objections be about?

91. Objections may concern any aspect of the Redistribution Committee's proposal and may refer to one or more proposed electoral divisions. Objections may be about:
 - the proposed names of electoral divisions,
 - the proposed boundaries of electoral divisions, or
 - the proposed names and proposed boundaries of electoral divisions.

Invitation to provide comments on objections

92. All objections received will be made available for public inspection from Monday 10 October 2016 on the AEC website and at the office of the Australian Electoral Officer for the Northern Territory in Darwin.⁴³

⁴² Paragraph 68(2)(a) of the Electoral Act requires written objections to be lodged with the Electoral Commission before 6pm on the 4th Friday after publication of the notice in the Gazette inviting written objections.

⁴³ Sub-sections 69(2) and (5) of the Electoral Act require copies of the objections lodged prior to the lodgement time to be made available for perusal in the office of the Australian Electoral Officer for the Northern Territory on the 5th Monday after publication of the invitation in the Gazette.

93. Interested individuals and organisations can then lodge written comments on the objections with the Electoral Commission up until 6pm (ACST) on Friday 21 October 2016.⁴⁴ Comments received after this time will not be able to be considered.
94. All comments received will be made available for public inspection from Monday 24 October 2016 on the AEC website and at the office of the Australian Electoral Officer for the Northern Territory in Darwin.⁴⁵

What can comments on objections be about?

95. Comments on objections may concern any topic raised in objections to the Redistribution Committee's proposal and may refer to one or more proposed electoral divisions. Comments on objections may be about:
- one or more objections to the Redistribution Committee's proposal,
 - the proposed names of electoral divisions,
 - the proposed boundaries of electoral divisions, or
 - the proposed names and proposed boundaries of electoral divisions.

Who considers objections and comments on objections?

96. Written objections and comments on objections are considered by the augmented Electoral Commission.⁴⁶ The membership of the augmented Electoral Commission for the Northern Territory is outlined in [Table H](#).

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

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

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

44 Paragraph 68(2)(b) of the Electoral Act requires written comments on objections to be lodged with the Electoral Commission before 6pm on the 6th Friday after publication of the invitation in the Gazette.

45 Sub-sections 69(4) and (5) of the Electoral Act require copies of the objections lodged prior to the lodgement time to be made available for perusal in the office of the Australian Electoral Officer for the Northern Territory on the 7th Monday after publication of the invitation in the Gazette.

46 Sub-section 70(1) of the Electoral Act requires that, for the purposes of a redistribution of the Northern Territory, there is established an augmented Electoral Commission for the Northern Territory. The membership of the augmented Electoral Commission is specified by sub-section 70(2) of the Electoral Act.

97. As part of its considerations, the augmented Electoral Commission may hold an inquiry into any objection or comment on objection.⁴⁷

The second redistribution proposal

98. At the conclusion of its considerations, the augmented Electoral Commission will announce its own proposed redistribution.⁴⁸ If the augmented Electoral Commission considers that this proposal is significantly different from the Redistribution Committee's proposal, the augmented Electoral Commission will invite further objections.⁴⁹ Advice will be provided should this prove necessary.

What factors will the augmented Electoral Commission consider when making their proposed redistribution of the Northern Territory?

99. The Electoral Act requires the augmented Electoral Commission to comply with the following factors when making their proposed redistribution:
- 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 election⁵⁰
 - 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 augmented Electoral Commission will propose two electoral divisions for the Northern Territory.
 - the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and the Territory of Christmas Island are to be included in the same electoral division in the Northern Territory⁵¹
 - consideration of all objections and comments on objections received by the lodgement time⁵²
 - All written objections received by 6pm (ACST) Friday 7 October 2016 and all written comments on objections received by 6pm (ACST) Friday 21 October 2016 will be considered by the augmented Electoral Commission 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 3.5 per cent, or less than minus 3.5 per cent, of the projected enrolment quota⁵³
 - As far as practicable, the number of electors enrolled in each electoral division in the Northern Territory at the projection time of Friday 7 August 2020 must be between 68 214 and 73 162.

47 Sub-section 72(3) requires the augmented Electoral Commission to hold an inquiry into an objection under certain circumstances. The manner in which inquiries into objections is to be conducted is specified in sub-sections 72(4) to 72(9) of the Electoral Act.

48 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.

49 Sub-section 72(13) of the Electoral Act outlines the requirements for the further objections process.

50 This is required by sub-section 73(3) of the Electoral Act.

51 Section 56A of the Electoral Act requires the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and the Territory of Christmas Island to be included in the same electoral division of the Northern Territory.

52 Sub-section 72(1) of the Electoral Act requires the augmented Electoral Commission to consider all objections and comments on objections.

53 This is required by paragraph 73(4)(a) of the Electoral Act.

- the number of electors enrolled in each electoral division in the Northern Territory would not be more than plus 10 per cent, or less than minus 10 per cent, of the current enrolment quota⁵⁴
 - 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:⁵⁵
 - i. community of interests within the proposed electoral division, including economic, social and regional interests
 - ii. means of communication and travel within the proposed electoral division
 - iv. the physical features and area of the proposed electoral division, and
 - v. the boundaries of existing electoral divisions in the Northern Territory, with this factor being subordinate to the consideration i, ii and iv.

Final determination of names and boundaries of electoral divisions

100. The augmented Electoral Commission will make a final determination of the names and boundaries of the electoral divisions for the Northern Territory by notice published in the Gazette on Tuesday 7 February 2017.⁵⁶
101. Copies of the augmented Electoral Commission's determination and reasons for that determination, together with the work of the Redistribution Committee, will be tabled in both houses of the Parliament of Australia.⁵⁷ Once this has occurred, this material will be made available to the public via the AEC website.

How to lodge an objection or comment on an objection

102. Objections and comments on objections should be lodged via the AEC website at www.aec.gov.au/nt-redistribution. Objections and comments on objections can also be submitted:
 - by email to: FedRedistribution-NT@aec.gov.au
 - in person during business hours to: The Australian Electoral Commission (Att: Redistribution Secretariat), at Level 7, TCG Centre, 80 Mitchell Street, Darwin, NT
 - by mail to: The Australian Electoral Commission (Att: Redistribution Secretariat), GPO Box 21, Darwin NT 0801
 - by fax to: 08 6363 8016

⁵⁴ This is required by sub-section 73(4) of the Electoral Act.

⁵⁵ These requirements are specified in paragraph 73(4)(b) and sub-section 73(4A) of the Electoral Act.

⁵⁶ In accordance with sub-section 73(1) of the Electoral Act, the names and boundaries of electoral divisions are determined when the augmented Electoral Commission publishes a notice in the Gazette.

⁵⁷ As soon as practicable after the determination of the redistribution, sub-section 75(1) of the Electoral Act requires specified information produced during the course of the redistribution to be provided to the Minister. Sub-section 75(2) requires this material to be laid before each House of the Parliament within five sitting days of that House after a copy has been provided to the Minister.

Further information

103. A wide range of information is available on the AEC's website, including:

- Further information about the federal redistribution process in the Northern Territory, including an indicative timetable and background information – www.aec.gov.au/nt-redistribution
- Information about current electoral divisions in the Northern Territory – www.aec.gov.au/profiles
- Guidelines for making a public submission – www.aec.gov.au/redistribution
- Guidelines for naming federal electoral divisions – www.aec.gov.au/redistribution
- The legal requirements for a federal redistribution as outlined in Part IV of the Electoral Act – www.aec.gov.au/Elections/australian_electoral_system/Electoral_Legislation.htm
- General information about the redistribution process – www.aec.gov.au/redistribution

Appendices

Appendix A: Summary of compliance with legislative requirements

Provision of the Electoral Act	Requirement	Compliance
para 59(2)(c)	Basis for conducting redistribution	More than seven years had elapsed since the last redistribution of the Northern Territory was determined on Friday 19 September 2008
para 59(2)(c)	The redistribution was required to commence within 30 days after the expiration of the period of seven years	The redistribution commenced on Thursday 15 October 2015
ss.59(1)	Direction to commence redistribution via notice published in the Gazette	Gazette notice published on Thursday 15 October 2015
ss.63A(4)	Projection time for equality of enrolments	The Electoral Commission noted on Monday 12 October 2015 that the projection time is Friday 7 August 2020
ss.65(1)	Determination of current enrolment quota by written instrument	The Electoral Commissioner determined the quota by signing the written instrument on Wednesday 21 October 2015
ss.60(1)	Appointment of the Redistribution Committee by written instrument	The Electoral Commission signed the written instrument on Wednesday 2 December 2015
ss.64(1) and (2)	Invitation to make written suggestions and written comments on suggestions	Gazette notice published on Wednesday 3 February 2016 Newspaper notices were published in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>The Atoll</i> on Thursday 4 February 2016 ▪ <i>The Islander</i> on Friday 5 February 2016 ▪ <i>The Northern Territory News</i> and the <i>Weekend Australian</i> on Saturday 6 February 2016 ▪ <i>The Koori Mail</i> on Wednesday 10 February 2016
para 64(1)(a)	Suggestions close at 6pm on the 5th Friday after publication of the Gazette notice	Suggestions closed at 6pm (ACST) on Friday 4 March 2016
ss.64(3)	Suggestions made available for public perusal on the 5th Monday after publication of the Gazette notice	Suggestions were made available in the office of the Australian Electoral Officer for the Northern Territory on Monday 7 March 2016

Provision of the Electoral Act	Requirement	Compliance
para 64(1)(b)	Comments on suggestions close at 6pm on the 7th Friday after publication of the Gazette notice	Comments closed at 6pm (ACST) on Friday 18 March 2016
ss.64(4)	Consideration of all suggestions and comments on suggestions received by the statutory timeframe	The Redistribution Committee considered each of the six suggestions and one comment on suggestions received at their meetings
ss.66(1)	The Redistribution Committee shall make a proposed redistribution	The Redistribution Committee's proposed redistribution is 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 Redistribution Committee has decided to include the Territories of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Christmas Island in the proposed Division of Lingjari
s.67	Reasons for the proposed redistribution are stated in writing	The Redistribution Committee's reasons are stated in Chapter 2 and Appendix F of this report

Appendix B: Calculating the representation entitlements of the Northern Territory

Division 3 of Part III of the Electoral Act specifies the legislative requirements to be followed in determining the representation of each state and territory in the House of Representatives.

The Electoral Commissioner is required to follow this process once a House of Representatives has met continuously for a period of 12 months after the day of its first meeting.⁵⁸ This process was most recently undertaken in November 2014.⁵⁹

The Electoral Commissioner is first required to ascertain the number of people of:

- the Commonwealth,
- each of the States,
- the Australian Capital Territory,
- the Northern Territory,
- the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands,
- the Territory of Christmas Island, and
- each of the other Territories.⁶⁰

This ascertainment is to be made using statistics supplied by the Australian Statistician which have most recently before the reference day been compiled and published in a regular series under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.^{61 62}

The populations ascertained by the then acting Electoral Commissioner are displayed in [Table I](#).

⁵⁸ Sub-section 46(1) of the Electoral Act specifies this requirement.

⁵⁹ Once the Electoral Commissioner has determined the number of members of the House of Representatives for each state and territory, section 49 of the Electoral Act requires a certificate containing specified information to be forwarded to the Minister and published in the Gazette. The most recent certificate can be found in Gazette C2014G01876 and is available on the AEC website.

⁶⁰ Sub-section 46(1) of the Electoral Act specifies this requirement.

⁶¹ Paragraph 46(1A)(a) specifies the reference day is the first day after the end of the 12 month period following the first meeting day of the House of Representatives. The reference day was Thursday 13 November 2014.

⁶² The statistics used in the ascertainment were supplied on 22 October 2014 and were published by the ABS in 3101.0 – Australian Demographic Statistics, March 2014 Quarter – Table 8 on Thursday 25 September 2014.

Table I: Populations ascertained by the then acting Electoral Commission on Thursday 13 November 2014

Jurisdiction	Population
The States	
New South Wales	7 500 617
Victoria	5 821 269
Queensland	4 708 510
Western Australia	2 565 588
South Australia	1 682 635
Tasmania	514 684
The Commonwealth^a	22 793 303
The Territories^b	
Australian Capital Territory ^{c d}	386 092
Northern Territory ^d	243 689
The Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands	572
The Territory of Christmas Island	2 217
Australian Antarctic Territory	102
Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands	0
Coral Sea Islands Territory	4
Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands	0

a. Pursuant to section 45 of the Electoral Act, the number of the people of the Commonwealth does not include the people of the Territories.

b. Pursuant to section 38A of the Electoral Act, the Territory of Norfolk Island is not taken to be a Territory for the purposes of this ascertainment.

c. Pursuant to section 4(1) of the Electoral Act, the Jervis Bay Territory is taken to be part of the Australian Capital Territory for the purposes of this ascertainment.

d. Pursuant to section 46(2) of the Electoral Act, a Norfolk Island resident who is enrolled in a Territory under section 95AA(3) of the Electoral Act is included in the count of the population of that Territory for the purposes of this ascertainment.

To determine the number of members of the House of Representatives each state and territory is entitled to, the Electoral Commissioner is required to calculate the population quota using the following formula:⁶³

$$\frac{\text{Number of the people of the Commonwealth as ascertained by the Electoral Commissioner}}{\text{Twice the number of senators for the States}}$$

Twice the number of senators for the States

63 This formula is specified in paragraph 48(2)(a) of the Electoral Act.

Table J shows the figures used to calculate the population quota.

Table J: Population quota calculated on Thursday 13 November 2014

Number of the people of the Commonwealth as ascertained by the then acting Electoral Commissioner on Thursday 13 November 2014	22 793 303
Twice the number of senators for the States (2 x (12 x 6))	144
Population quota	158 286.8264

Under section 56A of the Electoral Act, until such time as the the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands or the Territory of Christmas Island is entitled to a member of the House of Representatives, each Territory is to be included in the same electoral division in the Northern Territory. Table K shows the figures used to calculate the number of members of the House of Representatives the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and the Territory of Christmas Island are entitled to.

Table K: Calculation of the number of members of the House of Representatives to which the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and the Territory of Christmas Island are entitled

	Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands	Territory of Christmas Island
Number of the people as ascertained by the then acting Electoral Commissioner on Thursday 13 November 2014	572	2 217
Population quota	158 286.8264	158 286.8264
Number of members of the House of Representatives for the Territory	0.0036	0.0140
Number of members of the House of Representatives for the Territory – application of rounding rule ^a	0	0

a. Paragraph 48(2A)(c) of the Electoral Act species that in calculating the number of members of the House of Representatives to chosen for a Territory, when the result of dividing the ascertained population by the population quota is a remainder that is greater than one-half of a quota, that number is increased by one.

As the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and the Territory of Christmas Island are not entitled to members of the House of Representatives, sub-section 48(2C) of the Electoral Act provides for the following to occur:

- the ascertainment of the population of the Northern Territory is deemed to have never been made,
- the number of the people of the Northern Territory will be ascertained, including the number of the people of the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and the Territory of Christmas Island, and
- the Electoral Commissioner will use the newly ascertained number of people of the Northern Territory to determine the number of members of the House of Representatives to be chosen in the Northern Territory at a general election.

Table L shows the figures used to determine the population of the Northern Territory.

Table L: Calculation of the adjusted population of the Northern Territory

Number of the people of the Northern Territory as ascertained by the then acting Electoral Commissioner on Thursday 13 November 2014	243 689
Number of the people the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands as ascertained by the then acting Electoral Commissioner on Thursday 13 November 2014	572
Number of the people of the Territory of Christmas Island as ascertained by the then acting Electoral Commissioner on Thursday 13 November 2014	2 217
New ascertainment of the number of the people of the Northern Territory by the then acting Electoral Commissioner on Thursday 13 November 2014	246 478

Table M shows the figures used to calculate the number of members of the House of Representatives the Northern Territory is entitled to.

Table M: Calculation of the number of members of the House of Representatives to which the Northern Territory is entitled

Number of the people of the Northern Territory as ascertained by the then acting Electoral Commissioner on Thursday 13 November 2014	246 478
Population quota	158 286.8264
Number of members of the House of Representatives for the Northern Territory	1.5572
Number of members of the House of Representatives for the Northern Territory – application of rounding rule ^a	2

a. Paragraph 48(2A)(c) of the Electoral Act specifies that in calculating the number of members of the House of Representatives to chosen for a Territory, when the result of dividing the ascertained population by the population quota is a remainder that is greater than one-half of a quota, that number is increased by one.

Appendix C: Operation of statutory requirements for the making of a proposed redistribution

Section 66 of the Electoral Act requires the Redistribution Committee to abide by the following requirements:

- make a proposed redistribution of the Northern Territory,
- the number of electoral divisions the Northern Territory is to be divided into equal 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:

(3) *In making the proposed redistribution, the Redistribution Committee:*

- (a) *shall, as far as practicable, endeavour to ensure that, if the State or Territory were redistributed in accordance with the proposed redistribution, the number of electors enrolled in each Electoral Division in the State or Territory would not, at the projection time determined under section 63A, be less than 96.5% or more than 103.5% of the average divisional enrolment of that State or Territory at that time; and*
- (b) *subject to paragraph (a), shall give due consideration, in relation to each proposed Electoral Division, to:*
 - (i) *community of interests within the proposed Electoral Division, including economic, social and regional interests;*
 - (ii) *means of communication and travel within the proposed Electoral Division;*
 - (iv) *the physical features and area of the proposed Electoral Division; and*
 - (v) *the boundaries of existing Divisions in the State or Territory;*

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

(3A) *When applying sub-section (3), the Redistribution Committee must treat the matter in sub-paragraph (3)(b)(v) as subordinate to the matters in sub-paragraphs (3)(b)(i), (ii) and (iv).*

These statutory requirements are expressed in a hierarchical order.

The purpose of paragraph 3(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'.⁶⁴ Therefore, in 1987,

⁶⁴ Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters *Report on the Effectiveness and Appropriateness of the Redistribution Provisions of Parts III and IV of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (December 1995), paragraph 4.3

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

the numerical criteria do not allow “due consideration”, in the words of the Act, to be given to the qualitative factors. Rather, the political parties and others attempting to frame electoral boundaries essentially find themselves engaged in a mathematical modelling exercise. In order to relax the enrolment requirements to that extent necessary to allow a realistic degree of flexibility the Committee recommends... that 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 percent⁶⁵.

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 3(a) follows this recommendation. The terms of the recommendation, and the discussion which preceded it, make clear the purpose of paragraph 3(a), as it now stands, and how it was intended to interact with the other criteria set out in the sub-paragraphs of paragraph (b), to which also ‘due consideration’ must be given. The Redistribution Committee has considered the suggestions and comments and made its proposed redistribution on this basis.

In summary, the primary criteria are to:

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

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

65 *ibid.*, paragraph 4.11

Appendix D: Suggestions for the Northern Territory redistribution

Six written suggestions were received.

No.	Submitted by	Topics referred to	Divisions referred to
S1	Martin Gordon	Division boundaries	Lingiari and Solomon
S2	Jeff Waddell	Division names and division boundaries	Lingiari and Solomon
S3	Dr Mark Mulcair	Division boundaries	Lingiari and Solomon
S4	Darren McSweeney	Division names and division boundaries	Lingiari and Solomon
S5	Country Liberals (Northern Territory)	Division names and division boundaries	Lingiari and Solomon
S6	Warren Snowdon MHR on behalf of the Australian Labor Party	Division names and division boundaries	Lingiari and Solomon

Appendix E: Comments on suggestions for the Northern Territory redistribution

One written comment on suggestions was received.

No.	Submitted by	Topics referred to	Divisions referred to	Suggestions referred to in comment
CS1	Darren McSweeney	Division boundaries	Lingiari and Solomon	S1 S2 S3 S5 S6

Appendix F: Redistribution Committee response to themes contained in suggestions and comments on suggestions

Suggestions and comments on suggestions recommend...	Submission		The Redistribution Committee has proposed...
	No.	Submitted by	
the name of the Division of Lingiari should remain unchanged	S2	Jeff Waddell	the name of the Division of Lingiari not be changed
	S4	Darren McSweeney	
	S5	Country Liberals (Northern Territory)	
	S6	Warren Snowdon MHR on behalf of the Australian Labor Party	
the name of the Division of Solomon should remain unchanged	S2	Jeff Waddell	the name of the Division of Solomon not be changed
	S4	Darren McSweeney	
	S5	Country Liberals (Northern Territory)	
	S6	Warren Snowdon MHR on behalf of the Australian Labor Party	
the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and the Territory of Christmas Island should remain in the Division of Lingiari	S1	Martin Gordon	retaining the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and the Territory of Christmas Island in the proposed Division of Lingiari
	S4	Darren McSweeney	
	S5	Country Liberals (Northern Territory)	
the Tiwi Islands should remain in the Division of Lingiari	S4	Darren McSweeney	retaining the Tiwi Islands in the proposed Division of Lingiari
the Litchfield Municipality should be entirely within the Division of Lingiari	S1	Martin Gordon	that the portion of Litchfield Municipality located in the current Division of Solomon should be transferred into the proposed Division of Lingiari, which would result in the entirety of the Litchfield Municipality being located in the proposed Division of Lingiari
	S2	Jeff Waddell	
	S3	Dr Mark Mulcair	
	S4	Darren McSweeney	
	S5	Country Liberals (Northern Territory)	
the Palmerston Municipality in its entirety should be located in the proposed Division of Solomon	S1	Martin Gordon	that the suburbs of Farrar, Johnston, Mitchell, Zuccoli and part of the suburb of Yarrowonga, located in the Palmerston Municipality, should be transferred from the current Division of Solomon to the proposed Division of Lingiari in order to comply with the numerical requirements of the Electoral Act and for reasons of community of interest

Suggestions and comments on suggestions recommend...	Submission		The Redistribution Committee has proposed...
	No.	Submitted by	
the suburbs of Leanyer and Muirhead, located in the Darwin Municipality, should be transferred from the current Division of Solomon to the proposed Division of Lingiari. The boundary between the two electoral divisions would be: the Darwin Municipality/Litchfield Municipality border and the Sturt Highway, Vanderlin Drive and Lee Point Road	S1	Martin Gordon	that, for reasons of community of interest and means of travel and communication within the proposed electoral division, the suburbs of Leanyer and Muirhead remain in the proposed Division of Solomon
the suburbs of Leanyer and Muirhead, located in the Darwin Municipality, should not be transferred from the current Division of Solomon to the proposed Division of Lingiari	CS1	Darren McSweeney	for reasons of community of interest and means of travel and communication within the proposed electoral division, the suburbs of Leanyer and Muirhead remain in the proposed Division of Solomon
the Darwin Municipality should form the basis of the proposed Division of Solomon	S2	Jeff Waddell	proposed the Darwin Municipality remain in the proposed Division of Solomon
the northern and eastern parts of the Palmerston Municipality should be transferred from the current Division of Solomon to the proposed Division of Lingiari. The boundary between the two electoral divisions would be: the Darwin Municipality/Litchfield Municipality border, Stuart Highway, Roystonea Avenue, Temple Terrace, Chung Wah Terrace, Buscall Avenue, Lambrick Avenue, Mitchell Creek and the Elizabeth River	S2	Jeff Waddell	that, in order to comply with the numerical requirements of the Electoral Act and for reasons of community of interest: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the suburbs of Farrar, Johnston, Mitchell, Zuccoli and part of the suburb of Yarrowonga, located in the Palmerston Municipality, should be transferred from the current Division of Solomon to the proposed Division of Lingiari ▪ the suburb of Archer, located in the Palmerston Municipality, should remain in the proposed Division of Solomon and not be transferred to the proposed Division of Lingiari

Suggestions and comments on suggestions recommend...	Submission		The Redistribution Committee has proposed...
	No.	Submitted by	
the suburbs of Archer, Farrer, Johnston, Mitchell, Yarrowonga and/or Zuccoli, located in the Palmerston Municipality, should be transferred from the current Division of Solomon to the proposed Division of Lingiari	S2	Jeff Waddell	that, in order to comply with the numerical requirements of the Electoral Act and for reasons of community of interest: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the suburbs of Farrer, Johnston, Mitchell, Zuccoli and part of the suburb of Yarrowonga, located in the Palmerston Municipality, should be transferred from the current Division of Solomon to the proposed Division of Lingiari the suburb of Archer, located in the Palmerston Municipality, should remain in the proposed Division of Solomon and not be transferred to the proposed Division of Lingiari
	S3	Dr Mark Mulcair	
	S4	Darren McSweeney	
	CS1	Darren McSweeney	
the suburbs of Karama and Holmes, located in the Darwin Municipality, should be transferred from the current Division of Solomon to the proposed Division of Lingiari. The boundary between the two electoral divisions would be: Elizabeth River, Mitchell Creek, Radford Road and Taylor Road across to the Stuart Highway should be maintained. From there the boundary should follow Vanderlin Drive, McMillans Road, Mueller Road, back onto Vanderlin Drive along the western boundaries of Leanyer and Muirhead through Buffalo Creek to the coast	S5	Country Liberals (Northern Territory)	the suburbs of Karama and Holmes remain in the proposed Division of Solomon, for reasons of community of interest and means of communication and travel within the proposed electoral division
the suburb of Karama, located in the Darwin Municipality, should not be transferred from the current Division of Solomon to the proposed Division of Lingiari	CS1	Darren McSweeney	the suburb of Karama remain in the proposed Division of Solomon, for reasons of community of interest and means of communication and travel within the proposed electoral division
dividing the Northern Territory along the Stuart Highway, incorporating parts of Darwin and Alice Springs into both electoral divisions	S6	Warren Snowdon MHR on behalf of the Australian Labor Party	for reasons of community of interest and means of communication and travel within the proposed electoral divisions, the Darwin Municipality remain, in its entirety, within the proposed Division of Solomon and the Alice Springs Municipality remain, in its entirety, within the proposed Division of Lingiari

S = suggestion received and CS = comment on suggestion received (refer to Appendix D and Appendix E for full list)

Appendix G: Constructing proposed electoral boundaries

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 Redistribution Committee used SA1s as its basic building blocks. The SA1s have defined boundaries and are of differing sizes and shapes. In cases where the Redistribution Committee considered that a particular SA1 boundary was inappropriate for use as an electoral division boundary, the SA1 was split to provide a more meaningful boundary.

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

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

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

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

Appendix H: Guidelines for naming federal electoral divisions

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

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

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

Naming after persons

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

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

Federation Divisional names

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

Geographical names

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

Aboriginal names

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

Other criteria

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

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

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

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

Appendix I: Timetable for the remainder of the redistribution of the Northern Territory

Provision of the Electoral Act	Requirement	Date
ss.68(2)	Invitation to make written objections and written comments on objections	Gazette notice to be published on Friday 9 September 2016
para 68(2)(a)	Objections close at 6pm on the 4th Friday after publication of the Gazette notice	Written objections must be received by 6pm (ACST) on Friday 7 October 2016
ss.69(2)	Objections made available for public perusal starting on the 5th Monday after publication of the Gazette notice	Objections will be made available in the office of the Australian Electoral Officer for the Northern Territory and on the AEC website on Monday 10 October 2016
para 68(2)(b)	Comments on objections close at 6pm on the 6th Friday after publication of the Gazette notice	Comments on objections must be received by 6pm (ACST) on Friday 21 October 2016
ss.69(4)	Comments on objections made available for public perusal starting on the 7th Monday after publication of the Gazette notice	Comments on objections will be made available in the office of the Australian Electoral Officer for the Northern Territory and on the AEC website on Monday 24 October 2016
ss.72(1)	Consideration of all objections and comments on objections received by the statutory timeframe	The augmented Electoral Commission will consider objections and comments on objections during the period October to December 2016
ss.72(3)	Public inquiry/inquiries into objections and comments on objections held (if required)	Date(s) to be advised ¹
para 72(10)(b)	The augmented Electoral Commission announces the proposed redistribution	Date to be advised
s.72(12) and (13)	Further objection period – if required	Date(s) to be advised
s.73(1)	Determination of names and boundaries of electoral divisions published in the Gazette	Tuesday 7 February 2017
s.75(2)	Redistribution report laid before both Houses of Parliament	Date to be advised
	Redistribution report and maps available to the public	Date to be advised

1. A public inquiry, if required, would be held in November 2016.

Appendix J: General description of how proposed electoral divisions are constituted

The following tables show how each proposed electoral division has been constructed from existing electoral divisions. The unit to display this construction is SA2s. Each SA2 comprises a number of SA1s.

Proposed electoral divisions are displayed in alphabetical order.

Proposed Division of Lingiari

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

Proposed division make up	Enrolment as at Thursday 15 October 2015	Projected enrolment as at Friday 7 August 2020
Virginia	1 767	1 924
Weddell	2 069	2 298
West Arnhem	3 063	3 374
Yuendumu – Anmatjere	1 613	1 721
Total electors retained from the current Division of Lingiari	61 872	67 024
Electors transferred from another electoral division into the proposed Division of Lingiari		
Electors transferred from the current Division of Solomon		
Berrimah	295	283
Howard Springs	645	672
Koolpinyah	4	4
Palmerston – North	908	995
Palmerston – South	828	936
Total transferred from the current Division of Solomon	2 680	2 890
Total electors transferred from another electoral division into the proposed Division of Lingiari	2 680	2 890
Total for proposed Division of Lingiari	64 552	69 914

Proposed Division of Solomon

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

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