



## REDISTRIBUTION OF FEDERAL ELECTORAL DIVISIONS IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS ON SUGGESTIONS: 15 MAY 2024

In accordance with section 64 of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (the Electoral Act), the Electoral Commissioner invites interested persons or organisations to make written suggestions, from Wednesday 15 May 2024, about the redistribution of federal electoral divisions for the House of Representatives in the Northern Territory; and to make written comments on the suggestions which are lodged.

### WHY IS A REDISTRIBUTION REQUIRED?

A redistribution of federal electoral divisions in the Northern Territory is required because more than seven years have elapsed since the last redistribution. On Thursday 22 February 2024, in accordance with section 59 of the Electoral Act, the Electoral Commission directed that a redistribution commence.

As part of a determination on Thursday 27 July 2023 of the number of members of the House of Representatives to which each state and territory will be entitled at the next federal general election, it was determined that the Northern Territory remains entitled to two members of the House of Representatives.

### WHO WILL CONDUCT THE REDISTRIBUTION?

The redistribution will be conducted by a Redistribution Committee appointed by the Electoral Commission in accordance with section 60 of the Electoral Act.

The Electoral Act requires that the Redistribution Committee for the Northern Territory comprise the Electoral Commissioner, the Australian Electoral Officer for the Northern Territory, and two senior officials based in the Northern Territory.

### LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR A REDISTRIBUTION

In making its proposed redistribution, the Redistribution Committee is bound by section 66 of the Electoral Act.

The number of electors in each proposed electoral division must not deviate by more than 10 per cent above or below the redistribution quota. The redistribution quota for the Northern Territory was determined by the Electoral Commissioner to be 76,699.

As far as practicable, the Redistribution Committee will ensure that the number of electors enrolled in each electoral division at Monday 4 September 2028 (the projection time) will not deviate by more than 3.5 per cent above or below the projected enrolment quota of 83,419.

The actual and projected enrolment figures, current and projected enrolment quotas, and the redistribution timetable, are available on the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) website:

[www.aec.gov.au/redistributions/2024/nt/](http://www.aec.gov.au/redistributions/2024/nt/).

Section 66 of the Electoral Act also provides that the Redistribution Committee:

*'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'*

Consideration of existing boundaries is subordinate to the other factors set out above.

Under section 56A of the Electoral Act, until such time as the Territory of Christmas Island or the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands is entitled to a member of the House of Representatives, each Territory is to be

included in an electoral division in the Northern Territory. The Territory of Christmas Island and the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands are currently part of the Division of Lingiari.

## **THE BOUNDARIES OF THE ELECTORAL DIVISIONS WILL CHANGE**

On the boundaries in place when the redistribution commenced on Thursday 22 February 2024, the number of electors enrolled in both Northern Territory federal electoral divisions met the requirement to be within plus and minus 10 per cent of the current enrolment quota of 76,699. However, both federal electoral divisions do not meet the requirement to be within plus and minus 3.5 per cent of the projected enrolment quota of 83,419 at the projection time of Monday 4 September 2028.

As a consequence, the Redistribution Committee will be required to adjust the boundaries of both electoral divisions so that the requirements of the Electoral Act can be met.

## **THE REDISTRIBUTION PROCESS**

The redistribution is carried out in accordance with the Electoral Act. The key stages of the redistribution process are as follows.

### **Step 1 – Suggestions**

Any interested person or organisation who wishes to make suggestions relating to the boundaries or names of electoral divisions, has until **6pm Australian Central Standard Time (ACST) Friday 14 June 2024** to lodge them in writing with the Redistribution Committee via the means listed in the 'How to lodge a suggestion or comment on a suggestion' section below. Suggestions received after the prescribed lodgement time cannot be considered.

People or organisations making suggestions are requested, where practical, to provide any paper maps in A4/A3 size to facilitate copying.

### **Step 2 – Comments on the suggestions**

The suggestions will be available for public inspection from **Monday 17 June 2024** at the office of the Australian Electoral Officer for the Northern Territory (Level 9, 9 Cavenagh St, Darwin City) and on the AEC's website ([www.aec.gov.au/redistributions/2024/nt/](http://www.aec.gov.au/redistributions/2024/nt/)). Any comments on the suggestions must be lodged in writing with the Redistribution Committee by **6pm ACST Friday 28 June 2024**. Comments received after the prescribed lodgement time cannot be considered.

### **Step 3 – Redistribution proposal**

After considering the written suggestions and comments, the Redistribution Committee will propose a redistribution of federal electoral divisions for the Northern Territory. Maps showing the proposed boundaries and names of electoral divisions will then be published in selected newspapers and on the AEC website and will be made available at all AEC offices in the Northern Territory.

### **Step 4 – Objections to the proposed redistribution**

Objections to the proposed redistribution must be lodged within 28 days of the publication of the proposed redistribution. There is a further 14-day period for lodgement of written comments on any objections.

### **Step 5 – Objections considered by the augmented Electoral Commission**

The augmented Electoral Commission for the Northern Territory considers all objections and comments on objections. The augmented Electoral Commission comprises the members of the Redistribution Committee together with the Chairperson of the AEC and the third member of the Electoral Commission.

### **Step 6 – The second redistribution proposal**

After it has considered all objections and comments, the augmented Electoral Commission will make its own proposed redistribution.

### **Step 7 – Further objections**

If, in the opinion of the augmented Electoral Commission, their proposal is significantly different from the Redistribution Committee's proposal, the augmented Electoral Commission will invite further objections.

## Step 8 – Final determination

After considering all submissions the augmented Electoral Commission will make a final determination of boundaries and names of the electoral divisions for the Northern Territory by notice published in the *Commonwealth Government Notices Gazette*.

For more information about the redistribution process visit the AEC's website:  
[www.aec.gov.au/redistributions/2024/nt/](http://www.aec.gov.au/redistributions/2024/nt/).

### HOW TO LODGE A SUGGESTION OR A COMMENT ON A SUGGESTION

Suggestions and comments on suggestions should be lodged via the AEC website at [www.aec.gov.au/redistributions/2024/nt/](http://www.aec.gov.au/redistributions/2024/nt/). Suggestions and comments on suggestions can also be submitted:

- by email to: [FedRedistribution-NT@aec.gov.au](mailto:FedRedistribution-NT@aec.gov.au)
- by mail to: Redistribution Committee for the Northern Territory, Locked Bay 4007, Canberra ACT 2601
- in person: at the AEC office at Level 9, 9 Cavenagh St, Darwin City.

### PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS ON SUGGESTIONS

The Electoral Act requires that submissions to the Redistribution Committee be made publicly available. Copies of all submissions will be made available in full for public inspection at the office of the Australian Electoral Officer for the Northern Territory (Level 9, 9 Cavenagh St, Darwin City), in accordance with the Electoral Act.

All submissions will also be published in full on the AEC's website and included in reports produced by the Redistribution Committee and the augmented Electoral Commission.

Signatures and address details of people and organisations that lodge written submissions will be removed prior to publication.

It is strongly recommended those wishing to make suggestions or comments on suggestions read the 'Guidelines for making a suggestion.'

### MORE INFORMATION

Persons or organisations intending to make submissions to the Redistribution Committee are urged to take account of the requirements of the Electoral Act. In particular, those making submissions are advised to ensure their submissions are in the possession of the Redistribution Committee for the Northern Territory's secretariat by the relevant closing time.

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/redistributions/2024/nt/](http://www.aec.gov.au/redistributions/2024/nt/)
- information about current electoral divisions in the Northern Territory – [www.aec.gov.au/profiles/index.htm](http://www.aec.gov.au/profiles/index.htm)
- Guidelines for making a submission – [www.aec.gov.au/redistributions/guidelines/submission-guidelines.html](http://www.aec.gov.au/redistributions/guidelines/submission-guidelines.html)
- Guidelines for naming federal electoral divisions – [www.aec.gov.au/redistributions/guidelines/naming-guidelines.html](http://www.aec.gov.au/redistributions/guidelines/naming-guidelines.html)
- the legal requirements for a federal redistribution as outlined in Part IV of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* – [www.aec.gov.au/About\\_AEC/index.htm](http://www.aec.gov.au/About_AEC/index.htm)
- general information about the redistribution process – [www.aec.gov.au/redistributions/index.html](http://www.aec.gov.au/redistributions/index.html)

Further information can be obtained from the Redistribution Secretariat:

Phone number: 08 7942 8024

Email address: [FedRedistribution-NT@aec.gov.au](mailto:FedRedistribution-NT@aec.gov.au)

Tom Rogers  
Electoral Commissioner