



**THE FEDERAL  
REDISTRIBUTION  
NORTHERN TERRITORY**

# Public suggestion 4

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8 pages



This redistribution is being conducted on account of subsection 59(2) of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 (Electoral Act) as more than seven years have elapsed since the last redistribution of the Northern Territory was determined on 19 September 2008.

The redistribution commenced on 15 October 2015 and the Northern Territory remains entitled to two members of the House of Representatives. The current enrolment quota was determined to be 64,786 with the projected enrolment quota to be 70,688.

While both divisions are currently within the allowed tolerances of the quota, neither division will be within the permissible tolerance on the determined projection date. This means that an adjustment is required to the current boundaries for both the Division of Lingiari and the Division of Solomon.

This is obvious, as there are only two electoral divisions within the Northern Territory so an adjustment to the boundary of one Division will demand the exact opposite adjustment to the boundary of the other Division.

In this case, the Division of Solomon will need to shed electors to the Division of Lingiari. Due to the arrangement of the current divisions this makes for a rather simple boundary adjustment, with the Division of Lingiari claiming all of the Litchfield Municipality and – somewhat unfortunately – a part of the City of Palmerston.



## *Divisions of Lingiari & Solomon*

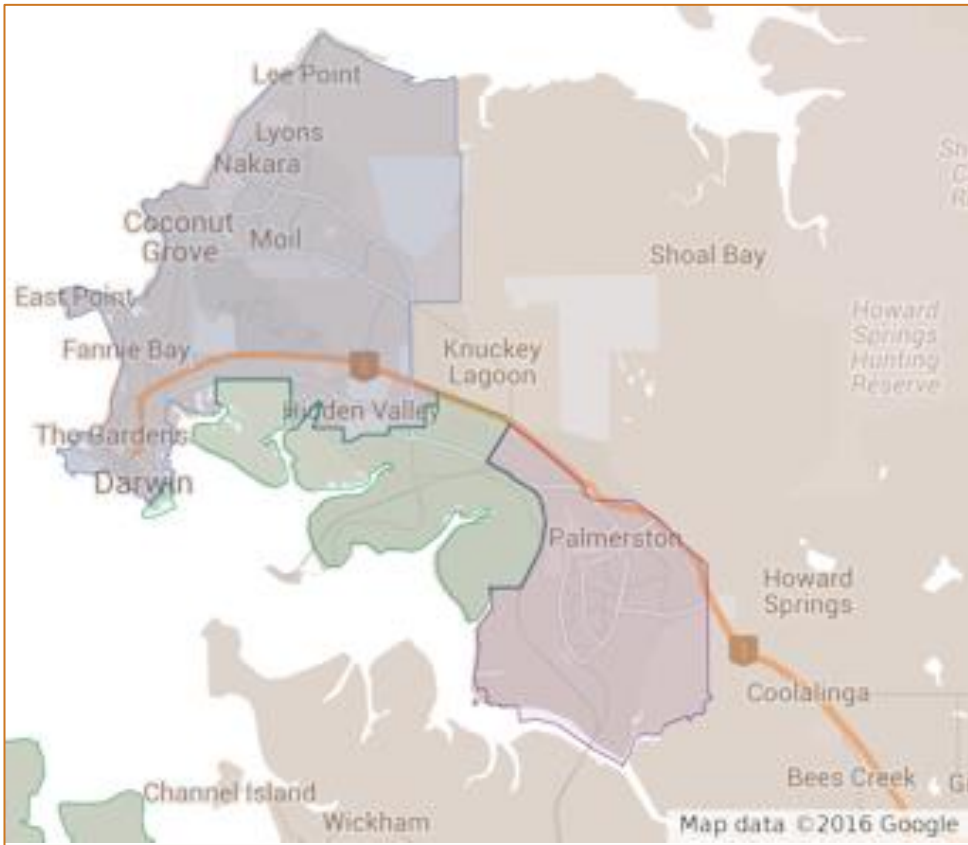
At the time of the last redistribution in 2008, there was little suggestion that strong growth was forecast in the Territory and the current figures indicate that the previous Committee was justified in leaving the division boundaries untouched. However and contrary to the last redistribution in 2008, where the Division of Lingiari held the greater number of electors, strong growth around Palmerston has turned this around and the Division of Solomon looks set to continue growing faster than Lingiari. Darwin is now one of the fastest growing cities in Australia, in part due to housing availability in Palmerston.

Both divisions are currently within the required tolerance of 10 percent of the quota. However, based on the projected enrolment figures on the projection date of 7 August 2020, neither the Division of Lingiari, nor the Division Solomon will meet the permissible numbers of enrolled electors at that time, which specifies that the number of enrolled electors in both divisions must be between 68,214 and 73,162.

The Division of Lingiari is projected to contain 67,024 enrolled electors at the projection time and therefore will need to gain electors to meet the requirements of the Electoral Act.

The Division of Solomon is projected to contain 74,352 enrolled electors at the projection time and therefore will need to lose electors to meet the requirements of the Electoral Act.

Following my general principles in redistributions, I have attempted to ensure that the boundary uses clear and recognisable features wherever possible. This generally includes main roads, and in particular highways and freeways, railway lines, rivers and local government area boundaries. I have noticed that the most recent Redistribution Committees in other states have favoured locality boundaries a great deal which I believe can lead to obscure and confusing boundaries in some cases, and do not recommend be used here.



*Figure 1: Cities of Darwin (Blue) and Palmerston (Purple) and Unincorporated Areas (Green). To the east is the Litchfield Municipality.*

The first step I took was to extend the Division of Lingiari to claim all of the area in the Litchfield Council. I had initially hoped, with the number of electors based at Robertson Barracks, that this first step would be the only adjustment necessary, and also creating a clear and defined boundary analogous to the Litchfield Municipality. Solomon therefore would be

comprised solely of the City of Darwin, the City of Palmerston

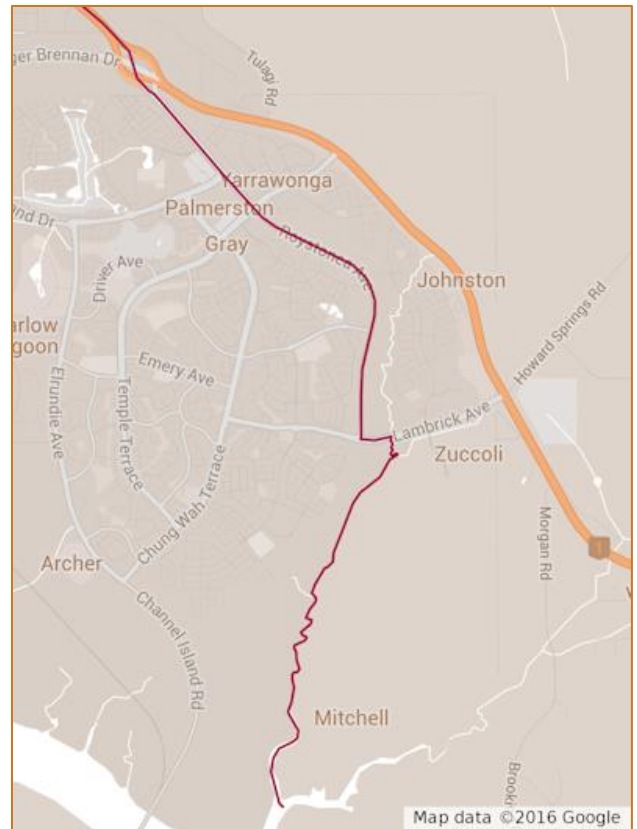
and the unincorporated areas between these cities (as shown in Fig 1, above). But for 282 electors either way, this would have been achievable, and unfortunately both Divisions were left hanging scantily close to the permissible tolerance with Lingiari holding 67,932 electors, and Solomon 73,444 electors.

This meant that additional electors were required to bring both Divisions back into tolerance. At least 282 electors would be required, but it is preferable that more than this number are transferred, leaving room for adjustments to define clear boundaries for both Divisions. These electors would need to come from Palmerston, as it would be illogical taking additional electors from Darwin, and there were only very few electors in the unincorporated area – not to mention transferring electors from the unincorporated area would virtually split Solomon into two. Unfortunately, splitting Palmerston is undesired but necessary under the numeracy requirement of section 66 of the Electoral Act. Additionally, transferring more than the required 282 electors from Palmerston would ensure that there was not one single Palmerston exclave separated from the rest of the city in the Division of Lingiari.

The major growth in Palmerston is within the newly established suburbs including Farrar in the north, Johnston and Zuccoli to the east and, in the future, Mitchell in the south. These growth areas, along with the industrial area of Yarrowonga are proposed to be transferred to Lingiari, moving an additional 1,986 electors. This enables a clear boundary following Mitchells Creek, Lambrick Avenue and Roystonea Avenue before re-joining the Palmerston municipal boundary at the Stuart Highway/Tiger Brennan Drive interchange.

In my suggestion, I have split the very large SA1 of Palmerston – South (7104201) and calculated all electors as being transferred. This very large SA1 stretches from Johnston and crosses Mitchells Creek around the south of Palmerston, as far as Archer. It is almost certain that a negligible number of electors are represented in SA1 7104201 that will remain within the Division of Solomon, but I am unable to discern the exact number without a further breakdown of electors.

This leaves both divisions within the permissible tolerances, both currently and at the projection date. The Division of Solomon would currently contain 65,015 electors and is projected to contain 71,458 electors, while the Division of Lingiari would contain 64,556 electors today, and 69,918 electors at the projection date.



*Figure 2: East of the red line: Palmerston Growth Suburbs of Johnston, Zuccoli and Mitchell and the industrial area of Yarrowonga. Farrar is not labelled, but is located between Yarrowonga and Johnston.*



## *Names of the Divisions*

I propose that no change is necessary to the names of either the Division of Lingiari or the Division of Solomon. Both division names are currently distinguishable, unique, and honour well-deserving Australians in Rt. Hon. Vaiben Louis Solomon and Vincent Lingiari AM.



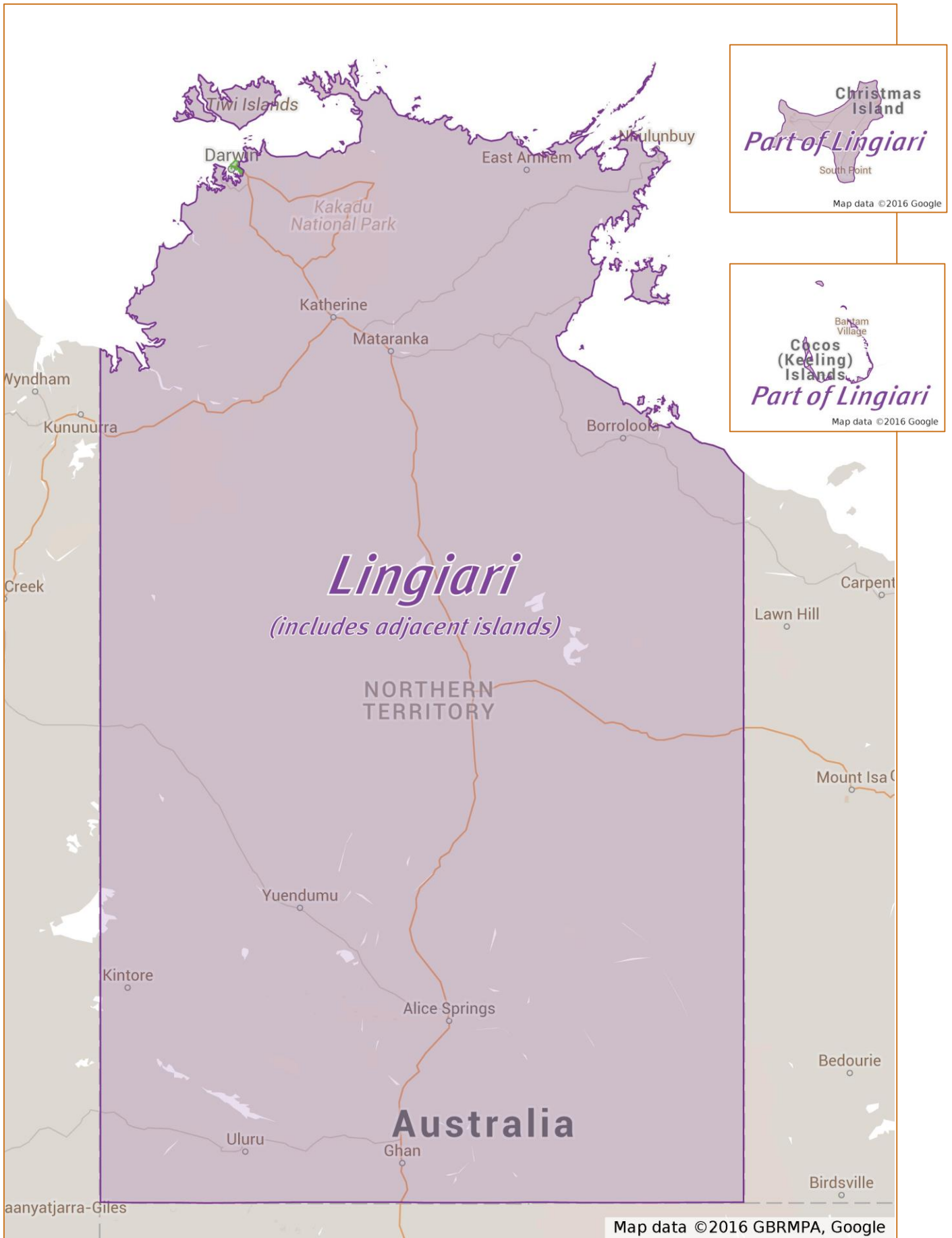
# Enrolment Statistics

<i>Division of Lingiari</i>	<i>Enrolment at 15 October 2016</i>	<i>Projected enrolment at 7 August 2020</i>
<i>Electors retained from the existing Division of Lingiari</i>		
Howard Springs	2,072	2,224
Humpty Doo	4,683	5,139
Koolpinyah	6	6
Virginia	1,767	1,924
Weddell	2,069	2,298
Charles	2,237	2,382
East Side	2,761	2,905
Flynn	2,106	2,242
Larapinta	2,493	2,704
Mount Johns	1,802	1,876
Petermann - Simpson	1,205	1,274
Ross	1,356	1,367
Sandover - Plenty	2,347	2,575
Tanami	1,872	2,050
Yuendumu - Anmatjere	1,613	1,721
Barkly	1,622	1,789
Tennant Creek	1,726	1,794
Alligator	2,226	2,387
Daly	1,039	1,119
Thamarrurr	1,360	1,518
Tiwi Islands	1,621	1,807
West Arnhem	3,063	3,374
Anindilyakwa	1,299	1,432
East Arnhem	4,962	5,451
Nhulunbuy	1,226	1,328
Elsey	1,351	1,436
Gulf	2,503	2,741
Katherine	4,984	5,405
Victoria River	1,542	1,744
Christmas Island	576	612
Cocos (Keeling) Island	383	400
<i>Total electors retained from the existing Division of Lingiari</i>	<i>61,872</i>	<i>67,024</i>
<i>Electors transferred from the Division of Solomon</i>		
Berrimah (Part)	295	283
Howard Springs	645	672
Koolpinyah	4	4
Palmerston – North (Part)	908	995
Palmerston - South (Part – SA1 Split)	832	940
<i>Total electors transferred from the Division of Solomon</i>	<i>2,684</i>	<i>2,894</i>
<b><i>Total for the Division of Lingiari</i></b>	<b><i>64,556</i></b>	<b><i>69,918</i></b>

<i>Division of Solomon</i>	<i>Enrolment at 15 October 2016</i>	<i>Projected enrolment at 7 August 2020</i>
<i>Electors retained from the existing Division of Solomon</i>		
Darwin Airport	16	13
Darwin City	2,541	2,708
East Point	0	0
Fannie Bay - The Gardens	2,286	2,468
Larrakeyah	2,232	2,431
Ludmilla - The Narrows	1,668	1,880
Parap	1,692	1,825
Stuart Park	2,583	2,817
Woolner - Bayview - Winnellie	1,907	2,116
Alawa	1,385	1,539
Anula	1,624	1,783
Berrimah (Part)	343	162
Brinkin - Nakara	1,882	2,080
Buffalo Creek	18	18
Charles Darwin	5	5
Coconut Grove	1,817	1,951
East Arm	16	16
Jingili	1,129	1,245
Karama	3,133	3,483
Leanyer	3,190	3,551
Lyons	1,963	2,166
Malak - Marrara	3,047	3,328
Millner	1,614	1,756
Moil	1,314	1,445
Nightcliff	2,471	2,709
Rapid Creek	2,120	2,335
Tiwi	1,538	1,610
Wagaman	1,304	1,436
Wanguri	1,253	1,370
Wulagi	1,541	1,700
Bakewell	1,968	2,196
Driver	1,845	2,121
Durack - Marlow Lagoon	2,472	2,772
Gray	2,030	2,253
Moulden	1,881	2,152
Palmerston - North (Part)	1,636	1,888
Palmerston - South (Part – SA1 split)	0	0
Rosebery - Bellamack	3,507	3,853
Woodroffe	2,044	2,277
<i>Total electors retained from the existing Division of Solomon</i>	<i>65,015</i>	<i>71,458</i>
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# Map of the Division of Lingiari







# Map of the Division of Solomon

