For any number of reasons, Electorates should surely approximate communities as they exist in real life.

Living in the Sturt Plateau District in the Katherine Region since self-government, not once has the NTEC seen fit to put us in an electorate that even trends towards Katherine (250 km), much less have a member who might set up an office in our service town and actually have some relationship to the community and who can represent us without having to juggle the needs of disparate regions.

We have had members in Alice Springs, a mere 900km away, Coolalinga 600 km away, and most recently Tennant Ck - 400 km away in the wrong direction.

Surely it is not too hard to work out the areas that use Katherine as a centre and radiate the electorates from there. Similarly for the other regional centres.

Every redistribution we seem to be lumped onto one or another population that we have nothing to do with in business or socially. The latest redistribution carved the district amongst 2 or 3 electorates.

Tom Stockwell

Sunday Creek Station