



**Robyn LAMBLEY MLA**

*Member for ARALUEN*

The Northern Territory Electorate Commission  
Redistribution Committee  
GPO Box 2419  
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Dear Redistribution Committee,

**Submission to the 2023 Electoral Redistribution – Central Australia**

Every four years the NTEC provides an opportunity for the community to consider the 25 electoral divisions within the NT. As a Member of the NT Legislative Assembly since 2010, I have always embraced the Electoral Redistribution process as a time to reflect on the enrolment data and electoral boundaries for the Electorate of Araluen and the wider implications for the whole town of Alice Springs.

The Electoral Redistribution process must not be used as an opportunity to advantage the political position of any group or individual, but a means of ensuring an equitable distribution of voters in a way that reflects a common identity, interests, geography and community, where and if that is possible.

**The History of the Electorate of Araluen**

The Electorate of Araluen has been so named since 1983, 40 years ago. Prior to 1983 it was named the electorate of “Alice Springs”. The Electorate of Araluen has a strong social and political history. It was named after the original homestead of the Connellan family, the famous aviation pioneer family of Central Australian. The “Araluen” homestead is still standing within the Araluen Arts Precinct, next to the Central Australian Aviation Museum, at the centre of the Araluen Electorate. Like other NT urban electorates, such as the Nightcliff Electorate, the namesake suburb of “Araluen” remains at the centre of much of the significant business within the Electorate

The tables below (1 and 2) contain the September 2023 and 3 October 2023 enrolment figures for Central Australia, indicating very small variances in three of the four electorates.

**Table 1**

As of the 31 September 2023 (quota is 6072)	
The Electorate of Araluen is undersubscribed by	111 voters.
As of the October 2023 (quota 6072):	
The Electorate of Araluen is undersubscribed by	111 voters.
The Electorate of Brainting is under subscribed by	65 voters.
The Electorate of Namatjira is oversubscribed by	276 voters.
The Electorate of Gwoja is under subscribed by	154 voters.

The Electorate of Araluen has a stable core that has remained in place for over 30 years. This has included:

- The Gap
- Gillen and
- Most (80%) of the suburb of Araluen.

The table below (table 2) shows the distribution of Araluen voters based on the latest September 2023 figures.



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Table 2

<b>ARALUEN SUBURBS 31 September 2023</b> (Quota 6072 )	<b>Total 5961</b> (undersubscribed: 111)
Alice Springs CBD	38
Araluen	1190
Desert Springs	824
Gillen	2816
Ross	1
The Gap	1034
Mpwetyerre	24
	<b>5927</b>
Suppressed names and addresses	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>5961</b>

The three core Araluen Electorate suburbs (Araluen, The Gap and Gillen) include approximately 5040 voters. Included in The Gap area are Abbott's Camp (a town camp) and a small section of the CBD of Alice Springs. I would recommend that these suburbs remain in the Electorate of Araluen in their entirety.

#### **Recommendations for Central Australian Electorates**

The NTEC data would suggest that due to all four Centralian Electorates being within 5% of the quota, I therefore recommend minimal or no change to the Electorate of Araluen boundaries is required.

A change of the name of the electorate would also be unnecessary, confusing and costly.

Yours sincerely,

ROBYN LAMBLEY MLA  
Member for Araluen  
11 October 2023