

28 November 2022

Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell  
City of Palmerston Council  
Civic Plaza 1 Chung Wah Terrace  
Palmerston NT 0830  
Email: [mayor@palmerston.nt.gov.au](mailto:mayor@palmerston.nt.gov.au)

Dear Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell,

I refer to your letter dated 24 November 2022, where you have suggested a workshop with the committee and requested alternative ward scenarios based on feedback received in your previous correspondence.

Unfortunately the committee is unavailable to meet with the City of Palmerston on Thursday 8 December and suggests Tuesday 6 December as an alternative. If this date is not suitable, please refer to the committee's calendar (attachment 2) to select a mutually suitable date. As previously mentioned the release of the final report has been postponed to accommodate further consultation with the City of Palmerston.

In our previous letter dated 22 November the committee invited the City of Palmerston to use the same data, criteria and methodology applied by the committee to develop ward boundaries. This was done for a number of reasons. Firstly, to provide council with the opportunity to apply your local knowledge and experience to propose ward boundaries that are functional and appropriate. Secondly, to aid council in understanding how the committee arrived at the boundaries proposed in the preliminary report.

Email: [secretariat.ntec@nt.gov.au](mailto:secretariat.ntec@nt.gov.au)

Phone: [08 8999 7641](tel:0889997641)

Website: [www.ntec.gov.au](http://www.ntec.gov.au)

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It is important to clarify that while council's feedback is valued and respected, the committee is obligated to comply with the *Local Government Act 2019* (the Act) necessitating consideration of additional factors. When and if we disagree, it is not because we have disregarded your feedback, but because we must weigh it against other relevant information.

The committee examined various scenarios for wards in the City of Palmerston and presented 2 in the preliminary report that meet the criteria to provide fair representation. As stated in our letter dated 22 November, the feedback provided by the City of Palmerston to split the industrial estate and older suburbs into different wards does not comply with assessment criteria stated in 32(2) of the Act. The committee does not have any other 4 ward scenarios that comply with the Act and suggests council provide desired changes to the proposed scenarios that address your concerns. It would be beneficial if these suggestions could be provided prior to the workshop to enable considered discussion when we meet.

While there are no alternative 4 ward scenarios, the committee does have 3 scenarios of 3 wards which were modelled prior to the preliminary report. The committee determined these did not comply with the assessment criteria or the methodology detailed in the preliminary report. These scenarios have been provided (attachments 3, 4 and 5) to demonstrate why they were not proposed in the preliminary report and to assist council in its own modelling.

The committee looks forward to receiving suggestions from the City of Palmerston to aid productive discussions on ward boundaries at the workshop.

If you have any questions, please contact the committee secretariat on (08) 8999 7641 or at [Secretariat.NTEC@nt.gov.au](mailto:Secretariat.NTEC@nt.gov.au). If the secretariat is unavailable (refer to attachment 1) please correspond directly with myself.

Regards,



Sean G Holden  
Chair of the Local Government Representation Committee  
28 November 2022  
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