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15 April 2019

Northern Territory Electoral Commission  
GPO Box 2419  
DARWIN NT 0801

Dear Redistribution Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the other submissions for stage one of the redistribution process of 2019. Territory Labor notes there are many agreed to principles, most notably giving Palmerston a fourth seat as well as significant changes to bush seats.

We thank others who submitted redistribution suggestions for their time and effort. This submission will predominantly focus on the CLP's submission. While there is a general consensus in most electoral divisions there appears to be some CLP proposals that are clearly unjustifiable.

Please find the comments for each region attached below.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony Brereton".

Anthony Brereton  
Secretary  
Territory Labor

### **Northern Suburbs (Casuarina, Nightcliff, Johnston, Karama, Sanderson, Wanguri)**

Territory Labor agrees that there should be limited movement of boundaries for the Northern Suburb divisions. However, there are some specific comments on the CLP suggestions.

Sanderson Division is on quota. The suggestion that part of Wanguri suburb be reallocated to the Sanderson Division is not supported. Such a movement disrupts multiple Divisions unnecessarily.

The Wanguri Division numbers are only slightly over quota, no changes are required. The CLP submission irrationally splits community interests and the Divisions namesake. The suggested portion is a fragmented 'half' of a much larger suburb named 'Wanguri' within the division of 'Wanguri' – this will cause voters confusion when they are required to vote in Sanderson whilst living in Wanguri. The suggested portion has no community links to the other 4 suburbs that form part of Sanderson.

Sanderson Middle School should remain in the Sanderson Division. We appreciate this continues to split a SA1 with minimal electors, however it makes sense to keep Sanderson Middle School in Sanderson and not cause voter confusion.

The only major movement in elector numbers that is required is parts of Coconut Grove to move from Fannie Bay into Johnston to balance quotas and the agreed movement south for the Karama Division.

### **Inner City (Port Darwin, Fong Lim, Fannie Bay)**

Territory Labor and the CLP agree that minimal movement is required in the three inner city seats. The only required movement is for part of Coconut Grove to be moved into Johnston.

### **Palmerston (Brennan, Drysdale, Blain, Spillett)**

Both parties agree that four divisions within the Palmerston area is appropriate with the intent of Spillett coming into Palmerston. To minimise voter confusion, the redistribution committee should avoid changes to the other three Divisions. Changes should be limited to fixing split SA1s as per the Labor Party submission.

### **Nelson and Goyder**

Territory Labor agrees with the intent to make Nelson the hybrid division. This type of division is required in every redistribution. There will be no Nelson Division incumbent in the next election.

Territory Labor rejects the CLP's self-described "contentious" suggestion of including Muirhead. As previously stated, there is no need to alter the boundaries of Wanguri.

In regards to the Goyder Division, the CLP submission like Territory Labor's recognises the need for some changes to the rural area and we are looking forward to the redistribution Committee's suggestions for further comment.

### **Top End Remote (Arnhem, Arafura, Daly, Nhulunbuy)**

The CLP submission unfortunately disenfranchises some communities of interest with its proposed Divisions.

The suggestion of moving the rural area into Arafura is a disenfranchisement of the people of the Tiwi Islands, Maningrida and West Arnhem by limiting their voice to Parliament. There is already one bush rural hybrid seat – Daly. Daly is the only Division that should expand into the rural area. To maximise bush representation Arafura should not move into the rural area of Darwin, instead it should take in Jabiru, the service hub of the region and also Kakadu National Park. By extension the CLP suggested changes to move Arnhem south are not required. There are significant community of interest differences north and south of the Roper River.

While the CLP rightly agrees that Ramingining and Gapuwiyak should be moved in the future, Territory Labor submit that the Nhulunbuy changes are required now.

To limit Divisional movements that cause voter disenfranchisement, Territory Labor submit that only the Daly Division moves in to the rural area.

### **Katherine**

The under-enrolment of surrounding Divisions makes it essential to reduce the Katherine Division in size. The closest community of interest to parts of this electorate is Arnhem that should expand.

### **Central Australia (Stuart, Barkly, Namatjira)**

The CLP submission drastically alters all three Division boundaries and makes Stuart impractical to service. Section 139A of the *Electoral Act 2004* states that to satisfy the object of the redistribution, the redistribution Committee must have regard to the following principle; 'the physical area of a division containing rural and remote areas should be as small as practicable.' With this principle in mind the CLP submission for these three divisions must be disregarded, as it proposes to further enlarge the two largest divisions - Stuart and Barkly.

Territory Labor acknowledges there needs to be changes to Central Australian Divisions. The CLP submission divides communities of interest in the Namatjira Division. The Proposed CLP boundary for Namatjira has no communities of interest with the suggestion that the urban population be incorporated into the electorate. This would not be beneficial at all as their voices would be diminished under the proposal to cater for the urban population.

### **Alice Springs (Braitling, Araluen)**

The CLP submission appears to be an attempt to create an electoral advantage. The borders make no sense on a geographic or social level. These suggestions do not align with local community interest. It contradicts the submission from the Alice Springs CLP Sub-branch. The submission from the Alice Springs CLP Sub-branch calls for a third seat, not for the radical redistribution proposed by the Country Liberals.

This is in direct contrast to the Territory Labor submission which minimises electorate disruption and also adheres to the guiding principles as set out in the *Electoral Act 2004*.