

Transmission by email: secretariat.ntec@nt.gov.au

Attention Redistribution Committee

Incorrect Percentages in the 2019 NT Electorate Boundary redistribution submission by the Country Liberals Party Alice Springs Branch

The Redistribution Committee should be aware, if they are not already, that the Country Liberals Party Alice Springs Branch submission contains conclusions/intentions that are at variance with their percentage calculation of enrollees, which produce (on paper) an extra 10,616 enrollees in the Top End and Central Australia above the actual enrolments enrolled as at 15 February 2019, the date used to calculate a quota for each of the 25 Legislative Assembly electorates.

The start of the submission in the first and second paragraphs mentions percentages that result in enrolments above the enrolment data as at 15 February 2019 used to strike the first quota of 5,511.

The first paragraph contains a second sentence which reads:

“The combined effect being Central Australian electorates are over quota by 35.8%.”

This is a mistake.

The three electorates referred to are Araluen, Braitling and Namatjira. Combining the total number of enrolments in each of these electorates as at 15 February 2019 gives a total of 18 530 enrolments. The quota calculated by the NTEC for the purpose of this redistribution is 5511 enrolments. Times this quota by three gives a total 16 533 enrolments for

three electorates. Therefore, dividing the three actual combined enrolments by the total enrolment of three quotas gives the following result

$$18530/16533$$

$$= 1.1208$$

= 12.08% above quota across the three Central Australian electorates.

Put another way there are 1,997 enrolments above the quota across the three electorates.

The Country Liberals Party Alice Springs Branch assertion that the “combined effect” is that the Centralian Electorates is 35.8% over quota would mean that the number of enrolments in Central Australia at 15 February 2019 was:

$$1.358 \times 5,511 \text{ (quota)} \times 3 \text{ electorates} = 22,451 \text{ enrolments.}$$

This is 3921 enrolments above the actual number of enrollees enrolled.

The second paragraph makes a similar assertion.

“Scrutiny of all the Darwin and Palmerston enrolments combined show they are currently over quota by 8.1%.”

This is also a mistake.

$$1.081 \times 5511 \text{ (quota)} \times 15 \text{ electorates} = 89,360 \text{ enrolments}$$

When tallying up the actual enrolments above and below quota for the 15 electorates as at 15 February 2019 gives a total 83,112 (447 enrolments above a total of 15 quotas \times 5511 [a quota] = 82665)

Using the Country Liberals Party Alice Springs Branch figure of 8.1% gives a total of 6695 above the actual number of enrolments across the 15 electorates in the Darwin, Palmerston and Darwin Rural Area.

The correct percentage is $0.54\% = 83112/82665 \times 100$ (447 enrollees above quota as at 15 February 2019).

As an exercise in construction the Country Liberals Party Alice Springs Branch percentage calculations identifies a greater need for an electorate in the Top End rather than Alice Springs. Using their percentages there were as at 15 February 2019, 6,695 votes above quota in the Top End compared to 3,921 voters above quota in Central Australia.

This is clearly not their intention as indicated in their desire to maintain the status quo in the Darwin, Palmerston and Darwin Rural Area and create an extra electorate in Alice Springs.

The NTEC and readers of the submission should be aware of these mistakes, least the public get the impression that Central Australia is massively over quota by nearly 40% which is way beyond the actual average of 12% across the three electorates the Country Liberals Party Alice Springs Branch chose to make the focus of their submission.

I note another submission has used the same exaggerated percentages as the Country Liberals Party Alice Springs Branch submission.

In making this submission I declare an interest, I am a member of the Australian Labor Party and work for a member of parliament.

Yours sincerely

Vince Jeisman