

Yingiya Mark Guyula MLA
Member for Mulka, NT Legislative Assembly



Redistribution Committee
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24/03/2023

Northern Territory Electoral Boundaries Redistribution

Submission

To Whom It May Concern,

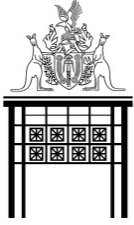
I write this submission to make comment on the NT Redistribution of Electoral Boundaries process occurring in 2023.

The current enrolments place the Electorate of Mulka at 10.1% over quota. I note that while there has been an increase in workers for the dismantling of the Rio Tinto refinery, this worker population is projected to decrease significantly over the next 4 years, reducing the margin that is over quota.

As I stated in 2019, I strongly believe that communities of interest should be kept together. It is important on Yolŋu country that speakers of the Yolŋu Matha language group and cultural bloc are kept together. Keeping communities of interest together is important, especially for communities and peoples who have been traditionally left out of the political process or feel disenfranchised by the system. Community members can define their communities by telling their own stories. Without this the Yolŋu story can be lost and those who do not have our best interests in mind will define our communities for us.

Ideally all the country belonging to Yolŋu people would be in the one Electorate. One of the reasons this is important is because business that takes place over this country may be connected to people who live in different areas. For example, there may be people living in Gapuwiyak (currently in the electorate of Arnhem) but their ancestral country and kin may be near Mapuru (in the electorate of Mulka). Yolŋu business and responsibility depends on kinship relationships to country and so we are connected all across our country to different areas. Our land, our language, our law and our kinship connections are all reasons why we are recognised as a community of interest. The only acceptable change would be to include Gapuwiyak and surrounding homelands (as the only Yolŋu group outside of the electorate).

Address: Mulka Electorate Office, Endeavour Square, Nhulunbuy NT 0880
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Maintaining the boundaries will assist in keeping the region demographically consistent as we move towards a post mining future for the region. This will also assist in maintaining regional continuity across all levels of Government and Land Council jurisdiction.

Yours Sincerely,

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