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Redistribution Committee

Northern Territory Electoral Commission

GPO Box 2419

DARWIN NT 0801

Via email: secretariat.ntec@nt.gov.au

Dear Redistribution Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the second proposed redistribution of NT divisions for the 2023 Northern Territory Redistribution.

Territory Labor accepts the reasoning for most of the proposed boundary changes of the second proposed redistribution and thanks the Committee for the work it has undertaken.

However, issues around the unnecessarily large transfer of electors from one division to another in Palmerston remain, and further feedback is outlined below with the overall intent of best meeting the principles of redistribution in the Electoral Act 2004.

Acknowledging the significant over enrolment of the division of Spillett, Territory Labor supports the changes to the division of Spillett outlined in the first proposed redistribution.

The changes proposed in the second redistribution, however, fail to achieve the principles stated in 139A(e) that *changes to existing divisions should minimise the number of electors being transferred from one division to another*. In fact, the proposals seem to maximise the number of electors being transferred; in Blain more than 30% of electors in proposed boundary will be new to the electorate, in Brennan 47.5%, and in Drysdale 28%.

The committee has stated that it believes communities of interest are met by keeping whole suburbs together however does not address the requirement to consider *existing boundaries of divisions in 140(2)(g)(i) or 140(2)(a) community of interests in each proposed division, including economic, social and regional interests*.

The proposal for Palmerston, does not satisfy 139A(b) that *the demographic characteristics of a division should be as uniform as practicable*; as the demographic characteristics are stronger along the division of old suburbs, developed suburbs and the new suburbs of Palmerston.

Equally, the second proposal does not satisfy 139A(c) that *the geographic features of a division should be as uniform as practicable*; Palmerston's localised geographic features such as hills and creeks provide natural boundaries formalised by Elrundie Avenue, Chung Wah Terrace and Roystonea Avenue.

As stated in response to the first proposal, suburbs do not define the main communities of interest in Palmerston and the current boundaries of the divisions of Blain, Brennan and Drysdale include stronger communities of interest being:

- the old suburbs of Palmerston (Moulden, Driver, Woodroffe and Gray - suburbs that have existed for around 30 years),
- the developed suburbs of Palmerston (Farrar, Gunn and Bakewell) which have been completed in the last 20 years, and
- the new suburbs of Palmerston - the remaining suburbs to the East and South.

Reading section 139A Principles of redistribution as a whole, Territory Labor maintains that the proposed changes to Blain, Brennan and Drysdale do not satisfy paragraphs 139A(b), 139A(c) and 139A(e) and gives undue weight to the use of suburbs as identifiable communities in attempting to satisfy paragraph 139A(d).

Labor proposes that the electorates of Blain, Brennan and Drysdale retain their current boundaries.

Again, Labor thanks the Committee on their work on the redistribution and submits this feedback for final consideration to better meet the principles of the redistribution.

Kind Regards

Karlee Dalton
Secretary
Territory Labor