



2019 NT Electoral Boundary Redistribution

New electorate name suggestions

A total of 15 submissions were received during the first phase of public consultation of the 2019 NT Electoral Boundary Redistribution. The public now have a chance to comment on these suggestions before the draft boundaries are determined by the Redistribution Committee.

“Members of the public are now invited to make comments on the suggestions to the Redistribution Committee, in writing, by close of business on Monday, 15 April 2019,” NT Electoral Commissioner, Mr Iain Loganathan said.

“In particular, the Redistribution Committee encourages comments on the new division names that have been suggested.”

When changes are made to a division’s electoral boundaries, the division name may no longer have the same relevance, especially when locality names have been used. The most recent division name changes in the Northern Territory have been the new division of Spillett, created in 2015, and the name Namatjira which replaced MacDonnell in Central Australian in 2012.

Section 139B of the *Electoral Act 2004* states that:

- (1) The name of a division must not be changed by a redistribution unless the existing name is no longer appropriate.
- (2) If a new name is proposed for a division, the use of locality names should be avoided.

Convention dictates that names of Commonwealth electoral divisions and of living persons are avoided; however, names of persons who have died and given significant service to the Northern Territory may be adapted.

“In the 15 submissions that were received, there were four new divisional names suggested, as well as major changes to another division that may mean the current name is no longer appropriate.

“The next 12 days are a great opportunity for the public to let the Redistribution Committee know whether they support these suggestions, or whether they have further name suggestions for us to consider, Mr Loganathan said.

“The Committee welcomes suggested names for any Territory division, not just those mentioned in these submissions.”

Media contact:

Iain Loganathan

Electoral Commissioner | NT Electoral Commission

Phone: 08 8999 5000 | Email: secretariat.ntec@nt.gov.au

The names put forward during the first round of public consultation were:

Gwoya	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- To replace the division name Stuart.- Suggested by the Member for Stuart, Mr Scott McConnell MLA; the Member for Namatjira, Mr Chansey Paech MLA; and Territory Labor.- The name was suggested to be more reflective of the division and the lives of its constituents.
Mulka	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- To replace the division name Nhulunbuy.- Suggested by the Member for Nhulunbuy, Mr Yingiya Mark Guyula MLA.- The name was suggested as it refers to a locality that is now a smaller part of a much larger division.
Wonggu	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- To replace the division name Nhulunbuy.- Suggested by Mr Kendal Trudgen.- The name was suggested as it refers to a locality that is now a smaller part of a much larger division.
Leanyer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- To replace the division name Wanguri.- Suggested by Mr Martin C. Gordon.- The name was suggested as changes to the division may include removing part of the suburb of Wanguri, and because Leanyer was the biggest suburb in the division, and less likely to be removed. <p>NOTE: This name suggestion contradicts Section 139B (2) of the Act as it is a locality name. In 2015 the Redistribution Committee proposed the name <i>Somerville</i> for the division of Wanguri as the then draft boundaries included major changes to the division. Those changes did not go ahead in the final boundaries, so the name of Wanguri was retained.</p>

An attachment to this media release provides further details on the suggested names of Gwoya, Mulka, Wonggu, and Somerville.

In addition, major changes have been suggested to boost the number of electors in the division of Arnhem.

"We have received suggestions to move the southern boundary of Arnhem beyond the Roper River, and also further towards, and incorporating parts of Katherine. With enrolments as they are now, Arnhem does need more electors. These changes may mean that the name Arnhem is no longer appropriate for this division, and the public are welcome to put forward any suggested names." Mr Loganathan said.

Northern Territory Legislative Assembly boundaries are being redrawn in preparation for the August 2020 Territory election.

All public suggestions and detailed redistribution information is available from the NT Electoral Commission's website:

[ntec.nt.gov.au/Electoral-divisions/2019 NT Electoral Boundary Redistribution](http://ntec.nt.gov.au/Electoral-divisions/2019%20NT%20Electoral%20Boundary%20Redistribution)

3 April 2019.

**Attachment A
(2 pages)**

GWOYA – suggested name for the DIVISION OF STUART

Pronounced: 'goy' – 'yah' (the w is very subtle)

(excerpt from submission from the Member for Stuart, Mr Scott McConnell MLA)

Gwoya Tjungarrayi is the name of a local Aboriginal person, from the electorate, who deserves recognition in his own right. Gwoya was born in the Tanami Desert, survived the Coniston Massacre, became involved in early mining, pastoralism and tourism industries, and was the first Aboriginal person to have his likeness on an Australian postage stamp. Later, his likeness was also utilised to create the image on the Australian \$2 coin.

While Gwoya Tjungarrayi remains a well-recognised elder among communities within the electorate, it is unlikely that his story will continue to be told more widely if his name is not commemorated in some way. Gwoya's story is essential to the telling of a complete history of Australia, where events are examined from the perspectives of all participants.

Gwoya's story is reflective of the lives of many of my constituents, so to commemorate and acknowledge Gwoya in this way will also demonstrate the value we place on people who have lived their entire lives in remote Northern Territory.

Gwoya Tjungarrayi died in the Tanami region on March 28, 1965. More than 54 years later, Gwoya is still a Territorian of esteem within the local region and beyond. I agree with my constituents that it would be more than appropriate to recognise his place in the history of the Territory by honouring him with the renaming of this electorate.

MULKA – suggested name for the DIVISION OF NHULUNBUY

Pronounced: 'Muhl' (close to 'pull') – 'kah'

(excerpt from submission from the Member for Nhulunbuy, Mr Yinguya Mark Guyula MLA)

I would like to propose the name Mulka. The meaning of Mulka is very welcoming across all clans, Yolngu and balanda. A simple translation of the word is dry area or dry land or the opposite of wet. A deeper translation is when people enter East Arnhem Land or a clan enters another clan's estate we call out to people and say 'gululu' (welcome), come and enter the Mulka grounds. It is a diplomatic space where people can feel comfortable and welcome to visit and bring business and discussions. It provides a shelter and comfort. Mulka tells of the past, present and future – it is a place for respect, history, truth, wisdom and knowledge. It is an inclusive name for all members of the electorate, for all clans and for all visitors to our country.

WONGGU – Suggested name for the DIVISION OF NHULUNBUY

Pronounced: `wohng` – `oo` (the g is subtle)

(excerpt from submission from Mr Kendall Trudgen)

If the electorate of Nhulunbuy name was changed, I am favourable toward 'Wonggu' because of his powerful contribution to ensuring continuing Yolngu identity and self-determination while, through Donald Thompson, treating with the Australian Government. Wonggu's part in the matters in the Caledon Bay Crisis, (embodied in his letter sticks leading to a mutual peace) are an outstanding show of high moral and political integrity and should be honoured. By naming the electorate Wonggu we would also be commemorating Donald Thompson who contributed greatly (through work as an emissary of the Australian Government, as an anthropologist and as a WW2 army officer) to the development of respectful relationships between settler/colonial society and Indigenous people and their way – especially for Yolngu. His engagement in the Caledon bay issue marks a possible end to the sorry behaviour of retribution parties and likewise the settler massacres associated across Australia.

SOMERVILLE – Redistribution Committee's suggested name if there was to be a new name for the DIVISION OF WANGURI

(excerpt from 2015 Report on the Proposed Redistribution of the Northern Territory into Divisions)

Margaret Someville MBE (1912-2014) was a Methodist missionary teacher who, in 1942 during World War 2, helped evacuate 95 Aboriginal children from an orphanage on Croker Island in the the Arafura Sea to Sydney to protect the children from the Japanese bombing. She guided the group overland, without supplies or organised transport, crossing what became Kakadu National Park before travelling from Pine Creek to Alice Springs, then Adelaide, Melbourne, and Sydney. She settled the children in a church camp at Otford in NSW where they spent the rest of the war in safety.

She returned to the island with the children after the war and continued as a house mother and care giver until 1965. On her return to Sydney she fostered two of the Aboriginal children until they were returned to their parents., During retirement she made and sold finger puppets to raise funds for missions worldwide, raising tens of thousands of dollars.