

Karen Parker

From: Gerry Wood
Sent: Thursday, 4 April 2019 11:45 AM
To: Secretariat NTEC
Subject: Attention Redistribution Committee

I would like to make the following comments on the CLP and ALP submissions about changes to the Electorate of Nelson.

CLP say:

Nelson Whilst this division is currently 4% below quota and projected to grow to 1% over quota, with the major population changes in adjoining Spillett and Wanguri we suggest major modifications to Nelson. We suggest the reallocation of the suburbs of The Narrows, RAAF Darwin, Airport, Winnellie, Berrimah, Holtze from Spillett and 330 electors from Muirhead to Nelson. With Robertson Barracks, Howard Springs and Girraween to Anglesey Rd retained we believe the electors of this division share strong community of interests including the consolidation of Defence personnel from RAAF Darwin, Defence Establishment Berrimah and Robertson Barracks. Whilst the inclusion of Muirhead electors may be contentious, we contest that the demographic characteristics are highly consistent with electors of Northcrest and, to a lesser extent, the Narrows and rural area.

Goyder: we suggest that Goyder contract to become a close rural seat, taking on the suburb of Herbert and a large portion of Girraween from Nelson and releasing its more remote portions to Daly and Arafura.

My comments: Fundamentally the Nelson Electorate is a rural electorate and should remain that way. It is not far under the quota so why change it? The idea that Nelson should be expanded into the Narrows and the RAAF Base because of a consolidation of Defence personnel is stretching the limits of logic. The main voters at Robertson Barracks are single soldiers in the Army and only are a small percentage of the total population of the Nelson Electorate. If the consolidation argument was valid then Larrakeyah Defence Facility would have also been included. The idea of removing Girraween and Herbert to be replaced with Darwin suburbs just means the electorate becomes less rural. If there needs to be a change then Humpty Doo North, Virginia (west) or a part of Johnstone (least preferable) should be added to Nelson. The above comments would also apply to the submission from the ALP although their proposal is not as off-the-planet as the CLP's proposal.

Please keep Nelson rural when you consider changes to electorates.

Regards
Gerry

Gerry Wood MLA
Independent Member for Nelson
PO Box 120
HOWARD SPRINGS
Northern Territory 0835
Australia
PH: (08) 8999 6713
M: 0428 698 037
F: (08) 8983 1638
gerry.wood@nt.gov.au