



DHERANYOUNG^{MLA}

Member for Daly



24 March 2023

NT Electoral Commission

RE: 2023 Electoral Redistribution

Dear Committee Members,

I write to you in my capacity as the Member for Daly to outline my recommendations for the 2023 NT Electoral Boundary Redistribution.

The division of Daly surrounds the Darwin region to the south and west of the Top End. It extends to Kakadu National Park and Katherine in the east, the Victoria River and just south of the Victoria Highway in the south, and Darwin Harbour in the north. The division of Daly includes the towns of Adelaide River, Batchelor, Dundee Beach and Pine Creek, the outer Darwin suburbs of Berry Springs, Livingstone, Fly Creek, Southport, and Wagait Beach, and the remote communities of Belyuen, Nauiyu (Daly River), Nganmariyanga, Peppimenarti, Timber Creek, and Wadeye.

This currently places the electoral division of Daly at 77,395 km² making it the one of the largest electorates in the Northern Territory.

Representing bush and rural constituencies and ensuring regular visitations to communities in remote and rural electoral divisions is imperative to ensure those voices are heard and represented, I am concerned that future Northern Territory electoral boundary redistributions may consider extending the boundaries of divisions of Daly and Spillitt which would I believe be cause for concern.

Servicing hybrid electoral divisions is at best rewarding, empowering and productive for a member, however the larger electoral divisions become the less time, and the strain on resources and the ability to appropriately service the community comprehensively become due to the nature of constraints on travel and sheer geographic ground to cover.

I do not advocate for any remote seats in the Northern Territory to be abolished or urbanised as I believe that this would further diminish democracy in the bush and would only reinforce urban centric models of governing.

It is crucial that we maintain a balance of urban and remote divisions in the Northern Territory to ensure that equal representation and diversity is achieved.

In the case of the 2023 Northern Territory Electoral Boundary Redistribution I believe that minimal changes to the remote electorates of Daly should occur to most adequately ensure effective representation for the region.

My Recommendations – Daly

I recommend that the division of Daly receive no to minimal change to its boundaries, however if consideration must be given to appropriately reflex and adjust the number of constituents as per the Northern Territory electoral division quotas, I recommend that consideration be given for the following communities of Amanbidji (eligible voters) (53), Bula (62) and the boundary be extended to the WA boarder to be incorporated back into the electorate of Daly.

Allowing these communities to be incorporated into the Daly electorate would have several benefits, including:

- The electorate of Daly is already home to a majority of the Vic Daly Regional council footprint
- Reuniting communities of cultural and spiritual interest; and
- Ensuring that these communities have their economic, social and regional interests well represented.
- Reunifying communities who share the similar languages and beliefs
- These communities already being so close to the electoral boundary of Daly means that for a considerable amount of time community members are already accessing services or visiting relatives from within the electoral division of Daly and notably the township of Timber Creek in the Daly electorate is a service hub for the communities.

The communities of Amanbidji and Bula have strong kinship links with many communities already in Daly leading to high mobility between the communities. By reunifying these communities within the Daly electorate, the division could be serviced alongside similar communities within the same council region.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dheran Young', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dheran Young MLA
Member for Daly