

Serial 61  
Electoral Amendment Bill 2018  
Mr Gunner

A Bill for an Act to amend the *Electoral Act*



**NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA**

**ELECTORAL AMENDMENT ACT 2018**

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**Act No. [ ] of 2018**

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**Table of provisions**

1	Short title .....	1
2	Commencement .....	1
3	Act amended .....	1
4	Section 3 amended (Definitions).....	1
5	Section 138 amended (When redistribution to be conducted) .....	2
6	Part 8, Division 2 heading amended.....	2
7	Section 139 replaced .....	2
	139 Object of redistribution	
	139A Principles of redistribution	
	139B Naming of division during redistribution	
8	Section 140 amended (Matters to be considered in redistribution).....	3
9	Section 140A inserted .....	4
	140A Definitions	
	140B Calculation of quota	
10	Section 143 amended (Preparing proposed redistribution) .....	4
11	Section 144 amended (Maps showing proposed redistribution) .....	5
12	Section 145 amended (Inviting objections against proposed redistribution).....	5
13	Sections 145A and 145B inserted .....	6
	145A Preparing second proposed redistribution	
	145B Inviting objections to second proposed redistribution	
14	Section 146 amended (Considering objections) .....	7
15	Section 147 amended (Deciding redistribution).....	8
16	Section 148 amended (Report about redistribution) .....	8
17	Section 149 repealed (Report about redistribution and maps to be available for public inspection).....	10
18	Section 150A inserted .....	10
	150A Extraordinary general election during redistribution process	
19	Section 151 amended (Decisions are final) .....	10
20	Section 292 amended (Improper influence of officials).....	10
21	Part 16 heading amended .....	10
22	Section 331 amended (Establishment).....	10
23	Section 332 amended (Composition) .....	11
24	Section 333 amended (Chairperson).....	11
25	Part 16, Division 2 heading omitted .....	11

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26	Sections 334 and 335 repealed (Establishment and composition) .....	11
27	Section 336 amended (Appointment of appointed member) .....	12
28	Section 337 amended (Term of appointed member's appointment).....	13
29	Section 339 repealed (Chairperson).....	13
30	Section 340 amended (Dissolution).....	13
31	Part 16, Division 3 heading amended.....	13
32	Section 341 amended (Functions).....	14
33	Section 342 amended (Powers) .....	14
34	Section 343 amended (Procedures).....	14
35	Part 20 inserted .....	15
	Part 20                      Transitional matters for Electoral Amendment Act 2018	
	361            Appointed member and Chairperson of Redistribution Committee	
36	Repeal of Act .....	15



# NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

Act No. [ ] of 2018

An Act to amend the *Electoral Act*

[Assented to [ ] 2018]  
[Introduced [ ] 2018]

The Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory enacts as follows:

## 1 Short title

This Act may be cited as the *Electoral Amendment Act 2018*.

## 2 Commencement

This Act commences on the day after the day on which the Administrator's assent to this Act is declared.

## 3 Act amended

This Act amends the *Electoral Act*.

## 4 Section 3 amended (Definitions)

(1) Section 3, definition ***Augmented Redistribution Committee***  
*omit*

(2) Section 3  
*insert (in alphabetical order)*

***redistribution process***, for Part 8, Division 3, see section 140A.

***redistribution report***, see section 148(1).

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**5 Section 138 amended (When redistribution to be conducted)**

Section 138(1) and (2)

*omit, insert*

- (1) A redistribution must be conducted in accordance with this Part:
  - (a) after each general election; and
  - (b) after each extraordinary general election.
- (2) For subsection (1)(a), the redistribution process must:
  - (a) start as soon as practicable after 2 years and 6 months after the polling day for the general election; and
  - (b) be completed as soon as practicable.
- (2A) For subsection (1)(b), the redistribution must:
  - (a) start as soon as practicable after 1 year and 6 months after the polling day for the extraordinary general election; and
  - (b) be completed as soon as practicable.

**6 Part 8, Division 2 heading amended**

Part 8, Division 2, heading

*omit*

**Objects**

*insert*

**Object**

**7 Section 139 replaced**

Section 139

*omit, insert*

**139 Object of redistribution**

The object of a redistribution is to ensure that, at the time of the next general election, the number of electors in each proposed division is as near to equal as practicable.

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**139A Principles of redistribution**

To satisfy the object of redistribution, the Redistribution Committee must have regard to the following principles:

- (a) the physical area of a division containing rural and remote areas should be as small as practicable;
- (b) the demographic characteristics of a division should be as uniform as practicable;
- (c) the geographic features of a division should be as uniform as practicable;
- (d) each identifiable community should be included in only one division if practicable;
- (e) subject to paragraphs (a) to (d), changes to existing divisions should minimise the number of electors being transferred from one division to another.

**139B Naming of division during redistribution**

- (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.

**8 Section 140 amended (Matters to be considered in redistribution)**

- (1) Section 140(1)

*omit*

objects

*insert*

object

- (2) Section 140(1)

*omit*

and Augmented Redistribution Committee

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(3) Section 140(2)

*omit*

Committees

*insert*

Redistribution Committee

## **9 Section 140A inserted**

After section 140, in Part 8, Division 3

*insert*

### **140A Definitions**

In this Division:

**redistribution process** means any action taken under sections 141 to 146.

### **140B Calculation of quota**

- (1) The Redistribution Committee is responsible for calculating the quota under section 13(4) of the *Self-Government Act*.
- (2) The calculation must be done as soon as practicable:
  - (a) after the establishment of the Redistribution Committee; and
  - (b) after the expiry of the 30-day period mentioned in section 145(b).
- (3) The Redistribution Committee may calculate the quota at any other time during the redistribution process if the Committee is of the opinion that calculating the quota would:
  - (a) improve the accuracy of the redistribution; and
  - (b) achieve the object in section 139.

## **10 Section 143 amended (Preparing proposed redistribution)**

(1) Section 143, heading, after "**Preparing**"

*insert*

**first**



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(2) Section 143(1), after "a"

*insert*

first

(3) Section 143(2), after "The"

*insert*

first

**11 Section 144 amended (Maps showing proposed redistribution)**

(1) Section 144, heading, after "**showing**"

*insert*

**first**

(2) Section 144, after "prepared the"

*insert*

first

**12 Section 145 amended (Inviting objections against proposed redistribution)**

(1) Section 145, heading, after "**against**"

*insert*

**first**

(2) Section 145(b)

*omit, insert*

(b) stating that any objection on the first proposed redistribution must be made in writing to the Redistribution Committee within 30 days after the notice is published in the *Gazette*.

---

**13 Sections 145A and 145B inserted**

After section 145

*insert*

**145A Preparing second proposed redistribution**

- (1) The Redistribution Committee must give proper consideration to all objections made under section 145(b).
- (2) As soon as practicable after the 30 days mentioned in section 145(b), the Redistribution Committee must prepare the second proposed redistribution of the Territory into divisions.
- (3) The second proposed redistribution must include proposed names for the proposed divisions.

**145B Inviting objections to second proposed redistribution**

- (1) If a second proposed redistribution would result in the sum of the following being greater than 15% of the total number of electors in a division at the time the quota is calculated under section 140B(2)(b), the Redistribution Committee must invite objections to the second proposed redistribution:
  - (a) the number of electors added to the division by the second proposed redistribution as compared to the first proposed redistribution; and
  - (b) the number of electors removed from the division by the second proposed redistribution as compared to the first proposed redistribution.
- (2) Despite subsection (1), the Redistribution Committee is not required to invite objections to the second proposed redistribution if the Redistribution Committee is of the opinion that:
  - (a) holding a second objection period would cause major inconvenience or have other serious consequences, such as causing a delay to a scheduled general election; or
  - (b) the second proposed redistribution is the only feasible option because there has been a natural disaster or another event causing extraordinary demographic movement.

*Note for subsection (2)(a)*

*A delay to the finalisation of the redistribution process is not of itself a major inconvenience or serious consequence.*

- 
- (3) If, in the opinion of the Redistribution Committee, a second proposed redistribution involves a significant change in a matter to which the Redistribution Committee must give consideration under section 140(2)(a), (c), (e), (f) or (g), the Redistribution Committee may invite objections to the second proposed redistribution.
- (4) If the Redistribution Committee invites objections to a second proposed redistribution under subsection (1) or (3), the Redistribution Committee must:
- (a) make available, for public inspection, without fee, a map or number of maps together showing the names and boundaries of all proposed divisions; and
  - (b) publish a notice in accordance with section 137:
    - (i) advising of the availability for inspection of the map or maps mentioned in paragraph (a); and
    - (ii) stating that any objection on the second proposed redistribution must be made in writing to the Redistribution Committee within 14 days after the notice is published in the *Gazette*.

**14 Section 146 amended (Considering objections)**

(1) Section 146

*omit*

Augmented

(2) Section 146

*omit*

all

*insert*

any

(3) Section 146

*omit*

145(b)

*insert*

145B(4)(b)(ii)

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**15 Section 147 amended (Deciding redistribution)**

Section 147(1)

*omit, insert*

- (1) The Redistribution Committee must, by *Gazette* notice (a ***redistribution declaration notice***), redistribute the Territory into divisions.
- (1A) A redistribution declaration notice must be published:
- (a) if the Redistribution Committee invites objections under section 145B – as soon as practicable after the expiry of the 14 days mentioned in section 145B(4)(b)(ii); or
  - (b) if the Redistribution Committee does not invite objections under section 145B – as soon as practicable after the expiry of the 30 days mentioned in section 145(b).

**16 Section 148 amended (Report about redistribution)**

(1) Section 148(1)

*omit*

Augmented

(2) Section 148(1)

*omit*

give the Minister

*insert*

prepare

(3) Section 148(1), after "about the redistribution"

*insert*

(a ***redistribution report***)

(4) Section 148(2)

*omit*

contain

- 
- (5) Section 148(2)(a), before "details"  
*insert*  
include
- (6) Section 148(2)(b), before "a map"  
*insert*  
contain
- (7) Section 148(2)(b)  
*omit*  
divisions.  
*insert*  
divisions;
- (8) After section 148(2)(b)  
*insert*  
(c) state the reasons for redistributing the Territory into the divisions set out in the redistribution declaration notice; and  
(d) state the reasons that the Redistribution Committee did or did not invite objections on the second proposed redistribution under section 145B.
- (9) Section 148(3)  
*omit, insert*  
(3) The Redistribution Committee must provide the redistribution report to the Commissioner as soon as practicable after the publication of the redistribution declaration notice.  
(4) The Commissioner must, as soon as practicable after the receipt of the redistribution report:  
(a) make the report available for public inspection without fee; and  
(b) give the Speaker a copy of the report.  
(5) The Speaker must table a copy of the report in the Legislative Assembly within 3 sitting days after the Speaker receives the report.

- 
- (6) For this section, ***available for public inspection*** includes by electronic publication.

**17 Section 149 repealed (Report about redistribution and maps to be available for public inspection)**

Section 149

*repeal*

**18 Section 150A inserted**

After section 150, in Part 8, Division 3

**150A Extraordinary general election during redistribution process**

If a writ for an extraordinary general election is issued under section 24 or 25 while the redistribution process is underway, the redistribution process ceases and the Redistribution Committee is dissolved as soon as the writ is issued.

**19 Section 151 amended (Decisions are final)**

Section 151(1)

*omit*

or Augmented Redistribution Committee

**20 Section 292 amended (Improper influence of officials)**

Section 292(b)

*omit*

or Augmented Redistribution Committee

**21 Part 16 heading amended**

Part 16, heading

*omit*

**and Augmented Redistribution Committee**

**22 Section 331 amended (Establishment)**

*omit*

The

---

*insert*

For each redistribution, a

**23 Section 332 amended (Composition)**

(1) Section 332(c)

*omit*

Auditor-General.

*insert*

Auditor-General;

(2) After section 332(c)

*insert*

(d) the appointed member.

**24 Section 333 amended (Chairperson)**

Section 333

*omit*

Commissioner

*insert*

appointed member

**25 Part 16, Division 2 heading omitted**

Part 16, Division 2, heading

*omit*

**26 Sections 334 and 335 repealed (Establishment and composition)**

Sections 334 and 335

*repeal*

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**27 Section 336 amended (Appointment of appointed member)**

(1) Section 336(1)

*omit*

Augmented

(2) Section 336(2)(a)

*omit*

Judge; or

*insert*

Judge; and

(3) Section 336(2)(b)(i) and (ii)

*omit, insert*

(i) is not a member of a political party; and

(ii) the person does not have a recent political affiliation.

(4) After section 336(2)

*insert*

(2A) For subsection (2)(b)(ii), a person has a recent political affiliation if, at any time during the previous 5 years, the person:

(a) was a member of the Legislative Assembly or a local government council; or

(b) was an office holder or elected representative of a political party in the Territory or elsewhere in Australia; or

(c) was a member of staff of a minister; or

(d) made a reportable donation to a political party or an associated entity of a political party, in the Territory or elsewhere in Australia.

(2B) For subsection (2A)(d), a person made a reportable donation if it was made by the person or by a body corporate of which the person was an office holder or majority shareholder at the time the donation was made.



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(5) After section 336(3)

*insert*

(3A) In this section:

**reportable donation** means a gift or loan that is required to be disclosed or reported under Part 10 or under a similar law in force in the Commonwealth or in a State or another Territory.

**28 Section 337 amended (Term of appointed member's appointment)**

Section 337

*omit*

Augmented

**29 Section 339 repealed (Chairperson)**

Section 339

*repeal*

**30 Section 340 amended (Dissolution)**

(1) Section 340

*omit*

Augmented

(2) Section 340

*omit*

Minister

*insert*

Commissioner

**31 Part 16, Division 3 heading amended**

Part 16, Division 3, heading

*omit*

**and Augmented Redistribution Committee**

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**32 Section 341 amended (Functions)**

(1) Section 341(1)

*omit*

or Augmented Redistribution Committee have

*insert*

has

(2) Section 341(2)

*omit*

or Augmented Redistribution Committee

**33 Section 342 amended (Powers)**

Section 342

*omit*

or Augmented Redistribution Committee

**34 Section 343 amended (Procedures)**

(1) Section 343(1)

*omit*

or Augmented Redistribution Committee

(2) Section 343(2)

*omit*

Augmented

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**35 Part 20 inserted**

After section 360

*insert*

**Part 20 Transitional matters for Electoral Amendment Act 2018**

**361 Appointed member and Chairperson of Redistribution Committee**

(1) The person holding office as the appointed member and Chairperson of the Augmented Redistribution Committee immediately before the commencement date holds office as the appointed member and Chairperson of the Redistribution Committee on and after the commencement date on the conditions on which the person held the former office.

(2) In this section:

***commencement date*** means the date on which section 26 of the *Electoral Amendment Act 2018* comes into operation.

**36 Repeal of Act**

This Act is repealed on the day after it commences.