CITY OF DARWIN

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Mary Watson
Chairperson
Local Government Representation Review
PO Box 2075, Parap, Northern Territory 0804

Dear Ms Watson,

Supplementary submission to the NT Local Government Representation Review 2026

I refer to your letter of 10 September 2026 acknowledging my submission of 11 August 2026 and inviting a further submission.

In my earlier submission, I suggested that should the Northcrest housing estate be incorporated within City of Darwin, that the area be included within Waters Ward, having regard to its geographic location relative to the current ward boundaries.

Further to the invitation in your letter, I am happy to offer the below additional commentary.

I note that, based on information from the NT Electoral Commission, as of the 2025 Northern Territory Local Government Elections, Waters Ward had the highest number of enrolled electors (13,462 individuals).

This is compared with the next most represented ward, being Richardson Ward (12,813), followed by Lyons Ward (12,757) and Chan Ward (12,684).

Northcrest is one of Darwin's largest planned greenfield residential developments and is expected to accommodate several thousand residents over time. Should it be included within Waters Ward, it is likely to have a significant impact on future elector numbers.

This growth would be in addition to existing development within Waters Ward, including Muirhead, and the future Defence Housing Australia Lee Point development, for which the masterplan proposes approximately 800 new homes.

The Review should also have regard to the potential impact of proposed NT Planning Scheme infill reforms, which may increase dwelling and elector numbers across established suburbs at varying rates.

Accordingly, while I remain of the view that Northcrest should be included within Waters Ward if incorporated into the Darwin Municipality, I consider it appropriate that the Review also examine whether additional ward boundary adjustments may be required to maintain voter parity over the review period.

Potential options may include adjustments involving suburbs adjoining Waters Ward, including Winnellie, Marrara, Moil, Wagaman and Alawa, subject to detailed analysis of elector numbers and community of interest considerations.

Given the substantial planned growth anticipated from Northcrest, Lee Point and infill development, I encourage the Review to place significant weight on projected elector numbers rather than current enrolment figures alone and to adopt a long-term approach that minimises the need for further boundary adjustments in the short to medium term.

This submission does not rely upon community consultation and is confined to matters of electoral representation, projected growth and community of interest. The precise mechanism for achieving an appropriate balance between voter parity and community of interest is appropriately a matter for the Review following its detailed assessment of future elector growth.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me or Manager Advocacy and Policy, Scott Walker, via [redacted]

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

The Hon Peter Styles
Lord Mayor

2 October 2026

Sent via email | submissions@lgrr.com.au