Strong response as local government representation review moves to next stage

29 October 2026

Thirty-one submissions have been received through the first phase of the Northern Territory's Local Government Representation Review, providing valuable community input into how Territorians are represented by their local government councils.

The submissions from local government councils, organisations and individuals are available at lgrr2026.com.au/view-submissions. They will now be reviewed before a preliminary report is released for a second round of consultation

Local Government Representation Review Committee Chair Mary Watson welcomed the response and thanked everyone who contributed.

"We appreciate the time and thought individuals and organisations have put into sharing their views. Their local knowledge will help us assess where existing representation arrangements are working well and where changes may be needed.

"Publishing the submissions gives everyone an opportunity to see the ideas and perspectives put forward," Ms Watson said.

The review covers all 18 Northern Territory local government council areas and examines whether existing arrangements continue to provide fair, effective and democratic representation.

The independent committee will consider the submissions alongside population trends, enrolment data, community connections, geography, travel and communication before developing a report of preliminary recommendations.

Ms Watson said: "This is not the end of the community's involvement. Once our preliminary report is released, everyone will have an opportunity to comment on the recommendations before we finalise our advice to the NT Government.

"Our task is to weigh the evidence carefully and consider what will provide fair and effective representation for the Territory's diverse communities," she said.

The next stages of the review are:

- Late Jan 2027: Preliminary report released; second round of public consultation
- April 2027: Submissions on the preliminary recommendations close
- June 2027: Final report provided to the Minister and councils and published.

Any changes subsequently determined by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Community Development are intended to take effect before the August 2029 local government elections. To read the submissions and follow the review's progress, visit lgrr2026.com.au.

ENDS

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