



National Party

of Australia

Federal Secretariat

12 August 2003

Mr Russell Chafer
Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Electorate Matters
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters	
Submission No.	11
Date Received	15/8/03
Secretary	

Dear Mr Chafer

Thank you for your letter of 21 July 2003 inviting the National Party of Australia to make a submission to the Committee's inquiry into representation of the Northern Territory (NT) and the Act in the House of Representatives.

The Federal National Party supports a minimum of two seats for the NT in the House of Representatives. We believe that the NT population living in rural and have unique issues of importance to them, which can vary dramatically from metropolitan areas.

The issues of difference include the areas of health services, roads, transport and telecommunications. Due to the isolation of people living in rural NT, these issues are fundamental to their daily lives in such a unique way they require special representation by a parliamentarian with their interests at heart.

Darwin on the other hand is a vibrant, international city, with strong business and trade links. The people living in Darwin have access to a higher level of Government services than their counterparts even in larger regional centres such as Alice Springs.

To ensure all Territorians receive their fair share of resources, we believe they must be represented by two Members of Parliament to ensure these scarce resources are appropriately allocated.

During this current term of Parliament, the NT has been served well by having two members of the House of Representatives. The National Party supports the increase of the guaranteed minimum number of Members of Parliament for the Northern Territory to two.

Yours sincerely

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Federal President

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