



Electoral Commissioner



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Mr Petro Georgiou MP
Chair, Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
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INQUIRY INTO THE REPRESENTATION OF THE TERRITORIES IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: FURTHER INFORMATION AS REQUESTED

Dear Mr Georgiou

On 25 September 2003, the inquiry secretary asked for some further information:

- the number of people represented by the quota shortfalls shown in Attachment B to the Australian Electoral Commission's first submission to this inquiry;
- what Tasmania's entitlements to representation would have been since 1984, disregarding the 5 seat minimum rule; and
- in what years did Western Australia need the 5 seat minimum rule to obtain its 5 seats.

The number of people represented by the quota shortfalls is shown at Attachment A.

Tasmania and Western Australia's entitlements disregarding the 5 seat minimum rule are shown at Attachment B.

Yours sincerely

Andy Becker

14 October 2003

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters	
Submission No.	28
Date Received	15/10/03
Secretary	

Attachment A - numbers of people represented by quota shortfalls

in date order

<i>year</i>	<i>state losing seat</i>	<i>quota</i>	<i>quota gap</i>	<i>no. of people</i>
2003	South Australia from 12 to 11	11.415	> 0.085	> 11,336
2003	shows ACT shortfall in 2003	2.421	> 0.079	> 10,536
2003	Northern Territory from 2 to 1	1.498	> 0.002	> 267
1999	shows ACT shortfall in 1999	2.425	> 0.075	> 9,615
1999	shows NT quota gaining 2 nd seat	1.524	+ 0.024	+ 3,077
1997	Australian Capital Territory from 3 to 2	2.495	> 0.005	> 618
1997	shows NT shortfall in 1997	1.454	> 0.046	> 5,687
1994	Victoria from 38 to 37	37.279	> 0.221	> 26,462
1994	shows NT shortfall in 1994	1.428	> 0.072	> 8,621
1991	New South Wales from 51 to 50	50.417	> 0.083	> 9,593
1991	South Australia from 13 to 12	12.451	> 0.049	> 5,664
1988	Victoria from 39 to 38	38.176	> 0.324	> 38,181
1967	New South Wales from 46 to 45**	44.440	> 0.560	> 53,397
1961	Western Australia from 9 to 8 [†]	8.470	> 0.030	> 2,604
1961	Queensland from 18 to 17 [†]	17.439	> 0.061	> 5,295
1961	New South Wales from 46 to 45 [†]	45.127	> 0.373	> 32,375
1954	New South Wales from 47 to 46	45.986	> 0.514	> 38,268
1933	South Australia from 7 to 6	6.327	> 0.173	> 15,886
1921	Victoria from 21 to 20	20.358	> 0.142	> 10,683
1911	Victoria from 22 to 21	21.375	> 0.125	> 6,949
1904	Victoria from 23 to 22	22.051	> 0.449	> 24,644

* 1961 determination set aside by *Representation Act 1964*.

** From 1964 till the 1972 determination, any remainder gave an extra seat.

> the quota gap shown would bring the quota up to the next 0.5 which would not gain the State or Territory an extra seat. The quota gap would need to be greater than the figure shown to gain an extra seat. For 1999, when the Northern Territory gained a second seat, the NT's surplus above 1.5 is shown.

Attachment A - continued

in quota gap order

<i>year</i>	<i>state losing seat</i>	<i>quota</i>	<i>quota gap</i>	<i>no. of people</i>
2003	Northern Territory from 2 to 1	1.498	> 0.002	> 267
1997	Australian Capital Territory from 3 to 2	2.495	> 0.005	> 618
1999	shows NT quota gaining 2 nd seat	1.524	+ 0.024	+ 3,077
1961	Western Australia from 9 to 8 [*]	8.470	> 0.030	> 2,604
1997	shows NT shortfall in 1997	1.454	> 0.046	> 5,687
1991	South Australia from 13 to 12	12.451	> 0.049	> 5,664
1961	Queensland from 18 to 17 [*]	17.439	> 0.061	> 5,295
1994	shows NT shortfall in 1994	1.428	> 0.072	> 8,621
1999	shows ACT shortfall in 1999	2.425	> 0.075	> 9,615
2003	shows ACT shortfall in 2003	2.421	> 0.079	> 10,536
1991	New South Wales from 51 to 50	50.417	> 0.083	> 9,593
2003	South Australia from 12 to 11	11.415	> 0.085	> 11,336
1911	Victoria from 22 to 21	21.375	> 0.125	> 6,949
1921	Victoria from 21 to 20	20.358	> 0.142	> 10,683
1933	South Australia from 7 to 6	6.327	> 0.173	> 15,886
1994	Victoria from 38 to 37	37.279	> 0.221	> 26,462
1988	Victoria from 39 to 38	38.176	> 0.324	> 38,181
1961	New South Wales from 46 to 45 [*]	45.127	> 0.373	> 32,375
1904	Victoria from 23 to 22	22.051	> 0.449	> 24,644
1954	New South Wales from 47 to 46	45.986	> 0.514	> 38,268
1967	New South Wales from 46 to 45 ^{**}	44.440	> 0.560	> 53,397

**Attachment B - quotas and seats without the 5 seat minimum rule,
Tasmania and Western Australia**

Year	Tasmania		Western Australia	
2003	3.549	4 seats	14.505	15 seats
1999	3.668	4 seats	14.517	15 seats
1997	3.829	4 seats	14.259	14 seats
1994	3.944	4 seats	14.061	14 seats
1991	3.951	4 seats	14.136	14 seats
1988	4.038	4 seats	13.706	14 seats
1986	4.146	4 seats	12.782	13 seats
1984*	4.150	4 seats	12.867	13 seats
1979	3.563	4 seats	10.553	11 seats
1977	3.590	4 seats	10.383	10 seats
1972	3.740	4 seats	9.873	10 seats
1967	3.894	4 seats	8.893	9 seats
1961**	4.036	4 seats	8.470	8 seats
1954***	4.14	4 seats	8.581	9 seats
1947	2.452	2 seats	4.786	5 seats
1933	2.479	2 seats	4.759	5 seats
1926	2.547	3 seats	4.432	4 seats
1921	2.843	3 seats	4.366	4 seats
1911	3.107	3 seats	4.466	4 seats
1906	3.213	3 seats	4.444	4 seats
1904	3.283	3 seats	4.284	4 seats

* followed increase in Senators from 60 to 72 (and therefore Members also)

** 1961 determination was set aside by the *Representation Act 1964*

*** followed increase in Senators from 36 to 60 (and therefore Members also)