



The Hon John Anderson MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Transport and Regional Services
Leader National Party of Australia

13th August 2003

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters	
Submission No.	4
Date Received	14/8/03
Secretary	

The Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Parliament House
Canberra 2600

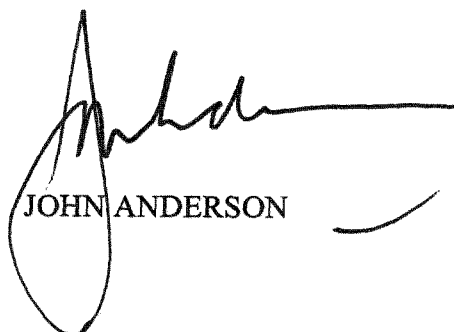
Dear Sir

Thank you for your letter of the 21st July from the Chairman of your committee, Petro Georgiou, MP, advising of an inquiry into the representation of the Northern Territory and the Act in the House of Representatives, and asking for submissions.

I strongly support the proposal for the Northern Territory to be represented in the House through two seats. As we continue to grow as a nation, the importance of proper representation in the Australian Parliament through the House of Representatives for those people who are in rural, regional and remote areas becomes more and more vital. I know from a practical viewpoint the challenges for a Member servicing the requirements of a vast rural electorate. In my view the Territory's residents would much more effectively represented by having two members. When you consider that Darwin is a vibrant, international city, with strong business and trade links, not only within the country but overseas, it needs strong representation so that the city can continue to grow. If you look at the rest of the territory they in turn need a strong advocate for those issues that are unique for the remoter regions and for the Australians who live there.

I trust that through submissions to your inquiry, the committee will come to the conclusion that two elected members should represent the Northern Territory in the House of Representatives.

Yours sincerely



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