



Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory

GERRY WOOD MLA

Independent Member for Nelson



E-MAILED

1/2/19

PO Box 120 Howard Springs NT 0835
Nelson Electorate Office
Shop 5 Howard Springs Shopping Centre
Howard Springs NT 0835
Email: electorate.nelson@nt.gov.au

Nelson Office: 08 8999 6713
Fax: 08 8983 1638
Mobile: 0428 698 037
Parliament House: 08 8946 1591
Home: 08 8983 1237

1 February 2019

Ms Julia Knight
Committee Secretary
GPO Box 3721
DARWIN NT 0801

SPSC@nt.gov.au

Dear chair

Submission to the Scrutiny Committee re Amendments to the Electoral Act and Regulations

I would like to make the following comments

In relation to new Section 275, whilst I support the intent of this section I feel that there needs to be something written in the Act to emphasise that these campaigning areas shouldn't just have a default distance from the polling booth. The intention should be to have the area as large as is practical within a 100 metres limitation and not working towards a minimum of 10m.

In other words regardless of what is designated as a 10 metre zone, where practical go further out, after all the intention was to have a 100m zone of free space around the polling booth. The idea of an alternate prohibition zone is good but the basis for that zone should be to have an area as large as is practical up to 100m.

Section 275B should be dropped. Firstly the idea of a prohibited area is to keep the political supporters out that area. It would be far easier and far more practical to leave the party people outside the boundary of the zone. No need to define the size, the accessibility or avoidance of the designated campaign area. To allow them in the prohibited area defeats the reason for a prohibited area. If how to vote cards are needed leave them on a table near the entrance to the polling booth. Also the way the section reads under these changes, designated campaign free areas could be allowed within a 10m prohibited area, which was prohibited under the old rules and would mean designated campaign areas would be nearly be up to the front entrance of the polling booth.

The Chief Minister said in his second reading that he wants to ensure a *gauntlet is not recreated* then the scrapping of section 275B would achieve that without any complications or controversy that is likely to occur with designated campaign areas.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerry Wood', with a stylized, cursive script.

Gerry Wood MLA