

Casuarina By-Election

September 2014

On 29 July 2014 former Northern Territory Labor Minister the Hon Kon Vatskalis MLA announced his resignation from the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly. As a result, a by-election for the seat of Casuarina will be held on 18 October 2014. Mr Vatskalis has held the seat of Casuarina since 2001.

The Hawker Britton Occasional Paper on the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly is available [here](#).

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Current composition of the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly

The Country Liberal Party currently holds 14 seats. Labor holds 8 seats, the Palmer United Party holds two seats and one seat is held by independent Gerry Wood MLA.

The last territory election was held on Saturday 25 August 2012.

At the election, the 11-year Australian Labor Party government led by Chief Minister the Hon Paul Henderson MLA was defeated by the opposition Country Liberal Party led by then-Opposition Leader Terry Mills MLA with a gain of four seats. Labor lost the remote seats of Arafura, Arnhem, Daly and Stuart, while retaining their more urban seats that were picked up at the 2001 election.

A by-election for the seat of Wanguri was held on 16 February 2013 following the resignation of former Chief Minister the Hon Paul Henderson MLA. The by-election saw a 2-party preferred swing to Labor of 12.4 per cent, with Labor's candidate Nicole Manison elected with nearly 70 per cent of the primary vote.

On 5 April 2014 three MPS—the Hon Alison Anderson MLA, Ms Larisa Lee MLA and Mr Francis Xavier Kurrupuwu MLA—resigned from the CLP, slipping their resignation letters under the door of the CLP office in Darwin. On 27 April 2014, the three MPs joined Palmer United, with Anderson becoming parliamentary leader.

Another by-election for the seat of Blain was held on 12 April 2014. The by-election saw a 10 per cent 2-party preferred swing from the CLP to the ALP, with CLP candidate Nathan Barrett elected with 53.2 per cent of the two-candidate preferred vote.

In September 2014, Mr Francis Xavier Kurrupuwu MLA left the PUP and rejoined the CLP, stating that he believed he could achieve more for his electorate by being part of the Government.

Profile of the seat of Casuarina

Casuarina is an urban electorate on the coast in the outer northern suburbs of Darwin and includes the suburbs of Alawa, Brinkin, Lee Point, Nakara, Tiwi and the hospital precinct. The Brinkin campus of the Northern Territory University, the Casuarina Shopping Centre and Royal Darwin Hospital are all located within the electorate.

A map of the division is available [here](#).

Although the seat has elected both CLP and ALP members, in recent years it has consistently been held by the ALP. At the last Territory election, ALP candidate the Hon Kon Vatskalis MLA was re-elected with 59.3 of the primary vote.

Election	Two-candidate preferred %	
	ALP	CLP
2001	53.5	46.5
2005	69.0	31.0
2008	64.2	35.8
2012	59.3	40.7

Results from all Legislative Assembly elections since 1980 are available [here](#).

Candidates

Lauren Moss —Australian Labor Party

Lauren Moss is a youth advocate, is a former winner of the Excellence in Youth Leadership Award and the NT Pride of Australia Awards Young Leaders Medal. Lauren grew up in the Casuarina Electorate, having lived in Nakara for several years. She is currently Director of Millenium Insights, which assists organisations and individuals to understand and work with social media, connect with their audience and take ideas through to action.

Dr Harry Kypreos—Country Liberal Party

Dr Harry Kypreos grew up in Nakara and now lives in Lyons. He has degrees in Science, Pharmacy and Medicine from Charles Darwin University and operates a general practice as well as a mobile 'doctor to your door' service.