New boundaries could set up absorbing tussles

THE proposed redistribution of Territory electoral boundaries poses the likelihood of a series of fascinating individual tussles before and during the next election.

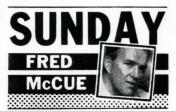
If the proposed changes go number of politicians will be left looking for a new line of Darwin. work within the next year.

seriously affected will be Nationals leader Ian Tuxworth.

His electorate of Barkly will gain an extra 250 Aboriginal votes and lose at least 50 white votes under the draft proposal.

Given that Tuxworth won by only 290 votes in the 1987 byelection, his hold on Barkly could be extremely tenuous.

It would not surprise to see the wily Tuxworth look at the possibility of standing in an-



other seat, perhaps in Darwin. There is a possibility of the ahead it could also mean a Greens and Nationals cooking

Tuxworth, who lives in One of the politicians most Fannie Bay, could then attempt the move to the innercity electorate and take on Harris.

> But there is also the newlycreated seat of Brennan.

The high number of services and police personnel give base.

Tuxworth could also look to Brennan if he decided Barkly had become unwinnable. But Litchfield, he looks ideal.

there could well be another high-profile candidate looking to Brennan.

Deputy Chief Minister Barry Coulter is unlikely to recontest Palmerston, which now looks solid Labor.

Brennan, Nelson and Goyder all appear more attractive the removal of his seat. propositions for him.

He would be taking an unnecessary risk if he decided to up preference swaps in Port go head-to-head against colorful independent Noel Padgham-Purich, who looks set to contest Nelson following Koolpinyah's disappearance.

Govder, which takes in the Education Minister Tom mining town of Jabiru, has a safe, there are other factors. natural appeal to Coulter.

Although, it has long been suggested that popular Litchfield Shire president John Maley, now working with the Brennan a solid conservative Mines Department, is con-Creek, a total of 560 voters. sidering lining up for CLP.

Should he decide to run for Govder, which takes in part of

By running Coulter in Brennan, the CLP would be hoping to pick up two of the new seats, leaving Padgham-Purich a good bet to win the third.

This would leave CLP Mem-The new electorates of ber for Ludmilla Col Firmin with nowhere to turn following

Labor and Administrative Services Minister Terry McCarthy is another facing a critical test.

His seat of Victoria River Creek. has picked up 770 largely conservative voters west of the Katherine River.

While this makes him look

Under the proposed redistribution, Victoria River will lose the CLP strongholds of Batchelor - McCarthy's home town - Adelaide River and Pine

The Labor-voting Aboriginal community of Lajamanu, with 370 electors, looks certain to be included in Victoria River.

McCarthy would also be conscious that the major Aboriginal centre of Wadeve, which voted his way in the past two elections, cannot be counted on to necessarily follow trends.

Labor is planning to run two candidates - an Aborigine and a European.

This is a seat to watch.

Perhaps McCarthy might be tempted to look to Goyder, which includes Batchelor. Adelaide River and Pine

Two of the most interesting seats will be Katherine and Araluen, which look like being decided between conservative candidates.

In Katherine, Primary Production Minister Mike Reed faces a tough opponent, National candidate and town mayor Jim Forscutt.

In Araluen, the CLP's Eric Poole looks set for a fierce tussle with the National Enzo Floreani, whose seat of Flynn has vanished.