



Strategic Plan 2022-26

Our purpose

Provide independent and high quality electoral services to Territorians.

Our vision

Maintain public confidence in electoral processes in the Northern Territory and to raise awareness to support participation.

About the Northern Territory Electoral Commission

The Northern Territory Electoral Commission (NTEC) is an independent government agency responsible for the impartial conduct of Northern Territory Legislative Assembly and local government elections.

The work of the NTEC aligns to a four-year electoral cycle, with the next Legislative Assembly election scheduled for August 2024 and local government elections scheduled for August 2025. The phases of the electoral cycle are shown in the diagram below.



Our key functions

Manage Legislative Assembly and local government elections

Participate and support the Legislative Assembly Boundary Redistribution and Local Government Representation Reviews

Financial disclosure

Education and engagement

Fee for service elections

Election expertise, research and system management

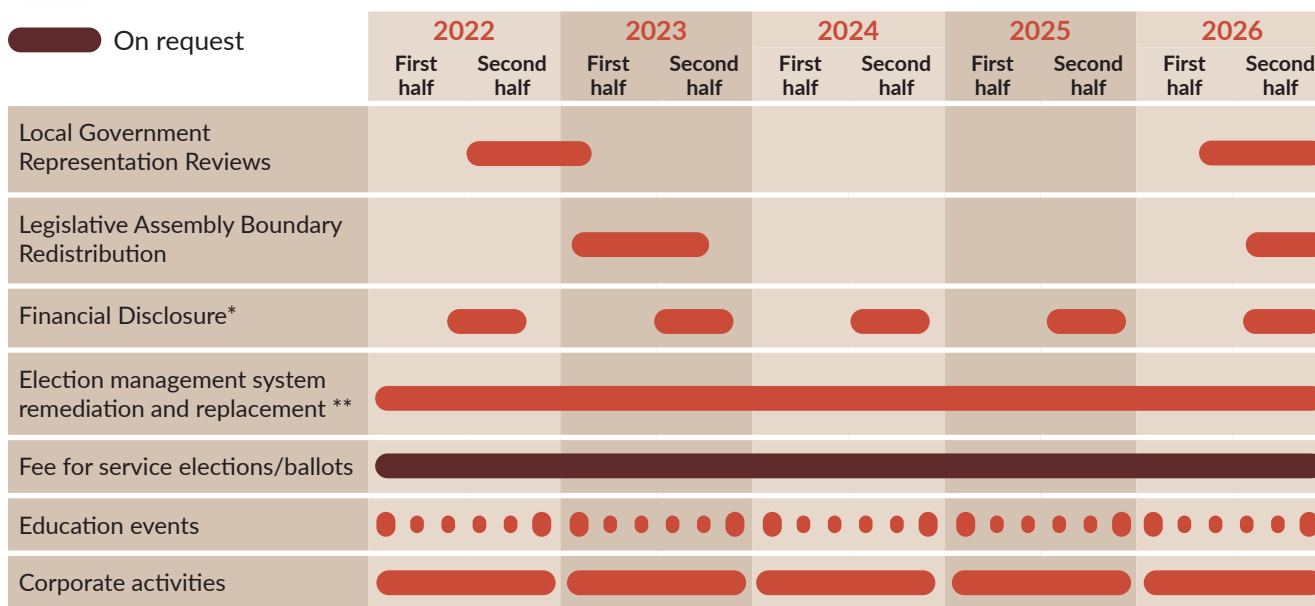
Corporate management

Our values

Key activity outside of the election cycle

 Scheduled

 On request



Note* additional obligations during election events

Note ** replacement subject funding approval

Our current situation

Opportunities

- Increase capability (systems and people) to maintain the functionality and quality of the election management system, which will ensure the effective and secure delivery of our electoral services into the future
- Delivering a stakeholder relationship strategy aimed at establishing and maintaining relationships that will assist in supporting and enhancing our functions and service delivery
- Providing contemporary and efficient electoral services including opportunities to review and improve processes following election events
- Increase regulatory awareness and compliance to ensure electoral participants meet their obligations supported by targeted education campaigns and compliance reviews
- Utilise data and research to deliver evidence based improvements in service delivery and decision making
- Implement a workforce strategy recognising the optimal skills required across the electoral cycle and strategies to acquire, build and retain electoral knowledge

Challenges

- The election management system and suite of supports are critical to the delivery of elections, failure to maintain these systems poses a critical risk
- Increased cyber security threats and associated mitigation costs
- Ability to resource and respond to increases in elections outside scheduled general election events whilst maintaining the delivery of business and strategic activities
- Increased potential for disinformation and misinformation during election events
- Decline in electoral expertise within the NTEC and varying capability needs necessary to support election events and strategic business activities
- Providing inclusive electoral services and resources that reflect the cultural diversity of the Northern Territory
- Decline in voter participation at elections

Our strategic goals and outcomes

The NTEC has identified strategic goals and outcomes in response to its vision, opportunities and challenges.

Strategic goal 1

Accessible, transparent and impartial elections in the Northern Territory

What we must achieve:

- Standardised practices in all election events
- Transparency in the electoral process through timely reporting and accessible electoral information
- Participation in and support for the boundary redistribution process for Legislative Assembly and representation reviews for local government
- System stability and security, maintaining high integrity in the delivery of election events

What are our outcomes:

- Implement an election cycle which identifies phases and key activities
- Service Plan in place for each general election supporting the management of the election and stakeholder awareness
- Improved satisfaction from voters and stakeholders in the conduct of elections
- Roles and responsibilities for election management system activities are clearly defined, documented with security and testing events scheduled
- Processes are in place that support the timely allocation of resources to support boundary redistribution and representation reviews

Strategic goal 2

Electoral awareness, engagement and participation

What we must achieve:

- Develop a stakeholder engagement plan identifying key stakeholders, their defined interest and influence with actions to support engagement across the election cycle
- Effective strategies that promote awareness and participation in elections
- Deliver programs and activities that provide education and awareness about democracy, civics and elections for young Territorians
- Deliver activities that inform and raise awareness of electoral rights and responsibilities for voters, political parties and candidates
- Deliver strategic communication campaigns identifying opportunities for collaboration with key stakeholders to improve understanding of electoral processes and laws
- Maximise the use of data to support targeted communications and engagement activities

What are our outcomes:

- Relationships with key stakeholders are developed and maintained aimed at raising awareness of election events, processes and service offerings to support participation
- Increased attendance at events including, forums, expos, workshops etc.
- Increased interactions by stakeholders with NTEC communication channels
- Improved distribution and reach in communications across the election cycle
- Increased voter participation and decrease in the number of informal votes
- Territorians are aware of the role and functions of the NTEC

Strategic goal 3

Continued improvement in electoral services

What we must achieve:

- Implement recommended electoral service improvements and electoral reforms following evaluation of elections
- Develop and maintain election policies, operating procedures and control plans to support elections
- Create opportunities to collaborate with stakeholders on the provision of electoral services provided by the NTEC
- Develop a research plan identifying projects to be progressed within the NTEC and more complex projects requiring broader investment and support
- Increased use of data to support evidence based electoral service improvements.
- Maximise opportunities across the NT Government shared service environment to support electoral service delivery e.g. systems security and support, critical infrastructure and workforce service support
- Grow partnerships with other electoral commissions, leveraging opportunities and capabilities

What are our outcomes:

- Implementation of agreed electoral service improvements in a timely manner in accordance with an approved implementation and change management plan
- Demonstrated successful performance of election management and supporting infrastructure without incident
- NTEC membership and participation in the Electoral Council of Australia and New Zealand (ECANZ)
- Steering groups established with regular meetings scheduled with shared service agencies in key portfolio areas including, finance, properties, information and communications technology, fleet, workforce services
- Debriefing sessions offered to all clients following election events

Strategic goal 4

Cultivate a high performing organisation

What we must achieve:

- Implement an organisation structure responsive to NTEC statutory responsibilities, strategic and corporate functions
- Attract, recruit and retain a diverse and inclusive workforce with the necessary skills and capabilities across the electoral cycle
- Invest in our workforce to grow and develop capabilities
- Invest in infrastructure to support the functions of the NTEC
- Compliance within the NT Government operating environment, e.g. financial, procurement, human resources, privacy, information and records management

What are our outcomes:

- Organisation structure is in place and is aligned to the capabilities required to support the functions of the NTEC across the electoral cycle
- Workforce strategy in place that is responsive to the capability and resource requirements across the electoral cycle
- NTEC is compliant in government business practices evidenced through satisfactory audit outcomes
- Training resources to support election events are contemporary and accessible
- NTEC staff have My Plans in place (excluding casual event staff)
- High levels of staff satisfaction

Strategic goal 5

Awareness and compliance with electoral laws

What we must achieve:

- Develop and communicate the regulatory approach to be adopted by the NTEC (i.e. constructive compliance approach)
- Create opportunities to promote and support an understanding of electoral laws that are relevant to them, e.g. voters, political parties, candidates, third party campaigners, associated entities, donors and media
- Develop a risk-based compliance plan aligned with electoral legislation to promote public confidence

What are our outcomes:

- Electoral education sessions are scheduled and information resources are available to support stakeholders in understanding their rights and responsibilities
- Increase in the number of financial returns submitted within the required timeframes
- Compliance checks carried out in accordance with the NTEC compliance plan

