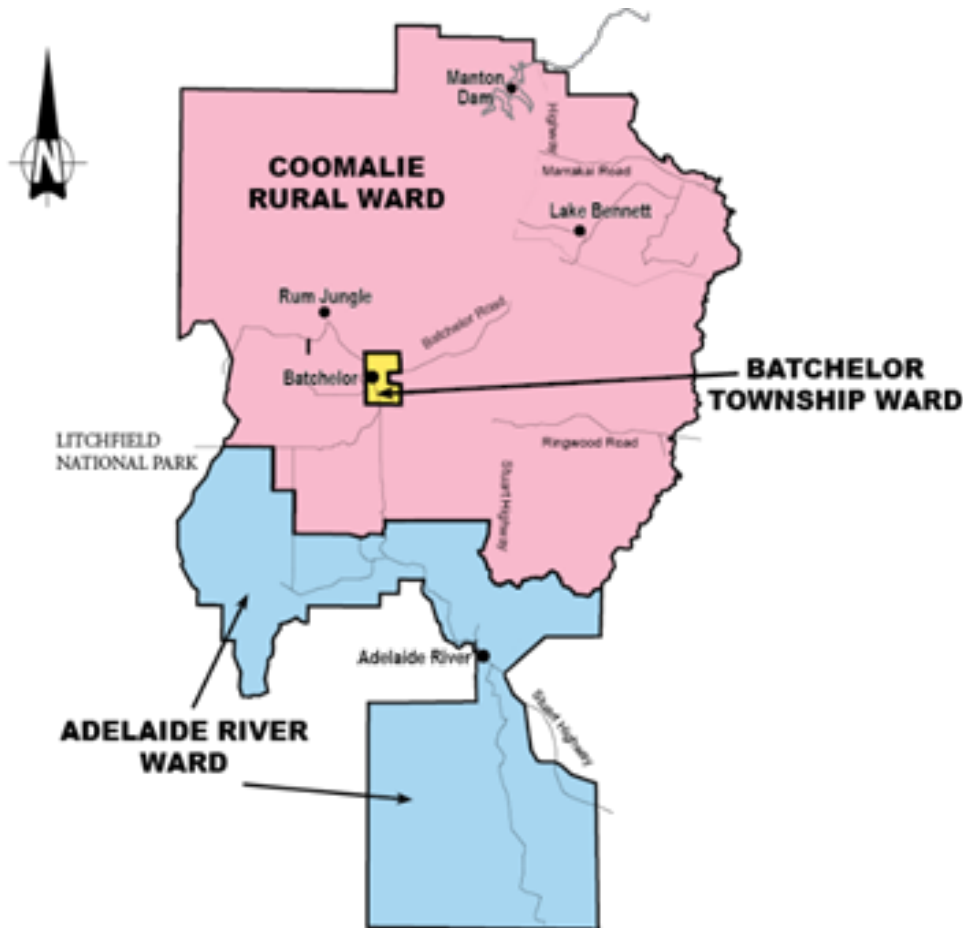




Coomalie Community Government Council Election Report



NOTE: Electors enrolled for addresses to the west and east of the council boundaries are NOT required to vote as this area is unincorporated. For further information contact the NTEC.



Document version control

Version	Description	Date
1.0	Draft	23/12/2025
1.1	Final version: - added information to election outcomes section - minor edits and formatting changes	25/02/2026

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2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Coomalie Community Government Council

ELECTION SUMMARY

As published in Gazette notice S32, on 22 May 2025 the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Community Development:

- dismissed all suspended members of the Coomalie Community Government Council (under section 318(6)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2019*)
- called for a general election for Coomalie Community Government Council to be held on 23 August 2025 (under section 319(1)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2019*).

This general election was held concurrently with the 2025 Local Government Elections – the periodic general elections for the Northern Territory’s local government councils, held every 4 years.

The general election for **COOMALIE COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT COUNCIL** included the following elections:

- Election of Adelaide River Ward councillors – 2 positions
- Election of Batchelor Township Ward councillors – 2 positions
- Election of Coomalie Rural Ward councillors – 2 positions

KEY DATES

Event	Date
Nominations open	Friday 11 July
Close of electoral roll	Tuesday 22 July
Nominations close	Thursday 31 July, 12 noon
Declaration of nominations	Friday 1 August
Postal mail out commences	Monday 4 August
Early and mobile voting commences	Monday 11 August
Election day	Saturday 23 August
Deadline for receipt of postal votes Distribution of preferences (final count)	Friday 5 September
Declaration of election results	Monday 8 September
Campaign donation returns due	Saturday 1 November

ENROLMENT

There were 750 Coomalie Community Government Council electors eligible to vote in the general elections.

This is an increase of 119 electors (or 18.9%) from the previous general elections held in 2021.

Elector numbers by ward:

- Adelaide River Ward: 250 (up 15.7% from 2021)
- Batchelor Township Ward: 221 (up 28.5% from 2021)
- Coomalie Rural Ward: 279 (up 14.8% from 2021)

PUBLIC AWARENESS

Campaign overview

The 2025 Local Government Elections public awareness campaign (which included Coomalie Community Government Council) unfolded in 3 phases: encouraging enrolment, promoting voter education and empowerment, and issuing a final call to action for Territorians to vote.

Running from 1 July until the declaration of results on 8 September, the campaign used TV, radio, digital and social media, signage, letterbox drops and print to raise election awareness.

The campaign aimed to equip all eligible voters with the knowledge and confidence to participate, while placing special emphasis on disengaged groups and those facing barriers including:

- seniors
- electors with English as an additional language
- electors living in remote communities.

Website

The NTEC launched the election event webpage in June as the central hub for election information. During the campaign, the site recorded 883,018 views (71.3% from mobile devices and over 10,000 referrals from Meta platforms).

Radio

The local radio campaign reached a total of 216,900 listeners across all phases, on a high rotation during peak listening times and delivered excellent cost efficiency.

Print

Newspaper advertising for the 2025 Local Government Elections was largely restricted to statutory advertising requirements as prescribed under the Local Government (Electoral)

Regulations 2021 due to the current prominence of digital news media production and consumption. These advertisements ran in the NT News and the Centralian Today.

Further publications with a digital presence such were also engaged for location targeted aspects of the campaign.

Council engagement pack

Acknowledging the key role councils play in supporting elections, the NTEC developed a council resource pack to support voter, candidate and council staff information sharing and engagement. Councils were consulted on the draft resource pack and encouraged to provide images unique to each council area to be incorporated in the final version of the engagement pack. The council engagement pack included electronic resources such as social media content, videos, posters, flyers, email templates, forms and handbooks.

Digital

The digital campaign reached 1.21million people with 288,000 views and 8,073 clicks. "Vote" advertisements had the biggest reach and lowest cost, while "Educate" and "Enrol" advertisements got the highest click rates.

Facebook in-stream videos generated the most clicks, while YouTube engagement was also strong with a 55% view-through rate.

Social media

From 1 July to 23 August, the NTEC drove a Territory-wide social media campaign.

Paid ads delivered key messages with over 2 million impressions, while organic posts on LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook tackled misinformation and built community engagement.

Councils were also encouraged to share ready-made content on nominations, enrolment and voting, ensuring consistent local messaging. All activity lead back to the NTEC website as the single source of trusted election information.

Emails/SMS

Direct messaging was a key communication tool during the elections, targeting electors who had provided email or mobile details through enrolment.

Messages were delivered via email and SMS on enrolment, early voting, remote mobile voting, and election day reminders.

A total of 179,146 SMS and 104,254 emails were sent to electors across the Territory.

Corflute signs

NTEC branded corflute signs were distributed to councils to install to raise community awareness.

Posters

Electronic posters tailored and culturally appropriate were distributed to councils and community organisations to distribute aiming to engage diverse groups, including people with disabilities, older voters and English as an additional language speakers, ensuring consistent communication across all audiences.

Call centre

The NTEC call centre operated from 7 July to 23 August 2025, staffed by 3 officers who assisted electors with a wide range of enquiries. Most calls related to voting, enrolment, or lodging excuses for not voting.

In addition, the NTEC received significant volumes of enquiries via email, Facebook, and in person at its Darwin and Alice Springs offices.

NOMINATIONS

A candidate information session was held at 4:30pm on Thursday 26 June 2025 via Teams.

Nominations for Coomalie Community Government Council elections included:

- 13 accepted nominations across all wards
- no rejected or withdrawn nominations.

Election	Accepted nominations (candidates)
ADELAIDE RIVER WARD (2 vacancies)	Sharon BESWICK
	Alan ROE
	Neil McDONALD
	Stephen Bones NOBLE
BATCHELOR TOWNSHIP WARD (2 vacancies)	Ross McGORMAN
	Margaret COUPER
	Troy CROTON
	MaeMae MORRISON
	Mary ASHLEY
COOMALIE RURAL WARD (2 vacancies)	Cheryl CAMPBELL
	Cherrian LUXTON
	Greg STRETTLES
	Chris WHATLEY

Age and gender of candidates:

GENDER	Male	Female
All wards	7	6

AGE	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
All wards	-	-	-	1	3	9

Note: Other demographic questions are not asked for on nomination forms

VOTING SERVICES

Postal voting

- Postal vote applications received 73
- Postal votes issued 70
- Postal vote applications rejected 3
- Postal votes returned 67
- Postal votes admitted to the count 51
- Postal votes rejected 16

Note: the number of votes admitted does not always equate to the number of votes recorded as postal votes in results webpage, as returned envelopes may be missing ballot paper or may include missorted ballot papers.

The reasons for rejecting postal vote applications were:

- Multiple applications received from same elector (1)
- Cancelled on request of elector (1)
- Insufficient/undeliverable address (1)

The reasons for rejecting (returned) postal votes were:

- Ordinary vote issued (10)
- Postal vote certificate dated after election day (4)
- Return to sender (2)

Remote mobile voting

Mobile Team Coomalie:

Date	Time	Community	Location	Votes issued
Friday 15 August	9:15am – 3:15pm	Batchelor	School library	68
Saturday 16 August	9:15am – 3:15pm	Batchelor	School library	61
Monday 18 August	9:15am – 3:15pm	Adelaide River	School library	53
TOTAL				182

Note the number of votes issued does not always equate to the number of votes counted

Early voting

Early voting centre	Votes issued
Alice Springs	-
Casuarina	4
Coolalinga	138
Darwin	7
Katherine	1
Palmerston	9
TOTAL	159

Note the number of votes issued does not always equate to the number of votes counted

Urban mobile voting

- Number of votes issued by the Darwin urban mobile team 2

Election day voting

Election day voting centre	Votes issued
Alice Springs	-
Casuarina	-
Coolalinga	36
Darwin	-
Katherine	-
Palmerston	3
TOTAL	39

Note the number of votes issued does not always equate to the number of votes counted

Declaration voting

- Total number of declaration votes issued 8
- Declaration votes admitted to the count 6
- Declaration votes rejected from the count 2

The reasons for rejecting declaration votes were:

- Enrolled in a different council/ward area (2)

ELECTION OUTCOMES

Results: Election of councillors – Adelaide River Ward

Candidate	First preference votes
Sharon BESWICK	59
Alan ROE	49
Neil McDONALD	18
Stephen Bones NOBLE	30
TOTAL	156

- Quota required to be elected: 53
- Elected councillors:
Sharon BESWICK elected at count 1
Alan ROE elected at count 3
- A full distribution of preferences for the Adelaide River Ward election is available on the NTEC website

Results: Election of councillors – Batchelor Township Ward

Candidate	First preference votes
Ross McGORMAN	23
Margaret COUPER	23
Troy CROTON	26
MaeMae MORRISON	38
Mary ASHLEY	1
TOTAL	113

- Quota required to be elected: 38
- Elected councillors:
MaeMae MORRISON elected at count 1
Ross McGORMAN elected at count 5
- A full distribution of preferences for the Batchelor Township Ward election is available on the NTEC website

Results: Election of councillors – Coomalie Rural Ward

Candidate	First preference votes
Cheryl CAMPBELL	35
Cherrian LUXTON	10
Greg STRETTLES	39
Chris WHATLEY	63

TOTAL

147

- Quota required to be elected: 50
- Elected councillors:
Chris WHATLEY elected at count 1
Greg STRETTLES elected at count 3
- A full distribution of preferences for the Coomalie River Ward election is available on the NTEC website

Voter turnout

Based on the number of votes counted across all 3 ward elections, voter turnout was 58.5%. This compares to 63.6% turnout in the previous general elections in 2017, however this is not a direct comparison as only 2 of the 3 wards were contested at these elections.

Voter turnout by ward:

- Adelaide River Ward: 66.0% (uncontested in 2021)
- Batchelor Township Ward: 53.4% (60.5% in 2021)
- Coomalie Rural Ward: 55.9% (65.8% in 2021)

Informality

Election	No. of candidates	Total votes	Informal votes	%
Adelaide River Ward	4	165	9	5.5%
Batchelor Township Ward	5	118	5	4.2%
Coomalie Rural Ward	4	156	9	5.8%

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

All candidates in local government elections are required to submit a campaign donation return if they receive:

- donations of \$200 or more
- loans of \$1,500 or more
- during the disclosure period of 1 July 2024 to 22 September 2025

No Coomalie Community Government Council candidates submitted a campaign donation return for the 2025 Local Government Elections.

All returns received have been published on the NT Electoral Commission website.

ELECTION COSTS

Expense category	Estimate \$	Actual \$
Advertising	10,967.99	7,582.11
Corporate	37.11	18.83
Destruction/rubbish removal	18.56	5.73
Information technology	2,200.90	502.85
Materials	99.73	513.38
Postage	115.97	366.45
Premises	24.38	65.21
Staff travel/accommodation/reimbursements	1,646.80	1,681.18
Staff wages	11,163.30	11,890.40
Vehicle hire/charter	1,397.96	101.57
Sub-total	27,672.70	22,727.71
GST (10%)	2,767.27	2,272.77
TOTAL	\$ 30,439.97	\$ 25,000.48

ELECTION REVIEW MEETING

A post-election review meeting was held Friday 12 December 2025 via Teams.



Northern Territory Electoral Commission

EVERY vote counts

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