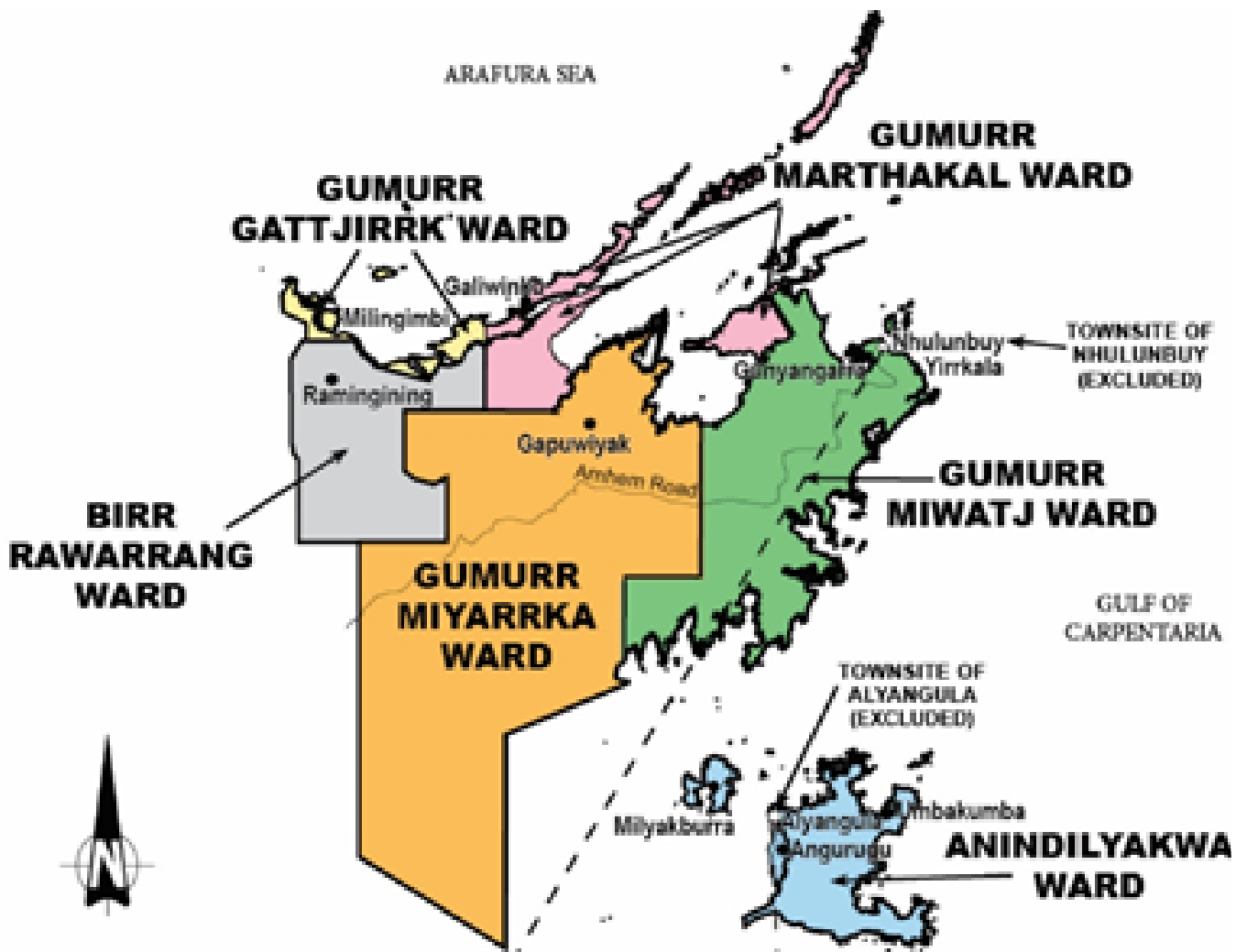




East Arnhem Regional Council Election Report



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

East Arnhem Regional Council

ELECTION SUMMARY

The 2025 Local Government Elections were the periodic general elections for the Northern Territory's local government councils, held every 4 years. The general elections included:

- 51 elections
- 138 elected positions
- 15 local government councils

The general elections for **EAST ARNHEM REGIONAL COUNCIL** included the following elections:

- Election of Birr Rawarrang Ward councillors – 2 positions
- Election of Gumurr Gattjirrk councillors – 2 positions
- Election of Gumurr Marthakal Ward councillors – 3 positions
- Election of Gumurr Miwatj Ward councillors – 3 positions
- Election of Gumurr Miyarrka 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 6,486 East Arnhem Regional Council electors eligible to vote in the 2025 Local Government Elections.

This is an increase of 1,187 electors (or 22.4%) from the previous general elections held in 2021.

Elector numbers by ward:

- Birr Rawarrang Ward: 868 (up 28.2% from 2021)
- Gumurr Gattjirrk Ward: 974 (up 26.0% from 2021)
- Gumurr Marthakal Ward: 1,924 (up 21.2% from 2021)
- Gumurr Miwatj Ward: 1,734 (up 23.5% from 2021)
- Gumurr Miyarrka Ward: 986 (up 20.1% from 2021)

PUBLIC AWARENESS

Campaign overview

The 2025 Local Government Elections public awareness campaign 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

Nominations for East Arnhem Regional Council elections included:

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- no rejected or withdrawn nominations.

Election	Accepted nominations (candidates)
BIRR RAWARRANG WARD (2 vacancies)	David WARRAYA
	Jason MIRRITJAWUY
	Rexy DJARRKADAMA
GUMURR GATJIRK WARD (2 vacancies)	Keith Lapulung DHAMARRANDJI
	Jacinta BURUKUMALAWAUY
	Ganygulpa DHURRKAY
	John RYAN
	Joe DJAKALA
GUMURR MARTHAKAL WARD (3 vacancies)	Gurrumgurrum BURARRWANGA
	Evelyna DHAMARRANDJI
	Cyril BUKULATJPI
	Stephen DHAMARRANDJI
GUMURR MIWATJ WARD (3 vacancies)	Murphy YUNUPINGU
	Marrpalawuy MARIKA
	Priscilla YUNUPINGU
GUMURR MIYARRKA WARD (2 vacancies)	Bobby WUNUNG MURRA
	Wesley Bandi Bandi WUNUNG MURRA

Age and gender of candidates:

GENDER	Male	Female
All wards	12	5

AGE	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
All wards	-	1	3	4	4	5

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

VOTING SERVICES

Postal voting

- Postal vote applications received 17
- Postal votes issued 11
- Postal vote applications rejected 6
- Postal votes returned 8
- Postal votes admitted to the count 5
- Postal votes rejected 3

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:

- Uncontested election/no election (6)

The reasons for rejecting (returned) postal votes were:

- Ordinary vote issued (2)
- Postal vote certificate dated after election day (1)

Remote mobile voting

Mobile Team East Arnhem 1:

Date	Time	Community	Location	Votes issued
Monday 18 August	10:15am – 4:30pm	Ramingining	Library	62
Tuesday 19 August	8:00am – 3:30pm	Ramingining	Library	41
TOTAL				103

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

Mobile Team East Arnhem 2:

Date	Time	Community	Location	Votes issued
Monday 18 August	9:30am – 4:30pm	Milingimbi	Council office	51
Tuesday 19 August	8:00am – 12:00pm	Milingimbi	Council office	31

	2:00pm – 5:00pm	Buthan	ALPA Kitchen	47
Wednesday 20 August	8:00am – 4:00pm	Galiwin'ku	Council office	93
Thursday 21 August	8:00am – 4:00pm	Galiwin'ku	Council office	33
Friday 22 August	9:00am – 9:30am	Banthula	Community	21
Friday 22 August	10:30am – 11:15am	Gawa	Community	
TOTAL				276

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	9
Coolalinga	1
Darwin	2
Katherine	-
Palmerston	1
TOTAL	13

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 16

Election day voting

Election day voting centre	Votes issued
Alice Springs	-
Casuarina	4
Coolalinga	1
Darwin	1
Katherine	-
Palmerston	-
TOTAL	6

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

Declaration voting

- Total number of declaration votes issued 17
- Declaration votes admitted to the count 17
- Declaration votes rejected from the count 0

ELECTION OUTCOMES

Results: Election of councillors – Birr Rawarrang Ward

Candidate	First preference votes
David WARRAYA	50
Jason MIRRITJAWUY	49
Rexy DJARRKADAMA	19
TOTAL	118

- Quota required to be elected: 40
- Elected councillors:
David WARRAYA elected at count 1
Jason MIRRITJAWUY elected at count 1
- A full distribution of preferences for the Birr Rawarrang Ward election is available on the NTEC website

Results: Election of councillors – Gumurr Gattjirrk Ward

Candidate	First preference votes
Keith Lapulung DHAMARRAN	61
Jacinta BURUKUMALAWUY	9
Ganygulpa DHURRKAY	17
John RYAN	2
Joe DJAKALA	2
TOTAL	91

- Quota required to be elected: 31
- Elected councillors:
Keith Lapulung DHAMARRAN elected at count 1
Ganygulpa DHURRKAY elected at count 5
- A full distribution of preferences for the Gumurr Gattjirrk Ward election is available on the NTEC website

Results: Election of councillors – Gumurr Marthakal Ward

Candidate	First preference votes
Gurrumgurrum BURARRWANGA	25
Evelyna DHAMARRANDJI	19
Cyril BUKULATJPI	31
Stephen DHAMARRANDJI	126
TOTAL	201

- Quota required to be elected: 51
- Elected councillors:
Stephen DHAMARRANDJI elected at count 1
Evelyna DHAMARRANDJI elected at count 2
Cyril BUKULATJPI elected at count 2
- A full distribution of preferences for the Gumurr Marthakal Ward election is available on the NTEC website

Results: Election of councillors – Gumurr Miwatj Ward

- There were 3 nominations for 3 councillor vacancies
- Elected councillors: Murphy YUNUPINGU, Marrpalawuy MARIKA, Priscilla YUNUPINGU

Results: Election of councillors – Gumurr Miyarrka Ward

- There were 2 nominations for 2 councillor vacancies
- Elected councillors: Bobby WUNUGMURRA, Wesley Bandi Bandi WUNUNG MURRA

Voter turnout

Based on the number of votes counted in the 3 contested elections, voter turnout was 11.6%. This compares to 19.9% in the previous general elections in 2021 (however this is not a direct comparison as different wards were contested).

Voter turnout by ward:

- Birr Rawarrang Ward: 14.1% (uncontested in 2021)
- Gumurr Gattjirrk Ward: 10.0% (10.6% in 2021)
- Gumurr Marthakal Ward: 11.3% (uncontested in 2021)

Informality

Election	No. of candidates	Total votes	Informal votes	%
Birr Rawarrang Ward	3	123	5	4.1%
Gumurr Gattjirrk Ward	5	97	6	6.2%
Gumurr Marthakal Ward	4	218	17	7.8%

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
- with no nil return required if these thresholds are not met.

No East Arnhem Regional 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	12,763.82	11,170.13
Corporate	324.44	85.23
Destruction/rubbish removal	284.69	25.81
Information technology	6,043.97	2,262.83
Materials	5,615.48	2,364.71
Postage	3,474.16	1,657.73
Premises	2,031.30	294.23
Staff travel/accommodation/reimbursements	17,120.19	5,089.52
Staff wages	73,221.24	38,166.61
Vehicle hire/charter	111,604.18	23,850.72
Sub-total	232,483.47	84,967.52
GST (10%)	23,248.35	8,496.75
Total	\$ 255,731.82	\$ 93,464.27



Northern Territory Electoral Commission

EVERY vote counts

ntec@nt.gov.au

1800 698 683

ntec.gov.au