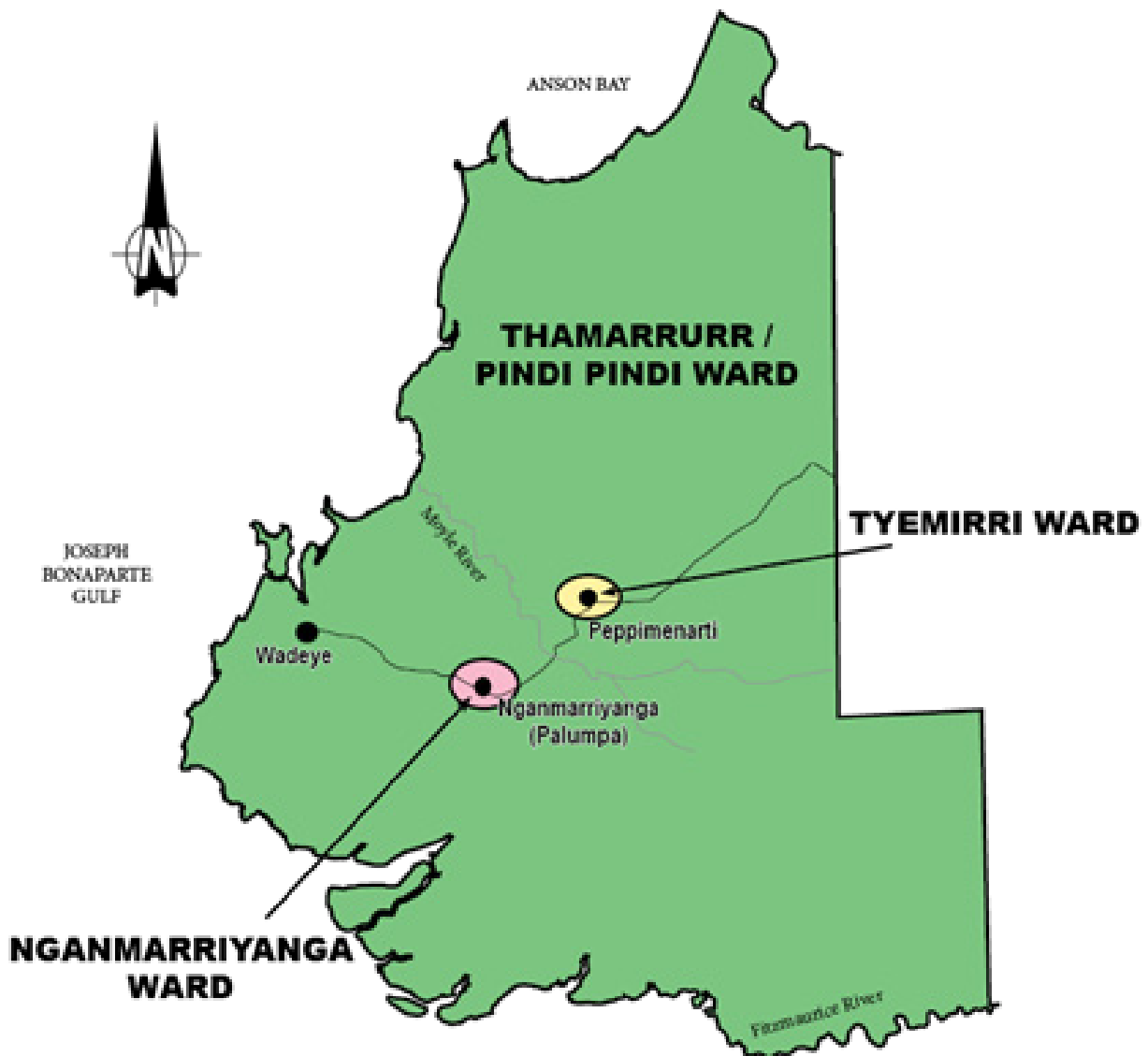




WEST DALY
Regional Council

West Daly Regional Council Election Report



Document version control

Version	Description	Date
1.0	Draft	16/01/2025
1.1	Final version: - added information to election outcomes section - minor edits and formatting changes	26/02/2026

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2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

West Daly 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 **WEST DALY REGIONAL COUNCIL** included the following elections:

- Election of Nganmariyanga Ward councillor – 1 position
- Election of Thamarrurr /Pindi Pindi Ward councillors – 4 positions
- Election of Tyemirri Ward councillor –1 position

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	Friday 5 September
Distribution of preferences (final count)	

ENROLMENT

There were 2,257 West Daly Regional Council electors eligible to vote in the 2025 Local Government Elections.

This is an increase of 389 electors (or 20.8%) from the previous general elections held in 2017.

Elector numbers by ward:

- Nganmariyanga Ward: 258 (up 24.0% from 2017)
- Thamarrurr/Pindi Pindi Ward: 1,876 (up 19.4% from 2017)
- Tyemirri Ward: 123 (up 38.2% from 2017)

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:

- older residents
- people with English as an additional language
- remote communities.

Website

The NTEC launched the 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.

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 best 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.

Coreflute signs

NTEC branded corflute signs were distributed to councils to install to raise voter awareness amid limited candidate activity.

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 West Daly Regional Council elections included:

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- no rejected or withdrawn nominations.

Election	Accepted nominations (candidates)
NGANMARRIYANGA WARD (1 vacancy)	Gabriel MARTIN
THAMARRURR/PINDI PINDI WARD (4 vacancies)	Terry SAMS
	Cyril NINNAL
	Basil DUMOO
	Vincent JINJAIR
	Mark TUNMUCK-SMITH
	Joseph THARDIM
	Jimmy CARTWRIGHT
TYEMIRRI WARD (1 vacancy)	Adrian William MARSHALL
	Annunciata Nunuk WILSON
	John WILSON

Age and gender of candidates:

GENDER	Male	Female
All wards	9	2

AGE	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
All wards	-	-	2	3	5	1

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

VOTING SERVICES

Postal voting

- Postal vote applications received 6
- Postal votes issued 6
- Postal vote applications rejected 0
- Postal votes returned 1
- Postal votes admitted to the count 1
- Postal votes rejected 0

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 papers or may include missorted ballot papers.

Remote mobile voting

Mobile Team West Daly 1 – Week 1:

Date	Time	Community	Location	Votes issued
Monday 11 August	11:30am – 12:30pm	Woodycupaldiya	Resource centre	47
	3:00pm – 4:00pm	Emu Point	Community	
Tuesday 12 August	9:00am – 10:00am	Peppimenarti	Council office	38
	11:00am – 12:00pm	Peppimenarti	Bottom Camp	
Wednesday 13 August	9:15am – 10:00am	Merrepen	Community	18
	11:30am – 12:00pm	Nama	Community	
	1:15pm – 1:45pm	Wudapuli	Community	
Thursday 14 August	9:45am – 10:45am	Wadeye	Thamarrurr Aged Care	48
	12:00pm – 4:00pm	Manthathpe	Community	
TOTAL				151

Mobile Team West Daly 1 – Week 2:

Date	Time	Community	Location	Votes issued
Tuesday 19 August	8:00am – 4:30pm	Wadeye	Sport and Rec Hall	85
Wednesday 20 August	8:00am – 4:30pm	Wadeye	Sport and Rec Hall	23
Thursday 21 August	8:00am – 4:30pm	Wadeye	Sport and Rec Hall	32
TOTAL				140

Early voting

Early voting centre	Votes issued
Alice Springs	-
Casuarina	4
Coolalinga	8
Darwin	4
Katherine	2
Palmerston	9

TOTAL 27

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 60
- Number of votes issued by the Alice Springs urban mobile team 1

Election day voting

Election day voting centre	Votes issued
Alice Springs	-
Casuarina	1
Coolalinga	-
Darwin	1
Katherine	-
Palmerston	-
TOTAL	2

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

Declaration voting

- Total number of declaration votes issued 4
- Declaration votes admitted to the count 3
- Declaration votes rejected from the count 1

The reasons for rejecting declaration votes were:

- Incorrectly issued (1)

ELECTION OUTCOMES

Results: Election of councillor – Nganmarriyanga Ward

- There was one nomination for 1 councillor vacancy
- Elected councillor: Gabriel MARTIN

Results: Election of councillors – Thamarrurr/Pindi Pindi Ward

Candidate	First preference votes
Terry SAMS	89
Cyril NINNAL	43
Basil DUMOO	28
Vincent JINJAIR	9
Mark TUNMUCK-SMITH	90
Joseph THARDIM	5
Jimmy CARTWRIGHT	31
Adrian William MARSHALL	5
TOTAL	300

Quota required to be elected: 61

- Elected councillors:
 Mark TUNMUCK-SMITH elected at count 1
 Terry SAMS elected at count 1
 Cyril NINNAL elected at count 3
 Basil DUMOO elected at count 15
- The full distribution of preferences for the Thamarrurr/Pindi Pindi Ward election is available on the NTEC website.

Results: Election of councillor – Tyemirri Ward

Candidate	First preference votes
Annunciata Nunuk WILSON	25
John WILSON	25
TOTAL	50

Quota required to be elected: 26

- As the first preference votes was the same for both candidates, a draw by lot was held to determine the candidate taken to have been elected (as per Section 14(4) of Schedule 1, Local Government (Electoral) Regulations)
- Elected councillor: John WILSON

Voter turnout

Based on the number of votes counted in the 2 contested elections, voter turnout was 19.1%. This compares to 30.7% voter turnout in the previous general elections in 2021 when the same 2 wards were contested.

Voter turnout by ward:

- Thamarrurr/Pindi Pindi Ward: 17.6% (29.0% in 2017)

- Tyemirri Ward: 41.5% (61.8% in 2017)

Informality

Election	No. of candidates	Total votes	Informal votes	%
Thamarrurr/Pindi Pindi Ward	8	331	31	9.4%
Tyemirri Ward	2	51	1	2.0%

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 West Daly 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	11,441.26	8,873.65
Corporate	112.83	47.15
Destruction/rubbish removal	99.16	14.34
Information technology	3,213.68	1,257.13
Materials	1,958.84	1,291.93
Postage	1,211.29	917.48
Premises	74.12	163.14
Staff travel/accommodation/reimbursements	8,654.03	9,333.22
Staff wages	35,689.41	12,166.76
Vehicle hire/charter	5,456.56	3,662.79
Sub-total	67,911.18	37,727.59
GST (10%)	6,791.12	3,772.76
TOTAL	\$ 74,702.30	\$ 41,500.35



Northern Territory Electoral Commission

EVERY vote counts

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