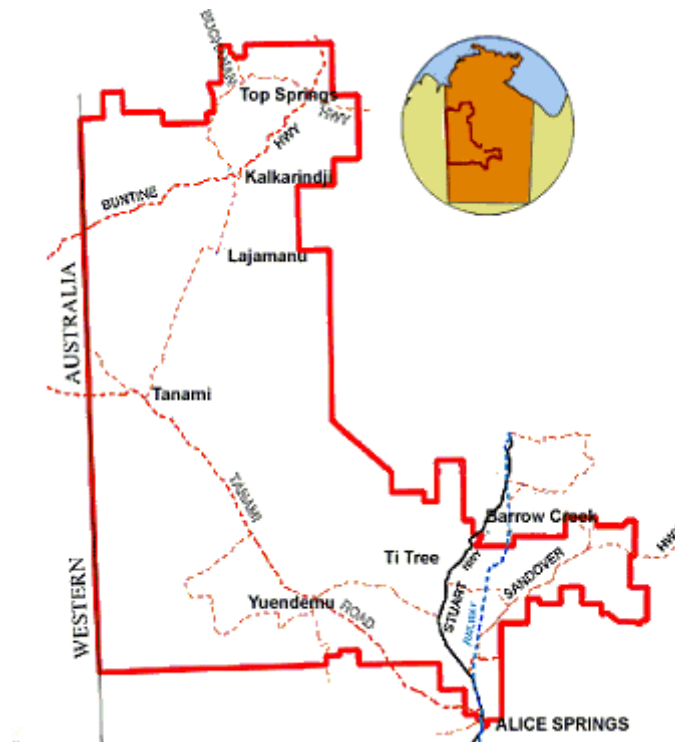


**REPORT ON THE LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY BY-ELECTION
FOR THE DIVISION OF
STUART
23 SEPTEMBER 2006**



NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION

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(i) LETTER OF TRANSMISSION



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The Hon. Jane Aagaard MLA
Speaker
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Madam Speaker

This report provides information on the Legislative Assembly By-election for the Division of Stuart held 23 September 2006.

The Electoral Act requires the report to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly within three sitting days after its receipt. Additional copies have been provided for this purpose.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bill Shephard'.

BILL SHEPHEARD
ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER

10 October 2007

(ii) FOREWORD BY THE ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER

I am pleased to present this report on the Stuart By-election to the Legislative Assembly and other stakeholders. It represents the first public report on the conduct of a Legislative Assembly By-election by the Northern Territory Electoral Commission.

The prescribed timetable that applies for all Legislative Assembly elections is particularly tight and demanding. Of course, by-elections naturally present a reduced challenge for electoral administrators in comparison to General Elections but their organisational demands should not to be underestimated. This is especially the case in respect to an electorate with the profile of the Division of Stuart.

Elector access to services for the by-election was naturally a prime focus for the Commission, given that no absent voting services are provided at by-elections and that a mobile polling schedule needed to be drafted, advertised and commenced within days of the issue of the writ. The Commission did its best to give public notice as quickly as it could in respect to the close of rolls and voting services to be provided, although on occasions this did prove difficult and resulted in less than optimum outcomes.

Towards the end of the election campaign, some criticism was levelled at the Commission in regard to some late changes to the advertised mobile polling schedule. Although there is a need to provide as much early certainty as possible in regard to mobile services, it is essential that mobile polling remain flexible and responsive to contingencies and elector movements as they are known to occur. In the Commission's view, the prime objective must always be to provide the most comprehensive service possible within reasonable and available resources. Also, within those constraints, the Commission further sees itself as having an obligation to err on the side of the franchise when making decisions on service delivery, especially where short notice applies and limited opportunity exists to distribute information to the public.

In terms of electoral outcomes and key observations, I would like to particularly highlight the following:

- The turnout figure of 53.9% is, as expected, lower than the 2005 General Election figure (59.3%) but better than some might have expected for a by-election in Stuart at short notice. The figure, however, is far from acceptable as a democratic outcome and seems to be the result of a number of contributing factors, primarily to the reduced accuracy of the roll in remote areas and the difficulties in providing adequate services to remote electors in such a tight timeframe.

- The number of candidates contesting elections in remote areas is having a significant impact on the level of informal voting. At the 2005 General Election in the Division of Stuart 4.3% of votes were cast informally when only two candidates contested the seat whilst at this By-election 13.6% cast an informal vote where six candidates contested. In short, this means that the informal vote tripled at this election, with subsequent research of the ballot papers suggesting that this was mostly the result of unintentional error on the part of the voter.
- There is a pressing need for greater electoral education in remote areas. Statistics gathered internally since 2005 would suggest that one third of electors in the Division of Stuart require assistance to cast a formal vote.

In closing, I would also like to recognise the contribution of my small band of permanent staff and the casual workforce that were engaged to conduct the election. Their efforts and sacrifices made at such short notice were most commendable and very much appreciated.



BILL SHEPHEARD
ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER

10 October 2007

1. INTRODUCTION

This report analyses the 2006 Legislative Assembly By-election for the Division of Stuart and assesses election services for future events.

1.1 ELECTION SNAPSHOT

WRIT DETAILS

- Date of issue Tuesday 5 September 2006
- Roll closed 8pm Thursday 7 September 2006
- Nominations closed 12 noon Monday 11 September 2006
- Polling day Saturday 23 September 2006
- Writ returned Wednesday 4 October 2006

POLLING DETAILS

- Mobile polling – 2231 votes counted – 93.4% - 5 teams used
 - Commenced Thursday 14 September 2006
 - Ceased 6pm Saturday 23 September 2006
- Postal voting – 47 votes counted – 2.0%
 - Commenced Thursday 14 September 2006
 - Ceased - Overseas Tuesday 19 September 2006
 - Within Aust. Thursday 21 September 2006
 - Deadline for return 6pm Friday 29 September 2006
- Pre poll voting – 98 votes counted – 4.1%
 - Commenced Monday 19 September 2006
 - Ceased 6pm Friday 22 September 2006
- Other declaration voting – 13 counted – 0.5%
- Static polling No static polling places used
- Poll declared Tuesday 3 October 2006

CANDIDATE DETAILS

The 6 candidates in ballot paper order (with affiliation) were:

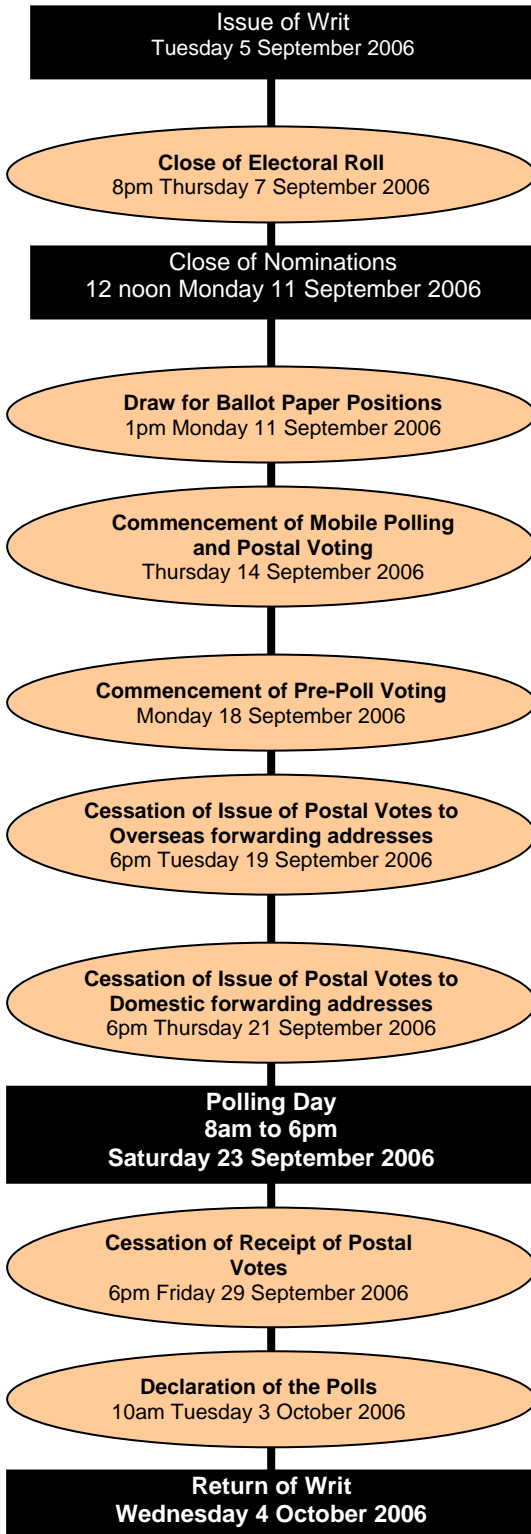
- Lloyd Spencer-Nelson (CLP)
- Anna De Sousa Machado (Independent)
- Gary Cartwright (Independent)
- Rex Granites Japanangka (CLP)
- Karl Hampton (ALP)
- Peter Tjungarray Wilson (Independent)

ELECTION OUTCOMES

- Electors on roll 4434
- Electors voting 2389 (53.9%)
- Informality 324 (13.6%)
- 2 party preferred Hampton ALP 67.6%
- Japanangka CLP 32.4%
- Estimated budget v actual costs \$110 000 v \$109 894
- Cost per elector \$24.80
- Cost per vote admitted to count \$46.00

2. BACKGROUND

2.1. ELECTION TIMETABLE



TIMETABLE REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE ELECTORAL ACT 2004

Issue of Writ (Section 27)

The writ authorises the Northern Territory Electoral Commission to conduct an election in accordance with the Electoral Act 2004. The writ sets the date for the close of nominations, polling day and the return of the writ.

The writ triggers all other key milestones and operational deadlines.

Nominations must close at 12 noon 6 days after the issue of the writ.

Polling day must be 18 days after the issue of the writ.

Close of the Electoral Roll (Section 8)

The electoral roll is closed during the period starting at 8pm 2 days after the date of issue of the writ for an election and ending at the close of polling for an election.

Draw for Ballot Paper Positions (Section 28 (a))

A draw for ballot paper positions is conducted as soon as practicable after the close of nominations.

Mobile Voting (Section 3)

Mobile polling facilities may be provided in remote areas and special institutions.

Mobile polling may start 9 days after the date of the issue of the writ for an election and must end no later than 6pm on polling day.

Postal Voting (Sections 62 and 112)

Postal votes may be dispatched 9 days after the date of the issue of the writ.

An elector may cast a postal vote at any time during the postal voting period which concludes at 6 pm on polling day.

Postal votes must be received by 6pm on the Friday following polling day in order to be included in the count.

Pre-Poll Voting (Section 3)

Pre-polling starts 13 days after the date of the issue of the Writ and ends at 6pm on the day before polling day.

Declaration of the Poll(s) (Section 131)

Results of the election are required to be publicly declared as soon as practicable after they have been determined.

Return of the Writ

The writ traditionally sets out the date for its return which is usually about 5 weeks after polling day.

Disputed Returns (Section 236)

An application to dispute a return must be made to the Supreme Court no later than 21 days after the date fixed for the return of the writ.

The Member for Stuart, Dr Peter Toyne, resigned on Friday 1 September 2006. He was elected at a by-election in September 1996 and had been re-elected at subsequent Legislative Assembly elections in 1997, 2001 and 2005.

The Chief Minister announced the by-election four days after the resignation and the Writ was issued the same day. The Commission had 19 days to prepare for the election in an electorate served wholly by mobile polling teams. The key milestones, operational deadlines and legislative base for the by-election are shown in the election timetable.

The report into the 2005 Legislative Assembly election drew attention to the short timeframes for the election period. The Stuart by-election reinforced the Commission's belief that a lengthier period is required for a more extensive roll close period and to implement its election programs after the issue of the writ.

Recommendation 1

The period between the issue of the writ and polling day be extended by a week and the period from the issue of the writ to the close of the electoral roll be extended to seven days.

2.2. POINTS OF INTEREST

The Division of Stuart is a large remote electorate in central Australia. It covers an area of 326 959 sq kms from the Queensland border in the east to the Western Australia border in the west, Alice Springs in the south to Victoria River Downs in the north. The main communities in the Division are Yarralin, Dagaragu, Kalkaringi, Lajamanu, Yuendumu, Nyrippi, Laramba, Willowra, Yuelamu, Ti Tree, Utopia outstations, Ampilatwatja outstations and town camps in the northern and eastern parts of Alice Springs.

At the 2005 Legislative Assembly General Election, Dr Peter Toyne won Stuart with a majority of 21% and, as such, was considered to be a safe Labor seat.

Stuart is the only division serviced entirely by mobile polling teams (ie it has no static polling place on polling day). A major concern for the Commission was the historic low voter turnouts in the division at previous elections, with the lowest voter turnout (59.3%) of all divisions at the 2005 General Election. In addition, by-elections traditionally result in poorer turnouts, especially in remote areas where poor communications and short notice of elections exacerbate the situation.

Stuart electors are highly mobile and have generally required a high level of voter assistance to complete their ballot papers. The likely informality level also became a concern when six candidates nominated for the election.

2.3. POLITICAL ADVERTISING AND CAMPAIGNING

Candidates, parties, the media and the general public raised a number of issues with the Commission about political advertising and campaign material, which consistently figures as a major subject of complaints at elections.

The Electoral Act contains no provision for truth in advertising and the Commission's role in policing such matters as overzealous and intimidatory campaigning is generally restricted to the precincts of the polling place (i.e. within 10 metres of the entrance to a polling place). The Commission is not aware of any such campaigning being undertaken within the precincts of any polling location at the Stuart poll. Issues raised during the campaign were:

- The veracity of an ALP placard regarding the land permit policy of the CLP;
- Overly robust campaigning by ALP supporters accompanying mobile polling teams;
- Voters wearing T-Shirts supporting the ALP candidate in the polling place;
- The ALP candidate entering the confines of a polling place boundary to hand out how-to vote cards;
- The ALP placing campaign material on the Laramba polling place prior to it being established as a polling place; and
- CLP advertising regarding a former prominent ALP politician subject to police investigations.

The mobile team leader at the Laramba polling venue noted a complaint was lodged re signage and propaganda, but allowed the polling to take place at the advertised venue as campaign material was appropriate when he arrived.

The wearing of promotional T-Shirts in the polling place by voters is clearly a breach of the NT's Electoral Act. However, a commonsense approach to this has generally been adopted in electoral circles, as asking elderly and certain other voters or voters with attitude to remove T-Shirts has often been found to create more problems than it has solved. The mobile team leader at Yuendumu stopped the practice after a formal complaint was received at the end of the first day of mobile polling.

The team leader later estimated that approximately 20 of the electors who presented themselves to vote at Yuendumu had worn promotional T-Shirts during the six hours of voting that took place on that first day.

As soon as the complaint was lodged and the potential scale of the breach was realised, all mobile polling staff in the field were instructed to proactively enforce the law.

A written complaint was lodged by a member of the public on 18 September 2006 with respect to the content of a sign on a sandwich board placed on display outside the pre-poll centre in Alice Springs. The board carried a blown up copy of the front page of the *NT News* which included a headline relating to charges being laid against a former ALP politician.

The Electoral Commissioner informed the author of the written complaint that the Electoral Commission generally has no role to play in policing truth in advertising or content matters of political advertising. The sign was later removed voluntarily by the owners.

2.4. ISSUES RAISED IN THE MEDIA

The local newspaper, the *Alice Springs News*, gave extensive coverage to the by-election and raised several issues relating to the extent and scheduling of mobile polling, poor voter turnout, the number of ministerial staff at polling places and access to Aboriginal land by journalists.

The first three issues are addressed elsewhere in this report. The last two items are not matters over which the Commission has any control and are not therefore addressed in this report.

In response to claims of gerrymandering the electorate, the Commission made available to the *Alice Springs News* the Redistribution Committee's relevant statement at the time when some Alice Springs town camps were placed in the proposed division of Stuart and the proposal was released for comment. No submissions were received by the committee on the issue raised by the newspaper.

The mobile polling at town camps in Alice Springs was mainly conducted under trees or in some other open area within the camp. These polling conditions readily allow banter, usually in language, between people inside and outside the 'polling place'. However, the banter was not excessive. Scrutineers for candidates and others handing out how-to-vote cards were present at most camps, including the member for an adjacent electorate who was the subject of concerns by the newspaper in relation to undue influence being expressed in language. The Commission has no jurisdiction over the area more than ten metres to the entrance to a polling place.

3. SERVICES TO ELECTORS

3.1. ENROLMENT SERVICES

In the period 1 July 2005 to 31 August 2006, the roll for the Division of Stuart fell from 4353 electors to 4244, a decrease of 2.5%. Following the resignation of Dr Toyne, there were 230 additions to the close of rolls for the by-election and 40 deletions. The net result was an increase in the number of electors of 4.3% to 4434. The table below sets out the numbers of additions and deletions for each period.

Type of Transaction	1 July 2005 to 31 August 2006	1 September 2006 to 7 September 2006 Close of Rolls
New enrolments	112	65
Re-enrolments of electors previously enrolled in NT but not currently enrolled	18	47
Re-instatements	1	38
Transfers in from interstate	52	20
Transfers in from other NT divisions	57	60
Net additions to roll for Stuart	240	230
Changes within division	179	67
Enrolment cards received and processed notifying same details	19	8
Total amendments to roll for Stuart	198	75
As a result of objection actions	152	0
Death of elector	70	15
Duplicates found	26	15
Transfers out to other NT Divisions	56	9
Transfers out to interstate addresses	45	1
Total deletions to roll for Stuart	349	40
Net change in total enrolled electors for Stuart from 1 July 2005	- 109	190

3.1.1. CLOSE OF ROLLS ENROLMENT ACTIVITY

The Writ for the by-election was issued on Tuesday, 5 September 2006 and the rolls closed two days later at 8pm, Thursday 7 September 2006. Conducting a campaign to raise public awareness about enrolment obligations in large remote divisions within such a short timeframe posed enormous challenges.

Field visits were undertaken to communities listed in the following table. A planned visit to Lajamanu was cancelled due to the collapse of Aboriginal Air Services.

Region of Stuart Division	Communities
Katherine	Daguragu, Kalkaringi, Pigeon Hole, VRD, Yarralin and Katherine Town Camps
North West of Alice Springs	Laramba, Pmara Jutanta, Tilmouth Roadhouse, Ti Tree Yuelamu, and Yuendumu.
Alice Springs	Town Camps

Field officers arranged for local councils to place enrolment notices on community notice boards to advertise their visits to communities. Television and public radio advertisements supplemented the field visits (see Appendix A). These advertisements stressed that enrolment cards were available from post offices, council offices or the Commission's website. It also emphasised the need to fax enrolment cards to ensure they were received prior to the close of rolls.

In addition, arrangements were made with the Alice Springs Post Office to place any enrolment forms received in a ballot box, in order for them to be immediately available to the Commission without being subject to normal postal processes.

The receipt of 305 enrolment forms (230 additions and 75 amendments) for Stuart is considered a good response given the limited time available to raise awareness.

3.1.2. COMPLETENESS AND ACCURACY OF THE ELECTORAL ROLL

Any critical assessment of the completeness and accuracy of the roll for the election needs to take into account the highly mobile population in the Territory, the extent of interstate moves and the difficulties electors encounter enrolling from remote areas, particularly given the tight timeframe once an election is announced.

From 1 July 2005 to the close of the roll for the by-election, 743 enrolment forms and 389 deletions were processed, resulting in a net increase of 1.9% in enrolled electors. The enrolment activity generated by the 2005 Legislative Assembly elections held only fifteen months earlier had helped to improve the accuracy and completeness of the roll. The effectiveness of the enrolment activities in the field and the advertising between the issue of the writ and the close of roll also assisted in boosting roll quality.

2231 electors voted and 276 completed enrolment forms were also handed in at polling places, a further indicator of the difficulty in maintaining a complete and accurate roll in remote areas of the Northern Territory.

The Commonwealth amended their electoral legislation to withdraw voting rights to prisoners in June 2006. This legislative change had an impact on the Territory electoral roll which operates under the same franchise arrangements. A current list of prisoners was obtained from correctional services and the prison was removed from the mobile polling schedule.

3.2. VOTING SERVICES

Electors were given a range of options for voting at the by-election:

- Postal and pre-poll voting at the Commission's offices in Darwin and Alice Springs;
- Mobile polling teams which visited 56 locations including the Alice Springs Hospital and Renal Unit; and
- The Braitling polling place, open from 8am to 6pm on polling day.

In addition the following initiatives to improve voting services to electors were provided:

- Walpiri Media broadcast mobile polling information in language (in addition to advertising undertaken on CAAMA, 8HA, and television);
- Public awareness officers travelled ahead of mobile teams creating awareness of polling places and times; and
- Mail advice of the election was given to electors residing in the small pocket of the Stuart division in Alice Springs. This advice included a postal vote application and was followed up by a phone call.

Comparisons between the 2005 general and the 2006 by-elections show that the roll increased by 160 electors, voter turnout decreased by 5.4%, informality increased by 9.0% and the number of candidates increased from two to six. As there is no absent voting at by-elections (see Table below), turnout was affected and the lack of absent votes also skewed the relative percentages of each type of vote issued. The increase in informality is addressed later in this report.

	2005 General Election		2006 By-election		+-
	No.	%	No.	%	
Participation					
Electors on roll	4274		4434		160+
Formal votes	2419	95.4	2065	86.4	350-
Informal votes	116	4.6	324	13.6	208+
Total votes admitted	2535	59.3	2389	53.9	146-
Type of Vote Cast					
Ordinary votes	1865	73.6	2231	93.4	366+
Absent votes	423	16.7	nil	0.0	N/A
Postal votes	68	2.7	47	2.0	21-
Pre-poll votes	161	6.3	98	4.1	63-
Declaration votes	18	0.7	13	0.5	5-

3.3 ORDINARY VOTING

Ordinary voting took place at 56 mobile polling locations and a total of 2231 ordinary votes were cast, an increase of 366 votes or 19.6% over the 2005 General Election.

This increase in ordinary voting was due in part to the concentration of electoral activities on a smaller area that is possible with a by-election. An initiative at this election was to have an officer travel ahead of each mobile team to organise local assistants and undertake public awareness activities for the election. This is believed to have had a positive effect on participation.

NTEC ACTION ITEM 1

At future by-elections, as part of its remote area program, the NTEC will provide an officer to travel ahead of each mobile team to undertake public awareness activities.

3.4 DECLARATION VOTING – NAMES NOT FOUND ON ROLL

The casting of declaration votes by people whose names could not be found on the roll declined by 16.5% at the by-election compared to the 2005 General Election. The table below gives a comparison of the declaration votes cast, admitted to the count and reasons for rejection.

Election	Declaration Envelopes					
	Submitted	Admitted for Further Scrutiny	Rejected from Further Scrutiny			
			Not on Roll	Rejected Enrolled Elsewhere	No Signature	Total Rejected
2005 General	85	18	65	2	0	67
2006 By	71	13	30	27	1	58

3.5 POSTAL AND PRE-POLL VOTING

Postal voting is available to electors who cannot attend a polling place on polling day. Where electors have an ongoing reason for being unable to attend (eg excessive distance from a polling place or infirmity), they may register as a Registered Postal Voter (RPV) and ballot papers are automatically mailed to them without the need to lodge an application at the time of the election. Under the *Electoral Act*, Territory voters are eligible RPVs if they have also registered with the Australian Electoral Commission as General Postal Voters under the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*. A total of 102 electors for the Division of Stuart were registered as RPVs at the by-election.

Postal voting is also available to electors who meet a number of prescribed criteria (eg travel, illness, distance from a polling place, etc.) that make attendance at a polling place difficult or

impossible. In these cases electors can apply for a postal vote at any time, although an application is only valid for three months.

Following the announcement of the election, the distribution of postal vote applications was a priority. Application forms were mailed out following a request from an elector, supplied by political parties or candidates, obtained from Post Offices, the Commission's website or faxed out from Commission offices and interstate electoral authorities. The completed applications were generally faxed or mailed back to the Commission's Darwin or Alice Springs' offices. After checking that the applicant was enrolled, the ballot papers and certificate envelopes were posted out for completion and returned to the Commission.

Postal voting papers were mailed from Darwin and Alice Springs on the Thursday morning following the close of nominations. The following table shows details of the dispatch and return of postal votes issued to registered postal voters compared with the 2005 General Election:

Election	Postal Voting Papers issued to Registered Postal Voters			
	Issued	Returned before cut off time	Returned after cut off time	Not Returned
2005 General	128	74	19	35
2006 By	102	36	8	58

An analysis of the replies to the non-voter infringement notices from the 58 registered postal voters who did not return their ballot papers indicated the following:

Responses from Registered Postal Voters not Returning Ballot Papers	
Voted at other locations	10
Provided a valid and sufficient reason for failing to vote	35
Deleted from the roll	3
Paid the penalty fee to discharge their liability	3
No reply	7

A total of 121 postal ballot papers were sent out to electors and 51 (42.1%) were returned within the time allowed.

The following tables show response rates and processing details for the postal voter service:

Total Postal Votes Dispatched and Returned	
No. of postal voting papers issued	121
Postal Votes Returned	
By deadline	51
Unclaimed	1
After deadline	29
Not Returned	40

Postal Votes Received before Deadline - Admitted or Rejected	
No. returned by deadline	51
Admitted for further scrutiny	47
Rejected - not signed/witnessed	2
- declaration signed after polling day	2

Pre-poll facilities were available at the NTEC’s offices in Darwin and Alice Springs. In accordance with the Act, the pre-poll centres were open for polling in the week immediately preceding polling day.

A total of 98 votes were taken at pre-poll centres (4.1% of all votes), a decrease of 63 votes or 39.1% on the 2005 General Election.

3.6 MOBILE POLLING

All polling places were appointed as mobile polling places, including the Braitling polling place on polling day. Mobile polling in remote areas provides special challenges, given the difficulties of raising public awareness, recruiting and training officials, travelling between centres, the short time available for voting, field communication and a general lack of facilities at mobile polling locations.



Daguragu



Lajamanu

The polling was undertaken by five teams, four based in Alice Springs and one out of Darwin. Two teams commenced on the Thursday, the week before polling day, two more commenced polling on the Monday of the week of polling day and the last team polled on the Friday and Saturday (polling day).

The table below gives a breakdown of each of the 56 mobile polling localities by category.

Team No.	Remote	Institution	Town Camp	Urban	Total
1	8	1	2	0	11
2	17	0	0	0	17
3	15	0	0	0	15
4	0	2	8	1	11
5	1	0	0	1	2
TOTAL	41	3	11	2	56

Details of the mobile polling schedules are shown in Appendix B.

Before the election, two field officers conducted public awareness programs in remote communities and discussed arrangements in preparation for the mobile polling schedule. They were also able to:

- Pick up enrolments in the short time available and fax them to the Commission;
- Gather information to assist with the preparation of the mobile polling schedule; and
- Undertake public awareness of the election by working ahead of the mobile polling team.

The list of proposed polling locations (with the suggested polling times) was circulated to the communities, political parties, and other stakeholders for their comment and feedback before the schedule was finalised, a strategy which had been successfully adopted at the 2005 Legislative Assembly election.

Final arrangements were made for the staffing of teams and the date and time of polling at each stop were confirmed as soon as possible after the announcement of the election. The final schedules were widely advertised in the media, confirmed with political parties and candidates and formally conveyed to communities via phone, fax, email and the dispatch of posters. Where possible, the Commission sought the help of communities to advance preparations in relation to premises and the identification of local assistants.

The NT Electoral Commission acknowledges and appreciates the assistance of Australian Electoral Commission officers with the public awareness and mobile polling programs.

After the final schedules were circulated, changes were needed to meet unexpected demand and contingencies. Two additional sites were added to the mobile schedule and Yuendumu was polled a second time by Team 3 on their return journey from Nyirripi.

The remote mobile teams polled 2231 ordinary votes. The number of votes cast at the by-election increased by 366 votes or 19.6% over the 2005 General Election.

The informality rate on ordinary votes cast at the mobiles was very high, almost 14% compared with 4.3% at the 2005 General Election. One significant factor in the increased informality is likely to have been the number of candidates standing at the by-election, six

compared to two candidates at the General Election. The table below provides a breakdown of the informal vote by category for the by-election and the last General Election.

Informal Category	Voter Intent	2005 General Election		2006 By-election	
		No.	%	No.	%
Totally Blank	APPARENT INTENTIONAL INFORMALITY	8	6.9	1	0.3
Other Symbols Dismissive of Process		3	2.6	12	3.8
Insufficient Numbers	APPARENT UNINTENTIONAL INFORMALITY	0	0.0	140	43.2
Numbers not Sequential		21	18.1	86	26.5
Scribble or Illegible Numbers		21	18.1	11	3.5
Ticks or Crosses		63	54.3	37	11.4
More than one number '1'		0	0.0	37	11.4
TOTAL		116		324	

The Commission was aware the level of voter assistance provided at the by-election would be high, based on:

- Sample data collected by a number of team leaders in central Australia at the 2005 General Election (it was estimated up to 10% of electors in remote communities asked for assistance to cast their vote);
- Research data collected after the 2005 election; and
- The number of candidates who nominated for the by-election.

Statistics from team leaders confirmed these factors do have an impact as reports show 457 were assisted to vote at the by-election, representing 20.5% of electors voting. It is still concerning that, despite this high level of assistance, 312 or 14.0% of electors who had an ordinary vote, still voted informally. These figures highlight the considerable amount of voter education that needs to be undertaken.

The following table provides a comparison of the votes polled by each mobile team with the number of informal and assisted votes:

Team	Ballot Papers Issued	Informal Ballot Papers	Assisted Votes
1	657	71	65
2	425	56	90
3	869	147	264
4/5	280	38	38
TOTAL	2231	312	457

Two issues arose from the mobile polling program:

- The appropriateness and extent of servicing of Alice Springs town camps; and
- The late advice of the additional mobile polling at Yuendumu, Tara and Tennant Creek.

Mobile polling in the Alice Springs town camps in Stuart was first conducted with some success at the 2005 Legislative Assembly General Election. Tangentyere Council were consulted to discuss initial arrangements some time before the calling of the general election. The decision to mobile poll the town camps was primarily made on the basis that Alice Springs residents of the Division of Stuart did not have a static polling place where they could cast an ordinary vote.

However, there are perhaps greater operational reasons to conduct such polling including:

- Relieving the early morning pressure from static polling places operating in the township on polling day;
- Providing more specialised polling staff to deal with the challenges that invariably present themselves in dealing with town camp electors;
- Improving the capacity to recruit local assistants for a limited time to help polling officials in the identification of voters on the roll and to provide linguistic skills;
- Providing assistance to voters, many of whom have special needs, in a more structured, orderly, timely and customised way; and
- Avoiding the establishment of joint polling places at general elections.

Given the short notice of the by-election, it was decided to replicate the arrangements used at the 2005 election, with the exception that polling would only be conducted in the mornings and be spread over the full mobile polling period. These modifications were thought to be likely to increase participation and would allow the team to be headed by the Commission's own Director of Operations.

Results from the mobile polls were generally encouraging with the number of voters voting at the Alice Springs town camp mobiles increasing from 135 at the 2005 election to 191 at the same mobile locations at the by-election (an increase of 42%).

Turnouts at some town camp locations, however, point to the need for further rationalisation and better scheduling in the future.

No additional expenses were involved in polling the town camps at this by-election. The mobile team leader was a permanent officer deployed to Alice Springs for the duration of the election and the office vehicle was used to travel to the camps.

The two additional support staff who accompanied the mobile team leader for the polling were also employed to assist with pre-polling and other duties at the Alice Springs office.

Eleven hours of mobile polling were scheduled at the Alice Springs Hospital/Renal Unit and nine hours at the Alice Springs town camps.

NTEC ACTION ITEM 2

The NTEC will critically review the location and scheduling of town camps in the mobile polling program prior to the next election.

Late changes to mobile schedules are not uncommon due to logistical and emerging issues and can be expected by parties and candidates.

The decision to poll again at Yuendumu was based on information received by the mobile polling team leader who advised that at least 20 electors would vote in Yuendumu the following day. It was decided late Thursday afternoon to poll the following afternoon and in the event, the team leader's estimate of voters proved to be conservative as 37 ballot papers (1.7% of ordinary votes) were lodged. No additional costs were incurred to conduct this polling; team members are paid on a daily basis and no additional travel was involved.

The Barkly AFL Grand Final was being held on polling day and the ALP provided initial advice that a large number of electors from Stuart were in Tennant Creek and Tara. The decision to poll Tennant Creek on polling day was based on the drawing power of major AFL sporting events in the regions and as Tara was on the way, it was decided to poll there during the afternoon of the day before.

Candidates were notified of the additional polling in accordance with standing practice to advise of schedules only when detailed arrangements can be confirmed. This ensures clarity and minimises the potential for confusion amongst stakeholders. Notification was given to candidates and parties on the Friday morning.

In relation to the variations to schedules:

- The Country Liberal Party (CLP) lodged a formal complaint about the additional polling places and the late advice of their appointment. The complaint included a call not to include in the count the ballot papers polled at the additional polling places;
- The Director of the CLP questioned, in the media, the legality and impartiality of polling at the additional polling places; and
- The Leader of the Opposition wrote to the Commissioner seeking background information on the appointment and notification of the additional mobile polling places.

The Commission stands by its decisions at the Stuart by-election. It believes all reasonable steps to respond to developments were taken within its existing resources. It is always difficult to deal with such matters at short notice but, particularly where participation levels are so low due to service access problems, it has a responsibility to err on the side of the franchise.

3.6.1 COMMUNICATION WITH MOBILE TEAMS

All mobile teams and their public awareness officers were given satellite phones and contacted the Commission at the completion of each poll or as required during polling. Details of turnout, assisted voter levels and latest developments were passed on to home base during the calls. Teams also contacted the Commission at the conclusion of each day.

Where the satellite phones did not work as well as expected, team leaders were able to use community or, at some locations, their office CDMA phones.

3.7 TURNOUT AND NON VOTING

Turnout at by-elections is traditionally lower than at general elections, attributed primarily to the lack of notice, the reduced profile of a by-election and restricted services especially in relation to absent voting. At the 2005 general election, 423 absent votes were polled in Stuart, 17% of the total votes polled.

Voter turnout in Stuart has traditionally been the poorest of all Legislative Assembly Divisions. The by-election turnout of 53.9% was 5.4% less than the 59.3% turnout at the 2005 General Election. While the by-election turnout was disappointing, there was an increase in voter turnout at mobile polling locations and the Alice Springs town camps of 19.6% and 34.6% respectively. Anecdotal evidence by mobile teams indicated that generally electors present at mobile polling places did in fact exercise their vote.

Although the turnout decreased, the decrease was less than at three of the last four NT by-elections conducted over the last 10 years, as listed in the table below.

Division and Year of By-election	By-election			Previous General Election			Variation
	No. Voters	No. Electors	% Voting	No. Voters	No. Electors	% Voting	%
Stuart 2006	2389	4434	53.9	2535	4274	59.3	-5.4
Port Darwin 2000	3432	4868	70.5	3384	4012	84.4	-13.9
Blain 1999	3570	4610	77.4	3632	4091	88.8	-11.3
Wanguri 1999	2998	3878	77.3	3320	3902	85.1	-7.8
Stuart 1996	2430	3812	63.8	2486	3730	66.7	-2.9

Data extracted from the certified lists of electors marked by officials, indicate electors who have been issued with a ballot paper at the election. The data is supplemented with information received from non-voters.

Of the 4434 electors on the roll, 2389 were recorded on certified lists as voting. After allowances for information received on or before polling day, mainly provided by relatives, as to why electors were unable to vote, 2019 apparent non-voters were identified for follow up. Non voting infringement notices were prepared for these electors within the three-month statutory deadline.

Commission staff delivered non-voting infringement notices to electors in major communities, except for the Sandover area. The remaining 862 notices were mailed to electors who appeared to have failed to vote. Electors no longer residing in the community had their details (including knowledge of where they are currently residing) forwarded to the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) for appropriate action. The table below details the non-voter action taken following the by-election.

Stuart By-election Non-voter Action	No.	%
Electors who appeared to have failed to vote	2045	
Infringement Notices issued 13 November 2006 after culling from information received	2019	98.7
Electors supplying a valid and sufficient reason for failing to vote	568	28.1
Electors paying the prescribed fee to discharge their liability	15	0.7
Warning letters issued by field officers 13-24 November 2006	3	0.1
Notices returned unclaimed	526	26.1
Notices not returned	907	44.9

3.8 DECLARATION OF THE POLL AND RETURN OF THE WRIT

The declaration of the poll was scheduled for 10am on 3 October 2006 in the Andy McNeill Room of the Alice Springs Town Council. Independent candidates and the party contact for endorsed candidates were advised of the time and place of the declaration. One independent candidate and the Australian Labor Party candidate attended the declaration.

The writ for the election was returned to the Administrator on 4 October 2006.

4. SERVICES TO CANDIDATES AND POLITICAL PARTIES

4.1. INFORMATION AND ADVICE FOR CANDIDATES AND POLITICAL PARTIES

Draft mobile polling schedules were provided to interested stakeholders, including parties and candidates, for their information and feedback before the schedules were settled.

The Commission prepared a Candidate's Pack, containing a Candidate's Handbook and other relevant information and forms, that was distributed upon request over the counter or by mail. A handbook on financial disclosure requirements was also made available to candidates and parties in hard copy and on the website.

To ensure that parties and candidates simultaneously received prompt and consistent information, the Commission established an election bulletin system as soon as the election was announced, which was distributed regularly via email throughout the election period. The bulletins provided:

- Updates on the progress of the election and emerging issues;
- Timely reminders about the rights and responsibilities of candidates and parties;
- The latest developments in relation to mobile polling.

4.2. NOMINATIONS AND DRAW FOR BALLOT PAPER POSITIONS

The Commission's offices were open for nominations from 8 September until 12 noon 11 September 2006. Nomination forms were provided for party nominations or for individual nominations. On receipt, nominations were checked for compliance.

At the close of nominations, six nominations had been received at the Alice Springs office. Three were endorsed and nominated by parties, one from the ALP and two from the CLP. The party name was listed underneath the candidate name on the ballot paper. The remaining three candidates nominated as independents.

As required by the *Electoral Act*, the draw for positions on the ballot paper took place publicly at the office of the Electoral Commission in Darwin as soon as practicable after the close of nominations.

Restricting the draws to the office in Darwin effectively meant that many of the candidates, media representatives and interested parties could not attend.

Recommendation 2

As previously recommended in the Report on the 2005 Legislative Assembly elections, it is considered that the *Electoral Act* should be amended to allow the draw for positions on the ballot paper to be conducted at sites determined by the Electoral Commissioner.

4.3 CANDIDATE CONTACT INFORMATION

All nomination forms have provision for candidates to provide contact details to the Commission and, subject to the consent of the candidate, for the NTEC to make that information available to the media and other interested parties. Endorsed candidates listed their parties and made the information available to all. The independent candidates gave mobile phone numbers and, in some cases, restricted the use of that information. Unfortunately, with a division the size of Stuart, these candidates were out of range most of the time and were not readily contactable by the Commission.

NTEC ACTION ITEM 3

The NTEC will explore options to improve ways to communicate with candidates and party organisations at future elections.

4.4 PROVISION OF ELECTORAL ROLL DATA

In line with the *Electoral Act*, the Commission must on request, at least once a month, give members of the Assembly a copy of the roll for their division and a copy of the roll for all divisions to registered political parties. The data is provided in electronic format and supplied at the end of each month. The supply is subject to security and privacy provisions to ensure that it is used only for purposes set out in the Act. There is no provision in the Act for the supply of roll data to candidates who are not sitting members.

The election was announced on 5 September with the rolls closing on 7 September 2006. To ensure equitable treatment, all parties that nominated a candidate were contacted to determine if they wanted the roll as at the close of rolls.

While the supply of a roll as at close of rolls is an entitlement under the *Electoral Act*, it does create further differences between the information made available to members of Parliament/parties (including endorsed candidates) and unendorsed candidates.

In this context, it is noted that the Commonwealth provides a roll to all candidates, subject to an undertaking from the candidate that it will only be used for electoral purposes, with heavy penalties applying if this does not occur.

Recommendation 3

It is recommended that the *Electoral Act* be amended to allow the roll, as at roll close, to be made available to all candidates, subject to an appropriate undertaking being made by the candidate that its use will be restricted to the election period only.

4.5 NOMINATION DEPOSITS

Candidates are required to lodge a deposit of \$200 at the time of their nomination. These nomination deposits are forfeited to the Territory unless the candidate is elected or polls more than 20% of the total of 1st preference votes cast for the successful elected candidate.

After the election, two deposits were returned while the remaining four deposits were forfeited (see table below):

Nomination deposits refunded/forfeited

Candidates	Refunded	Forfeited
ALP	1	0
CLP	0	2
Independents	1	2
	2	4

4.6 DISCLOSURE RETURNS

All candidates who nominated for the by-election were required to complete disclosure returns. Summaries of returns were placed on the Commission's website and copies were made available at both of its offices in Darwin and Alice Springs.

All candidates for the Stuart by-election had submitted disclosure returns by 21 June 2007.

Disclosure returns were also provided by relevant broadcasters and publishers and placed on the Commission's website.

4.7 HOW-TO-VOTE CARDS FOR CANDIDATES

At the by-election, in line with previous NT and Commonwealth practice, the Commission offered to carry the how-to-vote cards of candidates as a service to electors who might require them to vote. This service was offered on an 'all care no responsibility' basis.

No candidate or party took up the offer.

5 STAFF

5.1 RECRUITMENT REQUIREMENTS

When the election was called, the Commission had a staff of seven, six of whom were in Darwin and one in Alice Springs. An additional 12 casual staff members and three seconded staff were subsequently employed to facilitate and support polling services and provide office support. The table below shows the number of staff employed for each election position.

Staff Classification	No. appointed
Mobile team leaders	5
Mobile polling team members	9
Pre election voting staff	5
Election awareness officers	3
Total	22*

** These 22 positions were filled by permanent, seconded and casual staff*

Casual and mobile polling staff are contracted for work under a Determination by the Commissioner for Public Employment, made on advice from the Electoral Commissioner. The mobile polling staff members' package is based on a daily rate in the field and a training component. Casual staff undertaking pre-election voting and general office duties receive payment based on an hourly rate.

As at the 2005 General Election, the recruitment of staff to undertake mobile polling was adversely affected by the competitive labour market in Alice Springs. As a consequence, it was necessary to second an experienced mobile polling team leader from the Australian Electoral Commission. All staff members undertaking mobile polling were required to sign a statement attesting to their political neutrality and agree to standard electoral principles. Formal training of all casual staff was undertaken prior to commencing duties.

5.2 MOBILE POLLING STAFF

Mobile polling takes place in a physically demanding environment and staff may need to deal with candidates and party workers in a sometimes highly charged situation. Mobile team leaders undertake the duties of officer-in-charge of a polling place with the additional tasks of moving safely and on time between polling locations, maintaining the security of materials, assisting voters and ensuring that they are able to cast their votes without hindrance in often makeshift polling places.

Although local recruits are employed to provide support to team members, mobile team leaders perform a particularly challenging and responsible task under sometimes trying conditions. The demands on mobile team leaders increase at by-elections because of the increased interest of parties and increased numbers of candidates.

Recruiting staff for the mobile polling teams for the by-election was difficult. Officers need to be away from a permanent job for periods of up to 10 days and be flexible and prepared to deal with any sensitive or challenging situation that may arise. The secondment of the experienced team leader from the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) overcame the difficulty in recruiting leaders for teams operating out of Alice Springs.

Vacancies were filled after reference to the NTEC and AEC staff records. This illustrates the need and desirability for the maintenance of a common pool of mobile polling officials and other key staff, under a joint training and annual review program.

NTEC ACTION ITEM 4

The NTEC will investigate the further development of a common, jointly maintained pool of trained mobile polling and other key staff with the AEC.

5.3 TRAINING

All casual staff received procedure manuals and, in some cases, home workbooks specific to their duties. Training materials and manuals were the same as those used for the 2005 General Election.

The Commission provided training for all mobile polling staff prior to the commencement of their duties.

Four training sessions, provided by permanent Commission staff, were held in Darwin and Alice Springs. Details of the program are provided in the table below.

Training Type	No. Officers	Training Sessions	Venue
Pre-polling	3	1 session	Darwin
	2	1 session	Alice Springs
Mobile polling	3	1 session	Darwin
	6	1 session	Alice Springs

Attracting sufficient and suitable staff was difficult in the tight timeframes of the election period and the NTEC will need to address the need for earlier recruitment, ongoing maintenance of staffing records and improved training, especially with respect to key personnel such as mobile team leaders and members.

6 SUPPORT SERVICES

6.1 SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

The Commission operates from Darwin and supports a one person office in Alice Springs. The Division of Stuart is serviced from Alice Springs and Katherine. For the by-election it was determined to service the VRD, Kalkaringi and Lajamanu area from Darwin and the remainder from Alice Springs. This decision required a relocation of staff resources to the southern region.

6.2 PREMISES

The Commission's joint office with the AEC in Alice Springs was able to accommodate some of the by-election operations as many of the additional personnel were working in the field. However, the count was conducted in the adjacent local government conference room as there was insufficient space available in the office.

The standard of premises at mobile polling places varies from community to community. Every endeavour is made by the Commission to poll at the best location, but because of prior bookings, this is not always possible.

6.3 IT AND COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

Satellite phones were again provided to mobile polling teams for the election. The effectiveness varied from team to team with some experiencing network connection problems. When operational, they allowed team leaders to relay progress at each stop, exchange information with home base and raise immediate concerns, including safety issues, with the Commission office.

6.3.1 ELECTION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (EMS) AND WEBSITE

As indicated in the report on the 2005 elections, electoral administrations rely heavily on their electronic Election Management System (EMS) to plan and implement elections. These systems cover all the key areas of planning and management, including finance, staffing, mobile polling scheduling, materials and equipment and results service. EMS integration with websites and various corporate reporting outputs eliminates error, duplication and research man-hours but are capabilities not currently offered by the NT EMS which is over a decade old.

During the election, the EMS generally operated to specification and was networked to users in the Commission's Darwin and Alice Springs offices. However, response times in Alice Springs were quite slow and this will need to be remedied prior to any major election in the southern region. It also needs to link to the website and to be upgraded in a number of areas.

NTEC ACTION ITEM 5

The Commission will seek resources to upgrade or replace its EMS and website.

6.4 FINANCIAL AND OFFICE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Since the set up of the Electoral Commission and the consequential changes to legislation and delegations, the Commission has become directly responsible for managing election finances, purchases and bookings, accounts processing and recruiting from its own resources. It does not process wages.

The by-election did not produce the workload of a general election, however purchasing and staffing arrangements did place significant demands on the finance function that are well above its normal financial management responsibilities.

7 FINANCE

7.1 OVERALL EXPENDITURE

Expenditure for the election was \$109 894. Nearly 40% was allocated to employee expenses (not including ongoing salaries) and 60% to operating expenses eg travel (\$28 298), advertising and promotion (\$12 440) and vehicle hire and fuel (\$17 478).

The cost of the by-election of \$24.78 per enrolled elector needs to be assessed against the considerable costs of mobile polling and travel associated with conducting an election in a vast, remote area of the southern region of the Territory.

STUART BY-ELECTION COSTS

EMPLOYEE EXPENSES	\$
Permanent Staff Overtime Costs	9 699
Polling Official Costs	33 087
Payroll Tax/Super & Other Staff Costs	714
SUBTOTAL	43 500
OPERATIONAL EXPENSES	\$
Property/ Premises Hire	518
Communications (Postage, Phones Etc)	3 237
Printing	1 271
Marketing & Promotion (Advertising, Publicity Etc)	12 440
Equipment (Stationary, Consumables Etc)	242
Travel (Airfares, TA, Accommodation, Charters Etc)	28 298
Vehicles (Hire, Fuel, Etc)	17 478
Other (Freight, Insurance, Legal, Various Miscellaneous Etc)	2 910
SUBTOTAL	66 394
TOTAL	109 894

Note: The above costs do not include the notional costs of approximately \$40 000 (comprising \$20 000 for payroll processing and \$20 000 for recruitment processing charges) by the government service provider Department of Corporate and Information Services.

7.2 STAFF COSTS

Expenditure, including travelling allowances, payroll tax and superannuation for mobile polling teams and office casuals for the counting centre, pre-poll centres and postal vote processing amounted to \$43 500. The nine casual staff employed as mobile polling members were paid a standard daily rate for their time in the field. The remainder of mobile polling staff were permanent staff of the NT Commission with the exception of one seconded AEC officer.

Some additional costs associated with election awareness were incurred by officers travelling ahead of the mobile team and the follow up of non voters. These positions were filled by permanent officers of the Australian and NT Electoral Commissions, but were incorporated in their normal course of their duties at no cost wherever possible.

7.3 OPERATING COSTS

Television and radio were the preferred advertising mediums at the by-election for the promotion of enrolment and voting messages into remote communities. The cost of advertising was \$12 440 or 11.3% of election costs.

As all polling places were serviced by mobile polling teams, travel and vehicle costs were substantial at \$28 298 (25.8%) and \$17 474 (15.9%) respectively.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

The period between the issue of the writ and polling day be extended by a week and the period from the issue of the writ to the close of the electoral roll be extended to seven days.

Recommendation 2

As previously recommended in the Report on the 2005 Legislative Assembly elections, it is considered that the *Electoral Act* should be amended to allow the draw for positions on the ballot paper to be conducted at sites determined by the Electoral Commissioner.

Recommendation 3

It is recommended that the *Electoral Act* be amended to allow the roll, as at roll close, to be made available to all candidates, subject to an appropriate undertaking being made by the candidate that its use will be restricted to the election period only.

NTEC ACTION ITEMS

NTEC ACTION ITEM 1

At future by-elections, as part of its remote area program, the NTEC will provide an officer to travel ahead of each mobile team to undertake public awareness activities.

NTEC ACTION ITEM 2

The NTEC will critically review the location and scheduling of town camps in the mobile polling program prior to the next election.

NTEC ACTION ITEM 3

The NTEC will explore options to improve ways to communicate with candidates and party organisations at future elections.

NTEC ACTION ITEM 4

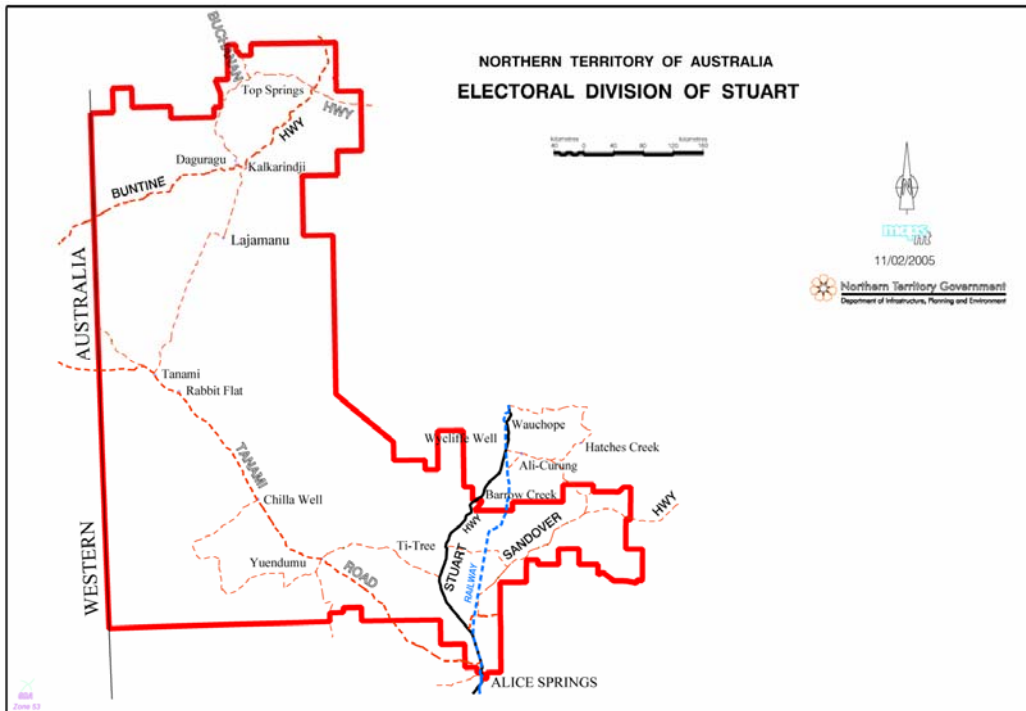
The NTEC will investigate the further development of a common, jointly maintained pool of trained mobile polling and other key staff with the AEC.

NTEC ACTION ITEM 5

The Commission will seek resources to upgrade or replace its EMS and website.

9 DIVISION PROFILE AND ELECTION RESULTS

PROFILE

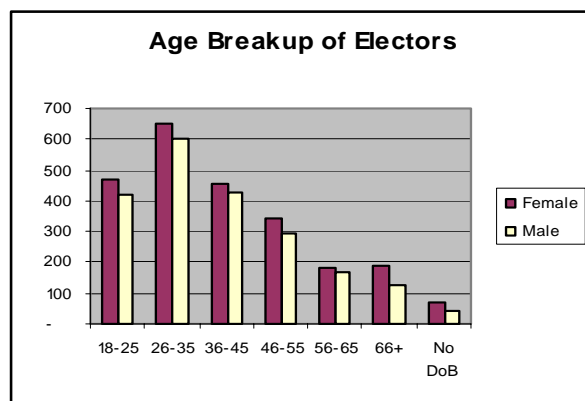


Geographic Classification: Rural
District Area: 326 959.59 sq km

POLLING LOCATIONS

- | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| <p>Mobile 1
 Daguragu
 Kalkaringi
 Kalano Community
 Katherine Hospital
 Lajamanu
 Lingarra
 Pigeon Hole
 Top Springs
 Victoria River Downs
 Walpiri Camp
 Yarralin</p> | <p>Mobile 2
 Akaye
 Ampilatwatja
 Ankerrapw
 Antarringinya
 Arawerr
 Arlparra
 Atheleye
 Atnarara
 Atneltyey
 Atnwengerrpe
 Camel Camp
 Inkawenyerre</p> | <p>Inkwelaye
 Irrultja
 Iylentye
 Pungalindem
 Three Mile Camp
 Urapuntja Clinic</p> <p>Mobile 3
 Alkupitja
 Alyuen
 Artekerre
 Laramba
 Nturiya</p> | <p>Nyrippi
 Pmara Jutunta
 Ti Tree
 Turner's Camp
 Willowra Stn
 Wilora
 Yanginj
 Yuelamu
 Yuendumu</p> <p>Mobile 4
 Alice Springs Hospital
 Alice Springs Renal Unit</p> | <p>Anmatyerre
 Braiting School
 Charles Creek
 Golders
 Hidden Valley
 Motor Bike Camp
 Mt Nancy Camp
 Palmer's Camp
 Walpri Camp</p> <p>Mobile 5
 Tara
 Tennant Creek</p> |
|--|---|---|--|---|

Electors as at the Close of Roll		
Female	2 364	53.3%
Male	2 070	46.7%
Total	4 434	



ELECTION RESULTS

Number of electors at close of roll: 4434
 Formal votes: 2065 *86.4%*
 Informal votes: 324 *13.6%*
 Total ballot papers counted: 2389 *53.9% of electors voting*

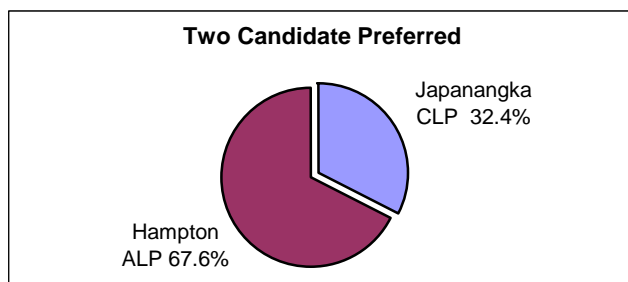
Polling Place/ Declaration Type	1st Preference Votes for each Candidate							Ballot Papers Counted		
	SPENCER- NELSON (CLP)	DE SOUSA MACHADO (IND)	CARTWRIGHT (IND)	JAPANANGKA (CLP)	HAMPTON (ALP)	WILSON (IND)	Formal	Informal	Total	
Mobile 1	20	8	133	127	290	8	586	71	657	
Mobile 2	18	3	100	13	231	4	369	56	425	
Mobile 3	76	93	38	55	455	5	722	147	869	
*Mobile 4 (278 votes)										
*Mobile 5 (2 votes)	33	34	8	18	146	3	242	38	280	
Polling Place Totals	147	138	279	213	1122	20	1919	312	2231	
Pre Poll	15	17	1	5	48	1	87	11	98	
Postal	22	2	5	14	4	0	47	0	47	
Declaration	2	0	2	1	6	1	12	1	13	
Declaration Totals	39	19	8	20	58	2	146	12	158	
Total Ballot Papers Counted	186	157	287	233	1180	22	2065	324	2389	
%	9.0	7.6	13.9	11.3	57.1	1.1	86.4	13.6	100.0	

*Combined count to protect secrecy of the ballot

Full Distribution of Preferences

Absolute majority required: 1033 votes

Distribution details	1st Preference Votes for each Candidate							Formal
	SPENCER- NELSON (CLP)	DE SOUSA MACHADO (IND)	CARTWRIGHT (IND)	JAPANANGKA (CLP)	HAMPTON (ALP)	WILSON (IND)	Ballot Papers	
1st preference votes	186	157	287	233	1180	22	2065	
Wilson excluded (22)	2	3	3	2	12	-22		
Progressive Total	188	160	290	235	1192	0	2065	
De Sousa Machado excluded (160)	70	-160	19	47	24			
Progressive Total	258	0	309	282	1216	0	2065	
Spencer-Nelson excluded (258)	-258	0	84	138	36			
Progressive Total	0	0	393	420	1252	0	2065	
Cartwright excluded (393)	0	0	-393	249	144			
TOTAL VOTES	0	0	0	669	1396	0	2065	
%				32.4	67.6			



Result

Karl Hampton
Australian Labor Party

elected as member for
 Division of Stuart
 by an absolute majority on primary
 votes

Previous Members	Party	Period
K R Hampton	ALP	2006 - Present
P H Toyne	ALP	1996 – 2006
B R Ede	ALP	1983 – 1996

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A – TELEVISION AND RADIO SCRIPTS

<p style="text-align: center;">TV & Radio Script Close of Rolls: Stuart By-Election</p>

Do you live in the Division of Stuart which includes certain outskirts of Alice, Kalkaringi, Lajamanu, Yarralin, Arlparra, Utopia, Yuendumu, Nyrippi and nearby communities?

Rolls for the NT by-election close at 8pm on Thursday.

Enrolment forms may be picked up from post offices, community council offices or downloaded from the internet. Forms may be faxed through to the Electoral Commission.

Phone 13 23 26 for more information - that's 13 23 26

Authorised by Bill Shephard, NT Electoral Commission, Darwin

<p style="text-align: center;">TV & Radio Script Mobile Polling: Stuart By-Election</p>

Do you live in the Division of Stuart which includes certain north and north-eastern outskirts of Alice Springs, Kalkaringi, Lajamanu, Yarralin, Arlparra, Utopia, Yuendumu, Nyrippi and nearby communities?

Mobile polling arrangements in the Stuart By-Election are now available.

See the local press, posters at Community Council offices or you can call 1800 019 159 for details.

Details will also be updated regularly on the electoral commission website www.ntec.nt.gov.au

Remember, voting is compulsory.

Authorised by Bill Shephard, NT Electoral Commission, Darwin

APPENDIX B – MOBILE POLLING SCHEDULES BY TEAM

Team, Division & Location	Date	Polling Time	
		From	To
Team 1			
Lajamanu	Monday, September 18, 2006	8am	2:30pm
Kalkaringi	Tuesday, September 19, 2006	8:30am	12 noon
Daguragu	Tuesday, September 19, 2006	2pm	4:30pm
Pigeon Hole	Wednesday, September 20, 2006	9:30am	11am
Top Springs	Wednesday, September 20, 2006	2pm	2:30pm
Victoria River Downs	Wednesday, September 20, 2006	6pm	7pm
Lingara	Thursday, September 21, 2006	8:30am	9:15am
Yarralin	Thursday, September 21, 2006	11am	1:30pm
Walpri Camp (Katherine)	Friday, September 22, 2006	8am	8:45am
Kalano Community (Katherine)	Friday, September 22, 2006	9:30am	10:15am
Katherine Hospital	Friday, September 22, 2006	10:15am	12:15pm
Team 2			
Ampilatwatja	Monday, September 18, 2006	8am	12 noon
Atnwengerrpe	Monday, September 18, 2006	1.30pm	2.15pm
Irrultja (Irrwelly)	Monday, September 18, 2006	3.30pm	5pm
Camel Camp Community	Tuesday, September 19, 2006	8.45am	9.45am
Ankerrapw (Utopia)	Tuesday, September 19, 2006	10.45am	11.15am
Three Mile Camp	Tuesday, September 19, 2006	12.15pm	1pm
Atneltyey (Boundary Bore)	Tuesday, September 19, 2006	2.15pm	3.15pm
Pungalindem (Alparrinya)	Tuesday, September 19, 2006	4pm	5pm
Antarringinya (Indaringinya)	Wednesday, September 20, 2006	9.15am	10.15am
Inkawenyerre (New Camp)	Wednesday, September 20, 2006	11.30am	12.30pm
Urapuntja Clinic	Wednesday, September 20, 2006	1.30pm	2.30pm
Atheleye	Wednesday, September 20, 2006	3.15pm	4.15pm
Alpara	Thursday, September 21, 2006	8am	12 noon
Ilyentye (Mosquito Bore)	Thursday, September 21, 2006	1pm	2pm
Atnarara (Soakage Bore)	Thursday, September 21, 2006	3pm	4pm
Inkwelaye (Kurrajong Bore)	Friday, September 22, 2006	9am	10am
Arawerr (Soapy Bore)	Friday, September 22, 2006	11am	12 noon
Akaye (Mulga Bore)	Friday, September 22, 2006	2pm	3.30pm
Team 3			
Yuendumu	Thursday, September 14, 2006	10am	4pm
Yuelamu	Friday, September 15, 2006	8:45am	10:45am
Laramba	Friday, September 15, 2006	1:45pm	3:45pm
Turner's Camp (Sandy Bore)	Monday, September 18, 2006	8.30am	9.30am
Artekerre (Harry Creek)	Monday, September 18, 2006	11am	12 noon
Alkupitja (Gillen Bore)	Monday, September 18, 2006	1.30pm	2pm
Alyuen (Aileron Station)	Monday, September 18, 2006	3.30pm	4pm
Willowra Station	Tuesday, September 19, 2006	10.15am	12.45pm
Yanginj (Anningie)	Tuesday, September 19, 2006	3pm	3.30pm
Wilora	Wednesday, September 20, 2006	8.15am	9.45am

Team, Division & Location	Date	Polling Time	
		From	To
Nturiya	Wednesday, September 20, 2006	11.45am	1.15pm
Pmara Jutunta	Wednesday, September 20, 2006	2.45pm	4.30pm
Ti Tree	Thursday, September 21, 2006	8am	10.30am
Nyrippi	Friday, September 22, 2006	9.30am	12.30pm
Yuendumu	Friday, September 22, 2006	3pm	3.30pm
Team 4			
Golders Camp (Ilpeye Ilpeye)	Thursday, September 14, 2006	8am	8.30am
Mt Nancy Camp	Friday, September 15, 2006	8am	9am
Walpiri Camp (Ilpere Tyathe)	Saturday, September 16, 2006	8am	10am
Charles Creek (Anthelk-Ewjpaye)	Monday, September 18, 2006	8am	10am
Hidden Valley (Ewyenper Atwatye)	Tuesday, September 19, 2006	8am	10am
Anmatyerre (Lhenpe-Artuwe)	Wednesday, September 20, 2006	8am	8.30am
Alice Springs Renal Unit	Wednesday, September 20, 2006	11am	2.30pm
Motorbike Camp (Irrkerlantye)	Thursday, September 21, 2006	8am	8.30am
Alice Springs Renal Unit	Thursday, September 21, 2006	11am	2.30pm
Palmers Camp (Aper-Alwerrkng)	Friday, September 22, 2006	8am	8.30am
Alice Springs Hospital	Friday, September 22, 2006	10am	2pm
Braitling Primary School	Saturday, September 23, 2006	8am	6pm
Team 5			
Tara Community	Friday, September 22, 2006	3pm	3.30pm
Tennant Creek	Saturday, September 23, 2006	10am	12 noon

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