

2024 Groote Archipelago Regional Council (GARC) election

FAQs

Why was the 2024 Groote Archipelago Regional Council (GARC) election date changed?

On 18 October 2024, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Community Development gazetted a change to the general election date for the GARC, moving it to 15 March 2025. This change allowed for further consultation with community leaders and members about introducing ward representation.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development conducted this consultation in November 2024.

What was the outcome of the consultation?

On 13 January 2025, the Minister gazetted the creation of 3 wards for the GARC:

| Ward | Major communities and family outstations |
|--------------|---|
| East Ward | Umbakumba, Akwalirrumanja, Alyingberrma, Amanburnunga, Amirraba, Angwura, Darrangmurmanja, Mawulyumanja and Scott Point |
| Central Ward | Angurugu, Bardalumba, Malkala, Ngadumiyerrka, Wurrumenbumanja, Yanbakwa and Yedikba |
| West Ward | Milyakburra |

A detailed map of the new wards is available [here](#).

How many members will be elected for each ward?

- East Ward: 2 councillors.
- Central Ward: 3 councillors.
- West Ward: 2 councillors.

What does the creation of wards mean for candidates for the GARC election?

Candidates must submit a nomination form and indicate the ward they want to contest. While candidates do not need to be enrolled in the ward they are nominating for, they must be enrolled in the GARC area.

Both previous and new candidates are eligible to nominate. The NT Electoral Commission (NTEC) will contact all previous candidates with updated information.

What happens to the candidates who previously nominated in the GARC election?

Candidates who previously nominated must submit a new nomination form and specify the ward they intend to contest.

The NTEC will contact all previous candidates to provide updated information about the election and the new nomination requirements. Both previous and new candidates are eligible to nominate for the upcoming election.

When do nominations open?

Nominations open Friday 31 January and close at 12 noon on Thursday 20 February.

What are the key dates for the 2025 GARC election?

- Close of electoral roll: 5pm on Tuesday 11 February 2025.
- Early voting: Starts Monday 3 March 2025.
- Mobile voting: Starts Monday 10 March 2025.
- Election day: Saturday 15 March 2025.
- Postal vote applications: Open now, postal votes will be mailed out from Monday 24 February 2025.
- Declaration of results: Monday 31 March 2025.

How will electors know which ward they are enrolled to vote in?

The NTEC is working with the Australian Electoral Commission to apply the new ward boundaries to the electoral roll. Maps of the ward boundaries will help electors identify their ward before the close of the electoral roll.

Who can vote in the 2025 GARC election?

Electors who are enrolled in the GARC area can vote.

Residents can check their enrolment details now by visiting the [NTEC website](#) or contacting the NT Electoral Commission on 1800 698 683 or email ntec@nt.gov.au