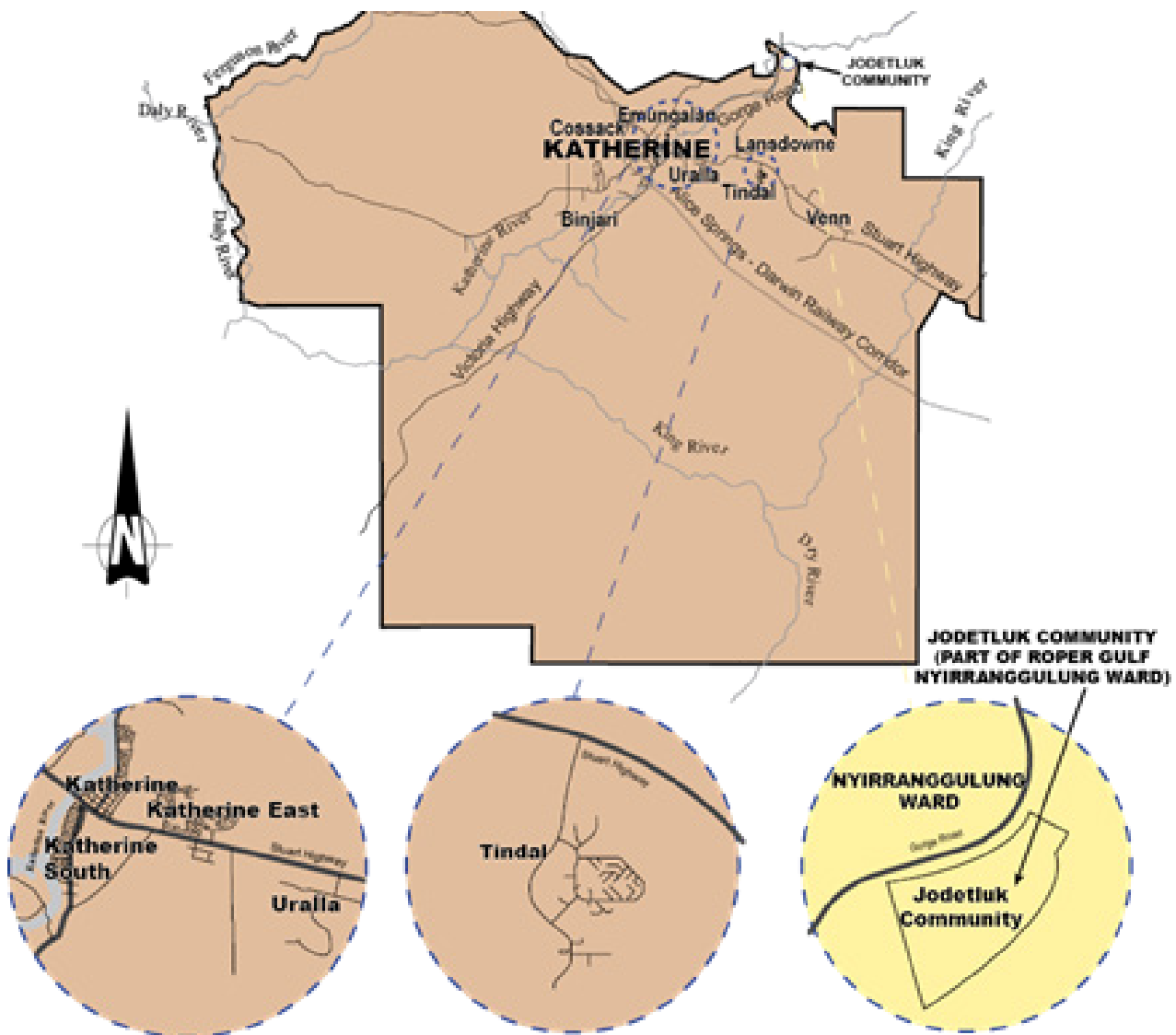




KATHERINE
TOWN COUNCIL

Katherine Town Council Election Report



Document version control

Version	Description	Date
1.0	Draft	16/01/2025
1.1	Final version: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- added information to election outcomes section- added Appendix A- minor edits and formatting changes	25/02/2026

Disclaimer

Copyright © 2025. This document may not be reproduced without permission. This document is controlled and has been released electronically. The version the NTEC website is the up to date document. Hard copies are uncontrolled and may not be up to date. Users of hard copies should confirm the revision by comparing it with the electronically controlled version

The latest version is accessible via the NTEC website at ntec.nt.gov.au.

2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Katherine Town 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 **KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL** included the following elections:

- **Election of mayor – 1 position**
- **Election of councillors – 6 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	Friday 5 September
Distribution of preferences (final count)	
Declaration of election results	Monday 8 September
Campaign donation returns due	Saturday 1 November

ENROLMENT

There were 6,852 Katherine Town Council electors eligible to vote in the 2025 Local Government Elections.

This is an increase of 531 electors (or 8.4%) from the previous general elections held in 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.

Large banners

Large-format banners promoted enrolment, early voting and election day across major council sites, with placements rotated to match key messages.

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

The following candidate information sessions were held in the Katherine Town Council chambers:

- 12 noon, Monday 30 June 2025
- 5:00 pm, Monday 30 June 2025
- 5:00 pm, Tuesday 22 July 2026

Nominations for Katherine Town Council elections included:

- 25 accepted nominations across all elections
- 6 dual candidates (who nominated for both mayor and councillor elections)
- one withdrawn nomination
- no rejected nominations.

Election	Accepted nominations (candidates)
MAYOR (one vacancy)	Cristian COMAN
	Wayne CONNOP
	Amanda KINGDON
	Jon RAYNOR
	Joanna HOLDEN
	Mel DOYLE
	Anjali PALMER
COUNCILLOR (6 vacancies)	Peter McDOUGALL
	Kathy GLASS
	Cristian COMAN
	Kathryn WHITEHOUSE
	Toni Tapp COUTTS
	Jim KING
	Ron GREEN
	Anjali PALMER
	Wayne CONNOP
	Lee FORTMANN
	Mel DOYLE
	Amanda KINGDON
	Kerrie MOTT
Jon RAYNOR	

	Matt HURLEY
	Dirk AMBJERG
	Ian David CLARK
	Matt MORTON

Age and gender of candidates:

GENDER	Male	Female
Mayor	3	4
Councillor	11	7

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

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

VOTING SERVICES

Postal voting

- Postal vote applications received 283
- Postal votes issued 270
- Postal vote applications rejected 13
- Postal votes returned 231
- Postal votes admitted to the count 174
- Postal votes rejected 57

Note: the number of votes admitted does not always equate to the number of votes recorded as postal votes in results webpage, as this often includes missorted ballot papers.

The reasons for rejecting postal vote applications were:

- Multiple applications received from same elector (8)
- Insufficient/undeliverable postal address (3)
- Application received too late (1)
- Not enrolled (1)

The reasons for rejecting (returned) postal votes were:

- Ordinary vote issued (28)
- Postal vote received after deadline (9)
- Returned to sender (8)
- Postal vote certificate dated after election day (6)
- Postal vote certificate not signed (6)

Early voting

Early voting centre	Votes issued
Alice Springs	10
Casuarina	12
Coolalinga	20
Darwin	12
Katherine	2,840
Palmerston	10
TOTAL	2,904

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 Katherine urban mobile team 45
- Number of votes issued by the Darwin urban mobile team 54
- Number of votes issued by the Alice Springs urban mobile team 4

Election day voting

Election day voting centre	Votes issued
Alice Springs	3
Casuarina	11
Coolalinga	9
Darwin	11
Katherine*	408
Palmerston	8
Tindal*	91
TOTAL	541

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

*Voting centre located within council area

Declaration voting

- Total number of declaration votes issued 29
- Declaration votes admitted to the count 26
- Declaration votes rejected from the count 3

The reasons for rejecting declaration votes were:

- Enrolled in a different council area (3)

ELECTION OUTCOMES

Results: Election of mayor

Candidate	First preference votes
Cristian COMAN	241
Wayne CONNOP	441
Amanda KINGDON	376
Jon RAYNOR	226
Joanna HOLDEN	1,402
Mel DOYLE	476
Anjali PALMER	389
TOTAL	3,551

- Quota required to be elected: 1,776
- Joanna HOLDEN elected as mayor at count 6 (2,288 votes)
- A full distribution of preferences table is provided at Appendix A

Results: Election of councillors

Candidate	First preference votes
Peter McDOUGALL	151
Kathy GLASS	155
Cristian COMAN	80
Kathryn WHITEHOUSE	568
Toni Tapp COUTTS	305
Jim KING	523
Ron GREEN	167
Anjali PALMER	220
Wayne CONNOP	205
Lee FORTMANN	111
Mel DOYLE	254
Amanda KINGDON	144
Kerrie MOTT	61
Jon RAYNOR	75
Matt HURLEY	43
Dirk AMBJERG	52
Ian David CLARK	43
Matt MORTON	95
TOTAL	3,252

- Quota required to be elected: 465

- Elected councillors:
Kathryn WHITEHOUSE elected at count 1
Jim KING elected at count 1
Mel DOYLE elected at count 171
Toni Tapp COUTTS elected at count 197
Kathy GLASS elected at count 236
Anjali PALMER elected at count 274
- The full distribution of preferences for the councillor election is available on the NTEC website.

Voter turnout

Based on the number of votes counted in the mayor election, the voter turnout rate was 54.7%. This compares to 56.9% at the previous general election in 2021.

Informality

Election	No. of candidates	Total votes	Informal votes	%
Mayor	7	3,748	197	5.3%
Councillor	18	3,749	497	13.3%

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 Katherine Town Council candidates submitted a campaign donation return for the 2025 Local Government Elections.

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

ELECTION COSTS

Expense category	Estimate \$	Actual \$
Advertising	31,898.06	14,122.46
Corporate	344.60	168.33
Destruction/rubbish removal	301.89	49.72

2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Information technology	6,313.55	4,358.05
Materials	5,945.47	4,458.22
Postage	3,680.20	3,177.36
Premises	5,680.90	565.29
Staff travel/accommodation/reimbursements	11,702.19	11,110.69
Staff wages	71,992.31	64,070.29
Vehicle hire/charter	2,268.08	880.33
Sub-total	140,127.24	102,960.74
GST (10%)	14,012.72	10,296.07
TOTAL	\$ 154,139.96	\$ 113,256.81



Appendix A

Distribution of preferences - Election of mayor

Count	Comments	Cristian COMAN	Wayne CONNOP	Amanda KINGDON	Jon RAYNOR	Joanna HOLDEN	Mel DOYLE	Anjali PALMER	Total
1	First preferences	241	441	376	226	1,402	476	389	3,551
2	Jon RAYNOR excluded Progressive	35 276	38 479	35 411	-226 0	52 1,454	37 513	29 418	0 3,551
3	Cristian COMAN excluded Progressive	-276 0	117 596	50 461	0 0	36 1,490	52 565	21 439	0 3,551
4	Anjali PALMER excluded Progressive	0 0	124 720	53 514	0 0	110 1,600	152 717	-439 0	0 3,551
5	Amanda KINGDON excluded Progressive	0 0	150 870	-514 0	0 0	158 1,758	206 923	0 0	0 3,551
6	Wayne CONNOP excluded Progressive	0 0	-870 0	0 0	0 0	530 2,288	340 1,263	0 0	0 3,551

Quota to be elected: 1,776

Joanna HOLDEN elected at count 6



Northern Territory Electoral Commission

EVERY vote counts

ntec@nt.gov.au

1800 698 683

ntec.gov.au