



**IN THIS ISSUE**

1. Federal election 2016
2. Enrolment
3. Enrolment stimulation
4. Find my electoral area
5. Electronic ballot draws
6. Recount policy

**ATTACHMENTS | LINKS**

- ◆ [Postal vote application \(federal\)](#)
- ◆ [Senate practise voting tool](#)
- ◆ [Find my electoral area](#)
- ◆ [NT Atlas/Spatial data directory](#)
- ◆ [Raffle master](#)
- ◆ [Recount policy](#)

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**1. Federal election 2016**

TIMETABLE		
Activity	Date	Time
Issue of writ	Monday 16 May 2016	
Close of electoral roll	Monday 23 May 2016	8:00 pm
Close of nominations (bulk)	Tuesday 7 June 2016	12:00 noon
Close of nominations (single)	Thursday 9 June 2016	12:00 noon
Declaration of nominations	Friday 10 June 2016	12:00 noon
Early voting commences	Wednesday 15 June 2016	
Mobile voting commences	Monday 20 June 2016	
Close of postal vote applications	Wednesday 29 June 2016	6:00 pm
<b>Election day</b>	<b>Saturday 2 July 2016</b>	<b>8:00 am to 6:00 pm</b>
Last day for receipt of postal votes	Friday 15 July 2016	6:00 pm
Return of writ (latest date)	Monday 8 August 2016	

The Prime Minister announced the 2016 federal election will be held on Saturday 2 July 2016 with the writ being issued on Monday 16 May 2016. The electoral roll closes at 8:00 pm Monday 23 May 2016 and voters are encouraged to enrol [online](#) for their current address. Anyone unsure of their enrolled address can check their details at [aec.gov.au](http://aec.gov.au) or call 13 23 26.

[Postal vote applications](#) are now available on the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) website; criteria apply. Early voting centres will open from Wednesday 15 June and mobile voting teams commence from Monday 20 June 2016.

The AEC is planning to run an extensive public information campaign on the Senate voting method, including national advertising. Clear instructions will be included on the Senate ballot paper, advising voters how to record a formal vote under the new rules. Further information and a Senate practise voting tool can be found [here](#).

**2. Enrolment**

The following table shows enrolment for the 25 divisions as at 30 April 2016.

Division	Enrolment	Division	Enrolment	Division	Enrolment
Arafura	4 637	Drysdale	5 498	Nhulunbuy	5 490
Araluen	5 568	Fannie Bay	5 511	Nightcliff	5 282
Arnhem	4 902	Fong Lim	5 189	Port Darwin	4 979
Barkly	4 895	Goyder	5 286	Sanderson	5 503
Blain	5 413	Johnston	4 980	Spillett	4 683
Braitling	5 638	Karama	5 183	Stuart	4 984
Brennan	5 171	Katherine	4 985	Wanguri	5 263
Casuarina	5 394	Namatjira	5 136		
Daly	5 043	Nelson	5 338		
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>129 951</b>

### 3. Enrolment stimulation

The first phase of the NTEC's election advertising campaign encouraged Territorians to enrol online. On 11 April 2016 a three-week enrolment drive commenced, with advertising taking place via television, radio, print and social media. The key message conveyed throughout the enrolment campaign was - 'Got an opinion? Make it count. Enrol to vote'.

In addition, the campaign includes a Facebook promotion where electors will be automatically entered into a draw to win an iPad mini 4 when they enrol online.

As a result of this initial enrolment awareness campaign, it is pleasing to note the following:

- Over 1600 electors enrolled online during April, an increase of 500 compared to March.
- A higher enrolment uptake amongst the 19-34 year old age groups.

The July federal election will generate increased enrolment and improve the accuracy of the electoral roll.

### 4. Find my electoral area



The electoral boundaries determined at the 2015 redistribution have been updated on the [find my electoral area function](#) on the Territory election website.

Type an address into the search box and the system will show the LA division, Council area, Council ward and Federal electorate, as well as indicate that address on a google map.

#### NT Atlas and Spatial Data Directory

[NT ATLAS](#) is a resource created and maintained by the Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment. It contains the new electoral boundaries that can be overlaid against more detailed mapping information; including ABS boundaries.

### 5. Electronic ballot draws (Random number generators)

Consideration is being given to use an electronic number generator to conduct the ballot draws for the election rather than the traditional barrel draw. The barrel draw uses written slips, balls, a rotating barrel and a blindfolded assistant. This is time consuming with each element of the process described to the audience as it happens and it necessitates preparation delays between division draws.

An electronic random number generation system would significantly reduce the time taken to decide ballot draw positions. The draw would still occur at a public event where witnesses could view the draw taking place on a large display unit. Using an electronic ballot draw would enable the draws for the Top End divisions to be conducted in Darwin and the Central Australian divisions in Alice Springs. The equipment under consideration is the [Raffle Master](#) offered by BSG Australia.

The ACT Electoral Commission has used this unit since 1998 for their random order draws. It is a self-contained system that does not require a network connection, PC or tablet for it to operate. The Commission is keen to incorporate appropriate technology to modernise electoral processes and seeks feedback on this proposed change to electronic ballot draws.

Please email feedback to [jain.loganathan@nt.gov.au](mailto:jain.loganathan@nt.gov.au) by **3 June 2016**.

### 6. Recount policy

The [recount policy](#) is now available on the [2016 Territory election website](#). This policy is further guidance to the recount clause in section 130 of the *NT Electoral Act*.

The policy states that before a request for a recount is considered, it needs to identify specific ballot papers and associated significant counting process errors or irregularities that could change the result of an election within a division, unless the margin of votes is 100 or less, in which case a recount will be undertaken at the Commission's initiative as stated under section 130(2) (b) of the *Act*.