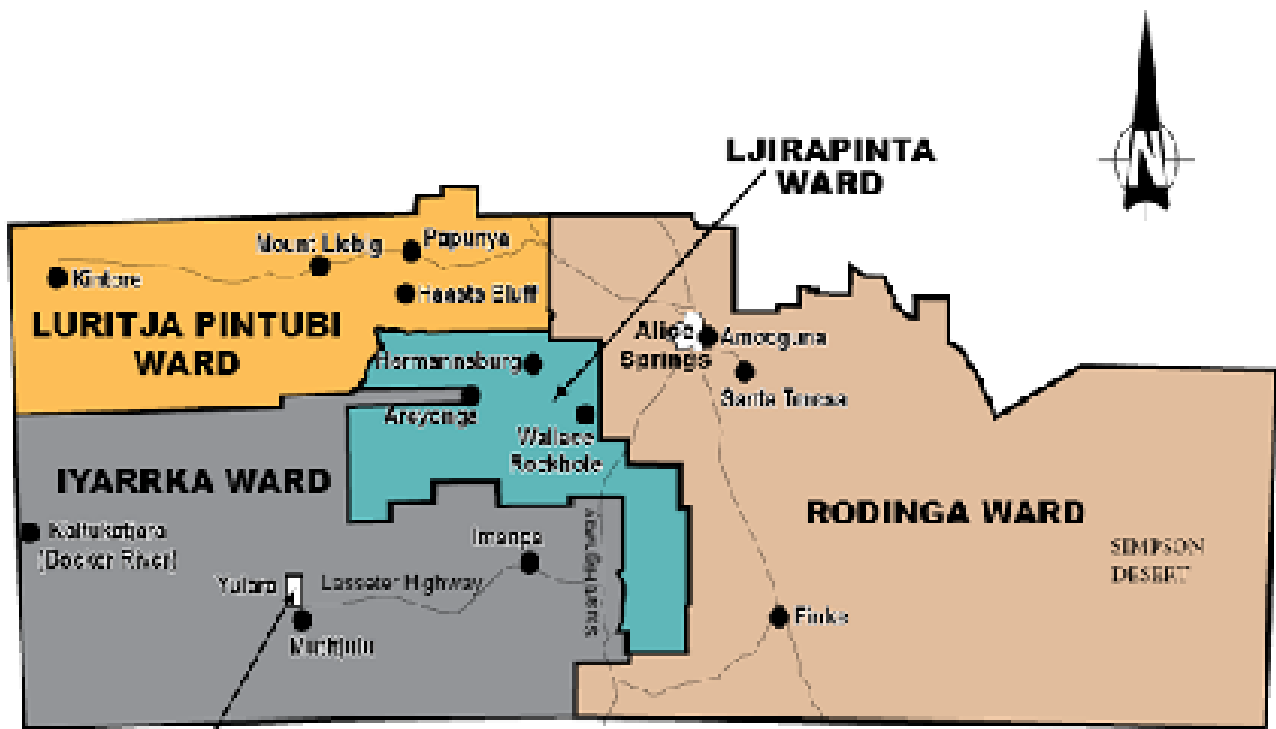


2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS



MacDonnell Regional Council Election Report



NOTE: Electors residing in Yulara are **NOT** required to vote as this area is unincorporated. For further information contact the NTEC.



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

MacDonnell 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 **MACDONNELL REGIONAL COUNCIL** included the following elections:

- Election of Iyarrka Ward councillors – 2 positions
- Election of Ljirapinta councillors – 3 positions
- Election of Luritja Pintubi Ward councillors – 3 positions
- Election of Rodinga Ward councillors – 4 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 3,965 MacDonnell Regional Council electors eligible to vote in the 2025 Local Government Elections.

This is an increase of 424 electors (or 12.0%) from the previous general elections held in 2021.

Elector numbers by ward:

- Iyarrka Ward: 892 (up 14.9% from 2021)
- Ljirapinta Ward: 683 (up 4.9% from 2021)
- Luritja Pintubi Ward: 1,120 (up 7.7% from 2021)
- Rodinga Ward: 1,270 (up 18.2% from 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.

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

Nominations for MacDonnell Regional Council elections included:

- 15 accepted nominations across all wards
- 4 rejected nominations (not enrolled in MacDonnell Regional Council (3), nominator not enrolled in MacDonnell Regional Council (1))
- no withdrawn nominations.

Election	Accepted nominations (candidates)
IYARRKA WARD (2 vacancies)	Peter WILSON
	Abraham POULSON
	Marlene ABBOTT
	Lyle KENNY
LJIRAPINTA WARD (3 vacancies)	Mark INKAMALA
	Maryanne MALBUNKA
	Roxanne KENNY
	Conrad RATARA
LURITJA PINTUBI WARD (3 vacancies)	Tommy CONWAY
	Lynn WARD
	Dalton McDONALD
	Garrard ANDERSON
RODINGA WARD (4 vacancies)	Veronica LYNCH KINGWARRAYE
	Patrick ALLEN
	Andrew DAVIS

Age and gender of candidates:

GENDER	Male	Female
All wards	10	5

AGE	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
All wards	-	-	1	5	8	1

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

VOTING SERVICES

Postal voting

- Postal vote applications received 84
- Postal votes issued 48
- Postal vote applications rejected 36
- Postal votes returned 20
- Postal votes admitted to the count 12
- Postal votes rejected 8

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 paper or may include missorted ballot papers.

The reasons for rejecting postal vote applications were:

- Uncontested election/no election (34)
- Multiple applications received from same elector (1)
- Cancelled on request of elector (1)

The reasons for rejecting (returned) postal votes were:

- Ordinary vote issued (3)
- Postal vote received after deadline (3)
- Postal vote certificate dated after election day (2)

Remote mobile voting

Mobile Team MacDonnell 1:

Date	Time	Community	Location	Votes issued
Tuesday 12 August	10:00am - 2:30pm	Kintore	Council office	34
Wednesday 13 August	12:30pm - 2:30pm	Haasts Bluff	Council office	8
Thursday 14 August	8:15am - 12:15pm	Papunya	Council office	121
	2:00pm - 4:30pm	Mt Liebig	Council office	
Friday 15 August	9:15am - 10:00am	Mbunghara	Community	4
TOTAL				167

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

Mobile Team MacDonnell 2:

Date	Time	Community	Location	Votes issued
Wednesday 13 August	10:30am – 3:30pm	Hermannsburg	Recreation Hall	73
Thursday 14 August	10:30am – 12:00pm	Wallace Rockhole	Council office	13
Friday 15 August	10:00am – 1:00pm	Areyonga	Council office	52
Monday 18 August	11:00am – 1:00pm	Imanpa	Council office	10
Tuesday 19 August	9:00am – 11:30am	Mutitjulu	Recreation Hall	6
Wednesday 20 August	10:30am – 11:15am	Kings Canyon	Resort Boardroom	2
Thursday 21 August	10:00am – 2:00pm	Kaltukatjara	Council office	17
TOTAL				173

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

Early voting

Early voting centre	Votes issued
Alice Springs	42
Casuarina	-
Coolalinga	-
Darwin	-
Katherine	-
Palmerston	-
TOTAL	42

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 Alice Springs urban mobile team 28
- Number of votes issued by the Darwin urban mobile team 4

Election day voting

Election day voting centre	Votes issued
Alice Springs	3
Casuarina	1

Coolalinga	-
Darwin	-
Katherine	-
Palmerston	-
TOTAL	4

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

Declaration voting

- Total number of declaration votes issued 7
- Declaration votes admitted to the count 1
- Declaration votes rejected from the count 6

The reasons for rejecting declaration votes were:

- Incorrectly issued (5)
- Enrolled in a different council area (1)

ELECTION OUTCOMES

Results: Election of councillors – Iyarrka Ward

Candidate	First preference votes
Peter WILSON	38
Abraham POULSON	24
Marlene ABBOTT	13
Lyle KENNY	16
TOTAL	91

- Quota required to be elected: 31
- Elected councillors:
Peter WILSON elected at count 1
Abraham POULSON elected at count 3
- The full distribution of preferences for the Iyarrka Ward election is available on the NTEC website.

Results: Election of councillors – Ljirapinta Ward

Candidate	First preference votes
Mark INKAMALA	20
Maryanne MALBUNKA	32

Roxanne KENNY	35
Conrad RATARA	17
TOTAL	104

- Quota required to be elected: 27
- Elected councillors:
Roxanne KENNY elected at count 1
Maryanne MALBUNKA elected at count 1
Mark INAKAMALA elected at count 3
- The full distribution of preferences for the Ljirapinta Ward election is available on the NTEC website.

Results: Election of councillors – Luritja Pintubi Ward

Candidate	First preference votes
Tommy CONRAD	33
Lynn WARD	24
Dalton McDONALD	50
Garrard ANDERSON	84
TOTAL	191

- Quota required to be elected: 48
- Elected councillors:
Garrard ANDERSON elected at count 1
Dalton McDONALD elected at count 1
Lynn WARD elected at count 2
- The full distribution of preferences for the Luritja Pintubi Ward election is available on the NTEC website.

Results: Election of councillors – Rodinga Ward

- There were 3 nominations for 4 councillor vacancies
- Elected councillors: Veronica LYNCH KNGWARRE, Patrick ALLEN, Andrew DAVIS
- The remaining vacancy was filled at the 2025 Local Government Supplementary Elections held 29 November 2025 (see that section of this report)

Voter turnout

Based on the number of votes counted in the 3 contested elections, voter turnout was 16.0%. This compares to 39.7% in the previous general elections in 2021 (however this is not a direct comparison as different wards were contested).

Voter turnout by ward:

- Iyarrka Ward: 12.0% (uncontested in 2021)
- Ljirapinta Ward: 16.4% (uncontested in 2021)
- Luritja Pintubi Ward: 18.9% (40.4% in 2021)

Informality

Election	No. of candidates	Total votes	Informal votes	%
Iyarrka Ward	4	107	16	15.0%
Ljirapinta Ward	4	113	9	8.0%
Luritja Pintubi Ward	4	212	21	9.9%

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 MacDonnell Regional Council candidates submitted a campaign donation return for the 2025 Local Government Elections or the 2025 Local Government Supplementary Elections.

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

ELECTION REVIEW MEETING

A post-election review meeting was held Friday 12 December 2025 via Teams.

ELECTION COSTS

Expense category	Estimate \$	Actual \$
Advertising	11,975.78	9,787.11
Corporate	198.36	62.99
Destruction/rubbish removal	174.55	19.12
Information technology	4,357.57	1,676.17
Materials	3,452.47	2,380.84
Postage	2,134.03	1,225.50

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Premises	721.20	217.73
Staff travel/accommodation/reimbursements	12,117.34	6,410.45
Staff wages	57,919.74	47,822.49
Vehicle hire/charter	27,500.04	12,047.93
Sub-total	120,551.07	81,650.33
GST (10%_)	12,055.11	8,165.03
TOTAL	\$ 132,606.18	\$ 89,815.36



2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPLEMENTARY ELECTIONS

Rodinga Ward

ELECTION SUMMARY

In accordance with Local Government (Electoral) Regulation 73, where there are failed or partially failed elections due to insufficient nominations, a new supplementary election is to be held to fill any remaining vacancies in the membership of the council.

At the close of nominations for the 2025 Local Government Elections, 3 nominations were received for the 4 vacancies in Rodinga Ward, therefore, a supplementary election was required for the remaining vacancy in this ward.

KEY DATES

Event	Date
Nominations open	Friday 17 October
Close of electoral roll	Tuesday 22 July
Nominations close	Thursday 6 November, 12 noon
Declaration of nominations	Friday 7 November
Postal mail out commences	Monday 10 November
Early and mobile voting commences	Monday 17 November
Election day	Saturday 29 November
Deadline for receipt of postal votes Distribution of preferences (final count)	Friday 12 December
Declaration of election results	Monday 15 December
Campaign donation returns due	Saturday 7 February 2026

ENROLMENT

Supplementary elections require that the electoral roll for the original election be used.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

A targeted public awareness campaign was delivered to inform nominees and electors of the Rodinga Ward supplementary election.

Promotional activities seeking nominations included:

- updates to the NTEC and BushTel websites

- media releases
- publication of statutory notices
- social media posts tagging participating councils and promoting key election dates.

Following the declaration of nominations and confirmation of uncontested elections, promotional activities relating to voting services ceased for MacDonnell Regional Council. Only the statutory advertising obligations required under legislation were undertaken.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the Rodinga Ward supplementary election included:

- one accepted nomination
- one rejected nomination (received too late)
- no withdrawn nominations.

Election	Accepted nominations (candidates)
RODINGA WARD (one vacancy)	Matthew James PALMER

As the number of nominations was equal to the number of vacancies, Matthew James PALMER was declared elected at the declaration of nominations event held on Friday 7 November 2025.

VOTING SERVICES

No voting services were provided for this election as it was uncontested.

ELECTION OUTCOMES

A letter certifying the result of the Rodinga Ward supplementary election was sent to the council on Monday 10 November 2025.

A letter notifying the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Community Development of the result was sent the same day.

ELECTION COSTS

Expense category	Estimate	Actual
Advertising	2,148.19	1,729.65
Corporate	81.16	27.05
Destruction/rubbish removal	81.16	0

Information technology	2,028.96	1,333.26
Materials	595.16	189.37
Postage	353.87	0
Premises	33.82	0
Staff travel/accommodation/reimbursements	5,205.24	0
Staff wages	13,475.33	1,185.30
Vehicle hire/charter	2,580.00	0
Sub-total	26,618.88	4,464.63
GST (10%)	2,661.89	446.63
TOTAL	\$29,280.77	\$4,911.09





Northern Territory Electoral Commission

EVERY vote counts

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