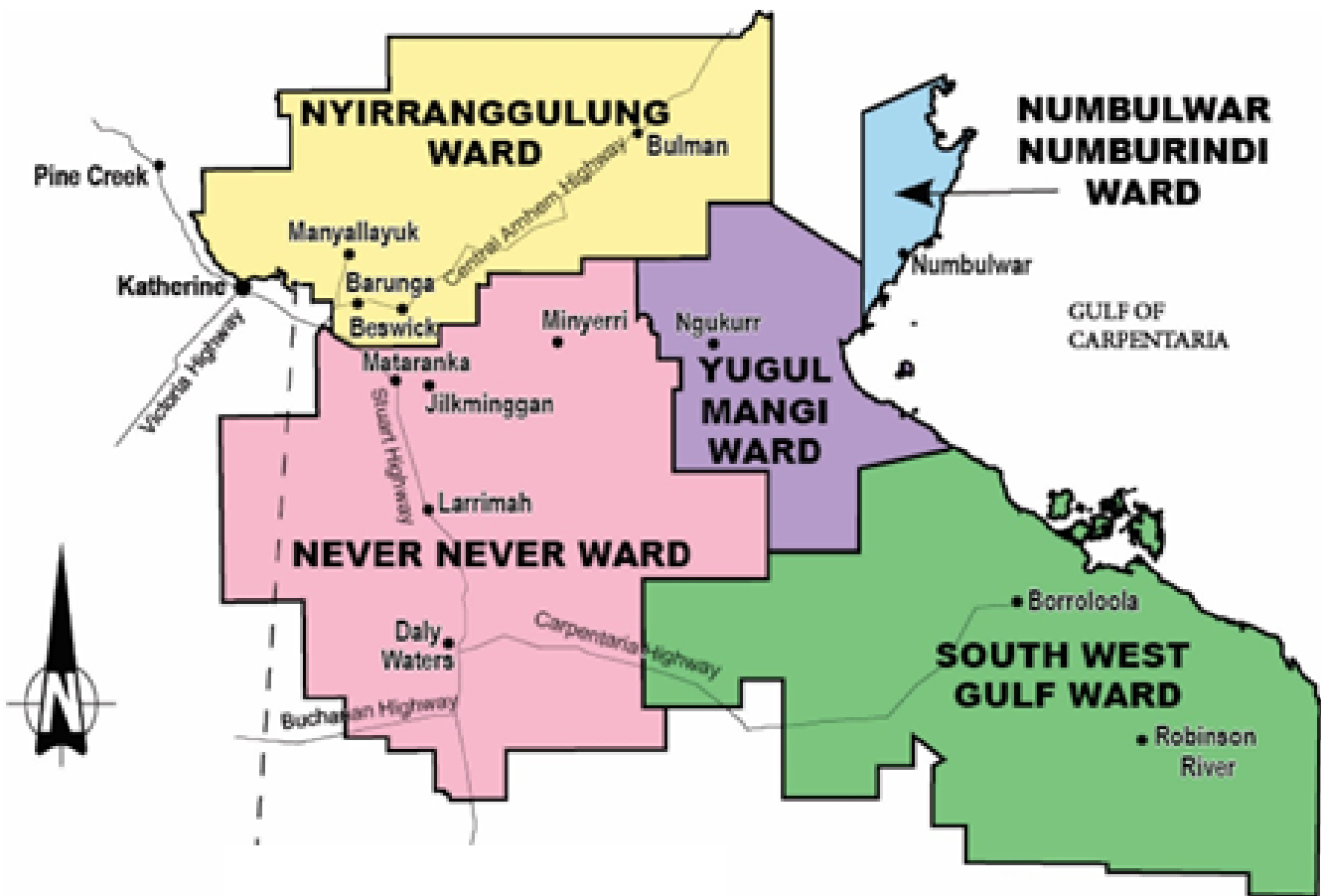




## Roper Gulf Regional Council Election Report



## 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

### 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](http://ntec.nt.gov.au).

## 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

# Roper Gulf 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 **ROPER GULF REGIONAL COUNCIL** included the following elections:

- Election of Never Never Ward councillors – 3 positions
- Election of Numbulwar Numburindi Ward councillors – 2 positions
- Election of Nyirrangulung Ward councillors – 3 positions
- Election of South West Gulf Ward councillors – 3 positions
- Election of Yugul Mangi Ward councillors – 2 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 4,462 Roper Gulf Regional Council electors eligible to vote in the 2025 Local Government Elections.

This is an increase of 560 electors (or 14.4%) from the previous general elections held in 2021.

Elector numbers by ward:

- Never Never Ward: 1,008 (up 24.3% from 2021)
- Numbulwar Numburindi Ward: 572 (up 16.0% from 2021)
- Nyirranggulung Ward: 1,007 (up 13.3% from 2021)
- South West Gulf Ward: 1,020 (up 7.6% from 2021)
- Yugul Mangi Ward: 855 (up 12.4% 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 Roper Gulf Regional Council elections included:

- 18 accepted nominations across all wards
- no rejected or withdrawn nominations.

Election	Accepted nominations (candidates)
NEVER NEVER WARD (3 vacancies)	Edna Prescilla ILES
	Rosemary JOSHUA
	Cecilia LAKE
	Des BARRITT
	Sue EDWARDS
	Patricia FARRELL
NUMBULWAR NUMBURINDI WARD (2 vacancies)	Kathy-Anne NUMAMURDIRDI
	Edwin NUNGGUMAJBARR
NYIRRANGGULUNG WARD (3 vacancies)	John DALYWATER
	Preston LEE
	Helen Leanne LEE
	Selina ASHLEY
	Anne Marie LEE
SOUTH WEST GULF WARD (3 vacancies)	Tony JACK
	Ash GARNER
	Samuel EVANS
	Gadrian HOOSAN
YUGUL MANGI WARD (2 vacancies)	Melissa ANDREWS-WURRAMARRBA

Age and gender of candidates:

GENDER	Male	Female
All wards	8	10

AGE	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
All wards	-	1	3	4	8	2

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

## VOTING SERVICES

### Postal voting

- Postal vote applications received 127
- Postal votes issued 117
- Postal vote applications rejected 10
- Postal votes returned 81
- Postal votes admitted to the count 50
- Postal votes rejected 31

\*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 papers or may include missorted ballot papers.

The reasons for rejecting postal vote applications were:

- Uncontested election/no election (6)
- Multiple applications received from same elector (4)

The reasons for rejecting (returned) postal votes were:

- Return to sender (9)
- Postal vote received after deadline (8)
- Ordinary vote issued (7)
- Postal vote certificate dated after election day (5)
- Postal vote certificate not signed (2)

### Remote mobile voting

Mobile Team Roper Gulf 1 – Week 1:

Date	Time	Community	Location	Votes issued
Monday 11 August	1:00pm – 1:45pm	Mulggan	Community	10
Tuesday 12 August	9:00am – 1:00pm	Mataranka	Community Hall	80
Thursday 14 August	9:30am – 2:00pm	Minyerri	Alawa Corporation	113
Friday 15 August	8:30am – 12:30pm	Jilkmिंगgan	Council office	54
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>257</b>

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

## Mobile Team Roper Gulf 1 – Week 2:

Date	Time	Community	Location	Votes issued
Monday 18 August	10:30am – 11:00am	Daly Waters	Hotel	3
Tuesday 19 August	8:30am – 11:30am	Mara	Mabunji Admin	80
	1:00pm – 2:00pm	King Ash Bay	Boat and Fishing Club	
Wednesday 20 August	8:00am – 4:00pm	Borroloola	Council office	137
Thursday 21 August	10:00am – 1:00pm	Robinson River	Training boardroom	52
Friday 22 August	9:30am – 10:00am	Wada Warra	Community	6
	11:30am – 12:00pm	Munyalini	Community	
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>278</b>

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

## Mobile Team Roper Gulf 2:

Date	Time	Community	Location	Votes issued
Monday 11 August	10:15am – 12:15pm	Bulman	Meeting room	53
	1:30pm – 2:30pm	Weemol	Community	
Tuesday 12 August	11:00am – 12:00pm	Werenbun	Community office	5
	2:00pm – 3:00pm	Jodetluk	Community	
Wednesday 13 August	9:15am – 10:15am	Manyallaluk	Community	118
	12:00pm – 3:30pm	Barunga	Meeting room	
Thursday 14 August	9:15am – 2:15pm	Beswick	Meeting room	106
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>282</b>

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	-
Casuarina	1

Coolalinga	7
Darwin	2
Katherine	118
Palmerston	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>131</b>

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 Darwin urban mobile team 38
- Number of votes issued by the Katherine urban mobile team 1

## Election day voting

Election day voting centre	Votes issued
Alice Springs	1
Casuarina	-
Coolalinga	-
Darwin	-
Katherine	4
Palmerston	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>

## Declaration voting

- Total number of declaration votes issued 7
- Declaration votes admitted to the count 5
- Declaration votes rejected from the count 2

The reasons for rejecting declaration votes were:

- Enrolled in a different council area (2)

## ELECTION OUTCOMES

### Results: Election of councillors – Never Never Ward

Candidate	First preference votes
Edna Prescilla ILES	42

Rosemary JOSHUA	31
Cecilia LAKE	48
Des BARRITT	87
Sue EDWARDS	83
Patricia FARRELL	42
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>333</b>

- Quota required to be elected: 84
- Elected councillors:  
Des BARRITT elected at count 1  
Sue EDWARDS elected at count 2  
Patricia FARRELL elected at count 12
- The full distribution of preferences for the Never Never Ward election is available on the NTEC website.

## Results: Election of councillors – Numbulwar Numburindi Ward

- There were 2 nominations for 2 councillor vacancies
- Elected councillors: Kathy-Anne NUMAMURDIRDI, Edwin NUNGGUMAJBARR

## Results: Election of councillors – Nyirrangulung Ward

Candidate	First preference votes
John DALYWATER	94
Preston LEE	98
Helen Leanne LEE	99
Selina ASHLEY	47
Anne Marie LEE	19
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>357</b>

- Quota required to be elected: 90
- Elected councillors:  
Helen Leanne LEE elected at count 1  
Preston LEE elected at count 1  
John DALYWATER elected at count 1
- The full distribution of preferences for the Nyirrangulung Ward election is available on the NTEC website.

## Results: Election of councillors – South West Gulf Ward

Candidate	First preference votes
Tony JACK	131
Ash GARNER	87
Samuel EVANS	44
Gadrian HOOSAN	44
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>306</b>

- Quota required to be elected: 77
- Elected councillors:  
Tony JACK elected at count 1  
Ash GARNER elected at count 1  
Samuel EVANS elected at count 2
- The full distribution of preferences for the South West Gulf Ward election is available on the NTEC website.

## Results: Election of councillors – Yugul Mangi Ward

- There was one nomination for 2 councillor vacancies
- Elected councillor: Melissa ANDREWS-WURRAMARRBA
- 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 34.4%. This compares to 35.4% overall turnout in the previous general elections in 2021 (where there were 4 contested elections), or 38.6% when comparing the same 3 wards.

Voter turnout by ward:

- Never Never Ward: 35.1% (46.7% in 2021)
- Nyirranggulung Ward: 37.1% (35.1% in 2021)
- South West Gulf Ward: 31.3% (35.0% in 2021)

## Informality

Election	No. of candidates	Total votes	Informal votes	%
Never Never Ward	6	354	21	5.9%
Nyirranggulung Ward	5	374	17	4.5%
South West Gulf Ward	4	319	13	4.1%

## 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 Roper Gulf 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 COSTS

Expense category	Estimate \$	Actual \$
Advertising	12,122.39	10,230.98
Corporate	221.81	72.44
Destruction/rubbish removal	194.94	21.99
Information technology	4,671.30	1,927.59
Materials	3,851.15	2,095.63
Postage	2,381.41	1,409.31
Premises	1,163.89	1,042.38
Staff travel/accommodation/reimbursements	14,490.13	13,944.20
Staff wages	69,062.96	73,578.22
Vehicle hire/charter	30,407.83	11,965.80
Sub-total	138,567.81	116,288.54
GST (10%)	13,856.78	11,628.85
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 152,424.59</b>	<b>\$ 127,917.39</b>

## 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPLEMENTARY ELECTIONS

### Yugul Mangi 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 required to fill any remaining vacancies in the membership of the council.

At the close of nominations for the 2025 Local Government Elections, only one nomination was received for the 2 vacancies in Yugul Mangi 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	<b>Tuesday 22 July</b>
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	Friday 12 December
Distribution of preferences (final count)	
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 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 Roper Gulf Regional Council. Only the statutory advertising obligations required under legislation were undertaken.

## NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the Yugul Mangi Ward supplementary election included:

- one accepted nomination
- one rejected nomination (received too late and not enrolled in council area)
- no withdrawn nominations.

Election	Accepted nominations (candidates)
YUGUL MANGI WARD (one vacancy)	Michelle FARRELL

As the number of nominations was equal to the number of vacancies, Michelle FARRELL 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 Yugul Mangi 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	2,229.65	1,729.65
Corporate	54.32	18.11
Destruction/rubbish removal	54.32	0
Information technology	1,357.93	892.31

# 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Materials	398.32	126.74
Postage	37.03	0
Premises	22.63	0
Staff travel/accommodation/reimbursements	1,236.05	0
Staff wages	6,807.62	876.25
Vehicle hire/charter	6,545.45	0
Sub-total	18,743.31	3,643.06
GST (10%)	1,874.33	364.31
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$20,617.65</b>	<b>\$4,007.37</b>





# Northern Territory Electoral Commission

EVERY vote counts

---

[ntec@nt.gov.au](mailto:ntec@nt.gov.au)

1800 698 683

[ntec.gov.au](http://ntec.gov.au)