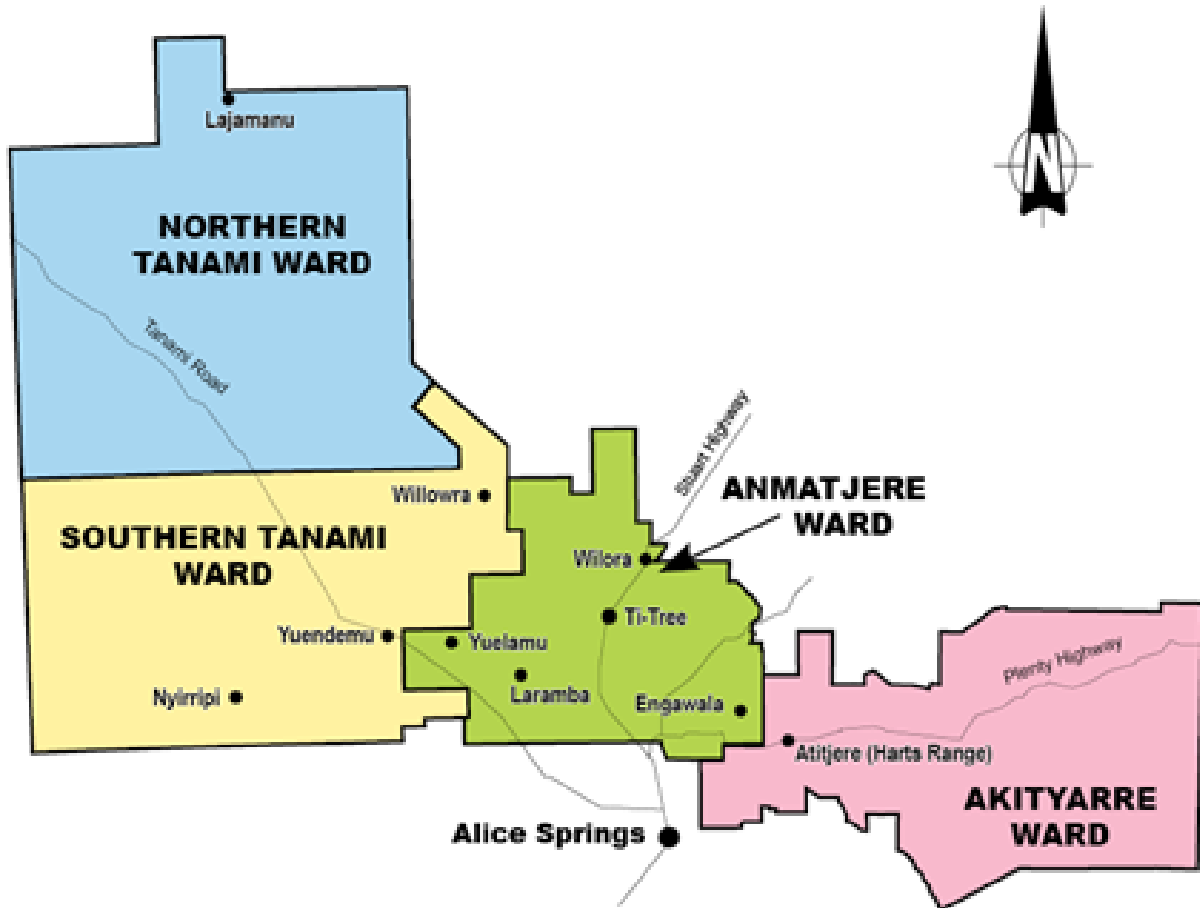




**CENTRAL DESERT**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

two ways :: one outcome

## Central Desert Regional Council Election Report



## Document version control

Version	Description	Date
1.0	Draft	23/12/2025
1.1	Final version: - added information to election outcomes section - minor edits and formatting changes	19/02/2026

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## 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

# Central Desert 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 **CENTRAL DESERT REGIONAL COUNCIL** included the following elections:

- Election of Akityarre Ward councillors – 2 positions
- Election of Anmatjere Ward councillors – 4 positions
- Election of Northern Tanami Ward councillors – 2 positions
- Election of Southern Tanami 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 2,696 Central Desert Regional Council electors eligible to vote in the 2025 Local Government Elections.

This is an increase of 222 electors (or 9.0%) from the previous general elections held in 2021.

Elector numbers by ward:

- Akityarre Ward: 279 (up 8.6% from 2021)
- Anmatjere Ward: 1,012 (up 3.4% from 2021)
- Northern Tanami Ward: 462 (up 29.4% from 2021)
- Southern Tanami Ward: 943 (up 7.0% 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 Central Desert Regional Council elections included:

- 13 accepted nominations across all elections
- one rejected nomination (enrolled in a different council area).

Election	Accepted nominations (candidates)
AKITYARRE WARD (2 vacancies)	Roslyn CAMPBELL
ANMATJERE WARD (4 vacancies)	Adrian DIXON Jeff IVERSEN David McCORMACK Clifford TILMOUTH
NORTHERN TANAMI WARD (2 vacancies)	Cyril TASMAN Andrew JOHNSON
SOUTHERN TANAMI WARD (4 vacancies)	Michaeline GALLAGHER Freddy WILLIAMS Paul BRISCOE Jacob Jungarai SPENCER April MARTIN Fiona GIBSON

Age and gender of candidates:

GENDER	Male	Female
All wards	9	4

AGE	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
All wards	-	1	-	5	5	2

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

## VOTING SERVICES

### Postal voting

- Postal vote applications received 72
- Postal votes issued 16
- Postal vote applications rejected 56
- Postal votes returned 4
- Postal votes admitted to the count 2
- Postal votes rejected 2

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 (55)
- Multiple applications received from same elector (1)

The reasons for rejecting (returned) postal votes were:

- Ordinary vote issued (2)

## Remote mobile voting

Mobile Team Central Desert 1:

Date	Time	Community	Location	Votes issued
Monday 18 August	12:30pm – 3:00pm	Willowra	Council office	31
Wednesday 20 August	8:00am – 12:00pm	Nyirripi	Council office	16
Thursday 21 August	8:30am – 3:30pm	Yuendumu	Council office	24
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>71</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	11
Casuarina	-
Coolalinga	-
Darwin	-
Katherine	2
Palmerston	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</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 Alice Springs urban mobile team 5
- Number of votes issued by the Darwin urban mobile team 3

## Election day voting

No votes were issued for Central Desert Regional Council on Saturday 23 August.

## Declaration voting

- Total number of declaration votes issued 3
- Declaration votes admitted to the count 2
- Declaration votes rejected from the count 1

The reasons for rejecting declaration votes were:

- Enrolled in a different council area (1)

## ELECTION OUTCOMES

### Results: Election of councillors – Akityarre Ward

- There was only one nomination for 2 councillor vacancies
- Elected councillor: Rosslyn CAMPBELL
- The remaining vacancy was filled at the 2025 Local Government Supplementary Elections (held 29 November 2025)

### Results: Election of councillors – Anmatjere Ward

- There were 4 nominations for 4 councillor vacancies
- Elected councillors: Adrian DIXON, Jeff IVERSEN, David McCORMACK, Clifford TILMOUTH

### Results: Election of councillors – Northern Tanami Ward

- There were 2 nominations for 2 councillor vacancies
- Elected councillors: Cyril TASMAN, Andrew JOHNSON

### Results: Election of councillors – Southern Tanami Ward

Candidate	First preference votes
Michaeline GALLAGHER	13
Freddy WILLIAMS	11
Paul BRISCOE	20
Jacob Jungarai SPENCER	15
April MARTIN	21
Fiona GIBSON	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>90</b>

- Quota required to be elected: 19
- Elected councillors:  
 April MARTIN elected at count 1  
 Paul BRISCOE elected at count 1  
 Michaeline GALLAGHER elected at count 4  
 Jacob Jungarai SPENCER elected at count 7
- The full distribution of preferences for the Southern Tanami Ward election is available on the NTEC website.

## Voter turnout

Based on the number of votes counted in the Southern Tanami Ward election, voter turnout was 10.0%. This compares to 29.8% overall turnout in the previous general elections in 2021 (however this is not a direct comparison as a different ward was contested).

## Informality

Election	No. of candidates	Total votes	Informal votes	%
Southern Tanami Ward	6	94	4	4.3%

## 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 Central Desert 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 DEBRIEF

A post-election review meeting was held Tuesday 9 December 2025 via Teams.

## ELECTION COSTS

Expense category	Estimate \$	Actual \$
Advertising	7,524.28	8,237.70
Corporate	134.74	22.25
Destruction/rubbish removal	118.55	6.69
Information technology	3,506.67	586.66
Materials	2,344.61	630.83
Postage	1,449.29	432.61
Premises	224.87	76.53
Staff travel/accommodation/reimbursements	8,493.27	3,404.59
Staff wages	43,364.47	17,714.58
Vehicle hire/charter	21,788.73	4,728.94
Sub-total	88,949.49	35,843.48
GST (10%)	8,894.95	3,584.14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 97,844.44</b>	<b>\$ 39,425.52</b>

## 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPLEMENTARY ELECTIONS

### Akityarre 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 Akityarre 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 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 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 Central Desert Regional Council. Only the statutory advertising obligations required under legislation were undertaken.

## NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the Akityarre Ward supplementary election included:

- one accepted nomination
- no rejected or withdrawn nominations.

Election	Accepted nominations (candidates)
AKITYARRE WARD (one vacancy)	Raymond WEBB

As the number of nominations was equal to the number of vacancies, Raymond WEBB 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 Akityarre 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	2,093.28	1,729.65
Corporate	17.77	5.92
Destruction/rubbish removal	17.77	0
Information technology	444.18	291.88
Materials	130.29	41.46

# 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Postage	315.33	0
Premises	7.40	0
Staff travel/accommodation/reimbursements	3,351.15	0
Staff wages	5,771.63	455.42
Vehicle hire/charter	1,726.36	0
Sub-total	13,875.17	2,524.33
GST (10%)	1,387.52	252.43
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$15,262.69</b>	<b>\$2,776.76</b>





# Northern Territory Electoral Commission

EVERY vote counts

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