



## Tiwi Islands 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

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## 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

# Tiwi Islands 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 **TIWI ISLANDS REGIONAL COUNCIL** included the following elections:

- Election of Bathurst Island Ward councillors – 6 positions
- Election of Milikapiti Ward councillors – 3 positions
- Election of Pirlangimpi Ward councillors – 3 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 1,828 Tiwi Islands Regional Council electors eligible to vote in the 2025 Local Government Elections.

This is an increase of 178 electors (or 10.8%) from the previous general elections held in 2021.

Elector numbers by ward:

- Bathurst Island Ward: 1,197 (up 9.6% from 2017)
- Milikapiti Ward: 342 (up 14.8% from 2017)
- Pirlangimpi Ward: 289 (up 11.2% from 2017)

## 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 Tiwi Islands Regional Council elections included:

- 14 accepted nominations across all wards
- one rejected nomination (nominator not enrolled in the council area)
- no withdrawn nominations.

Election	Accepted nominations (candidates)
BATHURST ISLAND WARD (6 vacancies)	Stanley TIPILOURA
	Mary DUNN
	Jennifer Ullungura CLANCY
	Brian TIPUNGWUTI
	Luke TIPUAMANTUMIRRI
	John PILAKUI
MILIKAPITI WARD (3 vacancies)	Pius Sarto TIPUNGWUTI
	Lynette Jane DE SANTIS
	Jeffrey SIMON ULLUNGURA
PIRLANGIMPI WARD (3 vacancies)	Deanne RIOLI
	Rebekah YUNUPINGU
	Daniel COSTA
	Joseph Gideon PANGIRAMINNI
	Therese BOURKE

Age and gender of candidates:

GENDER	Male	Female
All wards	8	6

AGE	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
All wards	-	1	6	2	3	2

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

## VOTING SERVICES

### Postal voting

- Postal vote applications received 10
- Postal votes issued 2
- Postal vote applications rejected 8
- Postal votes returned 2
- Postal votes admitted to the count 1
- Postal votes rejected 1

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 (8)

The reasons for rejecting (returned) postal votes were:

- Postal vote received after deadline (1)

### Remote mobile voting

Mobile Team Tiwi Islands 1:

Date	Time	Community	Location	Votes issued
Wednesday 20 August	9:00am – 10:30am	Pickertaramoor	Melville Room	98
	11:45am – 4:15pm	Pirlangimpi	Council meeting room	
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>98</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	4
Coolalinga	1
Darwin	-
Katherine	-
Palmerston	-

**TOTAL** 5

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 3

## Election day voting

No votes were issued for Tiwi Islands Regional Council on Saturday 23 August.

## Declaration voting

- Total number of declaration votes issued 3
- Declaration votes admitted to the count 0
- Declaration votes rejected from the count 3

The reasons for rejecting declaration votes were:

- Enrolled in a different council/ward area (3)

## ELECTION OUTCOMES

### Results: Election of councillors – Bathurst Island Ward

- There were 6 nominations for 6 councillor vacancies
- Elected councillors: Stanley TIPILOURA, Mary DUNN, Jennifer Ullungura CLANCY, Brian TIPUNGWUTI, Luke TIPUATANTUMIRRI, John PILAKUI

### Results: Election of councillors – Milikapiti Ward

- There were 3 nominations for 3 councillor vacancies
- Elected councillors: Pius Sarto TIPUNGWUTI, Lynette Jane DE SANTIS, Jeffrey SIMON ULLUNGURA

### Results: Election of councillors – Pirlangimpi Ward

Candidate	First preference votes
Deanne RIOLI	25
Rebekah YUNUPINGU	7
Daniel COSTA	28

Joseph Gideon PANGIRAMIN	26
Therese BOURKE	17
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>103</b>

- Quota required to be elected: 26
- Elected councillors:  
Daniel COSTA elected at count 1  
Joseph Gideon PANGIRAMIN elected at count 1  
Deanne RIOLI elected at count 3
- The full distribution of preferences for the Pirlangimpi Ward election is available on the NTEC website.

## Voter turnout

Based on the number of votes counted in the one contested election, voter turnout was 37.0%.

This compares to 50.0% overall turnout in the previous general elections in 2021 (where all 3 wards were contested), or 58.5% when comparing the same ward.

## Informality

Election	No. of candidates	Total votes	Informal votes	%
Pirlangimpi Ward	5	107	4	3.7%

## 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 Tiwi Islands Regional Council candidates submitted a campaign donation return for the 2025 Local Government Elections.

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

## ELECTION COSTS

Expense category	Estimate \$	Actual \$
<b>Advertising</b>	11,301.53	7,524.62
Corporate	90.48	6.52
Destruction/rubbish removal	79.33	1.91
Information technology	2,914.66	167.61
Materials	1,563.85	515.83
Postage	967.72	126.52
Premises	513.98	22.13
Staff travel/accommodation/reimbursements	4,579.51	150.18
Staff wages	23,223.07	5,625.27
Vehicle hire/charter	14,189.77	3,662.03
Sub-total	59,423.90	17,802.62
GST (10%)	5,942.39	1,780.26
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 65,366.29</b>	<b>\$ 19,582.88</b>





# Northern Territory Electoral Commission

EVERY vote counts

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