



Northern Territory Electoral Commission

EVERY vote counts!

Wednesday, 26 August 2020

Mulka count recording error

During the re-check of votes cast in the 2020 Territory Election, late yesterday afternoon two count recording errors were discovered in the division of Mulka.

Count figures telephoned through to the NTEC from the voting centre in Nhulunbuy on Saturday night were incorrect.

The errors were discovered part-way through yesterday afternoon's re-check of the division after the ballots had been transferred to the Darwin Scrutiny Centre.

There were no scrutineers from either party at the Darwin Scrutiny Centre at the time, therefore the re-check was suspended.

Electoral Commissioner Iain Loganathan spoke to representatives from both candidates and the decision was made to conduct a full re-check of the division of Mulka at 9am this morning with scrutineers present.

The errors were made when recording result sheets in Nhulunbuy. The number of votes recorded on two results sheets were correct, but were recorded against the wrong candidates.

The vote count provided to the NTEC on Saturday night for Mobile Team 1 was 954 votes to Candidate Mark Yingiya Guyula and 424 for Candidate Lynne Walker.

The count should have been 954 votes to Candidate Lynne Walker and 424 for Candidate Mark Yingiya Guyula.

The second vote count provided to the NTEC on Saturday night for the Nhulunbuy Early Voting Centre was ??? votes to Candidate Mark Yingiya Guyula and ??? for Candidate Lynne Walker.

The count should have been ????? votes to Candidate Lynne Walker and ??? for Candidate Mark Yingiya Guyula.

Mr Loganathan said that while the errors were unfortunate, the fact they were discovered during the re-check process for the division confirms that the counting process works.

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"This is why the NTEC continually reinforces that the Saturday night count is an indicative count only," Mr Loganathan said.

"The re-check of all divisions is an essential, best-practice process that is undertaken by every electoral commission in the country."

The updated results for the division of Mulka are now available on the NTEC website.