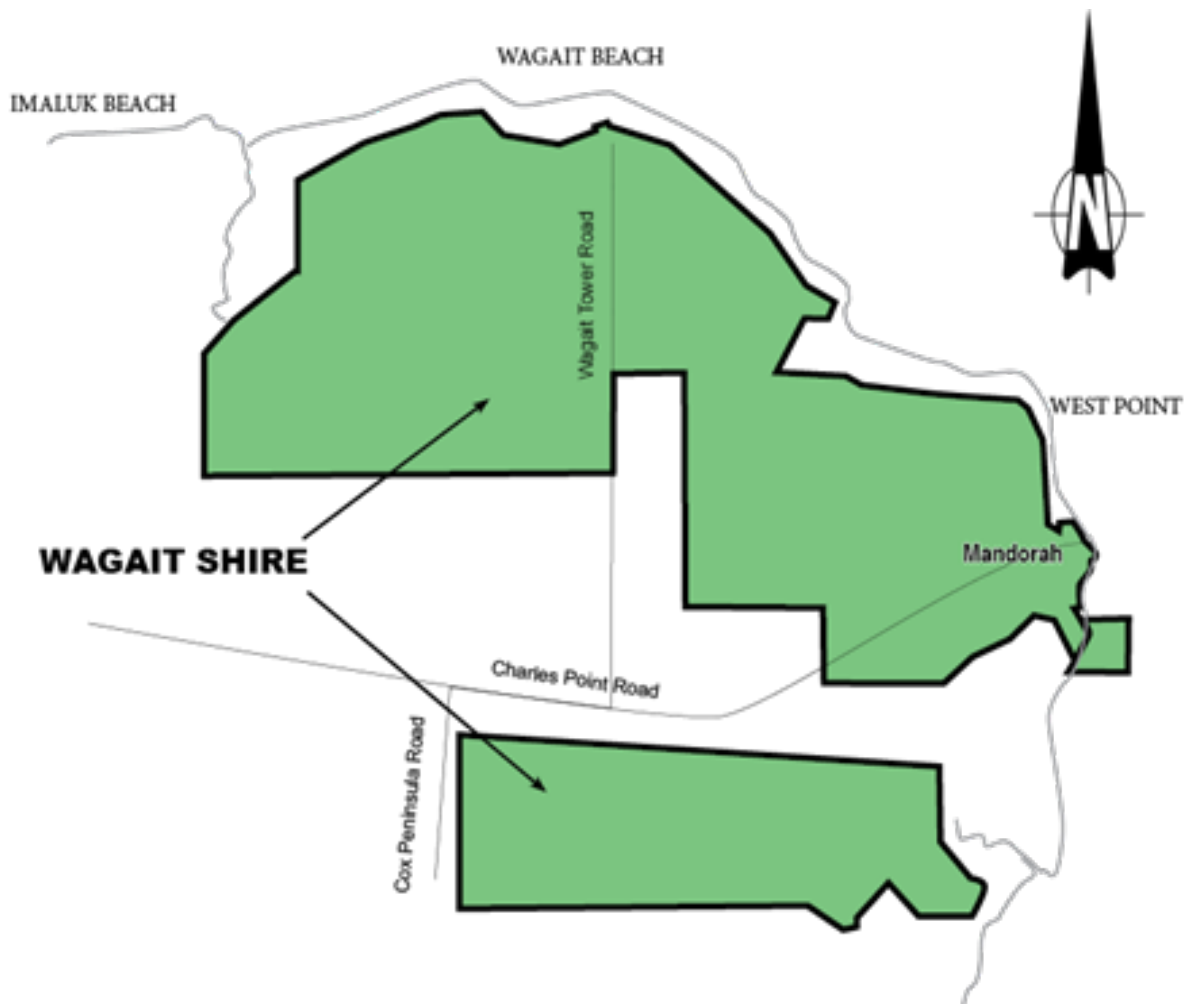


2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS



Wagait Shire Council Election Report



NOTE: Electors residing elsewhere in Cox Peninsula are **NOT** required to vote as this area is unincorporated (unless part of Belyuen Community Government Council). 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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The latest version is accessible via the NTEC website at ntec.nt.gov.au.

2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Wagait Shire 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 **WAGAIT SHIRE COUNCIL** included the following elections:

- **Election of councillors – 5 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 Distribution of preferences (final count)	Friday 5 September
Declaration of election results	Monday 8 September
Campaign donation returns due	Saturday 1 November

ENROLMENT

There were 353 Wagait Shire Council electors eligible to vote in the 2025 Local Government Elections.

This is an increase of 54 electors (or 18.1%) from the previous general elections held in 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

A candidate information session was held at 5:30pm on Tuesday 8 July 2025 at the Wagait Shire Council.

Nominations for Wagait Shire Council included:

- 6 accepted nominations
- no rejected or withdrawn nominations.

Election	Accepted nominations (candidates)
COUNCILLOR (5 vacancies)	Peter CLEE
	Sarah SMITH
	Neil WHITE
	Alan AMEZDROZ
	Tom DYER
	Sarah MANNING

Age and gender of candidates:

GENDER	Male	Female
Councillor	4	2

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

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

VOTING SERVICES

Postal voting

- Postal vote applications received 24
- Postal votes issued 24
- Postal vote applications rejected 0
- Postal votes returned 21
- Postal votes admitted to the count 16
- Postal votes rejected 5

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 (returned) postal votes were:

- Ordinary vote issued (1)
- Postal vote certificate dated after election day (1)

- Postal vote certificate not signed (1)
- Return to sender (2)

Early voting

Early voting centre	Votes issued
Alice Springs	-
Casuarina	5
Coolalinga	17
Darwin	27
Katherine	2
Palmerston	2
TOTAL	53

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

Election day voting centre	Votes issued
Alice Springs	-
Casuarina	-
Coolalinga	2
Darwin	2
Katherine	-
Palmerston	-
Wagait Beach*	187
TOTAL	191

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

*Voting centre located within council area

Declaration voting

No declaration votes were issued to Wagait Shire Council electors in this election.

ELECTION OUTCOMES

Results: Election of councillors

Candidate	First preference votes
Peter CLEE	26
Sarah SMITH	55
Neil WHITE	31
Alan AMEZDROZ	16
Tom DYER	33
Sarah MANNING	99
TOTAL	260

- Quota required to be elected: 44
- Elected councillors:
 - Sarah MANNING elected at count 1
 - Sarah SMITH elected at count 1
 - Tom DYER elected at count 2
 - Neil WHITE elected at count 4
 - Peter CLEE elected at count 5
- The full distribution of preferences for the councillor election is available on the NTEC website.

Voter turnout

Based on the number of votes counted, voter turnout was 74.5%. This compares to 78.6% turnout in the previous general elections in 2021.

Informality

Election	No. of candidates	Total votes	Informal votes	%
Councillor	6	263	3	1.1%

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 Wagait Shire 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 \$
Advertising	10,843.90	7,178.31
Corporate	17.25	9.40
Destruction/rubbish removal	15.13	2.86
Information technology	1,935.33	251.42
Materials	298.11	255.48
Postage	184.49	183.03
Premises	11.33	32.58
Staff travel/accommodation/reimbursements	284.04	2,640.21
Staff wages	6,564.64	2,316.42
Vehicle hire/charter	318.05	50.78
Sub-total	20,472.27	12,920.49
GST (10%)	2,047.23	1,292.05
TOTAL	\$ 22,519.50	\$ 14,212.54



Northern Territory Electoral Commission

EVERY vote counts

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