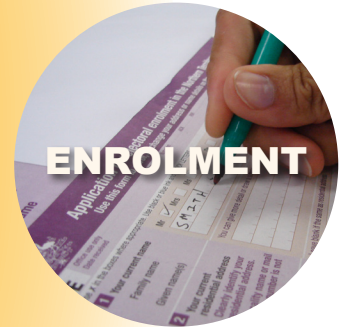




**NORTHERN  
TERRITORY  
ELECTORAL  
COMMISSION**  
*EVERY vote counts!*

# Annual Report 2013 - 2014



..celebrating **10** yrs

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The Hon K Purick MLA  
Speaker  
Northern Territory Legislative Assembly  
Parliament House  
Darwin NT 0800

Madam Speaker

I am pleased to provide the Annual Report of the Northern Territory Electoral Commission for the 2013-14 reporting year.

The report details the performance, key achievements and outlook for the Commission for the year ending 30 June 2014. It was prepared in accordance with the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act*, the *Financial Management Act* and the *Information Act*.

Additional copies have been provided for tabling the report in the Legislative Assembly within three sitting days after its receipt.

**Iain Loganathan**  
**Electoral Commissioner**

31 October 2014



## **ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER'S FOREWORD**

The 2013-14 financial year represents a milestone for the Commission – it celebrates ten years as an independent agency and saw the retirement of Bill Shephard who was the Electoral Commissioner from April 2005 to April 2014.



Over the ten years the Commission has conducted three parliamentary general elections, four by-elections, two electoral redistributions and numerous local government elections (including the inaugural 2012 Local Government general elections). There was significant electoral reform, including the implementation of party registration, political disclosure and the introduction of fixed term elections. A focus of the Commission has been on improving community understanding of the electoral process, with nearly 600 school and community information sessions conducted.

Of prime importance was building up and sustaining a reality and perception of the Commission as an independent agency following its establishment in 2004. Bill Shephard was the principal proponent of that reality. He gave considered, fair and impartial appraisal and response to the electoral environment, to maintaining a level playing field for all participants in the electoral processes, including political operators. He was passionate about improving electoral processes to ensure that all Territorians were engaged in the democratic process. This report documents the last parliamentary election he conducted, a by-election for the Division of Blain in April 2014.

2013-14 was another busy year. The Commission conducted 11 local government by-elections, seven industrial ballots and provided support for three events in interstate jurisdictions. Specifications were provided and authorised for the development of enhanced election management systems and the leasing of new count software. Mapping software was procured for the 2015 redistribution of electoral boundaries, and funding was sought to review the roll in readiness for the commencement of redistribution proceedings. Reports associated with the Local Government general elections in March 2012 and the first fixed term Legislative Assembly general elections in August 2012 were finalised. Both reports were tabled in the parliament as well as a report on the Wanguri by-election held in February 2013.

I would like to thank the staff for their support, and trust that their commitment will continue in the face of continuing demands on the agency. My commitment is to serve the people of the Northern Territory as their Electoral Commissioner and uphold the independence of the office.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Iain Loganathan'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Iain Loganathan**  
Electoral Commissioner  
31 October 2014



# CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>THE NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Agency purpose and functions .....	2
1.2	Noteworthy events 2004 to 2014.....	3
1.3	Noteworthy events in the 2013-14 reporting year .....	4
1.4	Progress on major tasks identified in the 2012-13 Annual Report.....	5
1.5	National representation .....	6
1.6	Partnership with the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC).....	6
1.7	Looking to the future 2014-15.....	6
1.8	Organisational structure and staffing at 30 June 2014 .....	8
<b>2</b>	<b>ENROLMENT .....</b>	<b>9</b>
2.1	Roll maintenance .....	9
2.2	Roll status .....	9
2.3	Roll stimulation activities and initiatives .....	11
2.4	Supply of roll data .....	13
2.5	Redistributions and electoral representation reviews .....	13
2.6	Targets 2014-15 .....	16
<b>3</b>	<b>ELECTIONS.....</b>	<b>17</b>
3.1	Legislation.....	17
3.2	Electoral services.....	17
3.3	Parliamentary elections .....	17
3.4	Council elections.....	20
3.5	Ballots and elections for other agencies.....	34
3.6	Election policies, processes and procedures .....	35
3.7	Recruitment, training and tools.....	36
3.8	Targets 2014-15 .....	36
<b>4</b>	<b>EDUCATION AND INFORMATION.....</b>	<b>37</b>
4.1	Education and information services .....	37
4.2	Public advertising and publicity campaigns.....	38
4.3	Information activities supporting elections .....	38
4.4	Research and electoral developments .....	39
4.5	Public reporting.....	39
4.6	Targets 2014-15 .....	39
<b>5</b>	<b>CORPORATE GOVERNANCE.....</b>	<b>40</b>
5.1	The organisation .....	40
5.2	Staff development and recognition.....	41
5.3	Agency management and reporting .....	41
5.4	NTEC office premises.....	43
5.5	ICT operational support.....	43
5.6	Targets 2014-15 .....	44
<b>6</b>	<b>FINANCIAL REPORT .....</b>	<b>46</b>
6.1	Financial performance .....	46
6.2	Targets 2014-15 .....	47

## GLOSSARY

<b>AAO</b>	Administrative Arrangements Order
<b>AEC</b>	Australian Electoral Commission
<b>ALP</b>	Australian Labor Party NT
<b>ASX</b>	Australian Sex Party NT
<b>CITIZENS ELECTORAL COUNCIL</b>	Citizens Electoral Council (NT Division) political party
<b>CL</b>	Country Liberals (formerly Country Liberal Party)
<b>COMMISSION</b>	Northern Territory Electoral Commission
<b>COMMISSIONER</b>	Electoral Commissioner
<b>DCIS</b>	Department of Corporate and Information Services
<b>DISCLOSURE</b>	The disclosure of detailed financial information to increase transparency and inform the public about the financial dealings of candidates, registered political parties, local branches/sub-party units and their associated entities, donors and other participants in the electoral process.
<b>DLGR</b>	Department of Local Government and Regions
<b>ECANZ</b>	Electoral Council of Australia and New Zealand
<b>ELECTORAL ACT (EA)</b>	NT <i>Electoral Act</i>
<b>EMS</b>	Election Management System
<b>FOI</b>	Freedom of Information
<b>FIRST NATIONS</b>	First Nations Political Party
<b>GREENS</b>	The Greens political party
<b>ICT</b>	Information and Communications Technology
<b>JOINT ROLL</b>	The electoral roll or list of electors eligible to vote for Commonwealth and NT elections, maintained under a formal arrangement between the Governor-General and the Administrator
<b>LG</b>	Local Government comprising the third tier of government in Australia: in the NT, 5 municipal and 12 regional councils.
<b>LGA</b>	<i>Local Government Act</i>
<b>LGANT</b>	Local Government Association of the Northern Territory
<b>MLA</b>	Member of the NT Legislative Assembly
<b>MOU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>NT</b>	Northern Territory
<b>NTEC</b>	Northern Territory Electoral Commission
<b>NTG</b>	Northern Territory Government
<b>NTPS</b>	Northern Territory Public Service
<b>OCPE</b>	Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment
<b>PARTY</b>	A political party registered under the provisions of the <i>Electoral Act</i>
<b>PR</b>	Proportional Representation – vote counting system used for NT LG elections
<b>PUP</b>	Palmer United Party
<b>REDISTRIBUTION</b>	A redistribution of NT parliamentary electoral boundaries
<b>REPRESENTATION REVIEWS</b>	A council must review its structure and representation once in every term so that imbalances in elector numbers that develop over time between council wards can be reviewed in order that all electors and communities have a fair say in council decision-making.
<b>STEC</b>	State and Territory Electoral Commissioners
<b>WHS</b>	Work, Health and Safety



# 1 THE NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION

## Mission, values and vision

The mission of the NTEC is to provide impartial, high quality and accessible electoral services to people in the Northern Territory that are effective, efficient and delivered in accordance with the law.

The following values are fundamental to achieving its goals:

- Integrity.
- Impartiality.
- Transparency and accountability.
- Commitment to high standards of service delivery.
- Commitment to continuous improvement.
- Respect for the law.

The objective of the NTEC is to receive wide recognition for expert and excellent electoral administration.

## The NTEC's operating environment

The NTEC operates in an environment that includes:

- A small, culturally diverse, dispersed and mobile population.
- A politically charged and sensitive context.
- A broad and diversified range of agency governance and specialised electoral responsibilities.
- A small permanent staff structure.
- Requirements to remain progressive and implement best practice.
- High operational demands at short notice.
- Close working relationships with the AEC, interstate electoral authorities and other organisations.

## Strategic issues

Key Result Areas (KRAs) set out in the NTEC Corporate Plan 2011-2015 are:

- Enrolment.
- Elections.
- Education and Information.
- Corporate Support.

## Legislative base

The following Acts and Regulations are administered by the NTEC:

- *Electoral Act (EA)* and Electoral Regulations under that Act.
- *Referendums Act* and Regulations under that Act.

The *Referendums Act*, enacted 1998, requires updating to bring it in line with the current provisions of the EA.

From 1 July 2012 the Electoral Commissioner became responsible for the conduct of all council elections. An Administrative Arrangements Order (AAO) was signed giving general and financial management responsibility to the NTEC for Chapter 8 of the *Local Government Act* (Elections and Polls). This responsibility includes the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations.

Under the *Constitutional Convention (Election) Act 2011*, assented to on 21 December 2011, the NTEC is charged with conducting any election for delegates to a constitutional convention to discuss statehood for the Northern Territory. General and financial management of the Act remains with the Department of the Legislative Assembly.

This Act may also need updating should changes be adopted to electoral legislation that have relevance to its provisions.

The NTEC submitted reports during the year on the 2012 local government and Legislative Assembly elections, both of which contained recommendations for changes to electoral legislation based on operational experiences during the elections and/or developments of common interest in other jurisdictions.

## 1.1 Agency purpose and functions

The Northern Territory Electoral Commission (NTEC) provides independent, impartial and accessible electoral services to the people of the Northern Territory, the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly (LA), municipal and regional councils and other organisations. Its objective is to receive wide recognition for expert and excellent electoral administration.

The Commission's functions are prescribed under the *Electoral Act* (the Act), section 309. Key responsibilities include:

- Maintaining the Northern Territory electoral roll in partnership with the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC).
- Managing parliamentary and non-parliamentary elections including all local government and, on request, fee-for-service, elections.
- Delivering public electoral awareness programs.
- Providing advice and reports relating to electoral matters to the Legislative Assembly.
- Conducting electoral research.
- Providing support to redistribution committees reviewing Legislative Assembly electoral boundaries and to representation review processes for local councils.

NTEC activities include:

- The development and implementation of roll register reviews and enrolment stimulation strategies to raise roll quality and elector participation for Legislative Assembly and council elections.
- Planning and implementing programs to conduct fixed term Legislative Assembly and local government (LG) general elections and periodic by-elections in the required timeframe and according to best practice principles.
- Developing and managing electoral awareness programs for school children and the general public, including minority groups, so they are aware of their electoral rights and responsibilities.
- Providing support for parliamentary electoral redistribution and council representation reviews and then, in conjunction with the AEC, coordinating and verifying changes on the national roll following gazettal of changes.
- The development of structures and nurturing of inter-agency relationships to support the core business of election management in an environment that demands specialist knowledge and impartiality in service delivery.

Since 1 May 2012, the Electoral Commissioner is the prescribed provider for electoral services for all local government councils.

Ballots are conducted for persons, government and non-government organisations on request on a fee-for-service basis.

The NT Electoral Commissioner, the chief executive of the agency, is an independent officer. Appointment to the position is by the Administrator following consultation by the responsible Minister with the leader of each political party represented in the Legislative Assembly and all members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who are not affiliated with a political party. The Commissioner sits on both the Redistribution and the Augmented Redistribution Committees that review and determine electoral boundaries for the Legislative Assembly. During the year, the inaugural Commissioner of the NTEC retired and the Administrator appointed Mr Iain Loganathan to the position, effective 25 April 2014.

## 1.2 Noteworthy events 2004 to 2014

During 2014, the NTEC celebrated its first ten years as an independent agency.

Year	Milestones
2004	<p>February The <i>Electoral Act</i> 2004 was passed in the Legislative Assembly, setting up a separate electoral agency (previously an Office within the Department of the Chief Minister); the statutory position of Electoral Commissioner; an Augmented Redistribution Committee to review objections to proposed electoral boundaries; the registration of political parties; financial disclosure by political parties, entities and candidates; new functions for promoting public awareness of electoral matters and the conduct and promotion of electoral research</p> <p>March The <i>Electoral Act</i> 2004 and Regulations received assent</p> <p>15 March An independent Northern Territory Electoral Commission was established</p> <p>April A redistribution of electoral boundaries commenced and a report gazetted in November</p> <p>29 May Municipal elections</p> <p>August Appointment of Electoral Commissioner who resigned before taking office due to ill-health</p>
2005	<p>April Appointment of Bill Shepheard as Electoral Commissioner</p> <p>18 June Legislative Assembly elections</p>
2006	<p>Submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters (JSCEM) on the adequacy of electoral and civics education</p> <p>Establishment of a Joint Electoral Services Program (JESP) with the AEC for delivering electoral services and programs. Field visits commenced, during community government election periods and in conjunction with AEC officers, to review the roll, encourage voting and providing electoral awareness</p> <p>23 September By-election LA Division of Stuart</p>
2007	<p>May Tabling of report on 2005 LA general elections</p> <p>24 July By-election LA Division of Greatorex</p> <p>December Commencement of redistribution of electoral boundaries</p>
2008	<p>Strategic plan 2007-11 released, new logo and branding introduced</p> <p>29 March Municipal elections; report submitted to councils in June</p> <p>June Redistribution of electoral boundaries report gazetted</p> <p>1 July Creation of new shire councils for non-metropolitan areas to replace, in the main, community government councils; common electoral principles were applied to all council elections.</p> <p>9 August Legislative Assembly elections; website upgraded, public awareness advertising revamped</p> <p>25 October Inaugural shire and rural council elections</p>
2009	<p>March An <i>Electoral Act</i> amendment provided for four year fixed parliamentary terms and increased the election timetable</p> <p>October Establishment of MyVote Central office in Alice Springs</p> <p>November Tabling of report on 2008 LA elections</p> <p>December Lodgement of report to the Minister on the 2008 shire and rural council elections</p>
2010	<p>Printing of ballot papers from emailed templates allowing in-house production on day nominations close</p> <p>Implementation of a database program to facilitate postal voting</p>
2011	<p>Consultation over council representation reviews</p> <p>May Relocation of NTEC Darwin office from AANT building, Smith St (its office of 30 years) to the TCG building Mitchell Street, followed by office refurbishment</p> <p>July Redistribution of electoral boundaries gazetted, effective first fixed term LA elections</p> <p>Corporate Plan 2011-15 released</p> <p>Release of youth sector materials, 48 page comic book in the Territory genre and electoral fact sheets</p> <p>July onwards Quality Roll (QR) 12 program to stimulate and cleanse the roll was implemented</p> <p>December Legislative amendments to parliamentary and local government legislation received assent; provisions included revised party registration and nomination requirements, LG and LA harmonising sections e.g. strengthening advertising provisions, modification of formality provisions and requirements for a postal vote</p>
2012	<p>24 March Inaugural whole of LG elections; new election management systems and concepts for public awareness election programs</p> <p>1 May The Electoral Commissioner appointed as sole provider for local government elections</p> <p>June Launch of SharePoint website</p> <p>25 August LA elections - first electronic display of results at tally room</p>
2013	<p>16 February By-election LA Division of Wanguri</p> <p>December Tabling of report on 2012 LG elections</p>

Year	Milestones
2014	12 April By-election LA Division of Blain April Appointment of Iain Loganathan as Electoral Commissioner May Tabling of report on 2012 LA elections July onwards Implementation of Quality Roll (QR) 14 program to improve the accuracy of the NT roll

### 1.3 Noteworthy events in the 2013-14 reporting year

#### Enrolment

The NT roll increased by 3899 electors to a total of 129 878 as at 30 June 2014, much of this increase generated by the September 2013 federal election.

Funding was obtained to conduct an extended roll cleansing and enrolment stimulation program from July to December 2014 in urban and remote areas, in order to improve roll accuracy before the 2015 redistribution of electoral boundaries.

In preparation for the 2015 redistribution, mapping software to modernise the process was procured.

#### Election Management

The Blain LA by-election (12 April 2014) and 11 council by-elections were conducted. In the period following the March 2012 LG general and supplementary elections up to 30 June 2014, the Commission conducted a total of 19 council by-elections, two supplementary elections and one failed election.

Early voting services were provided for two interstate jurisdictions: two general elections in South Australia (Darwin and MyVote Central) and Tasmania (MyVote Central only) as well as the Tasmania Legislative Council (MyVote Central only). Seven other ballots were conducted: four enterprise agreements and three other polls. Support was provided for the September 2013 federal election, with extensive use made by the AEC of the Alice Springs Office, MyVote Central, in the period leading up to the election.

Reports relating to the 2012 LG and LA elections and February 2013 Wanguri by-election were tabled in parliament. The Commission was part of a committee with the Department of Local Government and Regions (DLGR) and the Local Government Association of the NT (LGANT), representing councils, that reviewed the public comment received on the 2012 LG report, as well as other measures that could impact on the next election cycle, including a Census and likely Commonwealth election in 2016.

Shire councils were renamed regional councils (effective 1 January 2014) with one region divided into two, effective 1 July 2014. Database and roll information were amended accordingly.

Software was purchased that will allow the conduct of yes/no ballots online through the NTEC website and will be used for the conduct of enterprise agreement ballots.

#### Education and Information

A total of 175 electoral education sessions were held involving 5439 participants.

A public awareness campaign was activated for the Blain by-election in April 2014 and the 11 council elections, for which dedicated election web pages were prepared.

The website experienced a significant increase in traffic over the previous year, attributable partly to increased awareness of the website from advertising of by-elections and enrolment promotion. Nearly 60 000 unique visitors accessed the website, with total visits numbering more than 90 000.

## Corporate Support

Expenditure and budget matters relating to the 2012 LG and LA elections were finalised. A scheduled audit found minor matters requiring attention.

Casual staff were recruited to supplement resources where required for by-elections, ballots and ad-hoc project work.

A consultant was employed to assist with an internal review of the application of the NTG Conflict of Interest Policy with regards to the employment of casual election staff.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the NTEC and the AEC for the management of MyVote Central encompasses the period from July 2013 to June 2017.

## 1.4 Progress on major tasks identified in the 2012-13 Annual Report

Task	Progress during 2013-14
Continue the NTEC's pro-active approach to encouraging enrolment through staff attendance at civic events, shows and by providing information on the NTEC website.	Achieved. Funding for this activity was maintained for during the reporting year.
Review roll information in soft and hard copy sources to ensure currency with updated enrolment provisions.	Ongoing.
Monitor the effect of the implementation of direct enrolment.	The AEC provided regular statistics on the effect of direct enrolment.
Finalise the review of the NT Joint Roll Arrangement.	Deferred.
Monitor discussions on the composition of rural councils for any impact on electoral service delivery and identify activities for any representation reviews commencing in the second half of 2014.	The NTEC implemented changes to its databases to capture the move to regional councils and the creation of a new regional council. The report on the 2012 LG elections included recommendations for improving the representation review process. No change was likely for the 2014-15 cycle.
Conduct government by-elections as required.	Eleven conducted, making a total of 22 since May 2012.
Liaise with the Department of Local Government and Regions (DLGR) regarding suggested amendments to local government electoral legislation.	Representatives from NTEC and DLGR met to discuss legislative recommendations in the election report and feedback from councils.
Conduct a review of all election systems with the intention of capturing future needs and assessing the system capacities of the agency.	Completed. Updated count software was leased from the AEC and a new election management system was developed compatible with contemporary IT platforms.
Evaluate the 2013 federal election, including the use of electronic rolls, the training of polling officials, partnership arrangements with the Department of Human Services for mobile polling, and the use of voting information officers.	Effectuated. Measures will be further investigated that are considered suitable for the NTEC environment and resource base.
Commence election planning for the scheduled 2016 LG and LA elections.	Reports on the 2012 LG and LA elections were tabled on 4 December 2013 and 14 May 2014 respectively, allowing stakeholders to consider their response. Preliminary discussions were held on the next election cycle. No further advice was received regarding the conduct of a delegates' election for a Constitutional Convention or Statehood Referendum.
Continue to work with the Electoral Educators Network and Parliamentary Education Services to develop cross-curricular links and the take up of civic and citizenship programs by schools, new citizens/adult migrants with English as a second language and legal and political studies students.	A strong working relationship with Parliamentary Education Services was maintained. 100 education sessions were conducted at Parliament House.
Promote access to the education facilities at the NTEC offices in Darwin and Alice Springs, and continue to undertake school and community visits as an integral part of electoral education programs.	The school and community program continued with two visits to the Alice Springs office and five visits to the Darwin office, 24 visits were made to schools and seven visits to other community groups.

Task	Progress during 2013-14
Undertake research into the accuracy and completeness of the NT electoral roll, taking into account the Quality Roll 2012 project, the conduct of three major electoral events in the NT over a 13 month period and the implementation of direct enrolment.	Completed. Data was forwarded to the AEC for action where relevant and will be used as a base for QR14 activities. The direct enrolment program is being supplemented by community contact, enrolment campaigns in the media and personal contact opportunities, such as AEC review officers door-knocking addresses to check the accuracy and completeness of elector and address register information.
Review the organisational structure in the light of legislative changes and operational experience, especially in relation to fixed Legislative Assembly terms, the Administrative Arrangements Order (effective 1 July 2012) relating to the 2012 <i>Local Government Act</i> and the NTEC's responsibilities as sole provider for local government elections.	The structure is undergoing assessment in the light of work priorities and available resources.
Assess and implement succession planning strategies and initiatives to address turnover of senior NTEC staff.	Structural and succession planning issues are being addressed as a longer term strategy. Recruitment is being addressed on a needs basis.
Refine and modify existing election costing models to improve election expenditure forecasts.	Ongoing. Revised forecasting and modelling procedures to be trialled at future by-elections.
Scope any funding requests and tender documentation for suggested electoral system upgrades and initiatives for future election conduct, ready for program development commencing in 2014-15.	Funding was secured for new count and election management software.

## 1.5 National representation

The Electoral Council of Australia and New Zealand (ECANZ), a consultative council of Electoral Commissioners from the electoral authorities of the Commonwealth, States and Territories and New Zealand met twice during the reporting year with the NT Electoral Commissioner attending meetings in Canberra (September 2013) and South Australia (March 2014). Key discussions included the direct enrolment program and enrolment participation, public access to the roll and issues arising from the 2013 federal election and their import for all the jurisdictions. Internet voting is of ongoing interest.

The Electoral Commissioner attended meetings of the association of State and Territory Electoral Commissioners (STEC) that took place prior to the ECANZ forums. Electoral matters of particular interest to States and Territories, as well as cooperative activities and research projects at the State/Territory level, are discussed. Common measures for reporting electoral statistics and the practical application of technology for electoral administration were particular topics during the year.

## 1.6 Partnership with the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC)

Activities undertaken that contributed to positive enrolment outcomes included the follow up of non-voters from the 2012 LG and LA elections and enrolment stimulation activities for the Blain by-election in April 2014 and the 11 LG by-elections during the year.

## 1.7 Looking to the future 2014-15

All business units will maintain a monitoring role with regard to changes in the legislative environment and respond to any requests for assistance from the 2015 redistribution committees. The impact of these on resources and for future budgets will be investigated.

### Enrolment

- Implement the 2014 urban and rural/remote quality roll (QR) program, analyse the data ready for the 2015 redistribution committees and note any impact for ongoing enrolment activities.
- Complete testing of mapping software.
- Assist councils with their representation reviews.

## **Elections**

- Monitor the debate on disclosure in various jurisdictions.
- Continue the impetus for election program planning, including software testing, the use of the roll in electronic format and update models for mobile polling, staff recruitment and training.
- Incorporate the outcomes of the Keelty report into the WA Senate election into NTEC operations as appropriate.
- Conduct yes/no ballots using newly acquired electronic software.

## **Education**

- Provide information and materials to promote support for the QR14 project and encourage participation.
- Review the education content on the website for its responsiveness to student and teacher needs.
- Appraise the education programs for primary and secondary students, especially in remote areas.

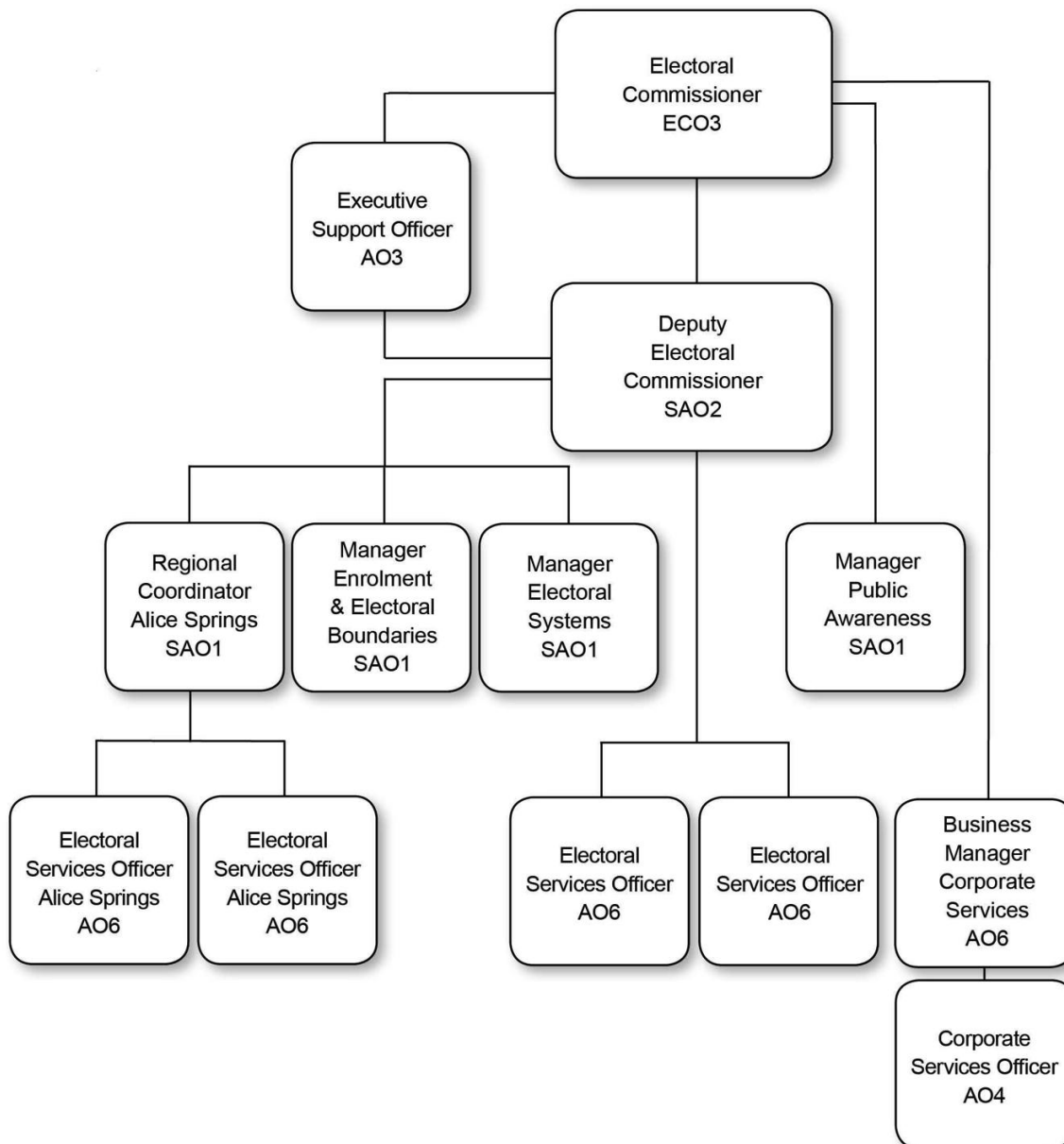
## **Corporate**

- Implement the recommendations from the 2014 compliance audit.
- Update the corporate plan for 2015-2019.
- Oversee QR 14, redistribution, by-election and ballot budgets, prepare financial estimates for the next LA and LG general election events and assess and improve the election costing and monitoring models to provide more accurate estimates of election expenditure.
- Facilitate the timely refresh of hardware and software for the next election cycle.
- Maintain contact with the pool of experienced casual electoral staff and explore opportunities to co-opt new recruits at by-elections, and to up-skill staff in preparation for major elections.

## 1.8 Organisational structure and staffing at 30 June 2014

The agency had 13.1 full-time equivalent employees, including the Electoral Commissioner, at the year end. The organisation structure as at 30 June 2014 is shown below.

**Organisation Chart as at 30 June 2014**





## 2 ENROLMENT

### Objective

**A complete, accurate and securely maintained roll of Northern Territory electors that meets the requirements of stakeholders**

### 2.1 Roll maintenance

The enrolment provisions of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (unchanged during the reporting year) apply for NT purposes, so that if an eligible person resident in the Territory is enrolled on the Commonwealth roll, he/she is automatically enrolled for Legislative Assembly (LA) and local government (LG) elections. This is in accordance with the *Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act 1978* and the *NT Electoral Act*. The *Electoral Act* section 20 provides that the Administrator may enter into an Arrangement with the Governor-General for the maintenance of the joint Territory and Commonwealth Roll. The present Arrangement has been in place since 1994.

The roll is maintained by the AEC and provided to the NTEC on request, in accordance with the Joint Roll Arrangement (JRA). A total of \$164 819 was provided to the AEC in the 2013-14 financial year under the JRA. Enrolment stimulation and roll review activities at the local level are, on occasion, agreed between the NTEC and AEC.

### 2.2 Roll status

During the reporting period, the NT roll increased by 3899 electors to a total of 129 878 as at 30 June 2014. The main reason for the increase was the impetus given to enrolment by the September 2013 federal election. Enrolment forms completed and submitted at the Blain by-election and 11 council by-elections were also contributing factors.

The Northern Territory's participation rate in relation to enrolment and voting is consistently 10 to 15% below that of most interstate jurisdictions and of the national average. This is due in part to the younger average age of the eligible population, the high level of mobility in the community and the special difficulties of maintaining the roll in remote areas of the Territory where enrolment and voting rates are significantly lower than urban areas.

**Table 1:** Estimated eligible participation on the roll - 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014

Estimated eligible participation rates for 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2014			
Year	Area	% Total Enrolment	% 18-25 enrolment
2008	NT	83.3	68.3
	National	92.2	82.0
2010	NT	74.5	52.0
	National	89.7	77.5
2012	NT*	78.9	56.0
	National	90.6	73.0
2014	NT	80.8	60.8
	National	92.3	78.5

\* Figures are before the close of the roll for the NT LA elections on 8 August 2012.

The NTEC has access to the national roll database (RMANS) and provides the AEC with geographic and elector information useful for roll maintenance. Data from enrolment stimulation and review programs conducted by the NTEC and enrolment forms collected from the public in community settings and at elections are provided to the AEC for processing.

## Direct enrolment

The Federal Direct Enrolment Update (FDEU) program was introduced nationally in June 2012 and rolled out in the NT in February 2013.

The process involves the AEC receiving advice of a person's name and address details from a reliable and trusted source - currently the Commonwealth Department of Human Resources and NT Motor Vehicle data. It is anticipated that taxation data may be used as a source in the future.

- The person's details are checked against the electoral roll and where the person is not correctly enrolled a letter is mailed to the person.
- If the person is not qualified to be enrolled at the address, the person is asked to advise the AEC.
- If no advice is received, the person is enrolled for the address provided by the reliable and trusted source.

As the FDEU program depends on electors having a reliable mail delivery system, the program does not operate in rural and remote areas of the NT, including Tennant Creek.

A total of 8929 direct enrolment records were applied to the roll during the reporting period. The following table shows the details of FDEU transactions during the year.

**Table 2:** NT Federal Direct Enrolment Update transactions 2013-14

Transaction	Direct Enrol and Update*	Direct Enrol Other#	Total
New enrolments	804	20	<b>824</b>
Re-enrolments	819	19	<b>838</b>
Changes	6 965	302	<b>7 267</b>
<b>Total NT</b>	<b>8 588</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>8 929</b>

\* Direct Enrol and Direct Update are enrolment transactions processed generated by sections 103A & B of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*. These are made up of enrolment transactions processed at the end of the notification period, as well as direct enrolment transactions processed as a result of a returned direct enrolment or update letter of intent within this period. Enrolment transactions may occur outside of the source state as a result of advice from the elector provided within the notification period.

# Direct Enrol Other includes enrolments which were prompted by a direct enrol or direct update letter of intent, but which resulted in a claim for enrolment by the elector (section 98 of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*).

## Online enrolment

During the reporting period, 39% (12 064) of the 30 785 total enrolment transactions in the NT were completed online through the AEC's website, compared to 42% nationally. This reflects an increase of 8% compared to the previous year, and continues to demonstrate an increasing propensity by the broader NT population to update their enrolment details online.

The following table shows enrolment by division as at 30 June 2014.

**Table 3: Enrolment by Legislative Assembly Division 30 June 2014**

Division	Enrolment 30/6/2014	Division	Enrolment 30/6/2014
Arafura	5 590	Greatorex	4 548
Araluen	4 807	Johnston	5 134
Arnhem	5 055	Karama	5 001
Barkly	5 156	Katherine	5 274
Blain	6 018	Namatjira	5 443
Braitling	4 500	Nelson	4 833
Brennan	5 679	Nhulunbuy	4 819
Casuarina	5 404	Nightcliff	5 140
Daly	5 538	Port Darwin	5 231
Drysdale	5 362	Sanderson	5 307
Fannie Bay	5 324	Stuart	4 765
Fong Lim	4 973	Wanguri	5 347
Goyder	5 630	<b>Total</b>	<b>129 878</b>

### 2.3 Roll stimulation activities and initiatives

In accordance with the JRA, the NTEC contributes to roll maintenance by undertaking enrolment stimulation activities in the lead up to any Legislative Assembly and/or local government general and by-election and by maintaining a regular presence at public awareness events such as the show circuit, and defence orientation days.

The Alice Springs office continued to serve as a shopfront for enrolment and other electoral enquiries from the public. The office is also the base for regular enrolment activities at public venues, schools and communities within the town and in the Centre generally, including assistance with enrolment at citizenship ceremonies in Alice Springs.

**Table 4: NT enrolment activity 1 July 2013 - 30 June 2014**

Enrolment Activity for NT LA Divisions - 1 July 2013 – 30 June 2014		
Transactions	1 July 2013 – 30 June 2014	Roll at 1 July 2013 125 979
Additions		
New enrolments	5 207	
Re-enrolments	2 373	
Re-instatements	155	
Transfers from interstate	8 469	+16 204
Movements within NT		
Transfers between division	8 730	
Changes within division	4 127	
No change enrolments	3 228	
Deletions		
Objections	1 653	
Deaths	852	
Duplications	156	
Cancellations	14	
Transfers interstate	9 638	-12 313
		Roll as at 30 June 2014 129 878

**Table 5: Enrolment transactions - Additions, deletions and transfers for the NT roll since 2009-2010**

Enrolment at Start of Financial Year	2009-10		2010-11		2011-12		2012-13		2013-14	
		112 313		118 958		120 950		121 749		125 979
Plus additions to the roll										
New enrolments	2 447		3 949		3 474		4 077		5 207	
Re-enrolments	1 753		2 414		2 089		2 706		2 373	
Re-instatements	47		54		682		32		155	
Interstate transfers to NT	5 170		6 067		6 508		7 813		8 469	
<b>Total Additions</b>		<b>+9 417</b>		<b>+12 484</b>		<b>+12 753</b>		<b>14 628</b>		<b>16 204</b>
No change to total Transfers within NT										
Transfer between divisions	4 655		5 884		8 394		7 877		8 730	
Changes within division	1 912		3 948		5 252		4 822		4 127	
Amendments to elector details	1 675		2 104		2 010		2 926		3 228	
Less - Deletions to the roll										
Removal by objection	5 543		1 326		3 946		1 811		1 653	
Deaths	738		680		730		697		852	
Duplications	84		90		112		218		156	
Cancellations									14	
Interstate transfers from NT	5 205		6 891		7 166		7 674		9 638	
<b>Total Deletions</b>		<b>-11 570</b>		<b>-8 987</b>		<b>-11 954</b>		<b>-10 400</b>		<b>-12 313</b>
Net adjustments		-1		-1		-11		-1		
<b>Enrolment at Close of Financial Year</b>		<b>117 454</b>		<b>120 950</b>		<b>121 749</b>		<b>125979</b>		<b>129 878</b>

**Notes:**

- **New enrolments** - all electors who enrolled for the first time.
- **Re-enrolments** - re-enrolling electors who previously had been enrolled.
- **Re-instatements** - the re-instatement of electors to the roll removed previously based on the receipt of new information that they still reside at their earlier enrolled address.
- **Interstate transfers to NT** - transfers of enrolment to an NT address from interstate.
- **Interstate transfers from NT** - electors previously enrolled in the NT transferring their enrolment to another jurisdiction.
- **Transfers within NT** - electors notifying a change of address to another NT LA division or within same division. Transfers within NT do not alter total enrolment.
- **Amendment** - changes to enrolment details other than name or enrolled address e.g. amendment to mail delivery address, council re-numbering of street addresses.
- **Removed by objection** - electors removed from the roll, generally on the ground that they are apparently no longer resident at their enrolled address.
- **Duplication** - removal of a duplicate entry on the roll due to an official error e.g. a transfer of enrolment not matched to an existing enrolment.
- **Cancellations** - removals of individuals from the electoral roll who have not maintained their eligibility status for enrolment under the Electoral Act.
- **Provisional enrolment** - includes electors who enrol when they are 16 (the latter applies since July 2010) or 17 and obtain full enrolment and voting rights on their 18th birthday.
- **Adjustments** - variations to statistics arising from processing amendments.

Electoral events took place as follows:

- 2009-10 to 2010-11: roll integrity and objection activities following major electoral events e.g. Araluen by-election, Alice Springs and Palmerston whole of council by-elections and governance decisions from 2007 impacting on the NT rural sector.
- 2011-12 NT LG elections 24 March 2012.
- 2012-13 NT LA elections 25 August 2012, Wanguri by-election 16 February 2013.
- 2013-14 Federal Election September 2013, Blain by-election 12 April 2014.

The main features of the enrolment program during the year included election and enrolment awareness campaigns undertaken in support of local government by-elections, such as the circulation of customised public awareness materials, elector mail-outs and the collection of enrolments and other roll information at the close of rolls and at polling places.

Posters and advertising for the public awareness campaign took place at all shows on the Alice Springs to Darwin circuit. As a result of this activity, 343 completed enrolment forms were collected.

School-based campaigns raised electoral awareness amongst young people and allowed the collection of enrolments from senior students. See the Education section for more details.

Letters were sent to all electors in the Division of Blain in the lead up to the April 2014 Legislative Assembly by-election. During the official election close of roll period (from the issue of the writ to the close of roll), 24-26 March 2014, there were 26 additions to the roll and 29 deletions, a small decrease to the roll. However as the sitting member resigned on 21 February 2014, the majority of the enrolment program was undertaken prior to the official roll close period. During this period there were 347 additions and 166 deletions, an increase of 3.2%.

### **Indigenous Electoral Participation Program (IEPP)**

The IEPP is an AEC program to increase enrolment and electoral participation of indigenous people Australia wide. One component of the program in the NT is field officer visits to remote communities and regional centres. The NTEC's Alice Springs office is used by the AEC as a base for activities in Central Australia. The AEC undertook roll integrity activities early in the 2013-14 reporting year, prior to the expected Commonwealth election, involving IEPP and the Department of Human Services personnel. During the 2013 federal election, the AEC used the NTEC's Alice Springs office as a base for their election operations, including mobile polling in the communities of Central Australia.

## **2.4 Supply of roll data**

In accordance with the JRA, roll data was extracted from RMANS for the following:

- The roll for the Blain by-election – 26 March 2014 roll close.
- Rolls for 11 LG by-elections.
- Monthly updates of roll changes for supply to Members of the Legislative Assembly and registered parties.
- The supply of roll data to approved entities for health screening purposes.

The AEC met the performance standards set out in the JRA for the management of the close of rolls for the elections and was responsive to requests for ad-hoc data extracts.

## **2.5 Redistributions and electoral representation reviews**

Redistributions of electorate boundaries are undertaken in all Australia jurisdictions in accordance with the relevant legislation and are carried out by independent commissions or, where specified, local government boundary adjustment panels and boards.

### **Redistribution of Legislative Assembly boundaries**

In accordance with s138 of the *Electoral Act*, a redistribution of Legislative Assembly divisions is required to commence two years and six months after the polling day for the last election. As the last Legislative Assembly general elections were held on 25 August 2012, the next redistribution of Legislative Assembly divisions is due to commence in February 2015.

As prescribed in the *Electoral Act* Part 8, the Redistribution Committee must:

- By notice, invite written suggestions relating to the redistribution to be given to the Committee within 30 days after the publication of the notice in the *Gazette*.
- Make the suggestions available for public inspection by publishing a notice advising of their availability and invite comment, in writing, on the suggestions within 14 days after publication of the notice in the *Gazette*.
- Prepare a proposed redistribution of the Territory into divisions (including proposed names).
- Publish proposed boundaries (maps) and invite objections be made to the Augmented Redistribution Committee within 30 days after publication of the notice in the *Gazette*.

The Augmented Redistribution Committee is then formed. The Augmented Committee will:

- Consider objections.
- As soon as practicable after the end of the 30 days inviting objections on the proposed boundaries, redistribute the Territory into divisions, published in the *Gazette*.
- Provide a report about the redistribution to the Minister.

It is expected that the process should be completed by mid-2015.

### Quality Roll 2014

On 2 June 2014, funding was approved for a program designed to improve the accuracy of the roll prior to the commencement of the 2015 redistribution. This program, comprising both remote and urban components, was scheduled to commence in the latter half of 2014.

### Indicative QR 14 program activities

Period 2014	Urban/Rural Areas	Remote areas
June to August	<p>Identification of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-voter data from the 2012 NTLA general election, the 2013 federal election and the LA Blain by-election.</li> <li>• Return to sender data from the QR 14 elector mail-outs.</li> <li>• Areas/suburbs with high mobility rates.</li> <li>• Addresses shown in the AEC Roll Management System listed as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ multiple surname enrolment or</li> <li>○ exceeding the elector limit or</li> <li>○ vacant 'enrollable' addresses.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>NB Program costings were based either with or without AEC and DLGR involvement.</p> <p>Planning/monitoring for two person teams to target the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 22 major remote communities.</li> <li>• Smaller communities and outstations (by LA division) where analysis of non-voters and voter numbers determine roll integrity action is required.</li> <li>• Town camps.</li> </ul> <p>It is proposed to recruit five teams of two people, three teams based in Darwin and two teams based in Alice Springs.</p> <p>The primary method of fieldwork will be doorknocking all residences in each community. Information to be notated will include electors no longer living at their enrolled address, duplicate enrolments and deceased electors.</p> <p>Field staff will collect enrolments at each residence.</p>
July	<p>Stalls at the Fred's Pass, Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine and Darwin Shows encouraging correct enrolment and providing information on the 2015 Redistribution.</p> <p>Mail-out late July to all electors in urban areas. Mail for Darwin, Alice Springs and Katherine to be sent to enrolled address (where there was guaranteed mail delivery), not PO Box. Litchfield, Nhulunbuy and Tennant Creek mail to be sent to mailing addresses.</p>	<p>Five teams will visit 46 remote communities. NTEC field staff will notate the community elector lists, with local assistance, as their first duty on arrival in the community. Agreed fieldwork methodology will apply for all remote areas.</p>

Period 2014	Urban/Rural Areas	Remote areas
August-November	<p>Commence review in Alice Springs, Darwin, Katherine, Nhulunbuy, Palmerston and Tennant Creek.</p> <p>Doorknocks in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alice Springs and Nhulunbuy – all addresses due to population movements.</li> <li>• New developments in Bellamack, Coolalinga, Johnston, Lyons, Muirhead and Zuccoli.</li> <li>• All other urban areas at addresses targeted through the identification process.</li> <li>• Major caravan parks to be reviewed through the target process.</li> </ul>	<p>Five teams will visit 37 remote communities. NTEC field staff will notate the community elector lists, with local assistance, as their first duty on arrival in the community. Agreed fieldwork methodology will apply for all remote areas.</p> <p>Town camp fieldwork will be carried out using the same methodology as the remote community fieldwork.</p> <p>All remote fieldwork planned for completion by October 2014.</p>
December	Consolidation and review of data.	

### Reviews of representation by councils

During the year, government discussions took place on the composition of rural-based councils with a move to regionalisation and the creation of one new regional council, West Daly. Effective 1 July 2014, local government in the NT now comprises five municipal and 12 regional councils (including Wagait Shire and Belyuen and Coomalie Community Government Councils). AEC cooperation was sought to modify the Victoria Daly Regional Council roll and apply appropriate roll data for West Daly Regional Council.

Five councils, Alice Springs, Belyuen, Katherine, Palmerston and Wagait, do not have a ward structure, all other councils do. There are three privately incorporated bodies managing the towns of Alyangula, Nhulunbuy and Yulara. Persons resident in the Darwin Waterfront area are in unincorporated land in the Top End and are not represented by local government.

Imbalances in elector numbers between wards develop over time and need to be reviewed so that all electors and communities have a fair say in council decision-making. Under the 2008 *Local Government Act* (LGA) and Local Government (Electoral) Regulations (LGER), a council must:

- Review its structure and representation once in every four year term [LGA s23(2)] and [LGER r63].
- Prepare a plan for the council's composition, taking into account population change, geography and community interests; community feedback may be sought before finalising the plan.
- Consult with the NTEC during the process [LGER r63 (4)].
- Complete the review 12 months before the next scheduled general election [LGER r63(5)].

The NTEC report on the 2012 LG elections included a number of recommendations to improve the review process though the next council representation reviews, scheduled for 2014-2015, are likely to be unaffected. Activities for any reviews should commence no later than the second half of 2014 for Gazettal to take place by August 2015.

On request from councils or their appointed consultant, elector numbers by ward were provided to support their reviews. The Electoral Commissioner will provide comments and relevant information during the consultation process prescribed under regulation 63(4) of the Local Government Electoral Regulations.

Subject to Ministerial approval, any changes to council ward boundaries will be applied to the electoral roll in conjunction with the Australian Electoral Commission, which maintains the roll.

## **2.6 Targets 2014-15**

- Conduct the QR14 roll integrity program prior to the redistribution.
- Assist councils with their representation reviews.
- Prepare for and assist as requested with the 2015 review of Legislative Assembly electoral boundaries.
- Continue to promote enrolment through staff attendance at civic events, royal shows and by providing information on the NTEC website.



## 3 ELECTIONS

### Objective

#### Efficient and effective conduct of elections

### 3.1 Legislation

There were no changes to the NT *Electoral Act* or local government electoral provisions.

On 26 November 2013 a Constitution Convention (Election) Amendment Bill was passed removing the then expiry date of 31 December 2013, allowing implementation of the Statehood program within a more flexible timeframe.

The Department of Local Government and Regions (DLGR) sought public comment [including from the Local Government Association of the NT (LGANT) and individual councils] on the recommendations contained in the NTEC report on the 2012 LG elections and other proposed changes. The comments were considered by a panel of representatives from DLGR, LGANT and the NTEC, that met with a view to modernising and improving electoral practices. Consideration was given to the timing for the next local government general elections (scheduled for March 2016) given that there will be a national Census in August 2016, a Legislative Assembly election, also in August 2016, and a likely Commonwealth election in the latter part of 2016.

### 3.2 Electoral services

During the year, the NTEC conducted the Blain by-election, 11 council by-elections, provided inter-jurisdiction support for the South Australian general elections and the Tasmania House of Assembly and Legislative Council (MyVote Central only), the 2013 federal election and managed seven industrial elections, including four enterprise agreement ballots.

### 3.3 Parliamentary elections

#### 3.3.1 Legislative Assembly by-election for the Division of Blain

The Blain by-election was held on Saturday 12 April 2014 following the resignation of the sitting member, Mr Terry Mills, who had held the seat since 1999. Blain is an urban division that includes the Palmerston suburbs of Bellamack, Mitchell, Moulden, Woodroffe, Zuccoli and part of Rosebery.

The writ for the election was issued on 24 March 2014. Five candidates contested the by-election: Geoff Bahnert [Australian Labor Party (NT)], Nathan Barrett (Country Liberals), Sue McKinnon (Greens), Matthew Cranitch (Independent) and Peter Flynn (Citizens Electoral Council).

Nathan Barrett (Country Liberals) was declared elected on Wednesday 16 April 2014.

A full report on the by-election will be forwarded to the Speaker.

**Table 6:** Election milestones

Close of roll	8pm Wednesday 26 March 2014
Close of nominations	12 noon Friday 28 March 2014
Polling day	Saturday 12 April 2014
Return of writ	Wednesday 16 April 2014

**Table 7: Polling summary**

<b>Postal voting 6pm close</b>	182 ballot papers counted (4.5%)
	Monday 31 March 2014 to Thursday 10 April 2014
	(Overseas close Tuesday 8 April 2014)
Deadline for return	Tuesday 22 April 2014 (following Easter Monday)
<b>Early voting</b>	576 ballot papers counted (14.2%)
NTEC offices Darwin, Alice Springs and City of Palmerston council office	Monday 31 March 2014 to Friday 11 April 2014
<b>Mobile polling (hospitals) – 1 team</b>	8 ballot papers counted (0.2%)
Royal Darwin and Darwin Private Hospitals	Friday 11 March 2014
<b>Other declaration voting</b>	1 vote counted (<0.0%)
<b>Static polling 8am-6pm - 3 polling places</b> Sacred Heart Primary School (Woodroffe) Moulden Park Primary School Rosebery Middle School	3 300 ballot papers counted (81.1%)
<b>Poll declared</b>	Wednesday 16 April 2014

**Table 8: Election outcomes**

<b>Election Component</b>	<b>April 2014 By-election</b>	<b>August 2012 LAGE</b>
Electors on roll	5 914	4 980
Electors voting	4 067 (68.8%)	4 141 (83.2%)
Informal ballot papers	184 (4.5%)	142 (3.4%)
Two candidate preferred (2CP)	53.2% CLP; 46.8% ALP	63.2% CLP; 36.8% ALP
Election costs	\$100 000 (estimated)*	N/A
Cost per elector	\$16.91 (estimated)*	N/A

\* Final costs will be calculated on completion of the non-voter program.

**Notes:**

Voter participation is usually higher at a general election due to the increased media coverage given to Territory-wide elections.

Informality was 1.1% higher at the by-election.

### 3.3.2 Assistance for inter-jurisdiction elections

When requested, a polling service is provided for interstate and New Zealand electors visiting the Northern Territory at the time parliamentary elections are taking place in their own jurisdiction. The support is mainly in the form of early voting services provided at the Darwin and Alice Springs offices.

**Table 9: Inter-jurisdictional support provided during 2013-14**

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Poll date</b>	<b>Election type</b>	<b>Chamber</b>	<b>District/Division</b>	<b>Electors Voting</b>		
					<b>Darwin</b>	<b>A/S</b>	<b>Total</b>
South Australia	15/03/2014	General	HA & LC		208	117	<b>325</b>
Tasmania	15/03/2014	General	HA		N/A*	16	<b>16</b>
Tasmania	3/05/2014		LC	Huon, Rosevears	N/A*	1	<b>1</b>

\* The Australian Electoral Commission provided this service for Darwin.

A/S	Alice Springs Office	N/A	Not Appointed
By	By-election	LA	Legislative Assembly
HA	House of Assembly	LC	Legislative Council
HoR	House of Representatives		

### **Federal election 7 September 2013**

At the election for two NT senators and two members for the House of Representatives in the Commonwealth Parliament, the focus of support provided was at the MyVote Central office in Alice Springs. Two staff provided full-time support for AEC operations and a number of casuals were co-opted for various polling positions.

A small number of staff observed the AEC remote mobile polling program, to consider the extended polling hours at larger communities and the contribution of the voting information officers for liaison with community members. Planning for the 2016 remote mobile program will take on board these observations.

The New Zealand and Victorian State General Elections are scheduled for September and November 2014 respectively.

### **3.3.3 Northern Territory Statehood and election for delegates to a Constitutional Convention**

A decision on the conduct of a delegates' election for a Constitutional Convention and any associated timing remains unresolved. The legislation now allows flexibility in its application.

### **3.3.4 Party registration**

An application to register the Palmer United Party was received on 2 May 2014, with notice of the application to register the party advertised in the NT News on 7 May 2014. No objections to the registration were lodged within the prescribed period and the party was registered in the NT on 23 May 2014. Federal registration, formalised on 5 July 2013, facilitated registration in the NT.

The NT had seven registered parties as at 30 June 2014.

**Table 10:** NT registered political parties

<b>Political Party</b>	<b>Date of Registration</b>
Australian Labor Party NT (ALP)	18 April 2005
Australian Sex Party NT	19 November 2011
Citizens Electoral Council (NT Division)	6 March 2013
Country Liberals	27 January 2010*
First Nations Political Party	25 May 2011
The Greens	23 March 2005
Palmer United Party	23 May 2014

\* First registered 30 March 2005 as the Northern Territory Country Liberal Party.

Amendments to the *Electoral Act*, that came into effect on 21 December 2011, require registered political parties to provide, as part of their annual return, a current constitution and statement for the purpose of monitoring a party's continued eligibility for registration. Eligibility criteria for all registered parties were satisfied.

### **3.3.5 Disclosure**

Whilst NT electoral legislation does not provide for the funding of political parties, the *Electoral Act* Part 10 requires annual disclosure by registered parties and their associated entities, and election specific disclosure returns from candidates, publishers and broadcasters. There are no funding or disclosure requirements for local government elections. Copies of disclosure returns are available for inspection at the Darwin and Alice Springs offices and on the website.

The original alignment between Commonwealth and Territory disclosure requirements ceased when the then Commonwealth Government significantly increased the threshold limits for disclosure in 2006. Therefore the NT parties effectively cannot submit a Commonwealth return for NT purposes.

Returns are due within 16 weeks of the financial-year end and are to be posted by 1 March of the following year.

All of the six NT parties registered at 30 June 2013 submitted their annual disclosure returns. These returns included disclosure details for the August 2012 LA elections and were posted in March 2014.

Candidate disclosure returns for the Blain by-election were due on 28 July 2014.

During the year, increasing speculation arose over the status of Foundation 51 Pty Ltd. Ongoing revelations in the public domain led to calls to formally investigate the matter and determine whether Foundation 51 Pty Ltd is an associated entity of the Country Liberals. In May 2014, a formal complaint lodged by the Australian Labor Party (NT) alleged that Foundation 51 Pty Ltd failed to comply with the financial disclosure provisions of the NT *Electoral Act*. Enquiries regarding the activities and status of Foundation 51 commenced on receipt of the complaint.

In April 2014 a query was received, arising from the Inquiry into Stella Maris, regarding alleged inaccuracies of returns submitted by Harold Nelson Holdings (now known as NT ALP Investment Trust). The Commissioner was satisfied with the clarification provided by Harold Nelson Holdings.

### **3.4 Council elections**

Shire Councils were gazetted as Regional Councils as of 1 January 2014. On 28 April 2014, the Minister for Local Government made a restructuring order splitting Victoria Daly Regional Council, thereby creating a new Regional Council of West Daly, effective 1 July 2014. Records were amended accordingly.

#### **3.4.1 By-elections**

Eleven council elections were conducted including four of which were for municipalities: Litchfield Council, City of Palmerston, Alice Springs and Katherine Town Councils. The remaining seven were for shires/regional councils.

Six elections went to poll, four municipal, one regional council (Victoria Daly – Milngin Ward) and one shire council (Wagait), while five regional council elections received the necessary number of nominations to fill the vacancies and were uncontested. In the event that an election is uncontested there is still a requirement to prepare the notice inviting nominations for candidates, organise the close of roll and provide an estimate of election costs.

**Table 11:** Summary of council by-elections conducted 2013-14

Council	Election Descriptors										Members Elected	C/U
	D/AS Managed	Scheduled polling day	Election Type	Ward	No. on Roll	No. Vacancies	Nominations Received					
							M	F	Total			
Litchfield	D	10/08/2013	By-M	Central	2 406	1	1	3	4	1	C	
Roper Gulf	D	23/10/2013	By-R	Yugul Mangi	790	1	1	0	1	1	U	
West Arnhem	D	23/10/2013	By-R	Barrah	446	1	0	1	1	1	U	
Palmerston	D	26/10/2013	By-M		16 753	1	2	3	5	1	C	
Alice Springs	AS	23/11/2013	By-M		14 187	1	4	1	5	1	C	
Roper Gulf	D	30/11/2013	By-R	South West Gulf	978	1	1	0	1	1	U	
Tiwi Islands	D	5/02/2014	By-R	Milikapiti	332	1	0	1	1	1	U	
Victoria Daly	D	12/03/2014	By-R	Milngin	398	1	2	0	2	1	C	
Katherine	D	15/03/2014	By-M		5 294	2	5	4	9	2	C	
Barkly	D	21/05/2014	By-R	Alyawarr	1726	1	0	1	1	1	U	
Wagait	D	28/06/2014	By-S		296	1	0	2	2	1	C	
					43 606	12	16	16	32	12		

Legend

D Darwin                      By By-election                      By-M Municipal                      M Male                      C Contested election  
AS Alice Springs              Supp Supplementary Election              By-R Regional                      F Female                      U Uncontested election  
By-S Shire

Mobile polling was conducted in four of the six contested elections with no team operating in Litchfield or Wagait:

- Palmerston – one urban team servicing the Darwin Correctional Centre and hospitals.
- Katherine – one team servicing two communities (Binjari and Rockhole) and Katherine Hospital.
- Victoria Daly Milngin Ward - one remote mobile team operated.
- Alice Springs - six urban mobile teams serviced six town camps (Hidden Valley, Charles Creek, Little Sisters, Anthepe, Karnte Camp, Larapinta Valley), Alice Springs prison, hospital, and Old Timers nursing home.

While information cannot be given for individual elections for privacy purposes, age data was amalgamated for all the council by-elections.

**Table 12:** Council by-election candidate age data 2013-14

All 11 Councils	By-election Candidates by Age range								By-election Elected Members by Age Range							
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Not given	Total	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Not given	Total
Total	0	4	8	5	11	4	0	32	0	1	3	3	4	1	0	12

Due to the new charging regime, it is not possible to compare costs of the elections with similar events in the previous election cycle, due to the corporate overhead charged to municipal councils since mid-2013 and to regional councils from July 2014. However, comparative elector turnout data are provided in the table below for the six contested elections, where that is possible. Turnout at by-elections is generally lower due to the lack of absent voting and reduced media election coverage.

**Table 13:** Turnout figures for the six contested by-elections and any of their previous elections since the 2008 LGGE

Council election		Turnout %		
Ordinary member	Type	2008-11 By-election	LGGE 2012	By –election 2013-14
Litchfield – Central Ward	M	Not contested (19/06/10)	Ward not contested	42.9
City of Palmerston	M	52.2 (30/10/10)	75.1	61.1
Alice Springs	M	66.8 (26/02/11)	74.0	64.6
Victoria Daly – Milngin Ward	R	None	61.7	52.8
Katherine	M	60.5 (26/02/11)	74.0	63.2
Wagait	R	Not contested (9.05.09)	70.9 (no principal member)	56.8 (26/06/14) 54.4 (18/06/13)

LGGE Local Government General Elections

M Municipal R Regional












60 council by-elections and supplementary elections have been conducted since the 2008 roll-out of the new shires, now regional councils. For the first time, no supplementary elections were required, which arises when insufficient nominations are received by noon on the close date.

**Table 14:** By-elections conducted 2008-14

Reporting year	No. By-elections		No. Supplementary Elections		Total Elections	No. Elections Contested	
	Municipal	Shire/Regional Council	Municipal	Shire/Regional Council		No.	%
2008-09	-	4	-	1	5	3	60.0
2009-10	2	11	-	1	14	5	35.7
2010-11	3	9	-	1	13	9	69.2
2011-12			-	6	6	3	50.0
2012-13	-	8	-	3 (inc. 1 failed)	11	3	27.3
2013-14	4	7	-	-	11	6	54.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>48.3</b>

### 3.4.2 By-election details 2013-14

The following pages contain details of the 11 council by-elections for ordinary members conducted during the reporting year, in chronological order.

<b>Litchfield Council – Central Ward</b>	10 August 2013	
<b>Roper Gulf Shire Council - Yugul Mangi Ward</b>	23 October 2013	
<b>West Arnhem Shire Council – Barra Ward</b>	23 October 2013	
<b>City of Palmerston</b>	26 October 2013	
<b>Alice Springs Town Council</b>	23 November 2013	
<b>Roper Gulf Shire Council - South West Gulf Ward</b>	30 November 2013	
<b>Tiwi Islands Regional Council - Milikapiti Ward</b>	5 February 2014	
<b>Victoria Daly Regional Council - Milngin Ward</b>	12 March 2014	
<b>Katherine Town Council</b>	15 March 2014	
<b>Barkly Regional Council – Alyawarr Ward</b>	21 May 2014	
<b>Wagait Shire Council</b>	28 June 2014	

## Litchfield Council – Central Ward By-election

The council CEO advised on 4 July 2013 of a vacancy for one ordinary member (councillor) in Central Ward.

### Election Milestones

Close of roll	5pm Wednesday 17 July 2013 (2406 electors)
Close of nominations	12 noon Friday 19 July 2013
Polling day (if contested)	Saturday 10 August 2013
Election declared	Wednesday 14 August 2013

As there were more nominations than vacancies available, an election was held.

Candidate/s contesting the by-election:

OSBORN, Christine

**COLE, Judy Elected**

McADIE, Mark

JACKSON-CRANE, Barbara

### Election Services

Postal voting (6pm close)	Tuesday 23 July 2013 to Thursday 8 August 2013		
	(Overseas close Tuesday 6 August 2013)		
	Return deadline Friday 16 August 2013		
Early voting	Tuesday 23 July 2013 to Friday 9 August 2013	Darwin, Litchfield, Alice Springs	
Mobile polling	n/a		
Static polling	Saturday 10 August 8am-6pm	Bees Creek, Howard Springs	
Electors voting	Formally 950 (92.1%)	Informally 81 (7.9%)	Total voting 1031 (42.9%)
Election costs (GST inc.)	\$16 560.84		

### Results - Count of Preferences and Calculation of Transfers (if required)

LITCHFIELD COUNCIL - CENTRAL WARD								
Election of 1 Councillor								
10 August 2013								
FINAL								
Electors on roll: 2406								
Polling Place/Declaration Type	1st Preference Votes for each Candidate				Ballot Papers Counted			
	OSBORN, Christine	COLE, Judy	McADIE, Mark	JACKSON- CRANE, Barbara	Formal	Informal	Total	
Bees Creek	198	276	61	81	616	53	669	
Howard Springs	69	111	28	37	245	21	266	
<b>Static Polling Places</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>861</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>935</b>	
Early Voting Darwin	12	3	10	1	26	0	26	
Early Voting Litchfield	10	13	10	8	41	7	48	
<b>Early Voting Centres</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>74</b>	
<b>Postal Votes(19) + Declaration Votes(1)</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22</b>	
Ballot Papers Counted	296	410	115	129	950	81	1031	
%	31.1	43.2	12.1	13.6	92.1	7.9		

*Elected*

Ballot papers counted as a % of enrolment: 42.9%



LITCHFIELD COUNCIL - CENTRAL WARD

Election of one Councillor

Determination of Quota and Distribution of Preferences (if required)

TOTAL FORMAL BALLOT PAPERS: 950

TO BE ELECTED: 1

QUOTA:  $\frac{950}{1+1} + 1 = 476$

TABLE 1: COUNT OF PREFERENCES AND CALCULATION OF TRANSFERS

TABLE 2: DISTRIBUTION OF THE EFFECTIVE VOTES

Count No.	Description of next available preference	OSBORN	COLE	McADIE	JACKSON-CRANE	Total ballot papers counted	Transfer value	Votes transferred to Table 2	Count No.	OSBORN	COLE	McADIE	JACKSON-CRANE	Votes lost through fractional remainder	Total votes counted	Remarks
1	1st preferences	296	410	115	129	950	1	950	1	296	410	115	129		950	McAdie to be excluded
2	NAP after McAdie			Excluded					2	296	410	115	129		950	McAdie Excluded
3	NAP after Jackson-Crane	35	60	-115	20	115	1	115	3	35	60	-115	20		950	Jackson-Crane Excluded
4	NAP after Jackson-Crane	87	42		excluded	129	1	129	4	331	470	0	149		950	1st parcel transferred
									5	87	42		-129			
										418	512	0	20		950	Jackson- Crane's 2nd Parcel Transferred
		14	6			20	1	20		14	6	0	-20			
										432	518	0	0		950	Cole Elected

## Roper Gulf Shire Council – Yugul Mangi Ward By-election



The council CEO advised on 11 October 2013 of a vacancy for one ordinary member (councillor) in Yugul Mangi Ward.

### Election Milestones

Close of roll	5pm 1 October 2013 (790 electors)
Close of nominations	12 noon 10 October 2013
Polling day if (contested)	Wednesday 23 October 2013
Election declared	12 noon 10 October 2013

As the number of nominations was the same as the vacancies available, no election was held:

**ROBERTS, Eric** was elected unopposed

Election costs (GST inc.)	\$1206.20
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## West Arnhem Shire Council – Barrah Ward By-election



The council CEO advised on 9 September 2013 of a vacancy for one ordinary member (councillor) in Barrah Ward.

### Election Milestones

Close of roll	5pm 1 October 2013 (446 electors)
Close of nominations	12 noon 10 October 2013
Polling day (if contested)	Wednesday 23 October 2013
Election declared	12 noon 10 October 2013

As the number of nominations was the same as the vacancies available, no election was held:

**YARMIRR, Daisy** was elected unopposed

Election costs (GST inc.)	\$1206.20
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## City of Palmerston



The council CEO advised on 9 August 2013 of a vacancy for one ordinary member (alderman) for the council.

### Election Milestones

Close of roll	5pm Tuesday 1 October 2013 (16 753electors)
Close of nominations	12 noon Thursday 10 October 2013
Polling day (if contested)	Saturday 26 October 2013
Election declared	10am Monday 4 November 2013

As there were more nominations than vacancies available, an election was held. Candidates contesting the by-election:  
FRASER-ADAMS, Sue

McMANIS, Chris

CRABBE, Mary

JONES, Ashley

**SHUTT, Seranna Elected**

### Election Services

Postal voting (6pm close)	Friday 11 October 2013 to Thursday 24 October 2013		
	(Overseas close Tuesday 22 October 2013)		
	Return deadline Friday 1 November 2013		
Early voting	Wednesday 16 October 2013 to Friday 25 October 2013		Darwin, Palmerston, Alice Springs
Mobile polling	Thursday 24 and Friday 25 October 2013		Darwin Correctional, Darwin Private Hospital and Royal Darwin Hospital
Static polling	Saturday 26 October 2013 8am-6pm		6 polling places
Electors voting	Formally 9271 (90.6%)	Informally 957 (9.4%)	Total voting 10 228 (61.1%)
Election costs (GST inc.)	\$80 250.21		

### Results - Count of Preferences and Calculation of Transfers (if required)

CITY OF PALMERSTON BY-ELECTION Election of 1 Alderman 26 October 2013 FINAL								
Electors on roll: 16753								
Polling Place/Declaration Type	1st Preference Votes for each Candidate					Ballot Papers Counted		
	FRASER-ADAMS, SUE	McMANIS, Chris	CRABBE, Mary	JONES, Ashley	SHUTT, Seranna	Formal	Informal	Total
Bakewell	476	119	173	252	887	1907	207	2114
Driver	419	131	238	220	644	1652	163	1815
Durack	349	63	160	247	464	1283	166	1449
Farrar	133	25	65	57	247	527	39	566
Rosebery	232	83	109	178	490	1092	119	1211
Woodroffe	405	141	154	192	583	1475	166	1641
<b>Static Polling Places</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>899</b>	<b>1146</b>	<b>3315</b>	<b>7936</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>8796</b>
<b>Mobile Team 1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>23</b>
Early Voting Darwin	40	3	23	17	39	122	5	127
Early Voting Palmerston	322	49	132	103	353	959	75	1034
<b>Early Voting Centres</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>1081</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>1161</b>
Postal Count 1	42	16	41	12	29	140	9	149
Postal Count 2 (75) & Declaration Votes (4	14	6	10	19	24	73	6	79
Postal Count 3	7	3	7	2	1	20	0	20
<b>Postal Votes</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>248</b>
Ballot Papers Counted	2446	640	1114	1302	3769	9271	957	10228
%	26.4	6.9	12.0	14.0	40.7	90.6	9.4	

Ballot papers counted as a % of enrolment: 61.1% *Elected*

Election of 1 Alderman

City of Palmerston By-election  
Determination of Quota and Distribution of Preferences (if required)

TABLE 1: COUNT OF PREFERENCES AND CALCULATION OF TRANSFERS										TABLE 2: DISTRIBUTION OF THE EFFECTIVE VOTES								
Count No.	Description of next available preference	Fraser - Adams	McManis	Crabbe	Jones	Shutt	Total ballot papers counted	Transfer value	Votes transferred to Table 2	Count No.	Fraser - Adams	McManis	Crabbe	Jones	Shutt	Votes lost through fractional remainder	Total votes counted	Remarks
1	1st preferences	2446	640	1114	1302	3769	9271	1	9271	1	2446	640	1114	1302	3769		9271	McManis to be excluded
2	NAP after McManis	210	excluded	149	184	97	640	1	640	2	2446	-640	1114	1302	3769			McManis excluded Crabbe to be excluded
3	NAP after Crabbe	413		excluded	307	394	1114	1	1114	3	2656	0	1263	1486	3866		9271	Crabbe excluded 1st parcel transferred
4	NAP after Crabbe	38		149	93	18	149	1	149	4	3069		149	1793	4260		9271	Crabbe excluded 2nd parcel transferred
5	NAP after Jones	556			excluded	746	1302	1	1302	5	3107		0	1886	4278		9271	Jones excluded 1st parcel transferred
											3663			584	5024		9271	Shutt Elected



## Alice Springs Town Council

The council CEO advised on 1 October 2013 of a vacancy for one ordinary member (councillor) for the council.

### Election Milestones

Close of roll	5pm Tuesday 22 October 2013 (14 187 electors)
Close of nominations	12 noon Thursday 31 October 2013
Polling day (if contested)	Saturday 23 November 2013
Election declared	10am Monday 2 December 2013

As there were more nominations than vacancies available, an election was held. Candidates contesting the by-election:

**BONNANI, Kylie Elected**

DAY, Matty

FURPHY, Colin

BRIDGEFOOT, John

BAXTER, Edan

### Election Services

Postal voting (6pm close)	Friday 1 November 2013 to Thursday 21 November 2013	
	(Overseas close Tuesday 19 November 2013)	
	Return deadline Friday 29 November 2013	
Early voting	Friday 1 November 2013 to Friday 22 November 2013	Alice Springs and Darwin
Mobile polling	Thursday 21 November 2013 Friday 22 November 2013 Saturday 23 November 2013	Alice Springs Correctional Centre Alice Springs Hospital and Old Timers Aged Care Nursing Home Charles Creek, Hidden Valley, Anthepe, Karnte Camp, Larapinta Valley, Little Sisters
Static polling	Saturday 23 November 2013 8am-6pm	6 polling places
Electors voting	Formally 8705 (95.1%)	Informally 453 (4.9%) Total voting 9158 (64.6%)
Election costs (GST inc.)	\$95 784.00	

## Results - Count of Preferences and Calculation of Transfers (if required)

ALICE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL BY-ELECTION								
Election of 1 Councillor								
23 November 2013								
FINAL								
Electors on roll: 14187								
Polling Place/Declaration Type	1st Preference Votes for each Candidate					Ballot Papers Counted		
	BONANNI, Kylie	DAY, Matty	FURPHY, Colin	BRIDGEFOOT, John	BAXTER, Edan	Formal	Informal	Total
Alice Springs	549	410	91	176	184	1410	62	1472
Brailling	480	224	29	75	81	889	58	947
Gillen	734	369	62	172	105	1442	86	1528
Larapinta	350	192	38	64	60	704	40	744
Sadadeen	414	342	31	103	127	1017	45	1062
Yirara	182	90	11	25	10	318	25	343
Early Voting Centre - Alice Springs	1352	558	104	434	113	2561	113	2674
Early Voting Centre - Darwin	8	5	0	1	2	16	0	16
Postal Vote Count 1	37	12	5	9	5	68	2	70
Postal Vote Count 2 & Declaration Votes (2)	17	11	6	2	6	42	2	44
Mobile Team 1	94	32	13	12	22	173	12	185
Mobile Team 2	7	1	1	7	0	16	2	18
Mobile Team 3 (included with team 6)								
Mobile Team 4	6	9	0	1	0	16	1	17
Mobile Team 5	10	6	2	1	0	19	4	23
Mobile Team 6 (including team 3)	4	4	4	1	1	14	1	15
<b>Ballot Papers Counted</b>	<b>4244</b>	<b>2265</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>1083</b>	<b>716</b>	<b>8705</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>9158</b>
%	48.8	26.0	4.6	12.4	8.2	95.1	4.9	

### ELECTED

Ballot papers counted as a % of enrolment = 64.6%

**Alice Springs Town Council By-Election**  
Election of 1 Councillor  
Determination of Quota and Distribution of Preferences (if required)

Quota:  $\frac{8705}{1+1} = 4353$

TABLE 1: COUNT OF PREFERENCES AND CALCULATION OF TRANSFERS										TABLE 2: DISTRIBUTION OF THE EFFECTIVE VOTES								
Count No.	Description of next available preference	Bonanni	Day	Furphy	Bridgefoot	Baxter	Total ballot papers counted	Transfer value	Votes transferred to Table 2	Count No.	Bonanni	Day	Furphy	Bridgefoot	Baxter	Votes lost through fractional remainder	Total votes counted	Remarks
2	NAP after Furphy	115	161	excluded	64	57	397	1	397	2	4244	2265	397	1083	716		8705	Furphy excluded 1st parcel transferred
3	NAP after Baxter	222	334	excluded	160	excluded	716	1	716	3	4359	2426	0	1147	773		8705	Baxter excluded 1st parcel transferred
4	NAP after Baxter	20	23	excluded	14		57	1	57	4	4581	2760	0	1307	57		8705	Baxter excluded 2nd parcel transferred
5	NAP after Bridgefoot	664	419	excluded	excluded	excluded	1083	1	1083	5	4601	2783	0	1321	0		8705	Bridgefoot excluded 1st parcel transferred
6	NAP after Bridgefoot	22	42	excluded	excluded	excluded	64	1	64	6	5265	3202	0	238	0		8705	Bridgefoot excluded 2nd parcel transferred
7	NAP after Bridgefoot	76	84	excluded	excluded	excluded	160	1	160	7	5287	3244	0	174	0		8705	Bridgefoot excluded 3rd parcel transferred
8	NAP after Bridgefoot	6	8	excluded	excluded	excluded	14	1	14	8	5363	3328	0	14	0		8705	Bridgefoot excluded 4th parcel transferred
	TOTAL										5369	3336	0	0	0	0	8705	BONANNI ELECTED AFTER COUNT 3

## Roper Gulf Shire Council - South West Gulf Ward By-election



The council CEO advised on 11 October 2013 of a vacancy for one ordinary member (councillor) in South West Gulf Ward.

### Election Milestones

Close of roll	5pm Tuesday 29 October 2013 (978 electors)
Close of nominations	12 noon Thursday 7 November 2013
Polling day (if contested)	Saturday 30 November 2013
Election declared	12 noon Thursday 7 November 2013

As the number of nominations was the same as the vacancies available, no election was held:

**GARNER, Donald Anthony** was elected unopposed

Election costs (GST inc.)	\$1195.73
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## Tiwi Islands Regional Council - Milikapiti Ward By-election

The council CEO advised on 12 December 2013 of a vacancy for one ordinary member (councillor) in Milikapiti Ward.

### Election Milestones

Close of roll	5pm Thursday 16 January 2014 (332 electors)
Close of nominations	12 noon Thursday 23 January 2014
Polling day (if contested)	Wednesday 5 February 2014
Election declared	12 noon Thursday 23 January 2014

As the number of nominations was the same as the vacancies available, no election was held:

**MOREEN, Anita** was elected unopposed

Election costs (GST inc.)	\$915.23
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## Victoria Daly Regional Council - Milngin Ward By-election



The council CEO advised on 16 January 2014 of a vacancy for one ordinary member (councillor) in Milngin Ward.

### Election Milestones

Close of roll	5pm Wednesday 5 February 2014 (398 electors)
Close of nominations	12 noon Thursday 10 February 2014
Polling day (if contested)	Wednesday 12 March 2014
Election declared	10am Wednesday 19 March 2014

As there were more nominations than vacancies available, an election was held.

Candidate/s contesting the by-election:

**McTAGGART, Andrew Victor**      **Elected**  
 HOLLOWOOD, Peter

### Election Services

Postal voting (6pm close)	Friday 21 February 2014 to Monday 10 March 2014		
	(Overseas close Friday 7 March 2014)		
	Return deadline Tuesday 18 March 2014		
Early voting	Friday 21 February 2014 to Tuesday 11 March 2014	Alice Springs and Darwin	
Mobile polling	Tuesday 11 March 2014	Woolianna and Daly River	
Static polling	Wednesday 19 March 2014 8am-6pm	Naiuyu	
Electors voting	Formally      203 (96.7%)	Informally      7 (3.3%)	Total voting      210 (52.8%)
Election costs (GST inc.)	\$8435.42		

### Results - Count of Preferences and Calculation of Transfers (if required)

<b>VICTORIA DALY REGIONAL COUNCIL - MILNGIN WARD BY-ELECTION</b> <b>Election of 1 Councillor</b> <b>12 March 2014</b> <b>FINAL</b>					
<b>Electors on roll: 398</b>					
Polling Place/Declaration Type	1st Preference Votes for each Candidate		Ballot Papers Counted		
	McTAGGART, Andrew Victor	HOLLOWOOD, Peter	Formal	Informal	Total
Naiuyu	112	51	163	7	170
Mobile Team 1	14	14	28	0	28
Early Voting Centre - Darwin (7) Postal 1 (5)	4	8	12	0	12
Early Voting Centre - Alice Springs	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Ballot Papers Counted</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>210</b>
	%		96.7	3.3	
	64.0	36.0			

Ballot papers counted as a % of enrolment = 52.8%

**Elected**

VICTORIA DALY REGIONAL COUNCIL												
Election of 1 Councillor – Miligin Ward												
Determination of Quota and Distribution of Preferences (if required)												
TOTAL FORMAL BALLOT PAPERS: 203							TO BE ELECTED: 1			QUOTA: $\frac{203}{1+1} = 102$		
TABLE 1: COUNT OF PREFERENCES AND CALCULATION OF TRANSFERS							TABLE 2: DISTRIBUTION OF THE EFFECTIVE VOTES					
Count No.	Description of next available preference	McTAGGART, Andrew Victor	HOLLOWOOD, Peter	Total ballot papers counted	Transfer value	Votes transferred to Table 2	Count No.	McTAGGART, Andrew Victor	HOLLOWOOD, Peter	Votes lost through fractional remainder	Total votes counted	Remarks
1	1st preferences	130	73	203	1	203	1	130	73	0	203	McTAGGART, Andrew Victor Elected

NOTIONAL TWO CANDIDATE PREFERRED OUTCOME (if required)

Not required



## Katherine Town Council

The council CEO advised on 16 December 2013 of one vacancy and on 29 January 2014 of a second vacancy for ordinary members (aldermen) for the council.

### Election Milestones

Close of roll	5pm Wednesday 11 February 2014 (5 294 electors)
Close of nominations	12 noon Thursday 20 February 2014
Polling day (if contested)	Saturday 15 March 2014
Election declared	10am Monday 24 March 2014

As there were more nominations than vacancies available, an election was held. Candidates contesting the by-election:

WATSON, Denis Frederick  
 ROTH, Charmaine Faye  
 O'CONNOR, Vicki  
**GAZEY, Peter Elected**  
 BIRD, Glenn  
**COUTTS, Toni Tapp Elected**  
 STRETEN, Nat  
 LAW, Stanley  
 KING, Cerise

### Election Services

Postal voting (6pm close)	Friday 21 February 2014 to Thursday 13 March 2014		
	(Overseas close Tuesday 11 March 2014)		
	Return deadline Friday 21 March 2014		
Early voting	Friday 21 February 2014 to Friday 14 March 2014	Darwin, Katherine, Alice Springs	
Mobile polling	Thursday 13 March 2014 Friday 14 March 2014	Binjari, Rockhole Katherine Hospital	
Static polling	Saturday 15 March 2014 8am-6pm	Katherine, Katherine East, Tindal	
Electors voting	Formally 3146 (94.1%)	Informally 198 (5.9%)	Total voting 3344 (63.2%)
Election costs (GST inc.)	\$39 479.95		

## Results - Count of Preferences and Calculation of Transfers (if required)

KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL BY-ELECTION Election of 2 Aldermen 15 March 2014 FINAL												
Electors on roll: 5294												
Polling Place/Declaration Type	1st Preference Votes for each Candidate										Ballot Papers Counted	
	WATSON, Denis Frederick	ROTH, Charmaine Faye	O'CONNOR, Vicki	GAZEY, Peter	BIRD, Glenn	COUTTS, Toni Tapp	STRETEN, Nat	LAW, Stanley	KING, Cerise	Formal	Informal	Total
Katherine	152	187	86	307	64	203	77	57	171	1304	87	1391
Katherine East	90	76	27	111	81	90	44	48	92	659	36	695
Tindal	41	46	16	49	3	32	15	6	11	219	20	239
Early Voting Centre - Darwin	2	3	1	0	1	10	2	0	2	21	0	21
Early Voting Centre - Katherine	114	77	43	109	30	154	102	45	86	760	40	800
Postal Voting 1	14	9	6	7	2	15	7	6	13	79	4	83
Postal Voting 2 (incl admitted declarations and EVC Alice Springs)	6	3	2	2	3	8	9	0	7	40	3	43
Mobile Team 1 - Binjari, Rockhole Aged Care Facilities and Hospital	2	1	0	48	5	1	2	3	2	64	8	72
<b>Ballot Papers Counted</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>3146</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>3344</b>
	13.4	12.8	5.8	20.1	6.0	16.3	8.2	5.2	12.2	94.1	5.9	

Ballot papers counted as a % of enrolment = 63.2%

Katherine Town Council By-Election Election of 2 Aldermen Determination of Quota and Distribution of Preferences (if required)																										
TABLE 1: COUNT OF PREFERENCES AND CALCULATION OF TRANSFERS											TABLE 2: DISTRIBUTION OF THE EFFECTIVE VOTES															
Count No.	Description of available preference	WATSON, Denis Frederick	ROTH, Charmaine Faye	O'CONNOR, Vicki	GAZEY, Peter	BIRD, Glenn	COUTTS, Toni Tapp	STRETEN, Nat	LAW, Stanley	KING, Cerise	Total ballot papers counted	Transfers value	Votes transferred to Table 2	Count No.	WATSON, Denis Frederick	ROTH, Charmaine Faye	O'CONNOR, Vicki	GAZEY, Peter	BIRD, Glenn	COUTTS, Toni Tapp	STRETEN, Nat	LAW, Stanley	KING, Cerise	Votes lost through fractional remainder	Total votes counted	Remarks
1	Unopposed	421	402	181	633	189	513	258	165	384	3146			1	421	402	181	633	189	513	258	165	384		3146	
2	NAP for LAW	6	9	5	26	21	23	15	excluded	60	165	1		2	6	9	5	26	21	23	15	165	60		3146	LAW excluded
3	NAP for O'CONNOR	33	39	excluded	55	10	19	21		0	186	1		3	33	39	186	55	10	19	21	0	0	0	3146	O'CONNOR excluded
4	NAP for BIRD	21	24		55	excluded	53	23		44	220	1		4	21	24	0	55	220	53	23	0	0	0	3146	BIRD excluded
5	NAP for STRETEN	81	71		58		62	excluded		42	317	1		5	81	71	0	58	0	62	317	0	0	0	3146	STRETEN excluded
6	NAP for KING	97	94		167		184		excluded		542	1		6	97	94	0	167	0	184	0	0	0	0	3146	KING excluded
7	NAP for ROTH	221	excluded		126		212				639	1		7	221	639	0	994	0	854	0	0	0	0	3146	ROTH excluded
	TOTAL										890							1190		1365					3146	GAZEY (9) AND COUTTS (9) ELECTED AT THE QUOTA



## Barkly Regional Council - Alywarr Ward By-election

The council CEO advised on 24 February 2014 of a vacancy for one ordinary member (councillor) in Alywarr Ward.

### Election Milestones

Close of roll	5pm Wednesday 30 April 2014 (1 726 electors)
Close of nominations	12 noon Wednesday 7 May 2014
Polling day (if contested)	Wednesday 21 May 2014
Election declared	12 noon Wednesday 21 May 2014

As the number of nominations was the same as the vacancies available, no election was held:

**BEASLEY, Ada** was elected unopposed

Election costs (GST inc.)	\$1 208.98
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## Wagait Shire Council By-election

The council CEO advised on 31 March 2014 of a vacancy for one ordinary member (councillor) for the council.

### Election Milestones

Close of roll	5pm Wednesday 11 June 2014 (296 electors)
Close of nominations	12 noon Friday 13 June 2014
Polling day (if contested)	Saturday 28 June 2014
Election declared	10am Monday 7 July 2014

As there were more nominations than vacancies available, an election was held.

Candidates contesting the by-election:

THORPE, V.J.

**RICHMOND, Ally Elected**

### Election Services

Postal voting (6pm close)	Friday 13 June 2014 to Thursday 26 June 2014		
	(Overseas close Tuesday 24 June 2014)		
	Return deadline Friday 4 July 2014		
Early voting	Monday 16 June 2014 to Friday 27 June 2014	Darwin and Wagait Beach	
Mobile polling	Not conducted		
Static polling	Saturday 28 June 8am-6pm	Wagait Beach	
Electors voting	Formally 156 (92.9%)	Informally 12 (7.1%)	Total voting 168 (56.8%)
Election costs (GST inc.)	\$7 494.43		

### Results - Count of Preferences and Calculation of Transfers (if required)

WAGAIT SHIRE COUNCIL BY-ELECTION					
Election of 1 Councillor					
28 June 2014					
Final					
Electors on roll: 296					
Polling Place/Declaration Type	1st Preference Votes for each Candidate		Ballot Papers Counted		
	THORPE, V.J.	RICHMOND, Ally	Formal	Informal	Total
Wagait Beach Static (includes all EVC votes received)	54	93	147	12	159
Wagait Beach EVC (4), Darwin EVC (4), Postal (1)	6	3	9	0	9
<b>Ballot Papers Counted</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>168</b>
	%				
	38.5	61.5	92.9	7.1	

Ballot papers counted as a % of enrolment = 56.8%

**Elected**

WAGAIT SHIRE COUNCIL												
Election of 1 Councillor												
Determination of Quota and Distribution of Preferences (if required)												
TOTAL FORMAL BALLOT PAPERS: 156						TO BE ELECTED: 1			QUOTA: $\frac{156}{1+1} = 78$			
TABLE 1: COUNT OF PREFERENCES AND CALCULATION OF TRANSFERS							TABLE 2: DISTRIBUTION OF THE EFFECTIVE VOTES					
Count No.	Description of next available preference	THORPE, V.J.	RICHMOND, Ally	Total ballot papers counted	Transfer value	Votes transferred to Table 2	Count No.	THORPE, V.J.	RICHMOND, Ally	Votes lost through fractional remainder	Total votes counted	Remarks
1	1st preferences	60	96	156	1	156	1	60	96	0	156	RICHMOND, Ally Elected

NOTIONAL TWO CANDIDATE PREFERRED OUTCOME (if required)

Not required

### 3.5 Ballots and elections for other agencies

The *Electoral Act* s309(h) allows the NTEC to negotiate a fee to provide electoral goods and services to persons or organisations, using information or material in its possession or expertise acquired in the exercise of its functions.

The Commission conducts polls for government, non-government and community agencies and organisations that require decisions to be made by ballot. This can include enterprise agreements (EAs), the selection of office holders and plebiscites. These polls are conducted at the discretion of the NTEC, taking into account the nature of the poll and other workloads. None were conducted in 2012-13. A management overhead may be charged to conduct these ballots.

**Table 15:** Enterprise agreement ballots conducted 2013-14 – all four postal

Date/s	Enterprise Agreement (EA)	No. electors		% Turnout
		On roll	Returning BPs	
15/07/13	Proposed variation to the 2010-2013 Power and Water EA.	1 004	511	53.0
4/10/13 8/11/13	Two NT Public Service (NTPS) EAs (the first resulted in a 'no' vote).	11 198 11 354	4 947 5 197	44.2 45.8
20/12/13	NTPS Teachers and Educators EA (resulting in a 'no' vote). <i>A second ballot, also resulting in a 'no' vote, was conducted by a private sector company using an online voting facility.</i>	3 448	1 420	41.2

BPs Ballot papers

Software was procured which will allow future NTPS agency enterprise agreement ballots to be conducted online.

**Table 16:** Other ballots/elections conducted 2013-14 - two attendance and one postal

Date/s	Ballot/election type	No. electors		% Turnout
		On roll	Returning BPs	
15/08/13	National Trust of Australia (NT) (postal): Election of 4 branch councillors and a general member for the 3 uncontested (optional preferential multi-member vacancy count).	96 203	41 100	42.7 49.3
28/11/13	Nguui Ullintjini Association (attendance): for 5 office-holders and 3 members (first past the post count).	171	20 to 84	17.5 to 49.0
20/12/13	Power and Water Corporation Hudson Creek Substation (attendance). Proposed changes to shift schedules.	24	20	83.3

**Table 17:** Ballots and elections for other agencies 2009-10 to 2013-14

Year	Revenue (\$)	No. Ballots/elections
2009-10	4 125	4
2010-11	24 564	4
2011-12	3 034	2
2012-13	0	0
2013-14	67 346	7

### **3.6 Election policies, processes and procedures**

A review of all election systems was undertaken in the 2013-14 financial year, with the intention of capturing future needs and assessing the system capacities of the agency. The review took into account experiences from both the 2012 LG and LA elections and the required expertise to redevelop and upgrade the systems. By 30 June 2014, approximately 60% of the redevelopment had been completed and tested. The remaining redevelopment and testing will occur in the 2014-15 financial year.

A lease was secured with the AEC to use EasyCount software that enables ballot paper preferences to be data entered, verified and a count conducted electronically for proportional representation and other complex ballots.

Following the issues experienced at the 2013 federal election in Western Australia over the handling of missing Senate ballot papers, Mr Mick Keelty AO was tasked with undertaking an independent investigation into the misplaced ballot papers, including identifying and making recommendations on administrative process and procedural failures.

The *Keelty Report into the 2013 Federal Election* made a number of recommendations of relevance to the NTEC, including:

- The implementation of material management policies and systems for controlling all aspects of ballot paper movement and storage, consistent with the long term sensitivity of ballots and reflective of industry best practice. Specific recommendations included introducing 'tamper-evident' materials to transfer and store ballot papers to and from vote counting centres, as well as for long term storage in warehouses. The installation of CCTV and alarms at warehouses was recommended.
- The introduction of controls for the collection, disposal or recycling of other materials to ensure that no ballot material is inadvertently lost.
- That all relevant staff have skills in contract management and contract enforcement.
- That the approach for the training of electoral staff (permanent and casual) ensures adequacy, consistency, effectiveness, and a rigour in assessment measures.
- That measures are implemented to ameliorate the pressures on staff arising from the expectation that all results will be known on polling day.

The transport of equipment for polling place and counting centre establishment and dismantling, the distribution of unused ballot papers, the sorting and fresh count and scrutiny of ballot papers, all present logistical challenges. Significantly more 'live' ballot papers are being moved from point of issue to sorting and counting centres than has been the case in past elections.

A significant number of temporary employees supplement the permanent staff in performing the manual processes required to deliver an election. The recruitment and training of so many temporary employees for each event is a challenge.

The Northern Territory demographic also adds to the complexity of the operations that must be carried out:

- People live in remote areas.
- An increasingly mobile population includes defence personnel and 'fly-in fly-out' work forces.
- Travelling senior citizens who have vacated their normal place of living.
- Large numbers of Australians living and working overseas.

### **3.7 Recruitment, training and tools**

The Keely Report made two recommendations that are being considered by the NTEC:

- That relevant staff have skills in contract management and enforcement. Whilst briefings have been provided to staff when NTPS purchasing and tendering guidelines have been changed, formal update may be required prior to an election cycle.
- That training of electoral staff (permanent and casual) must be adequate, consistent, effective and rigorously assessed.

Programs will incorporate these considerations.

### **3.8 Targets 2014-15**

- Liaise with the Department of Local Government and Regions (DLGR) regarding any suggested amendments to local government electoral legislation.
- Assist with any legislative and procedural reform arising from the 2012 NT General Election Report.
- Finalise the redevelopment of election systems.
- Review the Commission's remote mobile polling model, taking into account analysis of the AEC model used at the 2013 federal election.
- Review the operational model for the recruitment and training of local assistants and interpreters, including political neutrality vetting and procedures.
- Review training content and materials and the methodologies for delivering polling official training.
- Commence election planning, including consultation with stakeholders, towards the next LG and LA elections.

## 4 EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

### Objective

**A community that is well informed about its electoral rights, responsibilities, processes and available services**

#### 4.1 Education and information services

The conduct of electoral education program sessions is mainly focussed on primary students, however includes new citizens, ESL/migrant groups and legal and political studies students under the Parliamentary Education Services (PES) civics program. The session covers the enrolment and voting processes, explanation of the three level of government and the mechanics of running elections in the Northern Territory. Through the joint arrangement with PES, 100 electoral education sessions were delivered to 3062 students as part of school tours of Parliament House, an increase of 29 sessions and 1421 students compared to 2012-13.

During the year, a total of 175 electoral education sessions were conducted (including public awareness activities at the show circuit), an increase of 85 compared to 2012-13; the 5439 participants were drawn from all school sectors in both urban and regional parts of the Territory. There was a 54% increase in the number of participants compared to 2012-13. The table below provides details of the sessions and number of participants.

- Attendance by Year 11 and 12 students increased by two to a total of 13 classes and 34 sessions were delivered to Year 8, 9 and 10s in Darwin.
- 19 sessions were conducted in Alice Springs.
- Education activities continued at the NT show circuit, including enrolment, and information materials relating to the 2015 Legislative Assembly electoral redistribution.

**Table 18:** Education sessions and participants by region

Group (by Region)	No. Sessions	No. Participants
Darwin	132	3 073
Katherine	1	50
Alice Springs Region	19	518
Remote	13	50
English as Second Language (ESL)	12	232
Show Circuit (8 days)	8	1 516
<b>Total</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>5 439</b>

Contact was maintained with the Electoral Educators Network, a national forum of State and Territory Electoral Commission staff established to evaluate programs and investigate electoral education concepts.

#### **Cultural and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) groups**

An officer worked as part of a national network of Australian and New Zealand Electoral Commissions that is sharing information and comparing activities undertaken by each commission to engage with culturally and linguistically diverse groups.

#### **Website**

The website provides enrolment, election, education and corporate service information, as well as answers to a range of 'Frequently Asked Questions' about the core business areas. Dedicated information pages were built for by-elections.

The website experienced a significant increase in traffic over the previous year. This could be attributed to increased awareness that the website contains details of by-elections and a growing community trend towards accessing information online.

Traffic type	2012-13	2013-14	% Increase
Individual visitors to website	39 940	59 354	48.6
No. times visitors visited website (sessions)	55 492*	90 946	63.9

\* This figure included 16 641 session visits relating to the 2012 LA General Election.

## 4.2 Public advertising and publicity campaigns

Public awareness of elections and enrolment is undertaken through advertising and delivering education and information programs to target audiences.

Activities undertaken in support of enrolment and election awareness included:

- Informing electors about enrolment and voting services for elections, by writing to urban electors regarding upcoming by-elections, newspaper advertising, banner/poster displays and media releases.
- Delivering a focused elector awareness campaign for the Blain by-election and tailoring public awareness programs to promote 11 local government by-elections.
- Maintaining a profile at the NT show circuit.
- Attending Alice Springs Citizenship Ceremonies to promote enrolment.

## 4.3 Information activities supporting elections

### Public Awareness - Blain By-election April 2014

The main features of the public awareness and media activities in support of the by-election were:

- A mail-out to electors advising details of the by-election.
- A newspaper advertising campaign.
- Posters displayed at local shopping centres within the electorate as well as at the two major shopping centres in Palmerston.
- Advertising the 1800 number as the prime contact for election enquiries.
- Street banners placed within the division and 'Polling Place Here' signs at static polling places in the lead up to polling day.
- Election bulletins and media releases.
- 16 media enquiries on a range of issues were responded to.
- Liaison with broadcasters and publishers, including the monitoring of media reports, social media and editorial comment for campaigning and advertising irregularities.
- Arrangements with Australia Post to provide access to their Palmerston mail network and to place information displays at their Palmerston Corporate Post Office.
- Public events for the declaration of nominations and polls, including providing results on the website and to the media.

### Public Awareness - Council Elections

Public awareness activities were also undertaken in support of 11 council by-elections (four municipal and seven shire/regional), incorporating:

- The placement of local and regional newspaper advertisements including statutory notices.
- Customised communication strategies informing the community of the elections, with messages highlighting who should vote.

- Municipal councils - mail-outs sent to electors confirming their enrolment details and providing information on voting services and polling place locations.
- Remote councils – distribution of customised election posters inviting nominations and promoting voting services.
- Street banners placed within council areas, and 'Polling Place Here' signs at static polling places in the lead up to polling day.
- Radio advertising in English (and in language for polls in remote councils).
- The production of dedicated election web pages, including maps of each electoral area and ward (if applicable) and external web links to stakeholders.
- Election bulletins and media releases.
- Public events for the declaration of nominations and polls, including providing results on the website and to the media.

#### **4.4 Research and electoral developments**

Research activities are undertaken by operational staff or, where appropriate, by project staff and are generally focussed on providing information to support current programs, future initiatives and impending electoral events.

During 2013 -14, the focus of NTEC research was to support operational needs and included:

- Analysis of NT enrolment trends to support the pending Quality Roll 2014 (QR14) project.
- A survey of informal ballot papers following the 2014 Blain by-election to provide an assessment of the types of informality.
- Review of the NTEC election management system (EMS) to provide specifications for the development of software that will improve the speed of voting services data reports, including posting results to the website. Modules for staffing and polling place management were also completed.

#### **4.5 Public reporting**

In addition to the 2012-13 Annual Report, the reports on the 2012 LG and LA elections were tabled on 4 December 2013 and 14 May 2014 respectively. Both reports included recommendations on proposed legislative changes and future program directions. The report on the 2013 Wanguri by-election was tabled at the same time as the LA report.

#### **4.6 Targets 2014-15**

- Implement a public awareness and information program to support the QR14 enrolment activities in urban and remote areas, designed to improve roll accuracy prior to the 2015 redistribution.
- Develop distinct materials/resources for primary and secondary students and ESL groups.
- Review the education content on the website for its responsiveness to student and teacher needs.
- Table the Blain by-election report.
- Provide web content and communication support for the 2015 redistribution of LA boundaries.
- Monitor the electoral environment for any impact on policies and procedures for the next election cycle.

## 5 CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

### Objective

#### Staff, infrastructure and business systems that meet governance and operational requirements

### 5.1 The organisation

Human resource activities and financial matters, including budgeting and reporting activities, procurement, IT and general office services, are managed within the agency. To supplement its small number of ongoing positions, support and input from other NT government agencies, secondments, specialist project staff and casual employees are sourced on a needs basis.

The Department of Corporate and Information Services (DCIS) provides ITC, payroll, procurement, property and recruitment support. The Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment (OCPE) and the Department of Treasury and Finance assist with personnel issues and financial matters respectively.

**Table 19:** Staffing profile as at 30 June 2014

Designation	Number of Staff (Including Contract)	
	30 June 2013	30 June 2014
Executive Contract Officer 3	1	1
Senior Administrative Officer 2	1	1
Senior Administrative Officer 1	3	5*
Administrative Officer 7	0	1
Administrative Officer 6	6	3
Administrative Officer 5	0	1
Administrative Officer 4	0	0
Administrative Officer 3	2.4	1
Administrative Officer 2	0	0.1
Administrative Officer 1	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>13.4 FTE</b>	<b>13.1 FTE</b>

\* Includes three specialist short term contract staff (one for the redevelopment of election software and two for specialist technical advice)

No permanent recruitment was undertaken during the reporting period. The position of Deputy Electoral Commissioner remained substantially vacant pending a review of the staffing structure.

### Employee expenses

The appropriation budget funds ongoing employee expenses, while separate arrangements are made for staff employed for elections, project work and secondments. Staffing expenditure is proportionately higher in years when major electoral events take place, with the additional staff expenses met from election budgets.

In 2013-14, employee expenses came to approximately \$1.64 million, or 46% of the total expenditure for the year. Expenses included remuneration and other related costs for casual project and polling official positions for electoral events such as the October 2013 City of Palmerston by-election, the November 2013 Alice Springs Town Council by-election, the March 2014 Katherine Town Council by-election and the April 2014 Blain Legislative Assembly by-election.



### **Darwin office**

At 30 June 2014, the Darwin office had a permanent staff complement of seven, excluding the CEO position that is funded on a long-term contract basis. Four temporary project officers were employed on contract.

### **Alice Springs office**

The Alice Springs office had a permanent staff complement of one as at 30 June 2014. The position was supported by temporary or casual staff on an 'as needs' basis.

### **Casual positions**

A number of casual and temporary staff was employed to assist with electoral events. Numbers varied depending on the size of the election, the geographical remoteness of electors, and the number of polling places. Casual employees are retained on casual contract until the end of the calendar year to allow for re-employment at other elections.

## **5.2 Staff development and recognition**

One staff member was seconded to the Electoral Commission of South Australia for development purposes during 2013-14. The five-day secondment during the South Australian general election period included managing the process for the scanning of electoral rolls for the determination of non-voters. Future secondment opportunities will be pursued as they arise, and workloads permit, in order to maximise learning opportunities before the next election cycle.

During the year, six staff attended Merit Selection training held by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment (OCPE).

The Alice Springs office is a jointly branded shop-front with the AEC and therefore, during major electoral events, staff from each agency assists under reciprocal arrangements. In August 2013, the Manager, Southern Region and a contract officer were seconded to the AEC to assist with the federal election.

## **5.3 Agency management and reporting**

### **Report under the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act s18***

Any issues regarding compliance with NTPS principles of human resource (HR) management are reported to the Commissioner for Public Employment.

DCIS and OCPE provide advice on the application of HR legislation, instructions, guidelines and the implementation of the relevant HR policies, practices, terms and conditions as required under NTG employment terms and conditions.

### **Equal opportunity**

Staff selection, both for permanent and temporary staff, is merit based. Appointments are made in accordance with merit principles and, for casuals, following review of any assessments recorded in the Election Management System. It is imperative that any appraisal of individual performance is taken into consideration when determining suitability for future employment.

All staff, including temporarily employed polling officials, are required to sign an undertaking that they are not a member of a political party or active in political affairs and that they will retain this status during the period of their employment.

## **Equity and diversity**

The NT has a diverse community and staff are selected who have the ability to communicate and interact with those communities, regardless of issues presented by gender, language, ethnicity, disadvantage or any physical or other impairment. Polling positions for both urban and remote locations are filled on the basis of a capacity to deal fairly, courteously and without discrimination with any person presenting to vote.

Two thirds of all casual positions at major electoral events are held by females, who also occupy the majority of leadership positions.

A conflict of interest policy applicable to the recruitment of temporary election staff was developed and implemented.

## **Flexible work practices**

Flex-time is available to staff, subject to operational requirements.

## **Work, health and safety (WHS)**

Risks are identified and mitigated in both the office and field situations in accordance with the requirements of the *Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011*. The Act sets out the national WHS obligations for employers and employees and stipulates duties of care on employers and employees in relation to WHS.

No reportable safety issues were recorded during the year.

## **Report under Section 7 of the *Carers Recognition Act***

In December 2011, an amendment to the *Electoral Act* and Local Government (Electoral) Regulations allowed postal and early voting services to be provided to voters who are disabled and/or their carers. A total of 38 carers were registered as postal voters, the same as in the previous reporting period.

During the reporting year, two staff members were granted carers' leave.

## **Financial accountability and reporting**

By 30 June 2014:

- Through a Treasurer's Advance, reimbursement had been received for expenditure on the Blain by-election and payment had been disbursed to all suppliers.
- Budget monitoring and reporting is being addressed so that the workload generated by the next election cycle can be achieved with accuracy and timeliness.

## **Insurance reporting**

No self-insurance claims were made during the year.

A number of mitigation strategies helped to reduce the insurable risk arising from agency operations and the agency complies with its 'Accounting and Property Manual', which contains sections relating to insurance and litigation matters. Drivers of Commission vehicles are required to operate according to guidelines in the 'NT Fleet handbook'.

## **Records Management**

Processes are in place to achieve compliance with the archives and records management provisions prescribed in Part 9, section 131, of the *Information Act*.

## **Corporate review**

Reporting on agency activities takes place around the corporate objectives determined for 2011-15. A review of the corporate plan is due in 2015.

## **5.4 NTEC office premises**

No works were carried out in either the Darwin or Alice Springs offices during the year. An upgrade by the building owner to the Darwin office ablution facilities is expected to take place in 2014-15.

### **Darwin office**

In 2011 the agency moved to the TCG Centre, where the AEC also has its NT office. The purpose-built office includes two large multi-purpose rooms that can be used for training and formal electoral events, a dedicated meeting room with video conferencing facilities and significant on-site storage for election material.

### **Alice Springs office**

MyVote Central opened in its new location in mid-2009 to offer a range of enrolment, election and education activities and act as an early voting centre. It includes a training/conference room with a video-conferencing system and space to provide voting facilities for all Northern Territory, interstate and federal elections. The AEC contributes \$15 000 annually for services provided by MyVote Central under a joint arrangement.

MyVote Central was used extensively by the AEC for the September 2013 federal election. The Alice Springs Town Council by-election was managed by that office.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the NTEC and the AEC for the management of MyVote Central encompasses the period from July 2013 to June 2017.

## **5.5 ICT operational support**

### **Provision of services by DCIS and external ICT provider(s)**

ICT support is provided by ICT Services, a division of the Department of Corporate and Information Services (DCIS), with responsibility for day-to-day ICT matters resting with the Business Manager.

Whole of government contracts determine providers for most telecommunications, hardware, generic software and helpdesk support. Specific agency hardware and software requirements are assessed on an 'as need' basis, and procurement of such items are carefully considered, as uncontracted purchases are not supported by NTG or covered by established safeguards and procedures.

The notional goods and services received free of charge for 2013-14 amounted to approximately \$0.628 million, lower than the previous year as the ICT infrastructure, logistical support, contract processing and staff payment procedures organised for the Legislative Assembly election in the previous year were no longer in place.

### **Hardware**

Discussions will take place to determine a timely hardware refresh that will not impact upcoming major elections.

### **Software**

The agency's PC operating system was upgraded in January 2014 from Windows XP to Windows 7.

EasyCount software, for proportional representation (PR) and other complex counts, was upgraded to a Windows 7 compatible version.

The functionality of the existing Election Management System (EMS) declined, with an increasing number of errors and data loss. Rather than redevelop the existing EMS, the ACT Electoral Commission agreed to the Commission using their program, designed on the same platform, at no cost. The program required modifications to meet NT specifications, with the major changes in place by 30 June and the final changes to be completed in 2014-15.

NetVote software enabling online voting for simple yes/no ballots was purchased. The software will mainly be used to conduct enterprise agreement ballots.

The project to improve the efficiency of the agency's electronic file structure commenced. Changes, amendments and updates will eventually allow the agency to manage data files electronically in the Total Records and Information Management system (TRIM) through the use of Electronic Document and Records Management (EDRM). The implementation of EDRM permits the storage of records either electronically or in conjunction with traditional paper-based files, allowing easier identification and access of files and documents.

### **Website**

A review of the NTEC's website in 2014-15 is expected to identify any required changes, updates or errors in the information presented. As a quality control measure, staff are required to monitor and advise potential problems when they access the website.

## **5.6 Targets 2014-15**

- Review the organisational structure in the light of operational experience and any legislative changes to either the *Electoral Act* or local government legislation.
- Review the corporate plan.
- Manage the corporate components of the electoral redistribution.
- Develop strategies to mitigate the aging demographic profile of agency staff.
- Maintain contact with the pool of experienced casual electoral staff and explore opportunities to co-opt new recruits at by-elections to increase and up-skill the casual staff pool.
- Assess and improve the election costing models to provide more accurate estimates of election expenditure.
- Negotiate and schedule any IT hardware or software refreshes by no later than the third quarter of 2015 so preparations for the 2016 elections will not be affected.
- Implement and test the new NetVote software.

## The corporate plan 2012 to 2015

### Enrolment

**Objective** - A complete, accurate and securely maintained roll of Northern Territory electors that meets the requirements of stakeholders.

#### Strategies

Maintain rolls for the Legislative Assembly and local government in partnership with the AEC in an efficient and effective manner.

Monitor performance in terms of completeness, accuracy and the timely update of the electoral roll.

Develop and implement enrolment stimulation activities and initiatives including joint programs with the AEC.

Provide roll data in accordance with legislation.

Provide support to Legislative Assembly redistribution committees and local government representation reviews and effect changes following final boundary determinations.

#### Performance Measure

Percentage of estimated eligible electors enrolled in the Territory compared to previous years.

### Elections

**Objective** - Efficient and effective conduct of elections.

#### Strategies

Advocate best practice in electoral legislation for government elections and in non-government election rules.

Enhance our knowledge of the needs of our diverse client base to customise electoral services.

Review and document election policies, procedures and processes.

Review recruitment and training programs and tools for effective service delivery.

#### Performance Measures

Voter participation rate compared to similar electoral events in previous years.

Relative cost of elections, compared to similar electoral events in previous years.

### Education and Information

**Objective** - A community that is well informed about its electoral rights, responsibilities, processes and available services.

#### Strategies

Conduct targeted public advertising and publicity campaigns.

Develop programs to deliver education and information services across the Northern Territory.

Maintain and improve school based education programs.

Conduct research and monitor external electoral developments.

Expand strategic alliances with organisations providing services to our diverse community.

Review and improve the public reporting program.

#### Performance Measure

Number of participants at school and community education sessions.

### Corporate Support

**Objective** - Staff, infrastructure and business systems that meet governance and operational requirements.

#### Strategies

Monitor the organisational structure so that it best meets the strategic challenges of the NTEC.

Document, maintain and improve policies and procedures that uphold the business requirements of the NTEC, the Northern Territory Public Service and relevant legislation.

Continuously improve IT operational support systems.

Encourage staff development and recognition.

#### Performance Measure

Performance in the corporate support area is to be reported on an activity basis in the Annual Report.

## 6 FINANCIAL REPORT

### 6.1 Financial performance

Agency funding is through an annual appropriation from Treasury, with additional funding provided through Treasurer's Advances for major electoral events such as Legislative Assembly general elections and redistributions (occurring every four years) and ad-hoc Legislative Assembly by-elections.

In a year without a scheduled general election, major outgoing expenditure is attributed to staff, IT, DCIS Free of Charge (FOC) notional expenses and payments to the AEC under the joint roll agreement. The annual appropriation budget supports:

- The head office (Darwin) and MyVote Central (Alice Springs).
- Salaries for 11 staff.
- Enrolment, election, education and corporate governance functions.
- The payment of approximately \$0.18 million for the annual Joint Roll Arrangement (JRA) costs.

The Commission receives additional revenue for conducting council by-elections (11 in 2013-14), elections and ballots for other organisations (seven in 2013-14) and receives an annual contribution of \$15 000 from the AEC for electoral services provided at MyVote Central (Alice Springs).

In accordance with the NT *Local Government Act*, local government elections are managed by the agency. The cost of an uncontested council by-election can be up to \$3000 whilst a contested by-election can vary between \$12 000 to \$100 000, depending on the nature of the vacancy, the council structure e.g. wards or no wards, and the geographic location.

Councils are charged the marginal cost incurred in running an election with municipal councils charged a 15% corporate overhead. Ballots conducted on behalf of NTG agencies are charged on a cost recovery basis whilst elections and ballots for other agencies are charged at commercial rates.

The appropriation budget for 2013-14 was \$1.696 million. Additional amounts received were:

- \$0.30 million from the Department of Local Government and Regions representing a contribution towards the March 2012 local government general elections.
- \$0.30 million in revenue from municipal council and other elections and ballots.
- \$0.628 million notionally funded Goods and Services Received Free of Charge.

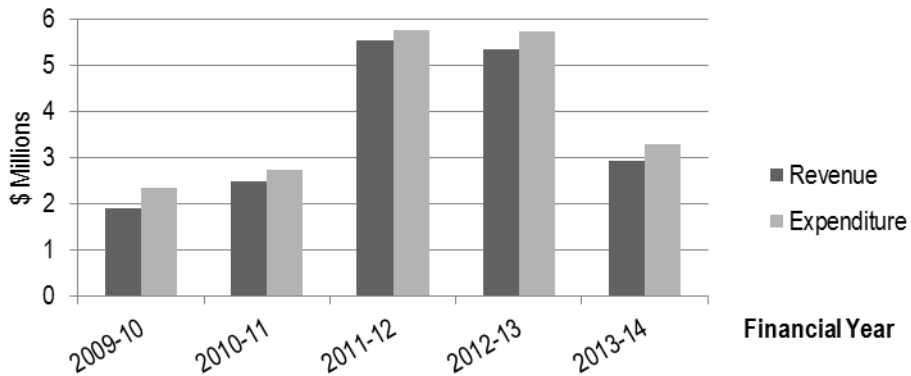
Total expenditure for the 2013-14 financial year amounted to \$3.285 million. Included in the expenditure was \$1.64 million in staff costs, \$1.017 million for administrative expenses and \$0.628 million notional charge for Goods and Services Received Free of Charge.

Of the \$0.30 million received in revenue from council and other agencies, \$27 421 was derived from the charging of a 15% corporate overhead for the four municipal council by-elections and a further \$3174 from commercial rates charged for the three non-government elections. The AEC reimbursed \$5501 in overtime costs for Alice Springs staff seconded for the 2013 federal election. OCPE reimbursed \$5068 of wages for a temporary staff member employed under a return-to-work program.

A Treasurer's Advance for \$0.283 million was approved to cover the cost of the Blain by-election and revenue shortfall related to local government by-elections.

The following graph shows revenue and expenditure fluctuations over the most recent electoral cycle. The year 2011-12 includes the March 2012 LG elections and 2012-13 the August 2012 LA elections.

**NTEC Revenue versus Expenditure  
Financial Years 2009-10 to 2013-14**



As part of the Auditor-General's audit program a compliance audit was conducted. No material weaknesses in controls were identified during the audit and the accounting and control procedures examined in relation to end of year financial processing were found to be satisfactory. The audit noted that internal controls within the agency had improved since the previous audit. Internal processes and procedures will be amended in line with audit recommendations.

In preparation for the 2015 redistribution of Legislative Assembly electoral boundaries, \$0.5m was approved to improve the accuracy of the electoral roll through the QR14 program.

The approved appropriation for 2014-15 is \$1.408 million, with \$0.37 million revenue derived through the conduct of elections and a notional allocation of \$0.61 million for DCIS charges. Expenditure is estimated at \$1.20 million (47%) for employee expenses and \$1.373 million (53%) for all other charges.

**6.2 Targets 2014-15**

- Implement the recommendations from the compliance audit.
- Explore outsourcing options of corporate functions for general elections, e.g. the election call centre and election staff recruitment.
- Manage finances relating to the 2015 redistribution of Legislative Assembly electoral boundaries.
- Review the charging models for Legislative Assembly by-elections, local government and fee-for-service elections.
- Prepare financial estimates for the next LA and LG general election events.
- As part of election management system enhancements, develop a financial monitoring function for election expenditure to improve the capacity to automate the reporting of commitments and expenditure during events.

**NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION  
FINANCIAL REPORT**

**CERTIFICATION OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

We certify that the attached financial statements for the Northern Territory Electoral Commission have been prepared from proper accounts and records in accordance with the prescribed format, the *Financial Management Act* and Treasurer's Directions.

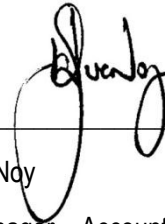
We further state that the information set out in the Comprehensive Operating Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Cash Flow Statement, and notes to and forming part of the financial statements, presents fairly the financial performance and cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2014 and the financial position on that date.

At the time of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances that would render the particulars included in the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.



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Iain Loganathan  
Electoral Commissioner – Chief Finance Officer  
29 August 2014



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Warren Que Noy  
Business Manager – Accountable Officer  
29 August 2014



# NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION

## COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT

For the year ended 30 June 2014

	Note	2014	2013
		\$000	\$000
<b>INCOME</b>			
Taxation revenue			
Grants and subsidies revenue			
Current		315	50
Capital			
Appropriation			
Output		1696	4491
Commonwealth			
Sales of goods and services <sup>(1)</sup>		303	70
Interest revenue			
Goods and services received free of charge	4	628	729
Gain on disposal of assets	5	0	1
Other income			
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2942</b>	<b>5341</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Employee expenses		1640	2838
Administrative expenses			
Purchases of goods and services	6	772	1898
Repairs and maintenance		3	2
Property management		60	114
Depreciation and amortisation	10	169	162
Other administrative expenses <sup>(2)</sup>		641	730
Grants and subsidies expenses			
Current			
Capital			
Community service obligations			
Interest expenses	17		
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3285</b>	<b>5744</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>		<b>(343)</b>	<b>(403)</b>
<b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>			
<b>Items that will not be reclassified to net surplus/deficit</b>			
Transfers from Reserves		(15)	0
<b>TOTAL OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>		<b>(15)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>COMPREHENSIVE RESULT</b>		<b>(358)</b>	<b>(403)</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> Income received from a number of fee-for-service elections including Shire and Municipal Council elections.

<sup>(2)</sup> Includes DCIS service charges.

The Comprehensive Operating Statement is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

# NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION

## BALANCE SHEET

As at 30 June 2014

	Note	2014	2013
		\$000	\$000
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and deposits	7	536	713
Receivables	8	28	41
Inventories	9		
Advances and investments			
Prepayments		3	0
Other assets			
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>567</b>	<b>754</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Receivables	8		
Advances and investments			
Property, plant and equipment	10, 11	755	952
Prepayments			
Other assets			
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>755</b>	<b>952</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>1322</b>	<b>1706</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Deposits held		1	0
Payables	12	61	67
Borrowings and advances			
Provisions	13	151	156
Other liabilities	14		
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>213</b>	<b>223</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>			
Borrowings and advances			
Provisions	13	38	54
Other liabilities	14		
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		<b>38</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>251</b>	<b>277</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>1071</b>	<b>1429</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Capital		1997	1997
Reserves	15		
Accumulated funds		(926)	(568)
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>1071</b>	<b>1429</b>

The Balance Sheet is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

# NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

For the year ended 30 June 2014

	Note	Equity at 1 July	Comprehensive result	Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners	Equity at 30 June
		\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
<b>2013-14</b>					
<b>Accumulated Funds</b>					
Changes in accounting policy					
Correction of prior period errors					
Transfers from reserves		0	15	0	15
Other movements directly to equity					
		568	358	0	926
<b>Reserves</b>	15				
<b>Capital – Transactions with Owners</b>					
Equity injections					
Capital appropriation		(17)	0	0	(17)
Equity transfers in		(1197)	0	0	(1197)
Other equity injections		(1081)	0	0	(1081)
Specific purpose payments					
Equity withdrawals					
Capital withdrawal <sup>(2)</sup>		298	0	0	298
Equity transfers out					
		(1997)	0		(1997)
<b>Total Equity at End of Financial Year</b>		<b>(1429)</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(1071)</b>
<b>2012-13</b>					
<b>Accumulated Funds</b>					
Changes in accounting policy					
Correction of prior period errors					
Transfers from reserves					
Other movements directly to equity					
		165	403	0	568
<b>Reserves</b>	15				
<b>Capital – Transactions with Owners</b>					
Equity injections					
Capital appropriation		(17)	0	0	(17)
Equity transfers in		(280)	0	(917)	(1197)
Other equity injections		(281)	0	(800)	(1081)
Specific purpose payments					
Equity withdrawals					
Capital withdrawal <sup>(2)</sup>		298	0	0	298
Equity transfers out					
		(280)	0	(1717)	(1997)
<b>Total Equity at End of Financial Year</b>		<b>(115)</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>(1717)</b>	<b>(1429)</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> Net Surplus/(Deficit) from the Comprehensive Operating Statement.

<sup>(2)</sup> Use for cash distributions to Government.

The Statement of Changes in Equity is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

# NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION

## CASH FLOW STATEMENT

For the year ended 30 June 2014

	Note	2014	2013
		\$000	\$000
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Operating Receipts</b>			
Taxes received			
Grants and subsidies received			
Current		315	50
Capital			
Appropriation			
Output		1696	4491
Commonwealth			
Receipts from sales of goods and services		384	250
Interest received			
<b>Total Operating Receipts</b>		<b>2395</b>	<b>4791</b>
<b>Operating Payments</b>			
Payments to employees		(1665)	(2931)
Payments for goods and services		(907)	(2224)
Grants and subsidies paid			
Current			
Capital			
Community service obligations			
Interest paid			
<b>Total Operating Payments</b>		<b>(2572)</b>	<b>(5155)</b>
<b>Net Cash From/(Used in) Operating Activities</b>	16	<b>(177)</b>	<b>(364)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Investing Receipts</b>			
Proceeds from asset sales	5	0	1
Repayment of advances			
Sales of investments			
<b>Total Investing Receipts</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Investing Payments</b>			
Purchases of assets			
Advances and investing payments			
<b>Total Investing Payments</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Net Cash From/(Used in) Investing Activities</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Financing Receipts</b>			
Proceeds of borrowings			
Deposits received		0	(2)
Equity injections			
Capital appropriation			
Commonwealth appropriation			
Other equity injections		0	800
<b>Total Financing Receipts</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>798</b>
<b>Financing Payments</b>			
Repayment of borrowings			
Finance lease payments			
Equity withdrawals			
<b>Total Financing Payments</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>798</b>
<b>Net Cash From/(Used in) Financing Activities</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>798</b>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		(177)	435
Cash at beginning of financial year		713	278
<b>CASH AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR</b>	7	<b>536</b>	<b>713</b>

The Cash Flow Statement is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements

**NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2014**

**INDEX OF NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Note

1. Objectives and Funding
2. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies
3. Comprehensive Operating Statement by Output Group
- INCOME**
4. Goods and Services Received Free of Charge
5. Gain on Disposal of Assets
- EXPENSES**
6. Purchases of Goods and Services
- ASSETS**
7. Cash and Deposits
8. Receivables
9. Inventories
10. Property, Plant and Equipment
11. Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets
- LIABILITIES**
12. Payables
13. Provisions
14. Other Liabilities
- EQUITY**
15. Reserves
- OTHER DISCLOSURES**
16. Notes to the Cash Flow Statement
17. Financial Instruments
18. Commitments
19. Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets
20. Events Subsequent to Balance Date
21. Accountable Officer's Trust Account
22. Write-offs, Postponements, Waivers, Gifts and Ex Gratia Payments

# NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2014

### 1. OBJECTIVES AND FUNDING

The Northern Territory Electoral Commission (the 'Commission') was established in March 2004 to support government by providing a fair, impartial and professional electoral service and ensuring there is an opportunity for the people of the Northern Territory to participate in free and democratic elections. The Commission is responsible for conducting elections for the Legislative Assembly, local government councils and other organisations (if appointed), in an efficient and cost-effective manner, consistent with legislative requirements.

The Commission is predominantly funded by, and is dependent on, the receipt of Parliamentary appropriations. For the conduct of a Legislative Assembly General Election, a Treasurer's Advance is generally sought at the conclusion of the event, for a Local Government General Election, an expenditure advance is requested. The financial statements encompass all funds through which the agency controls resources to carry on its functions and deliver outputs.

For reporting purposes, outputs delivered by the agency are summarised into several output groups. Note 3 provides summary financial information in the form of a Comprehensive Operating Statement by output group.

### 2. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### a) Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Financial Management Act* and related Treasurer's Directions. The *Financial Management Act* requires the Northern Territory Electoral Commission to prepare financial statements for the year ended 30 June based on the form determined by the Treasurer. The form of agency financial statements is to include:

- (i) a Certification of the Financial Statements;
- (ii) a Comprehensive Operating Statement;
- (iii) a Balance Sheet;
- (iv) a Statement of Changes in Equity;
- (v) a Cash Flow Statement; and
- (vi) applicable explanatory notes to the financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared using the accrual basis of accounting, which recognises the effect of financial transactions and events when they occur, rather than when cash is paid out or received. As part of the preparation of the financial statements, all intra-agency transactions and balances have been eliminated.

Except where stated, the financial statements have also been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

The form of the agency financial statements is also consistent with the requirements of Australian Accounting Standards. The effects of all relevant new and revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that are effective for the current annual reporting period have been evaluated. The Standards and Interpretations and their impacts are:

**AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement, AASB 2011-8 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 13 [AASB 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 2009-11, 2010-7, 101, 102, 108, 110, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 128, 131, 132, 133, 134, 136, 138, 139, 140, 141, 1004, 1023 & 1038 and Interpretations 2, 4, 12, 13, 14, 17, 19, 131 & 132]**

AASB 13 replaces the guidance on fair value measurement in existing AASB accounting literature with a single standard. It clarifies the definition of fair value, provides guidance on how to determine fair value and requires disclosures about fair value measurements. With some exceptions, the standard requires entities to classify these measurements into a fair value hierarchy based on the nature of the inputs. Additional disclosures following from the standard are included in the notes to the financial statements.

# NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2014

**AASB 119 Employee Benefits (2011), AASB 2011-10 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 119 (2011) [AASB 1, 8, 101, 124, 134, 1049 & 2011-8 and Interpretation 14]**

AASB 119 amends the definition of short-term employee benefits and the accounting for defined benefit superannuation obligations. The standards do not impact the financial statements.

**AASB 2012-5 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from Annual Improvements 2009-2011 Cycle [AASB 1, 101, 116, 132 & 134 and Interpretation 2]**

The standard amends a number of pronouncements as a result of the 2009-2011 annual improvements cycle. In particular, amendments to AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements* clarify requirements for comparative information, and amendments to AASB 116 *Property, Plant and Equipment* clarify classification of servicing equipment. The standard does not impact the financial statements.

### **b) Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations Issued but not yet Effective**

At the date of authorisation of the financial statements, the Standards and Interpretations listed below were in issue but not yet effective.

Standard/Interpretation	Summary	Effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after	Impact on financial statements
AASB 12 <i>Disclosure of Interests in Other Entities</i>	Requires the extensive disclosure of information that enables users of financial statements to evaluate the nature of, and risks associated with, interests in other entities and the effects of those interests on its financial position, financial performance and cash flows.	1 Jan 2014	Minimal impact. The NTEC rarely commits to interest in other entities.
AASB 2013-3 <i>Amendments to AASB 136 – Recoverable Amount Disclosures for Non-Financial Assets</i>	Addresses disclosures about the recoverable amount of impaired assets if that amount is based on fair value less costs of disposal.	1 Jan 2014	Minimal impact. Sale of any assets is rare and would be at end of life.

### **c) Agency and Territory Items**

The financial statements of the Northern Territory Electoral Commission include income, expenses, assets, liabilities and equity over which the Northern Territory Electoral Commission has control (Agency items). Certain items, while managed by the agency, are controlled and recorded by the Territory rather than the agency (Territory items). Territory items are recognised and recorded in the Central Holding Authority as discussed below.

#### **Central Holding Authority**

The Central Holding Authority is the 'parent body' that represents the Government's ownership interest in Government-controlled entities.

The Central Holding Authority also records all Territory items, such as income, expenses, assets and liabilities controlled by the Government and managed by agencies on behalf of the Government. The main Territory item is Territory income, which includes taxation and royalty revenue, Commonwealth general purpose funding (such as GST revenue), fines, and statutory fees and charges.

The Central Holding Authority also holds certain Territory assets not assigned to agencies as well as certain Territory liabilities that are not practical or effective to assign to individual agencies such as unfunded superannuation and long service leave.

The Central Holding Authority recognises and records all Territory items, and as such, these items are not included in the agency's financial statements.

# NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2014

### **d) Comparatives**

Where necessary, comparative information for the 2012-13 financial year has been reclassified to provide consistency with current year disclosures.

### **e) Presentation and Rounding of Amounts**

Amounts in the financial statements and notes to the financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars, with amounts of \$500 or less being rounded down to zero.

### **f) Changes in Accounting Policies**

There have been no changes to accounting policies adopted in 2013-14 as a result of management decisions.

### **g) Accounting Judgments and Estimates**

The preparation of the financial report requires the making of judgments and estimates that affect the recognised amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses and the disclosure of contingent liabilities. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Judgments and estimates that have significant effects on the financial statements are disclosed in the relevant notes to the financial statements. Notes that include significant judgments and estimates are:

- Employee Benefits – Note 2(v) and Note 13: Non-current liabilities in respect of employee benefits are measured as the present value of estimated future cash outflows based on the appropriate Government bond rate, estimates of future salary and wage levels and employee periods of service.
- Depreciation and Amortisation – Note 2(k) and Note 10: Property, Plant and Equipment.

### **h) Goods and Services Tax**

Income, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of Goods and Services Tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred on a purchase of goods and services is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office (ATO). In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included as part of receivables or payables in the Balance Sheet.

Cash flows are included in the Cash Flow Statement on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities, which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are classified as operating cash flows. Commitments and contingencies are disclosed net of the amount of GST recoverable or payable unless otherwise specified.

### **i) Income Recognition**

Income encompasses both revenue and gains.

Income is recognised at the fair value of the consideration received, exclusive of the amount of GST. Exchanges of goods or services of the same nature and value without any cash consideration being exchanged are not recognised as income.



# NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2014

### Grants and Other Contributions

Grants, donations, gifts and other non-reciprocal contributions are recognised as revenue when the agency obtains control over the assets comprising the contributions. Control is normally obtained upon receipt.

Contributions are recognised at their fair value. Contributions of services are only recognised when a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would be purchased if not donated.

### Appropriation

Output appropriation is the operating payment to each agency for the outputs they provide and is calculated as the net cost of agency outputs after taking into account funding from agency income. It does not include any allowance for major non-cash costs such as depreciation.

Commonwealth appropriation follows from the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations, resulting in Specific Purpose Payments (SPPs) and National Partnership (NP) payments being made by the Commonwealth Treasury to state treasuries, in a manner similar to arrangements for GST payments. These payments are received by the Department of Treasury and Finance on behalf of the Central Holding Authority and then on-passed to the relevant agencies as Commonwealth appropriation.

Revenue in respect of appropriations is recognised in the period in which the agency gains control of the funds.

### Sale of Goods

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised (net of returns, discounts and allowances) when:

- the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods have transferred to the buyer;
- the agency retains neither continuing managerial involvement to the degree usually associated with ownership nor effective control over the goods sold;
- the amount of revenue can be reliably measured;
- it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the agency; and
- the costs incurred or to be incurred in respect of the transaction can be measured reliably.

### Rendering of Services

Revenue from rendering services is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of the contract. The revenue is recognised when:

- the amount of revenue, stage of completion and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured; and
- it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the entity.

### Interest Revenue

Interest revenue is recognised as it accrues, taking into account the effective yield on the financial asset.

### Goods and Services Received Free of Charge

Goods and services received free of charge are recognised as revenue when a fair value can be reliably determined and the resource would have been purchased if it had not been donated. Use of the resource is recognised as an expense.

### Disposal of Assets

A gain or loss on disposal of assets is included as a gain or loss on the date control of the asset passes to the buyer, usually when an unconditional contract of sale is signed. The gain or loss on disposal is calculated as the difference between the carrying amount of the asset at the time of disposal and the net proceeds on disposal. Refer also to Note 5.

### Contributions of Assets

Contributions of assets and contributions to assist in the acquisition of assets, being non-reciprocal transfers, are recognised, unless otherwise determined by Government, as gains when the agency obtains control of the asset or contribution. Contributions are recognised at the fair value received or receivable.

# NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2014

### **j) Repairs and Maintenance Expense**

Funding is received for repairs and maintenance works associated with agency assets as part of output revenue. Costs associated with repairs and maintenance works on agency assets are expensed as incurred.

### **k) Depreciation and Amortisation Expense**

Items of property, plant and equipment, including buildings but excluding land, have limited useful lives and are depreciated or amortised using the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives.

Amortisation applies in relation to intangible non-current assets with limited useful lives and is calculated and accounted for in a similar manner to depreciation.

Assets are depreciated or amortised from the date of acquisition or from the time an asset is completed and held ready for use.

### **l) Interest Expense**

Interest expenses include interest and finance lease charges. Interest expenses are expensed in the period in which they are incurred.

### **m) Cash and Deposits**

For the purposes of the Balance Sheet and the Cash Flow Statement, cash includes cash on hand, cash at bank and cash equivalents. Cash equivalents are highly liquid short-term investments that are readily convertible to cash. Cash at bank includes monies held in the Accountable Officer's Trust Account (AOTA) that are ultimately payable to the beneficial owner – refer also to Note 21.

### **n) Inventories**

Inventories include assets held either for sale (general inventories) or for distribution at no or nominal consideration in the ordinary course of business operations.

Inventory held for distribution is regularly assessed for obsolescence and loss.

### **o) Receivables**

Receivables include accounts receivable and other receivables and are recognised at fair value less any allowance for impairment losses.

The allowance for impairment losses represents the amount of receivables the agency estimates are likely to be uncollectible and are considered doubtful. Analyses of the age of the receivables that are past due as at the reporting date are disclosed in an aging schedule under credit risk in Note 17 Financial Instruments. Reconciliation of changes in the allowance accounts is also presented.

Accounts receivable are generally settled within 30 days and other receivables within 30 days.

### **p) Property, Plant and Equipment**

#### **Acquisitions**

All items of property, plant and equipment with a cost, or other value, equal to or greater than \$10 000 are recognised in the year of acquisition and depreciated as outlined below. Items of property, plant and equipment below the \$10 000 threshold are expensed in the year of acquisition.

The construction cost of property, plant and equipment includes the cost of materials and direct labour, and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

#### **Complex Assets**

Major items of plant and equipment, comprising a number of components that have different useful lives, are accounted for as separate assets. The components may be replaced during the useful life of the complex asset.

#### **Subsequent Additional Costs**

Costs incurred on property, plant and equipment subsequent to initial acquisition are capitalised when it is probable that future economic benefits in excess of the originally assessed performance of the

# NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2014

asset will flow to the agency in future years. Where these costs represent separate components of a complex asset, they are accounted for as separate assets and are separately depreciated over their expected useful lives.

### **Construction (Work in Progress)**

As part of the financial management framework, the Department of Infrastructure is responsible for managing general government capital works projects on a whole of Government basis. Therefore appropriation for all agency capital works is provided directly to the Department of Infrastructure and the cost of construction work in progress is recognised as an asset of that Department. Once completed, capital works assets are transferred to the agency.

### **q) Biological Assets**

The Northern Territory Electoral Commission had no biological assets in 2013-14 and 2012-13.

### **r) Revaluations and Impairment**

#### **Revaluation of Assets**

Subsequent to initial recognition, assets belonging to the following classes of non-current assets are revalued with sufficient regularity to ensure that the carrying amount of these assets does not differ materially from their fair value at reporting date:

- land;
- buildings;
- infrastructure assets;
- heritage and cultural assets;
- biological assets; and
- intangibles.

Plant and equipment are stated at historical cost less depreciation, which is deemed to equate to fair value.

#### **Impairment of Assets**

An asset is said to be impaired when the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount.

Non-current physical and intangible agency assets are assessed for indicators of impairment on an annual basis. If an indicator of impairment exists, the agency determines the asset's recoverable amount. The asset's recoverable amount is determined as the higher of the asset's depreciated replacement cost and fair value less costs to sell. Any amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount is recorded as an impairment loss.

Impairment losses are recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement. They are disclosed as an expense unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount. Where the asset is measured at a revalued amount, the impairment loss is offset against the asset revaluation surplus for that class of asset to the extent that an available balance exists in the asset revaluation surplus.

In certain situations, an impairment loss may subsequently be reversed. Where an impairment loss is subsequently reversed, the carrying amount of the asset is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement as income, unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the impairment reversal results in an increase in the asset revaluation surplus. Note 15 provides additional information in relation to the asset revaluation surplus.

### **s) Assets Held for Sale**

The Northern Territory Electoral Commission held no assets for sale in 2013-14 and 2012-13.

### **t) Leased Assets**

Leases under which the agency assumes substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of an asset are classified as finance leases. Other leases are classified as operating leases.

# NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2014

### Finance Leases

Finance leases are capitalised. A lease asset and lease liability equal to the lower of the fair value of the leased property and present value of the minimum lease payments, each determined at the inception of the lease, are recognised.

Lease payments are allocated between the principal component of the lease liability and the interest expense.

### Operating Leases

Operating lease payments made at regular intervals throughout the term are expensed when the payments are due, except where an alternative basis is more representative of the pattern of benefits to be derived from the leased property. Lease incentives under an operating lease of a building or office space is recognised as an integral part of the consideration for the use of the leased asset. Lease incentives are to be recognised as a deduction of the lease expenses over the term of the lease.

### u) Payables

Liabilities for accounts payable and other amounts payable are carried at cost, which is the fair value of the consideration to be paid in the future for goods and services received, whether or not billed to the agency. Accounts payable are normally settled within 30 days.

### v) Employee Benefits

Provision is made for employee benefits accumulated as a result of employees rendering services up to the reporting date. These benefits include wages and salaries and recreation leave. Liabilities arising in respect of wages and salaries, recreation leave and other employee benefit liabilities that fall due within twelve months of reporting date are classified as current liabilities and are measured at amounts expected to be paid. Non-current employee benefit liabilities that fall due after twelve months of the reporting date are measured at present value, calculated using the Government long-term bond rate.

No provision is made for sick leave, which is non-vesting, as the anticipated pattern of future sick leave to be taken is less than the entitlement accruing in each reporting period.

Employee benefit expenses are recognised on a net basis in respect of the following categories:

- wages and salaries, non-monetary benefits, recreation leave, sick leave and other leave entitlements; and
- other types of employee benefits.

As part of the financial management framework, the Central Holding Authority assumes the long service leave liabilities of Government agencies, including the Northern Territory Electoral Commission and as such no long service leave liability is recognised in agency financial statements.

### w) Superannuation

Employees' superannuation entitlements are provided through the:

- Northern Territory Government and Public Authorities Superannuation Scheme (NTGPASS);
- Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS); or
- non-government employee-nominated schemes for those employees commencing on or after 10 August 1999.

The agency makes superannuation contributions on behalf of its employees to the Central Holding Authority or non-government employee-nominated schemes. Superannuation liabilities related to government superannuation schemes are held by the Central Holding Authority and as such are not recognised in agency financial statements.

# NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2014

### **x) Contributions by and Distributions to Government**

The agency may receive contributions from Government where the Government is acting as owner of the agency. Conversely, the agency may make distributions to Government. In accordance with the *Financial Management Act* and Treasurer's Directions, certain types of contributions and distributions, including those relating to administrative restructures, have been designated as contributions by, and distributions to, Government. These designated contributions and distributions are treated by the agency as adjustments to equity.

The Statement of Changes in Equity provides additional information in relation to contributions by, and distributions to, Government.

### **y) Commitments**

Disclosures in relation to capital and other commitments, including lease commitments are shown at Note 18.

Commitments are those contracted as at 30 June where the amount of the future commitment can be reliably measured.

### **z) Fair Value Measurement**

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

Fair value measurement of a non-financial asset takes into account a market participant's ability to generate economic benefits by using the asset in its highest and best use or by selling it to another market participant that would use the asset in its highest and best use. The highest and best use takes into account the use of the asset that is physically possible, legally permissible and financially feasible.

When measuring fair value, the valuation techniques used maximise the use of relevant observable inputs and minimise the use of unobservable inputs. Unobservable inputs are used to the extent that sufficient relevant and reliable observable inputs are not available for similar assets/liabilities.

Observable inputs are publicly available data that are relevant to the characteristics of the assets/liabilities being valued. Observable inputs used by the agency include, but are not limited to, published sales data for land and general office buildings.

Unobservable inputs are data, assumptions and judgments that are not available publicly, but are relevant to the characteristics of the assets/liabilities being valued. Such inputs include internal agency adjustments to observable data to take account of particular and potentially unique characteristics/functionality of assets/liabilities and assessments of physical condition and remaining useful life.

All assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the financial statements are categorised within the following fair value hierarchy based on the inputs used:

Level 1 – inputs are quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities;

Level 2 – inputs are inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly; and

Level 3 – inputs are unobservable.

**NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
For the year ended 30 June 2014

**3. COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT BY OUTPUT GROUP**

	Note	Electoral Services		Corporate and Governance		Total	
		2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013
		\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
<b>INCOME</b>							
Taxation revenue							
Grants and subsidies revenue							
Current		315	50			315	50
Capital							
Appropriation							
Output		1696	4491			1696	4491
Commonwealth							
Sales of goods and services		303	70			303	70
Interest revenue							
Goods and services received free of charge	4	628	729			628	729
Gain on disposal of assets	5	0	1			0	1
Other income							
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>2942</b>	<b>5341</b>			<b>2942</b>	<b>5341</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>							
Employee expenses		1470	2838	170	0	1640	2838
Administrative expenses							
Purchases of goods and services	6	752	1898	20	0	772	1898
Repairs and maintenance		3	2			3	2
Property management		60	114			60	114
Depreciation and amortisation	10	169	162			169	162
Other administrative expenses <sup>1</sup>		641	730			641	730
Grants and subsidies expenses							
Current							
Capital							
Community service obligations							
Interest expenses	17						
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>3095</b>	<b>5744</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3285</b>	<b>5744</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>		<b>(153)</b>	<b>(403)</b>	<b>(190)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(343)</b>	<b>(403)</b>
<b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>							
<b>Items that will not be reclassified to net surplus/deficit</b>							
Transfers from Reserves		(15)	0			(15)	0
Correction of prior period errors							
Changes in asset revaluation surplus							
<b>TOTAL OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>		<b>(15)</b>	<b>0</b>			<b>(15)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>COMPREHENSIVE RESULT</b>		<b>(168)</b>	<b>(403)</b>	<b>(190)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(358)</b>	<b>(403)</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes DCIS service charges.

This Comprehensive Operating Statement by output group is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

**NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2014**

	2014	2013
	\$000	\$000
<b>4. GOODS AND SERVICES RECEIVED FREE OF CHARGE</b>		
Corporate and information services	628	729
Internal audits and reviews		
	<b>628</b>	<b>729</b>
<b>5. GAIN ON DISPOSAL OF ASSETS</b>		
Net proceeds from the disposal of non-current assets	0	1
Less: Carrying value of non-current assets disposed	(0)	(0)
Gain on the disposal of non-current assets	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
Proceeds from sale of minor assets	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total Gain on Disposal of Assets</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>6. PURCHASES OF GOODS AND SERVICES</b>		
The net surplus/(deficit) has been arrived at after charging the following expenses:		
<b>Goods and services expenses:</b>		
Consultants <sup>(1)</sup>	8	15
Advertising		
Marketing and promotion <sup>(2)</sup>	68	446
Document production	75	238
Legal expenses		
Recruitment <sup>(3)</sup>	1	5
Training and study	1	3
Official duty fares	26	186
Travelling allowance	9	49
	<b>188</b>	<b>942</b>
<b>7. CASH AND DEPOSITS</b>		
Cash on hand	3	3
Cash at bank	533	710
On call or short-term deposits		
	<b>536</b>	<b>713</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> Includes marketing, promotion and IT consultants.

<sup>(2)</sup> Includes advertising for marketing and promotion but excludes marketing and promotion consultants' expenses, which are incorporated in the consultants' category.

<sup>(3)</sup> Includes recruitment-related advertising costs.

**NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
For the year ended 30 June 2014

	2014 \$000	2013 \$000
<b>8. RECEIVABLES</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Accounts receivable	18	38
Less: Allowance for impairment losses	(0)	(0)
	18	38
Interest receivables		
GST receivables	11	3
Other receivables		
	11	3
<b>Non-Current</b>		
Other receivables		
<b>Total Receivables</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>9. INVENTORIES</b>		
<b>General Inventories</b>		
At cost		
At net realisable value		
<b>Inventories Held for Distribution</b>		
At cost		
At current replacement cost		
<b>Total Inventories</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>10. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT</b>		
<b>Plant and Equipment</b>		
At fair value	1256	1273
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(502)	(328)
	754	945
<b>Computer Hardware</b>		
At cost	25	25
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(24)	(18)
	1	7
<b>Total Property, Plant and Equipment</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>952</b>

**Property, Plant and Equipment Valuations**

The fair value of these assets was determined based on existing restrictions on asset use. Where reliable market values were not available, the fair value of Agency assets was based on their depreciated replacement cost. Refer to Note 11: Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets for additional disclosures.

**Impairment of Property, Plant and Equipment**

Agency property, plant and equipment assets were assessed for impairment as at 30 June 2014. No impairment adjustments were required as a result of this review.



# NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2014

### 10. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (continued)

#### 2014 Property, Plant and Equipment Reconciliations

A reconciliation of the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of 2013-14 is set out below:

	Plant and Equipment	Computer Hardware	Total
	\$000	\$000	\$000
Carrying Amount as at 1 July 2013	945	7	952
Additions			
Disposals			
Depreciation	(163)	(6)	(169)
Additions/(Disposals) from administrative restructuring			
Additions/(Disposals) from asset transfers	(13)	0	(13)
Revaluation increments/(decrements)	(15)	0	(15)
Impairment losses			
Impairment losses reversed			
Other movements			
<b>Carrying Amount as at 30 June 2014</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>755</b>

#### 2013 Property, Plant and Equipment Reconciliations

A reconciliation of the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of 2012-13 is set out below:

	Plant and Equipment	Leased Property, Plant and Equipment	Total
	\$000	\$000	\$000
Carrying Amount as at 1 July 2012	183	13	196
Additions			
Disposals			
Depreciation	(156)	(6)	(162)
Additions/(Disposals) from administrative restructuring			
Additions/(Disposals) from asset transfers	918	0	918
Revaluation increments/(decrements)			
Impairment losses			
Impairment losses reversed			
Other movements			
<b>Carrying Amount as at 30 June 2013</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>952</b>

**NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2014**

**11. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT OF NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS**

**a) Fair Value Hierarchy**

Fair values of non-financial assets categorised by level of inputs used to compute fair value are:

2014

	Level 1 \$000	Level 2 \$000	Level 3 \$000	Total Fair Value \$000
<b>Asset Classes</b>				
Plant and Equipment		754		754
Computer Hardware		1		1
<b>Total</b>		<b>755</b>		<b>755</b>

There were no transfers between Level 1 and Levels 2 or 3 during the period.

**b) Valuation Techniques and Inputs**

Valuation techniques used to measure fair value are:

	Level 2 Techniques	Level 3 Techniques
<b>Asset Classes</b>		
Plant and Equipment	Cost	
Computer Hardware	Cost	

There were no changes in valuation techniques during the period.

	2014 \$000	2013 \$000
<b>12. PAYABLES</b>		
Accounts payable	17	24
Accrued expenses	45	43
Other payables		
<b>Total Payables</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>67</b>

**NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2014**

		2014	2013
		\$000	\$000
<b>13. PROVISIONS</b>			
	<b>Current</b>		
	<i>Employee benefits</i>		
	Recreation leave	109	110
	Leave loading	14	16
	Other employee benefits	3	3
	<i>Other current provisions</i>		
	Other provisions	25	27
		151	156
	<b>Non-Current</b>		
	<i>Employee benefits</i>		
	Recreation leave	38	53
	<i>Other non-current provisions</i>		
	Other provisions		
		38	53
	<b>Total Provisions</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>209</b>
	The Agency employed 13.1 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) employees as at 30 June 2014 (13.40 FTE employees as at 30 June 2013).		
<b>14. OTHER LIABILITIES</b>			
	<b>Current</b>		
	Other liabilities	1	0
		1	0
	<b>Non-Current</b>		
	Other liabilities		
	<b>Total Other Liabilities</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>15. RESERVES</b>			
	<b>Asset Revaluation Surplus</b>		
	<i>(i) Nature and purpose of the asset revaluation surplus</i>		
	The asset revaluation surplus includes the net revaluation increments and decrements arising from the revaluation of non-current assets. Impairment adjustments may also be recognised in the asset revaluation surplus.		
	<i>(ii) Movements in the asset revaluation surplus</i>		
	Balance as at 1 July	0	0
	Other - depreciation	(15)	
	<b>Balance as at 30 June</b>	<b>(15)</b>	<b>0</b>

**NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2014**

	2014	2013
	\$000	\$000
<b>16. NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT</b>		
<b>Reconciliation of Cash</b>		
The total of agency 'Cash and deposits' of \$536,000 recorded in the Balance Sheet is consistent with that recorded as 'Cash' in the Cash Flow Statement.		
<b>Reconciliation of Net Surplus/(Deficit) to Net Cash from Operating Activities</b>		
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	(343)	(403)
<i>Non-cash items:</i>		
Depreciation and amortisation	169	162
Asset write-offs/write-downs	12	
Asset donations/gifts		
(Gain)/Loss on disposal of assets	0	(1)
R&M – Minor New Work Non Cash	0	0
<i>Changes in assets and liabilities:</i>		
Decrease/(Increase) in receivables	13	(7)
Decrease/(Increase) in inventories		
Decrease/(Increase) in prepayments	(3)	0
Decrease/(Increase) in other assets		
(Decrease)/Increase in payables	(6)	(23)
(Decrease)/Increase in provision for employee benefits	(18)	(74)
(Decrease)/Increase in other provisions	(2)	(18)
(Decrease)/Increase in other liabilities		
<b>Net Cash from Operating Activities</b>	<b>(178)</b>	<b>(364)</b>

**Non-Cash Financing and Investing Activities**

*Finance Lease Transactions*

The Northern Territory Electoral Commission did not acquire plant and equipment/computer equipment and software by means of finance leases in 2013-14.

**NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2014**

**17. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

A financial instrument is a contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity. Financial instruments held by the Northern Territory Electoral Commission include cash and deposits, receivables, payables and finance leases. The Northern Territory Electoral Commission has limited exposure to financial risks as discussed below.

**a) Categorisation of Financial Instruments**

The carrying amounts of the agency's financial assets and liabilities by category are disclosed in the table below.

	2014	2013
	\$000	\$000
<b>Financial Assets</b>		
Cash and deposits	536	713
Fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL):		
Held for trading		
Designated as at FVTPL		
Derivative instruments in designated hedge accounting relationships		
Held-to-maturity investments		
Loans and receivables		
Available-for-sale financial assets		
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>		
Fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL):		
Held for trading		
Designated as at FVTPL		
Derivative instruments in designated hedge accounting relationships		
Amortised cost		

**b) Credit Risk**

The agency has limited credit risk exposure (risk of default). In respect of any dealings with organisations external to Government, the agency has adopted a policy of only dealing with credit worthy organisations and obtaining sufficient collateral or other security where appropriate, as a means of mitigating the risk of financial loss from defaults.

The carrying amount of financial assets recorded in the financial statements, net of any allowances for losses, represents the agency's maximum exposure to credit risk without taking account of the value of any collateral or other security obtained.

**NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2014**

**Receivables**

Receivable balances are monitored on an ongoing basis to ensure that exposure to bad debts is not significant. A reconciliation and aging analysis of receivables is presented below.

<b>Internal Receivables<sup>(a)</sup></b>	Aging of Receivables	Aging of Impaired Receivables	Net Receivables
	\$000	\$000	\$000
<b>2013-14</b>			
Not overdue	26		26
Overdue for less than 30 days			
Overdue for 30 to 60 days			
Overdue for more than 60 days			
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>		<b>26</b>

**Reconciliation of the Allowance for Impairment Losses**

Opening

Written off during the year

Recovered during the year

Increase/(Decrease) in allowance recognised in profit or loss

**Total**

**2012-13**

Not overdue

41

41

Overdue for less than 30 days

Overdue for 30 to 60 days

Overdue for more than 60 days

**Total**

**41**

**41**

**Reconciliation of the Allowance for Impairment Losses**

Opening

Written off during the year

Recovered during the year

Increase/(Decrease) in allowance recognised in profit or loss

**Total**

**NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2014**

<b>External Receivables<sup>(a)</sup></b>	Aging of Receivables	Aging of Impaired Receivables	Net Receivables
	\$000	\$000	\$000
<b>2013-14</b>			
Not overdue	2		2
Overdue for less than 30 days			
Overdue for 30 to 60 days			
Overdue for more than 60 days			
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>2</b>

**Reconciliation of the Allowance for Impairment Losses**

Opening			
Written off during the year			
Recovered during the year			
Increase/(Decrease) in allowance recognised in profit or loss			
<b>Total</b>			

**2012-13**

Not overdue			
Overdue for less than 30 days			
Overdue for 30 to 60 days			
Overdue for more than 60 days			
<b>Total</b>			

**Reconciliation of the Allowance for Impairment Losses**

Opening			
Written off during the year			
Recovered during the year			
Increase/(Decrease) in allowance recognised in profit or loss			
<b>Total</b>			

*<sup>(a)</sup> Internal receivables are from entities controlled by the NTG (entities listed in TAFR 2012-13 Note 40: Details of Controlled Entities at Reporting Date), whereas external receivables are from third parties external to the NTG.*

**NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2014**

**c) Liquidity Risk**

Liquidity risk is the risk that the agency will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The agency's approach to managing liquidity is to ensure that it will always have sufficient liquidity to meet its liabilities when they fall due.

The following tables detail the agency's remaining contractual maturity for its financial assets and liabilities. It should be noted that these values are undiscounted, and consequently totals may not reconcile to the carrying amounts presented in the Balance Sheet.

**2014 Maturity analysis for financial assets and liabilities**

	Interest Bearing				Total	Weighted Average
	Fixed or Variable	Less than a Year	1 to 5 Years	More than 5 Years		
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	%
<b>Assets</b>						
Cash and deposits					536	100
Receivables					28	100
Advances					3	100
Investment, loans and placements						
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>					<b>567</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>						
Deposits held					(1)	100
Payables					(61)	100
Advances					(151)	100
Borrowings						
Finance lease liabilities						
<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>					<b>(213)</b>	<b>100</b>



**NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2014**

**2013 Maturity analysis for financial assets and liabilities**

	Interest Bearing				Non Interest Bearing	Total	Weighted Average
	Fixed or Variable	Less than a Year	1 to 5 Years	More than 5 Years			
		\$000	\$000	\$000			
<b>Assets</b>							
Cash and deposits					713	713	100
Receivables					41	41	100
Advances							
Investment, loans and placements							
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>					<b>754</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>							
Deposits held					0	0	100
Payables					(67)	(67)	100
Advances					(156)	(156)	100
Borrowings							
Finance lease liabilities							
<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>					<b>(223)</b>	<b>(223)</b>	<b>100</b>

**d) Market Risk**

Market risk is the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. It comprises interest rate risk, price risk and currency risk.

**(i) Interest Rate Risk**

The Northern Territory Electoral Commission is not exposed to interest rate risk as agency financial assets and financial liabilities are non-interest bearing. Finance lease arrangements are established on a fixed interest rate and as such do not expose the Commission to interest rate risk.

**(ii) Price Risk**

The Northern Territory Electoral Commission is not exposed to price risk as the Commission does not hold units in unit trusts.

**(iii) Currency Risk**

The Northern Territory Electoral Commission is not exposed to currency risk as the Commission does not hold borrowings denominated in foreign currencies or transactional currency exposures arising from purchases in a foreign currency.

**NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2014**

**e) Net Fair Value**

Fair values of financial instruments categorised by level of inputs used to measure fair value are:

<b>2014</b>	Total Carrying Amount	Net Fair Value Level 1	Net Fair Value Level 2	Net Fair Value Level 3	Net Fair Value Total
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
<b>Financial Assets</b>					
Cash and deposits	536	536			536
Receivables	28	28			28
Advances and investments	3	3			3
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>567</b>			<b>567</b>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>					
Deposits held	(1)	(1)			(1)
Payables	(61)	(61)			(61)
Borrowings and advances	(151)	(151)			(151)
Finance lease liabilities					
<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>	<b>(213)</b>	<b>(213)</b>			<b>(213)</b>
<b>2013</b>					
	Total Carrying Amount	Net Fair Value Level 1	Net Fair Value Level 2	Net Fair Value Level 3	Net Fair Value Total
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
<b>Financial Assets</b>					
Cash and deposits	713	713			713
Receivables	41	41			41
Advances and investments					
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>754</b>			<b>754</b>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>					
Deposits held	0	0			0
Payables	(67)	(67)			(67)
Borrowings and advances	(156)	(156)			(156)
Finance lease liabilities					
<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>	<b>(223)</b>	<b>(223)</b>			<b>(223)</b>

**NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2014**

	2014		2013	
	Internal <sup>(a)</sup>	External <sup>(a)</sup>	Internal	External
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
<b>18. COMMITMENTS</b>				
<b>(i) Other Expenditure Commitments</b>				
Other non-cancellable expenditure commitments not recognised as liabilities are payable as follows:				
Within one year		0		183
Later than one year and not later than five years		114		0
Later than five years				
		<b>114</b>		<b>183</b>

*<sup>(a)</sup> Internal commitments are to entities controlled by the NTG (entities listed in TAFR 2012-13 Note 40: Details of Controlled Entities at Reporting Date), whereas external commitments are to third parties external to the NTG.*

**19. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS**

**a) Contingent Liabilities**

The Northern Territory Electoral Commission records a number of contingent liabilities relating to the last Legislative Assembly General Election; the liabilities relate to leases signed with respective stakeholders regarding accommodation for interstate based staff and polling place accommodation. Although the instruments have since expired, the majority of the liabilities remain current for a further three years until 2015-16.

The Commission also holds current and on-going liabilities for four storage sheds situated at Coconut Grove NT.

**b) Contingent Assets**

The Northern Territory Electoral Commission had no contingent assets as at 30 June 2014 or 30 June 2013.

**20. EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO BALANCE DATE**

No events have arisen between the end of the financial year and the date of this report that require adjustment to, or disclosure in these financial statements.

**21. ACCOUNTABLE OFFICER'S TRUST ACCOUNT**

In accordance with section 7 of the *Financial Management Act*, an Accountable Officer's Trust Account has been established for the receipt of money to be held in trust. A summary of activity is shown below:

Nature of Trust Money	Opening Balance 1 July 2013	Receipts	Payments	Closing Balance 30 June 2014
Nomination money	500	1000	700	<b>800</b>
	500	1000	700	<b>800</b>

**22. WRITE-OFFS, POSTPONEMENTS, WAIVERS, GIFTS AND EX GRATIA PAYMENTS**

The Northern Territory Electoral Commission had no write-offs, postponements, waivers, gifts or ex gratia payments in 2013-14 and 2012-13.



