

**Northern Territory
Electoral Commission**
EVERY vote counts!

ANNUAL REPORT

2021-22

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Glossary

AEC	Australian Electoral Commission
COMMISSIONER	Northern Territory Electoral Commissioner
DCDD	Department of Corporate and Digital Development
DCMC	Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet
DIPL	Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics
DISCLOSURE	The disclosure of 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 electoral participants.
ECANZ	Electoral Council of Australia and New Zealand
eLAPPS	electronic Legislative Assembly Polling Place System
FDEU	Federal direct enrolment update
ICT	Information and communication technology
JOINT ROLL	The electoral roll or list of electors eligible to vote for Commonwealth, NT and local government elections
LGRD	Local Government and Regional Development (within DCMC)
NT	Northern Territory
NTEC	Northern Territory Electoral Commission
NTG	Northern Territory Government
REDISTRIBUTION	A redistribution of Northern Territory Legislative Assembly boundaries
REPRESENTATION REVIEWS	Review of local government ward boundaries and number of representatives for each ward. This is conducted by a legislated Local Government Representation Review Committee.
SLA	Service level agreement
TA	Treasurer's Advance
TIGER	The Information Gateway to Electoral Resources (NTEC's election management system)

Letter to Speaker



The Hon Mark Monaghan MLA
Speaker
Northern Territory Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
Darwin NT 0800

Mr Speaker

I am pleased to provide the Annual Report of the Northern Territory Electoral Commission for the 2021-2022 reporting year.

The report details the Commission's performance, key achievements and outlook for the year ending 30 June 2022. It was prepared in accordance with the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act 1993*, the *Financial Management Act 1995* and the *Information Act 2002*.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Iain Loganathan', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Iain Loganathan
Electoral Commissioner
28 October 2022

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Foreword

While the 2021-22 reporting year began with the 2021 Local Government Elections in August, quickly followed by the division of Daly by-election in September, the Northern Territory Electoral Commission (NTEC) also conducted 20 additional elections, including supplementary elections, council by-elections, government enterprise bargaining agreement ballots and other fee-for-service elections.

While many of the fee-for-service elections were conducted electronically, the elections with in-person voting services continued to be delivered within a COVID-19 context, in particular the 2021 Local Government Elections with a lock down declared for Darwin and regions during the first week of voting.

The 2021 Local Government Elections also included a trial of early voting services provided at council delivery centres in some remote communities using council staff. This meant that voting services were increased in these communities in an effort to improve turnout. The trial occurred in 36 communities in five regional council areas and resulted in approximately 1,000 additional voting hours in these remote communities. The trial resulted in a marginal increase in voter turnout in these communities but was a welcome reform by regional councils, including those who did not opt into the trial, and will be modified and used again at future regional council elections.

Voter turnout continues to be unacceptably low in Northern Territory elections with turnout at the 2021 Local Government Elections being 63.3% (58.5% in 2017) and 66.3% at the Daly by-election. At the federal election in May 2022, Lingiari had the lowest turnout of any federal division with 66.8%. The NTEC is looking to support the Australian National University in their research into policy barriers and other potential reasons for persistently low rates of participation by remote Aboriginal electors, as well as the impact of steps taken to reverse the decline. One of these steps includes recent legislative changes to the *Electoral Act 2004* and the *Local Government Act 2019* to allow for provisional voting at NT elections for unenrolled electors who, if eligible, are immediately enrolled and have their vote count at that election.

Another change to the *Local Government Act 2019* that impacted the reporting year was the establishment of a new Local Government Representation Committee responsible for determining council ward boundaries and representation. Previously these

decisions were the responsibility of the Minister with recommendations coming from the councils themselves or the Department for Local Government. The committee commenced the inaugural representation reviews in March 2022 which follow a similar process to the Legislative Assembly electorate boundary redistribution.

Another major amendment to the *Local Government Act 2019* was the introduction of financial disclosure obligations for candidates at local government elections. These did not come into effect until 1 July 2022, so did not apply to the general elections in August 2021 or any of the council by-elections in the reporting year. However, the NTEC did develop resource materials in the form of a Donations Disclosure Handbook, an information sheet and FAQs to assist candidates in local government elections from July 2022 onwards.

Throughout the conduct of the multiple elections and other activities in this reporting year, the NTEC also underwent a capability review to in late 2021 to assess the agency's capabilities to discharge its statutory functions and strategic priorities. In addition, procurement for the remediation of the NTEC's current election management system commenced while a business case for the eventual replacement of the system was also developed.

I would like to acknowledge the Department of Local Government for their work in remote enrolment and other activities in the lead up to the general elections, the Department of Health in assisting the NTEC's COVID-19 operational responses, and the Department of Corporate and Digital Development for their support in the delivery of elections, the NTEC's election management system and its related procurement activities. I would also like to thank my staff and for their work during the incredibly busy 2021-22 year.



Iain Loganathan
Electoral Commissioner

Agency overview

Purpose

The purpose of the NT Electoral Commission (NTEC, the commission) is to:

- provide quality electoral services to clients throughout the Northern Territory (NT)
- ensure the electoral system, especially the right to vote and to vote in secret, is fully accessible to all electors.

Vision

The NTEC's vision is for all Territorians to make an informed vote.

Mission

The NTEC's mission is to deliver lawful and accessible electoral services by being innovative, transparent and independent.

Values

The NTEC's values to achieving its strategic goals are:

- impartiality and integrity
- responsive and client-focussed
- collaborative and independent
- leadership and innovation.

Operating environment

The NTEC operates in an environment that includes:

- a small, culturally diverse, dispersed and mobile population
- a broad charter of electoral operations and corporate governance responsibilities
- a small permanent staff structure
- a requirement to modernise and implement best practices
- close working relationships with the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC), interstate electoral authorities and other organisations.

Strategic goals

The strategic goals of the agency are:

- diversify and increase electoral awareness and participation
- strengthen and build mutually beneficial partnerships and relationships with stakeholders
- enhance systems and research
- cultivate a workplace that promotes leadership and mutual respect.

Legislative base

The following Acts and Regulations are administered by the commission:

- The *Electoral Act 2004* and Regulations under that Act.
- The *Referendums Act 1998* and Regulations under that Act.
- Electoral provisions contained in the *Local Government Act 2019* and the *Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2021*.

From 23 April 2015, amended legislation gave councils the option to determine their service provider for the conduct of by-elections. General elections remain the responsibility of the NTEC.

Under the *Constitutional Convention (Election) Act 2011*, the NTEC is charged with conducting any election for delegates to a constitutional convention to discuss statehood for the NT.

General and financial management of the *Constitutional Convention (Election) Act 2011* remains with the Department of the Legislative Assembly.

Agency purpose and functions

The NTEC provides independent, impartial, quality and accessible electoral services to the people of the NT, the NT Legislative Assembly, local government municipal, regional and shire councils, and other organisations.

The Northern Territory Electoral Commissioner is the chief executive of the agency and 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 NT Legislative Assembly and all members of the Legislative Assembly who are not affiliated with a political party. The Commissioner is a member of the Redistribution Committee, which reviews and determines electoral boundaries for the NT Legislative Assembly, and the Local Government Representation Committee which determines ward boundaries and representation in the Territory's 17 local government areas.

The commission's functions are prescribed under section 309 of the *Electoral Act 2004* (the Act).

Key responsibilities

- Managing parliamentary and non-parliamentary elections including local government and, on request, fee-for-service elections including enterprise bargaining agreement ballots.
- Maintaining the joint electoral roll in partnership with the AEC who are responsible for managing the roll.
- Delivering electoral awareness and education programs to the public.
- Providing advice and reports relating to electoral matters to the Legislative Assembly.
- Conducting electoral research.
- Providing support to committees reviewing parliamentary electoral boundaries and ward structures of local councils.

NTEC activities

- Planning and implementing programs to conduct fixed term Legislative Assembly and local government general elections and periodic by-elections in the required timeframe and according to best practice principles.
- Developing and implementing enrolment stimulation strategies to improve roll quality and increase elector participation for Legislative Assembly and local government elections.
- Developing and running programs for school students and the general public, to make them aware of their electoral rights and responsibilities.
- Supporting parliamentary electoral boundary redistributions and council representation reviews and, in conjunction with the AEC, coordinating and verifying changes on the electoral roll following the gazettal of any boundary changes.
- Fostering and nurturing inter-agency relationships to support the NTEC's core activities in an environment that demands specialist knowledge and impartiality in service delivery.

Since May 2015, local government councils have had the option of running their own by-elections or appointing a third party provider to conduct them. To date, no council has opted to conduct a by-election themselves or appoint a third provider. The NTEC remains the prescribed provider of electoral services for local government general elections.

The commission also conducts ballots for government, including enterprise bargaining agreements, and non-government organisations on a fee for service basis.

The year in review

Enrolment

- As at 30 June 2022, the number of enrolled Territorians was 145,073, an increase of 2,358 from the previous financial year.
- This leaves an estimated 19,400 eligible Territorians not on the electoral roll.
- The AEC's State of the Roll report puts the NT's enrolment participation rate at 88.3% compared to a national rate of 97.1%, at 30 June 2022, with the youth (18 to 24 years) enrolment rate at 64.1% for the NT, compared to a national rate of 88.4%.¹
- The federal direct enrolment update (FDEU) and online enrolment continue to be the main source of enrolment in the NT.
- Legislative amendments in 2019 allows eligible NT electors who are not enrolled to cast a declaration vote and, if eligible, have their vote admitted to the count. In 2021-22, this provision allowed 1,340 people to be enrolled, re-enrolled or have their enrolment updated over multiple elections.

Elections

- In the reporting year, the NTEC conducted the 2021 Local Government Elections (general elections for 17 council areas), two supplementary elections (for failed elections from the 2021 Local Government Elections), and four local government by-elections.
- There was one Legislative Assembly by-election (for the division of Daly) in 2021-22.
- The NTEC also conducted nine enterprise bargaining agreement ballots for the NT Government. This covered four agreements which went to ballot multiple times.
- The NTEC also conducted five other fee-for-service elections, including an enterprise bargaining agreement ballot for a private company, as well as board or delegate elections for three land councils and one not-for-profit organisation.

Public awareness

- The agency commenced preparations to redevelop its website to improve accessibility.

¹ The AEC's State of the Roll report uses federal divisions to calculate enrolment rates and the NT federal division of Lingiari includes Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Island.

- The commission continued to utilise social media platforms Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube, to communicate with stakeholders throughout the year.
- Public awareness campaigns were developed and implemented in phases across social media, TV, radio, digital and print media for the 2021 Local Government Elections and the Daly by-election.
- The NTEC conducted 96 voting education sessions to 2,145 participants and coordinated three Democracy Dash events (two in Darwin and one in Alice Springs).

Corporate

- A capability review was conducted late 2021 to assess the NTEC's capabilities to discharge its statutory functions and strategic priorities.
- Procurement for the remediation of the NTEC's current election management system commenced while a business case for the eventual replacement of the system was also developed.
- Multiple teams within the Department of Corporate and Digital Development provided digital services and support for the 2021 Local Government Elections and the Daly by-election.
- The Electoral Commissioner attended three virtual meetings of the Electoral Council of Australia and New Zealand (ECANZ) while other staff also attended meetings for the council's sub-groups.

COVID-19 arrangements

- The NTEC was required to manage and deliver the 2021 Local Government Elections, and by-elections to comply with the directions and advice provided by the Commonwealth and NT governments in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- A COVID-19 lockdown occurred during the first week of early and mobile voting for the 2021 Local Government Elections. Alternative arrangements were made for the disrupted remote mobile schedule and additional hours were added to early voting opening hours.
- The management of COVID-19 for the 2021 Local Government Elections, including the consequences of the lockdown, resulted in increased costs to councils.

Agency functions

Enrolment

Objective

Contribute to the maintenance and security of a joint roll of eligible NT electors.

Roll maintenance

The enrolment provisions of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* apply for NT purposes. Therefore, if an eligible person residing in the Territory is enrolled on the Commonwealth electoral roll, they are automatically enrolled for NT Legislative Assembly and NT local government elections. This is in accordance with the *NT (Self-Government) Act 1978*. Amendments to the *Electoral Act 2004*, in force from March 2016, included an express provision regarding compulsory enrolment.

Section 20 of the *Electoral Act 2004* provides for the Administrator to enter into an arrangement with the Governor-General for the maintenance of the joint NT and Commonwealth electoral roll.

The present arrangement has been in place since 1994. The roll is managed by the AEC and provided to the NTEC on request, in accordance with the joint roll arrangement.

Electoral roll status

During the reporting period, the NT electoral roll increased by a net 2,358 electors to a total of 145,073 as at 30 June 2022. The increase can, for the most part, be attributed to the regular direct enrolment updates (the AEC's FDEU program) which is operational in urban areas of the NT, enrolment activities related to the 2021 Local Government Elections in August 2022 and the federal election in May 2022, and the provisional voting arrangements for NT elections.

The NT's participation rate in relation to enrolment and voting has averaged between 10% to 15% below that of most interstate jurisdictions and the national average, however this is now sitting at 8.8% below the national enrolment rate.² It is estimated that there is currently just over 19,000 eligible Territorians not enrolled, and this number has been slowly falling in the past few years. The NT's lower enrolment rate can in part be explained by its younger average age of the eligible population, the high level of mobility in the community, and the difficulties in maintaining the roll in remote areas of the NT where enrolment and voting rates are significantly lower than in urban areas.

² Percentages are calculated based on federal divisions and the NT's Lingiari division includes Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Island.

Table 1: Estimated eligible voter participation on the electoral roll – 2014 to 2022

Participation rates 2014 to 2022			
Year	Area	% Total enrolment	% 18-24 years enrolment
2014	NT	80.8	60.8
	National	92.3	78.5
2016	NT	81.4	63.4
	National	93.9	87.0
2017	NT	82.7	64.5
	National	95.0	85.7
2018	NT	83.9	64.7
	National	96.3	86.9
2019	NT	84.3	66.4
	National	97.1	88.9
2020	NT	85.0	62.9
	National	96.5	85.8
2021	NT	85.7	63.0
	National	96.2	84.5
2022	NT	88.3	64.1
	National	97.1	88.4

Direct enrolment

The FDEU program commenced in the NT in February 2013, and uses data from trusted third parties to identify electors who have moved or need to be enrolled. Electors identified through this process are sent a letter informing them that the AEC will enrol or update their enrolment unless the person replies with further information.

If the AEC has any doubt about the validity of information, it is not applied to the roll. The FDEU and the online enrolment service are now the top two sources of enrolment. However, the FDEU program requires mail delivery to a street address, the program does not operate in rural and remote areas of the NT, including Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy where mail can only be collected at post office boxes.

Following a review of the FDEU program in February 2021, expanding coverage of the program to include people in remote parts of Australia became a focus area. The AEC, through their Indigenous Electoral Participation Program, started work towards a trial that would expand the FDEU program to include

people residing in remote communities who are eligible but not yet enrolled, and who receive their mail via a community mail bag or similar. The trial has identified 60 remote communities to be part of the trial, 43 of which are in the NT. The trial is due to begin toward the end of 2022.

The following statistics are from FDEU processing within the NT from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022:

- 4,640 FDEU letters sent (this includes some email notifications)
- 4,192 people directly enrolled/updated as a result of letters sent
- 159 electors provided a suitable reason as to why their enrolment should not be updated
- 289 electors enrolled or updated their enrolment by other means after the letter was sent.

These numbers are significantly lower than previous years due to the FDEU program being largely suspended from January 2022 due to the pending federal election, and did not resume until August 2022.

Provisional enrolment for NT elections

Amendments in recent years to both the *Electoral Act 2004* and the *Local Government Act 2019* created a savings provision that allows eligible electors who are not enrolled in the NT to cast a declaration vote at Legislative Assembly and local government elections. Once their enrolment has been processed by the AEC (immediately after election day) their votes are admitted to the count. Previously, and currently in some other jurisdictions, eligible electors found to be unenrolled at the close of roll date for any election would have their enrolment updated, but their votes would not be counted until the next time they voted.

This provisional voting for unenrolled electors was mostly aimed at addressing the inadequate enrolment of Aboriginal eligible electors in remote parts of the Territory who are not currently captured in the AEC's FDEU program. It also assists electors who have recently moved to the NT, but have not yet updated their enrolment before the close of roll for an election. The savings provision does not permit electors who are enrolled for an incorrect NT address to cast a provisional vote at their new address, although they retain the right to vote for the previous address that they are enrolled at.

The savings provision was first implemented at the 2020 Territory Election and resulted in 1,741 declaration votes being added to the count, with that number of electors added to the NT electoral roll. Table 2 below shows the number of accepted declaration votes (and therefore new NT enrolments) across all relevant elections for the 2021-22 financial year.

Your voice your community campaign

A 2021 Local Government Elections steering committee, made up of staff from Local Government and Regional Development (LGRD) (part of the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet), the Local Government Association of the NT and the NTEC, was established to oversee the conduct of the 2021 Local Government Elections. Part of this cooperation included LGRD community development staff promoting enrolment and election information when visiting remote communities, as part of the Your Voice, Your Community campaign. There were also resources jointly developed by the three agencies which were then distributed as part of the campaign.

According to the Your Voice, Your Community report for the 2021 Local Government Elections campaign, 74 remote communities were visited and there were 3,580 engagements with remote community residents. From these, 2,003 people were confirmed on the roll, 195 had their roll details updated and there were 102 new enrolments. The enrolment support activities provided by LGRD staff provides invaluable support in the lead up to elections.

Table 2: Number of enrolments resulting from provisional declaration voting at NT elections 2021-22

Election	No. of accepted declaration votes
2021 Local Government Elections	1,201
Division of Daly by-election	128
East Arnhem Regional Council - Gumurr Miwatj ward by-election	11
TOTAL	1,340

Enrolment statistics

Table 3: Enrolment transactions – additions, deletions, transfers and amendments to the NT roll

	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Enrolment at 1 July	136,833	137,640	139,108	139,841	142,715
AMENDMENTS					
Transfers between divisions	11,276	10,582	8,390	9,411	10,068
Changes within divisions	4,808	4,821	3,569	3,849	4,098
Amendments to elector details	4,790	3,477	1,602	3,618	4,533
ADDITIONS					
New enrolments	3,949	4,637	3,522	4,643	4,955
Re-enrolments	1,177	1,302	666	992	767
Re-instatements	98	9	3	8	8
Interstate transfers to NT	8,222	9,236	5,941	6,856	8,648
Total additions	+13,446	+15,184	+10,132	+12,499	+14,378
DELETIONS					
Removals by objection	885	793	822	557	310
Deaths	834	770	823	797	901
Duplications	166	48	328	164	59
Cancellations	18	11	30	40	11
Interstate transfers out of NT	10,735	12,094	7,396	8,067	10,739
Total deletions	-12,638	-13,716	-9,399	-9,625	-12,020
Net increase/decrease	+807	+1,468	+733	+2,874	+2,358
Enrolment at 30 June	137,640	139,108	139,841	142,715	145,073

Notes for Table 2:

- 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 a 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 Legislative Assembly division or within same division. Transfers within NT do not alter total enrolment.
- Amendments - 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.
- Duplications - 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 *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*.

Table 4: Enrolment by NT Legislative Assembly division – at 30 June 2022

Division	Division	Division			
Arafura	5,309	Drysdale	5,980	Namatjira	5,729
Araluen	5,884	Fannie Bay	5,568	Nelson	5,799
Arnhem	5,677	Fong Lim	5,524	Nightcliff	5,663
Barkly	5,608	Goyder	5,888	Port Darwin	5,993
Blain	5,735	Gwoja	5,282	Sanderson	5,585
Braitling	5,873	Johnston	5,692	Spillett	6,544
Brennan	5,896	Karama	5,600	Wanguri	6,360
Casuarina	5,721	Katherine	5,891	Total	145,073
Daly	6,029	Mulka	6,243		

Table 5: Enrolment by NT local government area – at 30 June 2022

Local government area	Local government area	Local government area			
Alice Springs	15,986	Katherine	6,492	Wagait	317
Barkly	4,116	Litchfield	12,939	West Arnhem	3,634
Belyuen	155	MacDonell	3,577	West Daly	2,010
Central Desert	2,490	City of Palmerston	23,991	Unincorporated	3,506
Coomalie	659	Roper Gulf	3,979	Total	145,073
City of Darwin	51,508	Tiwi Islands	1,675		
East Arnhem	6,282	Victoria Daly	1,757		

Redistribution of Legislative Assembly boundaries

Redistributions of Legislative Assembly electoral boundaries are undertaken by independent committees in all Australian jurisdictions following general elections.

Section 138 of the *Electoral Act 2004*, requires a redistribution of NT Legislative Assembly divisional boundaries two years and six months after the last general election.

The Redistribution Committee, comprised of the Electoral Commissioner, Auditor-General, Surveyor-General, and an appointed chairperson, last commenced proceedings in late February 2019. The final boundaries and division names determined by the Redistribution Committee took effect at the 2020 Territory Election. The next redistribution of divisional boundaries will commence in February 2023 with the determined boundaries to take effect at the next Territory Election in August 2024.

Representation reviews of councils

Local government in the NT comprises five municipal councils, nine regional councils, two community government councils, and one shire council.

The *Local Government Act 2019* established a new Local Government Representation Committee consisting of the CEO of the Local Government Association of the NT, the Electoral Commissioner and the Surveyor-General. This committee is responsible for determining any division of a council area into wards or any changes to existing ward boundaries and representation. In making its determinations, the committee must conduct consultation with councils and the public in a similar way to the consultation conducted by the Redistribution Committee for Legislative Assembly boundaries.

Previously, councils conducted their own representative reviews and made recommendations about any desired changes to the Minister for Local Government, who would then make any final decisions. The Department responsible for local government also made recommendations. The Minister is still responsible for representation and boundary decisions not within the scope of the committee like the external boundaries of councils and the total number of elected members of a council.

The inaugural Local Government Representation Committee commenced the first council representation reviews under this new legislation in late March 2022 with an invitation for submissions from councils and the public to the reviews. The preliminary report with the Committee's proposed representation and ward boundaries is due for release in August 2022, with the final report scheduled for late November 2022. Any changes to representation or ward boundaries will not come into effect until the next local government general elections due in August 2025.

Supply of electoral roll data

The *Electoral Act 2004* requires NTEC to keep a roll for each division. The roll extract is to be available for public inspection and can be provided in limited circumstances.

In accordance with the Joint Roll Agreement, roll data was extracted from the AEC's National Roll Management system for the following:

- monthly updates of roll changes for supply to independent members of the NT Legislative Assembly and registered parties
- Alice Springs and Darwin jury lists
- council by-elections
- enrolment activities including the Your Voice, Your Community campaign conducted by LGRD community development staff and the show circuit
- BreastScreenNT (health screening programs).

Elections

Objective

Conduct elections that are impartial, efficient, transparent and in accordance with the law.

Legislative changes – *Electoral Act 2004*

There were no legislative amendments to the *Electoral Act 2004* or the *Electoral Regulations 2004* during the reporting period.

Legislative changes - *Local Government Act 2019 and Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2021*

The previous *Local Government Act 2008* was repealed and replaced with the *Local Government Act 2019* which came into effect 1 July 2021 and was applicable at the 2021 Local Government Elections. This included the introduction of provisional voting for unenrolled electors, which aligns with legislative amendments made to the *Electoral Act 2004* in 2019 for Legislative Assembly elections. The new Act also established an independent committee to conduct a review process for local government representation and ward boundaries similar to the redistribution process used to determine electoral boundaries for the Legislative Assembly. The Electoral Commissioner is a member of this new committee and the agency provides the secretariat support for the representation reviews.

Part 8.6 of the *Local Government Act 2019* introduced new requirements for all candidates in local government general elections and by-elections to submit to the NTEC campaign donation returns covering a prescribed disclosure period. However, this requirement did not come into effect until 1 July 2022 and therefore did not apply to the 2021 Local Government Elections.

The new *Local Government Act 2019* was accompanied by significant changes to the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2021, which also came into effect 1 July 2021.

NT Legislative Assembly General Election

The next Legislative Assembly general election is scheduled for August 2024.

NT Legislative Assembly by-elections

The elected Member for Daly, Ian Sloan (CLP) announced his resignation from the NT Legislative Assembly on 5 August 2021 to take effect from 20 August 2021. As this was more than six months before the next general election, Mr Sloan's resignation prompted a by-election for the division of Daly. Election day for the by-election was Saturday 11 September 2021 and Dheran Young (ALP) was declared as the winner of the by-election on 14 September with the return of the writ.

Table 6: Statistical summary of the Daly by-election

Issue of writ	Thursday 19 August 2021						
Close of electoral roll	5pm, Friday 20 August 2021				Total enrolment: 5,706		
Close of nominations	12 noon, Thursday 26 August 2021				Number of candidates: 4		
Election day	Saturday 11 September 2021						
Election costs	\$222,531 (which equates to \$39.00 per enrolled elector)						
Voter turnout and participation	Turnout (votes counted vs enrolment): 66.3% Participation: 71.9%						
Votes	Early	Postal	Remote mobile	Urban mobile	Election day	Declaration	Total
	981 (25.9%)	223 (5.9%)	1,911 (50.5%)	41 (1.1%)	497 (13.1%)	128 (3.4%)	3,781

Further information regarding the Daly by-election can be found in the election report on the NTEC website.

NT local government elections

The 2021 Local Government Elections – general elections for all 17 of the NT local government areas – took place in August 2021 with election day being Saturday 28 August. As with the 2020 Territory Election, the COVID-19 pandemic had a major impact on the elections and there was a lockdown during the early voting period which impacted on the delivery of early voting services and remote mobile voting services in particular, and on the final costs of the elections.

The NTEC developed a service charter for the general elections to provide an overview of the service commitments and associated standards that the councils could expect. The service commitments are used to evaluate election outcomes and provide a basis for determining recommendations to improve electoral practices. The charter also described how councils could assist in the delivery of the elections and thereby offset some of the costs (as councils pay for the full costs of their elections except the NTEC’s business-as-usual costs). These are detailed in the service level agreements that the NTEC had with each council.

Table 7: Statistical summary of the 2021 Local Government Elections

Nominations opened	Friday 16 July 2021						
Close of electoral roll	5pm, Tuesday 27 July 2021			Total enrolment: 139,105*			
Close of nominations	12 noon, Thursday 5 August 2020			Number of candidates: 303			
Election day	Saturday 28 August 2021						
Casual staff employed	346						
Election costs	\$1,864,357 (which equates to \$13.40 per enrolled elector)						
Voter turnout	63.3%						
Votes**	Early	Postal	Mobile	Election day	Absent	Declaration	Total
	33,633 (42.1%)	5,686 (7.1%)	6,124 (7.7%)	27,734 (34.7%)	5,604 (7.0%)	1,201 (1.5%)	

* This figure only includes the enrolment in the 17 local government areas. It is not the total enrolment for the NT as it does not include unincorporated areas.

** Note that not all electors were required to vote in these elections, only those enrolled in a council area that was contested.

Full details regarding the 2021 Local Government Elections will be available in the forthcoming election report. The report discusses the impact of the legislative changes and COVID-19, the public awareness campaign, voting services, voter turnout, the election management system, staffing and training. The report will also put forward a number recommendations to modernise electoral legislation and processes at the local government level.

NT local government supplementary elections

Any failed elections (where there are not enough nominations to fill the elected positions) at a general election are to be followed by a supplementary election as a further attempt to fill these positions. At the 2021 Local Government Elections, two council areas had failed elections; Central Desert Regional Council – Akityarre Ward which had one nomination for its two councillor positions, and West Daly Regional Council – Nganmarriyanga Ward which had no nominations for its one councillor position.

Table 8: Summary of supplementary elections for the 2021 Local Government Elections

Council	Ward	Election day	Number of vacancies	Number of nominations	Contest
Central Desert Regional Council	Akityarre	5 March 2022	1	1	Uncontested
West Daly Regional Council	Nganmarriyanga	5 March 2022	1	1	Uncontested

Central Desert Regional Council: Akityarre ward councillor

Table 9: Central Desert Regional Council supplementary election for Akityarre ward

Close of electoral roll	5:00 pm, Tuesday 27 July 2021	Number enrolled: 257
Close of nominations	12:00 noon, Thursday 10 February 2022	Number of nominations received: 1
Election declared	10 February 2022	
Election costs	\$1,149	

As there was one nomination for one vacancy, no election was held and Rosslyn Campbell was declared duly elected.

West Daly Regional Council: Nganmarriyanga ward councillor

Table 10: West Daly Regional Council supplementary election for Nganmarriyanga ward

Close of electoral roll	5:00 pm, Tuesday 27 July 2021	Number enrolled: 208
Close of nominations	12:00 noon, Thursday 10 February 2022	Number of nominations received: 1
Election declared	10 February 2022	
Election costs	\$1,149	

As there was one nomination for one vacancy, no election was held and Terry Sams was declared duly elected.

NT local government by-elections

Table 11: Summary of NT local government by-elections conducted during 2021-2022

Council	Ward	Election day	No. of vacancies	No. of nominations	Contest
Coomalie Community Government Council	Batchelor Township	20 November 2021	1	3	Contested
East Arnhem Regional Council	Gumurr Gattjirk	5 March 2022	1	1	Uncontested
East Arnhem Regional Council	Gumurr Miyarrka	5 March 2022	1	1	Uncontested
East Arnhem Regional Council	Gumurr Miwatj	24 June 2022	2	3	Contested

Coomalie Community Government Council: Batchelor Township ward councillor

Notification of vacancy to NTEC: 27 September 2021

Table 12: Coomalie Community Government Council by-election for Batchelor Township ward

Close of electoral roll	5:00 pm, Tuesday 2 November 2021	Number enrolled: 175
Close of nominations	12:00 noon, Friday 5 November 2021	Number of nominations received: 3
Election declared	3 December 2021	
Election costs	\$5,167	

As there were three nominations for the one vacancy, an election was held.

Candidates contesting the election were:

- Bill Baldwin
- Richard Luxton (elected)
- Mary Ashley

East Arnhem Regional Council: Gumurr Gattjirk ward councillor

Notification of vacancy to NTEC: 15 December 2021

Table 13: East Arnhem Regional Council by-election for Gumurr Gattjirk ward

Close of electoral roll	5:00 pm, Tuesday 8 February 2022	Number enrolled: 763
Close of nominations	12:00 noon, Thursday 17 February 2022	Number of nominations received: 1
Election declared	17 February 2022	
Election costs	\$1,005	

As there was one nomination for one vacancy, no election was held and Joe Djakala was declared duly elected.

East Arnhem Regional Council: Gumurr Miwatj ward councillor

Notification of vacancy to NTEC: 27 September 2021

Table 15: East Arnhem Regional Council by-election for Gumurr Miwatj ward

Close of electoral roll	5:00 pm, Wednesday 25 May	Number enrolled: 1,479
Close of nominations	12:00 noon, Friday 3 June 2022	Number of nominations received: 3
Election declared	8 July 2022	
Election costs	\$30,347 (paid in 2022-23 financial year)	

As there were three nominations for two vacancies, an election was held.

Candidates contesting the election were:

- Marroalawuy Marika (elected)
- Wesley Dhamarrandji (elected)
- Ineke Wallis

Fee-for-service elections

Section 309 (1)(h) of the *Electoral Act 2004* allows for a payment to provide electoral goods and services to individuals or organisations, using information or material in its possession or expertise acquired in the exercise of its functions.

Fee-for-service elections are conducted for government, non-government and community agencies and organisations that require decisions to be made by ballot. This includes enterprise agreements, the election of office holders and plebiscites.

These elections are charged at commercial rates, i.e. direct costs plus a 35% management fee. The management fee is not charged when conducting elections for NT Government agencies.

Table 16: Fee-for-service elections 2021-22 (not including enterprise agreements)

Date	Ballot	Number of electors		% turnout
		Voters	Votes rec'd	
20 September 2021	Anindilyakwa Land Council	229	64	27.9%
5 November 2021	Local Government Association of the NT	36	36	100
1 December 2021	Tiwi Land Council			Uncontested
6 April 2022	Central Land Council	71	71	100%

Table 17: Enterprise agreement ballots conducted 2021-22

Date	Ballot	Number of electors		% turnout
		Voters	Votes rec'd	
29 October 2021	Jacana Energy	69	58	84.1%
1 November 2021	Power and Water	821	576	70.2%
12 November 2021	NTPS General	13,423	5,994	44.7%
7 December 2021	Mindl Beach Casino	408	163	40.0%
14 December 2021	Jacana Energy	67	61	91.0%
14 December 2021	Power and Water	824	594	72.1%
17 December 2021	NTPS General	13,381	6,578	49.2%
8 April 2022	Medical Officers	1,252	550	43.9%
8 April 2022	Non-contract Principals, Teachers and Assistant Teachers	3,245	1,659	51.1%
10 June 2022	Jacana Energy	73	60	82.2%

Assistance for inter-jurisdiction elections

The NTEC provides voting services, on request, for interstate and New Zealand electors visiting the NT for elections they are missing in their jurisdictions.

Table 18: Early voting services provided for inter-jurisdictional elections

Jurisdiction	Election date	Election type
South Australia	19 March 2022	General election
Tasmania	7 May 2022	Legislative Council periodic elections
Tasmania	7 May 2022	Legislative Council by-election

Party registration

At 30 June 2022, there were seven political parties registered in the NT. During the reporting period, one political party Ban Fracking Fix Crime Protect Water (formerly Territory 1 Party) submitted an application to de-register. The public notice for this cancellation of registration was published on 24 September 2021.

There were no other changes to political party registration during the 2021-22 financial year.

Table 19: Registered political parties in the NT 2021-22

Political party	Date of registration
Animal Justice Party	11 March 2020
Australian Labor Party NT Branch	18 April 2005
Country Liberal Party of the NT*	30 March 2005
Federation Party NT**	27 February 2019
NT Greens	23 March 2005
Shooters and Fishers Party	27 February 2015
Territory Alliance	20 November 2019

* Formerly NT Country Liberal Party

**Formerly Australian Country Party

Disclosure and compliance review

There was only one election during the reporting year that required financial disclosure, which was the Division of Daly by-election in September 2021. Legislative Assembly by-elections require three returns reporting the donation of gifts received during the election period, and one return after the conclusion of the election reporting electoral expenditure.

For the Daly by-election, the NTEC provided support and education to candidates regarding their disclosure requirements, rather than enforcing compliance. For the by-election, all the required gift and expenditure returns were received from all candidates, however, not all were received on time. There was no external compliance review conducted after the by-election.

Newly legislated donation disclosure provisions for local government elections did not come into effect until 1 July 2022, so did not apply to the 2021 Local Government elections, the subsequent supplementary elections or local government by-elections during the 2021-22 financial year. However, in preparation for the commencement of the new provisions, the NTEC produced a donations disclosure handbook, information sheet, FAQs and webpage explaining the new requirements and procedures.

Public awareness

Objective

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

Website

Following a changeover to the new content management system Squiz Matrix in 2018, it was discovered during the 2020 Territory Election that the NTEC's website would need to be re-developed to continue to accommodate high traffic engagement events such as general elections. In addition, a rebuild by an external web developer would better enable the website to be supported and maintained by that developer.

The re-development of the NTEC's website also needs to address further issues of accessibility; for both external users and internal administration. The website does not currently meet NT Government standards of accessibility, yet provides important public service information. A re-design of the information architecture should enable easier navigation and allow for updated features, like an event calendar.

The NTEC is currently working with the Digital Communications team and Web Services within the Department of Corporate and Digital Development on the procurement phases so that a request for tender for these services can go out in the next financial year.

The highest engagement events for the website in the 2021-22 financial year was election day for the 2021 Local Government Elections and the Daly by-election in August and September 2021 respectively. The engagement on election day was 18,245 users who visited the website generating 24,978 sessions for the general elections. For election day of the Daly by-election, the engagement was 4,293 users who visited the website generating 5,546 sessions.

For this reporting year there were 164,456 visitors to the website.

Social media

The commission continued to utilise social media platforms Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube, to communicate with stakeholders throughout the year.

Targeted Facebook and Instagram posts were used throughout the reporting period to promote the 2021 Local Government Elections, the Daly by-election and the Coomalie Community Government Council by-election. Short video formats continued to attract the highest engagement as they did in the previous reporting year.

The NTEC produced a total of 11 paid posts (mostly for election awareness) which cost \$6,500 to advertise, reached 53,983 people in the 17 and over age range and produced 398,459 page impressions throughout the reporting period.

During the same period the NTEC produced a further 135 organic (unpaid) Facebook posts promoting the commission's functions, events, services and election voting and result updates. These posts recorded a reach of 185,440.

Public awareness for the 2021 Local Government Elections

The public awareness campaign for the 2021 Local Government Elections was implemented in two broad phases. The first phase focused on awareness and enrolment. The second was a call to action for all eligible Territorians to vote.

The roll out of the campaign commenced on 21 June and continued through until the declaration of the results on 13 September 2021. Social media was the primary channel used to promote the election Territory wide. Television, radio, digital and print media were also integral parts of the media mix.

In-language radio, TV and social media content was also created by an external contractor to promote the election throughout remote areas and communities in the Territory. Based on recommendations from the Aboriginal Interpreter Service and Aboriginal Broadcasting Australia (First Nations Media), content was developed in nine Aboriginal languages which were geo-targeted to the regions where the languages are spoken.

Broadly understood Aboriginal languages such as Kriol and Arrernte were used right across the northern and southern parts to the Territory respectively to ensure that content developed in at least one relevant language other than English was available Territory wide.

Further details on the 2021 Local Government Elections public awareness campaign can be found in the individual council reports for these general elections (found on the NTEC website) and in the consolidated report for general elections as a whole once published.

Shows and expos

While the show circuit was cancelled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it returned in July 2021, and the NTEC prepared for stalls in Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine and Darwin. Just days before the Alice Springs show was set to open, it was cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns, as was the Tennant Creek show. However, the show did go ahead in Katherine and Darwin and electors were able to check and update their enrolment, enrol for the first time and the 2021 Local Government Elections were promoted. The NTEC also had a stall promoting the elections and enrolment at the NAIDOC March in July 2021.

School and community visits

The NTEC has a full suite of school education programs that directly link to the Australian Curriculum for Civics and Citizenship for the following year levels:

- Years 3 and 4
- Years 5 and 6
- Year 7
- Years 8 and 9
- Stage 1 and 2 Legal Studies (Years 10 – 12).

There is also a generalised ‘future voters’ program tailored to students in Years 10, 11 and 12, as well as programs specifically designed for Aboriginal students in remote schools where English is not their first language. All the education programs are offered face-to-face or teachers can access a range of resources across each year group on the commission’s website to run these programs themselves.

The NTEC also conducts student representative or house captain elections (or similar) for schools on request, or provides voting materials such as ballot boxes and voting screens.

Education programs are also available for adults and community groups, and there is a customised program for adults for whom English is a second language.

Table 21 on the following page shows the numbers of participants in the NTEC’s electoral education programs for 2021-2022. The number of school education sessions was impacted by a temporary suspension on school excursions from February to early March 2022 due to a surge in COVID-19 cases in the NT. The table does not include statistics for engagement events such as shows and expos.

Table 20: Electoral education sessions 2020-2021 and 2021-2022

Group	Number of sessions 2020-2021	Number of participants 2020-2021	Number of sessions 2021-2022	Number of participants 2021-2022
Darwin/Palmerston/rural area schools	104	2,922	90	2,058
Regional schools	8	213	1	11
Remote schools	1	11	1	19
Adult groups	21	224	3	19
ESL adult groups	0	0	1	38
School elections	7	1,096	10	1,129
Democracy Dash	4	355	3	177
Total	145	4,821	109	3,451

Democracy Dash

Democracy Dash is a free education event coordinated by the NTEC for school students in Years 9 -12 to enhance their learning of Civics and Citizenship or Legal Studies, with a particular emphasis on democracy. Its structure is similar to a scavenger hunt where small teams of students 'dash' across the city centre, visiting organisations whose work contributes to democracy, and at each stop, students must complete an activity to learn more about that organisation. In the reporting year, there were two Democracy Dash events held in Darwin and one in Alice Springs with 177 participants across the three events.

Reports and publications

- Annual Report 2020-2021 (tabled 10 November 2020)
- 17 individual council reports sent to each council following the 2021 Local Government Elections
- 2022 Local Government Representation Review Information Guide
- Donations Disclosure Handbook, information sheet and FAQs (for local government elections)
- Submission to the review of the *Independent Commissioner Against Corruption Act 2017* (Feb 2022)
- Submission to the review of the *Information Act 2022* (May 2022)



Students and teachers receiving instructions before the start of a Democracy Dash in Darwin.

Corporate

Objective

An operating environment that features continuous improvement, is open and supportive of staff, promotes professional growth, mutual respect and recognition of achievements.

Staffing

At 30 June 2022, the NTEC had seven permanent staff and five staff on short term contracts (including one part time and one casual staff member). Table 22 and Figure 1 below show the staff profile and organisation structure for the agency. Additional contract and casual staff are recruited for elections, and these are not included in the table. The commission also has a Digital Systems Officer who was transferred to the Department of Corporate and Digital Development (DCDD) under the 2019 machinery of government changes, but still works full time for the agency. Further digital services such as infrastructure, cyber security, and management of ICT and end user computing needs are also provided by DCDD.

DCDD also supports the business management functions of the agency, in particular budgeting and finance, as well as human resource management, payroll, procurement, property and recruitment. The commission also receives support from the Department of Treasury and Finance for financial matters.

Staff expenses

In 2021-2022, the total employee expenses were approximately \$2.673 million, or 57.8% of the total expenditure for the year. This includes a large number of casual staff employed for the 2021 Local Government Elections and the Daly by-election. Ongoing employee expenses are met from the annual appropriation with separate arrangements made for staff employed for general elections, by-elections and project work.

Staff development

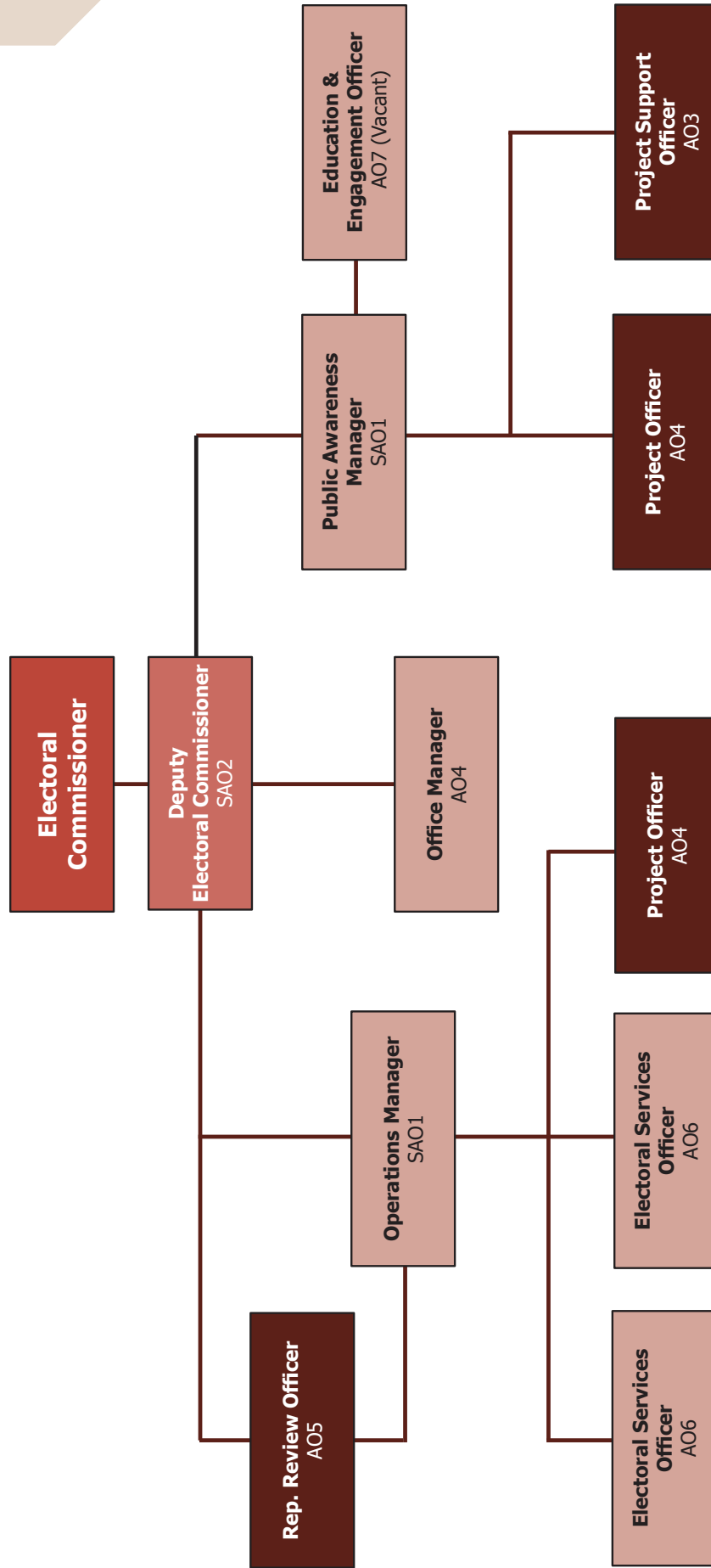
During the 2021-22 year, NTEC staff undertook the following professional development training:

- Engagement Essentials and Engagement Methods (IAP2)
- NTG COVID-19 Safety Supervisor
- NTG procurement training modules
- NTG records management and records security training
- NTG Appropriate workplace behaviours
- Punctuation unpacked and How to write in plain English
- No Woman Left Behind conference

Table 21: Core staff profiles 2018 – 2022

Designation	Number of electors				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Executive Contract Officer 3	1	1	1	1	1
Senior Administrative Officer 2	1	1	1	1	1
Senior Administrative Officer 1	1	1	2	1	2
Administrative Officer 7	1	1	1	1	0
Administrative Officer 6	3	4	4	3	3
Administrative Officer 5	0	1	1	0	1
Administrative Officer 4	0	0	4	3	2.5
Administrative Officer 3	2	1	0	0	0
Administrative Officer 2	0	0	1	1	1
Administrative Officer 1	0	0	0	0	0
Total	9 FTE	10 FTE	15 FTE	11 FTE	11.5 FTE

NT Electoral Commission Organisational Structure



Key

 Ongoing positions

 Temporary positions



Capability Review

In July 2021 the Budget Review Subcommittee of Cabinet approved a capability review to be undertaken on the commission as proposed by the Department of Treasury and Finance. Nous Group were engaged in December 2021 to conduct the review using the NT Government agency organisational review framework. The objective of the review was to deliver a forward assessment of the NTEC's capabilities to discharge its statutory functions and strategic priorities.

Nous Group produced a report in February 2022 and made eight recommendations across organisational maturity (six recommendations around governance and regulatory capability including the need for a new organisational structure), going digital (one recommendation) and funding (one recommendation).

Digital services

Election management system

The delivery of electoral services is highly reliant on the NTEC's election management system called TIGER which controls the workflow for most electoral event processes. It also maintains data for the functioning of other interdependent systems, including eLAPPS the elector mark-off system and the agency's website. The TIGER system is built in Microsoft Access, which is no longer suitable for enterprise business systems with well-known issues particularly in the areas of performance, security and scalability. As such, the NTEC's election management system has reached the end of its useable working life.

In November 2021, DCDD conducted a review and into TIGER and confirmed the system is a source of extreme risk to the core business activities of the commission. The review resulted in a business case that recommended a path forward that comprised of three phases:

- Phase one – ensuring the current system can be maintained until a replacement solution is developed. This is likely to be required for the 2024 and 2025 general elections.
- Phase two – analysis and documenting the requirements for the replacement system.
- Phase three – seek funding to implement the preferred solution as identified in phase two.

Following the business case, a high level business requirements document was produced for a request for information which went to market in May 2022. This request was to scope options and costs to then

produce a revised business case for replacing the election management system. In June 2022, a request for quote was released for the provision of support services for TIGER for a period of 36 months, as per phase one.

DCDD's enterprise project services have coordinated and led the development of the business case and cabinet submissions, as well as the procurement phases and associated documentation.

Digital services and support for elections in 2021-22

As well as the regular ICT services provided by DCDD, further services and support were provided for the 2021 Local Government Elections and the Daly by-election by a multitude of DCDD teams at no cost including:

- Project management office - provision of approx. 100 assets, as well as support for NTEC's call centre and count centre
- Digital communications - web publishing of results, election day website support
- ICT security - heightened awareness and specialist advice
- Technology services - heightened awareness and priority support, on call desktop engineer for election day, assistance with vote count software
- Agency business systems - After hours support for TIGER, the elector mark-off system (eLAPPS) and vote count system (Easy Count), also vendor management, incident management and Telstra management
- Across government systems - Access and support for use of NTG Community Learning portal for online training of casual election staff

The electronic elector mark-off system (eLAPPS) is accessed through netbooks at voting centres which are synchronised to a central database and maintained on a secure server by the software provider through a software-as-a-service agreement. As well as the core function of elector mark-off, eLAPPS also provides daily statistics of elector turnout which are used to develop targeted social media posts throughout voting periods.

Easy Count software sourced from the AEC is used to conduct the proportional counts for the multi member councillor positions for local government elections. Preferences from each ballot paper are entered into the electronic count system, and re-entered by a second person for verification purposes.

Premises

Darwin

When not required for major elections, the commission's conference room, the Boyd Room, is available to other government agencies or organisations for training and workshop purposes. During 2021-22 the Boyd Room was used for a total of two days by the Office of the Commissioner of Public Employment, however, for most of the reporting year the room was used for election purposes.

Alice Springs

The agency no longer has a permanent office in Alice Springs, but establishes temporary offices for major elections. For the 2021 Local Government Elections a temporary office at the Arid Zone Research Institute was sourced via a cost sharing arrangement with the Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade. The office was occupied from June to September 2021 and was used as an office space, materials storage and a count centre.

Audits

The NTEC participated in four audits during the reporting year:

- End of year review for 2020-21
- Agency compliance audit
- Value for Territory audit
- Travel analytic – compliance within the travel policy framework

All audits resulted with minor matters raised only, except the end of year review which resulted in one major finding.

National representation – ECANZ

The Electoral Council of Australia and New Zealand (ECANZ) is a consultative council of electoral commissions from the Commonwealth, states and territories, and New Zealand. In 2021-22, the council met three times, with the NT Electoral Commissioner attending all meetings virtually. Matters discussed at these meetings include election integrity, COVID-19 safety measures for elections, online media election protocols and the development of a youth engagement strategy. An equivalent forum also operates for deputy electoral commissioners, and there are additional working groups and community of practices' that meet regularly and are attended by the relevant staff members from each commission.

Freedom of information requests

The NTEC received one freedom of information request in the reporting year (October 2021). The request was from an Alice Springs Town Council mayor candidate from the 2021 Local Government Elections. The request was for copies of the mayoral ballot papers. This requested information was not released.

Financial report

NTEC funding arrangements

The NTEC is funded through an annual appropriation from Treasury. Additional revenue is received by the commission through the charging of a 15% corporate overhead for conducting council by-elections and a 35% corporate overhead for fee-for-service elections.

Funding for specific events is undertaken as follows:

- Legislative Assembly elections and by-elections: from a Treasurer’s advance (TA). The NTEC receives advance funding plus a separate TA to recoup any difference between the advance funding and actual costs
- Local government elections and by-elections: directly from councils with a 15% corporate overhead charged
- Legislative Assembly boundary redistributions: from a Treasurer’s advance
- Major initiatives e.g. IT developments: from a Treasurer’s advance
- Fee-for-service elections - from charging NTEC commercial rates including a 35% corporate overhead
- NTPS enterprise agreement ballots - from funding by the relevant department on a marginal cost recovery basis

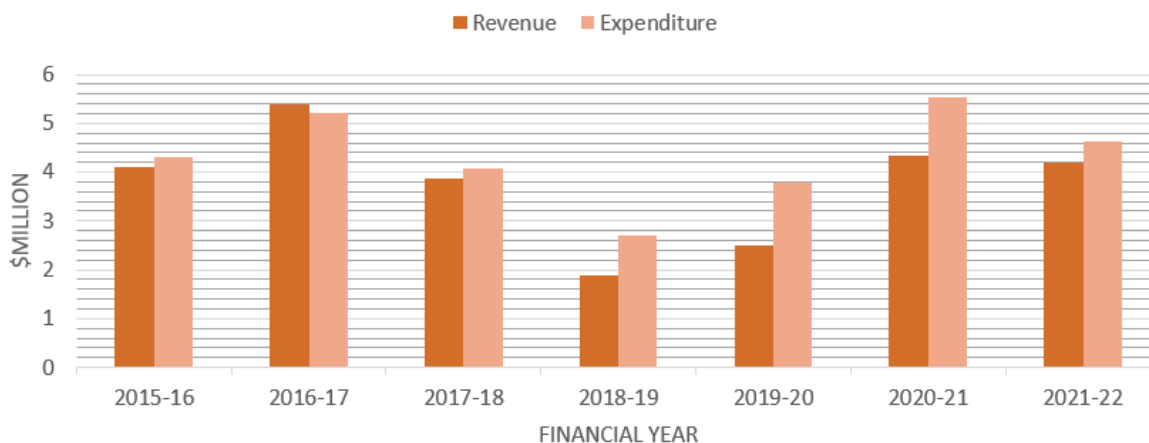
The annual appropriation budget supports salaries for staff and one executive contract officer, the Darwin office and enrolment, election, public awareness and corporate governance functions, including the payment of \$0.121 million to the AEC for annual joint roll agreement costs.

Historical revenue and expenditure variations

Graph 1 shows revenue and expenditure fluctuations over the last few financial years. The major costs for each year can be explained as follows:

- 2015-2016 – finalisation of the 2015 redistribution, pre-NT Legislative Assembly election expenditure
- 2016-2017 – the conduct of the 2016 NT Legislative Assembly election
- 2017-2018 – the conduct of the 2017 NT Council elections and 2018 City of Palmerston election
- 2018-2019 – conduct of the 2019 NT Electoral Boundary Redistribution
- 2019-2020 – finalisation of the 2019 redistribution and pre-2020 Territory Election expenditure
- 2020-2021 – the conduct of the 2020 NT Territory Election
- 2021-2022 – the conduct of the 2021 Local Government Elections and the Daly by-election

Graph 1: NTEC revenue versus expenditure – financial years 2014-2015 to 2021-2022



2021 - 2022 outcomes

The NTEC's appropriation for 2021-2022 was \$4.196 million, which included \$1.751 million paid by councils for their general elections and \$0.25 million (through a TA) for the conduct of the division of Daly by-election in September 2021. Additionally, a further \$0.113 million was provided, through a TA, to cover additional COVID-19 costs related to the 2021 Local Government Elections.

Total actual expenditure (including depreciation and amortisation) for the 2021-2021 financial year amounted to \$4,627 million. Included in this was \$2.673 million in staff costs, \$1.070 million for administrative expenses and \$0.775 million for goods and services received free of charge (the latter funded through DCDD). The agency recorded a \$0.431 million deficit.

Revenue from local government by-elections and fee-for-service elections

Changes to the previous *Local Government Act 2008* in 2015 allows councils to conduct their own by-elections if a vacancy becomes available, or appoint an alternative provider. During the reporting year, as well as the general elections for 17 councils, there were two consequent supplementary elections and four further by-elections that the NTEC was appointed to conduct. These generated \$1,791 million in revenue. An additional \$41,644 was received from the conduct of one fee-for-service election.

Table 23: Revenue from NT local government by-elections conducted 2021-2022

Date	Election	Revenue
28 August 2021	2021 Local Government Elections	\$1,751,195
20 November 2021	Coomalie Community Government Council – Batchelor Township ward by-election	\$5,167
10 February 2022	Central Desert Regional Council – Akityarre ward supplementary election	\$1,149
10 February 2022	West Daly Regional Council – Nganmarriyanga ward supplementary election	\$1,149
5 March 2022	East Arnhem Regional Council – Gumurr Gattjirk ward by-election	\$1,006
5 March 2022	East Arnhem Regional Council – Gumurr Miyarrka ward by-election	\$1,006
5 March 2022	East Arnhem Regional Council – Gumurr Miwatj ward by-election	\$30,347*
Total		\$1,791,019

* Invoiced and paid for in the 2022-23 financial year

Table 24: Revenue from fee-for-service elections conducted 2021-2022

Date	Fee-for-service election	Revenue
20 September 2021	Anindilyakwa Land Council delegate election	\$738
29 October 2021	Jacana Energy enterprise bargaining agreement ballot (EBA)	\$1,430
1 November 2021	Power and Water EBA	\$3,740
5 November 2021	Local Government Association of the NT board election	\$0
12 November 2021	NTPS General EBA	\$6,600
1 December 2021	Tiwi Land Council board election	\$326
7 December 2021	Mindl Beach Casino EBA	\$3,687
14 December 2021	Jacana Energy EBA	\$715
14 December 2021	Power and Water EBA	\$1,870
17 December 2021	NTPS General EBA	\$3,300
6 April 2022	Central Land Council board election	\$8,183
8 April 2022	Medical Officers EBA	\$5,170
8 April 2022	Non-contract Principals, Teachers & Assistant Teachers EBA	\$5,170
10 June 2022	Jacana Energy EBA	\$715
Total		\$41,644

* Invoiced and paid for in the 2022-23 financial year

Financial statement overview

For the year ended 30 June 2022

The NT Electoral Commission (NTEC, the Commission) provides an independent service to the people of the NT, the NT Legislative Assembly, municipal and regional councils (mandated) and other organisations (by appointment).

Key responsibilities include:

- Contributing to the maintenance of the NT electoral roll
- Managing parliamentary and non-parliamentary elections including local government and fee-for-service elections
- Delivering public electoral awareness and education programs
- Providing advice and reports relating to electoral matters to the Legislative Assembly
- Conducting electoral research
- Providing support to the Redistribution Committee which redistribute electoral boundaries.

Financial performance

NTEC's financial performance in 2021-22 has been compared with the final budget for 2021-22, as set out in the table below.

Table 17: 2020-21 and 2019-20 Actual Financial Performance

	2021 \$000	2020 \$000	Variance
Income	5 468	3 303	2 165
Expenses	5 540	3 773	1 767
NET SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT)	(72)	(470)	398

In the 2021-22 financial year, NTEC conducted the 2021 Local Government Elections across the NT at a cost of \$1.86 million and the Division of Daly by-election at a cost of \$0.25 million. Adjustments were made to the Commission's original budget to reflect cost recovery from local government councils and a Treasurer's advance.

Sales of goods and services increased due to cost recoveries made for the 2021 Local Government Elections, with invoices totalling \$1.75 million issued and paid by the local government councils. Of this income collected, \$0.31 million was already recognised in 2020-21. A Treasurer's Advance was also processed in June 2022 for the abovementioned elections which increased appropriation by \$0.36 million.

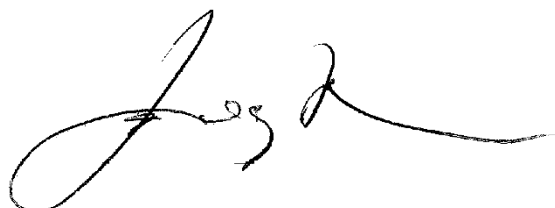
NTEC's financial performance for 2021-22 reflects a deficit of \$0.43 million compared with the budgeted deficit of \$0.11 million. Actual expenses aligned with the final budget (\$12,000 under budget), however, revenue recognition of \$0.31 million in the prior year resulted to a variance in income. As depreciation and accrued revenue are non-cash items, NTEC concluded the 2021-22 financial year with a cash balance of \$0.36 million.

A capability review for NTEC was conducted between January and February 2022 to provide a forward-looking examination of the Commission's capability and issues. This review included a high-level assessment of funding arrangements. A recommendation from the review is to increase baseline funding to put NTEC on a more realistic and sustainable financial footing.

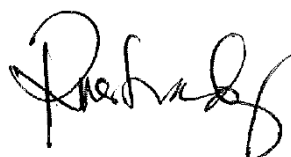
We certify that the attached financial statements for the NT Electoral Commission have been prepared based on proper accounts and records in accordance with the prescribed format, the *Financial Management Act 1995* and Treasurer's Directions.

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 2022 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.



Iain Loganathan
Electoral Commissioner
30 August 2022



Rina Estandarte
Business Manager
30 August 2022

NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION
FINANCIAL REPORT
Comprehensive operating statement
For the year ended 30 June 2022

	Note	2022 \$000	2021 \$000
INCOME			
Grants and subsidies revenue			
Current	4a	1	-
Appropriation			
Output	4b	1 845	4 324
Sales of goods and services	4c	1 521	343
Goods and services received free of charge	5	775	797
Other income	4d	54	4
TOTAL INCOME	3	4,196	5 468
EXPENSES			
Employee expenses		2 673	2 935
Administrative expenses			
Property management		67	64
Purchases of goods and services	7	1 003	1606
Repairs and maintenance			
Depreciation and amortisation	15,17	109	138
Other administrative expenses ¹		775	797
Interest expenses		-	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	3	4 627	5 540
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		(431)	(72)
COMPREHENSIVE RESULT		(431)	(72)

¹ Includes DCIS service charges and DIPL repairs and maintenance service charges.

The comprehensive operating statement is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

**NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION
FINANCIAL REPORT
Balance sheet**

As at 30 June 2022

	Note	2022 \$000	2021 \$000
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and deposits	10	358	399
Receivables	12	37	322
Total current assets		395	721
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	15	2	85
Intangibles	17	89	116
Total non-current assets		91	201
TOTAL ASSETS		486	921
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Payables	19	54	76
Borrowings and advances – <i>lease liabilities</i>		-	-
Provisions	20	216	198
Total current liabilities		270	274
TOTAL LIABILITIES		270	274
NET ASSETS		216	647
EQUITY			
Capital		2 721	2 721
Accumulated funds		(2 505)	(2 074)
TOTAL EQUITY		216	647

The balance sheet is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION
FINANCIAL REPORT
Statement of changes in equity
For the year ended 30 June 2022

	Note	Equity at 1 July \$000	Comprehensive result \$000	Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners \$000	Equity at 30 June \$000
2021-22					
Accumulated funds		(2 127)	(431)	-	(2 558)
Transfers from reserves		53	-	-	53
		<u>(2 074)</u>	<u>(431)</u>		<u>(2 505)</u>
<Reserves>	23	-	-	-	-
Capital – transactions with owners					
Equity injections					
Capital appropriation		17	-	-	17
Equity transfers in		1 257	-	-	1 257
Other equity injections		1 745	-	-	1 745
Equity withdrawals					
Capital withdrawal		(298)	-	-	(298)
Equity transfers out		-	-	-	-
		<u>2721</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2 721</u>
Total equity at end of financial year		647	(431)	-	216
2020-21					
Accumulated funds		(2 055)	(72)	-	(2 127)
Transfers from reserves		53	-	-	53
		<u>(2 002)</u>	<u>(72)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2 074)</u>
<Reserves>	23	-	-	-	-
Capital – transactions with owners					
Equity injections					
Capital appropriation		17	-	-	17
Equity transfers in		1 257	-	-	1 257
Other equity injections		1 081	-	664	1 745
Equity withdrawals					
Capital withdrawal		(298)	-	-	(298)
Equity transfers out		-	-	-	-
		<u>2 057</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>664</u>	<u>2721</u>
Total equity at end of financial year		55	(72)	664	647

The statement of changes in equity is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

NT ELECTORAL COMMISSION
Cash flow statement
For the year ended 30 June 2022

	Note	2022 \$000	2021 \$000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Operating receipts			
Grants and subsidies received			
Current		1	-
Appropriation			
Output		1 845	4 324
Receipts from sales of goods and services		2 031	195
Interest received		-	-
Total operating receipts		3 877	4 519
Operating payments			
Payments to employees		(2 655)	(2 987)
Payments for goods and services		(1 263)	(1 845)
Grants and subsidies paid		-	-
Interest paid		-	-
Total operating payments		3 918	(4 832)
Net cash from/(used in) operating activities	11	(41)	(313)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Financing receipts			
Deposits received		-	-
Equity Injections		-	664
Total financing receipts		-	664
Financing payments			
Finance lease payments		-	(21)
Total financing payments		-	(21)
Net cash from/(used in) financing activities		-	643
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		(41)	330
Cash at beginning of financial year		399	69
CASH AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	10	358	399

The cash flow statement is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

NT ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Index of notes to the financial statements

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NT ELECTORAL COMMISSION

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Objectives and funding

The Northern Territory Electoral Commission (the Commission, NTEC) 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 and other organisations (if appointed), in an efficient and cost-effective manner, consistent with legislative requirements.

The Commission is predominantly funded and therefore dependent, on the receipt of parliamentary appropriations. The financial statements encompass all funds through which the Commission controls resources to carry on its functions and deliver outputs. For reporting purposes, outputs delivered by the Commission are summarised into several output groups. Note 3 provides summarised financial information in the form of a comprehensive operating statement by the output group.

For the conduct of Legislative Assembly elections, a Treasurer's Advance is generally sought at the conclusion of the event. For a local government general election, councils are charged the marginal cost and have the option to pay prior or after the event. For local government by-elections, councils are charged a 15 per cent corporate overhead in addition to the marginal cost and invoiced after the event. The financial statements encompass all funds through which the Commission controls resources to carry on its functions and deliver outputs.

2. Statement of significant accounting policies

a) Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Financial Management Act 1995* and related Treasurer's Directions. The *Financial Management Act 1995* requires NTEC to prepare financial statements for the year ended 30 June based on the form determined by the Treasurer. The form of agency financial statements should include:

- 1) a certification of the financial statements
- 2) a comprehensive operating statement
- 3) a balance sheet
- 4) a statement of changes in equity
- 5) a cash flow statement and
- 6) applicable explanatory notes to the financial statements.

b) Basis of accounting

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 NTEC financial statements is also consistent with the requirements of Australian accounting standards. The effects of all relevant new and revised standards and interpretations

NT ELECTORAL COMMISSION

issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that are effective for the current annual reporting period have been evaluated.

Standards and interpretations effective from 2021-22

Several amending standards and AASB interpretations have been issued that apply to the current reporting periods, but are considered to have no or minimal impact on public sector reporting.

Standards and interpretations issued but not yet effective

No Australian accounting standards have been early adopted for 2021-22.

Several amending standards and AASB interpretations have been issued that apply to future reporting periods but are considered to have limited impact on public sector reporting.

c) Reporting entity

The financial statements cover the Commission as an individual reporting entity.

NTEC is a Northern Territory commission established under the *Interpretation Act 1978 and Administrative Arrangements Order*.

The principal place of business of the commission is: Level 3 TCG Centre, 80 Mitchell Street, Darwin.

NTEC has no controlled entities.

d) NTEC and Territory items

The financial statements of NTEC include income, expenses, assets, liabilities and equity over which NTEC has control (agency items). Certain items, while managed by the NTEC, are controlled and recorded by the Territory rather than NTEC (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 NTEC's financial statements.

e) Comparatives

Where necessary, comparative information for the 2020-21 financial year has been reclassified to provide consistency with current year disclosures.

f) 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

NT ELECTORAL COMMISSION

\$500 or less being rounded down to zero. Figures in the financial statements and notes may not equate due to rounding.

g) Changes in accounting policies

There have been no changes to accounting policies adopted in 2021-22 as a result of management decisions. Changes in policies relating to COVID-19 are disclosed in **k)** below.

h) 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.

i) 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. Gross GST recoverable on commitments is disclosed separately in the commitments note.

j) Contributions by and distributions to government

NTEC may receive contributions from government where the government is acting as owner of the NTEC. Conversely, NTEC may make distributions to government. In accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1995* 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.

NT ELECTORAL COMMISSION

k) Impact of COVID-19

COVID-19 had a minimal impact in NTEC's 2021-22 financial performance. The cost of complying with directions from the Chief Health Officer in response to COVID-19 increased the cost of delivering the 2021 Local Government Elections and the Daly by-elections. For the 2021 Local Government Elections, a total of \$163,000 was expended to cover the unexpected extra costs due to COVID-19 compliance (mostly attributed to the lockdown that occurred during the early voting and remote mobile voting period), with \$50,000 recovered from municipal councils.

NT ELECTORAL COMMISSION

3. Comprehensive operating statement by output group

	Note	Electoral Services		Corporate and Governance		Total	
		2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021
		\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
INCOME							
Grants and subsidies revenue							
Current	4a	1	-	-	-	1	-
Appropriation							
Output	4b	1 845	4 324	-	-	1 845	4 324
Sales of goods and services	4c	1 521	343	-	-	1 521	343
Interest revenue		-	-	-	-	-	-
Goods and services received free of charge	5	-	-	775	797	-	797
Other income	4d	54	4	-	-	54	4
TOTAL INCOME		3 421	4 671	775	797	4 196	5 468
EXPENSES							
Employee expenses		2 540	2 836	133	99	2 673	2 935
Administrative expenses							
Property management		67	64	-	-	67	64
Purchases of goods and services	7	983	1 586	20	20	1 003	1 606
Repairs and maintenance		-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation and amortisation	15	109	138	-	-	109	138
Other administrative expenses ¹		-	-	775	797	-	797
Interest expenses	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENSES		3 699	4 624	928	916	4 627	5 540
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		(278)	47	(153)	(119)	(431)	(72)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME							
		-	-	-	-	-	-
COMPREHENSIVE RESULT		(278)	47	(153)	(119)	(431)	(72)

¹ Includes DCDD service charges and DIPL R&M

This comprehensive operating statement by output group is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

4. Revenue

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.

NT ELECTORAL COMMISSION

a) Grants and subsidies revenue

	2022			2021		
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
	Revenue from contracts with customers	Other	Total	Revenue from contracts with customers	Other	Total
Current grants	-	1	1	-	-	-
Total grants and subsidies revenue	-	1	1	-	-	-

Grants revenue is recognised at fair value exclusive of the amount of GST.

Grant revenue, passed on from a Territory Government-controlled entity with the exception of the Central Holding Authority, is recognised upfront on receipt, irrespective of which revenue accounting standard it may fall under in accordance with the Treasurer's Direction on income.

Grant revenue for 2021-22 financial year relates to the accrued grant revenue from the Law Society NT to support the Democracy Dash event in June 2022. There is no grant revenue recognised for 2020-21 financial year.

b) Appropriation

	2022			2021		
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
	Revenue from contracts with customers	Other	Total	Revenue from contracts with customers	Other	Total
Output	-	1 845	1 845	-	4 324	4 324
Total appropriation	-	1 845	1 845	-	4 324	4 324

Output appropriation is the operating payment to each agency for the outputs they provide as specified in the *Appropriation Act*. It does not include any allowance for major non-cash costs such as depreciation. Output appropriations do not have sufficiently specific performance obligations and recognised on receipt of funds.

Where appropriation received has an enforceable contract with sufficiently specific performance obligations as defined in AASB 15, revenue is recognised as and when goods and or services are transferred to the customer or third party beneficiary. Otherwise, revenue is recognised when the agency gains control of the funds. NTEC, through output appropriation, provides election management services to the people of the Northern Territory.

NT ELECTORAL COMMISSION

c) Sales of goods and services

	2022			2021		
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
	Revenue from contracts with customers	Other	Total	Revenue from contracts with customers	Other	Total
2021 Local Government Elections – cost recovery	1 445	-	1 445	-	-	-
Accrued revenue – conduct of elections	28	-	28	307	-	307
Non-voter fines ¹	-	-	-	33	-	33
Election services - other	48	-	48	3	-	3
Total sales of goods and services	1 521	-	1 521	343	-	343

¹ Total Non-voter fines for 2021-22 is \$230.

Rendering of services

NTEC's sales of goods and services income primarily relate to the provision of election services to various clients. Revenue from rendering of services is recognised as NTEC satisfies its performance obligation when election services are performed, with payments typically due a month after.

Revenue from these sales are based on the price specified in the contract, and revenue is only recognised to the extent that it is highly probable a significant reversal will not occur. There is no element of financing present as sales are made with a short credit term.

In 2021-22, service level agreements were finalised and invoices totaling \$1.75 million were issued to Northern Territory local government councils to recover the cost for conducting the local government general elections in August 2021. The costs recovery included apportioned costs for both 2020-21 and 2021-22 financial years. All invoices were paid by the councils and revenue amounting to \$0.31 million was recognised in the prior financial year.

NTEC has accrued revenue amounting to \$28,000 in relation to the June 2022 Miwatj ward by-elections. Costs will be recovered from the East Arnhem Regional Council in the next financial year.

Revenue from contracts with customers have been disaggregated below into categories to enable users of these financial statements to understand the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of income and cash flows. These categories include a description of the type of product or service line, type of customer and timing of transfer of goods and services.

NT ELECTORAL COMMISSION

	2022	2021
	\$000	\$000
Type of good and service:		
Service delivery	1 521	343
Total revenue from contracts with customers by good or service	1 521	343
Type of customer:		
Australian Government entities	1	1
State and Territory governments	1 515	307
Non-government entities	5	35
Total revenue from contracts with customers by type of customer	1 521	343
Timing of transfer of goods and services:		
Overtime	-	-
Point in time	1 521	343
Total revenue from contracts with customers by timing of transfer	1 521	343

d) Other income

	2022			2021		
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
	Revenue from contracts with customers	Other	Total	Revenue from contracts with customers	Other	Total
Reimbursement of Election related costs	-	50	50	2	-	2
Other income	-	4	4	2	-	2
Total other income	-	54	54	4	-	4

NTEC's other income in 2021-22 comprise of reimbursement of election related fees. Other income amounting to \$50,000 relates to the recovery of the 2022 Local Government Representation Review costs from the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet.

Revenue is recognised as NTEC satisfies its performance obligation when election registration services are performed, with payments typically due a month after.

5. Goods and services received free of charge

	2022	2021
	\$000	\$000
Corporate and information services	774	796
Repairs and maintenance	1	1
	775	797

Resources received free of charge are recognised as revenue when, and only when, a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would have been purchased if they had not been donated. Use of those resources is recognised as an expense. Resources received free of charge are recorded as either revenue or gains depending on their nature.

Repairs and maintenance expenses and associated employee costs are centralised and provided by the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics and forms part of goods and services free of charge of the agency.

NT ELECTORAL COMMISSION

In addition, corporate services staff and functions are centralised and provided by Department of Corporate and Digital Development and forms part of goods and services free of charge of the agency.

6. Gain on disposal of assets

NTEC has no gain on disposal of assets in 2021-22 and in 2020-21.

7. Purchases of goods and services

	2022	2021
	\$000	\$000
The net surplus/(deficit) has been arrived at after charging the following expenses:		
Goods and services expenses:		
Consultants ¹	60	48
Advertising ²	-	-
Marketing and promotion ³	154	246
Document production	89	78
Legal Expenses	-	3
Agent service arrangements	130	124
Training and study	3	14
Official duty fares	79	160
Accommodation	56	107
Travelling allowance	36	95
Audit fees	-	49
Motor Vehicle Expenses	59	115
Information technology charges and communications	182	255
Information technology hardware and software	58	56
Other	97	256
	1 003	1 606

¹ Includes marketing, promotion and IT consultants.

² Does not include recruitment, advertising or marketing and promotion advertising.

³ Includes advertising for marketing and promotion but excludes marketing and promotion consultants' expenses, which are incorporated in the consultants' category.

Purchases of goods and services generally represent the day-to-day running costs incurred in normal operations, including supplies and service costs recognised in the reporting period in which they are incurred.

8. Interest expense

	2022	2021
	\$000	\$000
Interest from lease liabilities ¹	-	-
Total	-	-

¹ Nil in 2021-22 refer to note 16. NTEC had one leased property and incurred very minimal interest expense (less than \$500) in 2020-21.

NT ELECTORAL COMMISSION

9. Write-offs, postponements, waiver, gifts and ex gratia payments

	Agency			
	2022	No. of trans.	2021	No. of trans.
	\$000		\$000	
Write-offs, postponements and waivers under the <i>Financial Management Act 1995</i>	-	-	1	1
Represented by:				
Amounts written off, postponed and waived by the Treasurer				
Irrecoverable amounts payable to the Territory or an agency written off	-	-	-	-
Losses or deficiencies of money written off	-	-	1	1
Public property written off	-	-	-	-
Waiver or postponement of right to receive or recover money or property	-	-	-	-
Total written off, postponed and waived by the Treasurer	-	-	1	1

The NTEC had no write-offs, postponements, waivers, and gifts or ex gratia payments for the year ended 30 June 2022.

10. Cash and deposits

	2022	2021
	\$000	\$000
Cash on hand	-	-
Cash at bank	358	399
	358	399

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 29.

NT ELECTORAL COMMISSION

11. Cash flow reconciliation

a) Reconciliation of cash

The total of agency 'cash and deposits' of \$358 000 recorded in the balance sheet is consistent with that recorded as 'cash' in the cash flow statement.

Reconciliation of net surplus/deficit to net cash from operating activities

	2022	2021
	\$000	\$000
Net surplus/deficit	(431)	(72)
<i>Non-cash items:</i>		
Depreciation and amortisation	109	138
<i>Changes in assets and liabilities:</i>		
Decrease/increase in receivables ¹	285	(285)
Decrease/increase in payables	(22)	(38)
Decrease/increase in provision for employee benefits	16	(48)
Decrease/increase in other provisions	2	(8)
Net cash from operating activities	(41)	(313)

¹ The 2019-20 change in receivables included prepayments and restates it to a net zero movement.

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b) Reconciliation of liabilities arising from financing activities

	Cash flows					Total other	30 June
	Other						
	1 July	Loans and advances	Equity Injections/ withdrawals	Lease liabilities repayments	Other		
Borrowings and Advances	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Provisions Equity Injections/ Withdrawals	198	-	-	-	198	18	216
Total	198	-	-	-	198	18	216

2020-21

	Cash flows					Total other	30 June
	Other						
	1 July	Loans and advances	Equity Injections/ withdrawals	Lease liabilities repayments	Other		
Borrowings and Advances	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Provisions Equity Injections/ Withdrawals	21	-	-	(21)	(21)	(57)	198
Total	276	-	664	(21)	643	(57)	862

c) Non-cash financing and investing activities

NTEC applies the inter-governmental leases recognition exemption as per the Treasurer's Direction, thus, there are no lease transactions recorded for the 2021-22 financial year. Please refer to note 16.

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12. Receivables

	2022	2021
	\$000	\$000
Current		
Accounts receivable	6	6
Less: loss allowance	(6)	(6)
	-	-
Accrued contract revenue	-	307
Interest receivables	-	-
GST receivables	9	15
Prepayments	-	-
Other receivables	28	-
	37	322
Total receivables	37	322

Receivables are initially recognised when the agency becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument and are measured at fair value less any directly attributable transaction costs. Receivables include contract receivables, accounts receivable, accrued contract revenue and other receivables.

Receivables are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairments.

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

The loss allowance reflects lifetime expected credit losses and represents the amount of receivables the agency estimates are likely to be uncollectible and are considered doubtful.

Accrued contract revenue

Accrued contract revenue relates to the agency's right to consideration in exchange for works completed but not invoiced at the reporting date. Once the agency's rights to payment becomes unconditional, usually on issue of an invoice, accrued contract revenue balances are reclassified as contract receivables. Accrued revenue that does not arise from contracts with customers are reported as part of other receivables.

NTEC has accrued revenue amounting to \$28,000 in relation to the June 2022 Miwatj ward by-elections. Costs will be recovered from the East Arnhem Regional Council in the next financial year.

Credit risk exposure of receivables

Receivables are monitored on an ongoing basis to ensure exposure to bad debts is not significant. The entity applies the simplified approach to measuring expected credit losses. This approach recognises a loss allowance based on lifetime expected credit losses for all accounts receivables, contracts receivables and accrued contract revenue. To measure expected credit losses, receivables have been grouped based on shared risk characteristics and days past due.

The expected loss rates are based on historical observed loss rates, adjusted to reflect current and forward-looking information, including macroeconomic factors.

In accordance with the provisions of the FMA, receivables are written-off when there is no reasonable expectation of recovery. Indicators that there is no reasonable expectation of

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recovery includes a failure to make contractual payments for a period greater than 182 days past due.

The agency's credit risk exposure has not materially changed due to minimal business disruption experienced as a result of COVID-19. There is no material impact on the agency's expected credit losses due to COVID-19.

The loss allowance for receivables and reconciliation as at the reporting date is disclosed below.

Loss allowance for receivables

External receivables	2022				2021			
	Gross receivables \$000	Loss rate %	Expected credit losses \$000	Net receivables \$000	Gross receivables \$000	Loss rate %	Expected credit losses \$000	Net receivables \$000
Not overdue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Overdue for less than 30 days	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Overdue for 30 to 60 days	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Overdue for more than 60 days	6	100%	6	-	6	100%	6	-
Total external receivables	6	100%	6	-	6	100%	6	-

Total amounts disclosed exclude statutory amounts and include contract receivables and accrued contract revenue.

Reconciliation of loss allowance for receivables

External receivables	2022 \$000	2021 \$000
Opening balance	6	6
Receivables in the reporting year ¹	1 787	6
Written off during the year	-	(1)
Recovered during the year	(1 787)	(5)
Increase/decrease in allowance recognised in profit or loss	-	-
Total external receivables	6	6

¹ Receivables in the reporting year includes 1.75M cost recovery invoices for the NT Local Government Council elections, which were all paid in the 2021-22 financial year.

Prepayments

Prepayments represent payments in advance of receipt of goods and services or that part of expenditure made in one accounting period covering a term extending beyond that period.

There are no prepayments for NTEC in 2021-22 financial year.

13. Advances and investments

NTEC had no advances paid, equity accounted investments and investments in shares for the 2021-22 and 2020-21 financial year.

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14. Other assets

a. Agency as a lessor

NTEC is not a lessor and therefore, does not have any finance lease or sublease arrangements. There is no lease receivables for 2021-22 and 2020-21.

b. Contract cost asset

For the 2021-22 and 2020-21 reporting period, no costs were capitalised as a contract cost asset.

15. Property, plant and equipment

a) Total property, plant and equipment

	2022	2021
	\$000	\$000
Plant and equipment		
At cost	1 229	1 229
Less: accumulated depreciation	(1 227)	(1 144)
	2	85
Leased property, plant and equipment ¹		
At capitalised cost	-	-
Less: accumulated depreciation	-	-
	-	-
Total property, plant and equipment	2	85

¹ NTEC has no concessionary leases.

2022 Property, plant and equipment reconciliations

A reconciliation of the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of 2021-22 is set out below:

	Plant and equipment	Leased property, plant and equipment	Total
	\$000	\$000	\$000
Carrying amount as at 1 July 2021	85	-	85
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
Depreciation expense / amortisation expense	(83)	-	(83)
Carrying amount as at 30 June 2022	2	-	2

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2021 Property, plant and equipment reconciliations

A reconciliation of the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of 2020/21 is set out below:

	Plant and equipment \$000	Leased property, plant and equipment \$000	Total \$000
Adjusted carrying amount as at 1 July 2020	175	22	197
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
Depreciation expense – asset owned	(90)	-	(90)
Amortisation expense – right-of-use asset	-	(22)	(22)
Carrying amount as at 30 June 2021	85	-	85

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 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 separately depreciated over their expected useful lives.

Construction (work in progress)

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

Revaluations and impairment

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

For right-of-use assets, the net present value of the remaining lease payments is often an appropriate proxy for the fair value of relevant right-of-use assets at the time of initial

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recognition. Subsequently, right-of-use assets are stated at cost less amortisation, which is deemed to equate to fair value.

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.

The estimated useful lives for each class of asset are in accordance with the Treasurer's Directions and are determined as follows:

	2022	2021
Plant and equipment	3-6 years	3-6 years

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

16. NTEC as a lessee

NTEC leases office accommodation, vehicles and storage facilities.

NTEC has elected to recognise payments for short-term leases and low value leases as expenses on a straight-line basis, instead of recognising a right-of-use asset and lease liability. Short-term leases are leases with a lease term of 12 months or less with no purchase option. Low value assets are assets with a fair value of \$10,000 or less when new and not subject to a sublease arrangement.

Inter-governmental leases

For 2021-22, NTEC applies the inter-governmental leases recognition exemption as per the Treasurer's Direction – Leases and recognise these as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term. These largely relate to the lease of motor vehicles from NT Fleet. Leases of commercial properties for office accommodation are centralised with the Department of Corporate and Digital Development (DCDD). Consequently all lease liabilities and right-of-use assets relating to these arrangements are recognised by DCDD and not disclosed within these financial statements.

Below is the right-of-use asset information for 2020-21 financial year. The lease was terminated as at May 2021 and there is NIL recorded right-of-use asset as at 30 June 2021.

	Buildings \$000	Plant and equipment \$000	Total \$000
Balance as at 1 July 2020	22	-	22
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
Amortisation expense	(22)	-	(22)
Revaluation increments/decrements including remeasurement	-	-	-
Carrying amount as at 30 June 2021	-	-	-

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17. Intangibles

	2022	2021
	\$000	\$000
Carrying amount		
Intangibles with a finite useful life		
Other intangibles		
At cost	262	262
Less: accumulated amortisation	(173)	(146)
Written down value – 30 June	90	116
Total intangibles	90	116

Intangible assets for NTEC are comprised of computer software.

NTEC recognises intangible assets only if it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the agency and the costs of the asset can be measured reliably. Where an asset is acquired at no or nominal cost, the cost is the fair value as at the date of acquisition.

Intangible assets for NTEC are stated at historical cost less depreciation, which is deemed to equate to fair value.

Intangibles with limited useful lives are amortised using the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives, which reflects the pattern of when expected economic benefits are likely to be realised.

The estimated useful lives for finite intangible assets are determined in accordance with the Treasurer's Directions and are determined as follows:

	2022	2021
Computer software	10 years	10 years

Due to the method of valuation of NTEC assets, no assessment for impairment was deemed necessary as at 30 June 2022, and therefore, no impairment adjustments were required.

	2022	2021
	\$000	\$000
Reconciliation of movements		
Intangibles with a finite useful life		
Other intangibles		
Carrying amount at 1 July	116	142
Additions	-	-
Disposals	-	-
Depreciation/ amortisation	(26)	(26)
Carrying amount as at 30 June	90	116

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18. Assets held for sale

Assets and disposal groups are classified as held for sale if their carrying amount will be recovered through a sale transaction or a grant agreement rather than continuing use. Assets held for sale consist of those assets that management has determined are available for immediate sale or granting in their present condition and their sale is highly probable within one year from the date of classification.

These assets are measured at the lower of the asset's carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell. These assets are not depreciated. Non-current assets held for sale have been recognised on the face of the financial statements as current assets.

NTEC had no assets held for sale in 2021-22 and 2020-21.

19. Payables

	2022	2021
	\$000	\$000
Accounts payable	26	35
Accrued expenses	29	41
Total payables	54	76

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 20 days from receipt of valid invoices under \$1 million or 30 days for invoices over \$1 million.

20. Provisions

	2022	2021
	\$000	\$000
Current		
<i>Employee benefits</i>		
Recreation leave	176	154
Leave loading	14	19
<i>Other current provisions</i>		
Other provisions	27	25
Total provisions	216	198

The Commission employed 15 employees as at 30 June 2022 (11 employees as at 30 June 2021).

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:

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- wages and salaries, non-monetary benefits, recreation leave and other leave entitlements
- 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 NTEC and therefore no long service leave liability is recognised in agency financial statements.

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.

NTEC 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 therefore not recognised in NTEC's financial statements.

21. Other liabilities

NTEC has no other liabilities for the 2021-22 and 2020-21 financial years.

Financial guarantee contracts

NTEC had no financial guarantee contracts for 2021-22 and 2020-21 financial years.

Unearned contract revenue

NTEC had no unearned contract revenue for 2021-22 and 2020-21 financial years.

22. Commitments

Commitments contracted represent future obligations or cash outflows that are not recognised as liabilities on the balance sheet and can be reliably measured.

NTEC had no capital or other expenditure commitments for 2021-22 and 2020-21.

23. Reserves

Asset revaluation surplus

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.

NTEC had no movements to asset revaluation surplus as at 30 June 2022 and 30 June 2021.

24. 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

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best use takes into account the use of the asset that is physically possible, legally permissible and financially feasible.

NTEC property, plant and equipment, computer software and computer hardware are recognised at cost less depreciation or amortisation. The carrying amounts of these financial assets and liabilities approximates their fair value.

25. 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 assets and liabilities are recognised on the balance sheet when NTEC becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument. NTEC's financial instruments include cash and deposits, receivables and payables.

Due to the nature of operating activities, certain financial assets and financial liabilities arise under statutory obligations rather than a contract. Such financial assets and liabilities do not meet the definition of financial instruments as per AASB 132 Financial Instruments: Presentation. These include statutory receivables arising from taxes including GST and penalties.

NTEC has limited exposure to financial risks as discussed below.

Exposure to interest rate risk, foreign exchange risk, credit risk, price risk and liquidity risk arise in the normal course of activities.

a) Categories of financial instruments

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

	Fair value through profit or loss		Amortised cost	Fair value through other comprehensive income	Total
	Mandatorily at fair value	Designated at fair value			
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
2021-22					
Cash and deposits	-	-	358	-	358
Receivables ¹	-	-	-	-	-
Total financial assets	-	-	358	-	358
Payables ¹	-	-	26	-	26
Lease liabilities	-	-	-	-	-
Total financial liabilities	-	-	26	-	26
2020-21					
Cash and deposits	-	-	399	-	399
Receivables ¹	-	-	-	-	-
Total financial assets	-	-	399	-	399
Payables ¹	-	-	35	-	35
Lease liabilities	-	-	-	-	-
Total financial liabilities	-	-	35	-	35

¹ Total amounts disclosed here exclude statutory amounts and accrued contract revenue

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Categories of financial instruments

NTEC's financial instruments are classified in accordance with AASB 9.

Financial assets are classified under the following categories:

- amortised cost

Financial liabilities are classified under the following categories:

- amortised cost

Financial assets at amortised cost

Financial assets are classified at amortised cost when they are held by the agency to collect the contractual cash flows and the contractual cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest.

These assets are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less impairment. NTEC's financial assets categorised at amortised cost include cash and deposits and receivables.

Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income

NTEC does not have any financial assets under this category.

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

NTEC does not have any financial assets under this category.

Financial liabilities at amortised cost

Financial liabilities at amortised cost are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method. The agency's financial liabilities categorised at amortised cost include all accounts payable and lease liabilities.

Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss

NTEC does not have any financial liabilities under this category.

Derivatives

NTEC does not trade on derivatives.

b) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation.

NTEC has limited credit risk exposure (risk of default). In respect of any dealings with organisations external to government, NTEC 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.

Credit risk relating to receivables is disclosed in Note 12.

c) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk NTEC will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. NTEC's approach to managing liquidity is to ensure it will always have sufficient funds to meet its liabilities when they fall due. This is achieved by ensuring minimum levels of cash are held in the NTEC bank account to meet various current employee and supplier liabilities. NTEC's exposure to liquidity risk is minimal. Cash injections are available from the Central Holding

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Authority in the event of one-off extraordinary expenditure items arise that deplete cash to levels that compromise the agency's ability to meet its financial obligations.

The following tables detail the agency's remaining contractual maturity for its financial liabilities, calculated based on undiscounted cash flows at reporting date. The undiscounted cash flows in these tables differ from the amounts included in the balance sheet, which are based on discounted cash flows.

2022 Maturity analysis for financial liabilities

	Carrying amount \$000	Less than a year \$000	1 to 5 years \$000	More than 5 years \$000	Total \$000
Liabilities					
Payables	26	26	-	-	26
Lease liabilities	-	-	-	-	-
Total financial liabilities	26	26	-	-	26

2021 Maturity analysis for financial liabilities

	Carrying amount \$000	Less than a year \$000	1 to 5 years \$000	More than 5 years \$000	Total \$000
Liabilities					
Payables	35	35	-	-	35
Lease liabilities	-	-	-	-	-
Total financial liabilities	35	35	-	-	35

d) Market risk

Market risk is the risk 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.

NTEC has relatively limited exposure to market risk.

(i) Interest rate risk

NTEC is not exposed to interest rate risk as agency financial assets and financial liabilities are non-interest bearing.

(ii) Price risk

NTEC is not exposed to price risk as it does not hold units in unit trusts.

(iii) Currency risk

NTEC is not exposed to currency risk as it does not hold borrowings denominated in foreign currencies or transactional currency exposures arising from purchases in a foreign currency.

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26. Related parties

i) Related parties

The NTEC is a government administrative entity and is wholly owned and controlled by the NT Government. Related parties of the department include:

- the portfolio minister and key management personnel (KMP) because they have authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the department directly
- close family members of the portfolio minister or KMP including spouses, children and dependants
- all public sector entities that are controlled and consolidated into the whole of government financial statements
- any entities controlled or jointly controlled by KMP's or the portfolio minister, or controlled or jointly controlled by their close family members.

ii) Key management personnel (KMP)

Key management personnel of NTEC are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of Commission. As an independent statutory authority, this is the Electoral Commissioner.

iii) Remuneration of key management personnel

The details below excludes the salaries and other benefits of minister as the minister's remunerations and allowances are payable by the Department of the Legislative Assembly and consequently disclosed within the Treasurer's annual financial statements.

The aggregate compensation of key management personnel of NTEC is set out below:

	2021-22	2020-21
	\$000	\$000
Short-term benefits	257	259
Post-employment benefits	27	25
Long-term benefits	-	-
Termination benefits	-	-
Total	284	284

iv) Related party transactions:

Transactions with Northern Territory Government-controlled entities

The department's primary ongoing source of funding is received from the Central Holding Authority in the form of output and capital appropriation and on-passed Commonwealth national partnership and specific-purpose payments.

The following table provides quantitative information about related party transactions entered into during the year with all other Northern Territory Government-controlled entities.

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Related party	Revenue from related parties \$000	Payments to related parties \$000	Amounts owed by related parties \$000	Amounts owed to related parties \$000
<i>All NTG departments</i>	2 697	1 086	1	12

2021

Related party	Revenue from related parties \$000	Payments to related parties \$000	Amounts owed by related parties \$000	Amounts owed to related parties \$000
<i>All NTG departments</i>	5 121	1 226	-	11

The Commission's transactions with other government entities are not individually significant.

Other related party transactions are as follows:

Given the breadth and depth of Territory Government activities, related parties will transact with the Territory public sector in a manner consistent with other members of the public including paying stamp duty and other government fees and charges and therefore these transactions have not been disclosed.

27. Contingent liabilities and contingent assets

NTEC had no material contingent liabilities or contingent assets in 2021-22 and 2020-21.

28. 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.

29. Accountable officer's trust account

In accordance with section 7 of the *Financial Management Act 1995*, 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 2021	Receipts	Payments	Closing balance 30 June 2022
Retention money	-	-	-	-
Bond money	-	-	-	-
Security deposits	-	2 000	(2 000)	-
Unclaimed money	-	-	-	-
	-	2 000	(2 000)	-

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30. Budgetary information

Comprehensive operating statement	2021-22 Actual	2021-22 Original budget	Variance	Note
	\$000	\$000	\$000	
INCOME				
Grants and subsidies revenue				
Current	1	-	1	1
Appropriation				
Output	1 845	1 507	338	2
Sales of goods and services	1 521	50	1 471	3
Goods and services received free of charge	775	718	57	
Other income	54	-	54	4
TOTAL INCOME	4 196	2 275	1 921	
EXPENSES				
Employee expenses	2 673	1 147	(1 526)	5
Administrative expenses				
Purchases of goods and services	1 003	410	(593)	5
Property management	67	-	(67)	
Repairs and maintenance	-	-	-	
Depreciation and amortisation	109	2	(107)	6
Other administrative expenses	775	718	(57)	
Interest expenses	-	-	-	
TOTAL EXPENSES	4 627	2 277	(2 350)	
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(431)	(2)	(429)	
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	-	-	-	
COMPREHENSIVE RESULT	(431)	(2)	(429)	

Notes:

1. Grant revenue from the Law Society NT to support the Democracy Dash event in June 2022.
2. Increase in output primarily relates to Treasurer's Advance funding at the end of the financial year.
3. Primarily relates to recovery of costs for the 2021 Local Government Elections in August 2021.
4. Recovery of representation review costs from DCMC.
5. Increased expenditure due to the 2021 Local Government Elections and Daly by-election; budget adjustments followed by a Treasurer's Advance were processed in 2021-22 to align budget capacity with anticipated expenses.
6. Variance relates to depreciation of computer software not incorporated in the published budget.

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Balance Sheet	2021-22 Actual	2021-22 Original budget	Variance	Note
	\$000	\$000	\$000	
ASSETS				
Current assets				
Cash and deposits	358	169	189	1
Receivables	37	27	10	2
Prepayments	-	11	(11)	3
Total current assets	395	207	188	
Non-current assets				
Property, plant and equipment	2	82	(80)	4
Intangibles	89	142	(53)	4
Total non-current assets	91	224	(133)	
TOTAL ASSETS	486	431	55	
LIABILITIES				
Current liabilities				
Payables	54	115	61	5
Borrowings and advances- <i>lease liabilities</i>	-	-	-	
Provisions	216	255	39	6
Total current liabilities	270	370	100	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	270	370	100	
NET ASSETS	216	61	155	
EQUITY				
Capital	2 721	2 157	564	
Reserves	-	-	-	
Accumulated funds	(2 505)	(2 096)	(409)	
TOTAL EQUITY	216	61	155	

Notes:

1. Primarily relates to recovery of costs for the L2021 Local Government Elections in August 2021, noting that all invoices were paid in the 2021-22 financial year.
2. Variance primarily relates to accrued revenue recognised in 2021-22 for the June 2022 East Arnhem Regional Council Miwatj ward by-election.
3. Reflects timely payment of invoices, no prepayments for the reporting year.
4. Depreciation budget adjustments were made within the year to ensure alignment of anticipated expense.
5. Reflects timely payment of invoices.
6. Lower than anticipated provisions due to employee entitlements being used during the financial year.

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Cash flow statement	2021-22 Actual	2021-22 Original budget	Variance	Note
	\$000	\$000	\$000	
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Operating receipts				
Grants and subsidies received				
Current	1	-	1	1
Appropriation				
Output	1 845	1 507	338	2
Receipts from sales of goods and services	2 031	50	1 981	3
Interest received	-	-	-	
Total operating receipts	3 877	1 557	2 320	
Operating payments				
Payments to employees	(2 655)	(1 147)	(1 508)	4
Payments for goods and services	(1 263)	(410)	(853)	4
Total operating payments	(3 918)	(1 557)	(2 361)	
Net cash from/(used in) operating activities	(41)	-	(41)	
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Financing receipts				
Equity injections				
Other equity injections	-	-	-	
Total financing receipts	-	-	-	
Financing payments				
Finance lease payments	-	-	-	
Total financing payments	-	-	-	
Net cash from/(used in) financing activities	-	-	-	
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	(41)	-	(41)	
Cash at beginning of financial year	399	169	230	
CASH AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	358	169	189	

Notes:

1. Grant revenue from the Law Society NT to support the Democracy Dash event in June 2022.
2. Increase in output primarily relates to Treasurer's Advance funding at the end of the financial year.
3. Primarily relates to recovery of costs for the 2021 Local Government Elections in August 2021.
4. Increased expenditure due to the 2021 Local Government Elections and Daly by-election; budget adjustments followed by a Treasurer's Advance were processed in 2021-22 to align budget capacity with anticipated expenses.

