

2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT



Northern Territory
Electoral Commission
EVERY vote counts

ntec.nt.gov.au

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Letter to the Speaker

Madam Speaker,

I am pleased to provide the Annual Report of the Northern Territory Electoral Commission for the 2023-24 reporting year.

The report details the commission's performance, key achievements and outlook for the year ending 30 June 2024. 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 3 sitting days after its receipt.

Yours sincerely,



Kirsten Kelly
Northern Territory Electoral Commissioner

24 October 2024

Foreword



The 2023-24 reporting year was another busy year for the Northern Territory Electoral Commission (NTEC), dominated by preparations for the 2024 Territory Election, as well as the finalisation of the 2023 NT Electoral Boundary Redistribution, the conduct of 14 local government by-elections and 8 fee-for-service elections.

Part of the preparations for the 2024 Territory Election included the roll out of an expansive Remote Community Engagement Program which began in April 2024 and ran until the commencement of remote voting for the election in mid-August. The program, which has education, engagement and enrolment objectives, involves 3 teams travelling to over 70 remote communities across the Territory to promote participation in, and awareness of, the 2024 Territory Election.

A further aspect of the program is to advise affected voters in remote divisions about the changes to electoral boundaries that resulted from the final determinations of the 2023 NT Electoral Boundary Redistribution, which were gazetted in December 2023. The redistribution saw changes to the boundaries of 19 of the Territory's 25 divisions which will take effect at the 2024 Territory Election. Part of the general election preparations included the NTEC working with the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) to update the Territory's electoral roll to reflect in the new boundaries, which occurred in April 2024.

The NT's enrolment participation rate is the highest it has ever been at 93.0% as at 30 June 2024. This is mostly attributed to the expansion of the AEC's Federal Direct Enrolment Update program in the preceding reporting years, and other enrolment stimulation activities targeting remote electors in the lead up to the 'Voice' referendum last year. Enrolment activities related to the multiple local government by-elections, as well as 3 Legislative Assembly by-elections, that the NTEC has conducted over the past 2 reporting years have also contributed to the increase in enrolment participation.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the NTEC's committed staff. This includes the agency's permanent and contracted staff, as well as the large number of casual staff employed over numerous election events who help to ensure the successful delivery of elections across the Territory.

The NTEC is also grateful to the NT government agencies who provided shared service support to the NTEC, as well as all election stakeholders, who contribute to the successful conduct of elections in the Northern Territory.

In closing, I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of the outgoing Electoral Commissioner, Iain Loganathan, who finished his second 5 year term on 25 April 2024. Iain's decade of service and leadership at the NTEC saw many changes and improvements to the conduct of elections in the Territory.

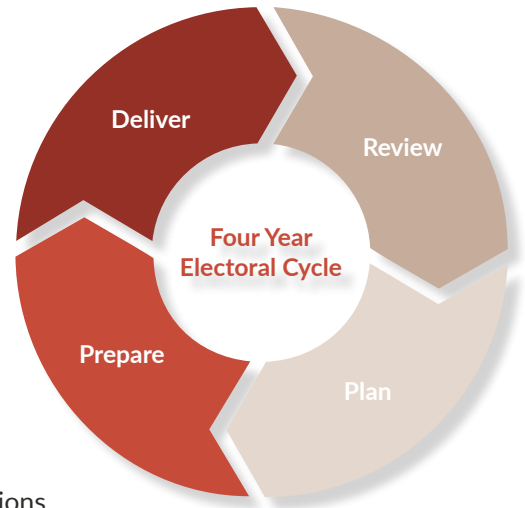
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kirsten Kelly', written over a horizontal line.

Kirsten Kelly
Northern Territory Electoral Commissioner

Agency overview

The NTEC is an independent statutory authority responsible for ensuring the impartial conduct of elections in the Northern Territory. Operating under its enabling legislation, the *Electoral Act 2004* and *Electoral Regulations 2004*, the NTEC also administers Chapter 8 of the *Local Government Act 2019*, the *Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2011*, the *Referendums Act 1998*, and other relevant legislation.

The work of the NTEC aligns to a 4 year electoral cycle, dictated by the set dates of the general elections for the NT’s Legislative Assembly and local government councils, and their related preparation, evaluation and reporting, as well as the associated electoral boundary redistribution or representation review.



The primary functions of the NTEC are:

- conducting Legislative Assembly and local government elections
- participating in, and providing secretariat support for Legislative Assembly electoral boundary redistributions and local government representation reviews
- coordinating financial disclosure requirements of candidates, political parties, associated entities and third party campaigners
- education and engagement
- conducting fee-for-service elections, including enterprise agreement ballots
- providing election expertise, undertaking research and election systems management
- corporate management.

Key activity outside of the election cycle

■ Scheduled

■ On request

	2022		2023		2024		2025		2026		
	First half	Second half	First half	Second half	First half	Second half	First half	Second half	First half	Second half	
Local government representative reviews											
Legislative Assembly electoral boundary redistribution											
Financial disclosure*											
Election management system remediation and replacement **											
Fee-for-service elections/ballots											
Education events	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Corporate activities											

Note* additional obligations during election events

Note ** replacement subject to funding approval

Strategic Plan 2022-26

Purpose

Provide independent and high quality electoral services to Territorians.

Vision

Maintain public confidence in electoral processes in the Northern Territory and to raise awareness to support participation.

Values

- **Collaborate:** We are inclusive and work with our stakeholders and Territorians for the best outcome.
- **Integrity:** We conduct ourselves in a fair, honest and ethical manner in everything we do.
- **Professional:** We are committed to providing high quality, efficient and client focussed services to stakeholders and Territorians.
- **Trust:** Stakeholders and Territorians are confident that we deliver fair and transparent services to a high standard.

Strategic goals

Accessible, transparent and impartial elections in the Northern Territory

What we must achieve:

- Standardised practices in all election events
- Transparency in the electoral process through timely reporting and accessible electoral information
- Participation in and support for the electoral boundary redistribution process for Legislative Assembly and representation reviews for local government
- System stability and security, maintaining high integrity in the delivery of election events

What are our outcomes:

- Implement an election cycle which identifies phases and key activities
- Service Plan in place for each general election supporting the management of the election and stakeholder awareness
- Improved satisfaction from voters and stakeholders in the conduct of elections
- Roles and responsibilities for election management system activities clearly defined, documented with security and testing events scheduled

- Processes in place that support the timely allocation of resources to support boundary redistribution and representation reviews

Electoral awareness, engagement and participation

What we must achieve:

- Develop a stakeholder engagement plan identifying key stakeholders, their defined interest and influence with actions to support engagement across the election cycle
- Effective strategies that promote awareness and participation in elections
- Deliver programs and activities that provide education and awareness about democracy, civics and elections for young Territorians
- Deliver activities that inform and raise awareness of electoral rights and responsibilities for voters, political parties and candidates
- Deliver strategic communication campaigns identifying opportunities for collaboration with key stakeholders to improve understanding of electoral processes and laws
- Maximise the use of data to support targeted communications and engagement activities

What are our outcomes:

- Relationships with key stakeholders are developed and maintained aimed at raising awareness of election events, processes and service offerings to support participation
- Increased attendance at events including, forums, expos, workshops etc.
- Increased interactions by stakeholders with NTEC communication channels
- Improved distribution and reach in communications across the election cycle
- Increased voter participation and decrease in the number of informal votes
- Territorians are aware of the role and functions of the NTEC

Continued improvement in electoral services

What we must achieve:

- Implement recommended electoral service improvements and electoral reforms following evaluation of elections
- Develop and maintain election policies, operating procedures and control plans to support elections

- Create opportunities to collaborate with stakeholders on the provision of electoral services provided by the NTEC
- Develop a research plan identifying projects to be progressed within the NTEC and more complex projects requiring broader investment and support
- Increased use of data to support evidence based electoral service improvements
- Maximise opportunities across the NT Government shared service environment to support electoral service delivery e.g. systems security and support, critical infrastructure and workforce service support
- Grow partnerships with other electoral commissions, leveraging opportunities and capabilities

What are our outcomes:

- Implementation of agreed electoral service improvements in a timely manner in accordance with an approved implementation and change management plan
- Demonstrated successful performance of election management and supporting infrastructure without incident
- NTEC membership and participation in the Electoral Council of Australia and New Zealand
- Steering groups established with regular meetings scheduled with shared service agencies in key portfolio areas including, finance, properties, information and communications technology, fleet, workforce services
- Debriefing sessions offered to all clients following election events

Cultivate a high performing organisation

What we must achieve:

- Implement an organisation structure responsive to NTEC statutory responsibilities, strategic and corporate functions
- Attract, recruit and retain a diverse and inclusive workforce with the necessary skills and capabilities across the electoral cycle
- Invest in our workforce to grow and develop capabilities
- Invest in infrastructure to support the functions of the NTEC
- Compliance within the NT Government operating environment, e.g. financial, procurement, human resources, privacy, information and records management

What are our outcomes:

- Organisation structure is in place and is aligned to the capabilities required to support the functions of the NTEC across the electoral cycle
- Workforce strategy in place that is responsive to the capability and resource requirements across the electoral cycle
- NTEC is compliant in government business practices evidenced through satisfactory audit outcomes
- Training resources to support election events are contemporary and accessible
- NTEC staff have My Plans in place (excluding casual event staff)
- High levels of staff satisfaction

Awareness and compliance with electoral laws

What we must achieve:

- Develop and communicate the regulatory approach to be adopted by the NTEC (i.e. constructive compliance approach)
- Create opportunities to promote and support an understanding of electoral laws that are relevant to them, e.g. voters, political parties, candidates, third party campaigners, associated entities, donors and media
- Develop a risk-based compliance plan aligned with electoral legislation to promote public confidence

What are our outcomes:

- Electoral education sessions are scheduled and information resources are available to support stakeholders in understanding their rights and responsibilities
- Increase in the number of financial returns submitted within the required timeframes
- Compliance checks carried out in accordance with the NTEC compliance plan

Agency functions



Enrolment



Elections



Public Awareness



Corporate

Enrolment

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



As at 30 June 2024, the number of enrolled Territorians was 153,455, an increase of 1,026 electors from the previous reporting year.



The AEC's State of the Roll report puts the NT's enrolment participation rate at 93.0% compared to a national rate of 97.9% at 30 June 2024.



The report estimates there are just over 11,500 eligible Territorians not on the electoral roll.



The federal direct enrolment update and online enrolment continue to be the main source of enrolment in the NT.

Northern Territory electoral roll

As provided by the *Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act 1978 (Cth)*, the enrolment provisions of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* apply for electors in the Northern Territory. 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.

Joint electoral roll arrangement

The NT electoral roll is managed by the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) under a joint roll arrangement between the Governor-General and the Administrator of the Northern Territory (as per section 20 of the *Electoral Act 2004*). This arrangement has been in place since 1994.

The AEC is responsible for:

- processing enrolments and amendments to enrolments (including the federal direct enrolment update program)
- maintaining the quality of the roll by undertaking enrolment stimulation activities
- reviewing the accuracy of elector and address information
- removing electors from the roll where there is evidence they are no longer residing at their enrolled address.
- managing the geographic and electoral boundary information that underpins the electoral roll.

The NTEC assists electors to follow the appropriate process to enrol or update their enrolment with the AEC, including performing its own enrolment stimulation activities in the lead up to general elections and by-elections.

The NTEC can request roll products from the AEC at any time, and has read only access to the Commonwealth and NT electoral rolls.

Electoral roll status

During the reporting period, the NT's electoral roll increased by 1,026 electors to a total of 153,455 as at 30 June 2024. This is a much smaller increase compared with that between the 2021-22 and 2023-24 reporting years where the NT's electoral roll grew by over 7,000 voters in 12 months.

This unprecedented growth in the previous reporting year was mostly due to the expansion of the AEC's federal direct enrolment update program to regional and remote areas, and the enrolment activities in the lead up the 'Voice' constitutional referendum.

The AEC's State of the Roll¹ report puts the NT's enrolment participation rate as at 30 June 2024 at 93.0% (up from 92.0% at the same time last year) with the national enrolment rate at 97.9% (up from 97.5% in 2023-24). The report estimates that there are just over 11,500 eligible Territorians not on the roll as at 30 June 2024, which is down from 13,660 in 2023-24. The report also states the youth enrolment rate (18 – 24 years) for the NT is 79.8%, which is up from 79.3% in the previous year. This is lower than the national youth enrolment participation rate of 90.2%.

Federal direct enrolment update (FDEU)

Part of the joint roll arrangement involves the AEC running its FDEU program in the Northern Territory. The FDEU program and the AEC's online enrolment service are now the top 2 sources of enrolment nationally and in the NT.

The FDEU program commenced in the NT in February 2013, and uses data from trusted third parties (like Centrelink and the Australian Tax Office) to identify electors whose address has changed or who 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 electoral roll.

Until recently, the FDEU program required mail delivery to a street address which meant it did not operate in rural and remote areas of the NT. Following trials conducted in 2022 expanding the program to include people residing in remote communities, FDEU correspondence to community mail bags and email addresses is now an ongoing part of the program.

There were further FDEU activities conducted by the AEC in the lead up to the 'Voice' constitutional referendum held in October 2023. These activities were successful in adding people to the Territory's electoral roll, however, most were applied to the roll before 30 June 2023 and were therefore reported on in the 2022-2023 annual report.

Table 1: Estimated eligible voter participation on the electoral roll – 2017 to 2023

Participation rates 2017 to 2024 (as at 30 June)			
Year	Area	% Total enrolment	% 18-24 years enrolment
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	94.5
2022	NT	88.3	64.1
	National	97.1	88.4
2023	NT	92.0	79.3
	National	97.5	90.3
2024	NT	93.0	79.8
	National	97.9	90.2

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

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

The following statistics are from FDEU processing within the NT from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024:

- 8,978 FDEU letters sent (this includes some email notifications)
- 8,054 people directly enrolled/updated as a result of letters sent
- 795 electors provided a suitable reason as to why their enrolment should not be updated
- 80 electors enrolled or updated their enrolment by other means after the letter was sent.

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, including by-elections. The declaration vote envelope is essentially an enrolment form. Following election day, all declaration envelopes are forwarded to the AEC for enrolment processing, and once any voters are deemed eligible to vote, their ballot papers are removed from the envelope and 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 through a declaration vote process, but their votes would not be counted until the next time they voted.

This provisional voting for unenrolled electors was introduced to address the low enrolment of eligible Aboriginal voters in remote parts of the Territory who were not captured in the AEC's FDEU program at the time of the amendments. It also assists electors who have recently moved to the NT, but have not 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 they are enrolled at.

Table 2 below shows the number of accepted declaration votes (and therefore new enrolments) across all relevant elections for the 2023-24 reporting year.

Table 2: Number of enrolments resulting from provisional declaration voting at NT elections 2023-24

Election	No. of accepted declaration votes
Katherine Town Council by-election	63
City of Darwin, Lyons Ward by-election	25
West Arnhem Regional Council, Kakadu Ward by-election	10
Roper Gulf Regional Council, Never Never Ward supplementary by-election	4
Belyuen Community Government Council, supplementary by-election and by-election	3
East Arnhem Regional Council, Birr Rawarrang Ward by-election	8
East Arnhem Regional Council, Gumurr Marthakal Ward by-election	1
TOTAL	114

Enrolment statistics

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

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2023-2024	2023-2024
Enrolment at 1 July	139,108	139,841	142,715	145,073	152,049
ADDITIONS					
New enrolments	3,522	4,643	4,955	10,166	4,719
Re-enrolments	666	992	767	1,604	943
Re-instatements	3	8	8	41	24
Interstate transfers to NT	5,941	6,856	8,648	6,367	7,741
Total additions	+10,132	+12,499	+14,378	+18,178	+13,427
DELETIONS					
Removals by objection	822	557	310	1,400	935
Deaths	823	797	901	982	1,023
Duplications	328	164	59	119	221
Cancellations	30	40	11	65	24
Interstate transfers out of NT	7,396	8,067	10,739	8,256	10,198
Total deletions	-9,399	-9,625	-12,020	-10,822	-12,401
Net increase/decrease	+733	+2,874	+2,358	+7,356	+1,026
AMENDMENTS					
Transfers between divisions	8,390	9,411	10,068	9,155	9,967
Changes within divisions	3,569	3,849	4,098	3,521	4,025
Amendments to elector details	1,602	3,618	4,533	2,021	3,673
Enrolment at 30 June	139,841	142,715	145,073	152,429	153,455

Data provided by the Australian Electoral Commission

Notes for table 3:

- New enrolments - all electors who enrolled for the first time.
- Re-enrolments - re-enrolling electors who previously had been enrolled but were deleted.
- 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.
- Removals 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 electors from the electoral roll who have not maintained their eligibility for enrolment under the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*, including those moved to provisional enrolment status.
- Interstate transfers out of NT - electors previously enrolled in the NT transferring their enrolment to another jurisdiction.
- Transfers between divisions/changes within divisions - 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.

Table 4: Enrolment by NT Legislative Assembly division* – at 30 June 2024

Division		Division		Division	
Arafura	6,209	Drysdale	6,364	Namatjira	6,542
Araluen	5,927	Fannie Bay	6,130	Nelson	5,405
Arnhem	6,703	Fong Lim	5,653	Nightcliff	5,987
Barkly	6,177	Goyder	6,266	Port Darwin	5,741
Blain	6,437	Gwoja	6,195	Sanderson	5,896
Braitling	6,083	Johnston	5,734	Spillett	6,122
Brennan	6,160	Karama	5,977	Wanguri	5,606
Casuarina	5,569	Katherine	6,188		
Daly	6,197	Mulka	6,887		
				Total	153,455

Table 5: Enrolment by NT local government area – at 30 June 2024

Local government area		Local government area		Local government area	
Alice Springs	16,834	Katherine	6,778	Wagait	342
Barkly	4,567	Litchfield	13,752	West Arnhem	4,393
Belyuen	167	MacDonnell	4,020	West Daly	2,219
Central Desert	2,751	Palmerston	25,656	Unincorporated	3,769
Coomalie	720	Roper Gulf	4,424		
Darwin	51,859	Tiwi Islands	1,816		
East Arnhem	7,493	Victoria Daly	1,895		
				Total	153,455

* Enrolment in Table 4 reflects the new electoral boundaries as determined by the 2023 NT Electoral Boundary Redistribution which came into effect at the 2024 Territory Election. These boundaries were applied to the NT's electoral roll on 24 April 2024 in preparation for the general election.

Electoral boundaries

2023 NT Electoral Boundary Redistribution

The NT's Legislative Assembly electoral boundaries are reviewed every 4 years prior to the general election, with the aim to ensure that the number of electors in each division is as near to equal as practicable. This review is conducted by a Redistribution Committee, made up of the Electoral Commissioner, Auditor-General, Surveyor-General and an appointed independent chair, and includes several stages of public consultation.

The 2023 NT Electoral Boundary Redistribution commenced in February 2023 and the final report which included maps of the final determined boundaries for all electoral divisions was released in December 2023, with the new boundaries gazetted

15 December 2023. There were changes to the boundaries of 19 of the Territory's 25 electoral divisions, with no changes to division names.

The final determined boundaries came into effect at the 2024 Territory Election and were applied to the electoral roll on 24 April 2024 in preparation for the August election.

Local government representation reviews

Legislative changes to the *Local Government Act 2019* established an independent Local Government Representation Committee to make determinations about ward boundaries and representation for all of the Territory's councils. The NT Electoral Commissioner sits on the committee, as well as the Surveyor General and CEO of the Local Government Association of the NT (as the committee Chair).

Previously, councils conducted their own representative reviews and made recommendations

on proposed changes to the Minister for Local Government, who would then make any final decisions. The Minister is still responsible for representation and boundary decisions not within the remit of the committee, including the external boundaries of local government areas and the total number of elected members per council, however the committee may make recommendations on these matters.

The inaugural Local Government Representation Committee commenced the first reviews under the new legislation in late March 2022 the final report released in February 2023. The committee determined no changes for 16 of the NT's 17 local government councils, but introduced a 3 ward structure to the City of Palmerston (providing 2 possible scenarios) with a recommendation to increase the total number of councillors from 7 to 8. The names of the new wards are not a responsibility of the committee and are to be determined by the Minister.

The final decisions regarding which 3 ward scenario is to be introduced, the names of the wards and the total number of elected members are scheduled to be gazetted by the end of 2024. Determinations resulting from the review will take effect at the next local government periodic general elections scheduled for August 2025.

The next local government representation reviews will be conducted in 2026.

Groote Archipelago Regional Council

A prospective new local government area for the Northern Territory was established via a gazette notice in August 2022 under the name Warnindilyakwa Regional Council to effectively remove the Anindilyakwa Ward from the East Arnhem Regional Council to become a stand-alone council. The name of the prospective council was formally changed to Groote Archipelago Regional Council via a gazette notice in July 2023.

An inaugural election for the new council was originally planned for March 2024 and therefore arrangements were made with the AEC to update the NT's electoral roll to move electors enrolled in the Anindilyakwa Ward of East Arnhem Regional Council to the new Groote Archipelago Regional Council. This was finalised on 30 January 2024, however, the election was then postponed to after the 2024 Territory Election.

A gazette notice in May 2024, with effect on 1 September 2024, formally changed the electoral boundaries of the East Arnhem Regional Council by abolishing the Anindilyakwa Ward and established a new local government area of Groote Archipelago Regional Council and confirmed 7 members are to be elected.

The inaugural general election for the Groote Archipelago Regional Council will be held in the next reporting year. With the next periodic general elections for local government scheduled for August 2025, the inaugural elected members will serve a term longer than 4 years as the new council will not be included in the 2025 Local Government Elections.

Supply of electoral roll data

The *Electoral Act 2004* and the joint roll arrangement specifies that an electoral roll extract be available for inspection at the NTEC office, and in limited circumstances, be provided for certain functions on request.

During 2023-24, electoral roll extracts were provided for the following:

- Division extracts to independent Members of the Legislative Assembly for the division they represent (monthly)
- Extract of all divisions to each registered party in the NT (provided by the AEC monthly)
- Alice Springs and Darwin extracts to the relevant Sheriff's office for jury lists
- Extract of eligible participants to Breastscreen for a health screening program (June 2024).



Elections

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



In the 2023-24 reporting year, the NTEC:

- conducted 14 local government by-elections
- conducted 8 fee-for-service elections which included 3 enterprise agreement ballots
- provided in-person voting services for 5 interstate jurisdictions
- planned and prepared for the 2024 Territory Election in August.

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*

There were no legislative amendments to the *Local Government Act 2019* or the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2019 during the reporting period.

NT Legislative Assembly general election

The next general election for the NT Legislative Assembly was held on 24 August 2024. Preparations for this election began in the 2023-24 reporting year including:

- securing budget appropriation over the 2023-24 and 2024-25 financial years
- the commencement of additional long term contract and short term contract staffing positions
- commencement of a remote engagement and education program in 71 remote communities that ran from April – August 2024
- the launch of the communications campaign including dedicated web pages on the NTEC website and electoral awareness advertising via multiple media channels
- release of the Service Plan for the 2024 Territory Election
- finalising lease agreements of premises for voting centres and scrutiny centres
- finalising recruitment to casual election positions and election specialists
- review and development of training resources
- remediating, safeguarding and testing the election management system and related IT systems
- procurement of election materials.

NT Legislative Assembly by-elections

As per section 19 of the *Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act 1978*, a by-election is required where a casual vacancy arises during the period of 3 years and 6 months after the first meeting of the Legislative Assembly following the last general election. This period ended on 20 April 2024.

There were no Legislative Assembly by-elections in the reporting year.

NT local government general elections

The next periodic general elections for the Territory's local government councils are scheduled for August 2025. Many of the preparations for the 2024 Territory Election are also applicable for the local government elections, for example the procurement of materials and some long term contract staffing positions.

A general election for Barkly Regional Council is scheduled for 2 November 2024 following the dismissal of the previous elected members in June 2024 by the Minister for Local Government. Councillors elected in November will serve a 5 year term, rather than the usual 4 year term, and therefore the 2025 Local Government Elections will not include Barkly Regional Council.

A general election for the newly established Groote Archipelago Regional Council will also be held in the next reporting year. Again, elected councillors will serve a term longer than 4 years, and therefore the 2025 Local Government Elections will not include Groote Archipelago Regional Council.

NT local government by-elections

Section 54(2)(c) of the *Local Government Act 2019* requires a by-election to be held where a casual vacancy occurs 18 months or more before the next general election. With election day for the 2025 Local Government Elections scheduled for 23 August 2025, from 23 March 2024 Territory councils are permitted to appoint a person (by vote of existing members) to fill a vacancy.

The NTEC is still notified by councils when a casual vacancy arises even though a by-election is not required. From 25 March until 30 June 2024 the NTEC was notified of 5 local government vacancies at:

- East Arnhem Regional Council (2 vacancies)
- Coomalie Community Government Council (1 vacancy)
- Central Desert Regional Council (1 vacancy)
- Alice Springs Town Council (1 vacancy)

Section 136(7) of the *Local Government Act 2019* allows councils to appoint their CEO or another person (other than the Electoral Commissioner) to be the returning officer for a by-election. Local government elections conducted by the NTEC are charged on a marginal cost recovery basis to councils which includes a 15% corporate overhead fee.

Prior to 23 March 2024, the NTEC conducted 14 local government by-elections, 3 of which were supplementary elections for failed by-elections (where no nominations were received). Table 6 over the page provides a summary of these by-elections with further information, including results, available on the NTEC website.



Table 6: Summary of NT local government by-elections conducted during 2023-24

Council	Ward	Election day	No. of vacancies	No. of nominations	Turnout*	Cost (incl. GST)
Belyuen Community Government Council	Whole council	13.07.23	2	0	failed	Included in later invoice
Katherine Town Council	Whole council	15.07.23	2	5	45.5%	\$61,252
Victoria Daly Regional Council	Timber Creek Ward	17.08.23	1	1	uncontested	\$1,253
Tiwi Islands Regional Council	Bathurst Island Ward	17.08.23	1	1	uncontested	\$1,253
Roper Gulf Regional Council	Never Never Ward	15.09.23	1	0	failed	\$1,315
City of Darwin	Lyons Ward	02.09.23	1	12	50.8%	\$89,661
West Arnhem Regional Council	Kakadu Ward	09.09.23	1	2	30.0%	\$16,914
Tiwi Islands Regional Council	Pirlangimpi Ward	12.10.23	1	1	Uncontested	\$1,911
Roper Gulf Regional Council	Never Never Ward (supplementary)	06.10.23	1	5	30.7%	\$22,940
Belyuen Community Government Council	Whole council (supplementary + one new vacancy)	24.10.23	3	8	49.0%	\$4,221
West Daly Regional Council	Thamarrurr/ Pindi Pindi Ward	21.03.24	1	0	failed	\$1,315
East Arnhem Regional Council	Birr Rawarrang Ward	29.02.24	1	3	21.7%	\$22,851
East Arnhem Regional Council	Gumurr Marthakal Ward	29.02.24	1	3	3.4%	\$24,051
West Daly Regional Council	Thamarrurr/ Pindi Pindi Ward (supplementary)	18.04.24	1	1	uncontested	\$2,067

*Turnout is based on the number of votes counted by enrolment.

Fee-for-service elections

Fee-for-service elections are conducted for government agencies as well as non-government and community organisations where decisions are required to be made by ballot. This includes enterprise agreements, the election of office holders or board members 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.

Tables 7 and 8 provide details of the fee-for-service elections conducted in the reporting year.

Table 7: Fee-for-service elections 2023-24 (not including enterprise agreement ballots)

Organisation	Ballot	Date
Central Land Council	Election of NTAIC Director	3 October 2023
Danila Dilba	Board of Directors elections	8 November 2023
Tiwi Land Council	Member elections across 8 clan groups	8 separate days over Dec 2023 – Jan 2024
Tiwi Land Council	Election of Chair and Deputy Chair	14 March 2024
Central Land Council	Election of NTAIC Director	1 May 2024

Total revenue received from fee-for-service elections for 2023-24: \$30,010

Table 8: Enterprise agreement ballots conducted 2023-24

Enterprise Agreement for	Date
Territory Generation 2022-2026	27 July 2023
NTPS Fire and Rescue Services 2022-2026	4 October 2023
Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation	16 February 2024

Total revenue received from fee-for-service elections (enterprise agreement ballots) from 2023-24: \$6,865

Assistance for inter-jurisdiction elections

The NTEC provides voting services, on request, for interstate and New Zealand electors visiting the NT for elections they cannot attend in their home jurisdictions.

Table 9: Early voting services provided for inter-jurisdictional elections during 2023-24

Jurisdiction	Election date	Election type
Western Australia	12.07.23 – 28.07.23	2023 Rockingham By-election
New Zealand	27.09.23 – 13.10.23	2023 General Election
South Australia	14.03.24 – 22.03.24	2024 Dunstan by-election
Tasmania	06.03.24 – 22.03.24	2024 State Election
Tasmania	17.04.24 – 03 05.24	2024 Legislative Council elections (for Hobart and Prosser) and 2024 Elwick by-election

Financial disclosure and compliance reviews

Financial disclosure for Legislative Assembly elections

The financial disclosure reporting period for the 2024 Territory Election began on 1 July 2023, as obligations for a general election commence on 1 July in the year preceding a general election.

Independent candidates, political parties, associated entities and third party campaigners are required to submit election gift returns detailing the number of donors and the total gift amount received. The name and address of donors must also be provided if the donation is above a threshold amount. If no gifts are received during the disclosure period, a nil return is still required.

Table 10 shows the election gift returns due in the 2023-24 reporting period from registered parties, associated entities, third party campaigners and independent candidates.

Table 10: Financial disclosure – gift returns required 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024

Return	Disclosure period	Due date
Election gift return: 6 month return	1 July 2023 – 31 December 2023	30 January 2024
Election gift return: quarterly return 1	1 January 2024 – 31 March 2024	10 April 2024
Election gift return: quarterly return 2	1 April 2024 – 30 June 2024	10 July 2024

Details of the election gift returns received for the above disclosure periods can be found on the NTEC website. Electoral expenditure returns for the 2024 Territory Election are due in the 2024-25 financial year.

Compliance reviews for Legislative Assembly elections

There were no compliance reviews conducted in the reporting period, but procurement through a request for quotation for an auditing firm to conduct a compliance review of financial disclosure obligations for the 2024 Territory Election was finalised in May 2024.

Annual returns for Legislative Assembly elections

Independent candidates, political parties and associated entities are required to submit an annual return (gifts) detailing the number of donors and the total gift amount received throughout the financial year. The name and address of donors must also be provided if the donation is above a threshold amount. The return is due within 30 days after the end of the financial year.

The annual returns (gifts) for 2022-23 were due on 30 July 2023 and those received by the NTEC are published on the NTEC website.

Political parties and associated entities must also submit a second annual return detailing the financial amounts received and paid over the duration of the financial year and any outstanding debts incurred. This return is due within 60 days after the end of the financial year.

The annual returns for 2022-23 were due on 29 August 2023 and those received by the NTEC are published on the NTEC website.

Donors must submit an annual donor return if they donated \$1,500 or more to a political party or a candidate throughout the financial year. Returns are due within 60 days after the end of the financial year.

Donor returns for 2022-2023 were due on 29 August 2023 and those received by the NTEC are published on the NTEC website.

Donations disclosure for local government elections

The disclosure scheme for local government elections only requires returns from candidates if they receive a donation of \$200 or more, or a loan of \$1,500 or more, for campaign purposes. Local government donations disclosure differs from the Legislative Assembly financial disclosure requirements in that:

- nil returns are not required
- election expenditure returns are not required
- annual returns are not required
- only candidates are required to submit a return.

No donation disclosure returns were received for the 14 local government by-elections that were conducted in 2023-24.

Party registration

As at June 2024, there were 5 political parties registered in the NT, which are shown in Table 11.

Table 11: Registered political parties as at 30 June 2024

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

During the reporting period one political party, the Shooters and Fishers Party, submitted an application to de-register. The public notice for this cancellation of registration was published on 28 March 2024.



Public awareness

To empower the community by ensuring they are well-informed about their electoral rights, responsibilities, electoral processes, and the services the NTEC provides.



258,885 views of the NTEC website



45.1% of website views were made via a mobile



200 social media posts across Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn



40 media releases



99 school education sessions and 11 school elections



6 Democracy Dash events

Website

The NTEC website is the primary channel where most Territorians connect with the NTEC, providing key election information, enrolment services, and details on various programs. In 2023–24, there were 16,289 website views, with 32.6% from mobile devices.

Social media

The NTEC's social media channels are essential for outreach, education, and promoting electoral events. In the past year, 200 posts were shared across Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

Elector direct communications

The NTEC successfully used SMS and email to send election reminders to enrolled electors for all by-elections. This method will continue in future elections to boost awareness and participation.

Media services

The NTEC maintains a strong relationship with media outlets, issuing media releases for by-elections and the 2024 Territory Election. All media queries receive responses within a business day.

Event displays

The NTEC provided information stalls at the following events:

- All Youth Conference
- Defence expos in Darwin and Katherine
- COTA expos in Darwin and Alice Springs
- Freds Pass Rural Show

In-language communications

Ahead of the 2024 Territory Election, the NTEC prioritised accessibility by developing key resources in multiple languages. A multilingual voting guide was created, offering clear instructions on how to vote in 11 international languages to ensure that culturally and linguistically diverse communities could fully participate.

Additionally, a flipbook highlighting the importance of voting was produced in 8 Aboriginal languages, designed to engage and inform remote Indigenous communities where English is not the first language.

School and community visits

The NTEC offers a range of school education programs aligned with the Australian Curriculum for Civics and Citizenship for, Years 3 and 4, Years 5 and 6, Year 7, Years 8 and 9, Stage 1 and 2 Legal Studies (Years 10–12).

A ‘future voters’ program is available for Years 10, 11, and 12, alongside programs for Aboriginal students in remote schools where English is not their first language. Programs are delivered face-to-face or via resources on the NTEC website for teachers.

The NTEC also conducts school elections (e.g. student leaders) or provides voting materials for schools to run their own. Programs are available for adults and community groups, including a customised version for those whose first language is not English.

Democracy Dash

Democracy Dash is a free event for Years 9–12, enhancing Civics and Citizenship or Legal Studies, with a focus on democracy. It’s structured like a scavenger hunt, where teams visit 10–12 organisations contributing to democracy, completing activities at each stop. Last year, 6 events were held—4 in Darwin and 2 in Alice Springs—with 13 schools participating.

Remote Community Engagement Program – 2024 Territory Election

Starting in April 2024, a remote engagement and education program was conducted by the NTEC in over 70 remote communities across the Territory, including town camps in Darwin and Alice Springs. There were 3 teams delivering the program; 2 in the Top End and Katherine regions and one in Central Australia. The program continued until mobile voting began.

The Remote Community Engagement Program aimed to:

- increase the general knowledge of democratic and electoral processes among remote voters
- promote awareness of the 2024 Territory Election including local voting dates and times
- facilitate enrolment and improve the accuracy of the NT’s electoral roll
- inform voters impacted by electoral boundary changes
- consult with communities to improve the delivery of remote voting services including suitable locations for voting centres
- recruit local assistants for the voting period
- update community contact details (to receive election information).

By 30 June 2024, 53 remote communities had been visited as part of the program.

Table 13: Remote Community Engagement Program statistics up to 30 June 2024

Division	Communities visited	Enrolment checks	Enrolment updates	New enrolments	Stakeholder
Arafura	8	303	29	27	33
Arnhem	6	218	17	1	14
Barkly	6	161	18	11	18
Daly	9	132	3	4	20
Gwoja	8	202	25	8	46
Mulka	7	182	9	16	38
Namatjira	9	186	19	4	44
TOTALS	53	1,384	120	71	213

Table 12: Electoral education sessions 2023-24

Group	Sessions	Participants
Darwin/Palmerston/ rural area schools	82	2,331
Regional schools	5	115
Remote schools	0	0
Adult groups	12	221
School elections	11	2,036
Democracy Dash	6	397
Total	116	5,100

Corporate

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



As at 30 June, the NTEC had 17 staff



Of these, 12 were permanent staff and 5 were on short term contracts



Over 130 casual staff commenced employment with the NTEC during 2023-24



Total employee expenses were \$2.289 million, or 51% of the total expenditure for 2023-24



The NTEC participated in 3 audits



The Electoral Commissioner attended 4 ECANZ meetings

Staffing

At 30 June 2024, the NTEC had 12 permanent staff and 5 staff on short term contracts which equates to 16.3 FTE staff or a head count of 17 (with 2 staff being part time).

During the reporting year, 134 casual workers commenced employment with the NTEC, most of which were part of the preparations for the 2024 Territory Election, although casual staff were also employed for the remote community engagement program and local government by-elections.

Table 14 (on page 25) and Figure 1 (on page 26) show the core staff profiles and organisation structure for the agency. Contract and casual staff recruited specifically for the 2024 Territory Election are not included in the table.

A further 2 positions were previously transferred to the Department of Corporate and Digital Services (DCDD) who now provide these functions to the NTEC; a Digital Systems Officer and a Business Manager.

DCDD also provides further digital services during elections to the NTEC, as well as support for human resource management, payroll, procurement, property and recruitment.

Staff expenses

In the 2023-24 reporting year, the NTEC's total staff employee expenses were \$2.289 million, or 51.3% of the total expenditure for the year. This included casual staff employed during preparations for the 2024 Territory Election, as well as for local government by-elections.

Ongoing employee expenses are met from the annual appropriation and separate arrangements are made for staff employed for elections and project work.

Staff development

During the 2023-24 reporting year, NTEC staff undertook the following professional development training:

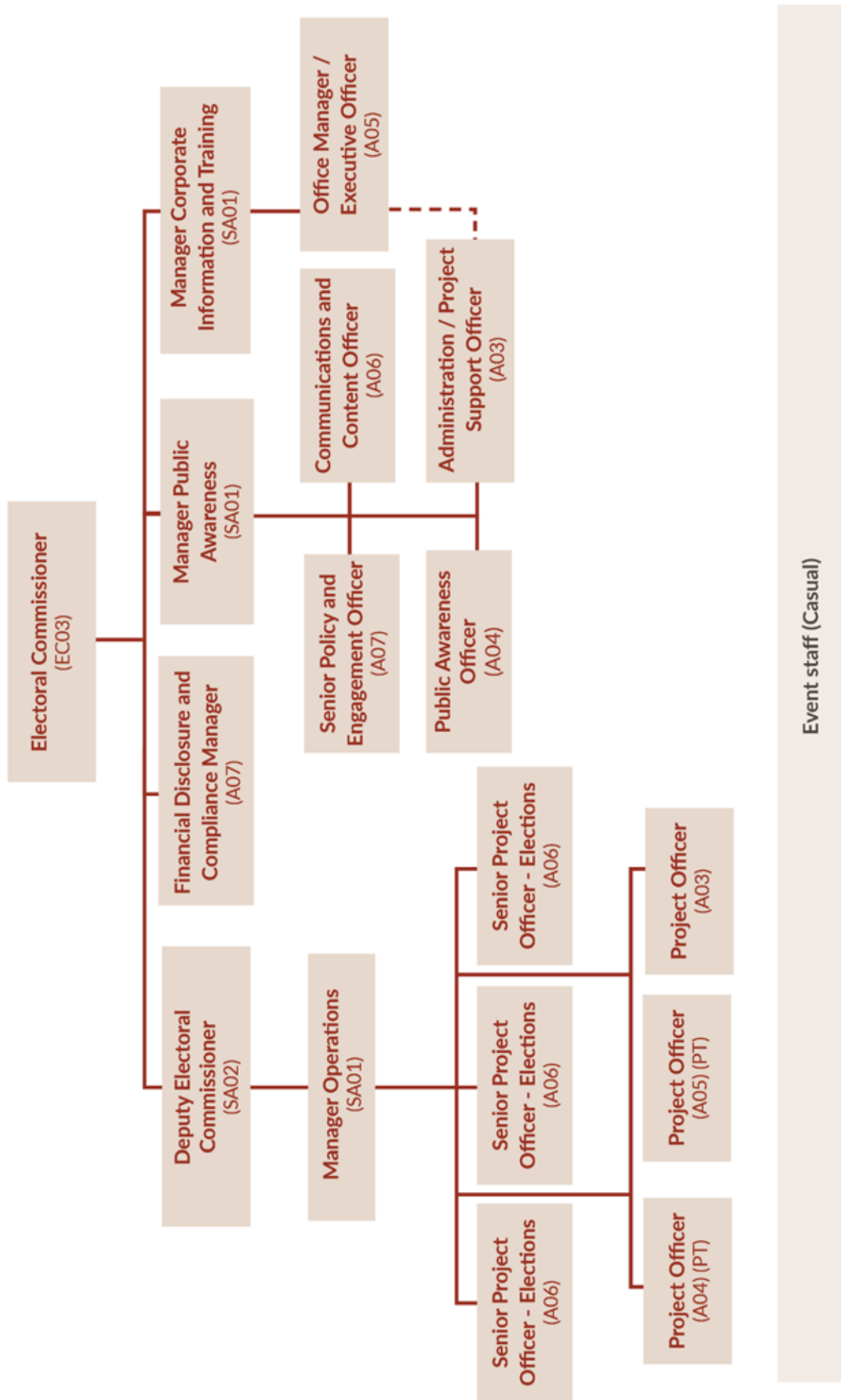
- NTG mandatory training modules
- NTG Pay training modules
- NTG procurement training modules
- Merit selection training
- Disability Confident Managers/Workforces
- Project Management Fundamentals
- First Aid training
- 4WD training
- Media training

Table 14: Core staff profiles 2019 – 2023 (as at 30 June)

Designation	Number of staff				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Executive Contract Officer 3	1	1	1	1	1
Senior Administrative Officer 2	1	1	1	1	1
Senior Administrative Officer 1	2	1	2	2	3
Administrative Officer 7	1	1	0	0	2
Administrative Officer 6	4	3	3	2	4
Administrative Officer 5	1	0	1	1	1.5
Administrative Officer 4	4	3	2.5	2	1.8
Administrative Officer 3	0	0	0	2.5	2
Administrative Officer 2	1	1	1	0	0
Total	15 FTE	11 FTE	11.5 FTE	11.5 FTE	16.3 FTE



Figure 1: Organisation structure as at 30 June 2024



Digital services

Election management system (TIGER)

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 an electronic 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.

During 2021-22, the NTEC began a 3 phase plan toward a replacement system. Phase 1 included the tender and contract of remediation and support services for TIGER which is now ongoing, while working toward a replacement system. The contracted vendor is managed by Agency Business Systems within DCDD.

In November 2021, a business case was developed to identify and examine options for a replacement system. A revised business case was finalised in August 2022 which analysed the market response and identified a preferred way forward with revised costings and implementation timeframe.

The project is identified as a priority on the NTG Digital Government Roadmap 2022-2027.

The NTEC's budget proposal for funding for the 2024 Territory Election, included the requirement for additional resourcing and systems testing to ensure TIGER is stable and secure to support the election. Part of the election preparations included 2 'dress rehearsals' of TIGER and connected systems, the first of which was held from 31 May – 6 June 2024.

The NTEC's election management system remains a significant risk to the agency and the NT Government due to the critical issues present in the system, and its non-compliance with the NTG's architecture and security standards. The election management system continues to require remediation in order to support effective operations of electoral processes in the Territory. Investment in a new fit-for-purpose election management system is necessary and critical.

eLAPPS - electronic mark-off system

eLAPPS (electronic Legislative Assembly polling place system) is an electronic voter mark-off system accessed through individual devices at voting centres which are synchronised to a central database and maintained on a secure server by the software provider. As well as the core function of voter mark-off, eLAPPS also provides daily statistics of the issue of ballot papers.

During 2023-2024, eLAPPS was used for 2 local government by-elections, and in preparations for the 2024 Territory Election, including the first systems dress rehearsal.

Easy Count - proportional count software

Easy Count software, sourced originally from the AEC, is used to conduct proportional counts for local government elections that have multiple vacancies. Preferences from each ballot papers are entered in the electronic count system, and then re-entered by a second person for verification purposes.

During 2023-24, Easy Count was used for 2 local government by-elections: the 2023 Katherine Town Council by-election (2 vacancies) and the 2023 Belyuen Community Government Council supplementary election and by-election (3 vacancies).

netVote – online ballot software

netVote is an online election software application that supports candidate and referendum elections using full and optional preferential, first-past-the-post and Hare-Clark voting methods.

The NTEC offers netVote for the conduct of enterprise agreement ballots where electors vote yes or no to accept a proposed agreement.

The cost for using this application is charged through a fee-for-service arrangement (as a netVote fee plus additional hosting costs) however, this does not equate to full cost recovery. Passing on the full costs would likely deter agencies from using the software, even with the convenience benefits it offers to voters.

During 2023-24, netVote was used for 3 enterprise agreement ballots.

Territory Election Working Group (TEWG)

The TEWG was established in late 2023 and included the NTEC and various teams within DCDD:

- Agency Business Systems – JGG Digital Services
- Architecture and Cyber Security
- Technology Services – Digital Services
- Web Design and Support.

DCDD's Project Management Office also worked with the TEWG to implement the 2024 Territory Election Delivery Assurance Framework. This framework was developed to provide confidence that systems, processes and resources were fit for purpose to deliver the 2024 Territory Election, while also aiming to achieve event readiness for the 2025 Local Government Elections.

The TEWG coordinated 2 full dress rehearsals and further testing of TIGER and connected systems and processes. These led to recommendations and elevated assurance arrangements to be put in place prior to and during the election period (outside the reporting period).

Premises

The NTEC's main office is located in the Darwin CBD. The office is often used as an early voting centre for local government by-elections and interstate elections, as well as a scrutiny centre for by-elections.

For the 2024 Territory Election, DCDD's NT Property Management team supported the NTEC to secure leases for 6 early voting centres, all of which were located in shopping centres. This included a voting centre as well as a temporary NTEC election office and scrutiny centre in Alice Springs Plaza.

The main scrutiny centre for the 2024 Territory Election was located in Darwin at an AEC facility in Eaton, which the NTEC leased through a memorandum of understanding which was signed in March 2024.

The NTEC also had commercial lease agreements for other premises used for early voting centres and election day voting centres, including with some local government councils, and has a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Education for the lease of school premises as election day voting centres.

The NTEC also has ongoing leases for storage facilities in Alice Springs and Darwin to store election equipment and materials.

Audits

The NTEC participated in 3 audits during the reporting year:

- End of Year Review for 2022-23
- Agency Compliance Audit
- Value for Territory Audit.

The end of year review and Value for Territory audits only identified minor matters. The Agency Compliance Review resulted in one management point finding related to travel acquittals.

National representation – ECANZ

The Electoral Council of Australian and Zealand (ECANZ) is a consultative council of electoral commissions from the Commonwealth, states and territories, and New Zealand. During the 2023-24 reporting year, the NT Electoral Commissioner attended all 4 ECANZ meetings virtually on the following dates:

- 1 September 2023
- 1 December 2023
- 5 March 2024
- 27 June 2024.

The matters discussed at these meetings included:

- electoral integrity
- funding structures for electoral commissions
- misinformation and disinformation in elections
- e-Safety referral protocols for casual election staff
- impact of artificial intelligence on elections
- cyber and data security
- legacy IT systems.

An equivalent forum also operates for deputy electoral commissioners, which the NTEC also attends virtually, and there are additional working groups that meet regularly and are attended by relevant staff from each commission, including from the NTEC.

Freedom of Information requests

The NTEC received one Freedom of Information (FOI) request during 2023-24.

The request was received via email on 31 May 2024. Due to the request seeking access to information about a third party (who needed to be contacted first), the due date for the FOI application was extended and therefore the matter was not resolved within the reporting year.

Financial report

NTEC funding arrangements

The NTEC is funded through an annual appropriation from Treasury. The annual appropriation is intended to fund staff salaries as well as enrolment, election, public awareness and corporate governance functions.

Additional revenue is received through the charging of a 15% corporate overhead for conducting council by-elections and a 35% management fee for fee-for-service elections.

Funding for specific events is undertaken as follows:

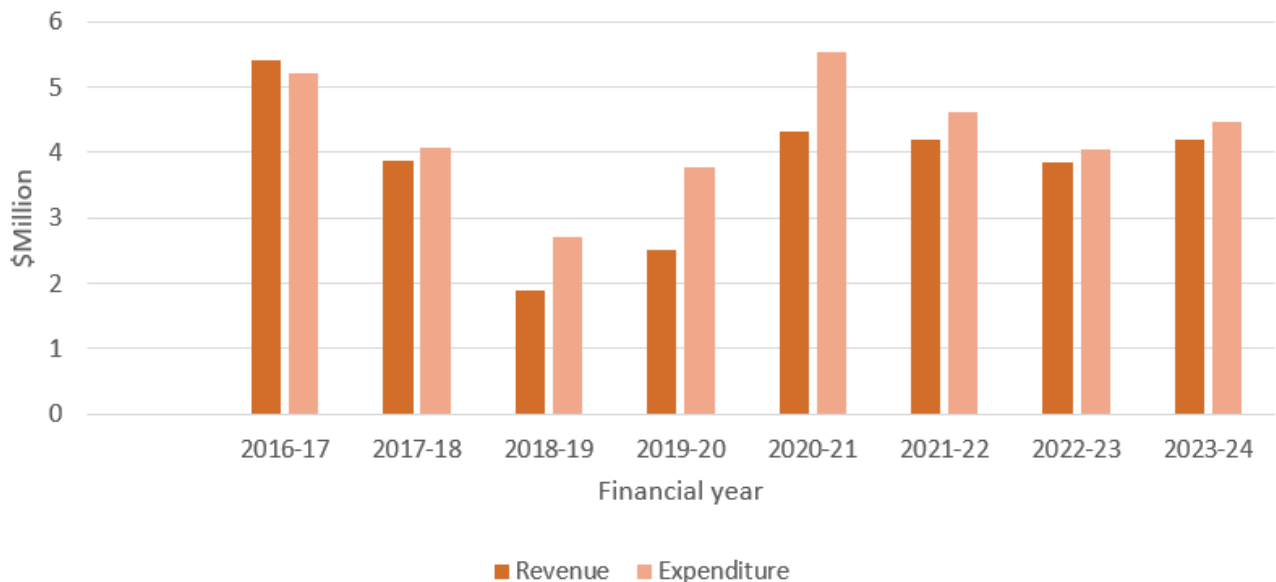
- Legislative Assembly by-elections: from a Treasurer’s Advance to recoup by-election expenditure (none conducted in 2023-24)
- Local government by-elections: from charging councils on a marginal cost recovery basis plus a 15% corporate overhead fee (14 conducted in 2023-24)
- Fee-for-service elections: from charging NTEC commercial rates including a 35% management fee (6 conducted in 2023-24)
- NTPS enterprise agreement ballots: from charging the relevant government agency on a marginal cost recovery basis (2 conducted in 2023-24)
- Legislative Assembly redistributions: from a Treasurer’s Advance (part of the 2023 NT Electoral Boundary Redistribution was conducted in 2023-24)

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:

- 2016-17: conduct of the 2016 Territory Election
- 2017-18: conduct of the 2017 NT Council Elections and the 2018 City of Palmerston election
- 2018-19: conduct of the 2019 NT Electoral Boundary Redistribution
- 2019-20: finalisation of the 2019 redistribution and pre-2020 Territory Election expenditure
- 2020-21: conduct of the 2020 Territory Election
- 2021-22: conduct of the 2021 Local Government Elections and the Daly by-election
- 2022-23: conduct of the Fannie Bay and Arafura by-elections, and the 2023 NT Electoral Boundary Redistribution
- 2023-24: finalisation of the 2023 redistribution and pre-2024 Territory Election expenditure.

Graph 1: NTEC revenue versus expenditure – financial years 2016-17 to 2023-24



2023-24 financial outcomes

The NTEC's revenue for 2023-24 was \$4.2 million, this included:

- \$1.0 million for 2024 Territory Election preparations (included in appropriation)
- \$0.3 million for unfunded critical 2024 Territory Election expenditure (Treasurer's Advance received in June 2024)
- \$0.1 million for the 2023 NT Electoral Boundary Redistribution (Treasurer's Advance received in June 2024)
- \$0.3 million paid by councils for by-elections and by organisations for the conduct of fee-for-service elections.

Total actual expenditure (including depreciation and amortisation) for the 2023-24 reporting year amounted to \$4.5 million. This included:

- \$2.3 million in staff costs
- \$1.2 million for purchases of goods and services
- \$0.9 million for goods and services received free of charge (DCDD services, DIPL R&M).

The agency recorded a \$0.3 million deficit.

Revenue from local government and fee-for-service elections

Section 136(7) of the Local Government Act 2019 allows council to conduct their own by-elections if a vacancy becomes available. To date, all by-elections for local government councils in the NT have been conducted by the NTEC.

During the reporting year, the NTEC conducted 14 local government by-elections which generated \$251,004 in revenue.

Fee-for-service elections are conducted for government, non-government and community organisations. This includes enterprise agreements ballots and the election of office holders.

During the reporting year, the NTEC conducted 8 fee for service elections which generated \$36,875 in revenue.



Financial statement overview

The Northern Territory Electoral Commission (NTEC) is an independent government agency responsible for the impartial conduct of Northern Territory Legislative Assembly and local government elections in accordance with legislative requirements. The NTEC also conducts fee-for-service elections including enterprise agreement ballots.

Key responsibilities include:

- conducting Legislative Assembly and local government elections
- participating in and providing secretariat support to the Redistribution Committee and the Local Government Representation Review Committee
- managing financial disclosure under Part 10 of the *Electoral Act 2004*
- education and engagement
- conducting fee-for-service elections
- providing election expertise, undertaking research and election systems management
- corporate management.

Financial performance

NTEC's financial performance in 2023-24 has been compared with the final budget for 2023-24 as set out in the table below:

2023-24 Actual financial performance and 2023-24 final approved budget

	Actual performance 2024 \$000	Final budget 2024 \$000	Variance \$000
Income	4 201	4 232	(31)
Expenses	4 461	4 258	(203)
Net surplus/(deficit)	(259)	(26)	(234)

In the 2023-24 financial year, the NTEC conducted local government by-elections and fee-for-service elections that generated a total income of \$0.3 million.

Funding was also granted for the preparation and conduct of the 2024 Territory Election. For the 2023-24 financial year, \$1.0 million was allocated for election preparations and \$3.0 million was granted for the 2024-25 financial year for the conduct and completion of the election. Costs beyond the funding provided will be managed through a Treasurer's Advance.

Further to the above, a Treasurer's Advance totalling \$0.4 million was granted in June 2024 for the following activities in the financial year:

- \$0.3 million for the unfunded critical expenditure for the 2024 Territory Election
- \$0.1 million for the 2023 NT Electoral Boundary Redistribution

During the financial year, adjustments were made to the NTEC's original budget to reflect the abovementioned major changes and the Treasurer's Advance, to arrive at the final total expense budget of \$4.3 million.

Variance on actual and budgeted expenses is due to additional resources required for the 2024 Territory Election. This resulted in a deficit of \$0.3 million at the end of the financial year. Over 400 casual staff members were engaged to support the delivery of the 2024 Territory Election.

Certification of the financial statements

We certify that the attached financial statements for the NT Electoral Commission have been prepared based on proper accounts and records in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and with the requirements as prescribed in 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 2024 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.



Kirsten Kelly
Electoral Commissioner
30 August 2024



Rex Schoolmeester
Chief Finance Officer
30 August 2024

Comprehensive operating statement

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2024	2023
		\$000	\$000
INCOME			
Grants and subsidies revenue			
Current			-
Appropriation			
Output	4	2 997	2 061
Sales of goods and services	5	299	419
Goods and services received free of charge	6	904	1 245
Other income	8	1	125
TOTAL INCOME		4 201	3 850
EXPENSES			
Employee expenses	9	2 289	1 892
Administrative expenses			
Property management		18	44
Purchases of goods and services	10	1 190	830
Repairs and maintenance		-	-
Depreciation and amortisation	18,19	57	28
Other administrative expenses ¹		904	1 245
Interest expenses	11	2	-
TOTAL EXPENSES		4 460	4 039
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		(259)	(189)
COMPREHENSIVE RESULT		(259)	(189)

¹ Includes DCDD 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.

Balance sheet

As at 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$000	2023 \$000
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and deposits	13	480	653
Receivables	15	101	97
Total current assets		581	750
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	18	44	-
Intangibles	20	37	63
Total non-current assets		81	63
TOTAL ASSETS		662	813
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Payables	23	218	166
Borrowings and advances – <i>lease liabilities</i>	24	38	-
Provisions	25	252	239
Total current liabilities		508	405
Non-Current liabilities			
Borrowings and advances – <i>lease liabilities</i>	24	6	-
Total Non-Current liabilities		6	
TOTAL LIABILITIES		514	405
NET ASSETS		148	408
EQUITY			
Capital		3 101	3 102
Accumulated funds		(2 953)	(2 694)
TOTAL EQUITY		148	408

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

Statement of changes in equity

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	Note	Equity at 1 July \$000	Comprehensive result \$000	Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners \$000	Equity at 30 June \$000
2023-24					
Accumulated funds		(274)	(259)	-	(3 006)
Transfers from reserves		53	-	-	53
		(2 694)	(259)	-	(2 954)
<Reserves>	28				
Capital – transactions with owners					
Equity injections					
Capital appropriation		17	-	-	17
Equity transfers in		1 257	-	-	1 257
Other equity injections		2 125	-	-	2 125
Equity withdrawals					
Capital withdrawal		(298)	-	-	(298)
Equity transfers out					
		3 101	-	-	3 101
Total equity at end of financial year		407	(259)	-	147
2022-23					
Accumulated funds		(2 558)	(189)	-	(2 747)
Transfers from reserves		53	-	-	53
		(2 505)	(189)	-	(2 694)
<Reserves>	28				
Capital – transactions with owners					
Equity injections					
Capital appropriation		17	-	-	17
Equity transfers in		1 257	-	-	1 257
Other equity injections		1 745	-	380	2 125
Equity withdrawals					
Capital withdrawal		(298)	-	-	(298)
Equity transfers out		-	-	-	-
		2 721		380	3 101
Total equity at end of financial year		216	(189)	380	407

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

Cash flow statement

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2024	2023
			\$000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Operating receipts			
Grants and subsidies received			
Current		-	-
Appropriation			
Output		2 997	2 061
Receipts from sales of goods and services		441	547
Interest received			-
Total operating receipts		3 438	2 608
Operating payments			
Payments to employees		(2 256)	(1 864)
Payments for goods and services		(1 323)	(829)
Grants and subsidies paid			-
Interest paid		(2)	-
Total operating payments		(3 581)	(2 693)
Net cash from/(used in) operating activities	14	(143)	(85)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Financing receipts			
Deposits received			-
Equity Injections		-	380
Total financing receipts		-	380
Financing payments			
Finance lease payments		(30)	-
Total financing payments		(30)	-
Net cash from/(used in) financing activities		(30)	380
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		(173)	295
Cash at beginning of financial year		653	358
CASH AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	13	480	653

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

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Notes of financial statements

1. Objectives and funding

The Northern Territory Electoral Commission (the NTEC) is an independent government agency responsible for the impartial conduct of Legislative Assembly and local government elections in accordance with legislative requirements. The NTEC also conducts fee-for-service elections including enterprise agreement ballot services.

The NTEC is funded through an annual appropriation. The financial statements encompass all funds through which the NTEC controls resources to carry on its functions and deliver outputs. For reporting purposes, outputs delivered by the NTEC 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 a Legislative Assembly general election, the NTEC seeks budget output appropriation for the event supplemented by a Treasurer's Advance if necessary. Legislative Assembly by-elections are unscheduled and funded through supplement appropriation (Treasurer's Advance). For local government general elections, councils are invoiced after the event for the cost of the election. Where the NTEC conducts a by-election for a council, the cost includes a 15 per cent corporate overhead in addition to the marginal cost with the council invoiced after the event. The financial statements encompass all funds through which the NTEC 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 the 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 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 2023-24 financial year

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 adopted early for 2023-24 financial year.

Several amendments interpretations have been issued that apply to future reporting periods but are considered to have no or minimal impact on public sector reporting.

c) Reporting entity

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

The NTEC has no controlled entities.

d) NTEC and Territory items

The financial statements of the NTEC include income, expenses, assets, liabilities and equity over which the NTEC has control (agency items) and is able to utilise to further its own objectives. Certain items, while managed by the NTEC, are administered and recorded by the Territory rather than the 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 the NTEC's financial statements.

e) Comparatives

Where necessary, comparative information for the 2022-23 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 \$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 the 2023-24 financial year as a result of management decisions.

h) Accounting judgments and estimates

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

There were no material changes adopted during 2023-24.

i) Contributions by and distributions to government

The NTEC may receive contributions from government where the government is acting as owner of the NTEC. Conversely, the 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.

3. Comprehensive operating statement by output group

	Note	Electoral Services		Corporate and Governance		Total	
		2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
		\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
INCOME							
Grants and subsidies revenue							
Current		-	-	-	-	-	-
Appropriation							
Output	4	2 997	2 061	-	-	2 997	2 061
Sales of goods and services	5	299	419	-	-	299	419
Interest revenue		-	-	-	-	-	-
Goods and services received free of charge	6	-	-	904	1 245	904	1 245
Other income	8	1	125	-	-	1	125
TOTAL INCOME		3 297	2 606	904	1 245	4 201	3 850
EXPENSES							
Employee expenses	9	2 138	1 729	151	163	2 289	1 892
Administrative expenses							
Property management		18	44	-	-	18	44
Purchases of goods and services	10	1 173	814	17	16	1 190	830
Repairs and maintenance		-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation and amortisation	18,19	57	28	-	-	57	28
Other administrative expenses ¹		-	-	904	1 245	904	1 245
Interest expenses	11	2	-	-	-	2	-
TOTAL EXPENSES		3 388	2 615	1 072	1 424	4 460	4 039
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		(91)	(9)	(168)	(179)	(259)	(189)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME							
		-	-	-	-	-	-
COMPREHENSIVE RESULT		(91)	(9)	(168)	(179)	(259)	(189)

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

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

The NT Electoral Commission is predominantly funded by parliamentary appropriations for the provision of outputs. Outputs are the services provided or goods produced by an agency for users external to the agency. They support the delivery of the agency's objectives and or statutory responsibilities. The above table disaggregates revenue and expenses that enable delivery of services by output group which form part of the balances of the NTEC.

4. Appropriation

Appropriation recorded in the operating statement includes output appropriation and commonwealth appropriation received for the delivery of services.

NTEC did not receive Commonwealth appropriation for the 2023-24 or 2022-23 financial years.

	2024			2023		
	\$000 Revenue from contracts with customers	\$000 Other	\$000 Total	\$000 Revenue from contracts with customers	\$000 Other	\$000 Total
Output	-	2 997	2 997	-	2 061	2 061
Total appropriation in the operating statement	-	2 997	2 997	-	2 061	2 061

Appropriation recorded in the cashflow statement includes capital appropriation and commonwealth capital appropriation received for the delivery of assets to be retained by the agency.

The NTEC did not receive capital appropriation and Commonwealth capital appropriation for 2023-24 and 2022-23 financial years.

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, the transaction is accounted for under AASB 15 as revenue from contracts with customers. In this case, 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.

The NTEC, through output appropriation, provides election management services to the people of the Northern Territory.

a) Summary of changes to budget appropriations

The following table presents changes to budgeted appropriations authorised during the current financial year together with explanations for significant changes. It compares the amounts originally identified in the *Appropriation (2023-2024) Act 2023* with revised appropriations as reported in *2024-25 Budget Paper No. 3 Agency Budget Statements* and the final end of year appropriation.

The changes within this table relates only to appropriation and do not include agency revenue (for example, goods and services revenue and grants received directly by the agency) or expenditure. Refer to *Note 34 Budgetary information* for detailed information on variations to the agency's actual outcome compared to budget for revenue and expenses.

	Original 2023-24 budget appropriation (a)	Revised 2023-24 budget appropriation (b)	Change to budget appropriation (c) (b-a)	Note (f)	Final 2023-24 budget appropriation (d)	Change to budget appropriation (e) (d-b)	Note (f)
	\$000	\$000	\$000		\$000	\$000	
Output	1 597	1 597	-		2 997	1 400	1
Total appropriation	1 597	1 597	-		2 997	1 400	

¹ Increase in output relates to Cabinet funding and Treasurer's Advance to support the 2024 Territory Election.

Output and capital appropriations reflect funding as a direct result of government-approved decisions, with actual funding received by the NTEC in line with the budgeted amounts.

5. Sales of goods and services

	2024			2023		
	\$000 Revenue from contracts with customers	\$000 Other	\$000 Total	\$000 Revenue from contracts with customers	\$000 Other	\$000 Total
Conduct of local government elections	243	-	243	310	-	310
Non-voter fines	17	-	17	66	-	66
Election services - other	39	-	39	43	-	43
Total sales of goods and services	299	-	299	419	-	419

Rendering of services

Revenue from rendering of services is recognised when the agency satisfies the performance obligation by transferring the promised services. The NTEC typically satisfies its performance obligations when election services are performed, with payments typically due a month after the conclusion of the service.

The 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 the NTEC satisfies its performance obligation when election services are performed, with payments typically due a month after the conclusion of the services.

In 2023-24, sales of goods and services for the NTEC primarily relate to income for conducting local government elections. Other sources of income were non-voter fines and other fee-for-service elections including enterprise agreement ballots.

Sales of goods and services accounted as 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.

	2024	2023
	\$000	\$000
Type of good and service:		
Service delivery	299	419
Total revenue from contracts with customers by good or service	299	419
Type of customer:		
Australian Government entities	1	2
State and Territory governments	255	349
Non-government entities	43	68
Total revenue from contracts with customers by type of customer	299	419
Timing of transfer of goods and services:		
Overtime		-
Point in time	299	419
Total revenue from contracts with customers by timing of transfer	299	419

6. Goods and services received free of charge

	2024	2023
	\$000	\$000
Corporate and information services	903	1 244
Repairs and maintenance	1	1
	904	1 245

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 incurred on the NTEC's assets and costs associated with administration of these expenses are centralised and in the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics on behalf of the NTEC, and form part of goods and services received free of charge by the NTEC.

In addition, the following corporate services staff and functions are centralised and provided by Department of Corporate and Digital Development on behalf of the agency and form part of goods and services received free of charge by the agency:

- financial services including accounts receivable, accounts payable and payroll
- employment and workforce services
- information management services
- procurement services
- property leasing services.

7. Gain on disposal of assets

The NTEC has no gain on disposal of assets in 2023-24 and in 2022-23.

8. Other income

	2024			2023		
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
	Revenue from contracts with customers	Other	Total	Revenue from contracts with customers	Other	Total
Miscellaneous revenue	-	1	1	-	125	125
Total other income	-	1	1	-	125	125

Miscellaneous revenue

Miscellaneous revenue includes reimbursements from other NTG agencies and external parties. Where funding is received for agreements that are enforceable and contain sufficiently specific performance obligations for the agency to transfer goods or services to the grantor or third-party beneficiary, the transaction is accounted for under AASB 15 as revenue from contracts with customers. Where this criteria is not met, revenue is generally accounted for under AASB 1058 and income is generally recognised upfront on receipt of funding.

NTEC's other income in 2023-24 comprise of:

- recovery of other election related costs
- Fringe benefit tax refund

9. Employee benefits expense

	2024	2023
	\$000	\$000
Salaries and wages	1 952	1 628
Superannuation expenses	217	165
Workers compensation	-	-
Fringe benefits tax	-	-
Payroll tax	120	99
Total employee benefits expense	2 289	1 892

The number of full-time equivalent employees for 2023-24 was 16 (2022-23: 12).

Salaries and wages are recognised in the reporting period when the employee renders services to the Territory Government. It includes recreation leave, labour hire costs, allowances and other benefits, which are recognised in the reporting period when employees are entitled to the benefit or when incurred.

The recognition and measurement policy for employee benefits is detailed in Note 23: Payables and Note 25: Provisions.

10. Purchases of goods and services

	2024	2023
	\$000	\$000
The net surplus/(deficit) has been arrived at after charging the following expenses:		
Goods and services expenses:		
Consultants ¹	142	23
Advertising ²	17	7
Marketing and promotion ³	190	58
Document production	24	59
Legal Expenses	6	-
Agent service arrangements	122	175
Training and study	6	3
Official duty fares	62	95
Accommodation	63	32
Travelling allowance	20	20
Audit fees	-	27
Motor Vehicle Expenses	10	10
Information technology charges and communications	73	99
Information technology hardware and software	172	54
Air, bus and boat charter	61	78
Other ⁴	222	90
	1 190	830

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.

⁴ Prior year purchases category 'other' further disaggregated to complete comparative data for the current year.

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.

11. Interest expenses

	2024	2023
	\$000	\$000
Interest from lease liabilities	2	-
Interest from loans and advances	-	-
Interest from service concession liabilities	-	-
Total interest expenses	2	-

Interest expenses for NTEC relates to lease liabilities in accordance with AASB 16.

NTEC did not incur interest expense in 2022-23.

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

NTEC had no write-offs, postponements, waivers, and gifts or ex gratia payments for the year ended 30 June 2024.

Write-off

Write-offs reflect the removal from accounting records the value of public money or public property owing to, or loss sustained by the Territory or agency. It refers to circumstance where the Territory or an agency has made all attempts to pursue the debt, however, is deemed irrecoverable due to reasons beyond the Territory or an agency's control. Write-offs result in no cash outlay and are accounted for under 'Other administrative expenses' in the Comprehensive Operating Statement.

Waiver

Waivers reflect the election to forego a legal right to recover public money or receive public property. Once agreed with and communicated to the debtor, it will have the effect of extinguishing the debt and renouncing the right to any future claim on that public money or public property. Waivers result in no cash outlay, and are accounted for under 'Current grants and subsidies expense' in the Comprehensive Operating Statement.

Postponement

A postponement is a deferral of a right to recover public money or receipt of public property from its due date. This has no effect on revenues or expenses recognised but may affect cash inflows or assets in use.

Gifts

A gift is an asset or property, deemed surplus to government's requirements, transferred to a suitable recipient, without receiving any consideration or compensation, and where there is no constructive or legal obligation for the transfer. Gifted property is accounted under 'Other administrative expenses' in the Comprehensive Operating Statement.

Ex gratia

Ex gratia payments or act-of-grace payments are gratuitous payments where no legal obligation exists. All ex gratia payments are approved by the Treasurer. Ex gratia payments result in cash outlay and are accounted for under 'Purchases of goods and services' in the Comprehensive Operating Statement.

13. Cash and deposits

	2024	2023
		\$000
Cash on hand	-	-
Cash at bank	480	653
	480	653

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 22.

14. Cash flow reconciliation

a) Reconciliation of cash

The total of agency 'Cash and deposits' of \$480 000 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

	2024	2023
		\$000
Net surplus/deficit	(259)	(189)
<i>Non-cash items:</i>		
Depreciation and amortisation	57	28
<i>Changes in assets and liabilities:</i>		
(Increase)/decrease in receivables	(4)	(60)
Increase/(decrease) in payables	51	112
Increase in provision for employee benefits	5	19
Increase in other provisions	9	5
Net cash (used in) / from operating activities	(143)	(85)

b) Reconciliation of liabilities arising from financing activities

2024

	Cash flows				Other	
	Loans and advances	Equity injections/ withdrawals	Lease liabilities repayments	Other	Total other	30 June
1 July						
\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Borrowings and advances	-	-	(30)	75	75	44
Provisions	-	-	-	13	-	252
Equity injections/ withdrawals	380	-	-	-	-	380
Total	-	-	(30)	13	75	676

2023

	Cash flows				Other	
	Loans and advances	Equity injections/ withdrawals	Lease liabilities repayments	Other	Total other	30 June
1 July						
\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Borrowings and advances	-	-	-	-	-	-
Provisions	216	-	-	23	-	239
Equity injections/ withdrawals	-	380	-	-	-	380
Total	-	380	-	23	-	619

c) Non-cash financing and investing activities

Lease transactions

During the financial year, the agency recorded right-of-use asset for the lease of a storage facility with an aggregate value of \$75,000 (the NTEC did not have right-of-use asset in 2022-23).

15. Receivables

	2024	2023
	\$000	\$000
Current		
Accounts receivable	7	85
Less: loss allowance	(5)	(6)
	<u>2</u>	<u>79</u>
Accrued contract revenue	-	-
Interest receivables	-	-
GST receivables	28	3
Prepayments	45	-
Other receivables	26	15
	<u>99</u>	<u>18</u>
Total receivables	<u>101</u>	<u>97</u>

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.

The NTEC did not have accrued contract revenue in the 2023-24 financial year.

Prepayments

Prepayments represent payments made in advance of receipt of goods and services. Prepayments are recognised on an accrual basis and amortised over the period in which the economic benefits from these assets are received.

Prepayments for 2023-24 relate to expenditure for the 2024 Territory Election.

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 *Financial Management Act 1995*, receivables are written off when based on demonstrated actions to collect, there is no reasonable expectation of recovery for reasons beyond the agency's control.

The loss allowance for receivables at reporting date represents the amount of receivables the agency estimates is likely to be uncollectable and is considered doubtful. Ageing analysis and reconciliation of loss allowance for receivables as at the reporting date are disclosed below.

Internal receivables reflect amounts owing from entities controlled by the Northern Territory Government such as other agencies, government business divisions and government owned corporations. External receivables reflect amounts owing from third parties which are external to the Northern Territory Government.

Loss allowance for receivables

	2024				2023			
	Gross receivables	Loss rate	Expected credit losses	Net receivables	Gross receivables	Loss rate	Expected credit losses	Net receivables
	\$000	%	\$000	\$000	\$000	%	\$000	\$000
Internal receivables								
Not overdue	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Overdue for less than 30 days	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Overdue for 30 to 60 days	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Overdue for more than 60 days	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total external receivables	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
External receivables								
Not overdue	-	-	-	-	70	-	-	70
Overdue for less than 30 days	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	5
Overdue for 30 to 60 days	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Overdue for more than 60 days	7	67.7	(5)	2	8	75	6	2
Total external receivables	7	67.7	(5)	2	83	-	-	77

Total amounts disclosed exclude statutory amounts and prepayments as these do not meet the definition of a financial instrument and therefore will not reconcile the receivables note. It also excludes accrued contract revenue where no loss allowance has been provided.

Reconciliation of loss allowance for receivables

	2024	2023
	\$000	\$000
Internal receivables		
Opening balance	2	2
Written off during the year	-	-
Recovered during the year	(2)	-
Increase/decrease in allowance recognised in profit or loss	-	-
Total internal receivables	-	2
External receivables		
Opening balance	83	83
Written off during the year	-	-
Recovered during the year	(75)	-
Increase/decrease in allowance recognised in profit or loss	(1)	-
Total external receivables	7	83

16. Advances and investments

The NTEC had no advances paid, equity accounted investments and investments in shares for the 2023-24 and 2022-23 financial year.

17. Other financial assets

a. Agency as a lessor

The NTEC does not have any finance lease or sublease arrangements.

b. Contract cost asset

For the 2023-24 and 2022-23 financial years, no costs were capitalised as a contract cost asset.

18. Property, plant and equipment

a) Total property, plant and equipment

	2024	2023
	\$000	\$000
Plant and equipment		
At cost	1 229	1 229
Less: accumulated depreciation	(1 229)	(1 229)
	-	-
Leased property, plant and equipment ¹		
At capitalised cost	75	-
Less: accumulated depreciation	(31)	-
	44	-
Total property, plant and equipment	44	-

¹ NTEC has no concessionary leases

Reconciliation of carrying amount of property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment includes right-of-use assets under AASB 16 Leases. A reconciliation of the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end year is set out below:

2024	Plant and equipment \$000	Leased property, plant and equipment \$000	Total \$000
Carrying amount as at 1 July	-	-	-
Additions	-	75	75
Disposals	-	-	-
Depreciation expense / amortisation expense		(51)	(51)
Carrying amount as at 30 June	-	24	24

2023	Plant and equipment \$000	Leased property, plant and equipment \$000	Total \$000
Carrying amount as at 1 July	2	-	2
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
Depreciation expense / amortisation expense	(2)	-	(2)
Carrying amount as at 30 June	-	-	-

Acquisitions

Property, plant and equipment are initially recognised at cost.

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.

Complex assets

A physical non-financial asset capable of disaggregation into separate and identifiable significant components which have different useful lives. The components may be replaced during the useful life of the complex asset.

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 the NTEC's 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 the NTEC.

Revaluations and impairment

Plant and equipment are stated at historical cost less depreciation, 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 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:

	2024	2023
Plant and equipment	3-6 years	3-6 years

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

The estimated useful lives disclosed above includes the useful lives of right-of-use assets under AASB 16. For further detail, refer to Note 19.

19. The NTEC as a lessee

The NTEC leases office accommodation, vehicles and storage facilities. Lease contracts vary in lease terms and extension options. Lease terms are negotiated on an individual basis and are based on the standard memorandum of common provisions. The lease agreements do not impose any covenants. The NTEC does not provide residual value guarantees in relation to leases.

Extension and termination options are only included in the lease term for measurement of the lease liability if the lease is reasonably certain to be extended. The majority of extension and termination options held are exercisable only by the NTEC and not by the respective lessor. In determining the lease term, management considers all facts and circumstances that create an economic incentive to exercise an extension option, or not exercise a termination option. Extension options (or periods after termination options) are only included in the lease term if the lease is reasonably certain to be extended (or not terminated).

Potential future cash outflows of \$80 000 relating to a 2 year option have not been included in the lease liability because it is not reasonably certain the leases will be extended (or not terminated). The assessment is reviewed if a significant event or a significant change in circumstances occurs that affects this assessment and is within the control of the lessee.

The 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.

Right-of-use asset

The following table presents reconciliation of right-of-use assets included in the carrying amounts of property, plant and equipment at Note 18.

2024	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure	Plant and equipment	Total
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Balance as at 1 July	-	-	-	-	-
Additions	-	75	-	-	75
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation/amortisation expense	-	(31)	-	-	(31)
Revaluation increments/decrements including remeasurement	-	-	-	-	-
Impairment losses	-	-	-	-	-
Impairment losses reversed	-	-	-	-	-
Other movements (Lease incentives)	-	-	-	-	-
Carrying amount as at 30 June	-	44	-	-	44

The NTEC had no right-of-use asset as at 30 June 2023.

The following amounts were recognised in the statement of comprehensive income for the year in respect of leases where the NTEC is the lessee:

	2024	2023
	\$000	\$000
Depreciation expense of right-of-use assets	31	-
Interest expense on lease liabilities	2	-
Expense relating to short-term leases	5	-
Expense relating to leases of low-value assets	-	-
Variable lease payments, not included in the measurement of lease liabilities	-	-
Intergovernmental leases	-	-
Income from subleasing right-of-use assets	-	-
Gains or losses arising from sale and leaseback transactions	-	-
Total amount recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement	38	-

Recognition and measurement

The NTEC assesses at contract inception whether a contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration and hence contains a lease.

The NTEC recognises lease liabilities representing an obligation to make lease payments and right-of-use assets representing the right to use the underlying assets, except for short-term leases and leases of low-value assets.

The NTEC recognises right-of-use assets at the commencement date of the lease (the date the underlying asset is available for use). Right-of-use assets are initially measured at the amount of initial measurement of the lease liability, adjusted by any lease payments made at or before the commencement date and lease incentives.

If ownership of the leased asset transfers to the agency at the end of the lease term or the cost reflects the exercise of a purchase option, depreciation is calculated using the estimated useful life of the asset.

Right-of-use assets are subsequently measured at fair value which approximates costs except for those arising from leases that have significantly below-market terms and conditions principally to enable the department to further its objectives and are also subject to impairment.

Right-of-use assets are subject to remeasurement principles consistent with the lease liability. This includes applying indexation and market rent review. Right-of-use assets are also revalued where a trigger or event may indicate their carrying amount does not equal fair value.

20. Intangibles

a) Total intangibles

	2024	2023
	\$000	\$000
Intangibles with a finite useful life		
Computer software		
Gross carrying amount	262	262
Less: accumulated amortisation	(225)	(199)
Carrying amount at 30 June	37	63
Total intangibles	37	63

Intangible assets for the NTEC are comprised of computer software.

Intangible assets for the 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:

	2024	2023
Computer software	10 years	10 years

Due to the method of valuation of the NTEC's assets, no assessment for impairment was deemed necessary as at 30 June 2024, and therefore, no impairment adjustments were required.

b) Reconciliation of carrying amount of intangibles

2024		
	Computer software	Total
	\$000	\$000
Intangibles with a finite useful life	63	63
Carrying amount at 1 July	-	-
Additions	-	-
Disposals	(26)	(26)
Amortisation		
Revaluation increments/decrements		
Carrying amount as at 30 June	37	37
2023		
	Computer software	Total
	\$000	\$000
Intangibles with a finite useful life	90	90
Carrying amount at 1 July	90	90
Additions	-	-
Disposals	-	-
Amortisation	(26)	(26)
Revaluation increments/decrements	-	-
Carrying amount as at 30 June	63	63

21. Assets held for sale

Assets 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. This condition is regarded as met only when the asset is available for immediate sale or granting in their present condition and the sale is highly probable. Management must be committed to the sale or grant agreement, which should be expected to qualify for recognition as a completed sale 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, and are not subject to depreciation.

The NTEC had no assets held for sale in 2023-24 and 2022-23.

22. Deposits held

	2024	2023
	\$000	\$000
Accountable officer's trust account	-	-
Clearing money	-	-
Total deposits held	-	-

Deposits held mainly comprise Accountable Officer's Trust Account (AOTA) of clearing money.

Accountable Officer's Trust Accounts hold trust monies established under legislations held by the agency on behalf of others for a specific purpose and not for use in operations of government. These include nomination fees for elections, which are refunded to the payee or transferred to the Central Holding Authority. There is no balance in the AOTA as at 30 June 2024.

Clearing money is public money in transit that is payable to another entity. These funds typically do not contribute to the operations of the agency. The NTEC does not have clearing money accounts.

23. Payables

	2024	2023
	\$000	\$000
Accounts payable	134	112
Accrued salaries and wages	55	34
Accrued expenses	29	20
Total payables	218	166

Liabilities for accounts payable and other amounts payable are carried at amortised 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.

Salaries and wages that are expected to be settled wholly within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the service are recognised and measured at the amounts expected to be paid.

24. Lease liabilities

	2024	2023
	\$000	\$000
Current		
Lease liabilities	38	-
Non-current		
Lease liabilities	6	-
Total lease liabilities	44	-

At the commencement date of the lease where NTEC is the lessee, NTEC recognises lease liabilities measured at the present value of lease payments to be made over the lease term.

Variable lease payments which depend on an index or a rate are included in the lease liabilities, otherwise, are recognised as expenses (unless they are incurred to produce inventories) in the period in which the event or condition that triggers the payment occurs.

Lease payments are discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease. If that rate cannot be readily determined, which is generally the case for the agency's leases, the Northern Territory Treasury Corporation's institutional bond rate is used as the incremental borrowing rate.

After the commencement date, the amount of lease liabilities is increased to reflect the accretion of interest and reduced for the lease payments made. In addition, the carrying amount of lease liabilities is remeasured if there is a modification, a change in the lease term, a change in the lease payments (such as changes to future payments resulting from a change in an index or rate used to determine such lease payments) or a change in the assessment of an option to purchase the underlying asset.

The following table presents liabilities under leases.

	2024	2023
	\$000	\$000
Balance at 1 July		
Additions/remeasurements	75	-
Interest expenses	2	-
Payments	(30)	-
Balance at 30 June	47	-

The NTEC had total cash outflows for leases of \$0.03 million in 2023-24 (NIL in 2022-23).

Future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable leases not recorded as liability are as follows:

	2024		2023	
	Internal \$000	External \$000	Internal \$000	External \$000
Within one year	-	5	-	-
Later than one year and not later than five years	-	-	-	-
Later than five years	-	-	-	-
	-	5	-	-

25. Provisions

	2024	2023
	\$000	\$000
Current		
<i>Employee benefits</i>		
Recreation leave	191	190
Leave loading	20	18
<i>Other current provisions</i>	-	-
Other provisions	41	31
	252	239
Total provisions	252	239

Employee benefits

Provision for employee benefits include wages and salaries and recreation leave accumulated as a result of employees rendering services up to the reporting date. Liabilities arising in respect of recreation leave and other employee benefit liabilities that fall due within 12 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 12 months of the reporting date are measured at present value of estimated future cash flows, calculated using the appropriate government bond rate and taking into consideration expected future salary and wage levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service.

All recreation leave is classified as a current liability.

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

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

- wages and salaries, non-monetary benefits, recreation leave 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 the 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 the NTEC's financial statements.

26. Other liabilities

The NTEC has no financial guarantee contracts, unearned contract revenue, unearned capital grants liability and unearned service concession liabilities for the 2023-24 and 2022-23 financial years.

27. Commitments

Commitments represent future obligations or cash outflows that can be reliably measured and arise out of a contractual arrangement and typically binds the agency to performance conditions. Commitments are not recognised as liabilities on the balance sheet.

Commitments may extend over multiple reporting periods and may result in payment of compensation or return of funds if obligations are breached.

Internal commitments reflect commitments with entities controlled by the Northern Territory Government such as other agencies, government business divisions and government owned corporations. External commitments reflect those to third parties which are external to the Northern Territory Government.

Disclosures in relation to capital and other commitments are detailed over the page.

a) Capital expenditure commitments

NTEC had no capital expenditure commitments for 2023-24 and 2022-23.

b) Other non-cancellable contract commitments¹

Other non-cancellable contract commitments for the NTEC include the commitment to pay for an IT system (ELAPPS, an electronic certified list). This contract is expected to be payable as follows:

	2024		2023	
	Internal	External	Internal	External ¹
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Not later than one year	-	79	-	35
Later than one year and not later than five years	-	3	-	81
Later than five years	-	-	-	-
Total capital expenditure commitments (exclusive of GST)	-	82	-	116
Plus: GST recoverable	-	8	-	12
Total capital expenditure commitments (inclusive of GST)	-	90	-	128

¹ Excludes capital and lease commitments, but includes maintenance contracts. Also excludes amounts recognised as unearned revenue in the agency's financial records.

28. 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.

The NTEC had no balance in the reserves as at 30 June 2024 and 30 June 2023.

29. 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.

The NTEC's 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.

30. 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.

The agency's financial instruments include cash and deposits; receivables; payables; and lease liabilities. It excludes statutory receivables arising from taxes including tax receivables, GST input tax credits recoverable, and fines and penalties, which do not meet the definition of financial instruments as per AASB 132 Financial instruments: Presentation.

The 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.

2024	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
Cash and deposits	-	-	480	-	480
Receivables ¹	-	-	2	-	2
Total financial assets	-	-	482	-	482
Payables ¹	-	-	134	-	134
Lease liabilities	-	-	44	-	44
Total financial liabilities	-	-	178	-	178
2023					
Cash and deposits	-	-	653	-	653
Receivables ¹	-	-	79	-	79
Total financial assets	-	-	732	-	732
Payables ¹	-	-	112	-	112
Lease liabilities	-	-	-	-	-
Total financial liabilities	-	-	112	-	112

¹Total amounts disclosed here exclude statutory amounts, prepaid expenses and accrued contract revenue

Categories of financial instruments

Financial assets at amortised cost

Financial assets categorised at amortised cost are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less impairment.

The NTEC's financial assets categorised at amortised cost include cash and deposits and receivables.

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.

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.

The NTEC has limited credit risk exposure (risk of default). In respect of any dealings with organisations external to government, the 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 15.

c) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk the NTEC will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The 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's bank account to meet various current employee and supplier liabilities. The NTEC's exposure to liquidity risk is minimal. Cash injections are available from the Central Holding 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.

Maturity analysis for financial liabilities

2024

	Carrying amount \$000	Less than a year \$000	1 to 5 years \$000	More than 5 years \$000	Total \$000
Liabilities					
Payables ¹	134	134	-	-	134
Lease liabilities	44	39	7	-	46
Total financial liabilities	178	173	7	-	180

¹Amounts disclosed exclude statutory amounts and accruals (such as AOTA, accrued expenses, unearned revenue and provisions), as these do not meet the definition of financial instrument and therefore amounts will not be recognised in the balance sheet.

2023

	Carrying amount \$000	Less than a year \$000	1 to 5 years \$000	More than 5 years \$000	Total \$000
Liabilities					
Payables ¹	112	112	-	-	112
Lease liabilities	-	-	-	-	-
Total financial liabilities	112	112	-	-	112

¹Amounts disclosed exclude statutory amounts and accruals (such as AOTA, accrued expenses, unearned revenue and provisions), as these do not meet the definition of financial instrument and therefore amounts will not be recognised in the balance sheet.

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.

(i) Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rate.

The NTEC is not exposed to interest rate risk as agency financial assets and financial liabilities are non-interest bearing. Lease arrangements are established on a fixed interest rate and therefore do not expose the NTEC to interest rate risk.

(ii) Price risk

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

(iii) Currency risk

Currency risk is the risk that fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates.

The 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.

31. Related parties

i) Related parties

The NTEC is a government administrative entity and is wholly owned and controlled by the Territory 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

Key management personnel of the 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, Kirsten Kelly.

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:

	2024	2023
	\$000	\$000
Short-term benefits	253	259
Post-employment benefits	29	27
Long-term benefits	-	-
Termination benefits	-	-
Total	282	286

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 appropriation.

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

2024

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	292	26	43

2023

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>	143	243	16	30

The NTEC'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.

32. Contingent liabilities and contingent assets

The NTEC had no contingent liabilities or contingent assets in 2023-24 and 2022-23.

33. 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.

34. Budgetary information

Comprehensive operating statement	2023-24 Actual	2023-24 Original budget	Variance	Note
	\$000	\$000	\$000	
INCOME				
Grants and subsidies revenue				
Current	-	-	-	
Appropriation				
Output	2 997	1 597	1 400	1
Sales of goods and services	299	50	249	2
Goods and services received free of charge	904	719	186	
Other income	1			
TOTAL INCOME	4 201	2 366	1 835	
EXPENSES				
Employee expenses	2 289	1 227	1 062	3
Administrative expenses				
Purchases of goods and services	1 190	420	770	3
Property management	18	-	18	
Repairs and maintenance	-	-	-	
Depreciation and amortisation	57	26	31	
Services free of charge	904	719	185	
Other administrative expenses	-	-	-	
Interest expenses	2	-	2	
TOTAL EXPENSES	4 460	2 392	2 068	
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(259)	(26)	(233)	
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	-	-	-	
COMPREHENSIVE RESULT	(259)	(26)	(233)	

Notes:

1. Increase in output relates to additional funding sought for 2024 Territory Election preparations:
 - \$1.0 million in the final budget round
 - \$0.4 million Treasurer's Advance sought at the end of financial year.
2. Primarily relates to cost recoveries in relation to local government by-elections held in the financial year.
3. Increased employee and operational expenditure for 2024 Territory Election preparations.

For election related employee and operational costs: Budget adjustments, followed by a Treasurer's Advance were processed in 2023-24 to align budget capacity with anticipated expenses.

Balance Sheet	2023-24 Actual	2023-24 Original budget	Variance	Note
	\$000	\$000	\$000	
ASSETS				
Current assets				
Cash and deposits	480	358	122	1
Receivables	56	36	20	2
Prepayments	45	-	45	3
Total current assets	581	394	187	
Non-current assets				
Property, plant and equipment	44	1	43	5
Intangibles	37	37		
Total non-current assets	81	38	43	
TOTAL ASSETS	662	432	230	
LIABILITIES				
Current liabilities				
Payables	218	52	166	4
Borrowings and advances- <i>lease liabilities</i>	38	-	38	5
Provisions	252	217	35	6
Total current liabilities	508	269	239	
Non-current liabilities				
Borrowings and advances- <i>lease liabilities</i>	6	-	6	5
Total non-current liabilities	6	-	6	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	514	269	245	
NET ASSETS	148	163	(15)	
EQUITY				
Capital	3 101	2 721	380	1
Reserves	-	-	-	
Accumulated funds	(2 953)	(2 558)	(395)	
TOTAL EQUITY	148	163	(15)	

Notes:

1. Increased employee and operational funding for 2024 Territory Election preparations.
2. Timing of payment of invoices in relation to by-elections.
3. Prepayments relate to expenditure for the 2024 Territory Election.
4. Primarily relates to expenses in relation to 2024 Territory Election preparations.
5. Variation is due to commencement of a finance lease in 2023-24.
6. Higher than anticipated provisions due to higher employee numbers and total entitlement owing.

	2023-24	2023-24		
	Actual	Original	Variance	Note
Cash flow statement	\$000	\$000	\$000	
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Operating receipts				
Grants and subsidies received				
Current	-	-	-	
Appropriation				
Output	2 997	1 597	1 400	1
Receipts from sales of goods and services	441	50	391	2
Interest received	-	-	-	
Total operating receipts	3 438	1 647	1 791	
Operating payments				
Payments to employees	(2 256)	(1 227)	(1 029)	3
Payments for goods and services	(1 323)	(420)	(903)	3
Interest paid	(2)	-	(2)	4
Total operating payments	(3 581)	(1 647)	(1 934)	
Net cash from/(used in) operating activities	(143)	-	(143)	
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Financing receipts				
Equity injections	-	-	-	
Other equity injections	-	-	-	
Total financing receipts	-	-	-	
Financing payments				
Finance lease payments	(30)	-	30	4
Total financing payments	(30)	-	30	
Net cash from/(used in) financing activities	(30)	-	(30)	
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	(173)	-	(173)	
Cash at beginning of financial year	653	358	(295)	
CASH AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	480	358	122	

Notes:

1. Increase in output relates to Cabinet funding and Treasurer's Advance to support the 2024 Territory Election.
2. Primarily relates to income from conducting local government by-elections in the financial year.
3. Increased employee and operational expenditure for 2024 Territory Election preparations.
4. Variation due to commencement of a finance lease in 2023-24.

