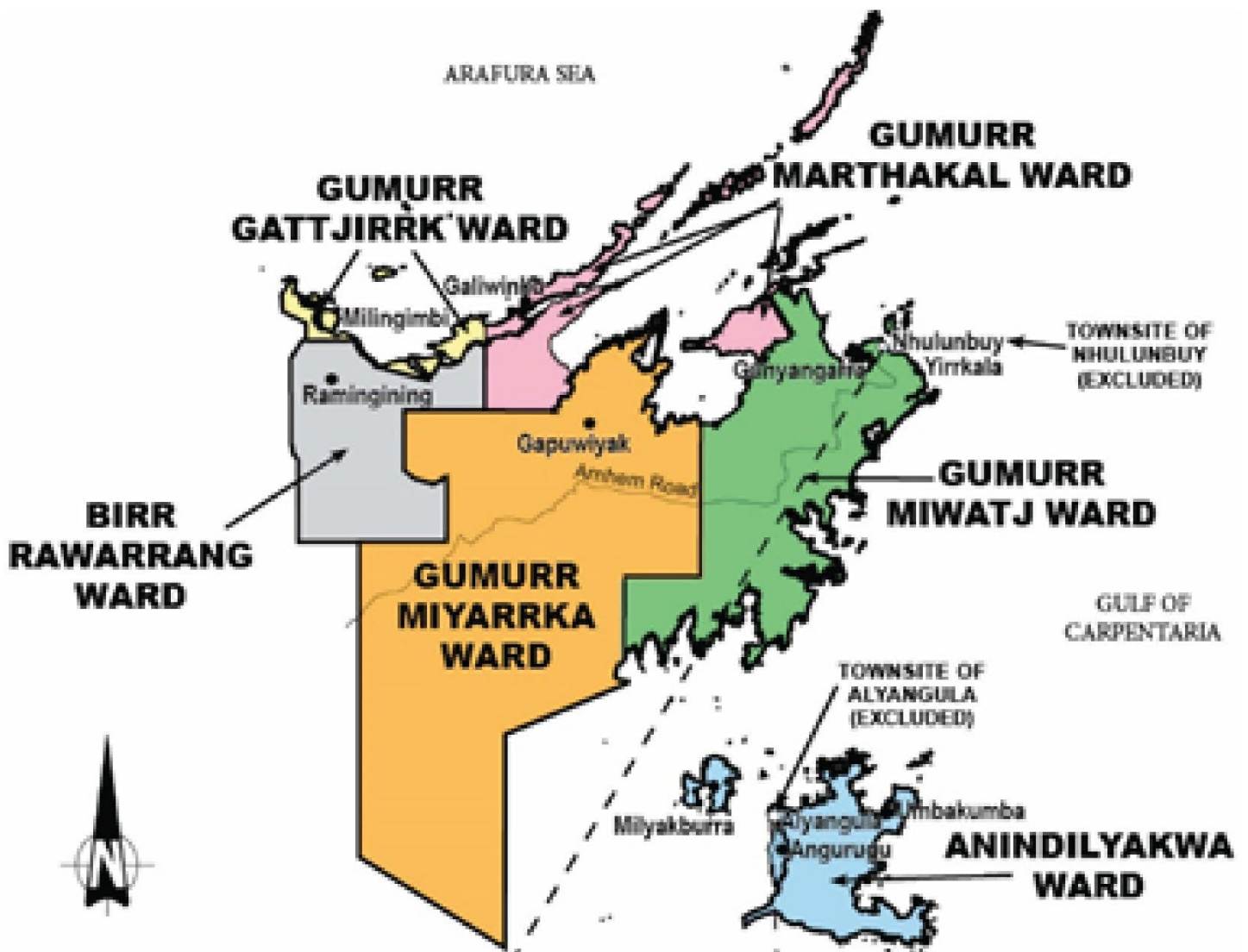


East Arnhem Regional Council Election Report



NTEC version control

2021 Local Government Elections - East Arnhem Regional Council Report

Version Number	Purpose/change	Author	Date
1.0	Final version approved by K. Kelly	K. Kelly NTEC	21/12/2021
1.1	Addition of version control Removal of blank page	M. O'Brien	12/04/2022
1.2	Correction to Background (Service Level Agreement) Correction to Enrolment (2017 enrolment figures)	K. Parker	16/06/2022

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The latest version is accessible via the NTEC website at ntec.nt.gov.au.



Election timetable

2021 Local Government Elections

28 August 2021

Date	Time	
Friday 16 July		Nominations open
Tuesday 27 July	5:00 pm	Electoral roll closes
Thursday 5 August	12:00 noon	Nominations close
Friday 6 August	12:00 noon	Declaration of nominations, draw for position on ballot papers
Monday 9 August		Postal vote mail-out commences
Monday 16 August	8:00 am	Early voting commences Mobile voting commences
Tuesday 24 August	6:00 pm	Overseas postal voting despatches cease
Thursday 26 August	6:00 pm	All postal voting despatches cease
Friday 27 August	6:00 pm	Early voting ceases
Saturday 28 August	6:00 pm	Primary counts of postal, mobile and early votes commence Election day
	8:00 am	Election day voting commences
	6:00 pm	Election day voting ceases Mobile voting ceases Primary counts of ordinary, postal and early votes commence
Monday 30 August	9:00 am	Declaration vote verification checks, commence recheck of all counts
Thursday 2 September	9:00 am	Primary counts of accepted declaration votes, further postal counts
Friday 10 September	12:00 noon	Deadline for receipt of postal votes Final counts of postal votes commence
	6:00 pm	Distribution of preferences
Monday 13 September	10:00 am	Declaration of the election result

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For more information go to www.ntec.nt.gov.au

BACKGROUND

Elections

Election day for the 2021 Local Government Elections was Saturday 28 August. Local government general elections in the Northern Territory cover 17 local government areas and include 60 separate elections for 159 positions. For East Arnhem Regional Council, there were 6 elections to be contested for its 6 wards:

- Anindilyakwa Ward – 2 councillors
- Birr Rawarrang Ward – 2 councillors
- Gumurr Gattjirrk Ward – 2 councillors
- Gumurr Marthakal Ward – 3 councillors
- Gumurr Miwatj Ward – 3 councillors
- Gumurr Miyarrka Ward – 2 councillors

Legislation

This was the first general election under the new *Local Government Act 2019* (which commenced 1 July 2021), with further electoral legislative and regulations changes included in amendments passed in May and June 2021.

The key changes relating to local government elections resulting from these amendments are:

- Changes to declaration voting that allows electors who turn up at a voting centre, but are not enrolled (or are enrolled for an interstate address) to still cast a vote that can be admitted to the count. The declaration envelope acts as an enrolment form which is forwarded to the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) for processing. If the person is able to be enrolled, their vote is added to the count. Previously, declaration votes would result in updated enrolments, but their ballot papers would not be included in the count.
- Financial disclosure requirements were simplified so that only candidates who receive reportable donations and loans are required to complete a return, and disclosure timeframes were generally aligned to those in the *Electoral Act 2004*. (The financial disclosure requirements do not come into effect until 1 July 2022, so were not relevant to the 2021 Local Government Elections.)
- Other amendments included changes to the election timetable and nomination requirements.

Service Charter

The service charter (one document for all councils) provided an overview of service commitments and associated standards that councils could expect from the Northern Territory Electoral Commission (NTEC). The charter also described how councils could assist in the delivery of the elections and thereby offset some of their costs. These are detailed in individual service level agreements that the NTEC had with each council.

Service Level Agreement

For the first time at a local government election in the Northern Territory, NTEC and councils negotiated to trial a new voting option called council delivery centres (CDCs). These were essentially early voting centres that provided ordinary and declaration voting services and were located in council premises in remote communities. The CDCs were managed and staffed by councils, under the supervision of the NTEC. All regional councils were offered the option of council delivery centres and/or mobile voting services to provide voting services to electors in their remote areas.

As part of its service level agreement signed 11 June 2021, East Arnhem Regional Council opted to provide or facilitate the following for its elections:

- voting services in 9 agreed council delivery centres from 23 August 2021 to 26 August 2021
- council staff and premises for the council delivery centres
- council staff training, including the requirement to provide council delivery centre managers face-to-face training by NTEC
- delivery and return to communities of election materials and ballot papers in a secure and safe manner
- security of used and unused ballot papers, ballot boxes, and netbook machines
- mobile voting to minor communities if required in conjunction with NTEC
- driver and vehicle to transport NTEC's remote mobile team to Ngangalala and Yathalamarra from Ramingining
- council owned accommodation (if required) and voting premises at no cost
- pick ups and drop offs at communities where necessary.
- promotion of the election through social media and council sites throughout the council area
- receive and forward nominations to the NTEC for official processing

All other electoral services were provided by the NT Electoral Commission.

BOUNDARY CHANGES

There were no boundary or representative structure changes as a result of the representation review of East Arnhem Regional Council conducted prior to the election.

ENROLMENT

At the close of the electoral roll on Tuesday 27 July at 5:00pm there was a total of 6,170 electors enrolled in East Arnhem Regional Council. This was a 5.0 per cent increase in enrolment from the previous local government general elections in 2017. The enrolment numbers per ward were as follows:

- Anindilyakwa Ward – 871 (down from 892 in 2017)
- Birr Rawarrang Ward – 677 (down from 697 in 2017)
- Gumurr Gattjirrk Ward – 773 (down from 782 in 2017)
- Gumurr Marthakal Ward – 1,558 (up from 1,419 in 2017)
- Gumurr Miwatj Ward – 1,470 (up from 1,352 in 2017)
- Gumurr Miyarrka Ward – 821 (up from 734 in 2017)

East Arnhem Regional Council conducted an enrolment drive using their own staff and resources. NTEC provided the council with the electoral roll of the nine major communities in the council area and received, checked and forwarded to Australian Electoral Commission, all 125 enrolments collected.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

Campaign overview

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

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

In-language radio, TV and social media content was also created to promote the election throughout remote areas and communities in the Territory. Based on recommendations from the Aboriginal Interpreter Service and Aboriginal Broadcasting Australia, content was developed in 9 Aboriginal languages which were geo-targeted to the regions where the languages are spoken.

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

Website

The website for the 2021 Local Government Elections was launched early June and provided comprehensive information for candidates and electors. The site was designed to be the primary source of information for voters about enrolment and voting options, times and locations and results.

For candidates, the site provided information about nominating, campaigning, voting and scrutineering processes.

The following table shows website engagement for the election period (21 June through to 13 September) as well as specific East Arnhem Regional Council results and information page engagement, prior to and post election day.

Total website page views	865,814
East Arnhem councillor results page views (all wards)	1,870
East Arnhem list of councillor candidates	1,375
Other East Arnhem content related page views	846
Total East Arnhem content related page views	4,091

Newsletters



A total of 10 election specific newsletters were emailed to stakeholders including councils and candidates, from 28 May through to 9 September. The newsletters kept stakeholders up to date with topics ranging from nomination information through to details of vote counting. The newsletters were also available on the NTEC website and links were shared on the NTEC's Facebook page.

Advertising – radio, television, social media

NTEC branded advertisements of 15 seconds were developed for radio, television and social media. The advertisements carried simple, concise messages such as: 'check your enrolment', 'are you correctly enrolled?', 'early voting has started', and 'vote now'.

All advertisements promoted the NTEC website as the prime source of information for electors to 'find out more'.

These advertisements were also translated into 9 Aboriginal languages and broadcast on the CAAMA, Aboriginal Broadcasting Australia, Yolngu Radio and TEABBA radio networks throughout the Territory.

In-language versions were also broadcast on Aboriginal Broadcasting Australia TV and ICTV channels and were geo-targeted to their respective language areas on social media.

The stock advertisements were run on social media in conjunction with a series of video logs (vlogs) featuring well-known Territorians such as Charlie King, who promoted key election messages on behalf of the NTEC.

A number of social media advertisements were developed in collaboration with Bellette Media featuring Territorians raising awareness about the elections.

Facebook engagement statistics show that the vlog format advertisements proved highly successful. In total, 8 of the 42 social media advertisements were produced in either a vlog or light-hearted format. Those 8 advertisements accounted for 152,988 video views from the campaign total of 377,810 views.

English language radio advertisements were broadcast on Hot 100 and Mix-FM stations in the Top End and Sun FM and 8HA in Central Australia.

English language television ads were broadcast on Channel 7, Channel 9 and Imparja networks. Placement of the ads was focused on 'event' TV, or high-rating programs and popular sports such as AFL and NRL matches.

In the East Arnhem council area all advertisements were run in Anindilyakwa, Yolgnu Matha, Burarra and English languages.

Direct digital and print advertising

With a large decline in print media options since the 2017 elections, newspaper advertising for the 2021 elections was largely restricted to statutory advertising requirements as prescribed under the Electoral Act. These advertisements ran in the NT News as the Territory's primary, widely-circulated newspaper.

However, mastheads with a digital presence such as Alice Springs News Online, Tennant Creek and District Times and Katherine Times were also engaged for location targeted aspects of the campaign.

Direct digital ad placements on the millennial, tech-savvy audience favourite EA Games platform and NewsXtend proved highly successful in terms of campaign awareness.

From 92,893 video impressions served on EA Games, a view through rate of 89.9 per cent was achieved, or put another way, there were 83,486 complete through plays of the two, 15 second ads run across the campaign.

The NewsXtend platform also served 298,501 impressions Territory-wide and achieved 30,805 fully played video views of awareness advertisements.

The following tables outline relevant statistics for different advertising channels and platforms.

Television

Network	Dates aired	Number of advertisements
Channel 7	04/07/2021 – 28/08/2021	202
Channel 7 Central		228
Channel 9		78
Imparja		127
ICTV*		120
ABA*		124
Total		879

Bold: Channels aired throughout East Arnhem council region
*VAST network

Radio

Network	Dates aired	Number of advertisements
Hot 100	04/07/2021 – 28 08/2021	158
Mix FM		157
CAAMA		168
TEABBA		109
ABA		141
Yolngu Radio		104
Sun FM		104
8HA		104
Bold: Channels aired throughout East Arnhem council area.		Total 1,045

Social Media

Campaign	Reach	Impressions	Click through rate
2021 Local Government Elections – overall	168,472	2,825,293	1.07%*
East Arnhem geo-targeted ads#	8,216	33,609	3.8%

*Industry standard 0.89%

#Includes only ads targeted to run in the East Arnhem council area. Does not include NT wide run ads.

Call centre

A call centre was established on Monday 2 August and ran until 6pm on 28 August, election day. Staff assisted electors with a variety of enquiries related to the election during this period.

Enquiry type	Enquiry numbers
Total phone calls	1,522
Emails to ntec@nt.gov.au	261
Front counter	88
Formal complaints	43

Candidate information sessions

The Local Government Association of the NT (LGANT) contacted every council to offer candidate information sessions which the NTEC would also present at. There were no candidate information sessions held for East Arnhem Regional Council, but online resources for candidates were available from both LGANT and NTEC.

Email and SMS

Electors who have provided either their mobile phone number or email address or both are able to be contacted directly by the NTEC. Those electors in the East Arnhem Regional Council area received 4 messages each before election day. Details of those messages are provided in the table below.

Message	No. of emails sent	Date sent	No. of SMS sent	Date sent
Enrolment	289	19-07-2021	788	22-07-2021
Voting suspended (COVID-19)	24*	16-08-2021	780	16-08-2021
Vote now, early voting (post lockdown)	267	19-08-2021		
Community specific message sent 2 days before remote team visit			721	28-08-2021
Totals	580		2,289	

*Sent only if no SMS contact and if elector had not already voted

Other promotional activities

The NTEC hosted stalls on the show circuit promoting the upcoming 2021 Local Government Elections in Katherine and Darwin only. Stalls were ready to be run in Alice Springs and Tennant Creek but these shows were cancelled due to a COVID-19 lockdown.

VOTING SERVICES

Nominations

Nominations opened Friday 16 July and closed on Thursday 5 August at 12:00 noon. There were a total of 21 accepted nominations for 14 council vacancies. One nomination was rejected due to not being enrolled in the council area.

The declaration of nominations took place at the NTEC Darwin office at 12:00 noon on Friday 6 August. The event was attended by candidates, the general public, council representatives and media. A random number generator selected the ballot paper position for each candidate and results were uploaded onto the NTEC website and Facebook page as soon as the draw was completed.

East Arnhem Regional Council – summary of accepted nominations/candidates

Ward	Nominations
Anindilyakwa Ward (2 vacancies)	Ishmael LALARA
	Elliott BARA
	Constantine MAMARIKA
	Gregson LALARA
	Gordon WALSH

Birr Rawarrang (2 vacancies)	Jason MIRRITJAWUY
	Robert YAWARNGU

Gumurr Gattjirrk (2 vacancies)	Lapulung DHAMARRANDJI
	Joe DJAKALA
	Gilbert ALIMANKINNI

Gumurr Marthakal (3 vacancies)	Kaye THURLOW
	Evelyna DHAMARRANDJI
	David DJALANGI

Gumurr Miwatj (3 vacancies)	Yirmal MARIKA
	Djuwalpi MARIKA
	Banambi WUNUNGMURRA

Gumurr Miyarrka (2 vacancies)	Jason BUTJALA
	Bobby WUNUNGMURRA
	Glenda Gurrulkurruh GARRAWURRA
	Paul Gurumurwuy WUNUNGMURRA
	Wesley Bandi Bandi WUNUNGMURRA

Electronic mark-off

An electronic voter mark-off system is now used in all voting centres across the Northern Territory. The system records when someone has voted anywhere in the NT in real time. Where there is no internet coverage, each netbook stores the voter mark off information until such time as there is internet coverage which allows the netbooks to synchronise and send the information to NTEC offices.

Voting centres are issued paper copies of the certified lists as an emergency backup option in case of complete failure of the electronic mark off system.

The system also prevents multiple voting, as a voter who is marked off electronically in one voting centre or who has completed a postal vote will appear in all voting centres as already voted.

ELECTION

At the close of nominations the number of candidates did not exceed the number of vacancies in the Birr Rawarrang, Gumurr Marthakal and Gumurr Miwatj wards. Therefore, elections were not required for these wards.

Community voting centres

Within the East Arnhem Regional Council early voting services were offered over 4 days across 9 council delivery centres. Some of these were located in the 3 wards that did not have an election due to having the same number of nominations as the number of vacancies, as per the agreement with the council. The table below shows the location of the council delivery centre and the number of votes issued at each one.

Community voting centre statistics – East Arnhem Regional Council

Location	Votes issued
Angurugu	28
Galiwinku*	0
Gapuwiyak	190

Location	Votes issued
Gunyangara*	0
Milingimbi	39
Milyakburra	33
Ramingining*	13
Umbakumba	58
Yirrkala*	0
Total	361

*Located in wards that did not have an election.

Remote mobile voting

Remote voting teams visited the following locations in the lead-up to election day. The teams issued votes for East Arnhem Regional Council only.

Council requested that an NTEC staffed remote voting team visit communities in wards that went to poll as a back-up arrangement for the extended voting services provided at council delivery centres.

Remote mobile voting statistics – East Arnhem Regional Council

Location	Votes issued
Angurugu	30
Datjala Work Camp	0
Gapuwiyak	22
Gove Hospital	1
Malkala	14
Milingimbi	24
Raymangirr	0
Umbakumba	12
Total	103

Postal voting

All electors have the option to postal vote. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, postal voting services were provided to all residents of urban aged care facilities (rather than in-house mobile voting as provided previously) throughout the Territory. As Australia Post could not guarantee the delivery and return of postal votes to overseas addresses within the legislated timeframes, due to the impact of COVID-19 on international flights, no postal votes were sent overseas. The table below provides further details about postal votes for Central Desert Regional Council residents.

Postal voting statistics – East Arnhem Regional Council

Description	Number
Number of postal vote applications received	23
Number of postal votes issued	12
Number of postal vote applications rejected	11

Description	Number
Number of postal votes returned	7
Number of postal votes added to the count	1
Number of postal votes rejected	6

The reasons for rejecting postal vote applications were:

- ward did not go to election (11)

The reasons for rejecting returned postal votes were:

- vote received too late (2)
- returned to sender (2)
- postal vote not signed (1)
- ordinary vote issued (i.e. elector marked off as having voted in person) (1)

Election day voting centres

Election day was Saturday 28 August. There were no election day voting centres for East Arnhem Regional Council as voting was conducted by remote voting teams and council staffed community voting centres.

Declaration votes

A person who cannot be found on the electoral roll, but is entitled to vote, can be issued with a declaration vote after completing and signing a declaration envelope. Their ballot paper is placed in the envelope and a scrutiny of all declaration envelopes commences the day after election day.

Legislative amendments passed in May 2021 created a savings provision that allows eligible electors who are unenrolled at the close of roll date, a chance for their vote to be admitted to the count. During the declaration scrutiny process, all declaration envelopes are forwarded to the AEC and eligible electors are added to the roll using the envelope as an enrolment form. Where voters are unable to be enrolled, their declaration vote is rejected.

For MacDonnell Regional Council the table below shows the declaration votes admitted to the count and those rejected.

Declaration voting statistics – East Arnhem Regional Council

Accepted	Rejected	Total
5	4	9

The main reasons for rejecting declaration votes were:

- declaration envelope/enrolment form not signed (3)
- elector enrolled for a different local government area to the one they completed the ballot paper for (1). Electors must vote for the area they are enrolled in at the close of electoral roll, even if they have since moved to another NT address.

Participation

Turnout for the East Arnhem Regional Council's 3 elections combined was 19.9%, with Anindilyakwa Ward on 20.4% (178 electors out of 871), Gumurr Gatjirrk Ward on 10.6% (82 electors out of 773) and Gumurr Miyarrka Ward on 28.0% (230 electors out of 821). The turnout rate was slightly up from the previous elections in 2017 where the council had a turnout rate of 19.2% (when 4 wards had elections go ahead).

The following table details the total number of vote types for those votes admitted to the count.

Number of votes by voting centre – East Arnhem Regional Council

Voting centre	Number of votes counted	% of total votes
Council delivery centres	363	74.1%
Remote mobile voting teams	110	22.4%
Early (other regions)	7	1.4%
Postal voting	1	0.2%
Declaration voting	4	0.8%
Absent voting	5	1.0%
Total	490	99.9%

Non-voters

There were 1,982 identified non-voters across the 2 wards. The table below shows the age and gender demographics of these non-voters.

Non-voter statistics – East Arnhem Regional Council

Gender	18-29 years	30-49 years	50-69 years	70+ years	Total
Female	214	482	249	59	1,004
Male	231	497	212	37	977
Gender undisclosed		1			1
Total	445	980	461	96	1,982

Informality

Of the 490 ballot papers counted, 19 were considered informal and so not counted. This is an informality rate of 3.9%.

Informal vote statistics – East Arnhem Regional Council

Ballot paper	Intentional	Unintentional	Total
Anindilyakwa Ward	7	3	10
Gumurr Gatjirrk Ward	3	2	5
Gumurr Miyarrka Ward	4	0	4
Total	14	5	19

Voting system

The voting system for local government elections is proportional representation (PR):

- Electors must number all the boxes on their ballot paper sequentially starting with the number one for their first choice.
- First preference votes for each candidate on formal ballot papers are counted, then a quota is calculated.
- The quota is calculated using the following formula: (total number of formal votes / (number of vacancies + 1)) +1.
- The candidates with votes equal to or greater than the quota are elected. If all vacancies are filled, the election is complete.
- If not, preferences are distributed to the other candidates until all vacancies have been filled.

To learn more about the PR system, go to the vote counting page on the NTEC website.

Vote counting – election night

Vote counting began immediately after the close of voting at 6:00pm on election day. First preference votes cast at council delivery centres, remote mobile voting centres, early voting centres and postal votes returned by election day were conducted at the Darwin scrutiny centre.

Post-election night scrutines

- A recheck of votes was undertaken during the week after election day, followed by a count of declaration, absent and further postal votes.
- All votes received for the East Arnhem Regional Councillor positions were entered into an electronic count system (Easy count) and then re-entered for verification purposes.
- Voters that applied for a postal vote were expected to complete their ballot papers by 6:00 pm on election day, Saturday 28 August 2021. Postal ballot papers then had to be received by 12:00 noon, Friday 10 September to be included in the count.
- Determination of the quota and the distribution of preferences took place after the cut-off for the return of postal vote ballot papers. Election results were made available on the results pages of the website on Friday, 10 September 2021.

ELECTION OUTCOMES

There were 21 candidates contesting 14 councillor vacancies. The successful candidates and first preference votes received are detailed in tables below.

Election of 2 councillors – Anindilyakwa Ward

At the close of nominations there were 5 candidates. An election was duly held and the first preference votes were recorded as follows:

Candidate	First preference votes
Ishmael LALARA	17
Elliott BARA	15
Constantine MAMARIKA	44
Gregson LALARA	32
Gordon WALSH	60
Total	168

The quota required under the proportional representation voting system was 57. Following the distribution of preferences, and in accordance with Schedule 1 of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations, the results were as follows:

- **Gordon WALSH** received the quota at count number 1
- **Constantine MAMARIKA** received the quota at count number 2

Gordon WALSH and **Constantine MAMARIKA** were duly elected.

Election of 2 councillors – Birr Rawarrang Ward

At the close of nominations the number of candidates was not more than the number of vacancies and **Jason MIRRITJAWUY** and **Robert YAWARNGU** were duly declared elected.

Election of 2 councillors – Gumurr Gattjirrk Ward

At the close of nominations there were 3 candidates. An election was duly held and the first preference votes were recorded as follows:

Candidate	First preference votes
Lapulung DHAMARRANDJI	40
Joe DJAKALA	14
Gilbert ALIMANKINNI	23
Total	77

The quota required under the proportional representation voting system was 26. Following the distribution of preferences, and in accordance with Schedule 1 of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations, the results were as follows:

- **Lapulung DHAMARRANDJI** received the quota at count number 1
- **Gilbert ALIMANKINNI** received the quota at count number 2

Lapulung DHAMARRANDJI and **Gilbert ALIMANKINNI** were duly elected.

Election of 3 councillors – Gumurr Marthakal Ward

At the close of nominations the number of candidates was not more than the number of vacancies and **Kaye THURLOW**, **Evelyna DHAMARRANDJI** and **David DJALANGI** were duly declared elected.

Election of 3 councillors – Gumurr Miwatj Ward

At the close of nominations the number of candidates was not more than the number of vacancies and **Yirmal MARIKA**, **Djuwalpi MARIKA** and **Banambi WUNUNGMURRA** were duly declared elected.

Election of 2 councillors – Gumurr Miyarrka Ward

At the close of nominations there were 5 candidates. An election was duly held and the first preference votes were recorded as follows:

Candidate	First preferences
Jason BUTJALA	66
Bobby WUNUNGMURRA	46
Glenda Gurrulkurruh GARRAWURRA	24
Paul Gurumurwuy WUNUNGMURRA	43
Wesley Bandi Bandi WUNUNGMURRA	47
Total	226

The quota required under the proportional representation voting system was 76. Following the distribution of preferences, and in accordance with Schedule 1 of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations, the results were as follows:

- **Jason BUTJALA** received the quota at count number 3
- **Bobby WUNUNGMURRA** received the quota at count number 5

Jason BUTJALA and **Bobby WUNUNGMURRA** were duly elected.

Declaration of the election results

The declaration of election results took place at the NTEC office in Darwin at 2:00pm on Monday 13 September 2021.

Declared election results for East Arnhem Regional Council

Ward	Elected Members
Anindilyakwa Ward	Gordon WALSH Constantine MAMARIKA
Birr Rawarrang Ward	Jason MIRRITJAWUY Robert YAWARNGU
Gumurr Gattjirrk Ward	Lapulung DHAMARRANDJI Gilbert ALIMANKINNI
Gumurr Marthakal Ward	Kaye THURLOW Evelyna DHAMARRANDJI David DJALANGI
Gumurr Miwatj Ward	Yirmal MARIKA Djuwalpi MARIKA Banambi WUNUNGMURRA
Gumurr Miyarrka Ward	Jason BUTJALA Bobby WUNUNGMURRA

A copy of the full distribution of preferences is available on the 2021 Local Government Elections [results page](#) of the website.

ELECTION COSTS

Estimate of Cost – East Arnhem Regional Council

Election area	Estimated cost
Public Awareness	\$13,375
Staffing	\$49,517
Operational	\$81,663
Sub total	\$144,555
10% GST	\$14,455
Total estimated cost	\$159,010

Actual Costs – East Arnhem Regional Council

Election area	Actual cost
Public Awareness	\$8,643
Staffing	\$49,420
Operational	\$31,372
Sub total	\$89,435
10% GST	\$8,944
Total actual cost	\$98,379

The estimate was prepared in December 2019 and assumed all wards would have an elections and that all communities would be provided with remote voting services only (not council delivery centres). The reduction in cost reflects the wards not requiring an election and cost savings achieved by council provided a CDC service in 9 communities.

ISSUES OF NOTE

- A men's ceremony at Gapuwiyak affected voting participation in that community. A men's ceremony in Ramingining affected participation in Milingimbi and Raymangirr. A men's ceremony near Numbulwar affected participation in the Groote Eylandt communities.
- A team leader reported that as a result of the men's ceremony as many as 40% of community members in Milingimbi were away and the outstation of Raymangirr was deserted.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- It is recommended that council staffed council delivery centres offering extended voting service be considered again for future council elections.
- Council to consider whether a CDC service be provided in communities where the ward does not require an election.
- NTEC staffed remote voting teams are not required to visit major communities where council delivery centres offer an extended voting service.
- Noting that only half the wards required an election and acknowledging the work to promote candidacy by Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) and Local Government and Regional Development Local Government further strategies could be considered with the objective of increasing the number of candidates.