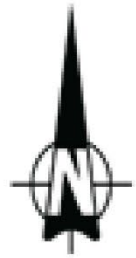


# West Arnhem Regional Council Election Report



MINJILANG WARD



WEST ARNHEM

GUNBALANYA WARD

MANINGRIDA WARD

KAKADU WARD



## NTEC version control

### 2021 Local Government Elections - West Arnhem Regional Council Report

Version Number	Purpose/change	Author	Date
1.0	Final version approved by K. Kelly	K. Kelly NTEC	01/02/2022
1.1	Addition of version control	M. O'Brien	12/04/2022

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## 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 <b>Election day</b>
	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

## INDEX

<b>BACKGROUND -3/8/21</b> .....	1
Elections .....	1
Legislation.....	1
Service Charter.....	1
Service Level Agreement.....	1
<b>BOUNDARY CHANGES</b> .....	2
<b>ENROLMENT</b> .....	2
<b>PUBLIC AWARENESS</b> .....	2
Campaign overview .....	2
Website .....	3
Newsletters .....	3
Advertising – radio, television, social media.....	3
Direct digital and print advertising .....	4
Television.....	4
Social media.....	5
Call centre.....	5
Email and SMS .....	5
Other promotional activities.....	6
<b>VOTING SERVICES</b> .....	6
Nominations .....	6
Electronic mark-off .....	7
<b>ELECTION</b> .....	7
Council delivery centres .....	7
Early voting.....	7
Remote mobile voting .....	8
Mobile voting – urban institutions .....	8
Postal voting .....	8
Declaration voting.....	9
Election day voting centres – absent voting.....	10
Participation .....	10
Non-voters .....	10
Informality .....	11
Voting system .....	11
Vote counting – election night.....	11
Post-election night scrutines .....	11
<b>ELECTION OUTCOMES</b> .....	12
Election of 3 councillors – Gunbalanya Ward .....	12
Election of 3 councillors – Kakadu Ward .....	12
Election of 4 councillors – Maningrida Ward.....	13
Election of 1 councillor – Minjilang Ward .....	13
Election of 1 councillor – Warruwi Ward .....	14
<b>ELECTION COSTS</b> .....	15
<b>POST-ELECTION DEBRIEF</b> .....	15
<b>ISSUES OF NOTE</b> .....	15
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b> .....	16

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## **BACKGROUND -3/8/21**

### **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 West Arnhem Regional Council, there were 5 elections to be contested for its 5 wards:

- Gunbalanya Ward – 3 councillors
- Kakadu Ward – 3 councillors
- Maningrida Ward – 4 councillors
- Minjilang Ward – 1 councillor
- Warruwi Ward – 1 councillor.

### **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 July 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 3 August 2021, West Arnhem Regional Council opted to provide or facilitate the following for its elections:

- voting services in agreed council delivery centres from 23 to 26 August 2021
- council staff and premises for the council delivery centres

- council staff 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
- 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
- receipt and forwarding of nominations to the NTEC for official processing.

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

## **BOUNDARY CHANGES**

There were changes to the internal boundaries of West Arnhem Regional Council gazetted in December 2020 resulting from a review of electoral representation conducted by the council.

These changes included:

- Barrah Ward abolished and replaced with 2 new wards
- creation of Minjilang Ward which covers all of Croker Island only
- creation of Warruwi Ward which covers the remaining parts of the former Barrah Ward, (i.e. excluding Minjilang Ward/Croker Island)
- The new wards are represented by one elected member each.

## **ENROLMENT**

At the close of the electoral roll on Tuesday 27 July at 5:00pm there was a total of 3,578 electors enrolled in West Arnhem Regional Council. This was a 4.0% decrease in enrolment from the previous local government general elections in 2017. The enrolment numbers per ward were as follows:

- Gunbalanya Ward – 845 (up from 792 in 2017)
- Kakadu Ward – 527 (down from 647 in 2017)
- Maningrida Ward – 1,753 (down from 1,861 in 2017)
- Minjilang Ward – 161 (part of Barrah Ward in 2017 which had 420 total electors)
- Warruwi Ward – 292 (part of Barrah Ward in 2017 which had 420 total electors)

## **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 West Arnhem Regional Council results and information page engagement, prior to and post election day.

<b>Total website page views</b>	<b>865,814</b>
West Arnhem councillor results page views (all wards)	3,616
West Arnhem list of councillor candidates	1,656
Other West Arnhem content related page views	963
<b>Total West Arnhem content related page views</b>	<b>6,235</b>

## Newsletters



2021 Local Government Elections: Newsletter 2  
Issue date: Friday 18 June

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 West Arnhem Regional Council area, all in-language advertisements were run in Kriol and Burarra.

### Direct digital and print advertising

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

However, further publications 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 advertising placements on millennial, tech-savvy platforms such as EA Games 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 advertisements 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 Darwin	04/07/2021 – 28/08/2021	202
Channel 7 Central		228
Channel 9		78
<b>Imparja</b>		<b>127</b>
<b>*ICTV</b>		<b>120</b>
<b>*ABA</b>		<b>124</b>
<b>Bold:</b> Channels aired throughout West Arnhem Council area *VAST network		<b>Total 879</b>



**Radio**

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

**Social media**

Campaign	Reach	Impressions	Click through rate
<b>2021 Local Government Elections – overall</b>	168,472	2,825,293	1.07%*
<b>West Arnhem geo-targeted ads and council produced vlogs#</b>	12,043	61,451	2.6%

\*Industry standard 0.89%

#Includes only in-language ads targeted to run in the West Arnhem council area and council produced vlogs in English. Does not include NT wide run ads in English.

**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

**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 West Arnhem Regional Council area received 4 messages before election day, 28 August. Details of those messages were:

Message	Email	Date sent	SMS	Date sent
Enrolment	358	19-07-2021	585	22-07-2021
Voting suspended (COVID-19)	20*	16-08-2021	535	16-08-2021

Message	Email	Date sent	SMS	Date sent
Vote now, early voting (post lockdown)	311	19-08-2021		
Community specific message sent 2 days before remote team visit			532	21-24-08-2021
<b>Totals</b>	<b>689</b>		<b>1,652</b>	

\*Sent only if no SMS contact

### 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.

The NTEC also attended the annual Welcome to the Top End Expo for Defence families and held a stall at the NAIDOC week celebrations in Darwin.

## VOTING SERVICES

### Nominations

Nominations opened Friday 16 July and closed on Thursday 5 August at 12:00 noon. There were a total of 22 accepted nominations for 12 council vacancies, plus 5 rejected nominations (2 received too late, 2 were enrolled for a different council area and one was not enrolled at all) and one nomination was withdrawn.

The declaration of nominations was held in on Level 1 of the NTEC office building at 80 Mitchell Street, Darwin. 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.

### West Arnhem Regional Council – summary of accepted nominations/candidates

Ward	Nominations
<b>Gunbalanya Ward (3 vacancies)</b>	Otto K DANN
	Karl SRDINSEK
	Donna NADJAMERREK
	Henry YATES
	Timothy NABEGEYO
	Gabby GUMURDUL

<b>Kakadu Ward (3 vacancies)</b>	Jo-Ann CHRISTOPHERSEN
	Liz WILLIAMS
	Catherine RALPH
	Patricia MILLER
	Ralph F BLYTH

<b>Maningrida Ward (4 vacancies)</b>	Jacqueline PHILLIPS
	James WOODS
	Valda BOKMAKARRAY
	Matthew RYAN
	Julius Don KERNAN
	David JONES WRIDJAL

<b>Minjilang Ward (1 vacancy)</b>	Leandar KENTISH
	Henry GUWIYUL

<b>Warruwi Ward (1 vacancy)</b>	Jeffrey Gurakpuy GURRUWIWI
	James MARRAWAL
	Phillip WASAGA

### 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

### Council delivery centres

Within the West Arnhem Regional Council area, early voting services were offered over 4 days across 5 council delivery centres. The table below shows the location of the council delivery centre and the number of votes issued at each one.

### Council delivery centre statistics – West Arnhem Regional Council

Location	Votes issued
Gunbalanya	123
Jabiru	203
Maningrida	272
Minjilang	43
Warruwi	132
<b>Total</b>	<b>773</b>

### Early voting

Early voting services were offered for two weeks (from Monday 16 August to Friday 27 August) at 8 early voting centres across the Territory. However, from 12 noon, Monday 16 August to 12 noon, Thursday 19 August, early voting was suspended Territory wide due to a COVID lockdown. To offset the loss of service to electors, early voting times were extended. The table below shows early voting centres (EVCs) that issued votes to West Arnhem Regional Council electors.

**Early voting statistics – West Arnhem Regional Council**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Votes issued</b>
Alice Springs EVC	1
Casuarina EVC	8
Coolalinga EVC	4
Darwin EVC	1
Katherine EVC	1
Palmerston EVC	2
Yarrowonga EVC	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>

**Remote mobile voting**

A remote mobile voting team visited 11 communities in the West Arnhem Regional Council area from Monday 23 August to Thursday 26 August. This team issued 110 votes to West Arnhem Regional Council electors (including declaration votes).

**Remote mobile voting statistics – West Arnhem Regional Council**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Votes issued</b>
Bolkdjam	17
Buluhkaduru	3
Gochan Jiny-Jirra	0
Ji-Bena	5
Ji-Malawa	0
Ji-Marda	0
Kabulwarnamyo	16
Kolorbidahdah	5
Mamadawerre	11
Manmoyi	50
Marrkolidjban	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>

**Mobile voting – urban institutions**

Mobile voting teams visited Darwin public and private hospitals, and the Darwin Correctional Centre to provide patients and inmates with an opportunity to vote. These teams issued 9 votes to West Arnhem Regional Council electors.

**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 electors.

**Postal voting statistics – West Arnhem Regional Council**

Description	Number
Number of postal vote applications received	73
Number of postal votes issued	62
Number of postal vote applications rejected	11
Number of postal votes returned	52
Number of postal votes added to the count	34
Number of postal votes rejected	18

The reasons for rejecting postal vote applications were:

- multiple applications received from the same elector (8)
- cancelled and rejected on request by elector (1)
- too late for Australian address (1)
- overseas elector (1)

The reasons for rejecting returned postal votes were:

- postal vote not signed (5)
- ordinary vote issued (i.e. elector marked off as having voted in person) (5)
- vote received too late (3)
- vote dated too late (3)
- return to sender (2)

**Declaration voting**

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.

Amendments to the Local Government Act passed in June 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 West Arnhem Regional Council the table below shows the declaration votes admitted to the count. There were no rejected declaration votes for this election.

**Declaration voting statistics**

Accepted	Rejected	Total
49	27	76

The reasons for rejecting declaration votes were:

- elector enrolled for a different local government area to the one they completed the ballot paper for (17). 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.
- declaration envelope/enrolment form not signed (7)
- insufficient evidence of identity to enrol the person or update their enrolment (3)

### Election day voting centres – absent voting

Election day was Saturday 28 August 2021. While some election day voting centres were only able to issue votes to electors in the local government area they were located in, any electors could vote at Casuarina, Darwin City, Palmerston, Yarrawonga, Coolalinga Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs voting centres on election day. Ballot papers issued outside an elector's local government area on election day at one of these voting centres was considered an absent vote.

### Absent voting statistics – West Arnhem Regional Council

Location	Votes issued
Alice Springs	1
Casuarina	1
Coolalinga	2
Palmerston	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>

### Participation

Turnout for the West Arnhem Regional Council election was 27.6% with Gunbalanya Ward on 23.8% (201 electors out of 845), Kakadu Ward on 46.9% (247 electors out of 527), Maningrida Ward on 19.7% (346 electors out of 1,753), Minjilang on 37.9% (61 electors out of 161) and Warruwi Ward on 45.9% (134 electors out of 292).

The turnout rate was up from the previous elections in 2017 where the council had a turnout rate of 20.5%. (when 3 of the then 4 wards had elections go ahead). At these elections the former Barrah Ward had a turnout rate of 27.9% (117 electors out of 420 enrolled), Kakadu Ward had 49.6% (321 electors out of 647 enrolled) and Maningrida Ward had 8.8% (163 electors out of 1,861 enrolled).

### Number of votes counted by voting centre type– West Arnhem Regional Council

Voting centre	Number of votes counted	% of total votes
Council delivery centres	744	75.2%
Remote mobile team	129	13.0%
Early (other regions)	19	1.9%
Postal	34	3.4%
Absent	14	1.4%
Declaration	49	5.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>989</b>	<b>99.9%</b>

### Non-voters

There were 2,631 identified non-voters across the council area. The table below shows the age and gender demographics of these non-voters.

### Non-voter statistics – West Arnhem Regional Council

Gender	18-29 years	30-49 years	50-69 years	70+ years	Total
<b>Female</b>	286	645	314	58	<b>1,303</b>
<b>Male</b>	272	676	339	32	<b>1,319</b>

Gender	18-29 years	30-49 years	50-69 years	70+ years	Total
Gender undisclosed	6	3	-	-	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>1,324</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>2,631</b>

### Informality

Of the 989 ballot papers counted, 85 were considered informal and so not counted. This is an informality rate of 8.6%.

### Informal vote statistics – West Arnhem Regional Council

Ballot paper	Intentional	Unintentional	Total
Gunbalanya	9	13	22
Kakadu	0	1	1
Maningrida	28	21	49
Minjilang	0	1	1
Waruwi	1	11	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>85</b>

### 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 6:00 pm on election day. A count of first preference votes for councillors was undertaken at each election day voting centre. First preference votes cast at council delivery centres, remote and urban mobile voting centres and early voting centres were counted at the Darwin scrutiny centre.

### Post-election night scrutinies

- A count of postal votes returned by election day were counted was conducted on the Monday following election day. Counts of declaration votes, and postal votes returned during the counting period were undertaken over the 13 days following election day.
- Votes received for the councillor vacancies were entered into an electronic count system that the NTEC uses to count votes using proportional representation (Easy Count). All votes are then re-entered for verification purposes.
- Using this system alleviates the need to undertake a fresh re-check of ballot papers as each paper is entered and verified by two different data operators.

- Following the deadline for the receipt of postal votes at 12 noon on Friday 10 September, a distribution of preferences for the councillor positions was conducted electronically using the Easy Count software.

### Election outcomes

There were 22 candidates contesting 12 councillor vacancies. The successful candidates and first preference votes received are detailed in the tables below:

#### Election of 3 councillors – Gunbalanya Ward

At the close of nominations there were 6 candidates. An election was duly held and the first preference votes were recorded as follows:

Candidate	First preferences
Otto K DANN	89
Karl SRDINSEK	9
Donna NADJAMERREK	25
Henry YATES	3
Timothy NABEGEYO	13
Gabby GUMURDUL	37
<b>Total</b>	<b>176</b>

The quota required under the proportional representation voting system was 45. Following the distribution of preferences, and in accordance with Schedule 1 of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations, the results were as follows:

- **Otto K DANN** received the quota at count number 1
- **Gabby GUMURDUL** received the quota at count number 2
- **Donna NADJAMERREK** received the quota at count number 7

**Otto K DANN, Gabby GUMURDUL** and **Donna NADJAMERREK** were duly elected.

#### Election of 3 councillors – Kakadu 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
Jo-Ann CHRISTOPHERSEN	37
Liz WILLIAMS	116
Catherine RALPH	39
Patricia MILLER	12
Ralph F BLYTH	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>246</b>

The quota required under the proportional representation voting system was 62. Following the distribution of preferences, and in accordance with Schedule 1 of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations, the results were as follows:



- **Liz WILLIAMS** received the quota at count number 1
- **Ralph F BLYTH** received the quota at count number 3
- **Catherine RALPH** received the quota at count number 4

**Liz WILLIAMS, Ralph F BLYTH** and **Catherine RALPH** were duly elected.

#### **Election of 4 councillors – Maningrida Ward**

At the close of nominations there were 6 candidates. An election was duly held and the first preference votes were recorded as follows:

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>First preferences</b>
Jacqueline PHILLIPS	92
James WOODS	22
Valda BOKMAKARRAY	12
Matthew RYAN	106
Julius Don KERNAN	34
David JONES WRIDJAL	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>297</b>

The quota required under the proportional representation voting system was 60. Following the distribution of preferences and in accordance with Schedule 1 of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations the results were as follows:

- **Matthew RYAN** received the quota at count number 1
- **Jacqueline PHILLIPS** received the quota at count number 1
- **Julius Don KERNAN** received the quota at count number 3
- **James WOODS** received the quota at count number 4

**Matthew RYAN, Jacqueline PHILLIPS, Julius Don KERNAN** and **James WOODS** were duly elected.

#### **Election of 1 councillor – Minjilang Ward**

At the close of nominations there were 2 candidates. An election was duly held and the first preference votes were recorded as follows:

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>First preferences</b>
Leandar KENTISH	26
Henry GUWIYUL	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>

The quota required under the proportional representation voting system was 31. As there were only 2 candidates a distribution of preferences was not required, so in accordance with Schedule 1 of the Local Government (*Electoral*) Regulations the results were as follows:

- **Henry GUWIYUL** received the quota at count number 1

**Henry GUWIYUL** was duly elected.

**Election of 1 councillor – Warruwi 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 preferences
Jeffrey Gurakpuy GURRUWIWI	13
James MARRAWAL	74
Phillip WASAGA	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>122</b>

The quota required under the proportional representation voting system was 62. No distribution of preferences was required as a candidate reached the quota on first preferences, so in accordance with Schedule 1 of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations the results were as follows:

- **James MARRAWAL** received the quota at count number 1

**James MARRAWAL** was duly elected.

**Declaration of the election results**

The declaration of election results took place at the NTEC office at 80 Mitchell Street Darwin at 2:00pm on Monday 13 September 2021.

**Declared election results for West Arnhem Regional Council**

Ward	Elected Members
<b>Gunbalanya Ward</b> (3 vacancies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Otto K DANN</li> <li>• Gabby GUMURDUL</li> <li>• Donna NADJAMERREK</li> </ul>
<b>Kakadu Ward</b> (3 vacancies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liz WILLIAMS</li> <li>• Ralph F BLYTH</li> <li>• Catherine RALPH</li> </ul>
<b>Maningrida Ward</b> (4 vacancies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Matthew RYAN</li> <li>• Jacqueline PHILLIPS</li> <li>• Julius Don KERNAN</li> <li>• James WOODS</li> </ul>
<b>Minjilang Ward</b> (1 vacancy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Henry GUWIYUL</li> </ul>
<b>Warruwi Ward</b> (1 vacancy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• James MARRAWAL</li> </ul>

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 – West Arnhem Regional Council

Election area	Estimated cost
Public awareness	\$8,096
Staffing	\$22,875
Operational	\$28,511
Sub total	\$59,482
10% GST	\$5,948
<b>Total estimated cost</b>	<b>\$65,430</b>

### Actual cost – West Arnhem Regional Council

Election area	Actual cost
Public awareness	\$5,014
Staffing	\$31,260
Operational	\$25,056
Sub total	\$61,330
10% GST	\$6,133
<b>Total actual cost</b>	<b>\$67,463</b>

## POST-ELECTION DEBRIEF

A debrief of the election activities and outcomes took place with the West Arnhem Regional Council on 22 October 2021. The council was generally happy with the SLA and the process, but would have appreciated its return at an earlier date, as well as knowing the actual costs at an earlier date.

The council invested more resources into this election than previously, including establishing a governance committee in advance of the election to support the CDC service delivery model, greater electoral engagement within their communities. Council attributes this effort to increasing the number of nominations and participation. The NTEC will discuss these efforts with council as part of the CDC evaluation which will be documented in the consolidated election report.

While the council felt generally supported by the NTEC in their increased efforts, they believed the NTEC could do more toward cleansing the roll prior to elections, communicating times and locations for remote mobile voting services, and that in-person communications was more effective than social media for election awareness in their council area. The council also suggested that not all candidates were aware of the results, or go to the NTEC's website seeking the results, and that perhaps the NTEC had a role to play in informing candidates directly if they had been elected.

The council had positive feedback regarding the council delivery centres and suggested they would be happy to do this again in future elections. They were also happy to participate in a deeper evaluation of the effectiveness and future of the council delivery centre model.

## ISSUES OF NOTE

- The investment of council in a strategy to improve outcomes appears to have been positive. Council established a governance committee to support the council delivery centre service model and created a casual position dedicated to raising awareness about the council elections and candidacy nominations.
- Council requested that there be more time, effort and resources invested in cleansing of the electoral roll and general enrolment before local government elections.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- West Arnhem Regional Council governance committee model and approach to be discussed further as part of the CDC evaluation.
- Greater enrolment activities (including partnerships with Australian Electoral Commission and the re-established IEPP/enrolment activities) in the lead up to LG elections.
- NTEC to explore options to inform those who have been elected following the declaration of results, where it is known that a candidate is unable to access the results via the website and where alternative contact details are provided.