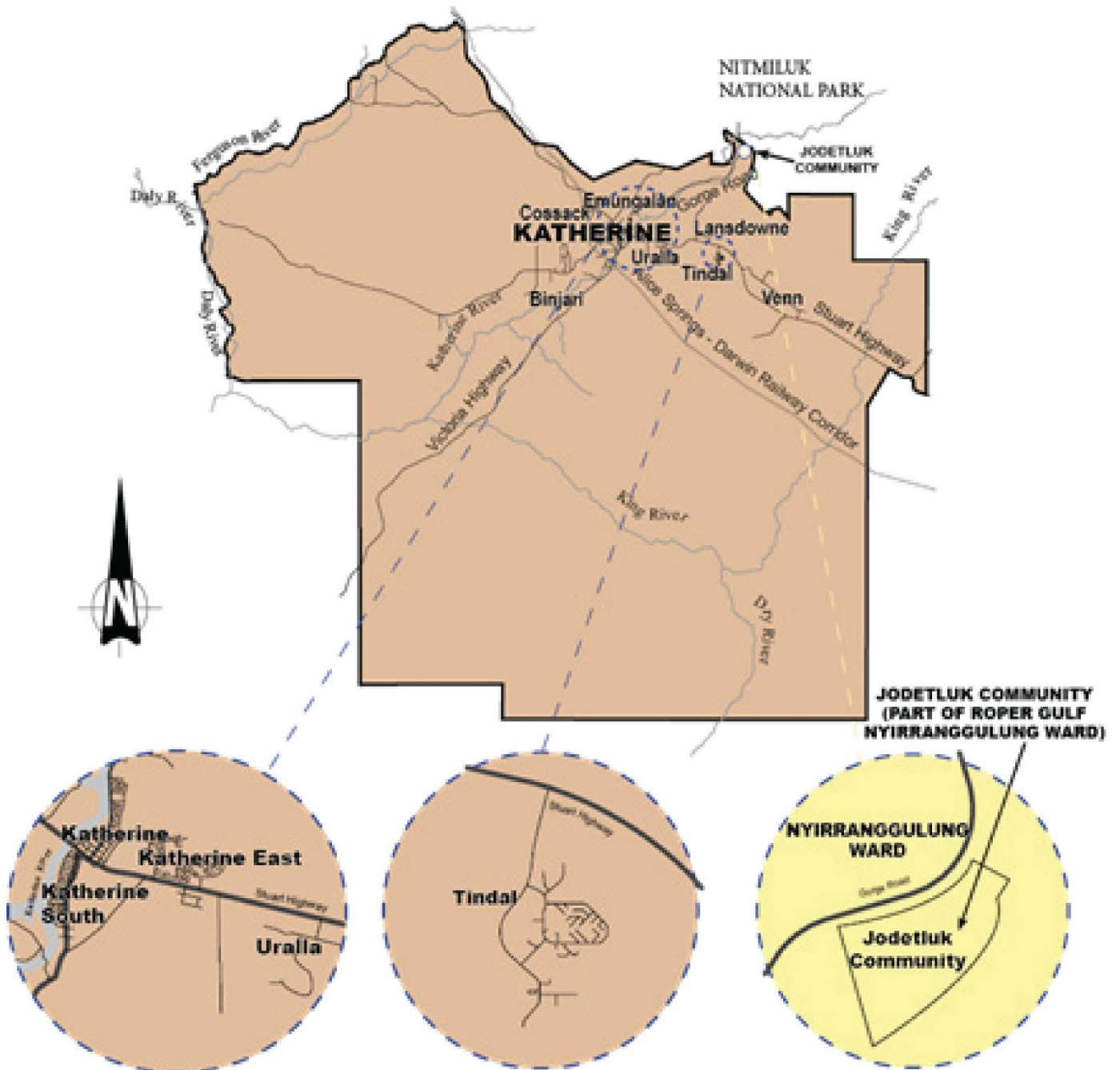


Katherine Town Council

Election Report



KATHERINE
TOWN COUNCIL



NTEC version control

2021 Local Government Elections - Katherine Town 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	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
		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

INDEX

BACKGROUND	1
Elections	1
Legislation.....	1
Service Charter.....	1
Service Level Agreement.....	1
BOUNDARY CHANGES	1
ENROLMENT	2
Campaign overview	2
Website	2
Newsletters.....	3
Advertising – radio, television, social media.....	3
Direct digital and print advertising	3
Television.....	4
Radio.....	4
Social Media	4
Call centre.....	5
Street Banners	5
Candidate information sessions.....	5
Email and SMS	5
Other promotional activities.....	6
VOTING SERVICES	6
Nominations	6
Electronic mark-off	6
ELECTION	7
Early voting.....	7
Remote and urban mobile voting teams	7
Postal voting	8
Declaration voting.....	8
Election day voting centres.....	9
Absent voting	9
Participation	10
Number of votes by voting centre – Katherine Town Council	10
Non-voters	10
Informality	10
Voting system	11
Vote counting – election night	11
Post-election night scrutines	11
Election outcomes.....	11
Election of mayor.....	11
Election of 6 councillors.....	12
Declaration of the election results.....	13
ELECTION COSTS	13
POST-ELECTION DE-BRIEF	14
ISSUES OF NOTE	14

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 Katherine Town Council, there were two elections: one mayoral and one to elect 6 councillor positions.

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

As part of its service level agreement signed 1 March 2021, Katherine Town Council opted to provide or facilitate the following for its elections:

- a candidate information session in partnership with the Local Government Association of the NT (LGANT)
- the use of council owned premises for the election day voting centre
- promoted the election via its social media outlets
- locations provided around Katherine for the placement of banners at no cost
- support services to our Deputy Returning Officer situated in Katherine.

BOUNDARY CHANGES

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

ENROLMENT

At the close of the electoral roll on Tuesday 27 July 2021 at 5:00pm there was a total of 6,321 electors enrolled in the Katherine Town Council. This was a 12.3 per cent increase in enrolment from previous local government general elections held in 2017.

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 Katherine Town Council results and information page engagement, prior to and post election day.

Total website page views	865,814
Katherine mayor results page views	11,184
Katherine councillor results page views	8,223
Katherine list of mayoral candidates	1,371
Katherine list of councillor candidates	1,531
Other Katherine content related page views	7,836
Total Katherine content related page views	30,145

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.

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 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.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
Bold: Channels aired throughout Katherine Council region *VAST network		Total 879

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 Katherine Council region		Total 1,045

Social Media

Campaign	Reach	Impressions	Click through rate
2021 Local Government Elections – overall	168,472	2,825,293	1.07%*
Katherine geo-targeted ads#	12,675	30,326	3.12%

*Industry standard 0.89%

#Includes only ads targeted to run between Elliot and Pine Creek, including the Katherine Town Council area. Does not include ads run NT wide.

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

Street Banners

The NTEC placed large 8 metre x one metre banners in high traffic locations around Katherine to promote awareness of the 2021 Local Government Elections.

The following table details where and when those banners were located and what message they carried.

Location	Message	Display Dates
Katherine Terrace – North	ENROL TO VOTE ONLINE	12/07 – 27/07
	VOTE EARLY NOW	11/08 – 28/08
Katherine Terrace – South	ENROL TO VOTE ONLINE	12/07 – 27/07
	VOTE EARLY NOW	11/08 – 28/08

Candidate information sessions

One candidate information session was organised by LGANT in partnership with the council, which the NTEC presented at. The table below provides details about this session.

Date	Location	No. of attendees
22 July	Katherine Town Council office	14

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 Katherine Town Council area received 4 messages before election day, 28 August. Details of those messages were:

Message	Email	Date Sent	SMS	Date Sent
Enrolment	2,230	19-07-2021	3,171	22-07-2021
Voting suspended (COVID-19)	101*	16-08-2021	2,996	16-08-2021
Vote now, early voting (post lockdown)	2,065	19-08-2021	2,996	19-08-2021
Last day/s to vote#	1,244	26-08-2021	1,630	28-08-2021
Totals	5,640		10,793	

*Sent only if no SMS contact

#Sent only to electors who had not 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, 2021 at 12:00 noon. For Katherine Town Council, there were a total of 15 accepted nominations for councillors and 5 accepted nominations for mayor.

The declaration of nominations took place 6 August, 2021 at 12.00 noon, located 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.

Katherine Town Council – summary of accepted nominations/candidates

Position	Candidates in ballot paper order
Mayor (1 vacancy)	Lis CLARK
	Robbie FRIEL
	Kevin SOUTH
	James HURLEY
	Ben HERDON
Councillors (6 vacancies)	Kym HENDERSON
	Amanda KINGDON
	Joachim David BUCKERFIELD
	Robert CHAPMAN
	Peter LF MCDOUGALL
	Shirley CRANE
	Ben HERDON
	Robbie FRIEL
	Maddy BOWER
	Jeremy TREMBATH
	Allan DOMASCHENZ
	Matthew James HURLEY
	Dirk AMBJERG
	Denis COBURN
Colin ABBOTT	

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

Early voting

Within the Katherine Town Council area, early voting services were offered for two weeks (from Monday 16 August to Friday 27 August) at the Katherine Shopping Centre. However, from 12 noon, Monday 16 August to 12 noon, Thursday 19 August, early voting was suspended Territory wide due to a COVID lockdown. In Katherine this was extended to 12 noon Friday, 20 August. To offset the loss of service to electors, early voting times were extended.

When open, early voting for Katherine Town Council electors was also available all other early voting centres located throughout the Territory. The table below shows the number of votes issued at each early voting centre (EVC) for this election, with comparison statistics from the 2017 elections.

Early voting statistics compared – Katherine Town Council

Voting Centre	2021 Local Government elections – votes issued	2017 NT Council elections – votes issued
Alice Springs EVC	6	5
Casuarina EVC	12	18
Coolalinga EVC	17	5
Darwin EVC	13	15
Katherine EVC	2,238	2,039
Palmerston EVC	7	N/A
Tennant Creek EVC	9	5
Yarrowonga EVC	21	N/A
Total	2, 323	2,087

Note – City of Palmerston were suspended during the 2017 NT Council Elections so there were no early voting centres located there.

Remote and urban mobile voting teams

A remote voting team visited Binjari on Thursday 27 August between 10:30am and 12.00 noon, and there were urban voting teams who attended hospitals and correctional centres to provide patients and inmates an opportunity to vote.

Mobile voting statistics – Katherine Town Council

Location	Votes issued
Binjari	40
Alice Springs	1
Darwin/Palmerston	17
Tennant Creek	3

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 – Katherine Town Council

Description	Number
Number of postal vote applications received	360
Number of postal votes issued	321
Number of postal vote applications rejected	39
Number of postal votes returned	279
Number of postal votes added to the count	214
Number of postal votes rejected	65

The reasons for rejecting postal vote applications were:

- multiple applications received from the same elector (28)
- too late for Australian address (4)
- overseas elector (4)
- cancelled and rejected on request by elector (2)
- aged care – incapacitate (1)

The reasons for rejecting returned postal votes were:

- postal vote not signed (14)
- ordinary vote issued (i.e. elector marked off as having voted in person) (28)
- vote received too late (11)
- returned to sender (9)
- Vote dated too late (3)

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.

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 Katherine Town Council the table below shows the declaration votes admitted to the count and those rejected.

Declaration vote statistics – Katherine Town Council

Accepted	Rejected	Total
129	1	130

The reason for rejecting the declaration vote was because the declaration envelope/enrolment form was not signed.

Election day voting centres

Election day was Saturday 28 August 2021. For the Katherine Town Council area, there were 2 election day voting centres (detailed in the table below) both open from 8:00am to 6:00pm. Following discussions with the council, it was agreed that due to the reduction of electors voting on election day in the Katherine region coupled with an increase in early voting, that the number of election day voting centres would be reduced by one.

If voting on election day, electors had to vote at a voting centre located within their council area. The following table shows the votes taken at election day voting centres in the 2021 Local Government Elections compared with the previous elections in 2017.

Election day voting statistics – Katherine Town Council

Voting centre	Location	2021 votes issued	2017 votes issued
Katherine	Katherine Civic Centre Lot 1865 Stuart Hwy	682	671
Tindal	Tindal Community Hall Tindal	148	229
Katherine East	MacFarlane Pre-School Grevillea Rd, Katherine East	N/A	442
Total		830	1,342

Absent voting

Electors wishing to vote on election day outside of their council area, had the opportunity to vote at specific voting centres in Casuarina, Coolalinga, Darwin City, Palmerston, Yarrowonga or Alice Springs. This option was not offered in the previous local government general elections in 2017.

Absent votes statistics – Katherine Town Council

Location	Votes issued
Alice Springs election day voting centre	4
Casuarina election day voting centre	8
Coolalinga election day voting centre	12
Darwin City election day voting centre	8
Palmerston election day voting centre	3
Yarrowonga election day voting centre	7
Total	42

Participation

Turnout for the Katherine Town Council election was 57.0% with 3,600 electors voted out of a total enrolment figure of 6,321. The turnout was down compared with the previous election in 2017, with 63.5%. The following table details the total number of vote types for those votes admitted to the count (using data from the councillor election).

Number of votes by voting centre – Katherine Town Council

Voting centre	Number of votes counted	% of total votes
Election day voting centres	833	23.1%
Early voting centres	2,331	64.8%
Mobile voting centres	40	1.1%
Postal voting	213	5.9%
Declaration voting	127	3.5%
Absent voting (only available early)	56	1.6%
Total	3,600	100%

Non-voters

There are 2,849 identified non-voters across the Katherine Town Council area. The table below shows the age and gender demographics of these non-voters.

Non-voter statistics – Katherine Town Council

Gender	18-29 years	30-49 years	50-69 years	70+ years	Total
Female	378	545	299	72	1,294
Male	457	688	337	72	1,554
Gender undisclosed	1				1
Total	836	1,233	636	144	2,849

Informality

Of the 3,596 mayoral ballot papers counted, 124 (or 3.4%) were considered informal and therefore not counted. For the 3,600 councillor ballot papers, there were 285 informal votes (or 7.9%). The high number of candidates on the councillor ballot paper (15) would have contributed to the higher number of informal votes.

Informal vote statistics – Katherine Town Council

Ballot	Assumed intentional	Assumed unintentional	Total
Mayor	84	40	124
Councillor	136	149	285
Total	220	189	409

Voting system

The voting system for local government elections where there are multiple vacancies to fill 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. For single vacancy positions (like a mayor) a preferential count is conducted.

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 mayor and councillor was undertaken at election day voting centres only. Votes taken at the Katherine early voting centre were transferred to the Darwin scrutiny centre.

Post-election night scrutinies

- A count of the Katherine early voting centre votes, and any postal votes returned by election day were counted on the Monday following election day. This was followed by a re-check of first preferences for the mayor vacancy. Counts of absent, declaration and postal votes returned during the counting period were undertaken over the 13 days following election day.
- As the mayoral position was a single-vacancy election, all counts were done manually.
- 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 mayor was required as the leading candidate did not secure more than 50 per cent of the first preference votes. This count was done manually. The distribution of preferences for the councillor positions was conducted electronically using the Easy Count software.

Election outcomes

There were 5 candidates for the mayor vacancy and 15 candidates contesting 6 councillor vacancies.

Election of mayor

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
Lis CLARK	1,073
Robbie FRIEL	338

Candidate	First preferences
Kevin SOUTH	1,177
James HURLEY	218
Ben HERDON	666
Total	3,472

The number of votes required to win as per the preferential voting system (more than half) was 1,737, which no candidate received. Following the distribution of preferences, and in accordance with Schedule 1 of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations, the results were as follows:

- **Lis CLARK** received the quota at count number 4

Lis CLARK was duly elected.

Election of 6 councillors

At the close of nominations there were 15 candidates. An election was duly held and the first preference votes were recorded as follows:

Candidate	First preferences
Kym HENDERSON	641
Amanda KINGDON	179
Joachim David BUCKERFIELD	182
Robert CHAPMAN	108
Peter LF MCDOUGALL	103
Shirley CRANE	92
Ben HERDON	342
Robbie FRIEL	162
Maddy BOWER	438
Jeremy TREMBATH	457
Allan DOMASCHENZ	33
Matthew James HURLEY	154
Dirk AMBJERG	130
Denis COBURN	152
Colin ABBOTT	142
Total	3,315

The quota required under the proportional representation voting system was 474. Following the distribution of preferences, and in accordance with Schedule 1 of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations, the results were as follows:

- **Kym HENDERSON** received the quota at count number 1
- **Jeremy TREMBATH** received the quota at count number 2

- **Maddy BOWER** received the quota at count number 12
- **Ben HERDON** received the quota at count number 46
- **Amanda KINGDON** received the quota at count number 94
- **Denis COBURN** received the quota at count number 143

Kym HENDERSON, Jeremy TREMBATH, Maddy BOWER, Ben HERDON, Amanda KINGDON and **Denis COBURN** were 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.

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 – Katherine Town Council

Election area	Estimated cost
Public awareness	\$13,806
Staffing	\$41,742
Operational	\$30,944
Sub total	\$86,492
10% GST	\$8,649
Total estimated cost	\$95,141

Actual Costs – Katherine Town Council

Election area	Actual cost
Public awareness	\$8,858
Staffing	\$61,434
Operational	\$18,826
Sub total	\$89,118
10% GST	\$8,912
Total actual cost	\$98,030

The main reasons for the difference between the estimated costs and the actual costs for the Katherine Town Council elections were mostly due to COVID-19 related costs, in particular the lock down that occurred 16 – 20 August. The final cost includes a \$5,000 'COVID contribution.'

POST-ELECTION DE-BRIEF

A de-brief of the election activities and outcomes took place with the Katherine Town council on 10 November 2021. Overall, the council were satisfied with the level of services provided by the NTEC.

The council was pleased with the decision to reduce the number of election day voting centres and received no complaints about a lack of voting services in Katherine East.

It was disappointing, from the council's perspective, that there appeared to be a lack of interest from residents in Katherine about the election. There has been a noticeable reduction in turnout to various electoral events in Katherine.

It was noted that candidates were not fully aware of what was required of them regarding authorisation and advertising guidelines for campaign materials and that this had generated some informal complaints to council.

ISSUES OF NOTE

- Due to a COVID-19 case in Katherine, the township of Katherine was placed in a 4 day lockdown during the early voting period. Extended services were provided once the lockdown period ceased. The lockdown resulted in additional staff and materials costs. Councils directly impacted by the lockdown were approached in regards to contributing funds to offset the additional unforeseen costs associated with the lockdown. Katherine Town Council agreed to pay a \$5,000 'COVID contribution'.
- Election day voter turnout continued to decrease (as anticipated) and early voting numbers increased despite the COVID-19 lockdown during the early voting period. The council suggested increasing public awareness of postal voting opportunities could result in more electors taking up this option.
- The NTEC continues to have difficulty recruiting casual staff, in particular senior support roles, to work at electoral events in Katherine. There is an apparent shortage of casual staff available who have the skill set and can commit for the two weeks work. A geo-targeted Facebook campaign or recruitment strategy for the Katherine region prior to the next election may address this issue.
- There was notable decline in voter participation at this election. Compared to the 2017 election there were an additional 691 enrolled electors but only 24 more votes cast. The EVC took an additional 199 votes despite the 4 day COVID lockdown. The number of votes taken on election-day significantly declined.
- The Commission would like to extend its thanks to Ian Bodill and Jherry Matahelumal for the support provided during the election.