



City of Darwin - Waters Ward 2022 By-election report



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

NT Electoral Commission version control

2022 City of Darwin Waters Ward by-election - report

Version Number	Purpose/change	Author	Date
1.0	DRAFT report	K. Parker	16.12.2022
1.1	FINAL report – updated non-voter section and minor edits	K. Parker	10.02.2023

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2022 - City of Darwin Waters Ward by-election

27 August 2022

Date	Time	
Friday 5 August		Nominations open
Tuesday 9 August	5:00 pm	Electoral roll closes
Thursday 11 August	12:00 noon	Nominations close
	1:00 pm	Declaration of nominations, draw for position on ballot papers
Monday 15 August		Postal vote mail-out commences
	8:00 am	Early voting commences
	9:00 am	Mobile voting commences
Tuesday 23 August	6:00 pm	Overseas postal voting despatches cease
Thursday 25 August	6:00 pm	All postal voting despatches cease
Friday 26 August	6:00 pm	Early voting ceases
Saturday 27 August		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 29 August	9:00 am	Declaration vote verification checks, commence recheck of all counts
Thursday 1 September	9:00 am	Primary counts of accepted declaration votes, further postal counts
Friday 9 September	12:00 noon	Deadline for receipt of postal votes
		Final counts of postal votes commence
		Distribution of preferences
Monday 12 September	10:00 am	Declaration of the election result

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BACKGROUND

Election

The by-election for the City of Darwin's Waters Ward was caused by the resignation of Councillor Justine Glover. The NT Electoral Commission (NTEC) was advised of the vacancy on 4 May 2022 and were requested to run the by-election on behalf of the council.

Election day for the by-election was Saturday 27 August with the successful candidate declared on Monday 12 September, following a final count on Friday 9 September.

Nine days prior to nominations opening for the Waters Ward by-election, the Member for Fannie Bay in the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly announced his retirement and a by-election was immediately called. Election day for the Fannie Bay by-election was called for Saturday 20 August, which was the weekend before the Waters Ward election day. Therefore, both by-elections were run concurrently with overlapping early voting periods. There is no overlap between the electorate boundaries of Fannie Bay and Waters Ward, and no elector was required to vote in both by-elections.

Legislation

Section 54(2)(c) of the *Local Government Act 2019* (the Act) requires a by-election to be held where a casual vacancy occurs 18 months or more before the next general election. The by-election must be held within four months from notification of the vacancy.

Section 136(7) of the Act allows a council to appoint their CEO or another person (other than the Electoral Commissioner) to be the returning officer for the by-election. The process to be followed, including passing the resolution and notifying the Electoral Commissioner, is set out in section 136 of the Act. If a person is not appointed, the by-election is to be conducted by the Electoral Commissioner.

Recent legislative changes

The 2021 Local Government Elections were the first elections conducted under the new *Local Government Act 2019* and consequently updated *Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2021*, both of which commenced on 1 July 2021.

The relevant electoral legislative changes from the new Act and updated regulations were reported in the City of Darwin report for the 2021 Local Government Elections.

New financial disclosure requirements for local government elections, although part of the new Act, did not come into effect until 1 July 2022, which means the requirements did not apply to the 2021 general elections, but did apply to the Waters Ward by-election. See financial disclosure paragraphs on pages 10 – 11 for more details.

Service level agreement

The service level agreement (SLA) between the City of Darwin and the NTEC was signed by both parties on 28 July 2022 and established the costing program for the preparation and conduct of the by-election.

The SLA stated that the NTEC will apply the requirements of the Act and regulations, and provided details of the voting services. The SLA also detailed any services provided or facilitated by the council that would offset the final costs.

For the Waters Ward by-election, the City of Darwin opted to provide or facilitate the following:

- candidate information sessions
- promotion of the by-election via City of Darwin social media accounts and front counter rolling message board
- banner space on council signage locations at no cost
- use of an electronic advertising board
- the Casuarina Library as an early voting centre at no cost.

BOUNDARY CHANGES

There were no boundary or representative reviews to the City of Darwin's wards conducted prior to the by-election. However there were changes to all four ward boundaries which were gazetted on 16 December 2020 prior to the 2021 Local Government Elections. These ward changes were reported on in the City of Darwin's individual general election report.

ENROLMENT

At the close of the electoral roll on Tuesday 9 August at 5:00pm, there were a total of 12,814 electors enrolled in the Waters Ward. This was a slight decrease in enrolment (-0.2%) from the previous local government general elections held in August 2021.

CANDIDATES

Candidate information sessions

The City of Darwin facilitated an information session for potential candidates which was held at the council's Civic Centre on Tuesday 2 August at 5:30pm. One potential candidate attended, as did the mayor, some current councillors and council staff to provide information and answer questions about what being a councillor entails. The NTEC also attended the session to provide information about the nomination process, campaigning rules, financial disclosure and information about the count process and scrutineering.

Nominations

Nominations opened Friday 5 August and closed on Friday 11 August at 12:00 noon. There were a total of 3 accepted nominations for the vacancy, with no rejected or withdrawn nominations.

The declaration of nominations and the draw for ballot position order took place at the council's Civic Centre soon after nominations closed. The event was attended by candidates, NTEC staff, council staff, the mayor and some current councillors as well as the media. The ballot paper position for each candidate were selected by a random number generator and results were uploaded onto the NTEC's website and Facebook page once the draw was completed.

Summary of accepted nominations/candidates

Position	Candidates in ballot paper order
Councillor (1 vacancy)	Kim FARRAR
	Robin LAWRENCE
	Gary HASLETT

Communication with candidates

In addition to the election newsletter, candidates were directly emailed by the NTEC with information regarding:

- invitation to attend and the results of the declaration of nominations
- authorisation of campaign material and display of material at voting centres and on the NTEC's website
- information about the various counts and scrutineering opportunities
- declaration of election result
- financial disclosure.

Information about candidates

During the 2021 Local Government Elections and during the Waters Ward by-election, the NTEC received multiple comments and complaints from voters that they did not know enough about the candidates to make an informed vote.

The NTEC has a 'list of candidates' webpage for each election event. The webpage provides candidate names, photographs, contact details (where permitted) and links to campaign Facebook pages or websites. The NTEC is considering options concerning voters' access to candidate information at election events.

While the NTEC and councils need to remain neutral in the promotion of election events and in providing information about candidates, the Local Government Association of the NT is best placed to assist and provide resources to assist candidate promotion.

VOTING SERVICES

Postal voting

All electors were able to postal vote for the by-election and all registered general postal voters enrolled in the Waters Ward were automatically issued a postal vote. Applications for postal votes officially opened on Friday 5 August, although applications that were received before this date were not rejected, but held until they could be accepted.

No postal votes were sent to overseas addresses for the 2021 Local Government Elections, due to advice from Australia Post that the delivery and return of overseas postal votes were not likely to meet the legislated timeframes due to the continued impact of COVID-19.

Overseas postal votes were issued for the Waters Ward by-election however. Although 19 postal votes were issued and sent to overseas addresses, none were returned by the cut-off date to be admitted to the count. Eventually, two postal votes were returned (one from the United States and one from Spain), and one return to sender was received.

Any voters who telephoned the NTEC on the last day of early voting (Friday 26 August) or election day (Saturday 27 August) reporting that they had tested positive to COVID-19 and therefore could not attend a voting centre, were arranged a postal vote. This postal vote was delivered by NTEC staff, rather than through the post, to ensure the voter could receive and complete their vote before the cut-off time of 6pm on election day.

Postal voting statistics

Description	Number
Number of postal vote applications received	813
Number of postal votes issued	683
Number of postal vote applications rejected	130
Number of postal votes returned	585
Number of postal votes admitted to the count	498
Number of postal votes rejected	87

The reasons for rejecting postal vote applications were:

- multiple applications received from same elector (65)
- no election (enrolled in different council area, or different ward) (52)
- application received too late (11)
- cancelled by elector (1)
- removed from roll (capacity) (1).

The reasons for rejecting returned postal votes were:

- ordinary vote issued (i.e. elector marked off as having voted in person) (30)
- postal vote not signed (28)
- vote received too late (10)
- vote dated too late (10)
- returned to sender (7)
- signature did not match ()

Early voting

Early voting ran for two weeks from Monday 15 August to Friday 26 August with two early voting centre locations. The main early voting centre was located at Casuarina Library and was also open on Saturday 20 August. The second early voting centre was located at the NTEC office in Darwin, which for the first week of early voting was a dual early voting centre for both the Waters Ward and Fannie Bay by-elections.

Based on the number of votes counted (excluding declaration votes), the early voting centres collectively issued 2,967 votes which was 46.5% of all votes counted. Voter participation in early voting services remains high and consistent with recent trends with almost half of all voters in municipal areas engaging with early voting services.

Early voting statistics – 2022 by-election and 2021 Local Government Elections

Waters Ward	2022 by-election	2021 Local Government Elections
Casuarina early voting centre	2,691	2,760
Darwin early voting centre	276	398
Other early voting centres*	-	386
Total early votes	2,967	3,537
Total votes counted	6,379	8,442
% of early votes	46.5%	41.9%

* Not available for by-elections, only general elections.

Urban mobile voting

An urban mobile voting team visited the Darwin Correctional Centre as well as Royal Darwin Hospital, Darwin Private Hospital and the Palmerston Hospital to issue votes to Waters Ward electors. With the concurrent Fannie Bay by-election, a combined visit was made to the Correctional Centre facilitating votes for both by-elections.

The urban mobile team for the Fannie Bay by-election visited the hospitals during the first week of early voting for the Waters Ward by-election and were able to issue votes for both by-elections. The following week a Waters Ward specific urban mobile team attended all three hospitals to offer mobile voting services.

Urban mobile voting teams issue votes to eligible prisoners and patients, as well as staff members at the facilities. The total number of votes counted for Waters Ward by-election taken by urban mobile voting teams was 84 votes.

Election day voting

Election day was held on Saturday 27 August. For the by-election, there were 3 election day voting centres which were open from 8:00am to 6:00pm. Following discussions with the council, an additional election day voting centre was provided compared to the 2021 Local Government Elections. This decision to reinstate the Sanderston Middle School voting centre was in response to increased election day queuing experienced at the 2021 general elections.

Election day voting statistics – 2022 Waters Ward by-election and 2021 general election

Voting centre	Location	Votes counted 2022	Votes counted 2021
Karama	O'Loughlin Catholic College 70 Mueller Road, Karama	1,213 (43.2%)	1,827 (45.7%)
Moil	Moil Primary School Moil Crescent, Moil	705 (25.1%)	1,139 (28.5%)
Sanderson	Sanderson Middle School Matthews Road, Malak	888 (31.6%)	-
Other	Casuarina, Darwin, Leanyer, Ludmilla, Nightcliff, Parap	-	1,035 (25.9%)
TOTAL		2,806	4,001

Declaration voting

A person who cannot be found on the electoral roll but is entitled to vote, can be issued 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 for local government elections 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 vote scrutiny process, all declaration envelopes are forwarded to the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) and eligible electors are added to the roll using the envelope as an enrolment form. Where the entitlement to vote is confirmed, the vote will be admitted to the count. Where voters are unable to be enrolled, or are found to be already enrolled in a different council area in the NT, their declaration vote is rejected.

The table below provides the number of declaration votes admitted to the count and those rejected for the by-election.

Declaration voting statistics

Accepted	Rejected	Total
24	2	26

Of 26 declaration votes issued, only 2 were rejected. This is because both electors were enrolled in a different council area at the close of roll date for the by-election. While their enrolment was updated as a result of their declaration vote, they were not eligible to vote in the by-election.

Turnout and participation

Turnout for the Waters Ward by-election was 49.8% based on the number of votes counted, with 6,379 ballot papers counted from a total enrolment figure of 12,814. The turnout for the by-election was significantly lower compared with the previous general elections for the council in 2021 (65.8%) and 2017 (68.0%).

The following table details the total number of votes by vote type for those ballot papers admitted to the count.

Number of votes counted by vote type

Vote type	2022 by-election		2021 general elections	
	No. of votes counted	% of total votes	Number of votes counted	% of total votes
Election day voting centres	2,806	44.0%	4,001	47.4%
Early voting centres	2,967	46.5%	3,537	41.9%
Urban mobile voting	84	1.3%	95	1.1%
Postal voting	498	7.8%	634	7.5%
Declaration voting	24	0.4%	53	0.6%
Absent voting*	-	-	115	1.4%
TOTAL	6,379	100%	8,442	99.9%
Formal votes	6,082	95.3%	7,959	94.3%
Informal votes	297	4.7%	483	5.7%

*Absent votes were issued via early voting centres, urban mobile voting teams and election day voting centres located outside the City of Darwin area. There are no absent votes in by-elections.

#Figures used are from the 2021 councillor election

Turnout and participation statistics

Turnout	Number or percentage
Enrolment at close of roll	12,814
Total votes counted	6,379
Turnout rate – by number of votes counted	49.8%
Participation	Number or percentage
Postal vote applications rejected (voter eligible)	13
Postal votes not returned	98
Postal votes returned but rejected	87
Declaration votes rejected	2
Excuses lodged*	210
Total additional participation	410
TOTAL	6,789
Participation rate	53.0%

*Prior to receiving a non-voter infringement notice

Informality

Of the 6,379 ballot papers counted, 297 (or 4.7%) were deemed to be informal and therefore not counted. Of the informal ballot papers, 260 (or 87.5%) were assumed to be intentionally informal, while 37 (or 12.5%) were assumed to be unintentionally informal.

ELECTION OUTCOMES

Voting system

The voting system for local government by-elections where there is just one vacancy to fill is the preferential system. This means:

- Electors must number all the boxes on their ballot paper sequentially starting with the number one as their first preference for the vote to be deemed formal.
- For a candidate to be elected they must receive more than 50% of the formal votes.
- First preference votes for each candidate on the formal ballot papers are counted. If no candidate receives more than 50% of the formal votes, a distribution of preferences is conducted until a candidate does.

Vote counting – election day

Vote counting began immediately after the close of voting at 6:00pm on election day. A count of first preference votes was undertaken at each election day voting centre and phoned through to the NTEC Darwin office which was the scrutiny centre for this by-election.

The count of first preferences of the votes cast at the Casuarina and Darwin early voting centres, postal votes received by that date and votes cast with the urban mobile team were counted at the scrutiny centre after 6:00pm on election day.

Post-election day counts

- A fresh scrutiny of all votes cast at election day voting centres, early voting centres, with the urban mobile team, and the postal votes received before election day, was conducted on the Monday morning after election day (29 August) at the scrutiny centre.
- All declaration votes were forwarded to the AEC for processing on the Monday after election day. On the Wednesday (31 August), a scrutiny of declaration envelopes began which concluded the following day.
- On the first Friday after election day (2 September), an initial count of the accepted declaration votes was conducted at the scrutiny centre, as was an initial count of the second intake of postal votes (received between election day and that morning). This was immediately followed by a fresh scrutiny of both counts.
- Following the deadline for the receipt of postal votes at 12 noon on Friday 9 September, an initial count of the third and final intake of postal votes was conducted at scrutiny centre. This was immediately followed by a fresh scrutiny of the count.

Results from all counts, on and after election day, were published on the NTEC website at the conclusion of the count.

Final result

After the count of the third and final intake of postal votes was conducted at 12:00 noon on Friday 9 September, the total first preference count for each candidate was as follows:

Candidate	First preference votes
Kim FARRAR	3,114
Robin LAWRENCE	1,481
Gary HASLETT	1,487
TOTAL	6,082

The number of votes required to be elected as per the preferential voting system (more than 50% of the formal votes) was 3,042. One candidate received more than 50% of the first preference votes.

Kim Farrar was therefore deemed the successful candidate and a distribution of preferences was not required.

Declaration of the election results

The declaration of election results took place at the council's Civic Centre at 10:00 am on Monday 12 September 2022.

Letters to the CEO of the council certifying the result of the by-election, and to the Minister for Local Government advising of the result, were also sent Monday 12 September 2022.

Non-voters

After an election all enrolled electors not marked off as having voted are compiled into a list of non-voters. This list is then cleansed to remove people who did make an effort to participate in the election, for example; those who had postal vote applications rejected, electors who updated their enrolment to indicate they are overseas, electors who updated their enrolment to a different council area after the close of roll date, and electors who provided a valid excuse for not voting during the election period, among others. The NTEC also removes electors aged over 70 and those in special category enrolment (like itinerant voters) are who likely to have a valid excuse for not voting but may be unable to communicate this easily.

The final list saw 5,584 initial infringement notices sent to non-voters on 20 October. 4,112 follow up letters for those non-voters who did not reply was sent on 24 November, with Thursday 22 December the final day for non-voters to respond.

Non-voter statistics

Non-voter action*	Number	%
First notices mailed	5,584	
Second notices mailed	4,091	
Replied – penalty paid	1,025	18.4%
Replied – valid and sufficient reason provided	1,089	19.5%
Replied – reason not valid, penalty not yet paid	9	0.2%
Returned unclaimed and endorsed RTS	423	7.6%
No reply and no RTS mail	3,038	54.4%

PUBLIC AWARENESS

Campaign overview

The NTEC developed a communications plan for the Waters Ward by-election which was shared with the council. The campaign covered various phases of the election including promoting awareness and enrolment, nominations, postal voting, early voting, election day voting and results.

The NTEC had a webpage, targeted social media campaign, direct messaging to electors, statutory advertising, newspaper advertising, banners, a letterbox drop, a stakeholder newsletter and other community activities.

Webpage

The webpage for the by-election was launched in July and provided comprehensive information for candidates and electors. The page was designed to be the primary source of information for voters about enrolment and voting options, times and locations of voting centres, as well as results.

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

Social media campaign

The NTEC posted a series of paid and non-paid Facebook and Instagram posts which included engaging videos and images.

Type	Reach*	Engagement#	Timing
Get ready to vote – non paid video	187	1	12 July
Enrolment – paid video	3,738	4,411	5 August
Newsletter released – non paid image	53	3	5 August
Check enrolment – non paid video	161	0	9 August
Declaration of Nominations – non paid image	4,235	14	11 August
Newsletter 2 released – non paid image	239	3	11 August
Early voting starts – paid video	27,644	4,370	15 August
Newsletter 3 released – non paid image	21	0	24 August
Last chance to vote – non paid video	156	0	26 August
Last chance to vote – paid video	3,372	470	26 August
Election day – paid video	4,986	640	27 August
Counting finished – non paid image	369	5	27 August

*Reach is defined as the measurement of how many people were exposed to the post

Engagement is defined as the measurement of how many people have taken any type of action on the post

Direct messaging to voters

Any elector who has provided either their mobile phone number or email address (or both) are able to be contacted directly by the NTEC to provide election information. Eligible electors in the Waters Ward area received three direct messages during the election period.

The three rounds of messaging provided information about:

- **Enrolment** – electors who were, at the time, enrolled in the Waters Ward area were advised of the by-election, the important dates and their requirement to vote. Electors were encouraged to update their enrolment if it was no longer current. This round of

messaging often removes more electors from the council area, as they update their address, than add to it.

- **Voting has started** – electors were provided the dates, location, and opening hours of the early voting centres, as well as a link to the list of candidates.
- **Last day to vote** – those electors who had not early voted or applied for a postal vote were sent further messaging remind them to vote, and information about election day voting centres.

Both the 'enrolment' and 'voting has started' emails also provided information and a link to apply for a postal vote, and reminded voters that voting, even in council by-elections, is compulsory.

Direct messaging statistics

Message	No. of emails sent	Date sent	No. of SMS sent	Date sent
Enrolment	4,781	4 August	6,318	4 August
Voting has started (early voting)	4,330	15 August	5,917	15 August
Last day/s to vote*	3,302	25 August	4,049	27 August
TOTALS	12,413		16,284	

*Sent only to electors who had not voted

Statutory advertising

The NTEC is required to place statutory advertisements throughout an election cycle within the relevant newspaper for the election area. Statutory advertising for the Waters Ward by-election was placed in the NT News.

Type	Timing
Statutory advertisement 1 – call for nominations and close of roll information	5 August
Statutory advertisement 2 – list of candidates and early/mobile voting centres	13 August
Statutory advertisement 3 – list of election day voting centres	27 August

Newspaper advertising

The NTEC placed two further banner newspaper advertisements in the NT News to promote voting in the by-election.

Type	Timing
Early voting opens tomorrow banner	14 August
Election day banner	25 August

Street banners

A series of 4 metre NTEC banners were placed on council owned banner displays at Gardens Oval, Stuart Highway and McMillians/Bagot Road from approximately 11 July to 28 August promoting awareness of the different stages of the by-election: check your enrolment, voting is now open (early voting) and vote Saturday.

Letterbox drop

A small DL sized flyer was developed which provided information about important election dates, voting services (early voting, election day voting and urban mobile voting), the website link, and a map of the Waters Ward area to show who was required to vote. Through Australia Post, the flyer was delivered to every household and business in the Waters Ward area, including those addresses with 'no advertising material' or similar signage. This was a total of 6,678 flyers delivered between 2 to 5 August.

Newsletter

The NTEC sent three newsletters specific to the Waters Ward by-election which provided an overview of all relevant topics of the by-election. This newsletter was sent to NTEC's email database of approximately 900 email addresses with the following reach:

Type	Opens %	Clicks %	Timing
Newsletter 1	40.2%	9.7%	5 August
Newsletter 2	39.2%	6%	11 August
Newsletter 3	40%	6.9%	24 August

Other public awareness activities

The NTEC hosted a stall at the Seniors' Expo on Saturday 30 July which is coordinated by COTA and promoted awareness of the Waters Ward by-election. The week before, the NTEC also had signage and handouts promoting the by-election at the AEC's stall at the Darwin Show.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

Part 8.6 of the new *Local Government Act 2019* introduced new requirements for all candidates in local government elections, including by-elections, to submit to the NTEC campaign donation returns covering a prescribed disclosure period. Disclosure and publication of such returns aims to provide greater transparency of candidate funding during election campaigns.

Donation disclosure at the local government level in the Northern Territory requires candidates to submit information about any donations or loans (whether cash or non-cash) they receive for use in a local government election campaign. This information must be submitted to the NTEC within a legislated timeframe. The NTEC must then make this information available for public viewing by publishing the returns on its website, and having a hardcopy available in its office.

The campaign donation disclosure requirements for local government elections are much smaller and less complicated than those required for Legislative Assembly elections for example:

- only candidates are required to submit a campaign donation return
- only one campaign donation return is required (post-election)
- the return only needs to disclose donations/loans received over one disclosure period
- no return is required if donations/loans received do not meet the threshold.

These new financial disclosure requirements came into effect from 1 July 2022, and were therefore applied to the Waters Ward by-election.

The key dates of financial disclosure obligations for the by-election were:

Election day	27 August 2022
Disclosure period	1 July – 25 September 2022
Return due date	4 November 2022

No campaign donation returns were received for the Waters Ward by-election.

CORPORATE MANAGEMENT

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) support

For any local government general election or by-election, an external contractor (F1 Solutions) is procured to provide specialist IT support for the electronic mark-off system (eLAPPS) used to mark off electors when they are issued a ballot paper. For this by-election, eLAPPS was imaged to 31 devices used to mark-off of electors, across six voting teams (as well as a number of spare devices). The eLAPPS system was also used for central monitoring of vote issuing during the voting period by NTEC office staff.

An additional nine devices were also loaded with the electoral roll as look up devices for electors that could not be found on the Waters Ward elector mark off list.

Significant ICT assistance is provided by the Department of Corporate and Digital Development (DCDD) to the NTEC for most of the elections it conducts. For the Waters Ward by-election, DCDD provided ICT incident monitoring, response and escalation, as well as provision and management of IT event services including elevated support for the commission's election management system, eLAPPS services, Telstra services and the website, particularly with the timely publishing of count results.

Premises

The NTEC Darwin office was used as the Darwin early voting centre and the scrutiny centre for the conduct of counts. The use of the NTEC's office is at no cost to the council.

As part of the SLA for the by-election, the City of Darwin provided the Casuarina Library at no cost as an early voting centre. They also provided a venue within its Civic Centre for the candidate information session, the declaration of nominations and the declaration of results.

A Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Education covers the use of school facilities for NT election events under which facilities at Moil Primary School and Sanderson Middle School were hired as election day voting centres. The venue at O'Loughlin Catholic College in Karama was hired under a private arrangement, as it is a non-government school.

Staffing

The day-to-day operations of the by-election were managed internally by the NTEC's permanent staff and was supplemented by casual staff identified from the commission's casual election staff database.

The table below shows the number of casual staff employed across a variety of positions. In total, 33 casual electoral positions were filled by 27 casual staff. In some instances, some casual staff were employed in more than one position.

Due to the concurrent Fannie Bay by-election, there was an overlap of early voting periods. While Casuarina Library was only an early voting centre for the Waters Ward by-election, the Darwin early voting centre issued votes for both by-elections. However, the casual staff employed at the Darwin early voting centre, during the overlapping week, and the following week after the Fannie Bay by-election, were at no cost to the City of Darwin.

Positions	No. of casual positions
Early voting centre staff	8 (only 6 paid for)
Election day voting centre staff	19
Urban mobile voting teams	2
Count staff	2
Other operations staff*	2

* e.g. postal voting, materials

All casual staff, with the exception of the additional operations staff, were provided face-to-face training as well as manuals for their positions. In this training, any differences between Legislative Assembly and local government elections were emphasised, in particular the rules for campaigning at voting centres and the differences in the vote counting processes.

Election costs

The table below shows the final actual costs for the Waters Ward by-election. These election costs do not include the processing of non-voters. These are provided in a separate table below.

Expense category	Early voting centre	Election day voting centres	NTEC Operations	Postal voting	Urban mobile team	Total
Advertising			\$10,830			\$10,830
Information technology			\$2,981			\$2,981
Materials			\$3,055	\$220		\$3,275
Postage				\$2,364		\$2,364
Premises		\$4,227	\$636			\$4,863
Staff wages	\$29,377	\$14,748	\$9,724		\$1,407	\$55,2576
Vehicle hire			\$653			\$653
Sub-total	\$29,377	\$18,975	\$27,880	\$2,584	\$1,407	\$80,223
Corporate overhead 15%						\$12,033
Sub-total						\$92,256
GST 10%						\$9,226
TOTAL						\$101,482

