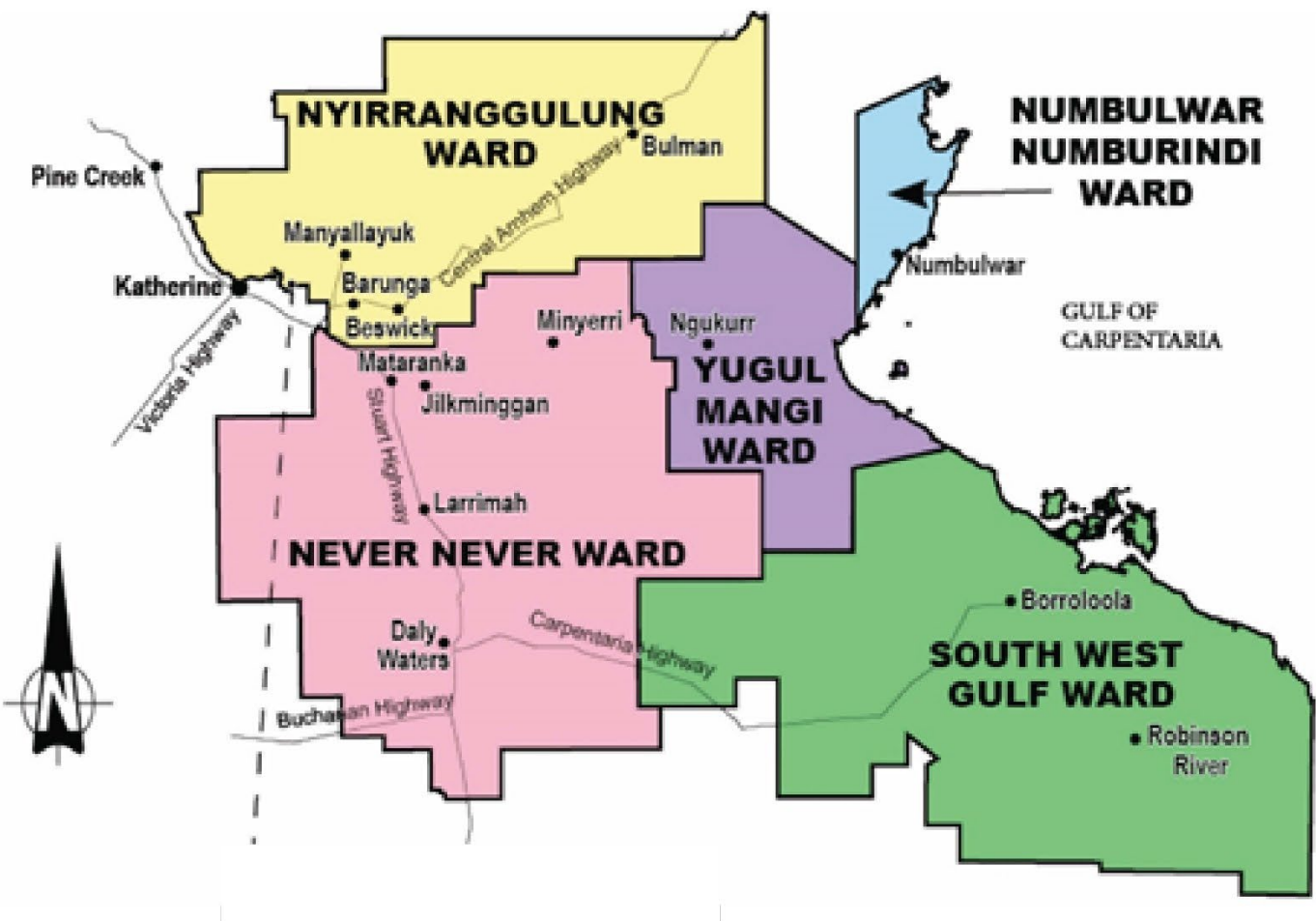


Roper Gulf Regional Council Election Report



NTEC version control

2021 Local Government Elections - Roper Gulf 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 Election day |
| | 8:00 am | Election day voting commences |
| | 6:00 pm | Election day voting ceases Mobile voting ceases Primary counts of ordinary, postal and early votes commence |
| Monday 30 August | 9:00 am | Declaration vote verification checks, commence recheck of all counts |
| Thursday 2 September | 9:00 am | Primary counts of accepted declaration votes, further postal counts |
| Friday 10 September | 12:00 noon | Deadline for receipt of postal votes Final counts of postal votes commence |
| | 6:00 pm | Distribution of preferences |
| Monday 13 September | 10:00 am | Declaration of the election result |

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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 Roper Gulf Regional Council, there were 5 elections to be contested for its 5 wards:

- Never Never Ward – 3 councillors
- Numbulwar Numburindi Ward – 2 councillors
- Nyirranggulung Ward – 3 councillors
- South West Gulf Ward – 3 councillors
- Yugul Mangi Ward – 2 councillors.

Legislation

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

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

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

Service Charter

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

Service Level Agreement

As part of its service level agreement signed 23 March 2021, Roper Gulf Regional Council opted to provide or facilitate the following for its elections:

- council staff where available to undertake local interpreter assistance in communities
- council owned accommodation (if required) and voting premises at no cost
- picks ups and drop off at communities where necessary
- council owned accommodation (if required) and voting premises at no cost
- promotion of the election through social media and council sites throughout the council area
- receive and forward nominations to the NTEC for official processing

All electoral services were provided by the NT Electoral Commission.

BOUNDARY CHANGES

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

ENROLMENT

At the close of the electoral roll on Tuesday 27 July at 5:00pm there was a total of 3,902 electors enrolled in the Roper Gulf Regional Council. This was a 1.3 per cent decrease in enrolment from the previous local government general elections in 2017. The enrolment numbers per ward were as follows:

- Never Never Ward – 811 (down from 815 in 2017)
- Numbulwar Numburindi Ward – 493 (down from 499 in 2017)
- Nyirranggulung Ward – 889 (down from 906 in 2017)
- South West Gulf Ward – 948 (down from 972 in 2017)
- Yugul Mangi Ward – 761 (up from 760 in 2017)

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 Roper Gulf Regional Council results and information page engagement, prior to and post election day.

Website engagement

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Total website page views | 865,814 |
| Roper Gulf councillor results page views (all wards) | 3,222 |
| Roper Gulf list of councillor candidates (all wards) | 1,771 |
| All other Roper Gulf related pages views | 1,282 |
| Total Roper Gulf content related page views | 6,275 |

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 vlogs featuring well-known Territorians such as Charlie King, who promoted key election messages on behalf of the NTEC.

A number of light-hearted social media advertisements featuring everyday Territorians to promote the election in Alice Springs and Territory wide were also developed in collaboration with Bellette Media.

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 Central Desert Regional Council area advertisements were run in Arrernte, Warlpiri and English.

Direct digital and print advertising

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

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

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

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

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

In the Roper Gulf Regional Council area ads were run in Kriol and Yolgnu Matha. English language advertisements were also run Territory wide.

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 Roper Gulf Council region | | 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 Roper Gulf Regional 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%* |
| Roper Gulf geo-targeted ads# | 8,856 | 28,564 | 2.8% |

*Industry standard is 0.89%

#Includes only in-language advertisements targeted to run in the Top End which included the Roper Gulf Regional Council area. Does not include Territory wide English language ads

Call centre

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

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

Candidate information sessions

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

Email and SMS

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

| Message | Email | Date sent | SMS | Date sent |
|---|------------|------------|--------------|---------------|
| Enrolment | 312 | 19-07-2021 | 612 | 22-07-2021 |
| Voting suspended (COVID-19) | 21* | 16-08-2021 | 577 | 16-08-2021 |
| Vote now, early voting (post lockdown) | 275 | 19-08-2021 | | |
| Community specific message sent 2 days before remote team visit | | | 628 | 16-25-08-2021 |
| Totals | 608 | | 1,817 | |

*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.

VOTING SERVICES

Nominations

Nominations opened Friday 16 July and closed on Thursday 5 August at 12:00 noon. There were a total of 23 accepted nominations for 13 council vacancies (there were no withdrawn or rejected nominations).

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.

Roper Gulf – summary of accepted nominations/candidates

| Ward | Nominations |
|--|--------------------|
| Never Never Ward (3 vacancies) | Annabelle DAYLIGHT |
| | Cecilia LAKE |
| | Patricia FARRELL |
| | Judy MACFARLANE |
| | Peter LANSEN |

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Numbulwar Numburindi Ward (2 vacancies) | Edwin NUNGGUMAJBARR |
| | David MURRUNGUN |

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| Nyirrangulung Ward (3 vacancies) | Scott LEE |
| | Helen Leanne LEE |
| | John DALYWATER |
| | Selina ASHLEY |
| | Anne-Marie Minnie RYAN |
| | Deanna KENNEDY |

| | |
|--|------------------|
| South West Gulf Ward (3 vacancies) | Tony JACK |
| | Samuel EVANS |
| | Donald GARNER |
| | Marlene KARKADOO |
| | Gadrian HOOSAN |
| | Keith RORY |

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Yugul Mangi Ward (2 vacancies) | Owen TURNER |
| | Roxanne ROBERTS |
| | Jana DANIELS |
| | Annie DANIELS COLLINS |
| | Clifford DUNCAN |

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 Northern Territory, early voting services were offered for two weeks (from Monday 16 August to Friday 27 August) at 7 early voting centres, and for one week at the Tennant Creek early voting centre (Monday 23 August to Friday 27 August). However, from 12 noon, Monday 16 August to 12 noon, Thursday 19 August, early voting was suspended Territory wide due to a COVID-19 lockdown. To offset the loss of service to electors, early voting times were extended. The table below shows those early voting centres (EVCs) that issued votes to Roper Gulf Regional Council electors.

Early voting statistics – Roper Gulf Regional Council

| Location | Votes issued |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Coolalinga EVC | 2 |
| Darwin EVC | 3 |
| Katherine EVC | 56 |
| Palmerston EVC | 1 |
| Tennant Creek EVC | 2 |
| Yarrowonga EVC | 3 |
| Total | 67 |

Remote mobile voting

Remote mobile voting in the Roper Gulf Regional Council area was also suspended due to the COVID-19 lockdown from Monday 16 August to 12 noon, Thursday 19 August. Visits by remote mobile voting teams had to be rescheduled, and for some communities, multiple times. The table below shows the communities and when they were visited by a voting team.

Remote mobile voting statistics – Roper Gulf Regional Council

| Location | Ordinary | Declaration |
|----------------|------------|-------------|
| Barunga | 103 | 0 |
| Beswick | 104 | 0 |
| Borroloola | 132 | 1 |
| Bulman | 31 | 0 |
| King Ash Bay | 0 | 0 |
| Jilkminggan | 74 | 2 |
| Manyallaluk | 27 | 0 |
| Mara | 50 | 0 |
| Mataranka | 95 | 0 |
| Minyerri | 120 | 2 |
| Mulggan | 0 | 0 |
| Munyalini | 0 | 0 |
| Ngukurr | 125 | 3 |
| Rittarangu | 25 | 2 |
| Robinson River | 41 | 1 |
| Wandangula | 13 | 0 |
| Weemol | 20 | 0 |
| Werenbun | 10 | 0 |
| Total | 970 | 11 |

Mobile voting – Urban institutions

Mobile voting teams visited hospitals and correctional centres in Alice Springs and Darwin, and issued 13 votes to Roper Gulf Regional Council electors. These are included in the absent vote count.

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 Roper Gulf Regional Council residents.

Postal voting statistics – Roper Gulf Regional Council

| Description | Number |
|---|--------|
| Number of postal vote applications received | 135 |
| Number of postal votes issued | 119 |
| Number of postal vote applications rejected | 16 |
| Number of postal votes returned | 84 |
| Number of postal votes added to the count | 64 |
| Number of postal votes rejected | 20 |

The reasons for rejecting postal vote applications were:

- multiple applications received from the same elector (10)
- ward did not go to election (3)
- too late for Australian address (1)
- overseas elector (1)
- not enrolled (1)

The reasons for rejecting returned postal votes were:

- vote received too late (7)
- returned to sender (4)
- vote not signed (3)
- postal vote not signed (3)
- ordinary vote issued (i.e. elector marked off as having voted in person) (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 Roper Gulf Regional Council the table below shows the declaration votes admitted to the count and those rejected.

Declaration vote statistics – Roper Gulf Regional Council

| Accepted | Rejected | Total |
|----------|----------|-------|
| 13 | 4 | 17 |

The main reasons for rejecting declaration votes were:

- insufficient evidence of identity to enrol the person or update their enrolment (2)
- elector enrolled for a different local government area to the one they completed the ballot paper for (2). Electors must vote for the area they are enrolled in at the close of electoral roll, even if they have since moved to another NT address.

Participation

Turnout for the Roper Gulf Regional Council election was 35.4% across the 4 wards that had an election. That means 1,207 electors voted out of a total enrolment figure of 3,409. The turnout rate for this ward was less than the previous elections in 2017 where the council had a turnout rate of 38.8% (1,238 electors out of 3,192 enrolled – again this was for 4 wards only, but there was a difference in the wards that went to election).

Number of votes counted by voting centre type – Roper Gulf Regional Council

| Voting centre | Number of votes counted | % of total votes |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Remote mobile voting teams | 1,037 | 85.9% |
| Early voting centres | 73 | 6.0% |
| Postal voting | 63 | 5.2% |
| Declaration voting | 13 | 1.1% |
| Absent voting | 21 | 1.7% |
| Total | 1,207 | 99.9% |

Non-voters

There were 2,235 identified non-voters across the council area. The table below shows the age and gender demographics of these non-voters.

Non-voter statistics – Central Desert Regional Council

| Gender | 18-29 years | 30-49 years | 50-69 years | 70+ years | Total |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| Female | 305 | 497 | 245 | 43 | 1,090 |
| Male | 279 | 547 | 257 | 59 | 1,142 |
| Undisclosed gender | 3 | | | | 3 |
| Total | 587 | 1,044 | 502 | 102 | 2,235 |

Informality

Of the 1,207 Roper Gulf Regional Council ballot papers counted, 47 were considered informal and so not counted. This is an informality rate of 3.9%.

Informal vote statistics

| Ballot paper | Intentional | Unintentional | Total |
|-----------------|-------------|---------------|-----------|
| Never Never | 5 | 7 | 12 |
| Nyirranggulung | 8 | 3 | 11 |
| South West Gulf | 3 | 8 | 11 |
| Yugul Mangi | 8 | 5 | 13 |
| Total | 24 | 23 | 47 |

Voting system

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

- Electors must number all the boxes on their ballot paper sequentially starting with the number one for their first choice.
- First preference votes for each candidate on formal ballot papers are counted, then a quota is calculated.
- The quota is calculated using the following formula: (total number of formal votes / (number of vacancies + 1)) + 1.

- The candidates with votes equal to or greater than the quota are elected. If all vacancies are filled, the election is complete.
- If not, preferences are distributed to the other candidates until all vacancies have been filled.

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

Vote counting – election night

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

Post-election night scrutinies

- Votes received for 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.
- Counts of declaration and postal votes returned during the counting period were undertaken over the 13 days following election day.
- Following the deadline for the receipt of postal votes at 12 noon on Friday 10 September, a distribution of preferences was conducted electronically using the Easy Count software.

Election outcomes

There were 24 candidates contesting 13 councillor vacancies. The successful candidates and first preference votes received are detailed in the tables below:

Election of 3 councillors – Never Never 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 |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Annabelle DAYLIGHT | 43 |
| Cecilia LAKE | 45 |
| Patricia FARRELL | 73 |
| Judy MACFARLANE | 157 |
| Peter LANSEN | 49 |
| Total | 367 |

The quota required under the proportional representation voting system was 92. Following the distribution of preferences, and in accordance with Schedule 1 of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations, the results were as follows:

- **Judy MACFARLANE** received the quota at count number 1
- **Patricia FARRELL** received the quota at count number 2
- **Annabelle DAYLIGHT** received the quota at count number 4

Judy MACFARLANE, Patricia FARRELL and Annabelle DAYLIGHT were duly elected.

Election of 2 councillors – Numbulwar Numburindi Ward

At the close of nominations the number of candidates was not more than the number of vacancies and **Edwin NUNGGUMAJBARR** and **David MURRUNGUN** were duly declared elected.

Election of 3 councillors – Nyirranggulung 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 |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Scott LEE | 29 |
| Helen Leanne LEE | 108 |
| John DALYWATER | 70 |
| Selina ASHLEY | 39 |
| Anne-Marie Minnie RYAN | 18 |
| Deanna KENNEDY | 37 |
| Total | 301 |

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

- **Helen Leanne LEE** received the quota at count number 1
- **John DALYWATER** received the quota at count number 5
- **Selina ASHLEY** received the quota at count number 9

Helen Leanne LEE, John DALYWATER and Selina ASHLEY were duly elected.

Election of 3 councillors – South West Gulf 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 |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Tony JACK | 56 |
| Samuel EVANS | 72 |
| Donald GARNER | 62 |
| Marlene KARKADOO | 36 |
| Gadrian HOOSAN | 79 |
| Keith RORY | 16 |
| Total | 321 |

The quota required under the proportional representation voting system was 81. Following the distribution of preferences, and in accordance with Schedule 1 of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations, the results were as follows:

- **Gadrian HOOSAN** received the quota at count number 2
- **Samuel EVANS** received the quota at count number 4
- **Tony JACK** received the quota at count number 7

Gadrian HOOSAN, Samuel EVANS and **Tony JACK** were duly elected.

Election of 2 councillors – Yugul Mangi 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 |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Owen TURNER | 95 |
| Roxanne ROBERTS | 11 |
| Jana DANIELS | 24 |
| Annie DANIELS COLLINS | 21 |
| Clifford DUNCAN | 20 |
| Total | 171 |

The quota required under the proportional representation voting system was 58. Following the distribution of preferences, and in accordance with Schedule 1 of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations, the results were as follows:

- **Owen TURNER** received the quota at count number 1
- **Jana DANIELS** received the quota at count number 6

Owen TURNER and **Jana DANIELS** 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.

Declared election results for Roper Gulf Regional Council

| Ward | Elected Members |
|--|---|
| Never Never Ward (3 vacancies) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judy MACFARLANE • Patricia FARRELL • Annabelle DAYLIGHT |
| Numbulwar Numburindi Ward (2 vacancies) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edwin NUNGGUMAJBARR • David MURRUNGUN |
| Nyirranggulung Ward (3 vacancies) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helen Leanne LEE • John DALYWATER • Selina ASHLEY |

| | |
|---|---|
| South West Gulf Ward (3 vacancies) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gadrian HOOSAN • Samuel EVANS • Tony JACK |
| Yugul Mangi Ward (2 vacancies) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owen TURNER • Jana DANIELS |

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 – Roper Gulf Regional Council

| Election area | Estimated cost |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Public awareness | \$8,806 |
| Staffing | \$48,762 |
| Operational | \$45,650 |
| Sub total | \$103,218 |
| 10% GST | \$10,322 |
| Total estimated cost | \$113,540 |

Actual costs – Roper Gulf Regional Council

| Election area | Actual cost |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Public awareness | \$5,482 |
| Staffing | \$72,475 |
| Operational | \$21,368 |
| Sub total | \$99,325 |
| 10% GST | \$9,933 |
| Total actual cost | \$109,258 |

POST-ELECTION DE-BRIEF

A de-brief of the election activities and outcomes took place with Roper Gulf Regional Council on 20 October 2021. During this meeting the council relayed complaints they had received about changes to scheduled voting services, misinformation about where to vote, and a desire for longer voting hours. They also stated they would like to be more involved at an earlier stage in the preparation of mobile schedules and the NTEC agreed to discuss this with the council at future elections, as well as to consult with councils about decisions to change voting times.

The council proposed some suggestions to increase voter participation including the provision of voting services within council offices for a full day on election day rather a few hours, particularly in 'growth towns'. The NTEC agreed to share statistics and other information regarding turnout in previous elections for these locations. The council also suggested that the most effective way to deliver information to their communities was in person directly to electors, and that while social media and hard copy advertising had a place, these were not as effective.

ISSUES OF NOTE

- Roper Gulf Regional Council made a formal complaint about the voting centre at the Borroloola Council Office closing one hour earlier than scheduled on Thursday 26 August. This was due to advice received from 3 of the local candidates that due to a body being flown in, they may be requested to close down due to a procession of vehicles that would need to pass by the voting centre. After checking with the NTEC office, the team closed the voting centre early.
- The council advised that due to Borroloola being an open town, there were no cultural protocols that required the voting centre to be closed for this instance. If the council had been consulted about the situation they would have advised the mobile team to keep the voting centre open. The NTEC has acknowledged this should have happened, and are committed to consulting with the council in the future about changes to voting schedules, in particular in their open towns like Borroloola, Mataranka, Larrimah and Daly Waters.
- The council made a second formal complaint, as a response of complaints made to them, alleging that electors in 2 communities were refused the opportunity to vote as they were not in their enrolled ward. Remote mobile teams carry ballot papers for all wards in their council area so electors do not have to be in their ward to vote, but do need to be in their local government area to vote with a remote mobile voting team.
- The NTEC did provide a formal reply to this complaint explaining that the most likely scenario was that voters were not able to be issued with a vote due to being enrolled in a different local government area that the team did not have ballot papers for, or were enrolled in the ward that did not have an election.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- NTEC to develop a protocol for consulting councils where there is a change during the polling period and after advertising, this will include how to best communicate these changes to candidates and within the community.
- NTEC and council to collaboratively develop mobile voting schedules in advance of the election and review following declaration of nominations.