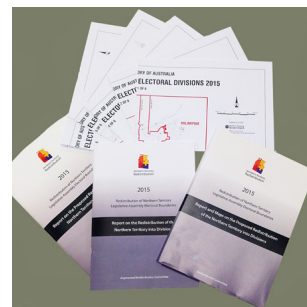




**NORTHERN  
TERRITORY  
ELECTORAL  
COMMISSION**  
*EVERY vote counts!*



# 2015-2016 **Annual Report**



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# Letter to Speaker

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The Hon K Purick MLA  
Speaker  
Northern Territory Legislative Assembly  
Parliament House  
Darwin NT 0800

Madam Speaker

I am pleased to provide the Annual Report of the Northern Territory Electoral Commission for the 2015-2016 reporting year.

The report details the performance, key achievements and outlook for the Commission for the year ending 30 June 2016. It was prepared in accordance with the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act*, the *Financial Management Act* and the *Information Act*.

Additional copies of this report have been provided for tabling in the Legislative Assembly within three sitting days after its receipt.



**Iain Loganathan**  
**Electoral Commissioner**

31 October 2016



**NORTHERN  
TERRITORY  
ELECTORAL  
COMMISSION**  
*EVERY vote counts!*

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# Foreword

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The 2015-2016 financial year was one of evaluation, planning and implementation; all aimed at building a modern, innovative and forward-focussed electoral commission.

The redistribution of electoral boundaries was finalised in September 2015 with the division of Grotorex abolished and the new division of Spillett created to incorporate new suburbs in Palmerston.

Preparations also began for the 2016 Territory election with a focus on modernising the agency using technology to improve electoral practices. This process included the development of a new election management system designed to facilitate online electoral official recruitment and training, online lodgement of postal vote applications, electronic lodgement of political disclosure returns, and a direct link to the planned virtual tally room.



The modernisation agenda included a partnership with the ACT Electoral Commission to use electronic certified lists to streamline the voter mark-off process and strengthen the integrity of the electoral process. An agreement was also made with the Commonwealth Department of Human Services to assist in the delivery of remote voting services.

The election enrolment campaign commenced in April 2016 and targeted young and remote voters. The campaign was implemented through a new website promoting online enrolment, SMS communication, social media advertising, as well as more traditional avenues such as television, radio and print.

Stakeholder engagement for the 2016 Territory election began in late 2015. This process was on-going and included face-to-face meetings and briefings, regular newsletters and election-related information sheets.

In May 2016, the 2016 Territory election Service Charter was released, outlining key performance indicators and service level commitments to stakeholders.

Also during the 2015-2016 year, five fee-for-service elections were conducted as were eight local government by-elections and one full Local Government election, with the Palmerston and Litchfield elections providing an opportunity to trial new technology and processes that will be used in the 2016 Territory election in August.

The achievements of the Commission have been significant this year and I would like to thank my staff for their ongoing support and commitment to modernising the agency in the lead-up to the August Territory election.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Iain Loganathan'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Iain Loganathan**  
Electoral Commissioner  
30 October 2016





# Glossary

<b>1TP</b>	1 Territory Party	<b>LGGE</b>	Local Government General Elections
<b>AAO</b>	Administrative Arrangements Order	<b>MLA</b>	Member of the NT Legislative Assembly
<b>ADF</b>	Australian Defence Force	<b>MOU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>AEC</b>	Australian Electoral Commission	<b>MyVote Central</b>	The NTEC office in Alice Springs
<b>ALP</b>	Australian Labor Party NT	<b>NT</b>	Northern Territory
<b>CEC</b>	Citizens Electoral Council (NT Division)	<b>NTEC</b>	Northern Territory Electoral Commission
<b>CL</b>	Country Liberals	<b>NTG</b>	Northern Territory Government
<b>COMMISSION</b>	Northern Territory Electoral Commission	<b>NTPS</b>	Northern Territory Public Service
<b>COMMISSIONER</b>	NT Electoral Commissioner	<b>OIC</b>	Officer In Charge
<b>CRU</b>	Continuous Roll Update	<b>OCPE</b>	Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment
<b>DCIS</b>	Department of Corporate and Information Services	<b>OPV</b>	Optional preferential voting (vote counting system used for NT LA elections)
<b>DHS</b>	Commonwealth Department of Human Services	<b>PARTY</b>	A political party registered under the provisions of the <i>NT Electoral Act</i>
<b>DISCLOSURE</b>	The disclosure of detailed financial information to increase transparency and inform the public about the financial dealings of candidates, registered political parties, local branches/sub-party units and their associated entities, donors and other participants in the electoral process.	<b>PR</b>	Proportional representation (vote counting system used for NT LG elections)
<b>DLGCD</b>	Department of Local Government and Community Development (formally Department of Local Government and Community Services)	<b>REDISTRIBUTION</b>	A redistribution of NT parliamentary electoral boundaries
<b>EA</b>	<i>NT Electoral Act</i>	<b>REPRESENTATION REVIEWS</b>	A council must review its structure and representation once in every term so imbalances in elector numbers that develop over time between council wards, can be reviewed in order that all electors and communities have a fair say in council decision making
<b>ECANZ</b>	Electoral Council of Australia and New Zealand	<b>RMANS</b>	Roll Management System
<b>eLAPPS</b>	Electronic roll mark-off of voters	<b>SFP</b>	Shooters and Fishers Party
<b>EMS</b>	Election Management System	<b>STEC</b>	State and Territory Electoral Commissioners
<b>EVC</b>	Early Voting Centre	<b>TIGER</b>	The Information Gateway to Electoral Resources (NTEC Election Management System)
<b>FDEU</b>	Federal Direct Enrolment Update	<b>WHS</b>	Work, Health and Safety
<b>FOI</b>	Freedom of Information		
<b>GREENS</b>	NT Greens		
<b>ICT</b>	Information and Communication Technology		
<b>JOINT ROLL</b>	The electoral roll or list of electors eligible to vote for Commonwealth and NT elections, maintained under a formal arrangement between the Governor-General and the Administrator		
<b>JRA</b>	Joint Roll Arrangement		
<b>LA</b>	Legislative Assembly		
<b>LAGE</b>	Legislative Assembly General Election		
<b>LG</b>	Local Government comprising the third tier of government in Australia: in the NT, five Municipal and 12 regional, shire, community government councils		
<b>LGA</b>	<i>Local Government Act</i>		
<b>LGANT</b>	Local Government Association of the Northern Territory		
<b>LGER</b>	Local Government (Electoral) Regulations		





# Agency overview

## Purpose, vision, mission and values

The purpose of the Northern Territory Electoral Commission (NTEC) is to:

- provide quality electoral services to clients throughout the Northern Territory
- ensure the electoral system, especially the right to vote and to vote in secret, is fully accessible to all electors.

The NTEC's vision is to be widely recognised for its expertise and excellence in electoral administration.

The NTEC's mission is to provide independent, impartial, high quality and accessible electoral services that are effective, efficient and delivered in accordance with the law.

The NTEC's values are fundamental to achieving its goals. These are:

- integrity
- impartiality
- transparency and accountability
- commitment to high standards of service delivery
- commitment to continuous improvement
- respect for the law.

## Operating environment

The Commission operates in an environment that includes:

- a small, culturally diverse, dispersed and mobile population
- a broad charter of electoral operations and corporate governance responsibilities
- a small permanent staff structure
- a requirement to modernise and implement best practice
- close working relationships with the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC), interstate electoral authorities and other organisations.

## Strategic issues

Key Result Areas (KRAs) set out in the Corporate Plan 2015-2019 are:

- Enrolment
- Elections
- Public Awareness
- Corporate

## Legislative base

The following Acts and Regulations are administered by the Commission:

- NT *Electoral Act* and Regulations under that Act
- *Referendums Act* and Regulations under that Act
- Electoral provisions contained in the *Local Government Act* and the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations.

From 23 April 2015, amended legislation gave councils the option to determine their service provider for the conduct of by-elections. General elections remain the responsibility of the Electoral Commissioner.

Under the *Constitutional Convention (Election) Act*, assented to on 9 September 2014, the NTEC is charged with conducting any election for delegates to a constitutional convention to discuss statehood for the NT. General and financial management of the Act remains with the Department of the Legislative Assembly.



# Agency purpose and functions

The NTEC provides independent, impartial, high quality and accessible electoral services to the people of the Northern Territory, the NT Legislative Assembly, local government municipal, regional and shire councils and other organisations.

The Commission's functions are prescribed under section 309 of the NT *Electoral Act* (the Act).

Key responsibilities include:

- maintaining the joint electoral roll for both the Legislative Assembly and local government in partnership with the Australian Electoral Commission
- managing parliamentary and non-parliamentary elections including local government and, on request, fee-for-service elections
- delivering electoral awareness programs to the public
- providing advice and reports relating to electoral matters to the Legislative Assembly
- conducting electoral research
- providing support to redistribution committees reviewing Legislative Assembly electoral boundaries and to representation review processes for local councils.

NTEC activities include:

- development and implementation of electoral roll register reviews and enrolment stimulation strategies to raise roll quality and elector participation for Legislative Assembly and Local Government elections
- planning and implementation of programs to conduct fixed term Legislative Assembly and local government general elections and periodic by-elections in the required timeframe with best established electoral practices
- development and management of electoral awareness programs for the general public, minority groups and school students so they are aware of their electoral rights and responsibilities
- provision of support for parliamentary electoral boundary redistribution and council representation reviews and then, in conjunction with the AEC, co-ordinating and verifying changes on the national electoral roll following gazettal of changes
- development of structures and nurturing of inter-agency relationships to support the NTEC's core business of election management in an environment that demands specialist knowledge and impartiality in service delivery.

Since 23 May 2015, a local government council has the option of conducting a by-election itself or appointing its own service provider. The Electoral Commission remains the prescribed provider for electoral services for local government general elections.

The Commission may conduct ballots for persons, government and non-government organisations, on a fee-for-service basis.

The NT Electoral Commissioner is the chief executive of the agency and an independent officer. Appointment to the position is by the Administrator following consultation by the responsible Minister with the leader of each political party represented in the Legislative Assembly and all Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who are not affiliated with a political party. The Commissioner sits on both the Redistribution and the Augmented Redistribution Committees that review and determine electoral boundaries for the Legislative Assembly.



# The year in review

## Enrolment

On 16 September 2015, following gazettal of changes to Legislative Assembly boundaries by the Augmented Redistribution Committee, the NTEC in conjunction with the Australian Electoral Commission co-ordinated and verified the implementation of the changes to the electoral roll.

On 11 April 2016, the enrolment campaign for the 2016 Territory election was launched promoting the message 'Got an opinion? Make it count. Enrol to vote.'. The message encouraged Territorians to have their opinion heard at the August LA general election by ensuring they are correctly enrolled for their current address.

## Elections

In response to the Electoral Legislation Amendment Bill (2015), tabled in Parliament on 2 December 2015, the Commission published an information paper discussing the likely impact of the amendments and relevant issues for consideration prior to the Bill being debated in 2016.

Subsequent to the review of the Commission's electoral systems, procedures and practices, a number of innovations were put in place during 2015-2016 in preparation for the 2016 Territory election. Changes to the NT *Electoral Act* that passed through parliament in February and became law on 2 March 2016, created the need to further revise systems and procedures.

Election management was provided for:

- early voting services in Darwin and MyVote Central in Alice Springs, for two parliamentary by-elections in Victoria
- one LG council general election and eight LG council by-elections
- five fee-for-service elections.

Accounting firm BDO Pty Ltd conducted a compliance review of all political disclosure returns submitted for the 2014-2015 financial year.

## Public awareness

A comprehensive communication strategy was developed for the 2016 Territory election, including branding for the different campaign elements. The election branding and logo was released in February.

A dedicated election website was developed, with the launch of the rebranded site taking place on 11 April 2016.

A total of 102 electoral education sessions were conducted involving 5,398 participants.

## Corporate

Casual staff were contacted regarding their availability to work during the 2016 Territory election period. For the first time, registering expressions of interest and lodging details were available online.

Contractual arrangements were finalised with a number of external providers to deliver specified election-related services. In addition, more effective cost monitoring controls were implemented.

## National representation

The Electoral Council of Australia and New Zealand (ECANZ) is a consultative council of electoral commissions from the electoral authorities of the Commonwealth, States and Territories and New Zealand. The council met four times in 2015-2016 with the NT Electoral Commissioner attending all meetings. Matters discussed included enrolment strategies and opportunities for collaborative research.



Through this network, the Commission was able to explore a collaborative arrangement with the ACT Electoral Commission (ACTEC) for the joint purchase of netbooks to enable electronic voter mark-off.

The ACTEC also provided advice on tested solutions for a computerised ballot draw system; subsequently, two electronic random number generators were purchased for use at the 2016 Territory election.

The NTEC worked with the Electoral Commission Queensland (ECQ) to facilitate the implementation of a 2016 Territory election call centre using ECQ premises,

facilities and previously trained call centre staff.

## Partnership with the AEC

Both the NTEC and AEC NT offices deliver enrolment and public awareness programs. The Commission provided support to AEC enrolment activities in the lead-up to the 2016 federal election through promotional information on the NTEC website and via social media. The Commission also assisted the AEC in Alice Springs prior to the federal election, by providing staff to deliver a shop-front service to electors for the AEC's division of Lingiari election service centre.

## Major tasks identified in the previous annual report

Task	Progress
Implement boundary changes for the 2015 redistribution of the NT LA electoral boundaries	The redistributed boundaries were moved into production in the roll management system in March 2016
Develop a joint strategy with the AEC to improve enrolment participation for the elections scheduled in 2016	Joint working group established to review and identify potential opportunities to undertake joint roll growth strategies
Consider recommendations from the 2015 McGuiness report and BDO findings on political disclosure compliance	Ongoing Electronic lodgement of disclosure returns now available A compliance audit was conducted on disclosure returns for 2014-2015
Finalise and implement election plans	An election planning workshop took place in June 2016
Finalise the redevelopment of election systems	Development was carried out and final testing in conducted
Review the operational model for the recruitment and training of local assistants and interpreters, including political neutrality vetting and procedures	Digital 'tablet' training tools (in a number of Indigenous languages) were developed to ensure common messaging is provided to electors seeking assistance, as well as appropriate training for interpreters. A second storyboard provides training to interpreters on the legal and procedural requirements of providing assistance to electors
Develop online training content for delivering electoral official training	Content and materials for training modules for electoral officials were developed
Review NTEC branding prior to the next cycle of general election events in 2016 and 2017	LA branding completed and released February 2016
Review and develop the structure and content of the 2016 LA election website	Completed and went live on 11 April 2016
Review the education content on the NTEC website	Ongoing
Facilitate the timely refresh of hardware and software for the next election cycle	A hardware refresh of existing desktop computers took place in May 2016, with the proposed upgrade to Microsoft Office 2013 delayed until after the August 2016 Territory election
Maintain contact with the pool of experienced casual electoral staff and explore opportunities to co-opt new recruits at by-elections, and to up-skill staff in preparation for major elections	A recruitment campaign was conducted seeking expressions of interest for working at the 2016 Territory election (social media, newspapers, website, email)



# The year ahead

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## Enrolment

- Analyse the impact of the 2016 federal and Territory election enrolment programs on enrolment outcomes, and implement the program for processing non-voter and other relevant enrolment data arising from the 2016 Territory election.
- Undertake an enrolment promotion campaign in the lead-up to the 2017 LG general elections.
- Provide input and advice to the Department of Local Government and Community Development (DLGCD) on the role of the NTEC in relation to local government representation reviews.

## Elections

- Conduct the 27 August 2016 Territory election.
- Review and evaluate the conduct of the election and recommend operational improvements for future elections; suggest legislative changes as required.
- Commence preparation and implementation of election plans for the conduct of the August 2017 LG general elections.
- Liaise with the DLGCD on any proposed amendments to local government electoral legislation and incorporate changes to systems and processes should legislative amendments be tabled and assented to prior to the August 2017 LG general elections.

## Public awareness

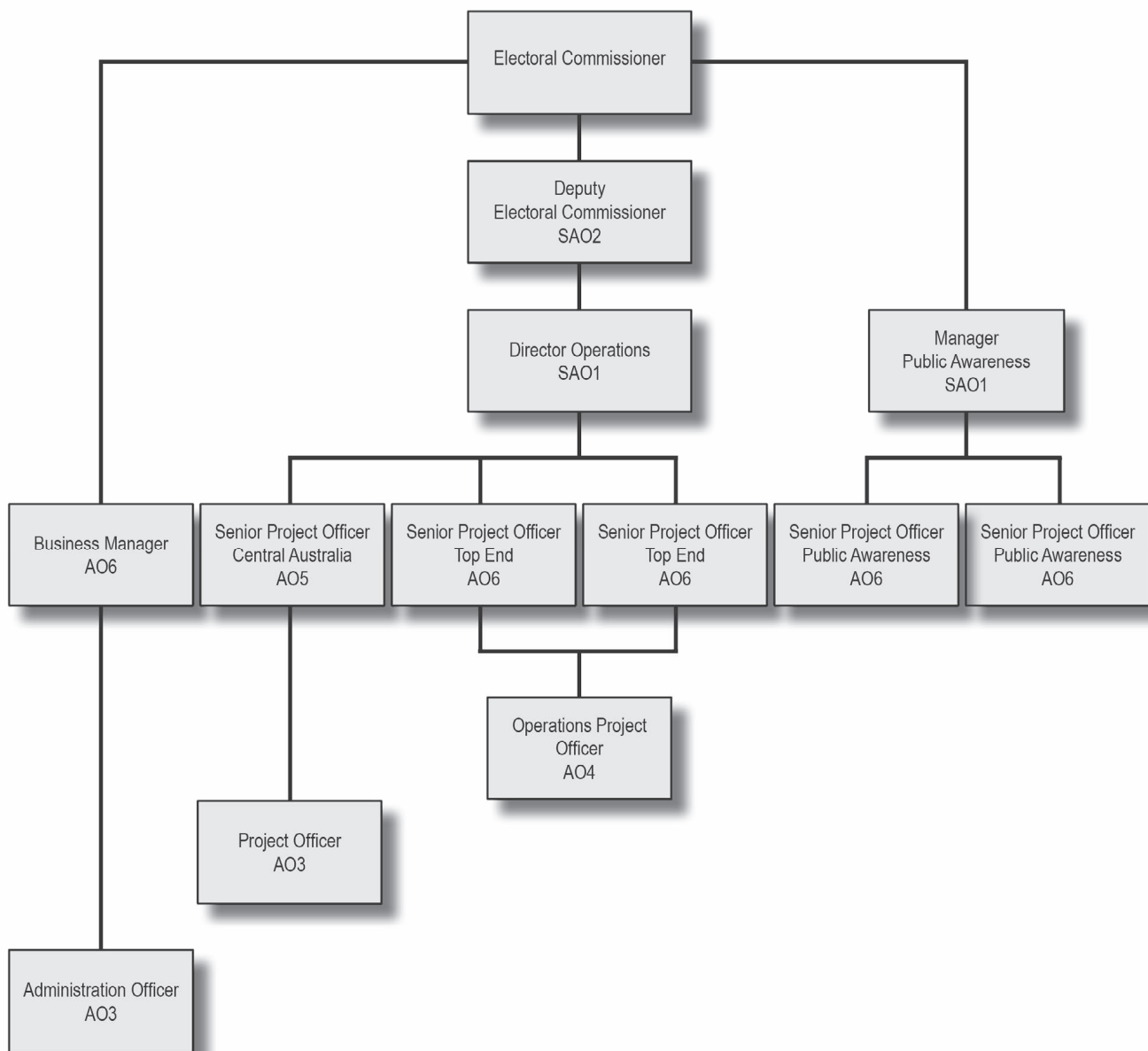
- Implement the 2016 Territory election communication plan and review its effectiveness.
- Commence planning and preparation for a public awareness program for the August 2017 LG elections, building on established advertising and sponsorship partnerships to continue voter engagement.
- Continue participation in the parliamentary education sessions.
- Develop a targeted community-based program to engage remote voters with democratic processes.
- Review the NTEC website.

## Corporate

- Monitor expenditure and finalise processing and reporting for the 2016 Territory election; apply for a Treasurer's Advance to cover expenses.
- Liaise with councils to develop service level agreements for election services and costs for the 2016 Territory election.
- Complete and implement business plans for the 2016 Territory election, including pre-election activities.
- Continue to support the Indigenous Employment Program (IEP).



# Organisation chart



# Agency functions

## Enrolment

### Objective

**Contribute to the maintenance and security of a joint electoral roll of eligible Northern Territory electors.**

Actions	Performance Measures
Maintain an efficient and effective joint electoral roll with the AEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An increase in the number of eligible electors correctly enrolled in the Territory</li> <li>• Number of enrolment transactions and other information collected from enrolment activities</li> <li>• Percentage of requests where accurate roll data was provided in a timely manner</li> <li>• Level of compliance with commitments detailed in service level agreements with the AEC</li> <li>• Timely and thorough redistribution data requests to the AEC</li> <li>• Redistribution data, that has been verified, loaded into the national roll management system (RMANS)</li> </ul>
Undertake regular research to identify activities to complement Continuous Roll Update (CRU) and Federal Direct Enrolment Update (FDEU)	
Develop and implement enrolment stimulation activities and initiatives and participate in joint programs and workshops with the AEC	
Monitor enrolment performance in terms of completeness, accuracy and the timely update of the electoral roll	
Provide support to Redistribution Committees and effect changes following final boundary determinations from the Committee and other sources	
Provide roll data within legislative requirements	

### Roll maintenance

The enrolment provisions of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (unchanged during the reporting year) apply for Northern Territory purposes, so that if an eligible person resident in the Territory is enrolled on the Commonwealth electoral roll, he/she is automatically enrolled for LA and LG elections. This is in accordance with the *Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act 1978*. Amendments to the NT *Electoral Act* (in force at 2 March 2016) included an express provision regarding compulsory enrolment.

Section 20 of the NT *Electoral Act* provides that the Administrator may enter into an arrangement with the Governor-General for the maintenance of the joint Territory and Commonwealth electoral roll. The present arrangement has been in place since 1994.

The electoral roll is maintained by the AEC and provided to the NTEC on request, in accordance with the Joint Roll Arrangement (JRA). A review of the Northern Territory JRA during the year resulted in a \$50,000 reduction in the joint roll payment, with a total of \$116,000 provided to the AEC in 2015-2016. Enrolment stimulation and electoral roll review activities at the local level are agreed between both agencies.

## Electoral roll status

During the reporting period the Northern Territory electoral roll increased by 4,446 electors to a total of 132,618 as at 30 June 2016. The increase can, in part, be attributed to electoral roll stimulation activities in the lead-up to the 2 July 2016 federal election, as well as the April 2016 enrol to vote campaign.

The Northern Territory's participation rate in relation to enrolment and voting is consistently 10 to 15 per cent below that of most interstate jurisdictions and of the national average. This is due in part to the younger average age of the eligible population, the high level of mobility in the community, and the difficulties of maintaining the electoral roll in remote areas of the Territory where enrolment and voting rates are significantly lower than urban areas. Under-enrolment in the Northern Territory is estimated at more than 30,000 eligible electors aged 18 or over.

**Table 1:** Estimated biennial eligible participation on the electoral roll – 2010 to 2016

Biennial participation rates 2010 to 2016 <sup>1</sup>			
Year	Area	% Total enrolment	% 18-25 Enrolment
2010	NT	74.5	52.0
	National	89.7	77.5
2012	NT <sup>#</sup>	78.9	56.0
	National	90.6	73.0
2014	NT	80.8	60.8
	National	92.3	78.5
2016*	NT	81.4	63.4
	National	93.9	87.0

<sup>1</sup> Electoral Management Information System, Australian Electoral Commission

<sup>#</sup> Figures are before the close of the electoral roll for the NT LA election on 8 August 2012

\* Figures encompass close of roll (CoR) campaign for 2 July 2016 federal election

The NTEC has access to the national roll management system (RMANS) and provides the AEC with geographic and elector information used for roll maintenance. Data from enrolment stimulation and review programs conducted by the NTEC, as well as enrolment forms collected from the public in community settings and at elections, are provided to the AEC for processing.

## Direct enrolment

The Federal Direct Enrolment Update (FDEU) program was rolled out in the Northern Territory in February 2013. The process involves the AEC receiving advice of a person's name and address details from a reliable and trusted source - currently the Commonwealth Department of Human Services and Northern Territory motor vehicle data.

- The person's details are checked against the electoral roll and where the person is not correctly enrolled, a letter is mailed to the person.
- If the person is not qualified to be enrolled at the address, the person is asked to advise the AEC.
- If no advice is received, the person is enrolled for the address provided by the reliable and trusted source.

As the FDEU program depends on electors having a reliable mail address, the program does not operate in rural and remote areas of the Northern Territory, including Tennant Creek. A total of 11,741 direct enrolment transactions were applied to the electoral roll during the year representing a 5.9 per cent increase from 2014-2015. See Table 2.



**Table 2: Northern Territory FDEU transactions 2015-2016**

Transaction	Direct Enrolment and Update *	Direct Enrolment Other #	Total
New enrolments	1,898	27	<b>1,925</b>
Re-enrolments	3,358	48	<b>3,406</b>
Changes	6,319	91	<b>6,410</b>
<b>Total NT</b>	<b>11,575</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>11,741</b>

\* Direct Enrolment and Update are enrolment transactions processed generated by sections 103A & B of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* made up of:

- enrolment transactions processed at the end of the notification period
- direct enrolment transactions processed as a result of a returned direct enrolment or update letter of intent within this period.

Enrolment transactions may occur outside of the source state as a result of advice from the elector provided within the notification period.

# Direct Enrolment Other includes enrolments prompted by a direct enrolment and update letter of intent, but which resulted in a claim for enrolment by the elector (section 98 of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*).

## Online enrolment

During the reporting period, 50.8 per cent of enrolment transactions in the Northern Territory were completed online, through the AEC's website, compared to 40.5 per cent nationally. This represented a 21.8 per cent increase in the Northern Territory compared to 2014-2015 and can be attributed to the enrolment drive promoting online enrolment. Table 3 shows enrolment by LA division as at 30 June 2016.

**Table 3: Enrolment by Legislative Assembly division 30 June 2016**

Division		Division		Division	
Arafura	4,719	Drysdale	5,460	Nhulunbuy	5,678
Araluen	5,694	Fannie Bay	5,579	Nightcliff	5,348
Arnhem	4,945	Fong Lim	5,321	Port Darwin	5,165
Barkly	4,964	Goyder	5,464	Sanderson	5,498
Blain	5,529	Johnston	4,953	Spillett	4,998
Braitling	5,799	Karama	5,193	Stuart	5,091
Brennan	5,178	Katherine	5,108	Wanguri	5,450
Casuarina	5,410	Namatjira	5,286		
Daly	5,168	Nelson	5,620	<b>Total</b>	<b>132,618</b>

## Electoral roll stimulation activities

In accordance with the JRA, the NTEC contributes to electoral roll maintenance by undertaking enrolment stimulation activities in the lead-up to any LA and LG general or by-election, and by maintaining a regular presence at public awareness events such as the NT show circuit and defence/university orientation days.

## Enrolment initiatives

The NTEC conducted a mail-out to 1,700 addresses targeting addresses without enrolled elector/s, in the lead-up to the City of Palmerston by-election in September 2015. The mail-out reminded all eligible electors to update their enrolment details online. As a result of the strategy, only 10 per cent of targeted addresses completed an enrolment transaction before the electoral roll closed, i.e. 175 of the 1,700 addresses targeted. Urban area enrolment campaigns were also conducted for the Alice Springs and City of Darwin (Lyons Ward) by-elections in October 2015.

In April 2016, the first phase of the 2016 Territory election enrolment campaign commenced with a three-week enrolment drive designed to encourage Territorians to enrol or update their electoral enrolment. The key campaign message was 'Got an opinion? Make it count. Enrol to vote.', with electors encouraged to enrol online.



Enrolment program activities included:

- television, radio and print advertising
- banners placed in prominent locations in Alice Springs, Darwin and Palmerston encouraging electors to enrol online
- advertorials focussing on participative democracy in Territory Q and Off the Leash youth magazine 'Turn It Up'
- social media – the use of NTEC's Facebook page, Twitter and YouTube accounts to disseminate key messaging and advertisements
- a competition to win an iPad for electors who enrolled or updated their details online between 11 April and 31 July.

Remote area enrolment was the thrust of the Indigenous Enrolment Participation Program (IEPP) activities.

As a result of the campaign, over 1,600 electors enrolled online during April 2016.

Territorians were introduced to, and provided with, information on the 2016 Territory election at a series of public and community events, where enrolment was heavily promoted. Information on the 2016 federal election, redistribution and election services were also displayed and disseminated. At most sites, online enrolment was available with printed enrolment forms also provided.

These events included: Alice Springs, Darwin, Freds Pass, Katherine and Tennant Creek shows; community service expos hosted by the Australian Defence Force (ADF) at Tindal RAAF base and the Darwin Exhibition Centre; Festival of Teaching – Civic Educators – at Darwin Middle School; Citizenship ceremonies in Alice Springs and Darwin; The Darwin High School Health and Lifestyle Expo; and The Charles Darwin University Orientation Week (O Week) held at the Alice Springs and Darwin campuses.

## **MyVote Central**

The NTEC Alice Springs office serves as a shop-front for enrolment and other electoral enquiries from the public. It provides a base for regular enrolment activities at public venues, schools and communities within the town and in the Centre generally and assists with enrolment at citizenship ceremonies in Alice Springs.

## **Australian Electoral Commission**

The AEC, in partnership with the Commonwealth Department of Human Services (DHS), commenced a remote enrolment program in April 2016, targeting approximately 100 remote Indigenous communities. Enrolment data showing an elector's change of address was loaded into the DHS remote services system, providing information to DHS staff identifying clients needing to update their enrolment. At the commencement of the program, the data showed approximately 3,100 potential voters not currently enrolled and a further 2,900 voters needing to update their enrolment details. The program was suspended following the close of electoral roll for the federal election on 23 May and recommenced on 18 July 2016.



**Table 4:** Enrolment transactions - additions, deletions and transfers to the NT electoral roll

Enrolment at start of financial year	2012-2013		2013-2014		2014-2015		2015-2016	
		<b>121,749</b>		<b>125,979</b>		<b>129,878</b>		<b>128,172</b>
Plus additions to the roll								
New enrolments	4,077		5,207		4,267		5,069	
Re-enrolments	2,706		2,373		1,483		2,208	
Re-instatements	32		155		75		19	
Interstate transfers to NT	7,813		8,469		7,155		10,334	
<b>Total additions</b>		<b>+14,628</b>		<b>+16,204</b>		<b>+12,980</b>		<b>+17,630</b>
No change to total transfers within NT								
Transfer between divisions	7,877		8,730		8,622		11,214	
Changes within division	4,822		4,127		3,741		4,500	
Amendments to elector details	2,926		3,228		4,237		2,937	
Less - deletions to the roll								
Removal by objection	1,811		1,653		4,126		1,402	
Deaths	697		852		903		811	
Duplications	218		156		225		58	
Cancellations			14		46		50	
Interstate transfers from NT	7,674		9,638		9,386		11,223	
<b>Total deletions</b>		<b>-10,400</b>		<b>-12,313</b>		<b>-14,686</b>		<b>-13,544</b>
Net adjustments		2		8				
<b>Enrolment at close of financial year</b>		<b>125,979</b>		<b>129,878</b>		<b>128,172</b>		<b>132,618</b>

**Notes:**

- **New enrolments** - electors who enrolled for the first time
- **Re-enrolments** - re-enrolling electors who previously had been enrolled
- **Re-instatements** - the re-instatement of electors to the roll removed previously based, on the receipt of new information that they still reside at their earlier enrolled address
- **Interstate transfers to NT** - transfer of enrolment to a Northern Territory address from interstate
- **Interstate transfers from NT** - electors previously enrolled in the Northern Territory transferring their enrolment to another jurisdiction
- **Transfers within NT** - electors notifying a change of address to another Northern Territory LA division or within same division. Transfers within the NT do not alter total enrolment
- **Amendment** - changes to enrolment details other than name or enrolled address e.g. amendment to mail delivery address, council re-numbering of street addresses
- **Removed by objection** - electors removed from the electoral roll, generally on the grounds that they are apparently no longer resident at their enrolled address
- **Duplication** - removal of a duplicate entry on the electoral roll due to an official error e.g. a transfer of enrolment not matched to an existing enrolment
- **Cancellations** - removal of individuals from the electoral roll who have not maintained their eligibility status for enrolment under the NT *Electoral Act*
- **Provisional enrolment** - includes electors who enrol when they are 16 or 17 and obtain full enrolment and voting rights on their 18th birthday
- **Adjustments** - variations to statistics arising from processing amendments

## Electoral events

2012-2013: NT LA election 25 August 2012, Wanguri LA by-election 16 February 2013

2013-2014: Federal Election September 2013, Blain LA by-election 12 April 2014

2014-2015: Casuarina LA by-election 18 October 2014

2015-2016: Federal election close of electoral roll 23 May 2016

## Redistribution of Legislative Assembly boundaries

In accordance with s138 of the NT *Electoral Act*, a redistribution of LA divisions is required to commence two years and six months after the last election.

The Redistribution Committee commenced proceedings in February 2015 and published its proposed boundaries on 16 June 2015. Objections to the proposed boundaries and names were then invited with a closing date of 16 July 2015. An Augmented Redistribution Committee subsequently considered objections and determined the boundaries and names of divisions to apply at the 2016 Territory election.

The Augmented Committee's determination was notified by Gazette on 16 September 2015, with division maps and the Committee's report tabled in Parliament the same day and made available for public inspection at the NTEC's offices and on the website.

Key features of the redistribution determined by the Augmented Committee included:

- the abolition of the division of Greatorex (Alice Springs)
- Alice Springs town to consist of two divisions – Araluen and Braitling. The area south of Heavitree Gap to become part of Namatjira
- the adjustment of Stuart's southern boundary to take in part of Namatjira
- the creation of a new division, called Spillett, to cater for elector growth in Palmerston
- the adjustment of division boundaries in the Darwin northern suburbs to accommodate elector growth in Muirhead
- the division of Nhulunbuy to include Milingimbi and Ramingining.

The NTEC provided administrative and technical assistance to the Augmented Committee including:

- arranging for the extraction of electoral roll data and preparation of reports on enrolment trends
- obtaining relevant administrative data to inform the committees on elector growth and decline, including land and property data through the Integrated Land Information System (ILIS) and rateable properties service provision data from councils and utility service providers
- modelling a range of scenarios using MapInfo and Boundary Maker software
- preparing the final report and maps
- the publication of notices, maps, reports, bulletins and media releases.

Following gazettal of the boundaries, the NTEC liaised with the AEC regarding the application of the new boundaries in RMANS. In March 2016, the new boundaries came into effect for all roll products for the 27 August 2016 Territory election.

## Reviews of representation by councils

Local government in the NT comprises five municipal councils, nine regional councils, two community government councils and one shire council. Five of the councils do not have a ward structure (Alice Springs, Belyuen, Katherine, Palmerston and Wagait). Additionally, there are three privately incorporated bodies managing the towns of Alyangula, Nhulunbuy and Yulara. Persons resident in the Darwin waterfront area are in unincorporated land and are represented by a statutory authority 'The Darwin Waterfront Corporation'.



Imbalances in elector numbers between wards develop over time and need to be reviewed so all electors and communities have a fair say in council decision making. Under the *Local Government Act* (LGA) and Local Government (Electoral) Regulations (LGER), a council must:

- review its structure and representation once in every four year term [LGA s23(2)] and [LGER r63]
- prepare a plan for the council's composition, taking into account population change, geography and community interests; community feedback may be sought before finalising the plan
- consult with the NTEC during the process [LGER r63 (4)]
- complete the review 12 months before the next general election [LGER r63(5)].

No council representation reviews were completed during the reporting period.

In April 2016, the Department of Local Government and Community Development (DLGCD) circulated a paper 'Proposed Content of New Local Government Legislation' seeking comment on suggested legislative changes. The paper included a recommendation to establish an independent panel to determine council representation reviews, including a formalised role for the NTEC. The Commission's response supported the recommendation in principle, as well as suggesting alternative models for the composition of the panel and suggestions on the timing of reviews and process to be followed.

### **Supply of roll data**

In accordance with the JRA, roll data was extracted from RMANS for the following:

- the determination of the quota by the Augmented Redistribution Committee
- the Litchfield Council general election
- eight council by-elections
- monthly updates of roll changes for supply to members of the Legislative Assembly and registered parties
- enrolment drives at NT shows.

The AEC met the performance standards set out in the JRA for the management of the close of electoral rolls for each election and was responsive to requests for ad-hoc data extracts. All electoral roll data was supplied within the specified time to the relevant stakeholders.

### **Targets 2016-2017**

- Focus enrolment strategies on online registration and information interfaces on the Commission website and in social media.
- Analyse the impact of the 2016 federal and Territory election enrolment programs on enrolment outcomes, including measuring the success against the performance indicators in the 2016 election Service Charter.
- Process non-voter data from the 2016 Territory election.
- Undertake an enrolment promotion campaign in the lead-up to the 2017 Local Government general elections.
- Provide input and advice to the DLGCD on the role of the NTEC in relation to local government representation reviews.
- Develop recommendations on appropriate enrolment activities to precede future LA boundary redistributions, for inclusion in the 2016 Territory election report.



# Elections

## Objective

Conducting elections that are impartial, efficient, transparent and in accordance with the law.

Actions	Performance measures
Provide best practice in conducting government and non-government elections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of disputed returns upheld due to administrative error</li> <li>• Percentage of elections not conducted within statutory or required deadlines</li> <li>• Cost of elections (actual vs estimate)</li> <li>• Voter participation and informality rates</li> <li>• Feedback received from client surveys on elections conducted</li> <li>• Election-based management system meeting business requirements</li> </ul>
Develop and maintain election policies, procedures and processes	
Enhance our knowledge of the needs of our diverse client base to customise electoral services	
Develop, review and maintain an election based management system	

## Legislation

### Northern Territory *Electoral Act*

The 2012 Legislative Assembly election report made several recommendations to modernise and improve electoral practices, a number that required legislative change. The Electoral Legislation Amendment Bill, tabled in Parliament on 2 December 2015, proposed various amendments to the NT *Electoral Act* and addressed some of the recommendations in the election report, as well as putting forward other changes not considered in the report.

The Act received assent and came into effect on 2 March 2016. See Table 5 for the summary of changes.

Election procedures, manuals, forms and systems were reviewed to ensure necessary changes would be in place for the August 2016 Territory election.

### **Local Government Act and Local Government (Electoral) Regulations**

Included in changes to the *Local Government Act* assented to on 23 April 2015, was the deferment of LG general elections to the fourth Saturday in August, commencing in 2017. A number of changes were not adopted in 2015 to allow further discussion with stakeholders and in May 2016, the DLGCD circulated an issues paper<sup>1</sup> that discussed some of these matters. The NTEC provided a response to the paper on areas relevant to the Commission and the conduct of local government elections.

Should legislative amendments to the *Local Government Act* be tabled and assented to prior to the August 2017 LG elections, the NTEC will review its systems and processes to incorporate necessary changes.

<sup>1</sup> 'Proposed Content of New Local Government Legislation'

**Table 5:** Summary of NT *Electoral Act* (EA) legislative changes effective 2 March 2016

Amendment	EA Legislative Reference
Insertion of a note reinforcing compulsory enrolment.	s21
Provision for the Commission to authorise a person or body to print the ballot papers used in an election.	s40(4)
The ability for the draw of positions on the ballot paper to be conducted at a location determined by the Electoral Commissioner.	s41(2)
Change the method of voting from full preferential to optional preferential. This change requires a voter to mark a '1' on the ballot paper next to their most preferred candidate and may then choose whether or not to mark further preferences by using consecutively increasing whole numbers.	s50(2)
Removal of the criteria in relation to who may apply for a postal vote. This change provides that any person entitled to vote may apply for a postal vote.	s60
A provision allowing postal vote applications to be made at any time, whether or not a writ has been issued.	s61
A provision that the authorised officer must not send postal voting papers to the applicant unless the application is received in the calendar year in which the election day occurs.	s62(3)
Removal of the restriction about who may vote early. This change provides that any elector entitled to vote may vote early.	s71
The Commissioner's power to approve electronic or other automated systems extended to the issuing and return of postal vote papers.	s85A
Extension of the time allowed for eligible postal votes to be received and included in the count to 12:00 noon on the second Friday after election day.	s96
Extending the restrictions on canvassing activities in a voting centre from 10 metres to 100 metres.	s275

### Electoral services

During the year, no casual vacancies occurred in the Legislative Assembly. Inter-jurisdiction support was provided for two by-elections in Victoria. The NTEC conducted the general election for the Litchfield Council, and eight council by-elections, four enterprise agreement ballots (one on a fee basis) and one fee-for-service election.

All were conducted without challenge and within the required timeframes.

# Parliamentary elections

## Legislative Assembly (LA) election

The next LA election is scheduled for 27 August 2016.

During 2015-2016, significant planning was undertaken to ensure election readiness. Project plans and comprehensive election procedure manuals were developed incorporating changes to the NT *Electoral Act* that came into effect in March 2016. Extensive liaison with external clients/stakeholders was undertaken in the preparation of remote mobile voting schedules and associated products, along with development of electronic mark-off on certified lists and servicing the needs of identified target groups.

## Election innovations

As a result of reviews into procedures and practices, the following innovations were put in place in readiness for the 2016 Territory election.

- Electronic roll mark-off of voters (eLAPPS) was implemented at all voting centres
  - eLAPPS (originally developed for the ACT Electoral Commission) was trialled at the City of Palmerston by-election in September 2015 and the Litchfield Council general election in November 2015.
  - Electronic mark-off facilitates accurate and timely vote issuing, the ability to identify and stop potential multiple voters in real time, acts as a management tracking tool to monitor votes issued and ballot paper stocks at voting centres, allows voting centre Officers In Charge (OICs) to communicate with the Commission and transfer results, and alleviates the need to scan certified lists after the election to identify non-voters.
- Online developments
  - A portal on the website allowing electoral officials access to training materials. The content matter was developed in-house and the software allows electoral staff to complete training online. Some face-to-face training still continues.
  - The capacity for electors to complete and lodge postal vote applications online.
  - Using Google Maps to show the 100 metre campaigning boundaries of voting centres.
- Remote voting services
  - A partnership arrangement with DHS to provide the NTEC with access to their 4WD fleet and vehicle tracking systems, trained field staff experienced in working with remote communities, booking services for accommodation and light aircraft and logistical expertise for the coordination of mobile voting service delivery.
  - Tablet technology to be employed to provide a consistent and impartial message to electors seeking assistance with voting, as well as a digital training tool for staff employed as Indigenous assistants during remote voting.
- Risk mitigation
  - The implementation of a material management policy and systems for controlling all aspects of ballot paper movement and storage.
  - Ballot papers to be printed in Darwin and Alice Springs, thereby removing the need for transfers between the two offices.
  - A risk assessment audit to identify key risks in election procedures and processes.



- Streamlining the conduct of ballot draws by using an electronic number generation system in both Darwin and Alice Springs. The system does not require a network connection, PC or tablet for it to operate. It will allow draws for the Top End divisions to be conducted in Darwin and the Central Australian divisions in Alice Springs.
- Providing additional guidance on recounts by formalising a policy to supplement section 130 of the NT *Electoral Act*. The policy was provided to stakeholders in the May edition of the 2016 Territory election newsletter.

The functionality of the in-house election management system (TIGER) was enhanced to include a wider range of cross agency activities including:

- communication with casual staff by email and using a smart form to enable electronic acceptance of offers of employment
- linking nominations data to the website and producing print ready PDFs of ballot papers
- the redevelopment of the postal voting module to allow for the input of online applications, electoral roll checking, processing and the issuing of barcoded envelopes for faster mark-back of returned envelopes
- an updated module for management of the remote area mobile voting program
- direct publishing of results to the virtual tally room
- a non-voter/multi-voter system
- a module that allows annual and election disclosure returns to be submitted electronically (a recommendation of the McGuiness report)
- the transmittal of staff and position data to facilitate timely payment of election staff.

### Assistance for inter-jurisdiction elections

An early voting service in both the Darwin and Alice Springs offices is provided for interstate and New Zealand electors visiting the Northern Territory at the time parliamentary elections are taking place in their own jurisdiction.

**Table 6:** Inter-jurisdictional support provided during 2015-2016

Jurisdiction	Election day	Election type	Chamber	District/Division	Electors voting		
					Darwin	A/S	Total
Victoria	31.10.2015	By	LA	Polwarth District	8	0	<b>8</b>
				South-West Coast District	0	0	<b>0</b>

**A/S** Alice Springs Office | **N/A** Not Appointed | **By** By-election | **LA** Legislative Assembly | **HA** House of Assembly  
**LC** Legislative Council | **HoR** House of Representatives

### Party registration

On 4 August 2015, the 1 Territory Party applied for political party registration under section 152(4) of the NT *Electoral Act*. A verification check was undertaken to confirm the party had at least 200 members on the electoral roll. The 1 Territory Party was registered as a NT political party on 18 November 2015.

The AEC deregistered the First Nations Political Party on 11 August 2015, as the party had failed to demonstrate it had the 500 members required to maintain registration under the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*. As the party's registration in the NT was reliant on its Commonwealth registration, the First Nations Political Party was deregistered in the NT on 14 August 2015, pursuant to section 161(4) of the NT *Electoral Act*.



The Shooters and Fishers Party applied to change their name to The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party (NT) in April 2016; however, as its application was received within six months of the 27 August Territory election, under section 156(2) of the NT *Electoral Act* the Commission could not process the application.

The NT had six registered parties as at 30 June 2016.

**Table 7:** NT registered political parties as at 30 June 2016

Political Party	Date of Registration
1 Territory Party	18 November 2015
Australian Labor Party NT (ALP)	18 April 2005
Citizens Electoral Council (NT Division)	6 March 2013
Country Liberals	27 January 2010*
Shooters and Fishers Party	27 February 2015
The Greens	23 March 2005

\* First registered 30 March 2005 as the Northern Territory Country Liberal Party

## Disclosure

While NT electoral legislation does not provide for the funding of political parties, part 10 of the NT *Electoral Act* requires:

- annual disclosure by registered parties, their associated entities and donors
- election specific disclosure returns from candidates, donors, broadcasters and publishers.

There are no funding or disclosure requirements for local government elections.

The original alignment between Commonwealth and Northern Territory disclosure requirements ceased when the then Commonwealth Government significantly increased the threshold limits for disclosure in 2006. Therefore the Northern Territory parties effectively cannot submit a Commonwealth return for Northern Territory purposes.

Five political parties submitted their annual disclosure returns by the due date of 21 October, being 16 weeks after the end of the financial year, with one party submitting a late return.

## McGuiness report

On 28 April 2015, the McGuiness report on political donation legislation and the processes surrounding political donations in the Northern Territory was tabled in Parliament. In line with one of the report's recommendations, an online system for the lodgement and display of disclosure returns was developed and implemented.

## Compliance review

The accounting firm BDO (NT) was appointed to conduct an independent review of political disclosure returns submitted for the 2014-2015 financial year. Its scope was to establish whether registered political parties, donors and associated entities had complied with the disclosure provisions pursuant to Part 10 of the NT *Electoral Act*.

BDO's review report noted that, while there had been improvements in the level of compliance compared to previous years, concerns existed regarding the accuracy of the political party and branch returns sampled for review. BDO specifically noted the level of compliance by donors to political parties was unsatisfactory. A copy of the BDO compliance report was placed on the NTEC website.



# Local Government elections

A general election was conducted for Litchfield Council and eight council by-elections were conducted during the financial year. The following table shows details of costs, participation and informality rates for these events. Electoral events held in isolation from Territory-wide campaigns (that have greater media coverage) tend not to draw the same participation as at general elections despite efforts to publicise the event and emphasise voting is compulsory.

**Table 8:** Details of costs, voter participation and informality rates

Election	Cost \$	Voter participation %	Informality %
Litchfield General Election			
Mayoral		66.9	11.1
Central	116,551	69.8	8.0
East		71.4	8.8
North		57.8	9.5
South		68.9	7.7
Central Desert - Southern Tanami	1,021	Uncontested	
West Arnhem - Kakadu	8,226	25.9	7.6
Alice Springs TC	69,322	67.2	7.3
City of Darwin - Lyons	65,186	52.9	7.0
City of Palmerston	96,757	55.0	10.7
West Daly RC -Thamurrurr/Pindi Pindi*	10,824	15.1	10.7
Central Desert RC - Akityarre	412	Uncontested	
Victoria Daly RC - Pine Creek	5,171	48.6	1.0

\* Previous event when part of Victoria Daly Shire

**GE** General Election | **NA** Not Applicable | **RC** Regional Council | **TC** Town Council

Changes to the budgetary forecasting system for elections have improved the agency's ability to accurately estimate real time costs. In all Local Government elections the costs did not exceed the estimate. In a number of by-elections, the election cost was lower than the estimate due to streamlining processes and councils providing resources to lower costs.

Voter participation varied between municipalities. Increases were observed in turnout for Alice Springs while an increase in turnout and candidature interest in the Litchfield general election was possibly due to heightened local interest. Palmerston experienced lower turnouts than the 2013 by-election, noting the number of enrolled electors has increased to over 20,000.

Regional councils continued to demonstrate lower turnouts in by-elections when compared to general elections.

Higher informality rates were experienced in all municipalities, which may have resulted from an increase in the number of candidates standing e.g. Litchfield (eight), Alice Springs (seven) and Darwin Lyons Ward (eight). The ballot paper surveys indicate that informal voting is largely due to the elector deliberately voting informal rather than unintentionally casting an informal vote.

## **Litchfield Council general election**

The Minister for Local Government and Community Services dismissed the suspended elected members of Litchfield Council from office under section 224(5)(b) of the *Local Government Act* and gazetted a date for a general election on Saturday 28 November 2015.

Discussions took place with Litchfield Council regarding the level of service to be provided, including the use of council resources to lower costs. Council staff managed early voting at the council office, distributed enrolment and voting information at the local refuse stations and displayed election-related signage throughout the council area.

Initiatives encouraging electors to check they were correctly enrolled included:

- a targeted social media campaign in the Litchfield area using Facebook advertising with a direct link to online enrolment
- enrolment reminder cards distributed to residents attending the local refuse station.

Additional activities to improve participation at the election included:

- a mail-out to all enrolled electors within the council area
- an email sent to 3,638 electors, who had supplied an email address on their enrolment form, detailing early, postal and election day voting options
- dedicated election information pages on the NTEC website and social media.

Amendments to the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations in 2015, allowing any elector to vote early, were extensively advertised. While there was a significant increase in the number of early votes taken, it did not result in increased voter participation compared with the 2012 general election.

Administrative efficiencies and council managing the early voting centre (EVC), contributed to the costs of the election being lower than the estimate provided to Council.

## **By-elections**

Changes to the *Local Government Act* enacted on 23 April 2015, allowed a council to conduct a by-election themselves or appoint an alternative provider. The Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) contracted the NTEC to develop a manual to assist councils should they determine not to appoint the Electoral Commissioner as returning officer. The preparation of the manual was undertaken on a fee-for-service basis for the cost of \$15,000.

Despite the new provision, the NTEC was appointed to conduct all eight of the local government by-elections in 2015-2016.



**Table 9:** Summary of Local Government by-elections conducted during 2015-2016

Council	Election descriptors								
	Election day	Election type	Ward	No. on electoral roll	Number of vacancies	Noms received			C/U
						M	F	Total	
Central Desert	31.07.2015	By-R	Southern Tanami	948	1	0	1	1	U
West Arnhem	22.08.2015	By-R	Kakadu	664	1	2	1	3	C
Alice Springs	10.10.2015	By-M	n/a	12,630	2	4	3	7	C
City of Darwin	10.10.2015	By-M	Lyons	13,147	2	5	3	8	C
City of Palmerston	31.10.2015	By-M	n/a	19,133	1	3	2	5	C
West Daly	25.02.2016	By-R	Thamurrurr/Pindi Pindi	1,448	1	3	0	3	C
Central Desert	10.03.2016	By-R	Akityarre	289	1	0	1	1	U
Victoria Daly	02.04.2016	By-R	Pine Creek	210	1	1	1	2	C

**By** By-election | **By-M** Municipal | **M** Male | **C** Contested election | **Supp** Supplementary Election | **By-R** Regional  
**F** Female | **U** Uncontested election | **By-S** Shire

**Table 10:** By-elections conducted since the 2011-2012 reporting year

Reporting year	No. By-elections		No. Supplementary elections		Total elections	No. Elections contested	
	Municipal	Shire/Regional Council	Municipal	Shire/Regional Council		No.	%
2011-2012			-	6	6	3	50.0
2012-2013	-	8	-	3	11	3	27.3
2013-2014	4	6	-	-	10	5	50.0
2014-2015	1	7	-	1	9	4	44.4
2015-2016	4*	5	-	-	9	7	77.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>48.9</b>

\* Includes Litchfield Council general election



## Local Government election results

### Litchfield Council – General election

The Minister for Local Government and Community Services dismissed the suspended elected members of Litchfield Council from office under section 224(5)(b) of the *Local Government Act* and determined a general election timetable, with the election scheduled for Saturday 28 November 2015.

### Election milestones

Close of electoral roll	5:00 pm Tuesday 27 October 2015	No. on council roll 11,561
Close of nominations	12:00 noon Thursday 5 November 2015	No. received (total) 21
Election day	Saturday 28 November 2015	
Election declared	12:00 noon Friday 4 December 2015	

### Election services

Postal voting (6:00 pm close)	Monday 9 November 2015 to Thursday 26 November 2015	
	Overseas close Tuesday 24 November 2015	
	Return deadline 12:00 noon Friday 4 December 2015	
Early voting	Wednesday 11 November 2015 to Friday 27 November 2015	Coolalinga, Howard Springs, Litchfield, Darwin, Alice Springs
Mobile voting	Thursday 26 November 2015 Friday 27 November 2015	Darwin Private Hospital Royal Darwin Hospital
Election day voting	Saturday 28 November 2015 8:00 am-6:00 pm	Five voting centres
Election costs (GST inclusive)	\$116,551	

**Table 11:** Enrolment, turnout and informality summary

Council	Principal Member/Ward	Enrolment	No. vacancies	No. nominations	Turnout %	Informality %
Litchfield	Mayor	11,561	1	8	66.9	11.1
	Central	2,373	1	2	69.8	8.0
	East	2,782	1	5	71.4	8.8
	North	2,902	1	3	57.8	9.5
	South	3,504	1	3	68.9	7.7



## Litchfield - Mayor

### Votes by voting centre

Enrolment 11,561

Voting centre	Gary MIEZIS	Maree BREDHAUER	Tony HARDWICK	Judy COLE	Mathew SALTER	Diana RICKARD	Lissa HERRMANN	Grant KEETLEY	Formal	Informal	Total
Bees Creek	79	241	124	171	116	57	27	46	861	106	967
Berrimah	27	52	23	47	25	19	6	16	215	31	246
Berry Springs	46	85	108	69	62	50	40	25	485	68	553
Howard Springs	71	240	184	145	150	101	16	84	991	162	1,153
Humpty Doo	91	398	265	188	160	92	52	84	1,330	179	1,509
Mobile voting team 1004									0		0
Alice Springs EVC									0		0
Coolalinga EVC	96	375	283	278	197	68	51	120	1,468	177	1,645
Darwin EVC	7	30	18	25	20	14	3	22	139	8	147
Howard Springs EVC	18	62	51	34	31	20	9	20	245	21	266
Litchfield EVC	74	235	143	135	93	44	63	71	858	78	936
Postal	24	66	59	61	29	15	16	16	286	26	312
<b>Totals</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>1,784</b>	<b>1,258</b>	<b>1,153</b>	<b>883</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>6,878</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>7,734</b>
	7.7%	25.9%	18.3%	16.8%	12.8%	7.0%	4.1%	7.3%	88.9%	11.1%	66.9%

# Litchfield Mayor

## Determination of quota and distribution of preferences

Total formal ballot papers: 6,878

To be elected: 1

$$\text{Quota: } \frac{6,878}{1+1} + 1 = 3,440$$

Table 2: Distribution of the effective votes												
Count	Description of next available preference	Gary MIEZIS	Maree BREDHAUER	Tony HARDWICK	Judy COLE	Mathew SALTER	Diana RICKARD	Lissa HERRMANN	Grant KEETLEY	Votes lost through fractional remainder	Total votes counted	Remarks
1	First preferences	533	1,784	1,258	1,153	883	480	283	504	0	6,878	Lissa HERRMANN to be excluded
2	NAP after Lissa HERRMANN at count(s)	21	68	26	39	36	47	-283	46	0	6,878	Diana RICKARD to be excluded
3	NAP after Diana RICKARD at count(s)	41	138	75	121	84	-527	0	68	0	6,878	Gary MIEZIS to be excluded
4	NAP after Gary MIEZIS at count(s)	-595	256	137	75	72	0	0	55	0	6,878	Grant KEETLEY to be excluded
5	NAP after Grant KEETLEY at count(s)	0	180	131	153	209	0	0	-673	0	6,878	Mathew SALTER to be excluded
6	NAP after Mathew SALTER at count(s)	0	394	346	544	-1,284	0	0	0	0	6,878	Tony HARDWICK to be excluded
7	NAP after Tony HARDWICK at count(s)	0	1,043	-1,973	930	0	0	0	0	0	6,878	Maree BREDHAUER elected 1

Table 1: Count of preferences and calculation of transfers

Count	Description of next available preference	Gary MIEZIS	Maree BREDHAUER	Tony HARDWICK	Judy COLE	Mathew SALTER	Diana RICKARD	Lissa HERRMANN	Grant KEETLEY	Total ballot papers counted	Transfer Value	Votes transferred to table 2
1	First preferences	533	1,784	1,258	1,153	883	480	283	504	6,878	1	6878
2	NAP after Lissa HERRMANN at count(s)	21	68	26	39	36	47	-283	46	283	1	283
3	NAP after Diana RICKARD at count(s)	41	138	75	121	84	-527	0	68	527	1	527
4	NAP after Gary MIEZIS at count(s)	-595	256	137	75	72	0	0	55	595	1	595
5	NAP after Grant KEETLEY at count(s)	0	180	131	153	209	0	0	-673	673	1	673
6	NAP after Mathew SALTER at count(s)	0	394	346	544	-1,284	0	0	0	1,284	1	1,284
7	NAP after Tony HARDWICK at count(s)	0	1,043	-1,973	930	0	0	0	0	1,973	1	1,973



## Litchfield - Central

### Votes by voting centre

Enrolment 2,373

Voting centre	Christine OSBORN	Judy COLE	Formal	Informal	Total
Bees Creek	330	234	564	48	612
Berrimah	8	10	18	3	21
Berry Springs	7	2	9	1	10
Howard Springs	121	85	206	24	230
Humpty Doo	12	10	22	3	25
Mobile voting team 1004			0		0
Alice Springs EVC			0		0
Coolalinga EVC	221	150	371	28	399
Darwin EVC	9	8	17	0	17
Howard Springs EVC	36	21	57	3	60
Litchfield EVC	148	64	212	19	231
Postal	32	16	48	3	51
<b>Totals</b>	<b>924</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>1,524</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>1,656</b>
	60.6%	39.4%	92.0%	8.0%	69.8%

**Litchfield - East**  
**Votes by voting centre**  
**Enrolment 2,782**

Voting centre	Kev HARLAN	Russell CLARK	Kirsty HUNT	Maree BREDHAUER	Mike BOWMAN	Formal	Informal	Total
Bees Creek	32	9	37	55	16	149	13	162
Berrimah	10	0	0	15	0	25	2	27
Berry Springs	1	0	4	7	0	12	3	15
Howard Springs	25	17	32	46	9	129	14	143
Humpty Doo	148	72	199	181	51	651	76	727
Mobile voting team 1004						0		0
Alice Springs EVC						0		0
Coolalinga EVC	84	36	147	171	47	485	42	527
Darwin EVC	3	0	8	11	6	28	1	29
Howard Springs EVC	5	0	9	8	1	23	0	23
Litchfield EVC	34	15	52	101	36	238	19	257
Postal	5	5	26	23	11	70	5	75
<b>Totals</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>1,810</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>1,985</b>
	19.2%	8.5%	28.4%	34.1%	9.8%	91.2%	8.8%	71.4%

**Determination of quota and distribution of preferences**

Total formal ballot papers: 1,810

To be elected: 1

Quota:  $\frac{1,810}{1+1} = 906$

Table 2: Distribution of the effective votes									
Count	Description of next available preference	Kev HARLAN	Peter CLARK	Kirsty HUNT	Mike BOWMAN	Votes lost through fractional remainder	Total votes counted	Remarks	
1	First preferences	424	217	890	279	0	1,810	Peter CLARK to be excluded	
2	NAP after Peter CLARK	100	-217	82	35	0	1,810	Kirsty HUNT elected 1	







## Litchfield - North

### Votes by voting centre

Enrolment 2,902

Voting centre	Mathew SALTER	Grant KEETLEY	Letchimi WRIGHT	Formal	Informal	Total
Bees Creek	8	6	20	34	6	40
Berrimah	39	41	63	143	20	163
Berry Springs	6	2	4	12	1	13
Howard Springs	191	94	383	668	73	741
Humpty Doo	13	1	15	29	4	33
Mobile voting team 1004				0		0
Alice Springs EVC				0		0
Coolalinga EVC	65	69	93	227	24	251
Darwin EVC	19	16	28	63	4	67
Howard Springs EVC	64	30	77	171	12	183
Litchfield EVC	39	23	35	97	9	106
Postal	21	10	43	74	7	81
<b>Total</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>1,518</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>1,678</b>
	30.6%	19.2%	50.1%	90.5%	9.5%	57.8%

## Litchfield - South

### Votes by voting centre

#### Enrolment 3,504

Voting centre	Pauline CASS	Doug BARDEN	Lissa HERRMANN	Formal	Informal	Total
Bees Creek	50	51	32	133	18	151
Berrimah	11	16	8	35	0	35
Berry Springs	127	277	63	467	47	514
Howard Springs	12	16	7	35	4	39
Humpty Doo	285	272	110	667	58	725
Mobile voting centre 1004				0		0
Alice Springs EVC				0		0
Coolalinga EVC	158	197	73	428	41	469
Darwin EVC	10	19	4	33	1	34
Howard Springs EVC	0	0	0	0	0	0
Litchfield EVC	123	133	76	332	10	342
Postal	23	51	24	98	6	104
<b>Totals</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>1,032</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>2,228</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>2,413</b>
	35.9%	46.3%	17.8%	92.3%	7.7%	68.9%

## Determination of quota and distribution of preferences

Total formal ballot papers: 2,228

To be elected: 1

2,228  
Quota: ----- + 1 = 1,115  
1+1

Table 1: Count of preferences and calculation of transfers

Count	Description of next available preference	Pauline CASS	Doug BARDEN	Lissa HERRMANN	Total ballot papers counted	Transfer Value	Votes transferred to table 2	Count	Pauline CASS	Doug BARDEN	Lissa HERRMANN	Votes lost through fractional remainder	Total votes counted	Remarks
1	First preferences	799	1,032	397	2,228	1	2,228	1	799	1,032	397	0	2,228	Lissa HERRMANN to be excluded
2	NAP after Lissa HERRMANN at count(s)	175	222	-397	397	1	397	2	175 <b>974</b>	222 <b>1,254</b>	-397 <b>0</b>	0	<b>2,228</b>	<b>Doug BARDEN elected 1</b>

Table 2: Distribution of the effective votes



## Central Desert Regional Council - Southern Tanami Ward

The council CEO advised on 12 June 2015, of a vacancy for one ordinary member (councillor) for the council in Southern Tanami Ward.

### Election milestones

Close of electoral roll	5:00 pm Wednesday 15 July 2015	No. on electoral roll: <b>948</b>
Close of nominations	12:00 noon Friday 17 July 2015	No. received: <b>1</b>
Election declared	Wednesday 17 July 2015	
Election costs (GST incl.)	\$1,021	

As the number of nominations was the same as the vacancies available, no election was held:

**ALFONSO, Cecilia was elected unopposed**



## West Arnhem Regional Council – Kakadu Ward

The council CEO advised on 13 July 2015, of a vacancy for one ordinary member (councillor) for the council in Kakadu Ward.

### Election milestones

Close of electoral roll	5:00 pm Wednesday 5 August 2015	No. on electoral roll: <b>664</b>
Close of nominations	12:00 noon Friday 7 August 2015	No. received: <b>3</b>
Election day	Saturday 22 August 2015	
Election declared	10:00 am Monday 24 August 2015	
Election costs (GST incl.)	\$8,226	

As there were more nominations than vacancies available, an election was held. Candidates contesting the by-election:

- BALDWIN, Stephen Eric
- **EGERTON, Anna Elizabeth**      **Elected**
- HUTTON, Michael

### Election services

Postal voting (6:00 pm close)	Friday 7 August 2015 to Thursday 20 August 2015					
	Overseas close Tuesday 18 August 2015					
	Return deadline 12:00 noon Friday 28 August 2015					
Early voting	Monday 10 August 2015 to Friday 21 August 2015				Darwin, Alice Springs	
Mobile voting	Thursday 20 August 2015		Cannon Hill, Mudginberri, Kakadu National Park, Patonga (airstrip)			
Election day	Saturday 22 August 2015 8:00 am-2:00 pm				One voting centre	
Electors voting	Formally	169 (98.3%)	Informally	3 (7.6%)	Total voting	172 (25.9%)

### Votes by voting centre

Voting centre	Stephen Eric BALDWIN	Anna Elizabeth EGERTON	Michael HUTTON	Formal	Informal	Total
Mobile 1	35	109	25	169	3	172
Total	35	109	25	169	3	172
	20.7%	64.5%	14.8%	98.3%	1.7%	25.9%



## Alice Springs Town Council

The council CEO advised on 30 July 2015, of a vacancy for one ordinary member (councillor) for the council and on 2 September 2015 of a second vacancy, resulting in two ordinary member (councillor) vacancies.

### Election milestones

Close of electoral roll	5:00 pm Tuesday 22 September 2015	No. on electoral roll <b>12,630</b>
Close of nominations	12:00 noon Thursday 24 September 2015	No. received <b>7</b>
Election day	Saturday 10 October 2015	
Election declared	Friday 16 October 2015	
Election costs (GST incl.)	\$69,551	

As there were more nominations than vacancies available, an election was held. Candidates contesting the by-election:

- CALLANDER, Ryan
- SHAW, Barbara
- **PRICE, Jacinta Elected**
- JEISMAN, Vince
- PHELPS, Caroline Jayne
- QUIN, Jason
- **de BRENNI, Jamie Elected**

### Election services

Postal voting (6:00 pm close)	Thursday 24 September 2015 to Thursday 8 October 2015		
	Overseas close Tuesday 6 October 2015		
	Return deadline Friday 16 October 2015		
Early voting	Friday 25 September 2015 to Friday 9 October 2015	Alice Springs NTEC and council, Darwin	
Mobile voting	Thursday 8 October 2015 Friday 9 October 2015	Old Timers Nursing Home Alice Springs Hospital	
Static voting	Saturday 10 October 2015 8:00 am to 6:00 pm	Six voting centres	
Electors voting	Formally 7,863 (92.7%)	Informally 622 (7.3%)	Total voting 8,485 (67.2%)





## Alice Springs Town Council

### Votes by voting centre

Enrolment 12,630

Voting centre	Ryan CALLANDER	Barbara SHAW	Jacinta PRICE	Vince JEISMAN	Caroline Jayne PHELPS	Jason QUIN	Jamie de BRENNI	Formal	Informal	Total
Alice Springs Town	86	142	231	147	41	225	253	1,125	93	1,218
Braitling	47	65	142	73	27	127	239	720	60	780
Gillen	64	83	232	128	57	136	338	1,038	111	1,149
Larapinta	49	70	126	62	13	86	167	573	57	630
Sadadeen	49	106	140	133	44	168	134	774	77	851
Yirara	18	62	54	35	13	22	123	327	41	368
Mobile voting team 0102	15	15	31	14	12	11	21	119	9	128
Alice Springs EVC Civic Centre	159	147	416	198	117	229	547	1,813	109	1,922
Alice Springs EVC NTEC	106	104	298	130	98	122	341	1,199	58	1,257
Darwin EVC	1	1	6	2	0	1	3	14	1	15
Postal	7	19	36	23	17	16	43	161	6	167
Total	601	814	1,712	945	439	1,143	2,209	7,863	622	8,485
	<b>7.6%</b>	<b>10.4%</b>	<b>21.8%</b>	<b>12.0%</b>	<b>5.6%</b>	<b>14.5%</b>	<b>28.1%</b>	<b>92.7%</b>	<b>7.3%</b>	<b>67.2</b>



# Alice Springs Town Council

## Determination of quota and distribution of preferences

Total formal ballot papers: 7,863

To be elected: 1

7,863  
Quota: ----- + 1 = 2,622  
2+1

Table 2: Distribution of the effective votes												
Count	Description of next available preference	CALLANER, Ryan	SHAW, Barbara	PRICE, Jacinta	JEISMAN, Vince	PHELPS, Caroline Jayne	QUIN, Jason	De BRENNI, Jamie	Votes lost through fractional remainder	Total votes counted	Remarks	
1	First preferences	601	814	1,712	945	439	1,143	2,209	1	7,863	PHELPS, Caroline Jayne to be excluded	
2	NAP after PHELPS, Caroline Jayne	80	19	119	55	-439	79	87	0	7,863	CALLANDER, Ryan to be excluded	
3	NAP after CALLANDER, Ryan at count(s)1,2	-681	124	158	125	0	119	155	0	7,863	SHAW, Barbara to be excluded	
4	NAP after SHAW, Barbara at count(s)1,2,3	0	-957	447	134	0	290	86	0	7,863	JEISMAN, Vince to be excluded	
5	NAP after JEISMAN, Vince at count(s)1,2,3,4	0	0	355	-1,259	0	515	389	0	7,863	de BRENNI, Jamie elected 1 PRICE, Jacinta elected 2	

Table 1: Count of preferences and calculation of transfers												
Count	Description of next available preference	CALLANER, Ryan	SHAW, Barbara	PRICE, Jacinta	JEISMAN, Vince	PHELPS, Caroline Jayne	QUIN, Jason	De BRENNI, Jamie	Total ballot papers counted	Transfer Value	Votes transferred to table 2	
1	First preferences	601	814	1,712	945	439	1,143	2,209	7,863	1	7,863	
2	NAP after PHELPS, Caroline Jayne	80	19	119	55	-439	79	87	439	1	439	
3	NAP after CALLANDER, Ryan at count(s)1,2	-681	124	158	125	0	119	155	681	1	681	
4	NAP after SHAW, Barbara at count(s)1,2,3	0	-957	447	134	0	290	86	957	1	957	
5	NAP after JEISMAN, Vince at count(s)1,2,3,4	0	0	710	-2,518	0	1,030	778	2,518	1	1,259	





## City of Darwin – Lyons Ward

The council CEO advised on 12 August 2015, of a vacancy for one ordinary member (alderman) for the council in Lyons Ward and on 31 August 2015 of a second vacancy in Lyons Ward, resulting in two ordinary member (alderman) vacancies.

### Election milestones

Close of electoral roll	5:00 pm Tuesday 22 September 2015	No. on electoral roll <b>13,147</b>
Close of nominations	12:00 noon Thursday 24 September 2015	No. received <b>8</b>
Election day	Saturday 10 October 2015	
Election declared	Friday 16 October 2015	
Election costs (GST incl.)	\$65,186	

As there were more nominations than vacancies available, an election was held. Candidates contesting the by-election:

REITER, Melissa	
DAVIS, Jon	
McLEOD, Vikki	
STANDALOFT, Robbie	
<b>YOUNG, Emma</b>	<b>Elected</b>
JENKINS, Trevor	
HENDERSON, Jack Childers	
<b>PALMER, Mick</b>	<b>Elected</b>

### Election services

Postal voting (6:00 pm close)	Thursday 24 September 2015 to Thursday 8 October 2015		
	Overseas close Tuesday 6 October 2015		
	Return deadline Friday 16 October 2015		
Early voting	Friday 25 September 2015 to Friday 9 October 2015	Darwin NTEC & council, Alice Springs	
Mobile voting	Thursday 8 October 2015	Darwin Private Hospital	
	Friday 9 October 2015	Royal Darwin Hospital	
Election day voting	Saturday 10 October 2015 8:00 am to 6:00 pm	Four voting centres	
Electors voting	Formally 6,466 (93.0%)	Informally 487 (7.0%)	Total voting 6,953 (52.9%)

**City of Darwin – Lyons Ward**  
**Votes by voting centre**  
**Enrolment 13,147**

Voting centre	Melissa REITER	Jon DAVIS	Vikki MCLEOD	Robbie STANDALOFT	Emma YOUNG	Trevor JENKINS	Jack Childers HENDERSON	Mick PALMER	Formal	Informal	Total
Darwin City	162	52	108	82	265	75	7	326	1,077	123	1,200
Larrakeyah	101	24	77	140	133	55	6	216	752	53	805
Parap	357	62	160	222	350	111	33	576	1,871	161	2,032
Stuart Park	172	34	98	75	218	69	21	335	1,022	65	1,087
City of Darwin EVC Civic Centre	134	41	205	124	161	53	18	243	979	53	1,032
Darwin EVC	52	34	63	64	73	24	12	122	444	14	458
Postal	60	20	43	35	40	25	6	92	321	18	339
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,038</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>1,240</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>1,910</b>	<b>6,466</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>6,853</b>
	16.1%	4.1%	11.7%	11.5%	19.2%	6.4%	1.6%	29.5%	94.4%	7.1%	52.2%





## City of Darwin – Lyons Ward

### Determination of quota and distribution of preferences

Total formal ballot papers: 6,466

To be elected: 1

Quota:  $\frac{6,466}{2+1} + 1 = 2,156$

<b>Table 2: Distribution of the effective votes</b>												
Count	Description of next available preference	Melissa REITER	Jon DAVIS	VIKki McLEOD	Robbie STANDALOFT	Emma YOUNG	Trevor JENKINS	Jack Childers	Mick PALMER	Votes lost through fractional remainder	Total votes counted	Remarks
1	First preferences	1,038	267	754	742	1,240	412	103	1,910	0	6,466	HENDERSON, Jack Childers to be excluded
2	NAP after HENDERSON, Jack Childers at count(s) 1	12	7	11	11	13	17	-103	32	0	6,466	DAVIS, Jon to be excluded
3	NAP after DAVIS, Jon at count(s) 1, 2	74	-274	63	65	29	18	0	25	0	6,466	JENKINS, Trevor to be excluded
4	NAP after JENKINS, Trevor at count(s) 1, 2, 3	56	0	62	49	120	-447	0	160	0	6,466	STANDALOFT, Robbie to be excluded
5	NAP after STANDALOFT, Robbie at count(s) 1, 2, 3, 4	185	0	157	-867	137	0	0	388	0	6,466	PALMER, Mick elected 1
6	NAP after PALMER, Mick at count(s) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1,373	0	521	0	621	0	0	-359	2	6,466	McLEOD, Vikki to be excluded
7	NAP after McLEOD, Vikki at count(s) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	448	0	-1,047	0	599	0	0	0	0	6,466	YOUNG, Emma elected 2



## City of Palmerston

The council CEO advised on 19 August 2015, of a vacancy for one ordinary member (alderman) for the council.

### Election milestones

Close of electoral roll	5:00 pm Tuesday 13 October 2015	No. on electoral enrolled <b>19,133</b>
Close of nominations	12:00 noon Thursday 15 October 2015	No. received <b>5</b>
Election day	Saturday 31 October 2015	
Election declared	Friday 6 November 2015	
Election costs (GST incl.)	\$96,757	

As there were more nominations than vacancies available, an election was held. Candidates contesting the by-election:

HERROD, Geoffrey

KNOWLES, Gregory

ELFENBEIN, Roger John

KERLE, Margy

**PASCOE-BELL, Athina      Elected**

### Election services

Postal voting (6:00 pm close)	Friday 16 October 2015 to Thursday 29 October 2015		
	Overseas close Tuesday 27 October 2015		
	Return deadline Friday 6 November 2015		
Early voting	Friday 16 October 2015 to Friday 30 October 2015		Darwin, Palmerston, Alice Springs
Mobile voting	Thursday 29 October 2015		Darwin Private Hospital
	Friday 30 October 2015		Royal Darwin Hospital
Election day voting	Saturday 31 October 2015 8:00 am to 6:00 pm		Six voting centres
Electors voting	Formally    9,399 (89.3%)	Informally    1,128 (10.7%)	Total voting    10,527 (55.0%)







## City of Palmerston

### Votes by voting centre

Enrolment 19,133

Voting centre	Geoffrey HERROD	Gregory KNOWLES	Roger John ELFENBEIN	Margy KERLE	Athina PASCOE-BELL	Formal	Informal	Total
Bakewell	248	78	323	384	576	1,609	246	1,855
Driver	145	45	197	121	420	928	107	1,035
Durack	158	56	200	187	413	1,014	125	1,139
Johnston	69	26	131	85	178	489	42	531
Rosebery	155	84	266	203	402	1,110	173	1,283
Woodroffe	226	70	396	234	611	1,537	174	1,711
Mobile voting team 1301	2	4	5	4	5	20	3	23
Darwin EVC	14	14	35	37	60	160	14	174
Palmerston EVC	263	175	445	567	671	2,121	215	2,336
Postal	49	43	96	93	130	411	29	440
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,329</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>2,094</b>	<b>1,915</b>	<b>3,466</b>	<b>9,399</b>	<b>1,128</b>	<b>10,527</b>
	<b>14.1%</b>	<b>6.3%</b>	<b>22.3%</b>	<b>20.4%</b>	<b>36.9%</b>	<b>89.3%</b>	<b>10.7%</b>	<b>55.0%</b>

# City of Palmerston

## Determination of quota and distribution of preferences

Total formal ballot papers: 9,399

To be elected: 1

Quota:  $\frac{9,399}{1+1} + 1 = 4,700$

Table 1: Count of preferences and calculation of transfers										Table 2: Distribution of the effective votes								
Count	Description of next available preference	Geoffrey HERROD	Gregory KNOWLES	Roger John ELFENBEIN	Margy KERLE	Athina PASCOE-BELL	Total ballot papers counted	Transfer Value	Votes transferred to table 2	Count	Geoffrey HERROD	Gregory KNOWLES	Roger John ELFENBEIN	Margy KERLE	Athina PASCOE-BELL	Votes lost through fractional remainder	Total votes counted	Remarks
1	First preferences	1,329	595	2,094	1,915	3,466	9,399	1	9,399	1	1,329	595	2,094	1,915	3,466	0	9,399	Gregory KNOWLES to be excluded
2	NAP after Gregory KNOWLES at count(s) 1	146	-595	172	164	113	595	1	595	2	146 1,475	-595 0	172 2,266	164 2,079	113 3,579	0	<b>9,399</b>	Geoffrey HERROD to be excluded
3	NAP after Geoffrey HERROD at counts(s) 1,2	-1,475	0	593	316	566	1,475	1	1,475	3	-1,475 0	0 0	593 2,859	316 2,395	566 4,145	0	<b>9,399</b>	Margy KERLE to be excluded
4	NAP after Margy KERLE at count(s) 1,2,3	0	0	922	-2,395	1,473	2,395	1	2,395	4	0 0	0 0	922 3,781	-2,395 0	1,473 5,618	0	<b>9,399</b>	<b>Athina PASCOE-BELL elected 1</b>





## West Daly Regional Council – Thamurrurr/Pindi Pindi Ward

The council CEO advised on 8 December 2015, of a vacancy for one ordinary member (councillor) for the council in Thamurrurr/Pindi Pindi Ward.

### Election milestones

Close of electoral roll	5:00 pm Wednesday 10 February 2016	No. on electoral roll <b>1,448</b>
Close of nominations	12:00 noon Friday 12 February 2016	No. received <b>3</b>
Election day	Thursday 25 February 2016	
Election declared	Tuesday 1 March 2016	
Election costs (GST incl.)	\$10,824	

As there were more nominations than vacancies available, an election was held. Candidates contesting the by-election:

**MELPI, Leon**                      **Elected**  
 PANGQUEE, Graham  
 BUNDUCK, Michael

### Election services

Postal voting (6:00 pm close)	Friday 12 February 2016 to Tuesday 23 February 2016	
	Overseas close Friday 19 February 2016	
	Return deadline Wednesday 2 March 2016	
Early voting	Monday 15 February 2016 to Wednesday 24 February 2016	Darwin, Alice Springs
Mobile voting	Wednesday 24 February 2016	Emu Point, Woodycupaldiya
Election day voting	Thursday 25 February 2016 8:00 am to 3:00 pm	One voting centre
Electors voting	Formally 205 (94.0%)	Informally 13 (6.0%)      Total voting 218 (15.1%)

### Votes by voting centre

Voting centre	Leon MELPI	Graham PANGQUEE	Michael BUNDUCK	Formal	Informal	Total
Mobile 1	102	13	90	205	13	218
<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>218</b>
	49.8%	6.3%	43.9%	94.0%	6.0%	15.1%

### Determination of quota and distribution of preferences

Total formal ballot papers: 199

To be elected: 1

199

Quota:  $\frac{199}{1+1} = 100$

Table 1: Count of preferences and calculation of transfers								Table 2: Distribution of the effective votes						
Count	Description of next available preference	Leon MELPI	Graham PANGQUEE	Michael BUNDUCK	Total ballot papers counted	Transfer Value	Votes transferred to table 2	Count	Leon MELPI	Graham PANGQUEE	Michael BUNDUCK	Votes lost through fractional remainder	Total votes counted	Remarks
1	First preferences	97	13	89	199	1	199	1	97	13	89	0	199	Graham PANGQUEE
2	NAP after Graham	5	0	8	13	1	13	2	5 102	-13 0	8 97	0 0	199	<b>Leon MELPI</b>



## Central Desert Regional Council – Akiytarre Ward

The council CEO advised on 1 February 2016, of a vacancy for one ordinary member (councillor) for the council in Akiytarre Ward.

### Election milestones

Close of electoral roll	5:00 pm Wednesday 24 February	No. enrolled <b>289</b>
Close of nominations	12:00 noon Friday 26 February 2016	No. received <b>1</b>
Election declared	1:00 pm Friday 26 February 2016	
Election costs (GST incl.)	\$412	

As the number of nominations was the same as the vacancies available, no election was held:  
**PECKHAM, Sandra Joy** was elected unopposed.



## Victoria Daly Regional Council– Pine Creek Ward By-election

The council CEO advised on 25 February 2016 of a vacancy for one ordinary member (councillor) for the council in Pine Creek Ward.

### Election milestones

Close of electoral roll	5:00 pm Tuesday 15 March 2016	No. on roll <b>210</b>
Close of nominations	12:00 noon Thursday 17 March 2016	No. received <b>2</b>
Election day	Saturday 2 April 2016	
Election declared	Monday 4 April 2016	
Election costs (GST incl.)	\$5,171	

As there were more nominations than vacancies available, an election was held. Candidates contesting the by-election:

**LAWRENCE, Gaye**                      **Elected**  
**WOOLDRIDGE, Ray**

### Election services

Postal voting (6:00 pm close)	Friday 18 March 2016 to Thursday 31 March 2016		
	Overseas close Tuesday 29 March 2016		
	Return deadline Friday 8 April 2016		
Early voting	Friday 18 March 2016 to Friday 1 April 2016	Darwin, Alice Springs	
Mobile voting	Friday 1 April 2016	Kybrook Farm	
Election day voting	4 April 2016 8:00 am to 2:00 pm	One voting centre	
Electors voting	Formal 101 (99.0%)	Informally 1 (1.0%)	Total voting 102 (48.6%)

### Votes by voting centre

**Enrolment 210**

Voting centre	Gaye	Ray WOOLDRIDGE	Formal	Informal	Total
Vic Daly Pine Creek	61	35	96	1	97
Alice Springs EVC			0		0
Darwin EVC	4	1	5	0	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>102</b>
	64.4%	35.6%	99.0%	1.0%	48.6%

# Fee-for-service elections

Section 309(1)(h) of the NT *Electoral Act* allows for a payment to provide electoral goods and services to persons or organisations, using information or material in its possession or expertise acquired in the exercise of its functions.

The Commission conducts fee-for-service elections for government, non-government and community agencies and organisations that require decisions to be made by ballot. This includes enterprise agreements (EAs), the selection of office holders and plebiscites.

## Enterprise agreement ballots

**Table 12:** Enterprise agreement ballots conducted 2015-2016

Date	Enterprise Agreement (EA)	Number of electors		% Turnout
		Electoral roll	Returning BPs	
01.07.2015	NTPS Jacana Energy 2015-2017	11	11*	100
11.08.2015	NTPS Territory Generation 2015-2018	170	91*	53.5
11.08.2015	NTPS Power and Water Corporation 2015-2018	919	386*	42.0
08.09.2015	NTPS Fire and Rescue Service 2015-2018	219	180*	82.2
18.04.2016	Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia 2016	570	388	68.1

BPs Ballot papers

\*Ballot conducted online

## Fee-for-service elections

**Table 13:** Fee-for-service elections conducted 2015-2016

Date	Ballot type	Number of electors		% Turnout
		Electoral roll	Returning BPs	
11.08.2015	National Trust of Australia (NT) Election of 4 branch councillors (3 uncontested) 6 general councillors	81	41	50.6
		203	95	47.0

BPs Ballot papers

## Revenue

**Table 14:** Enterprise agreement ballots/fee for service election details 2011-2012 to 2015-2016

Year	Revenue (\$)	No. Elections/Ballots
2011-2012	3,034	2
2012-2013	0	0
2013-2014	67,346*	7
2014-2015	7,336	4
2015-2016	9,095	5

\*Includes the conduct of two postal NTPS enterprise agreements



## **Election targets 2016-2017**

### **Election management**

- Conduct the 27 August 2016 Territory election.
- Review and evaluate the conduct of the 2016 Territory election, including election innovations, new systems and processes, ballot paper informality and the impact of legislative changes, including the introduction of OPV and the 100 metre campaign exclusion zone.
- Methodologies to include measurement of performance outcomes against the Service Charter, obtaining feedback from clients through surveys.
- Commence preparation and implementation of election plans for the conduct of the August 2017 LG general elections.
- Liaise with the DLGCD on any proposed amendments to local government electoral legislation and incorporate changes to systems and processes should legislative amendments be tabled and assented to prior to the August 2017 LG general elections.
- Conduct the 2017 NT Public Service Enterprise Agreement Ballot using online voting.

### **Reporting**

- Draft and table the 2016 Territory election report with recommendations to improve electoral practices.
- Provide technical advice on any review/proposed changes to the NT *Electoral Act*.





# Public awareness

## Objective

Build a community that is well informed about its electoral rights, responsibilities, processes and available services.

Actions	Performance measures
Conduct targeted advertising/ publicity campaigns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number and effectiveness of advertising/publicity campaigns</li> <li>• Interactions on social media channels – Facebook, Twitter and YouTube</li> <li>• Number of schools visited and students attending sessions</li> <li>• Level of voter participation and satisfaction</li> <li>• Level and nature of informality</li> <li>• Number and nature of transactions logged on the NTEC website</li> <li>• Number of reports and publications produced (actual versus targeted)</li> </ul>
Develop and deliver electoral education and information programs and services	
Implementation of information and advertising campaigns across social media networks	
Maintain and improve school-based education programs	
Conduct electoral research to improve services and participation at electoral events	
Co-ordinate the Commission's public reporting	
Undertake public awareness strategic planning for the 2016 Territory election and 2017 LG General Elections	
Develop and implement a revised advertising campaign	

## Advertising and publicity campaigns

Publicity to promote the compulsory enrolment and voting requirements is undertaken through advertising as well as delivering education and information programs to target audiences.

A review of the 2012 election communication strategy determined that an external advertising agency should be engaged to assist in developing the 2016 Territory election communication strategy and branding. This included the development and delivery of a new approach to increase enrolment and participation rates. Subsequently, the 2016 Territory election branding has been incorporated across the web, television, radio, social media and print.

The initial phase of the election advertising campaign commenced on 11 April 2016. The three-week enrolment drive encouraged Territorians to enrol online, with advertising taking place via television, radio, print and social media. The key message conveyed throughout the campaign was - 'Got an opinion? Make it count. Enrol to vote.'. Other campaign initiatives included an article in the April edition of the Territory Q magazine titled '5 minutes for Democracy' and a competition, whereby electors who enrolled or updated their details were automatically entered into a draw to win an Apple iPad mini 4. Two iPads were available, one for Central Australia and another for the Top End.

In addition to the enrolment campaign, promotional activities were scheduled for the middle of 2016, with a focus on providing information about optional preferential voting and voting services. However, with the federal election called for 2 July 2016, activities were deferred until late July to avoid conveying conflicting messages to voters.

Public awareness activities undertaken in support of a general election for the Litchfield Council and eight council by-elections, included:

- event advertising in local and regional newspapers, including statutory notices
- strategies to communicate with and inform the relevant communities about the elections and who must vote
- municipal councils - mail-outs to voters confirming their enrolment details and providing information on voting centre locations and services
- remote councils - customised election posters - inviting nominations, reminding of the roll close date and promoting voting services - distributed to council outlets and other community contacts
- street banners strategically placed within council areas, and 'Polling Place Here' signs at election day voting centres
- election specific web pages, including maps of each electoral area/ward (as applicable) and external web links to stakeholders
- election bulletins and media releases
- public events for the declaration of nominations and election results
- posting results on the NTEC website.

## Education services

Electoral education program sessions primarily target school students; however, they also embrace new citizens, English as second language/migrant groups and legal and political studies students in partnership with the Legislative Assembly's Parliamentary Education Services (PES). Each session covers the enrolment and voting processes, explanation of the three levels of government and the mechanics of running elections in the Northern Territory. Through the joint arrangement with PES, 79 electoral education sessions were delivered to 2,908 students as part of school tours of Parliament House.

During the year, a total of 102 electoral education sessions were conducted, including public awareness activities at the show circuit and school elections. The 5,398 participants were drawn from all school sectors in both urban and regional parts of the Territory. There was a 15 per cent increase in the number of participants compared to 2014-2015, mainly due to requests for school elections. Table 15 details the sessions and number of participants.

- Attendance by Year 11 and 12 students decreased by seven to a total of eight classes with seven sessions delivered to Year 8, 9 and 10 students in Darwin.
- Five education sessions were conducted in Alice Springs.

**Table 15:** Education sessions and participants conducted by region

Group (by region)	No. Sessions	No. Participants*
Alice Springs	5	148
Darwin	48	1,877
English as Second Language (ESL)	(Darwin) 10	242
Katherine Region	3	102
Remote/Rural	17	687
Show Circuit (9 days) + Darwin High School Healthy Living Expo	10	500
NTEC managed School Elections	(Darwin) 9	1,842
<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>5,398*</b>

\* Does not include show circuit visitors



## Information activities

Following amendments to the NT *Electoral Act* effective from 2 March 2016, the Commission conducted ten information sessions for various stakeholders. The 'Information Sheet' series was expanded to include information on the new provisions for optional preferential voting and the prohibition of political canvassing within 100 metres of a voting centre. In the same series, facts were released on election advertising and promotional needs, advertising responsibilities for Legislative Assembly elections, assistance to voters and candidate political disclosure requirements. This information, including the Commission's policy on recounts, was placed on the NTEC website.

Activities in support of enrolment and voting awareness included:

- electoral boundary redistribution and enrolment information stands for the show circuit
- the placement of statutory advertising, website information, media releases and bulletins in support of the redistribution of LA boundaries
- attending Alice Springs Citizenship Ceremonies
- involvement in the Youth Round Table
- attendance at Australian Defence Force Community Service Expos in Darwin and Katherine
- presence at Charles Darwin University Orientation week (Darwin and Alice Springs campuses)
- email distribution of election newsletters commencing in December 2015
- the timely transmission of key election messages through email and SMS messaging.

## Website

The website provides information about the core business areas: enrolment, elections, voter awareness and corporate governance. Users can email questions via 'Ask us a question'.

A dedicated website for the 2016 Territory election was developed, incorporating new election branding, social media access with Facebook 'feeds' and relevant electoral information. The website went 'live' on 11 April 2016 in conjunction with the launch of the 2016 Territory election enrolment campaign.

## Research and electoral developments

Research into matters relating to elections or other Commission matters is conducted as prescribed in section s309(f) of the NT *Electoral Act*. This generally focuses on searching for information relevant to current operational programs, future initiatives, impending electoral events or issues in its wider environment.

In July 2015, the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters invited written submissions in respect to two inquiries; the delivery of electoral education, and campaigning activities at voting centres. Submissions were lodged to both inquiries.

In the lead-up to the 2016 Territory election, additional research continued to analyse and develop cost effective solutions to operational and election needs, ITC software and hardware requirements. Software developments were subject to rigorous testing to ensure compliance with specifications.



## **Reports and publications**

The 2014-2015 Annual Report and the report on the 2014 Casuarina LA by-election were tabled in Parliament on 18 November 2015.

The following NTEC information papers were made available to stakeholders and published on the Commission's website.

- Electoral Legislation Amendment Bill (2015) - discussing the likely impact of the proposed amendments and other relevant issues for consideration prior to the Bill being debated.
- Gerry Wood MLA – Private Member's Bill Electoral Amendment Bill 2016 (Serial 155) – clarifying the likely impacts associated with the implementation and administration of the proposed amendments.
- A service charter for the 2016 Territory election was circulated and posted on the NTEC website in May 2016.

## **Public Awareness targets 2016-2017**

- Implement the 2016 Territory election strategic communication plan and review its effectiveness against KPIs in the Service Charter.
- Commence planning and preparation for a public awareness program for the August 2017 Local Government elections, building on established advertising and sponsorship partnerships to continue voter engagement.
- Continue participation in the parliamentary electoral education sessions.
- Develop a targeted community-based program to engage remote voters with democratic processes.
- Review the structure and content of the NTEC website.
- Examine outcomes of the July 2016 federal election, including any potential impact for public awareness actions and strategies.
- Report on the 2016 Territory election.



# Corporate governance

## Objective

An operating environment that features continuous improvement, is open and supportive of staff, promotes professional growth, mutual respect and recognition of achievements.

Actions	Performance measures
Review and change the organisational structure to better meet the strategic challenges of the NTEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number of policies reviewed to ensure they meet current business and public sector requirements</li><li>• Number of system enhancements made (actual vs targeted)</li><li>• Improved staff responses in future staff surveys</li><li>• Level of participation in staff development opportunities</li><li>• Number events held to celebrate staff achievements</li></ul>
Document and implement policies and procedures that uphold the business requirements of the NTEC, the Northern Territory Public Service and relevant legislation	
Maintain and enhance IT systems, website and infrastructure that maximise the efficiency and effectiveness of the Commission's activities	
Foster the professional development and expertise of staff	
Recognise and celebrate the contribution of individuals and the team	

## The organisation

The Commission has a small number of ongoing positions to provide a response across all business areas. It manages in-house human resource activities, financial matters - including budgeting and reporting, procurement, IT and general office services. Secondments, specialist electoral staff and casual employees are required for general elections. A number of contract and casual staff were recruited in the latter part of 2015 in preparation for the August Territory election.

Assistance from other NT government agencies is mainly provided by:

- the Department of Corporate and Information Services (DCIS) for ITC, payroll, procurement, property and recruitment support
- the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment (OCPE) for personnel issues
- the Department of Treasury and Finance for financial matters.

**Table 16:** Staffing profile as at 30 June 2016

Designation	Number of Staff (including contract)	
	30 June 2015	30 June 2016#
Executive Contract Officer 3	1	1
Senior Administrative Officer 2	1	1
Senior Administrative Officer 1	4*	5#
Administrative Officer 7	1	0
Administrative Officer 6	3	6*
Administrative Officer 5	2	1
Administrative Officer 4	0.16	1.16
Administrative Officer 3	1	3
Administrative Officer 2	0	0
Administrative Officer 1	0.96	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>14.12 FTE</b>	<b>18.16 FTE</b>

\* Included two specialist short term contract staff (one for the redevelopment of election software, one for specialist technical advice)

# included two specialist short term contract staff (one for the redevelopment of election software, two for specialist technical advice)

## Employee expenses

Ongoing employee expenses are met from appropriation budget funds; separate arrangements are made for staff employed for by-elections, project work and secondments. In years when major electoral events take place, additional staff expenses are met from election budgets.

In 2015-2016, employee expenses were approximately \$2.123 million, which is 49.4 per cent of the total expenditure for the year.

Additional expenses included remuneration and other related costs for temporary project and election positions relating to:

- the Litchfield Council General Election
- eight council by-elections
- stands for the NT show circuit and similar enrolment/information events
- preparation of information and materials for the 2016 Territory election
- development of election management systems.

## Darwin office

In June 2016, the Darwin office had a permanent staff complement of seven with a number of positions filled through secondments or contracts. Additional casual and temporary staff with specialist electoral knowledge were engaged to assist in the LA election planning and preparation activities. One staff member was employed through the Indigenous Employment Program (IEP).

## Alice Springs office

The Alice Springs office currently has two contract staff that report to the Operations section.





## **2016 Territory election staffing**

A recruitment drive was undertaken for casual electoral officials for the 2016 Territory election which consisted of:

- emailing all electoral staff on the casual register
- OCPE sending an NTPS all staff email
- newspaper advertisements in the NT News and Centralian Advocate
- recruitment campaign on NTEC website and Facebook page
- social media (Facebook) advertising.

Streamlined processes have been introduced for handling expressions of interest to work at elections lodged through a 'smart form' on the Commission's website and also for electronically lodged employment forms.

## **Staff development and recognition**

Staff members attended accredited first aid and fire warden courses, Excel and executive presentation forums.

A pre-election conference was conducted to enhance team building and determine service level standards.

## **Agency management and reporting**

### **Report under the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act* s18**

DCIS and OCPE provide advice on the application of Human Resource (HR) legislation, instructions, guidelines and the implementation of the relevant HR policies, practices, terms and conditions under NTG employment terms and conditions.

Annual reporting is required to the Commissioner for Public Employment in relation to compliance with the prescribed NTPS principles of HR management.

## **Equal opportunity**

All appointments to positions are made in accordance with merit principles and, for election casuals, following review of any assessments recorded in the election management system.

All staff, including temporarily employed office casuals and electoral officials, are required to sign an undertaking that they are not a member of a political party or active in political affairs, and that they will retain this status during their period of their employment.

## **Equity and diversity**

Staff are recruited based on their capacity to communicate and interact with the many and diverse communities of the Northern Territory and deal sensitively and respectfully with issues presented by gender, language, ethnicity, disadvantage or any physical or other impairment. Electoral official positions for both urban and remote locations are filled on the basis of an ability to deal fairly and courteously, and without discrimination, with any voter.

## **Freedom of Information (FOI) requests**

The *Northern Territory Information Act* allows for a person to apply to a public sector organisation for access to government information held by the organisation. Government information means records (including computer records) that are required to be kept by Northern Territory public sector organisations as evidence of their activities or operations. FOI covers most records held by an organisation, including information about individuals and businesses. Three FOI requests were received during the year, as detailed in Table 17, and relates to information pertaining to the investigation into Foundation 51.



**Table 17:** Details of FOI requests received during the reporting year

Application Received	Nature of Application	Outcome
22.10.2015	Release of: Information held by the NTEC regarding alleged breaches of the <i>Electoral Act</i> – Foundation 51.	<p>The information sought included information about third parties; therefore under section 30(2) of the <i>Information Act</i> the third parties were notified that the applicant was seeking access to the information. The 30 day period for processing the application was extended due to the volume of information requested.</p> <p>A total of 1,899 pages of information covered by the application were examined: 972 pages of information were released in full, 15 pages in part. Release was declined for 912 pages based on a number of exemption provisions within the <i>Information Act</i>.</p> <p>The applicant sought an internal review of the decision 25 days later than the deadline for lodgement. This request was denied as the application was not made within 30 days after the applicant was notified of the initial decision and there was no appropriate internal officer to conduct an internal review.</p> <p>Four separate complaints were lodged with the Information Commissioner seeking a review of decisions to decline release of information. The Information Commissioner accepted the complaint with mediation scheduled to commence in July 2016.</p>
06.01.2016	<p>Release of: All evidence collected by the NTEC in regards to potential breaches of the <i>Electoral Act</i> by Foundation 51. Correspondence between the NTEC and NT Police regarding the investigation into Foundation 51.</p> <p><b>Details of Amended Application:</b> Documentation collected by the NTEC for the investigation into Foundation 51, specifically in relation to six named individuals. Summary of information/evidence provided to NT Police following the NTEC investigation into Foundation 51.</p>	<p>The applicant was asked to reconsider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the terms and size of the initial request under section 25(2) of the <i>Information Act</i> and</li> <li>b) to propose an alternative scoping requiring a smaller amount of NTEC resources.</li> </ul> <p>The applicant then provided a subsequent and then further amendment to the request.</p> <p>Some of the information sought included information about third parties who were notified that the applicant was seeking access to the information.</p> <p>A decision was made to release 189 pages.</p>
21.03.2016	<p>Release of: All government information held by the NTEC in relation to the \$10,000 loan in the Country Liberals candidate disclosure form for the 2014 Blain by-election.</p> <p>The application included, but was not limited to, the loan agreement between the parties.</p>	<p>As the information sought included information about third parties, under Section 30(2) of the <i>Information Act</i> the third parties were notified that the applicant was seeking access to the information.</p> <p>A decision was made to release ten pages in full, partially release one page (subject to third party appeal) and decline access to two pages.</p>

No fees were charged (excluding the fees prescribed in the *Information Act*) to process the applications.

## **Work, health and safety (WHS)**

The *Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011* sets out the national WHS obligations for employers and employees and stipulates duties of care on employers and employees in relation to WHS.

The Commission assesses accommodation, travel arrangements and electoral programs to ensure compliance and stipulates written adherence to voting centre requirements to responsible officers with reminders of the stipulations in face-to-face training sessions.

No reportable safety issues were recorded during the year.

## **Insurance reporting**

Over the course of 2015-2016, no self-insurance claims were made.

Mitigation strategies were in place to reduce the insurable risk arising from agency operations. The agency complies with instructions as set out in the 'Accounting and Property Manual', which contains sections relating to insurance and litigation matters.

Drivers of Commission vehicles are required to operate according to guidelines set out in the 'NT Fleet handbook'.

## **Risk evaluation and reporting**

A risk assessment on the internal planning on the conduct of the 2016 Territory election was conducted by the principal auditor of the Electoral Commission Queensland.

The Commission modified its ballot paper controls in line with the recommendations from the Keelty Inquiry into the conduct of the 2013 WA Senate election.

## **Records management**

Processes are in place to achieve compliance with the archives and records management provisions prescribed in Part 9, section 131, of the *Information Act*.

## **2015-2019 Corporate Plan**

The 2015-2019 Corporate Plan was released on 1 July 2015. The objectives, strategies and performance measures for the four core business areas are outlined at the beginning of each section of this report. A consolidated summary is included in this report. Ongoing redevelopment of procedures and systems will assist in providing better services in elections and provide enhanced reporting and monitoring abilities.

## **Election Service Charter**

The Commission outlined its broad goals and aims for the conduct of the 2016 Territory election in a service charter that defines the service level commitments to stakeholders. It includes the key performance indicators that will be used to evaluate election outcomes and provides a basis for determining recommendations to improve electoral practices.

The charter aims to demonstrate the Commission's accountability and enhance operational transparency. It should also assist stakeholders (voters, candidates, registered political parties and the media) with their election preparations and determine their expectations of, and interactions with, the Commission.

## Business areas - 2015-2019 Corporate Plan

**Enrolment** - Contribute to the maintenance and security of a joint roll of eligible NT electors.

Strategies	Performance measures
Maintain an efficient and effective joint electoral roll with the AEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An increase in the number of eligible electors correctly enrolled in the Territory</li> <li>Number of enrolment transactions and other information collected from enrolment activities</li> <li>Percentage of requests where accurate roll data was provided in a timely manner</li> <li>Level of compliance with commitments detailed in service level agreements with the AEC</li> <li>Timely and thorough redistribution data requests to the AEC</li> <li>Redistribution data, that is quality assured, loaded into RMANS</li> </ul>
Undertake regular research to identify activities to complement CRU/FDEU	
Develop and implement enrolment stimulation activities and initiatives and participate in joint programs and workshops with the AEC	
Monitor enrolment performance in terms of completeness, accuracy and the timely update of the electoral roll	
Provide support to Redistribution Committees and effect changes following final boundary determinations from the Committee and other sources	
Provide roll data within legislative requirements	

**Elections** - Conduct elections that are impartial, efficient, transparent and in accordance with the law.

Strategies	Performance measures
Provide best practice in conducting government and non-government elections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of disputed returns upheld due to administrative error</li> <li>Percentage of elections not conducted within statutory or required deadlines</li> <li>Cost of elections (actual vs estimate)</li> <li>Voter participation and informality rates</li> <li>Feedback received from client surveys on elections conducted</li> <li>Election-based management system meets business requirements</li> </ul>
Develop and maintain election policies, procedures and processes	
Enhance our knowledge of the needs of our diverse client base to customise electoral services	
Develop, review and maintain an election based management system	

**Public Awareness** – Build a community that is well informed about its electoral rights, responsibilities, processes and available services.

Strategies	Performance measures
Conduct targeted advertising/ publicity campaigns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number and effectiveness of advertising/publicity campaigns</li> <li>Number of schools visited and students attending sessions</li> <li>Level of elector participation and satisfaction</li> <li>Level and nature of informality</li> <li>Number and nature of transactions logged on the NTEC website</li> <li>Number of reports and publications produced (actual vs targeted)</li> </ul>
Develop and deliver electoral education and information programs and services	
Maintain and improve school based education programs	
Conduct electoral research to improve services and participation at electoral events	
Co-ordinate the organisation's public reporting	
Undertake public awareness strategic planning for the 2016 Territory election and 2017 LG General Elections	
Develop and implement a revised advertising campaign	

**Corporate** - An operating environment that features continuous improvement, is open and supportive of staff, promotes professional growth, mutual respect and recognition of achievements.

Strategies	Performance measures
Review and change the organisational structure to better meet the strategic challenges of the NTEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of policies reviewed to ensure they meet current business and public sector requirements</li> <li>• Number of system enhancements made (actual vs targeted)</li> <li>• Improved staff responses in future staff surveys</li> <li>• Level of participation in staff development opportunities</li> <li>• Number of events held to celebrate staff achievements</li> </ul>
Document and implement policies and procedures that uphold the business requirements of the NTEC, the Northern Territory Public Service and relevant legislation	
Maintain and enhance IT systems, website and infrastructure that maximise the efficiency and effectiveness of the Commission's activities	
Foster the professional development and expertise of NTEC staff	
Recognise and celebrate the contribution of individuals and the team	

## NTEC office premises

### Darwin

While no major works were carried out in the Darwin office during the year, the election operations area had an office layout refurbish to create a more functional working environment.

Storage units at SpaceBase were relinquished and an industrial shed at Berrimah was leased to facilitate efficient storage of election materials for the 2016 Territory election and other future electoral events.

### Alice Springs

MyVote Central was established in Alice Springs in mid-2009 and managed by the NTEC under a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the AEC to provide a one-stop shop for enrolment, elections and electoral education. It relocated to a new premises, while remaining in the Yeperenye Centre, on 30 April 2015.

### 2016 election premises

Premises for an early voting centre at the Katherine Shopping Centre and additional office space at 82 Mitchell Street were secured. As the new Alice Springs office premises are smaller, separate voting and counting premises will be sought for the August election.

A number of schools have been secured as voting centres for the election.

## ICT operational support

### Provision of services by DCIS and external ICT provider(s)

ICT support is provided by ICT Services, a division of DCIS, with responsibility for day-to-day ICT matters resting with the Business Manager.

Whole of government contracts determine providers for most telecommunications, hardware, generic software and helpdesk support. Specific agency hardware and software requirements are assessed on an 'as need' basis, and procurement of such items is carefully considered, as uncontracted purchases are not supported by NTG or covered by established safeguards and procedures.

## Hardware

In May 2016, a hardware refresh for desktop devices took place to provide updated capacity for the 2016-2017 election cycle. The timeframe minimised impact on election preparation.

## Software

A number of technological solutions to improve election conduct were investigated. As the products were NTEC specific, the Commission was responsible for identifying suitable external providers, negotiating terms and overseeing modifications to customise the software and ensuring support for their ongoing use. A casual staff member was employed to upgrade the election management system and interface with the website.

Formal agreements were established with:

- BSG Australia for use of Raffle Master - an electronic random number generation system designed to significantly reduce the time taken to decide ballot draw positions
- Cre8ive, engaged to provide online interactive training software and hosting
- F1 Solutions for a three-year contract (value \$357,000) to modify and host its electronic roll mark-off system eLAPPS to NTEC specifications, allowing for its use at the 2016 Territory election, the 2017 LG general elections and any by-elections during the contract period
- the ACT Electoral Commission (ACTEC) to jointly purchase the netbooks required to roll out eLAPPS to all voting centres across the NT at a cost of \$138,052. The netbooks are expected to have a service life of six years
- the Electoral Commission Queensland (ECQ) for the use of their purpose-built call centre and access to staff familiar with its facilities.

Changes to the agency's administrative file structure are being implemented in preparation for transfer to a new Electronic Document and Records Management (EDRM) system. The NTG is upgrading the whole of government records information management system (TRIM); however, the project will likely be deferred in the NTEC until after the 2016 Territory election.

Mitigation strategies were planned to ensure no significant local outages occur during the 2016 Territory election.

## Website

The 2016 Territory election site went 'live' on 11 April 2016 and discussions took place with DCIS to ensure adequate levels of support would be in place to forestall service disruption to clients.

## Corporate targets 2016-2017

- Monitor expenditure and finalise processing and reporting for the 2016 Territory election; apply for a Treasurer's Advance to cover election expenses.
- Liaise with councils to develop service level agreements for election services and costs for the 2016 Territory election.
- Complete and implement business plans for the 2016 Territory election, including pre-election activities.
- Continue to support the Indigenous Employment Program (IEP).
- Review the organisational structure of the Alice Springs (MyVote Central) office.
- Finalise a filing structure and standardise titling conventions in preparation for EDRM.
- Extending the Alice Springs (MyVote Central) office MoU with the AEC.





# Financial report

## Financial performance

### NTEC funding arrangements

The NTEC is funded through an annual appropriation from Treasury. Additional revenue is received by the Commission through the charging of a 15 per cent corporate overhead for conducting council elections and 35 per cent corporate overhead for fee-for-service elections. An annual contribution of \$15,000 is received from the AEC for the Alice Springs (MyVote Central) joint office initiative.

Funding for specific events is undertaken as follows:

- Legislative Assembly elections and by-elections – through a Treasurer's Advance (TA). Traditionally the Commission received reimbursement through a TA after the election occurred and when all expenses had been received. In recent years, only the difference between advance funding and final actual costs is recouped through a TA
- Local government elections – from individual councils with a 15 per cent corporate overhead applied
- LA boundary redistributions – through a Treasurer's Advance
- major initiatives, e.g. business specific software developments approved by Cabinet, are met by a Treasurer's Advance
- fee-for-service elections – conducted at NTEC commercial rates including a 35 per cent corporate overhead
- NTPS Enterprise Agreement ballots – funding provided by the department on a marginal cost recovery basis.

In a non-election year major outgoing expenditure is attributed to staffing, property, IT, DCIS Free of Charge (FOC) notional expenses and payments to the AEC for maintenance of the NT electoral roll under a joint roll arrangement. The annual appropriation budget supports:

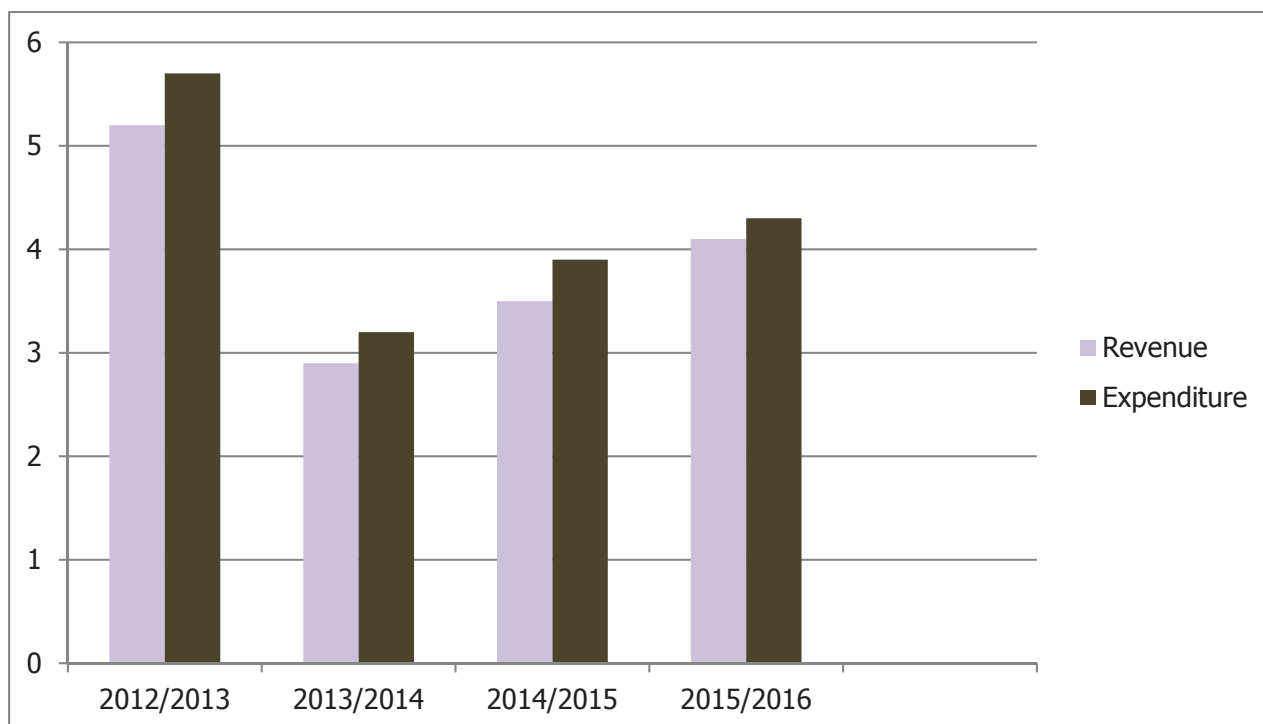
- the head office (Darwin) and MyVote Central (Alice Springs)
- salaries for staff and one executive contract officer
- enrolment, election, education and corporate governance functions
- the payment of approximately \$0.163 million for the annual Joint Roll Arrangement (JRA) costs.

### Historical revenue and expenditure variations

The following graph shows revenue and expenditure fluctuations over the last four financial years. Peaks can be explained as follows:

- 2012-2013 – the August 2012 LA general election
- 2014-2015 – the conduct of the QR14 enrolment program and the commencement of the 2015 redistribution of electoral boundaries
- 2015-2016 – finalisation of the 2015 redistribution, pre-NTLA election expenditure.





Financial Years 2012-13 to 2015-16

## Financial compliance

In August 2015, an end of year review for 2014-2015 was undertaken by the Auditor-General's Department as part of its audit program.

To be fully compliant with the *Financial Management Act*, Treasurer's Directions, Procurement Directions and the Accounting and Property Manual, the following areas were identified for improvement:

- correct posting of unreconciled petty cash amounts and handling of trust monies
- the preparation and retention of meeting minutes and written records of agreed corporate overheads
- payment of invoices in the correct financial year and timely updating of property, plant and equipment details in the Fixed Asset Register.

## 2015-2016 outcomes

- The NTEC's appropriation for 2015-2016 was \$2,039,000, with an additional \$0.5 million allocated for expenses relating to the 2016 Territory election.
- The 2015-2016 budget was later augmented by a further \$0.5 million for expenditure relating to the 2016 Territory election, from the 2016-2017 forward estimates, to cover costs related to using electronic certified lists.

The modified 2015-2016 budget increased the appropriation to \$3.039 million and expected additional revenue to \$0.4 million. Total expenditure rose to \$4.294 million, resulting in a \$0.218 million deficit.

Total actual expenditure for the 2015-2016 financial year amounted to \$4.294 million. Included in this was \$2.123 million in staff costs, \$1.547 million for administrative expenses and \$0.624 million for goods and services received FOC (the latter funded through DCIS).

The agency operated at a \$0.218 million loss due to depreciation and a shortfall in expected revenue from the conduct of local government elections.



## Legislative Assembly expenditure and monitoring

The initial estimate of costs to conduct the 2016 Territory election forecast is \$2.6 million over three financial years with the bulk of the expenditure occurring in the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 financial years. By the end of June 2016, a total of \$1.24 million had been spent, with LA expenditure for 2015-2016 at \$0.987 million. One million dollars was allocated to the NTEC in 2015-2016 for LA expenses. The estimate was increased to factor in costs related to using electronic certified lists that will cost approximately \$0.5 million.

The estimate was produced using a forecasting template that allows the entry of estimated costs for all election-related expenditure, e.g. materials, leasing, staffing, etc. The cost centre structure facilitated the allocation of costs to the call centre, operations, remote voting, postal voting, public awareness and general administration.

In addition to expenditure on specialist electoral software, the Commission signed contracts with DHS for staff, vehicle and logistical support for the mobile voting program and with Bellette Media creative agency for the design of election branding and advertising.

## Revenue from local government and fee-for-service elections

By the end of June 2016, the Commission had generated \$44,312 in revenue through the charging of the 15 per cent corporate overhead for local government elections. An additional \$2,909 was received for conducting fee-for-service elections.

Date scheduled	Election	Election cost \$ (GST inc.)	Revenue \$
31.07.2015	Central Desert – Tanami Ward	1,021	121
22.08.2015	West Arnhem – Kakadu Ward	8,226	975
10.10.2015	Alice Springs Town Council by-election	69,551	8,247
10.10.2015	City of Darwin – Lyons Ward	65,186	7,730
31.10.2015	City of Palmerston by-election	96,757	11,473
28.11.2015	Litchfield Council GE	116,551	13,820
25.02.2016	West Daly – Thamarrurr/Pindi Pindi Ward	10,824	1,284
10.03.2016	Central Desert – Akityarre Ward	412	49
02.04.2016	Victoria Daly – Pine Creek Ward	5,171	613
<b>Total</b>		<b>373,699</b>	<b>44,312</b>

Date	Ballot	Election cost \$ (GST inc.)	Revenue \$
01.07.2015	Jacana Energy EA (trialled online voting)	0	0
11.08.2015	National Trust of Australia (NT) election	4,908	2,337
18.04.2016	Voyages Indigenous Tourism EA	2,205	572
<b>Total</b>		<b>7,113</b>	<b>2,909</b>

## **End of year result**

The total expenditure for 2015-2016 exceeded the revised budgeted figure of \$4.294 million by \$0.218 million. The shortfall can be attributed to depreciation and amortisation, \$0.12 million, and a shortfall of \$0.098 million in additional revenue from the conduct of elections.

## **The Future**

The 2016-2017 budget includes income of \$3.397 million. This amount consists of \$2.372 million in appropriation, \$0.4 million from the sales of goods and services and a notional charge of \$0.610 million for DCIS notional billing.

No revenue is expected from council by-elections during 2016-2017: they need not be held if there is a policy in place to not fill casual vacancies occurring during the 18 month period before LG general elections.

The 2016-2017 budget forecasts expenditure of \$3.518 million, comprising \$1.794 million (57 per cent) in employee expenses and a further \$1.724 million (43 per cent) for all other charges which includes purchases of goods and services, repairs and maintenance, depreciation and notional DCIS charges.

## **Finance targets 2016-2017**

- Finalise LA election costs, compare actuals against budget and prepare TA request for Treasury.
- Plan an infrastructure that will support the 2017 LG general elections.
- Liaise with councils to finalise their election costs and monitor early expenditure.



## **FINANCIAL STATEMENT SUMMARY**

### **For the Year Ended 30 June 2016**

The Northern Territory Electoral Commission (NTEC) provides an independent service to the people of the Northern Territory, the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly, municipal and shire councils (mandated) and other organisations (by appointment).

#### **Key responsibilities include:**

- contributing to the maintenance of the Northern Territory electoral roll
- managing parliamentary and non-parliamentary elections including local government and fee-for-service elections
- delivering public electoral awareness and education programs
- providing advice and reports relating to electoral matters to the Legislative Assembly
- conducting electoral research
- providing support to the Redistribution Committees that redistribute Legislative Assembly electoral boundaries.

#### **Financial performance**

The NTEC's expenditure budget increased from \$3.9 million to \$4.2 million as a result of significant costs incurred in relation to the following:

- the conduct of Territory-wide enrolment stimulation activities prior to the commencement of the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly Election
- the redistribution of Legislative Assembly boundaries
- the conduct of the City of Darwin Council by-election held in October 2015 (on a fee-for-service basis)
- the conduct of the Litchfield Shire Council election held in November 2015 (on a fee-for-service basis)
- the conduct of several Local Government Regional Council by-elections (on a fee-for-service basis)
- expenditure in preparation for the 2016 Territory election.

Overall income for the year was \$4.1 million and expenses incurred were \$4.3 million. With approvals sought and granted to increase the NTEC's budget expenditure, the result was an operating deficit of \$0.218 million for the year.

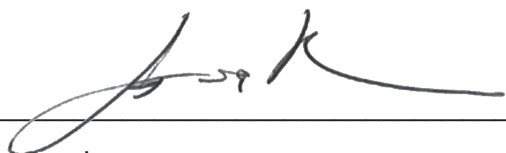
The deficit is primarily due to depreciation and a shortfall in revenue from the conduct of local government elections.



## Certification of the financial Statements

We certify that the attached financial statements for the Northern Territory Electoral Commission have been prepared from proper accounts and records in accordance with the prescribed format, the *Financial Management Act* and Treasurer's Directions.

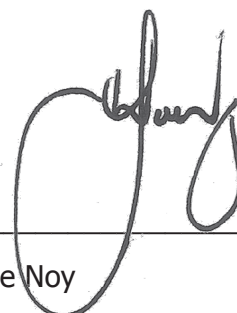
We further state that the information set out in the Comprehensive Operating Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Cash Flow Statement, and notes to and forming part of the financial statements, presents fairly the financial performance and cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2016 and the financial position on that date. At the time of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances that would render the particulars included in the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.



Iain Loganathan

Electoral Commissioner – Chief Finance Officer

31 August 2016



Warren Que Noy

Business Manager – Accountable Officer

31 August 2016

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENT OVERVIEW**

### **For the Year Ended 30 June 2016**

The Northern Territory Electoral Commission (NTEC) provides an independent electoral service to the people of the Northern Territory, the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly, municipal and shire councils (mandated) and other organisations (by appointment).

#### **Key responsibilities include:**

- contributing to the maintenance of the Northern Territory electoral roll
- managing parliamentary and non-parliamentary elections including local government and fee for service elections
- delivering public electoral awareness and education programs
- providing advice and reports relating to electoral matters to the Legislative Assembly
- conducting electoral research
- providing support to the Redistribution Committees that redistribute electoral boundaries.

#### **Financial performance**

The NTEC's income for 2015-2016 was increased to \$4.1 million due to commitments relating to the 2016 Legislative Assembly election. Expenses incurred for the year were \$4.3 million.

The end result was an operating deficit of \$0.22 million of which \$0.12 million relates to depreciation.

The expenditure budget consists of a number of by-elections conducted throughout the year, with a significant amount relating to the 2016 Territory election that was held on 27 August 2016. Significant expenditure items were:

- 2016 Territory election preparation activities, including the purchase of election materials, public awareness campaign and system development
- conduct of the Alice Springs Town Council and the City of Darwin Council by-elections on 10 October 2015, the Palmerston City Council by-election on 31 October 2015 and the Litchfield Council election on 28 November 2015
- conduct of Local Government Regional Council by-elections for the Central Desert Regional Council, the Victoria Daly Regional Council, the West Arnhem Regional Council and the West Daly Regional Council.

A portion of the 2016-2017 Legislative Assembly budget was transferred into 2015-2016 to meet election costs related to the use of electronic certified lists.





**NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENT OVERVIEW**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2016**

		\$000	\$000
<b>INCOME</b>			
Taxation revenue			
Grants and subsidies revenue			
Current		14	14
Capital			
Appropriation			
Output		3,039	2,715
Commonwealth			
Sales of goods and services <sup>(1)</sup>		400	113
Interest revenue			
Goods and services received free of charge <sup>(2)</sup>	4	624	697
Gain on disposal of assets	5		
Other income			
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4,076</b>	<b>3,539</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Employee expenses		2,123	2,070
Administrative expenses			
Purchases of goods and services	6	1,382	958
Repairs and maintenance		3	1
Property management		42	60
Depreciation and amortisation	10	120	120
Other administrative expenses <sup>(2)</sup>		624	697
Grants and subsidies expenses			
Current			
Capital			
Community service obligations			
Interest expenses	17		
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4,294</b>	<b>3,906</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>		<b>(218)</b>	<b>(367)</b>
<b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>			
<b>Items that will not be reclassified to net surplus/deficit</b>			
Changes in accounting policies			
Correction of prior period errors			
Changes in asset revaluation surplus			
<b>TOTAL OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>			
<b>COMPREHENSIVE RESULT</b>		<b>(218)</b>	<b>(367)</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> Income received from a number of fee-for-service elections including Regional and Municipal Council elections.

<sup>(2)</sup> Includes DCIS service charges.

NOTE: Some figures in the financial statements and notes may not equate as amounts are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars. Amounts of \$500 or less are rounded down to zero.



**NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION**  
**COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT**  
For the year ended 30 June 2016

	Note	2016 \$000	2015 \$000
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and deposits	7	321	354
Receivables	8	42	23
Inventories	9		
Advances and investments			
Prepayments			
Other assets			
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>363</b>	<b>378</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Receivables	8		
Advances and investments			
Property, plant and equipment	10, 11	575	636
Prepayments			
Other assets			
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>575</b>	<b>636</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>938</b>	<b>1,013</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Deposits held			
Payables	12	183	93
Borrowings and advances			
Provisions	13	161	166
Other liabilities	14		
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>344</b>	<b>259</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>			
Borrowings and advances			
Provisions	13	49	50
Other liabilities	14		
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		<b>49</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>393</b>	<b>310</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>546</b>	<b>704</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Capital		2057	1997
Accumulated funds		(1,511)	(1,294)
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>546</b>	<b>704</b>

*The Balance Sheet is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.*



**NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2016**

	Note	Equity at 1 July \$000	Comprehensive result \$000	Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners \$000	Equity at 30 June \$000
<b>2015-16</b>					
<b>Accumulated Funds</b>		1,278	218 <sup>(1)</sup>	0	1,496
Changes in accounting policy					
Correction of prior period errors					
Transfers from reserves		15	0	0	15
Other movements directly to equity					
		1,294	218	0	1,511
<b>Reserves</b>	15				
<b>Capital – Transactions with Owners</b>					
Equity injections					
Capital appropriation		(17)	0	0	(17)
Equity transfers in		(1,198)	0	(60)	(1,257)
Other equity injections		(1,081)	0	0	(1,081)
Specific purpose payments					
Commonwealth – capital					
Equity withdrawals					
Capital withdrawal <sup>(2)</sup>		298	0	0	298
Equity transfers out					
		(1,997)	0	(60)	(2,057)
<b>Total Equity at End of Financial Year</b>		<b>(704)</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>(60)</b>	<b>(546)</b>
<b>2014-15</b>					
<b>Accumulated Funds</b>		911	367	0	1,278
Changes in accounting policy					
Correction of prior period errors					
Transfers from reserves		15	0	0	15
Other movements directly to equity					
		926	367	0	1,294
<b>Reserves</b>	15				
<b>Capital – Transactions with Owners</b>					
Equity injections					
Capital appropriation		(17)	0	0	(17)
Equity transfers in		(1,198)	0	0	(1,198)
Other equity injections		(1,081)	0	0	(1,081)
Specific purpose payments					
Commonwealth – capital					
Equity withdrawals					
Capital withdrawal <sup>(2)</sup>		298	0	0	298
Equity transfers out					
		(1,997)	0	0	(1,997)
<b>Total Equity at End of Financial Year</b>		<b>(1,071)</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(704)</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> Net Surplus/(Deficit) from the Comprehensive Operating Statement.

<sup>(2)</sup> Use for cash distributions to Government.

*The Statement of Changes in Equity is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.*



**NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION**  
**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2016**

	Note	2016 \$000	2015 \$000
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Operating Receipts</b>			
Taxes received			
Grants and subsidies received			
Current		14	14
Capital			
Appropriation			
Output		3039	2715
Commonwealth			
Receipts from sales of goods and services		498	196
Interest received			
<b>Total Operating Receipts</b>		<b>3,551</b>	<b>2,925</b>
<b>Operating Payments</b>			
Payments to employees		(2,190)	(2,011)
Payments for goods and services		(1,394)	(1,095)
Grants and subsidies paid			
Current			
Capital			
Community service obligations			
Interest paid			
<b>Total Operating Payments</b>		<b>(3,584)</b>	<b>(3,106)</b>
<b>Net Cash From/(Used in) Operating Activities</b>	16	<b>(33)</b>	<b>(181)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Investing Receipts</b>			
Proceeds from asset sales	5		
<b>Total Investing Receipts</b>			
<b>Investing Payments</b>			
Purchases of assets			
Advances and investing payments			
<b>Total Investing Payments</b>			
<b>Net Cash From/(Used in) Investing Activities</b>			
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Financing Receipts</b>			
Deposits received		0	(1)
Equity injections			
Capital appropriation			
Commonwealth appropriation			
Other equity injections			
<b>Total Financing Receipts</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>(1)</b>
<b>Financing Payments</b>			
Equity withdrawals			
<b>Total Financing Payments</b>			
<b>Net Cash From/(Used in) Financing Activities</b>			
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		(33)	(181)
Cash at beginning of financial year		354	536
<b>CASH AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR</b>	7	<b>321</b>	<b>354</b>

*The Cash Flow Statement is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.*



**NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION**  
**CASH FLOW STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2016**

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**NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2016**

**1. OBJECTIVES AND FUNDING**

The Northern Territory Electoral Commission (the 'Commission') was established in March 2004 to support government by providing a fair, impartial and professional electoral service and ensuring there is an opportunity for the people of the Northern Territory to participate in free and democratic elections. The Commission is responsible for conducting elections for the Legislative Assembly, Local Government and other organisations (if appointed), in an efficient and cost-effective manner, consistent with legislative requirements.

The Department is predominantly funded by, and is dependent on, the receipt of Parliamentary appropriations. For the conduct of Legislative Assembly elections, a Treasurer's Advance is generally sought at the conclusion of the event. For a Local Government General Election, an expenditure advance is requested; however, local government by-elections are invoiced after the event. The financial statements encompass all funds through which the agency controls resources to carry on its functions and deliver outputs.

For reporting purposes, outputs delivered by the agency are summarised into two output groups. Note 3 provides summary financial information in the form of a Comprehensive Operating Statement by output group.

**2. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**a) Statement of Compliance**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Financial Management Act* and related Treasurer's Directions. The *Financial Management Act* requires the Northern Territory Electoral Commission to prepare financial statements for the year ended 30 June based on the form determined by the Treasurer. The form of agency financial statements is to include:

- (i) a Certification of the Financial Statements
- (ii) a Comprehensive Operating Statement
- (iii) a Balance Sheet
- (iv) a Statement of Changes in Equity
- (v) a Cash Flow Statement
- (vi) applicable explanatory notes to the financial statements.

**b) Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared using the accrual basis of accounting, which recognises the effect of financial transactions and events when they occur, rather than when cash is paid out or received. As part of the preparation of the financial statements, all intra-agency transactions and balances have been eliminated.

Except where stated, the financial statements have also been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.



**NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2016**

The form of the agency financial statements is also consistent with the requirements of Australian Accounting Standards. The effects of all relevant new and revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that are effective for the current annual reporting period have been evaluated.

The following new and revised accounting standards and interpretations were effective for the first time in 2015-16:

**AASB 1048 Interpretation of Standards**

This reflects amended versions of Interpretations arising in relation to amendments to AASB 9 Financial Instruments and consequential amendments arising from the issuance of AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers. The standard does not impact the financial statements.

**AASB 2014-8 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9**

This Standard makes amendments to AASB 9 Financial Instruments (December 2009) and AASB 9 Financial Instruments (December 2010). These amendments arise from the issuance of AASB 9 Financial Instruments in December 2014. The standard does not impact the financial statements.

**AASB 2015-3 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the withdrawal of AASB 1031 Materiality**

The standard completes the withdrawal of references to AASB 1031 in all Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations, allowing the standard to effectively be withdrawn. The standard does not impact the financial statements.

The following standards and interpretations are likely to have an insignificant impact on the financial statements for future reporting periods, but the exact impact is yet to be determined:

Standard/Interpretation	Effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after
AASB 9 Financial Instruments (December 2014), AASB 2014-7 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9 (December 2014)	1 January 2018
AASB 1057 Application of Accounting Standards	1 January 2016
AASB 2015-9 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Scope and Application Paragraphs [AASB 8, 133 and 1057]	1 January 2016
AASB 2015-10 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Effective Date of Amendments to AASB 10 and AASB 128	1 January 2016





**NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2016**

The following standards and interpretations are expected to have a potential impact on the financial statements for future reporting periods:

Standard/Interpretation	Effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after	Impact
AASB 9 Financial Instruments	1 January 2018	Simplified requirements for classification and measurement of financial assets, a new hedging accounting model and a revised impairment loss model to recognise impairment losses earlier as opposed to only when incurred
AASB 2014-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [Part E Financial Instruments]	1 January 2018	Amends various AAS's to reflect the deferral of the mandatory application date of AASB 9
AASB 2014-4 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Clarification of Acceptable Methods of Depreciation and Amortisation [AASB 116 and AASB 138]	1 January 2016	Provides additional guidance on how the depreciation or amortisation of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets should be calculated and clarifies that the use of revenue-based methods to calculate the depreciation of an asset is not appropriate
AASB 2014-7 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9	1 January 2018	Amends various AAS's to reflect the changes as a result of AASB 9
Standard/Interpretation	Effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after	Impact
AASB 2015-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Annual Improvements to Australian Accounting Standards 2012-14 Cycle [AASB 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 110, 119, 121, 133, 134, 137 and 140]	1 January 2016	The amendments include AASB 5 change in methods of disposal; AASB 7 Servicing contracts and applicability of the amendments to AASB 7 to condensed interim financial statements; AASB 119 Discount rate: regional market issue and AASB 134 Disclosure of information 'elsewhere in the interim financial report'

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**c) Reporting Entity**

The financial statements cover the Department as an individual reporting entity. The Northern Territory Electoral Commission ("the Department") is a Northern Territory department established under the *Interpretation Act Administrative Arrangements Order*.

The principal place of business of the Department is: Level 3, TCG Building, 80 Mitchell Street, Darwin.

**d) Agency and Territory Items**

The financial statements of Northern Territory Electoral Commission include income, expenses, assets, liabilities and equity over which the Northern Territory Electoral Commission has control (Agency items). Certain items, while managed by the agency, are controlled and recorded by the Territory rather than the agency (Territory items). Territory items are recognised and recorded in the Central Holding Authority as discussed below.

**Central Holding Authority**

The Central Holding Authority is the 'parent body' that represents the Government's ownership interest in Government-controlled entities.

The Central Holding Authority also records all Territory items, such as income, expenses, assets and liabilities controlled by the Government and managed by agencies on behalf of the Government. The main Territory item is Territory income, which includes taxation and royalty revenue, Commonwealth general purpose funding (such as GST revenue), fines, and statutory fees and charges.

The Central Holding Authority also holds certain Territory assets not assigned to agencies as well as certain Territory liabilities that are not practical or effective to assign to individual agencies such as unfunded superannuation and long service leave. The Central Holding Authority recognises and records all Territory items, and as such, these items are not included in the agency's financial statements.

**e) Comparatives**

Where necessary, comparative information for the 2014-15 financial year has been reclassified to provide consistency with current year disclosures.

**f) Presentation and Rounding of Amounts**

Amounts in the financial statements and notes to the financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars, with amounts of \$500 or less being rounded down to zero. Figures in the financial statements and notes may not equate due to rounding.

**g) Changes in Accounting Policies**

There have been no changes to accounting policies adopted in 2015-16 as a result of management decisions.



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**h) Accounting Judgments and Estimates**

The preparation of the financial report requires the making of judgments and estimates that affect the recognised amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses and the disclosure of contingent liabilities. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods, if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Judgments and estimates that have significant effects on the financial statements are disclosed in the relevant notes to the financial statements. Notes that include significant judgments and estimates are:

- Employee Benefits – Note 2(x) and Note 13: Non-current liabilities in respect of employee benefits are measured as the present value of estimated future cash outflows based on the appropriate Government bond rate, estimates of future salary and wage levels and employee periods of service.
- Depreciation and Amortisation – Note 2(l) and Note 10: Property, Plant and Equipment.

**i) Goods and Services Tax**

Income, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of Goods and Services Tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred on a purchase of goods and services is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office (ATO). In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included as part of receivables or payables in the Balance Sheet.

Cash flows are included in the Cash Flow Statement on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities, which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are classified as operating cash flows. Commitments and contingencies are disclosed net of the amount of GST recoverable or payable unless otherwise specified.

**j) Income Recognition**

Income encompasses both revenue and gains.

Income is recognised at the fair value of the consideration received, exclusive of the amount of GST. Exchanges of goods or services of the same nature and value without any cash consideration being exchanged are not recognised as income.

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**Grants and Other Contributions**

Grants, donations, gifts and other non-reciprocal contributions are recognised as revenue when the agency obtains control over the assets comprising the contributions. Control is normally obtained upon receipt.

Contributions are recognised at their fair value. Contributions of services are only recognised when a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would be purchased if not donated.

**Appropriation**

Output appropriation is the operating payment to each agency for the outputs they provide and is calculated as the net cost of agency outputs after taking into account funding from agency income. It does not include any allowance for major non-cash costs such as depreciation.

Commonwealth appropriation follows from the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations, resulting in Specific Purpose Payments (SPPs) and National Partnership (NP) payments being made by the Commonwealth Treasury to state treasuries, in a manner similar to arrangements for GST payments. These payments are received by the Department of Treasury and Finance on behalf of the Central Holding Authority and then on-passed to the relevant agencies as Commonwealth appropriation.

Revenue in respect of appropriations is recognised in the period in which the agency gains control of the funds.

**Sale of Goods**

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised (net of returns, discounts and allowances) when:

- the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods have transferred to the buyer
- the agency retains neither continuing managerial involvement to the degree usually associated with ownership nor effective control over the goods sold
- the amount of revenue can be reliably measured
- it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the agency
- the costs incurred or to be incurred in respect of the transaction can be measured reliably.

**Rendering of Services**

Revenue from rendering services is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of the contract. The revenue is recognised when:

- the amount of revenue, stage of completion and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured
- it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the entity.



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**Interest Revenue**

Interest revenue is recognised as it accrues, taking into account the effective yield on the financial asset.

**Goods and Services Received Free of Charge**

Goods and services received free of charge are recognised as revenue when a fair value can be reliably determined and the resource would have been purchased if it had not been donated. Use of the resource is recognised as an expense.

**Disposal of Assets**

A gain or loss on disposal of assets is included as a gain or loss on the date control of the asset passes to the buyer, usually when an unconditional contract of sale is signed. The gain or loss on disposal is calculated as the difference between the carrying amount of the asset at the time of disposal and the net proceeds on disposal. Refer also to Note 5.

**Contributions of Assets**

Contributions of assets and contributions to assist in the acquisition of assets, being non-reciprocal transfers, are recognised, unless otherwise determined by Government, as gains when the agency obtains control of the asset or contribution. Contributions are recognised at the fair value received or receivable.

**k) Repairs and Maintenance Expense**

Funding is received for repairs and maintenance works associated with agency assets as part of output appropriation. Costs associated with repairs and maintenance works on agency assets are expensed as incurred.

**l) Depreciation and Amortisation Expense**

Items of property, plant and equipment, including buildings but excluding land, have limited useful lives and are depreciated or amortised using the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives.

Amortisation applies in relation to intangible non-current assets with limited useful lives and is calculated and accounted for in a similar manner to depreciation.

The estimated useful lives for each class of asset are in accordance with the Treasurer's Directions and are determined as follows:

	2016	2015
Plant and Equipment – Computer hardware	3-6 years	3-6 years
Plant and Equipment – Fit-out	10 years	10 years

Assets are depreciated or amortised from the date of acquisition or from the time an asset is completed and held ready for use.

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**m) Interest Expense**

Interest expenses include interest and finance lease charges. Interest expenses are expensed in the period in which they are incurred.

**n) Cash and Deposits**

For the purposes of the Balance Sheet and the Cash Flow Statement, cash includes cash on hand, cash at bank and cash equivalents. Cash equivalents are highly liquid short-term investments that are readily convertible to cash. Cash at bank includes monies held in the Accountable Officer's Trust Account (AOTA) that are ultimately payable to the beneficial owner – refer also to Note 21.

**o) Inventories**

Inventories include assets held either for sale (general inventories) or for distribution at no or nominal consideration in the ordinary course of business operations.

Inventory held for distribution is regularly assessed for obsolescence and loss.

**p) Receivables**

Receivables include accounts receivable and other receivables and are recognised at fair value less any allowance for impairment losses.

The allowance for impairment losses represents the amount of receivables the agency estimates are likely to be uncollectible and are considered doubtful. Analyses of the age of receivables past due as at the reporting date are disclosed in an ageing schedule, which is under credit risk in Note 17 Financial Instruments. Reconciliation of changes in the allowance accounts is also presented.

Accounts receivable are generally settled within 30 days and other receivables within 30 days.

**q) Prepayments**

Prepayments represent payments in advance of receipt of goods and services or that part of expenditure made in one accounting period covering a term extending beyond that period.

**r) Property, Plant and Equipment**

**Acquisitions**

All items of property, plant and equipment with a cost, or other value, equal to or greater than \$10,000 are recognised in the year of acquisition and depreciated as outlined below. Items of property, plant and equipment below the \$10,000 threshold are expensed in the year of acquisition.

The construction cost of property, plant and equipment includes the cost of materials and direct labour, and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.



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**Complex Assets**

Major items of plant and equipment comprising a number of components that have different useful lives, are accounted for as separate assets. The components may be replaced during the useful life of the complex asset.

**Subsequent Additional Costs**

Costs incurred on property, plant and equipment subsequent to initial acquisition are capitalised when it is probable that future economic benefits in excess of the originally assessed performance of the asset will flow to the agency in future years. Where these costs represent separate components of a complex asset, they are accounted for as separate assets and are separately depreciated over their expected useful lives.

**Construction (work in progress)**

As part of the financial management framework, the Department of Infrastructure is responsible for managing general government capital works projects on a whole of Government basis. Therefore appropriation for all agency capital works is provided directly to the Department of Infrastructure and the cost of construction work in progress is recognised as an asset of that Department. Once completed, capital works assets are transferred to the agency.

**s) Biological Assets**

The Northern Territory Electoral Commission had no biological assets in 2015-16 and 2014-15.

**Re-evaluation of Assets**

Subsequent to initial recognition, assets belonging to the following classes of non-current assets are revalued with sufficient regularity to ensure that the carrying amount of these assets does not differ materially from their fair value at reporting date:

- land
- buildings
- infrastructure assets
- heritage and cultural assets
- biological assets
- intangibles

Plant and equipment are stated at historical cost less depreciation, which is deemed to equate to fair value.



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**Impairment of Assets**

An asset is said to be impaired when the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount.

Non-current physical and intangible agency assets are assessed for indicators of impairment on an annual basis or whenever there is indication of impairment. If an indicator of impairment exists, the agency determines the asset's recoverable amount. The asset's recoverable amount is determined as the higher of the asset's depreciated replacement cost and fair value less costs to sell. Any amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount is recorded as an impairment loss.

Impairment losses are recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement. They are disclosed as an expense unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount. Where the asset is measured at a revalued amount, the impairment loss is offset against the asset revaluation surplus for that class of asset to the extent that an available balance exists in the asset revaluation surplus.

In certain situations, an impairment loss may subsequently be reversed. Where an impairment loss is subsequently reversed, the carrying amount of the asset is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement as income, unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the impairment reversal results in an increase in the asset revaluation surplus. Note 15 provides additional information in relation to the asset revaluation surplus.

**t) Assets Held for Sale**

The Northern Territory Electoral Commission held no assets for sale in 2015-16 and 2014-15.

**u) Leased Assets**

Leases under which the agency assumes substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of an asset are classified as finance leases. Other leases are classified as operating leases.

**Finance Leases**

Finance leases are capitalised. A lease asset and lease liability equal to the lower of the fair value of the leased property and present value of the minimum lease payments, each determined at the inception of the lease, are recognised.

Lease payments are allocated between the principal component of the lease liability and the interest expense.



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**Operating Leases**

Operating lease payments made at regular intervals throughout the term are expensed when the payments are due, except where an alternative basis is more representative of the pattern of benefits to be derived from the leased property. Lease incentives under an operating lease of a building or office space is recognised as an integral part of the consideration for the use of the leased asset. Lease incentives are to be recognised as a deduction of the lease expenses over the term of the lease.

**v) Payables**

Liabilities for accounts payable and other amounts payable are carried at cost, which is the fair value of the consideration to be paid in the future for goods and services received, whether or not billed to the agency. Accounts payable are normally settled within 30 days.

**w) Employee Benefits**

Provision is made for employee benefits accumulated as a result of employees rendering services up to the reporting date. These benefits include wages and salaries and recreation leave. Liabilities arising in respect of wages and salaries, recreation leave and other employee benefit liabilities that fall due within twelve months of reporting date are classified as current liabilities and are measured at amounts expected to be paid. Non-current employee benefit liabilities that fall due after twelve months of the reporting date are measured at present value, calculated using the Government long-term bond rate.

No provision is made for sick leave, which is non-vesting, as the anticipated pattern of future sick leave to be taken is less than the entitlement accruing in each reporting period.

Employee benefit expenses are recognised on a net basis in respect of the following categories:

- wages and salaries, non-monetary benefits, recreation leave, sick leave and other leave entitlements
- other types of employee benefits.

As part of the financial management framework, the Central Holding Authority assumes the long service leave liabilities of Government agencies, including the Northern Territory Electoral Commission and as such, no long service leave liability is recognised in agency financial statements.

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**x) Superannuation**

Employees' superannuation entitlements are provided through the:

- Northern Territory Government and Public Authorities Superannuation Scheme (NTGPASS)
- Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS)
- non-government employee-nominated schemes for those employees commencing on or after 10 August 1999.

The agency makes superannuation contributions on behalf of its employees to the Central Holding Authority or non-government employee-nominated schemes. Superannuation liabilities related to government superannuation schemes are held by the Central Holding Authority and as such are not recognised in agency financial statements.

**y) Contributions by and Distributions to Government**

The agency may receive contributions from Government where the Government is acting as owner of the agency. Conversely, the agency may make distributions to Government. In accordance with the *Financial Management Act* and Treasurer's Directions, certain types of contributions and distributions, including those relating to administrative restructures, have been designated as contributions by, and distributions to, Government. These designated contributions and distributions are treated by the agency as adjustments to equity.

The Statement of Changes in Equity provides additional information in relation to contributions by, and distributions to, Government.

**z) Commitments**

Disclosures in relation to capital and other commitments, including lease commitments are shown at Note 18.

Commitments are those contracted as at 30 June where the amount of the future commitment can be reliably measured.

**aa) Financial Instruments**

The Northern Territory Electoral Commission held no financial instruments in 2015-16 and 2014-15.

**bb) Fair Value Measurement**

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.



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Fair value measurement of a non-financial asset takes into account a market participant's ability to generate economic benefits by using the asset in its highest and best use, or by selling it to another market participant that would use the asset in its highest and best use. The highest and best use takes into account the use of the asset that is physically possible, legally permissible and financially feasible.

When measuring fair value, the valuation techniques used maximise the use of relevant observable inputs and minimise the use of unobservable inputs. Unobservable inputs are used to the extent that sufficient relevant and reliable observable inputs are not available for similar assets/liabilities.

Observable inputs are publicly available data that are relevant to the characteristics of the assets/liabilities being valued. Observable inputs used by the agency include, but are not limited to, published sales data for land and general office buildings.

Unobservable inputs are data, assumptions and judgments that are not available publicly, but are relevant to the characteristics of the assets/liabilities being valued. Such inputs include internal agency adjustments to observable data to take account of particular and potentially unique characteristics/functionality of assets/liabilities and assessments of physical condition and remaining useful life.

All assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the financial statements are categorised within the following fair value hierarchy based on the inputs used:

Level 1 – inputs are quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities

Level 2 – inputs are inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly

Level 3 – inputs are unobservable.

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**3. COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT BY OUTPUT GROUP**

	Note	Electoral Services		Corporate and Governance		Total	
		2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015
		\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
<b>INCOME</b>							
Taxation revenue							
Grants and subsidies revenue							
Current		14	14	0	0	14	14
Capital							
Appropriation							
Output		3,039	2,715	0	0	3,039	2,715
Commonwealth							
Sales of goods and services <sup>(1)</sup>		400	113	0	0	400	113
Interest revenue							
Goods and services received free of charge <sup>(2)</sup>	4	624	697	0	0	624	697
Gain on disposal of assets	5						
Other income							
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>4,076</b>	<b>3,539</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,076</b>	<b>3,539</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>							
Employee expenses		1,953	1,900	170	170	2,123	2,070
Administrative expenses							
Purchases of goods and services	6	1,372	938	10	20	1,382	958
Repairs and maintenance		3	1	0	0	3	1
Property management		42	60	0	0	42	60
Depreciation and amortisation	10	120	120	0	0	120	120
Other administrative expenses <sup>(2)</sup>		624	697	0	0	624	697
Grants and subsidies expenses							
Current							
Capital							
Community service obligations							
Interest expenses	17						
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>4,114</b>	<b>3,716</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>4,294</b>	<b>3,906</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>		<b>(38)</b>	<b>(177)</b>	<b>(180)</b>	<b>(190)</b>	<b>(218)</b>	<b>(367)</b>
<b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>							
<b>Items that will not be reclassified to net surplus/deficit</b>							
Changes in accounting policies							
Correction of prior period errors							
Changes in asset revaluation surplus							
<b>TOTAL OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>COMPREHENSIVE RESULT</b>		<b>(38)</b>	<b>(177)</b>	<b>(180)</b>	<b>(190)</b>	<b>(218)</b>	<b>(367)</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> Income received from a number of fee-for-service elections including Shire and Municipal Council elections.

<sup>(2)</sup> Includes DCIS service charges.

NOTE: Some figures in the financial statements and notes may not equate as amounts are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars. Amounts of \$500 or less are rounded down to zero.

*This Comprehensive Operating Statement by output group is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.*



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	2016 \$000	2015 \$000
<b>4. GOODS AND SERVICES RECEIVED FREE OF CHARGE</b>		
Corporate and information services	624	697
Internal audits and reviews		
	<b>624</b>	<b>697</b>
<b>5. GAIN ON DISPOSAL OF ASSETS</b>		
Net proceeds from the disposal of non-current assets		
Less: Carrying value of non-current assets disposed	(0)	(0)
Gain on the disposal of non-current assets		
Proceeds from sale of minor assets		
<b>Total Gain on Disposal of Assets</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>6. PURCHASES OF GOODS AND SERVICES</b>		
The net surplus/(deficit) has been arrived at after charging the following expenses:		
<b>Goods and services expenses:</b>		
Consultants <sup>(1)</sup>	22	1
Advertising <sup>(2)</sup>	11	1
Marketing and promotion <sup>(3)</sup>	157	75
Document production	81	61
Legal expenses		
Recruitment <sup>(4)</sup>	0	3
Training and study	5	6
Official duty fares	40	86
Travelling allowance	20	36
	<b>335</b>	<b>269</b>
<sup>(1)</sup> Includes marketing, promotion and IT consultants.		
<sup>(2)</sup> Does not include recruitment, advertising or marketing and promotion advertising.		
<sup>(3)</sup> Includes advertising for marketing and promotion but excludes marketing and promotion consultants' expenses, which are incorporated in the consultants' category.		
<sup>(4)</sup> Includes recruitment-related advertising costs.		

	2016 \$000	2015 \$000
<b>7. CASH AND DEPOSITS</b>		
Cash on hand	3	3
Cash at bank	318	351
On call or short-term deposits		
	<b>321</b>	<b>354</b>



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	2016 \$000	2015 \$000
<b>8. RECEIVABLES</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Accounts receivable	18	18
Less: Allowance for impairment losses	(0)	(0)
	18	18
Interest receivables		
GST receivables	24	6
Other receivables		
	24	6
<b>Non-Current</b>		
Other receivables		
<b>Total Receivables</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>23</b>
	2016 \$000	2015 \$000
<b>9. INVENTORIES</b>		
<b>General Inventories</b>		
At cost		
At net realisable value		
<b>Inventories Held for Distribution</b>		
At cost		
At current replacement cost		
<b>Total Inventories</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	2,016 \$000	2,015 \$000
<b>10. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT</b>		
<b>Plant and Equipment</b>		
At fair value	1303	1243
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(728)	(608)
	575	636
<b>Computer Hardware</b>		
At cost	25	25
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(25)	(25)
	0	0
<b>Total Property, Plant and Equipment</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>636</b>

**Property, Plant and Equipment Valuations**

The fair value of these assets was determined based on existing restrictions on asset use. Where reliable market values were not available, the fair value of Agency assets was based on their depreciated replacement cost. Refer to Note 11: Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets for additional disclosures.

**Impairment of Property, Plant and Equipment**

Agency property, plant and equipment assets were assessed for impairment as at 30 June 2016. No impairment adjustments were required as a result of this review.





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**10. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (continued)**  
**2016 Property, Plant and Equipment Reconciliations**

A reconciliation of the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of 2015-16 is set out below:

	Land \$000	Buildings \$000	Infrastructure \$000	Construction (Work in Progress) \$000	Plant and Equipment \$000	Leased Property, Plant and Equipment \$000	Total \$000
Carrying Amount as at 1 July 2015					636		636
Additions							
Disposals							
Depreciation							
Additions/(Disposals) from administrative restructuring					(120)		(120)
Additions/(Disposals) from asset transfers					60		60
Revaluation increments/(decrements)							
Impairment losses							
Impairment losses reversed							
Other movements							
<b>Carrying Amount as at 30 June 2016</b>					<b>575</b>		<b>575</b>

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**11. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT OF NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS**

**a) Fair Value Hierarchy**

Fair values of non-financial assets categorised by levels of inputs used to compute fair value are:

	Level 1 \$000	Level 2 \$000	Level 3 \$000	Total Fair Value \$000
<b>2015-16</b>				
<b>Asset Classes</b>				
Plant and Equipment		575		575
<b>Total</b>		<b>575</b>		<b>575</b>
<b>2014-15</b>				
<b>Asset Classes</b>				
Plant and Equipment		636		636
<b>Total</b>		<b>636</b>		<b>636</b>

There were no transfers between Level 1 and Levels 2 or 3 during 2015-16.

**b) Valuation Techniques and Inputs**

Valuation techniques used to measure fair value in 2015-16 are:

	Level 2 Techniques	Level 3 Techniques
<b>Asset Classes</b>		
Plant and Equipment	Cost	

There were no changes in valuation techniques from 2014-15 to 2015-16.

**12. PAYABLES**

	2016 \$000	2015 \$000
Accounts payable	26	23
Accrued expenses	157	70
Other payables		
<b>Total Payables</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>93</b>



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	2016	2015
	\$000	\$000
<b>13. PROVISIONS</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
<i>Employee benefits</i>		
Recreation leave	115	118
Leave loading	19	13
Other employee benefits	4	9
<i>Other current provisions</i>		
Other provisions	23	26
	161	166
<b>Non-Current</b>		
<i>Employee benefits</i>		
Recreation leave	49	50
<i>Other non-current provisions</i>		
Other provisions	49	50
<b>Total Provisions</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>217</b>

The Agency employed 18.78 employees as at 30 June 2016 (14.12 employees as at 30 June 2015).

	2016	2015
	\$000	\$000
<b>14. OTHER LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Other liabilities		
<b>Non-Current</b>		
Other liabilities		
<b>Total Other Liabilities</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>15. RESERVES</b>		
<b>Asset Revaluation Surplus</b>		
<i>(i) Nature and purpose of the asset revaluation surplus</i>		
The asset revaluation surplus includes the net revaluation increments and decrements arising from the revaluation of non-current assets. Impairment adjustments may also be recognised in the asset revaluation surplus.		
<i>(ii) Movements in the asset revaluation surplus</i>		
Balance as at 1 July	(0)	(0)
<b>Balance as at 30 June</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>(0)</b>



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2016	2015
\$000	\$000

**16. NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT**

**Reconciliation of Cash**

The total of agency 'Cash and deposits' of \$321,000 recorded in the Balance Sheet is consistent with that recorded as 'Cash' in the Cash Flow Statement.

**Reconciliation of Net Surplus/(Deficit) to Net Cash from Operating Activities**

**Net Surplus/(Deficit)**

*Non-cash items:*

Depreciation and amortisation	120	120
-------------------------------	-----	-----

Asset write-offs/write-downs		
------------------------------	--	--

Asset donations/gifts		
-----------------------	--	--

(Gain)/Loss on disposal of assets		
-----------------------------------	--	--

*Changes in assets and liabilities:*

Decrease/(Increase) in receivables	(19)	5
------------------------------------	------	---

Decrease/(Increase) in inventories		
------------------------------------	--	--

Decrease/(Increase) in prepayments	0	3
------------------------------------	---	---

Decrease/(Increase) in other assets		
-------------------------------------	--	--

(Decrease)/Increase in payables	90	31
---------------------------------	----	----

(Decrease)/Increase in provision for employee benefits	(3)	27
--	-----	----

(Decrease)/Increase in other provisions	(3)	1
---	-----	---

(Decrease)/Increase in other liabilities		
--	--	--

<b>Net Cash from Operating Activities</b>	<b>(20)</b>	<b>(181)</b>
---	-------------	--------------

**Non-Cash Financing and Investing Activities**

*Finance Lease Transactions*

During the financial year the agency did not acquire plant and equipment/computer equipment and software by means of finance leases.



## 17. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

A financial instrument is a contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity. Financial instruments held by the Northern Territory Electoral Commission include cash and deposits, receivables, payables and finance leases. The Northern Territory Electoral Commission has limited exposure to financial risks as discussed below.

### a) Categorisation of Financial Instruments

The carrying amounts of the agency's financial assets and liabilities by category are disclosed in the following Table.

#### 2015-16 Categorisation of Financial Instruments

	Fair value through profit or loss					
	Held for trading	Designated at fair value	Held to maturity investments	Financial assets - Loans and receivables	Financial assets - available for sale	Financial Liabilities - amortised cost
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Cash and deposits						
Receivables <sup>(1)</sup>		321				321
Advances		18				18
Investments loans and placements						
Other financial assets						
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>		<b>339</b>				<b>339</b>
Deposits held <sup>(1)</sup>						
Payables <sup>(1)</sup>		183				183
Advances						
Loans						
Finance Lease Liabilities						
<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>		<b>183</b>				<b>183</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> Total amounts disclosed here exclude statutory amounts

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### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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**2014-15 Categorisation of Financial Instruments**

	Fair value through profit or loss					
	Held for trading	Designated at fair value	Held to maturity investments	Financial assets - Loans and receivables	Financial assets - available for sale	Financial Liabilities - amortised cost
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Cash and deposits						
Receivables <sup>(1)(2)</sup>		354				354
Advances		18				18
Investments loans and placements						
Other financial assets						
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>		<b>372</b>				<b>372</b>
Deposits held <sup>(1)</sup>						
Payables <sup>(1)</sup>		93				93
Advances						
Loans						
Finance Lease Liabilities						
<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>		<b>93</b>				<b>93</b>

<sup>(1)</sup>Total amounts disclosed here exclude statutory amount

<sup>(2)</sup>Receivables were overstated for 2014-15, the correct amount has been entered for the 2015-16 reporting period



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**b) Credit Risk**

The agency has limited credit risk exposure (risk of default). In respect of any dealings with organisations external to Government, the agency has adopted a policy of only dealing with credit worthy organisations and obtaining sufficient collateral or other security where appropriate, as a means of mitigating the risk of financial loss from defaults.

The carrying amount of financial assets recorded in the financial statements, net of any allowances for losses, represents the agency's maximum exposure to credit risk without taking account of the value of any collateral or other security obtained.

**Receivables**

Receivable balances are monitored on an ongoing basis to ensure that exposure to bad debts is not significant. A reconciliation and ageing analysis of receivables is presented below.

<b>Internal Receivables</b>	Ageing of Receivables \$000	Ageing of Impaired Receivables \$000	Net Receivables \$000
<b>2015-16</b>			
Not overdue			
Overdue for less than 30 days			
Overdue for 30 to 60 days			
Overdue for more than 60 days			
<b>Total</b>			
<b>Reconciliation of the Allowance for Impairment Losses</b>			
Opening			
Written off during the year			
Recovered during the year			
Increase/(Decrease) in allowance recognised in profit or loss			
<b>Total</b>			
<b>2014-15</b>			
Not overdue			
Overdue for less than 30 days			
Overdue for 30 to 60 days			
Overdue for more than 60 days			
<b>Total</b>			
<b>Reconciliation of the Allowance for Impairment Losses</b>			
Opening			
Written off during the year			
Recovered during the year			
Increase/(Decrease) in allowance recognised in profit or loss			
<b>Total</b>			





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<b>External Receivables</b>	Ageing of Receivables \$000	Ageing of Impaired Receivables \$000	Net Receivables \$000
<b>2015-16</b>			
Not overdue	18		18
Overdue for less than 30 days			
Overdue for 30 to 60 days			
Overdue for more than 60 days			
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>		<b>18</b>

**Reconciliation of the Allowance  
for Impairment Losses**

Opening	
Written off during the year	
Recovered during the year	
Increase/(Decrease) in allowance recognised in profit or loss	
<b>Total</b>	

<b>2014-15</b>		
Not overdue <sup>(1)</sup>	18	18
Overdue for less than 30 days		
Overdue for 30 to 60 days		
Overdue for more than 60 days		
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>

**Reconciliation of the Allowance  
for Impairment Losses**

Opening	
Written off during the year	
Recovered during the year	
Increase/(Decrease) in allowance recognised in profit or loss	
<b>Total</b>	

<sup>(1)</sup>Receivables were overstated for 2014-15, the correct amount has been entered for the 2015-16 reporting period



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**c) Liquidity Risk**

Liquidity risk is the risk that the agency will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The agency's approach to managing liquidity is to ensure that it will always have sufficient liquidity to meet its liabilities when they fall due.

The following tables detail the agency's remaining contractual maturity for its financial assets and liabilities.

**2016 Maturity analysis for financial assets and liabilities**

	Variable Interest Rate			Fixed Interest Rate			Non-Interest Bearing	Total	Weighted Average
	Less than a Year	1 to 5 Years	More than 5 Years	Less than a Year	1 to 5 Years	More than 5 Years			
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	%
<b>Assets</b>									
Cash and deposits							321	321	100
Receivables							18	18	100
Advances									
Investment, loans and placements									
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>							<b>339</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>									
Deposits held									
Payables							(183)	(183)	100
Advances									
Provisions							(161)	(161)	100
Loans									
Finance lease liabilities									
<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>							<b>(344)</b>	<b>(344)</b>	<b>100</b>

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**2015 Maturity analysis for financial assets and liabilities**

	Variable Interest Rate			Fixed Interest Rate			Non-Interest Bearing	Total	Weighted Average
	Less than a Year	1 to 5 Years	More than 5 Years	Less than a Year	1 to 5 Years	More than 5 Years			
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
<b>Assets</b>									
Cash and deposits							354	354	100
Receivables <sup>(1)</sup>							18	18	100
Advances									
Investment, loans and placements									
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>							<b>372</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>									
Deposits held									
Payables							(93)	(93)	100
Advances									
Provisions							(166)	(166)	100
Loans									
Finance lease liabilities									
<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>							<b>(259)</b>	<b>(259)</b>	<b>100</b>

<sup>(1)</sup>Receivables were overstated for 2014-15, the correct amount has been entered for the 2015-16 reporting period.

**d) Market Risk**

Market risk is the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. It comprises interest rate risk, price risk and currency risk.

**(i) Interest Rate Risk**

The Northern Territory Electoral Commission is not exposed to interest rate risk as agency financial assets and financial liabilities are non-interest bearing. Finance lease arrangements are established on a fixed interest rate and as such do not expose the Northern Territory Electoral Commission to interest rate risk.

**(ii) Price Risk**

The Northern Territory Electoral Commission is not exposed to price risk as Northern Territory Electoral Commission does not hold units in unit trusts.

**(iii) Currency Risk**

The Northern Territory Electoral Commission is not exposed to currency risk as Northern Territory Electoral Commission does not hold borrowings denominated in foreign currencies or transactional currency exposures arising from purchases in a foreign currency.



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**e) Net Fair Value**

The fair value of financial instruments is determined on the following basis:

- the fair value of cash, deposits, advances, receivables and payables approximates their carrying amount, which is also their amortised cost
- the fair value of derivative financial instruments are derived using current market yields and exchange rates appropriate to the instrument
- the fair value of other monetary financial assets and liabilities is based on discounting to present value the expected future cash flows by applying current market interest rates for assets and liabilities with similar risk profiles.

For financial instruments measured and disclosed at fair value, the following table groups the instruments based on the level of inputs used.

	Total Carrying Amount	Net Fair Value Level 1	Net Fair Value Level 2	Net Fair Value Level 3	Net Fair Value Total
<b>2016</b>	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
<b>Financial Assets</b>					
Cash and deposits	321	321			321
Receivables	18	18			18
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>339</b>			<b>339</b>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>					
Payables	(183)	(183)			(183)
Provisions	(161)	(161)			(161)
<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>	<b>(344)</b>	<b>(344)</b>			<b>(344)</b>
<b>2015</b>	Total Carrying Amount	Net Fair Value Level 1	Net Fair Value Level 2	Net Fair Value Level 3	Net Fair Value Total
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
<b>Financial Assets</b>					
Cash and deposits	354	354			354
Receivables <sup>(1)</sup>	18	18			18
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>372</b>			<b>372</b>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>					
Payables	(93)	(93)			(93)
Provisions	(166)	(166)			(166)
<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>	<b>(259)</b>	<b>(259)</b>			<b>(259)</b>

<sup>(1)</sup>Receivables were overstated for 2014-15, the correct amount has been entered for the 2015-16 reporting period

There were no changes in valuation techniques during the period.



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	2016		2015	
	Internal \$000	External \$000	Internal \$000	External \$000
<b>18. COMMITMENTS</b>				
<b>(i) Other Expenditure Commitments</b>				
Other non-cancellable expenditure commitments not recognised as liabilities are payable as follows:				
Within one year		84		121
Later than one year and not later than five years		377		25
Later than five years				
		<b>461</b>		<b>146</b>

**19. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS**

**a) Contingent Liabilities**

The Northern Territory Electoral Commission holds a number of contingent liabilities relating to the 2012 and the 2016 Legislative Assembly General Elections (LAGE).

The liabilities relate to leases signed with respective stakeholders regarding accommodation for interstate based staff and voting centre locations. Instruments relating to the 2012 LAGE have since expired; however, the liabilities remain current, ceasing in 2015-16.

The Commission also holds current and on-going liabilities for storage sheds situated in Darwin and Alice Springs, voting software and an agreement with Australia Post.

**b) Contingent Assets**

The Northern Territory Electoral Commission had no contingent assets as at 30 June 2016 or 30 June 2015.

**20. EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO BALANCE DATE**

No events have arisen between the end of the financial year and the date of this report that require adjustment to, or disclosure in these financial statements.

**21. ACCOUNTABLE OFFICER'S TRUST ACCOUNT**

In accordance with section 7 of the *Financial Management Act*, an Accountable Officer's Trust Account has been established for the receipt of money to be held in trust.

A summary of activity is shown below:

Nature of Trust Money	Opening Balance 1 July 2015	Receipts	Payments	Closing Balance 30 June 2016
Retention money	0	225	0	<b>225</b>

**22. WRITE-OFFS, POSTPONEMENTS, WAIVERS, GIFTS AND EX GRATIA PAYMENTS**

The Northern Territory Electoral Commission had no write-offs, postponements, waivers, gifts or ex gratia payments in 2015-16 and 2014-15.







