

# ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

## Question Taken on Notice

**Question Number:** 1.1

**Output Number:** Opening statement

**Date:** 10/06/2025

**From:** Mr Clinton Howe

**To:** Hon. Lia Finocchiaro

**Portfolio:** Chief Minister

**Agency:** Northern Territory Electoral Commission

**Subject:** Voting hours in Wadeye

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### QUESTION:

Why were voting hours in Wadeye longer than other communities of similar size?

### ANSWER:

The scheduling of remote voting hours is based on several factors including current enrolments, previous turnouts, travel and scheduling logistics and local information. Some communities, due to their size, may have multiple voting locations during the voting schedule with the aim to provide convenience to voters and improve participation. The draft mobile schedule is shared with key stakeholders for comment in advance of the election.

The following table provides information about enrolment and previous turnout in the NT's 3 largest remote communities.

Community	Enrolment*	Turnout 2020 TE	Turnout by-elections#	Total voting hours 2024^	Voting locations within the community
Galiwin'ku	1,748	350	N/A	31.5 hours	2 – Galiwin'ku and Buthan
Maningrida	1,977	369	766	30.5 hours	3 – Maningrida, New Sub, and Mala'la Aged Care
Wadeye	1,665	593	822	35 hours	2 – Wadeye and Thamarrurr Aged Care

\*Enrolment as at close of roll date for the 2024 Territory Election

#2021 Daly by-election and 2023 Arafura by-election

^These are scheduled voting hours. Actual voting hours may differ due to circumstances in the community at the time.

Voting hours in Galiwin'ku, Maningrida and Wadeye increased from the 2020 Territory Election with voting offered over 4 days in each of these communities in 2024.

The number of voting hours in Galiwin'ku (-3.5 hours) and Maningrida (-4.5 hours) when compared to Wadeye was due to the travel logistics of each remote team. The teams servicing Galiwin'ku and Maningrida had reduced hours on one of the 4 voting days due to travel logistics associated with plane charters. The team servicing Wadeye travelled by car and therefore provided full days of voting on each of the 4 days scheduled in Wadeye.