

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Question Taken on Notice

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Date: 10/06/2025

From: Mr Clinton Howe

To: Hon. Lia Finocchiaro

Portfolio: Chief Minister

Agency: Northern Territory Electoral Commission

Subject: Cost of additional hours by electorate for remote voting

QUESTION:

Can we have a breakdown of how much the additional hours cost by electorate for remote voting?

ANSWER:

Costs for Legislative Assembly elections are not broken down by division, but rather by category of cost.

The 2024 Territory Election provided a total of 507 remote voting hours, which was 87.25 more remote voting hours than at the 2020 Territory Election. The additional hours were due to more voting locations being added (higher enrolments contributed to this) and additional voting hours being offered in some of the Territory's larger remote communities.

The following table compares remote voting hours and number of voting locations between the 2020 and 2024 Territory Elections.

Division	2020 remote voting hours	2020 No. of locations	2024 remote voting hours	2024 No. of locations	Additional hours in 2024
Arafura	83.5	23	107	25 (+2)	23.5*
Arnhem	69.75	22	75.25	26 (+4)	5.5
Barkly	68.75	40	67.5	39 (-1)	-1.25
Daly	58	22	79.25	24 (+2)	21.25*
Gwoja	71.5	26	80.5	30 (+4)	9
Mulka	52.5	26	77	20 (-6)	24.5*
Namatjira	15.75	9	20.5	10 (+1)	4.75
TOTAL	419.75	168	507	174 (+6)	87.25

* Extended voting hours provided in larger communities of Maningrida, Wadeye and Galiwin'ku.

The main costs incurred with additional remote voting hours are:

- Staff salary costs (including superannuation, payroll tax and travel allowance)

- Accommodation costs

A remote voting team consists of 3 positions (team leader, deputy leader and team member) who receive a flat day rate.

A remote voting team costs approx. \$3,000 per day (which covers staff flat day rates, superannuation, payroll tax, travel allowance and accommodation for a night).

A typical day of remote voting consists of 6-9 hours of work or travel. Based on 6 hour days, the additional 87.25 hours incurred costs of approximately \$43,625.

Note:

There are no additional travel costs to add additional voting hours in a community, and remote schedules are planned for the most efficient and safe travel between communities. There are also minimal additional premise costs when using a venue for a longer period.