

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Question Taken on Notice

Question Number: 1.6

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Date: 10/06/2025

From: Mrs Laurie Zio

To: Hon Lia Finocchiaro

Portfolio: Chief Minister

Agency: Northern Territory Electoral Commission

Subject: Costs of by-elections since 2020 election

QUESTION:

Could you provide an overview of costs of local government and Legislative Assembly by-elections since the 2020 election.

ANSWER:

The reporting and associated costs of by-elections are published in NT Electoral Commission annual reports, and for contested by-elections, in a by-election report.

Local government by-elections and costs since the 2020 Territory Election:

| Election date | Council | Ward/details | Cost (incl. GST) |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|---|------------------|
| 05/11/2020 | MacDonnell Regional Council | Rodinga Ward – uncontested | \$1,206 |
| 05/11/2020 | Central Desert Regional Council | Akityarre Ward – uncontested | \$1,206 |
| 20/11/2021 | Coomalie Community Government Council | Batchelor Township Ward | \$5,167 |
| 05/03/2022 | East Arnhem Regional Council | Gumurr Gattjirrk and Gumurr Miyarrka wards – both uncontested | \$2,011 |
| 24/06/2022 | East Arnhem Regional Council | Gumurr Miwatj Ward | \$33,719 |
| 08/07/2022 | Roper Gulf Regional Council | Numbulwar Numburindi Ward – uncontested | \$1,202 |
| 10/08/2022 | East Arnhem Regional Council | Anindilyakwa Ward - uncontested | \$1,150 |
| 10/08/2022 | East Arnhem Regional Council | Gumurr Miyarrka Ward – uncontested | \$1,150 |
| 27/08/2022 | City of Darwin | Waters Ward | \$101,482 |
| 17/09/2022 | Wagait Shire Council | Councillor | \$8,533 |
| 29/09/2022 | Alice Springs Town Council | Councillor | \$139,481 |
| 24/11/2022 | Central Desert Regional Council | Anmatjere Ward – failed | \$974 |
| 18/03/2023 | West Arnhem Regional Council | Gunbalanya Ward | \$2,365* |

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|------------|---|--|----------|
| 05/05/2023 | East Arnhem Regional Council | Gumurr Miwatj Ward | \$23,039 |
| 06/05/2023 | Barkly Regional Council | Alyawarr and Patta wards – Alyawarr uncontested | \$60,757 |
| 16/06/2023 | Central Desert Regional Council | Anmatjere Ward (supplementary) and Southern Tanami Ward – both uncontested | \$974 |
| 16/06/2023 | MacDonnell Regional Council | Luritja Pintubi and Rodinga wards – Rodinga uncontested | \$11,017 |
| 13/07/2023 | Belyuen Community Government Council | 2 councillor vacancies – failed | # |
| 15/07/2023 | Katherine Town Council | Councillor | \$61,252 |
| 17/08/2023 | Victoria Daly Regional Council | Timber Creek Ward – uncontested | \$1,253 |
| 02/09/2023 | City of Darwin | Lyons Ward | \$89,661 |
| 09/09/2023 | West Arnhem Regional Council | Kakadu Ward | \$16,914 |
| 15/09/2023 | Roper Gulf Regional Council | Never Never Ward – failed | \$1,315 |
| 06/10/2023 | Roper Gulf Regional Council | Never Never Ward – supplementary | \$22,940 |
| 12/10/2023 | Tiwi Islands Regional Council | Pirlangimpi Ward – uncontested | \$1,911 |
| 24/10/2023 | Belyuen Regional Council | Supplementary election plus one new vacancy | \$4,221 |
| 29/02/2024 | East Arnhem Regional Council | Birr Rawarrang Ward | \$22,851 |
| 29/02/2024 | East Arnhem Regional Council | Gumurr Marthakal Ward | \$24,051 |
| 21/03/2024 | West Daly Regional Council | Thamarrurr/Pindi Pindi Ward – failed | \$1,315 |
| 18/04/2024 | West Daly Regional Council | Thamarrurr/Pindi Pindi Ward – supplementary | \$2,067 |

* Run concurrently with the 2023 Arafura by-election which significantly reduced costs

invoiced with supplementary election invoice

Legislative Assembly by-elections and costs since the 2020 Territory Election:

| Election date | Division | Cost (excl. GST) |
|---------------|------------|------------------|
| 11/09/2021 | Daly | \$222,531 |
| 29/08/2022 | Fannie Bay | \$145,874 |
| 18/03/2023 | Arafura | \$191,325 |