

Shire Council Election, Saturday 25 October 2008

Do you want to be a Shire Councillor?

The Shire needs strong Councillors who speak up, understand local issues and make good decisions.

If you want to:

- be a voice for people in the Shire
- learn about Local Government
- help the Shire Council do a good job
- become a strong leader

Then put your hand up to be a Councillor.

What do you need to do?

- Ask yourself if you have the time, skills and knowledge to do this important job well.
- Decide which ward you want to represent. Councillors need to listen to and speak for all the people in their ward.

- Think about who you need to make decisions for. Councillors need to make decisions for everyone in the Shire.
- Learn about your ward, the Shire and its people and the work Local Government does in your Shire.
- Pick up a candidate handbook and nomination form from your Shire office and visit www.shireelection.nt.gov.au.
- Get your nomination ready. You need to lodge your nomination with the Northern Territory Electoral Commission (NTEC) by **12 noon sharp on 2 October 2008. It can't be late.**

Who can be a Councillor?

Anyone who lives in the Shire and is on the electoral roll can be a Shire Councillor. There are six exceptions.

You can't be a Councillor if:

- a judge has ruled you bankrupt
- you hold a judicial position
- you have a prison sentence of one year or more that has not been finished
- you are a senior Shire Council employee of the Shire Council
- you have owed the Shire Council money for more than six months
- a doctor has ruled you mentally unfit to be a Councillor.

If you work for the Shire Council and you want to be a Councillor, you need to ask your Shire Council to check what "senior Shire Council employee" means in your Shire.



How long are Councillors elected for?

Shire Councillors are elected for a term of four years. They can be re-elected for another four years if they nominate again at the 2012 Shire Council Election.

Do Shire Councillors get paid?

Shire Councillors get an allowance to help them do their work:

- to take part in meetings
- for Council travel and accommodation
- for training to become stronger leaders.

Ask at your Shire Headquarters to find out what the allowances for Councillors are in your Shire.

How do I nominate to become a Shire Councillor?

You will need to fill out a nomination form and lodge it with the Northern Territory Electoral Commission (NTEC). You will also have to provide a photo and \$100 nomination deposit with your form, by the nomination deadline (12 noon sharp on 2 October 2008).

Full details of the nomination requirements are available through the Northern Territory Electoral Commission (NTEC).



Find out more

If you want more information about becoming a Shire Councillor you can:

- Contact NTEC for information about the election, the rules of being a candidate, how to nominate and the candidate form and handbooks on free call 1800 019 159 or visit the website: www.ntec.nt.gov.au.
- Pickup a Candidate pack from your Shire Office. The pack has information about how to be a candidate and the forms you need.
- Visit the Department of Local Government and Housing website: www.shireelections.nt.gov.au. This has information on the Elections, Local Government Legislation, Local Government Reform, the Shires, Shire Plans and Maps.
- Visit the **Knowing Local Government** website: www.klg.net.au. The website will explain how the elections work and what you need to know to be a good Councillor. You can also get a CD of Knowing Local Government from your nearest Shire Service Centre.
- Ask your Shire Council and look at the Shire website for information about the elections and your Shire.
- Go to a **Candidate Information Session** for help and advice. Ask your Shire Office about the dates and places.
- Visit the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory for information about Local Government in the Northern Territory: www.lgant.nt.gov.au
- Ask your Shire Council and look at the Shire website for information about the elections and your Shire.

