

Poll to be declared on Thursday

Counting of votes in the National Aboriginal Consultative Committee elections finished yesterday, the Department of Aboriginal Affairs said in a statement.

The poll will be officially declared at the National Library on Thursday.

A total of 41 candidates were elected to the council and represent every State and Territory in Australia.

The successful candidates will be flown to Canberra for the ceremony on Thursday, which will be attended by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Senator Cavanagh, the Secretary of the Department, Mr Barrie Dexter, NACC officials, parliamentarians, and members of the public.

PM to meet members

The Prime Minister, Mr Whitlam, will meet the members at a lunch after the ceremony.

The interim chairman of the NACC, Mr Joe McGinness, said yesterday that the poll had exceeded expectations, and when percentages were announced on Thursday he was sure that it would be judged as an outstanding success, particularly as voting in the elections was voluntary.

Officials were particularly pleased that tribal Aboriginals would be so well represented on the council.

"Out of the eight elected members in the Northern Territory, seven of them were tribal and the eighth, Mr Milton Liddle, an Aboriginal from Alice Springs, spoke four Aboriginal languages", he said.

The Australia-wide elections were organised in six months, with 193 candidates, including 26 women, nominating.

Collection of votes

Although official polling day was November 24, collection of votes from isolated groups and communities by roving ballot boxes began on November 17 and continued for two weeks. Counting was carried out by Australian electoral officers.

One of the several unusual features of the elections was the collection of votes from prisoners in jails, which is believed to be the first time that

prisoners have voted in any election.

The NACC will form a link between the Aboriginal people and the Government and will take part in the policy-making on all matters affecting Aborigines.

It will meet in Canberra two or three times a year, apart from sub-committee meetings. Elections will be held every two years.

The first meeting of the NACC will be held in the basement theatre of the National Library on Thursday afternoon.

Successful candidates

Successful candidates in the council elections were:

NSW Electoral District No 1 (Sydney): Phillip Hall; No 2 (Sydney): Thomas Williams; No 3 (Central West): Valmai Mackay; No 4 (South-west): Keith Smith; No 5 (North Coast): Rex Marshall; No 6 (Far North Coast): Leonard Brown; No 7 (Central North-west): Harry Hall; No 8 (Far West): Raymond Naga.

QUEENSLAND Electoral Dis-

trict No 1 (Torres Strait): George Mye; No 2 (Torres Strait): Geoffrey Loban; No 3 (Cape York): Keith Saunders; No 4 (Far North): John Grainger; No 5 (Central North): Kevin Saylor; No 6 (Far West): Anthony Assan; No 7 (Central Coast and West): Stanley Alberts; No 8 (South): James Hagan; No 9 (Brisbane and Gold Coast): Allen Fisher.

VICTORIA Electoral District No 1 (Melbourne): Bruce McGinness; No 2 (East): Nessie Skuta; No 3 (West): David Anderson.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA Electoral District No 1 (Adelaide): James Stanley; No 2 (Far North East): Alfred Agius; No 3 (South Coast): Glenmore Miller; No 4 (West): Ivan Baker.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA Electoral District No 1 (North-west Coast): Tommy Edgar; No 2 (North): July Oakes; No 3 (Central to West Coast): Peter Sibosada; No 4 (Mid-central to West Coast of Perth): Keith Riley; No 5 (Central East to South Coast): Benjamin Mason; No 6 (North East of Perth): Keith Riley; No 7 (South of Perth): Ossie Miller; No 8 (Perth): Edward Bennell.

NORTHERN TERRITORY Electoral District No 1 (Darwin): Walter Fejo; No 2 (North Coast): John Gwadu; No 3 (Far North Coast): Alfred Wayatiwuy; No 4 (North-west): Hyacinth Tungatalum; No 5 (North East): Jack Isaac; No 6 (Central): David Long; No 7 (South East): Milton Liddle; No 8 (South West): Philip Lane.

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Aust. Press Cuttings Agency

Melbourne, Victoria

From

"TIMES"

11 DEC 1973 Canberra, A.C.T.