



Community Discussion Paper

Review of ward boundaries and elected member representation levels

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Introduction

Shire of Mundaring is reviewing its wards and representative structure. The Shire is divided into four electoral wards, each electing three Councillors. The Shire President is elected by the Councillors.

Council last reviewed its wards and representation in March 2011. It resolved not to make any changes and to undertake another review by 2017. The *Local Government Act 1995* requires a review of wards and representation such that no more than eight years elapses between reviews. These reviews are designed to ensure that representation on Council reflects any changes in population distribution.

This discussion paper has been developed to assist the community in considering proposals and ideas. The paper outlines eight options which have been developed to encourage discussion. The Shire is not promoting any particular option and is open to alternative proposals from the community.

Residents, ratepayers and businesses within the shire are encouraged to review this discussion paper and provide feedback on the options presented.

Council will consider all submissions received and will then make a determination on ward boundaries and elected member representation levels. Any Council-supported changes to the current structure will then be submitted to the Local Government Advisory Board and the Minister for approval.

A Community Consultation Forum will be held in the Civic Area at the Shire Administration Centre

on Thursday 12 May 2016 at 6.30 pm.

Public submissions close at 4.00 pm on 30 June 2016.

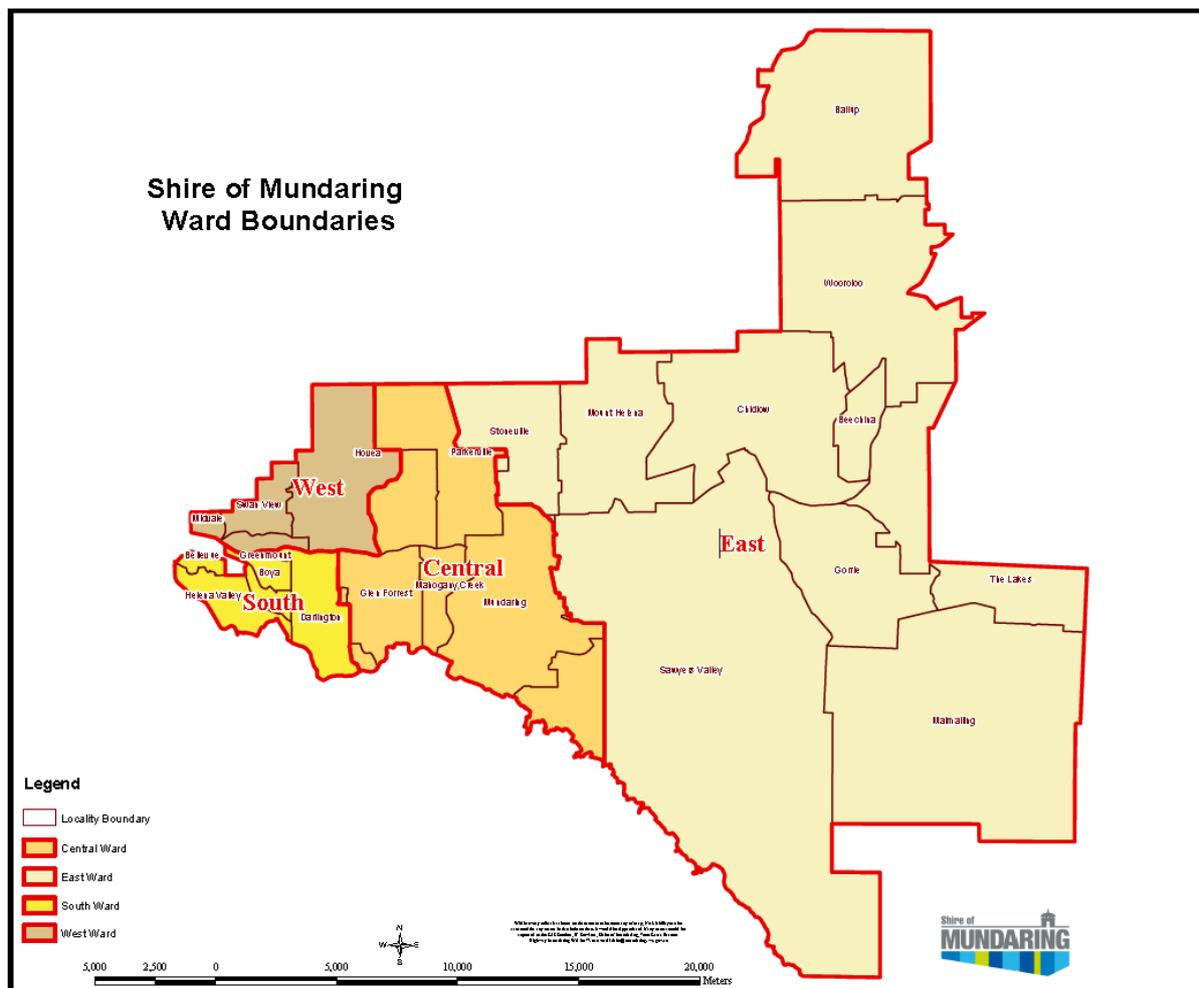
Please use the feedback form attached to this discussion paper or simply send us your comments.

1. Review of wards and representation

1.1 Current situation

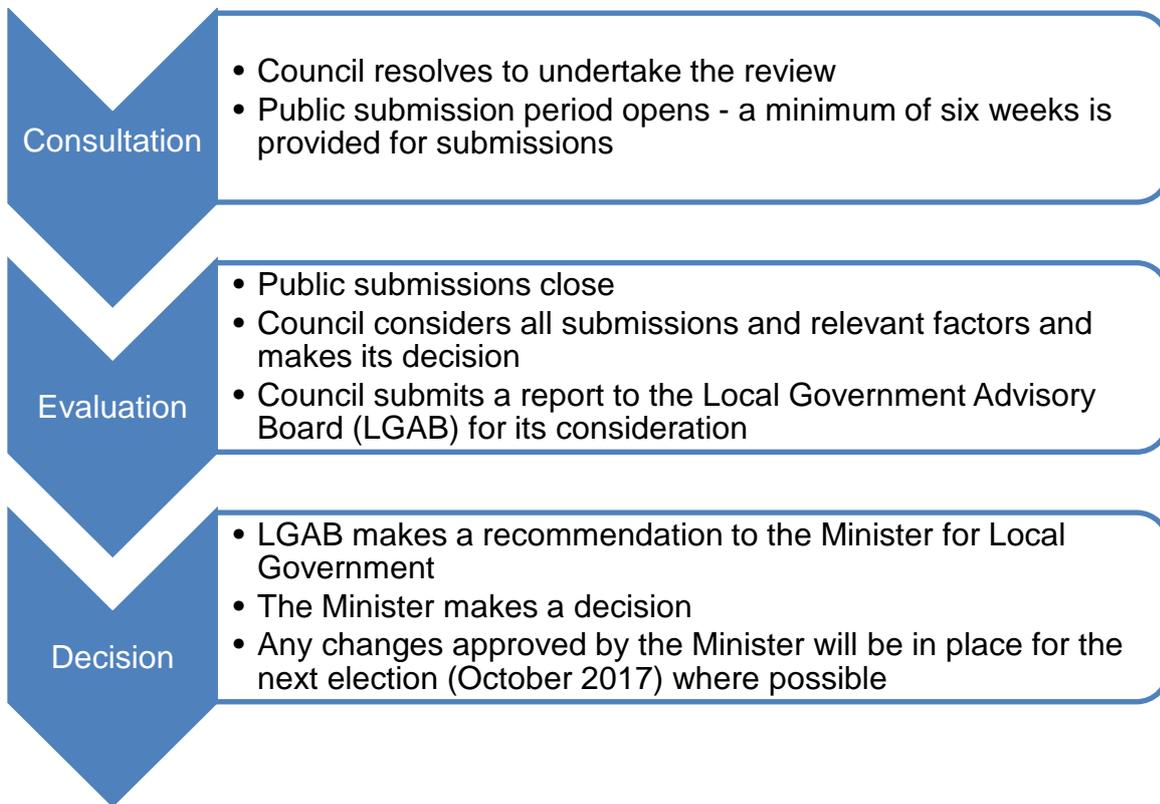
Currently the Shire of Mundaring has twelve elected members elected from four wards. Elector numbers from the 2015 Council elections were:

Ward	Number of electors	Number of councillors	elected member: elector ratio	ratio deviation from average
Central	7,098	3	1:2366	10.56%
East	6,601	3	1:2200	2.80%
South	6,270	3	1:2090	- 2.33%
West	5,715	3	1:1,905	- 10.98%
Total	25,684	12	1:2140 average	



1.2 Review process

The review process must be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act). It involves a number of steps:



1.3 Factors to be considered

The purpose of this review is to evaluate the current arrangements and to consider alternative options to find the system of representation that is most appropriate and best suits the characteristics of the shire and its residents.

The review may result in any of the following proposals:

- Creating new wards;
- Changing ward boundaries;
- Abolishing any or all wards;
- Changing the name of a district or ward;
- Changing the number of elected members; and/or
- Specifying or changing the number of offices of elected member for a ward.

When considering changes to wards and representation, Schedule 2.2 of the Act details the factors that must be taken into account by a local government as part of the review process:

1. Community of interest;
2. Physical and topographic features;
3. Demographic trends;
4. Economic factors; and
5. Ratio of elected members to electors in the various wards.

The ratio of elected members to electors in the various wards is considered by the Local Government Advisory Board to be the principal consideration when reviewing wards and representation. This ratio should be as even as possible across wards so that electors have equal representation. Some variation is inevitable, but the Local Government Advisory Board requires any deviation to be within plus or minus 10% of the district average.

It is important to remember that section 2.10 of the Act requires an elected member to represent the interests of electors, ratepayers and residents of the district. This means that each elected member, regardless of the ward to which the member has been elected, must represent the interests of all the electors, ratepayers and residents of the shire.

The LGAB interprets the factors to be taken into account as follows:

1. Community of interest

The term community of interest has a number of elements. These include a sense of community identity and belonging, similarities in the characteristics of the residents of a community and similarities in the economic activities. It can also include dependence on the shared facilities in an area as reflected in catchment areas of local schools and sporting teams, or the circulation areas of local newspapers.

Neighbourhoods, suburbs and towns are important units in the physical, historical and social infrastructure and often generate a feeling of community and belonging.

2. Physical and topographic features

These may be natural or man-made features that will vary from area to area. Water features such as rivers and catchment boundaries may be relevant considerations.

Coastal plain and foothills regions, parks and reserves may be relevant as may other man made features such as railway lines and freeways.

3. Demographic trends

Several measurements of the characteristics of human populations, such as population size, and its distribution by age, sex, occupation and location provide important demographic information. Current and projected population characteristics will be relevant as well as similarities and differences between areas within the local government.

4. Economic factors

Economic factors can be broadly interpreted to include any factor that reflects the character of economic activities and resources in the area. This may include the industries that occur in a local government area (or the release of land for these) and the distribution of community assets and infrastructure such as road networks.

5. Ratio of Elected Members to Electors in the various wards

It is expected that each local government will have similar ratios of electors to elected members across the wards of its district.

There is very little guidance for local governments on how to determine the optimal number of elected members to achieve adequate representation or how to make informed decisions about varying elected member numbers.

Table 1 compares ratios of electors to elected members across all 30 metropolitan local governments at the time of the most recent elections in October 2015. Representation ranges from 158 electors per elected member in the Town of Peppermint Grove to 9,630 electors per elected member in the City of Stirling.

Across all metropolitan local governments each elected member represents on average 3,707 electors. Shire of Mundaring elected members each represent 2,140 electors - well below the metropolitan average.

TABLE 1 – Ratio of electors to elected members by local government.

Council	elected members	electors	ratio
Armadale	14	43,988	3,142
Bassendean	6	10,147	1,691
Bayswater	11	41,728	3,793
Belmont	9	21,327	2,370
Cambridge*	8	17,858	2,232
Canning*	10	51,907	5,191
Claremont*	9	7,079	787
Cockburn*	9	62,706	6,967
Cottesloe*	8	5,533	692
East Fremantle*	8	5,220	653
Fremantle*	12	20,227	1,686
Gosnells	12	65,950	5,496
Joondalup*	12	107,681	8,973
Kalamunda	12	37,962	3,164
Kwinana	8	18,733	2,342
Melville*	12	68,726	5,727
Mosman Park*	6	5,843	974
Mundaring	12	25,684	2,140
Nedlands*	12	14,918	1,243
Peppermint Grove	7	1,108	158
Perth*	8	11,385	1,423
Rockingham	10	69,679	6,968
Serpentine-Jarrahdale	9	13,614	1,513
South Perth*	8	26,944	3,368
Stirling	14	134,825	9,630
Subiaco*	12	11,791	983
Swan	15	74,395	4,960
Victoria Park*	8	20,300	2,538
Vincent*	8	21,546	2,693
Wanneroo*	14	100,690	7,192
Total / average	302	1,119,529	3,707

* Directly elected Mayors (elected by their electors) are not included in these statistics.

Source: Western Australian Electoral Commission.

1.4 Role and remuneration of elected members

1.4.1 Role of elected members

The role of an elected member is defined in section 2.10 of the *Local Government Act 1995* as follows:

- (a) represents the interests of electors, ratepayers and residents of the district;
- (b) provides leadership and guidance to the community in the district;
- (c) facilitates communication between the community and the council;
- (d) participates in the local government's decision making processes at council and committee meetings; and
- (e) performs such other functions as are given to a councillor by this Act or any other written law.

1.4.2 Remuneration of elected members

In June each year the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal (SAT) determines the rates of remuneration for local government elected members. This determination must be used by local governments as the basis for setting fees and allowances payable to elected members.

In June 2015 SAT determined minimum and maximum levels for a band 2 local government such as Mundaring as follows:

	Minimum	Maximum
Shire President	\$14,500	\$30,385
Other elected members	\$14,500	\$22,660
Shire President's Allowance	\$15,000	\$61,800
Information & Communication Technology (ICT) Allowance	\$500	\$3,500

1.5 Future elected member representation levels

The current elected member - elector ratio (see Section 1.1) is based on the electoral rolls used for the October 2015 Council elections. The Western Australian Electoral Commission does not provide future projections of electors per suburb/locality or per ward due to a range of demographic and enrolment uncertainties and it is therefore not possible to project elected member – elector ratios in future years with any level of certainty.

In an attempt to provide indicative future elected member representation levels in each of the Shire's existing wards, population forecasts as well as population to elector ratios for each suburb/locality have been used.

The population forecasts are based on a series of assumptions, some of which have turned out to be conservative. New forecasts are scheduled for calculation based on updated assumptions after the results of the 2016 Census become available.

Over the coming eight years – the reference period for reviews of wards and representation – local government elections are scheduled for 2017, 2019, 2021 and 2023.

Assuming that:

- The Shire's population grows as forecast;
- The present ward structure continues;
- Present elected member numbers are maintained; and
- The percentage of each ward's population who enrol as electors remains similar,

then future electors and resultant elected member – elector ratios are **estimated** to be:

October 2017 elections				
Ward	Councillors	Electors	Ratio of electors per elected member	ratio deviation from average
Central	3	7,314	2,438	10.32%
East	3	6,868	2,289	3.59%
South	3	6,465	2,155	-2.49%
West	3	5,873	1,958	-11.42%
Total/average	12	26,520	average 2,210	

October 2019 elections				
Ward	Councillors	Electors	Ratio of electors per elected member	ratio deviation from average
Central	3	7,498	2,499	9.61%
East	3	7,171	2,390	4.83%
South	3	6,631	2,210	-3.06%
West	3	6,062	2,021	-11.38%
Total/average	12	27,362	average 2,280	

October 2021 elections				
Ward	Councillors	Electors	Ratio of electors per elected member	ratio deviation from average
Central	3	7,678	2,559	8.89%
East	3	7,485	2,495	6.15%
South	3	6,791	2,264	-3.69%
West	3	6,251	2,084	-11.35%
Total/average	12	28,205	average 2,350	

October 2023 elections				
Ward	Councillors	Electors	Ratio of electors per elected member	ratio deviation from average
Central	3	7,875	2,625	8.40%
East	3	7,799	2,600	7.35%
South	3	6,958	2,319	-4.22%
West	3	6,427	2,142	-11.53%
Total/average	12	29,059	average 2,422	

From the above it appears that over time the deviation in Central Ward tends to normalise itself and remains within the 10% maximum tolerance required by the LGAB.

The deviation in West Ward however worsens slightly and remains outside of the LGAB's 10% maximum tolerance, making West Ward overrepresented for the foreseeable future.

For this reason maintaining the ward boundaries may not be acceptable to the LGAB, as West Ward residents are over-represented compared to the three other wards.

For the status quo of four wards to be retained, existing ward boundaries would need to be altered to maintain representation within tolerances. The factors to be considered when determining ward boundaries (communities of interest, physical and demographic features) have not significantly changed since the most recent review in 2011.

1.6 Potential to amend existing ward boundaries

The wards generally have logical boundaries comprising local government boundaries, suburb and locality boundaries, John Forrest National Park and Great Eastern Highway (Refer to map in Section 1.1).

South Ward is comprised of Bellevue (part), Helena Valley, Boya, all of the populated parts of Darlington, and the portion of Greenmount south of Great Eastern Highway. South Ward is bounded by the City of Swan and the Shire of Kalamunda, Great Eastern Highway, and Glen Forrest.

West Ward is comprised of Midvale (part), Swan View (part), the portion of Greenmount north of the Great Eastern Highway, and John Forrest National Park in Hovea. West Ward is bounded by the City of Swan, Great Eastern Highway and John Forrest National Park.

Central Ward is comprised of Glen Forrest, the populated part of Hovea, almost all of Parkerville, Mahogany Creek, Mundaring and an unpopulated portion of Sawyers

Valley near Mundaring Weir. Central Ward also contains two small portions of Darlington (one north of Ryecroft Road and one south of Darlington Estate Wines) but neither of these are populated. Central Ward is bounded by John Forrest National Park, City of Swan, Stoneville, Sawyers Valley and Darlington.

East Ward is comprised of Stoneville, Mount Helena, Chidlow, Beechina, Wooroloo, Bailup, The Lakes, Malmalling, Gorrie, and the populated parts of Sawyers Valley. East Ward is bounded by Parkerville, City of Swan, the Shires of Toodyay, Northam, York and Kalamunda, and the suburb/locality of Mundaring.

The following table shows the extent to which the existing ward boundaries would need to be altered to achieve an even ratio of electors to elected members (2015 Council election data):

Ward	Number of electors	Even number of electors	Variance (electors)	Variance (population)(est)
East	6601	6421	-180	-274
Central	7098	6421	-677	-1032
West	5715	6421	+706	+1076
South	6270	6421	+151	+230
Total	25,684	25,684	0	0

In general, if ward boundaries were to be amended to even out representation ratios, East and/or Central wards would need to shrink and West and/or South wards would need to expand.

It may be difficult to change ward boundaries to achieve an even representation ratio and remain consistent with the factors that are required to be considered when determining ward boundaries.

Analysis of existing population distribution shows that the greatest imbalance is between Central Ward and West Ward. From the perspective of the ratio of electors to elected members, it is logically attractive to consider an option to alter the boundary between Central Ward and West Ward resulting in fewer electors in Central Ward and more electors West Ward.

1.6.1 Amend the boundary between Central Ward and West Ward to include Hovea in West Ward.

At the 2015 Council elections there were approximately 520 electors in Hovea. Altering the ward boundaries so that Central Ward cedes Hovea to West Ward would bring the representation ratios within the required tolerance. It could be argued that considerations of community of interest, and physical and topographical features weigh more strongly against this possibility.

Two variants of this are presented as Option 1 and 2 Option below.

1.6.2 Amend the boundary between South Ward and West Ward to include all of Greenmount in West Ward.

The boundary between West Ward and South Ward is clearly and logically defined by Great Eastern Highway. The suburb of Greenmount spans both sides of Great Eastern Highway, placing approximately 1494 Greenmount electors in West Ward and approximately 348 in South Ward (2015 Council election data).

If all of Greenmount were included in West Ward it may bring the representation ratios in West Ward into tolerance, but it is not clear how long these ratios would remain within tolerance with variable population growth.

This does not address the relative imbalance in the Central Ward.

Ward	Number of electors	Number of councillors	elected member: elector ratio	ratio deviation from average
Central	7098	3	1:2366	10.56%
East	6601	3	1:2200	2.80%
South – part Greenmount	5922	3	1:1974	- 2.77%
West + part Greenmount	6063	3	1:2021	- 9.44%
Total	25,684	12	1:2140 average	

1.6.3 Amend the boundary between South Ward and West Ward to include all of Greenmount and part of Bellevue in West Ward, and amend the boundary between Central Ward and South Ward to include part of Glen Forrest in South Ward.

The model at 1.6.2 may bring representation ratios in West Ward into tolerance, but it is not clear how long these ratios would remain within tolerance with variable population growth. It does not address the imbalance in Central Ward.

It may be preferable for South Ward to cede that portion of Greenmount south of Great Eastern Highway and the portion of Bellevue in the shire to West Ward. This would bring West Ward closer to an even representation ratio and it would be likely to remain within tolerance for a longer period of time.

This would require consequential adjustments to ensure that South Ward and Central Ward are within representation tolerances. Central Ward would need to cede part of Glen Forrest to South Ward for this to be a realistic option. Data analysis indicates that if an area containing about 670 electors in Glen Forrest was ceded from Central Ward to South Ward, representation ratios would be approximately even.

Ward	Number of electors	Number of councillors	elected member: elector ratio	ratio deviation from average
Central – 670 Glen Forrest	6428	3	1:2143	0.14%
East	6601	3	1:2200	2.80%
South – part Greenmount – Bellevue + 670 Glen Forrest	6165	3	1:2055	- 3.97%
West + part Greenmount + Bellevue	6490	3	1:2163	1.07%
Total	25,684	12	1:2140 average	

At the 2015 Council election approximately 2055 electors resided in Glen Forrest. 670 electors represents about one third of Glen Forrest. If Council and the community considered that splitting Glen Forrest between Central Ward (two thirds) and South Ward (one third) was a realistic option, a reasonably logical ward boundary in the south-west part of Glen Forrest could be identified.

1.7 Options to consider

As part of this discussion paper the Shire has developed the following options for consideration. At this stage the Shire is not promoting any particular option and invites the community to comment on these suggestions and suggest alternative options for consideration.

When considering or comparing options, it is important to remember that:

- The period under consideration is 2015 to 2023;
- Local government elections are scheduled for 2017, 2019, 2021 and 2023;
- The expected population of the various suburbs and localities takes into account as many known variables as possible; and
- Each option seeks to be well within the tolerance of plus or minus 10% by 2023.

Options proposed in this discussion paper include:

1. Four wards (with amended boundaries – Central Ward cedes Hovea to West Ward) with approximately equal numbers of electors and retain twelve elected members
2. Four wards (with amended boundaries – Central Ward cedes Hovea to West Ward) with approximately equal numbers of electors and reduce the number of elected members to eight
3. Four wards (with amended boundaries between Central, West and South) with equal numbers of electors and equal numbers of elected members and retain twelve elected members
4. Four wards (with amended boundaries between Central, West and South) with equal numbers of electors and equal numbers of elected members and reduce the number of elected members to eight
5. Three wards and retain twelve elected members (three elected members in two wards, six elected members in one ward)
6. Three wards and reduce the number of elected members to eight
7. Two wards and reduce the number of elected members to nine
8. No wards and reduce the number of elected members to eight.

Shire of Mundaring welcomes other options that may be put forward by the community.

1.7.1 Option 1 – Four wards (with amended boundaries between Central and West) with approximately equal numbers of electors and retain twelve elected members.

This option alters the boundary between West Ward and Central Ward (Central Ward cedes Hovea to West Ward) and maintains the number of elected members at twelve.

Approximate elector numbers (2015 Council election data) for this option are:

Ward	Number of electors	Number of councillors	elected member: elector ratio	ratio deviation from average
Central	6,580	3	1:2193	2.48%
East	6,600	3	1:2200	2.80%
South	6,270	3	1:2090	- 2.33%
West	6,235	3	1:2078	- 2.90%
Total	25,685	12	1:2140 average	

Assessment of Option 1 against “Factors to be considered”:

Factor	Strength	Weakness
Community of interest	This option retains all existing communities of interest except Hovea, which is ceded by Central Ward to West Ward	The populated parts of Hovea east of John Forrest National Park are arguably more closely aligned to Central Ward
Physical and topographic features	Ward boundaries roughly follow suburb/locality boundaries, Great Eastern Highway and national park boundaries. Unites Hovea in one ward	John Forrest National Park separates a small portion of West Ward from the greater part of the ward
Demographic trends	Central and West Ward populations are projected to grow at similar rates	Nil
Economic factors	Growth over the period 2016 – 2023 will essentially be residential. This option does not affect current industrial or commercial areas	Nil
Ratio of elected members to electors in the various wards	Brings the ratios well within allowable tolerances	Nil

This option provides a better balance of electors to elected members ratios.

Implementation of this option at 2017 election:

Ward	Vacancies - October 2017 election	Continuing – October 2017 election	Action at October 2017 election – Schedule 4.2 of the Act
Central	1	2	No changes required - vacant positions can be filled as usual
East	1	2	
South	2	1	
West	2	1	

1.7.2 Option 2 – Four wards (with amended boundaries between Central and West) with approximately equal numbers of electors and reduce the number of elected members from twelve to eight.

This option alters the boundary between West Ward and Central Ward (Central Ward cedes Hovea to West Ward) and reduces the number of elected members from twelve to eight.

Approximate elector numbers (2015 Council election data) for this option are:

Ward	Number of electors	Number of councillors	elected member: elector ratio	ratio deviation from average
Central	6,580	2	1:3290	2.46%
East	6,600	2	1:3300	2.78%
South	6,270	2	1:3135	- 2.36%
West	6,235	2	1:3118	- 2.90%
Total	25,685	8	1:3211 average	

Assessment of Option 2 against “Factors to be considered” is identical to Option 1.

This option provides a better balance of electors to elected members ratios. It increases the ratio of electors to elected members from 1:2140 to 1:3211 – closer to the metropolitan average of 1:3707.

Reducing the number of elected members from twelve to eight could save between \$60,000 and \$104,640 per annum, depending on the Council determination of the level of Councillor remuneration within the allowable range determined by SAT.

Implementation of this option at 2017 election:

Ward	Vacancies - October 2017 election	Continuing – October 2017 election	Action at October 2017 election – Schedule 4.2 of the Act
Central	0	2	No election. The two remaining elected members continue their four-year term
East	0	2	
South	1	1	Elect one member in each ward for a four-year term
West	1	1	

1.7.3 Option 3 – Four wards (with amended boundaries between Central, South and West) with equal numbers of electors and equal numbers of elected members and retain twelve elected members.

This option alters the boundary between Central Ward, West Ward and South Ward and maintains the number of elected members at twelve.

South Ward cedes the portion of Greenmount south of Great Eastern Highway (approximately 348 electors at the 2015 Council elections) to West Ward.

South Ward cedes the portion of Bellevue in the shire (approximately 427 electors at the 2015 Council elections) to West Ward.

Central Ward cedes about one third of Glen Forrest (about 670 electors) to South Ward.

Ward	Number of electors	Number of councillors	elected member: elector ratio	ratio deviation from average
Central – 670 Glen Forrest	6428	3	1:2143	0.14%
East	6601	3	1:2200	2.80%
South – part Greenmount – Bellevue + 670 Glen Forrest	6165	3	1:2055	- 3.97%
West + part Greenmount + Bellevue	6490	3	1:2163	1.07%
Total	25,684	12	1:2140 average	

Assessment of Option 3 against “Factors to be considered”:

Factor	Strength	Weakness
Community of interest	This option unites Greenmount in West Ward	The strong Great Eastern Highway boundary between West Ward and South Ward is lost. Glen Forrest is divided between West Ward and South Ward with an arbitrary boundary designed to balance elector numbers
Physical and topographic features	Ward boundaries roughly follow suburb/locality boundaries, Great Eastern Highway and national park boundaries. Unites Greenmount in one ward	The strong Great Eastern Highway boundary between West Ward and South Ward is lost. The strong boundary between Central Ward and South Ward, which roughly follows the top of the Darling Escarpment, is lost
Demographic trends	Central and West Ward populations are projected to grow at similar rates	Nil
Economic factors	Growth over the period 2016 – 2023 will essentially be residential. This option does not affect current industrial or commercial areas	Nil
Ratio of elected members to electors in the various wards	Brings the ratios well within allowable tolerances	Nil

This option provides a better balance of electors to elected members ratios.

Implementation of this option at 2017 election:

Ward	Vacancies - October 2017 election	Continuing – October 2017 election	Action at October 2017 election – Schedule 4.2 of the Act
Central	1	2	No changes required - vacant positions can be filled as usual
East	1	2	
South	2	1	
West	2	1	

1.7.4 Option 4 – Four wards (with amended boundaries between Central, South and West) with equal numbers of electors and equal numbers of elected members and reduce the number of elected members from twelve to eight.

This option alters the boundary between Central Ward, West Ward and South Ward and maintains the number of elected members at twelve.

South Ward cedes the portion of Greenmount south of Great Eastern Highway (approximately 348 electors at the 2015 Council elections) to West Ward.

South Ward cedes the portion of Bellevue in the shire (approximately 427 electors at the 2015 Council elections) to West Ward.

Central Ward cedes about one third of Glen Forrest (about 670 electors) to South Ward.

Ward	Number of electors	Number of councillors	elected member: elector ratio	ratio deviation from average
Central – 670 Glen Forrest	6428	2	1:3214	0.14%
East	6601	2	1:3300	2.80%
South – part Greenmount – Bellevue + 670 Glen Forrest	6165	2	1:3082	- 3.97%
West + part Greenmount + Bellevue	6490	2	1:3245	1.07%
Total	25,684	8	1:3211 average	

Assessment of Option 4 against “Factors to be considered” is identical to Option 3.

This option provides a better balance of electors to elected members ratios. It increases the ratio of electors to elected members from 1:2140 to 1:3211 – closer to the metropolitan average of 1:3707.

Reducing the number of elected members from twelve to eight could save between \$60,000 and \$104,640 per annum, depending on the Council determination of the level of Councillor remuneration within the allowable range determined by SAT.

Implementation of this option at 2017 election:

Ward	Vacancies - October 2017 election	Continuing – October 2017 election	Action at October 2017 election – Schedule 4.2 of the Act
Central	0	2	No election. The two remaining elected members continue their four-year term
East	0	2	
South	1	1	Elect one member in each ward for a four-year term
West	1	1	

1.7.5 Option 5 - Three wards and number of elected members to remain the current twelve

This option combines South and West Wards into one new ward, while maintaining the number of elected members to twelve.

This option has the advantage of bringing all wards within the required tolerance margins.

October 2017 elections				
Ward	Councillors	Electors	Ratio of electors per elected member	ratio deviation from average
Central	3	7,314	2,438	10.32%
East	3	6,868	2,289	3.59%
South + West	6	12,338	2,056	-6.95%
Total/average	12	26,520	average 2,210	

October 2019 elections				
Ward	Councillors	Electors	Ratio of electors per elected member	ratio deviation from average
Central	3	7,498	2,499	9.61%
East	3	7,171	2,390	4.83%
South + West	6	12,693	2,116	-7.22%
Total/average	12	27,362	average 2,280	

October 2021 elections				
Ward	Councillors	Electors	Ratio of electors per elected member	ratio deviation from average
Central	3	7,678	2,559	8.89%
East	3	7,485	2,495	6.15%
South + West	6	13,042	2,174	-7.52%
Total/average	12	28,205	average 2,350	

October 2023 elections				
Ward	Councillors	Electors	Ratio of electors per elected member	ratio deviation from average
Central	3	7,875	2,625	8.40%
East	3	7,799	2,600	7.35%
South + West	6	13,385	2,231	-7.88%
Total/average	12	29,059	average 2,422	

Assessment of Option 5 against “Factors to be considered”:

Factor	Strength	Weakness
Community of interest	This option combines South and West Wards into one ward. Both wards have similar communities of interest	Nil
Physical and topographic features	Ward boundaries roughly follow suburb/locality boundaries, Great Eastern Highway and national park boundaries	Nil
Demographic trends	South and West Ward populations are projected to grow at similar rates	Nil
Economic factors	Growth over the period 2016 – 2023 will essentially be residential. This option does not affect current industrial or commercial areas	Nil
Ratio of elected members to electors in the various wards	This option brings the new ward, combined from South and West Wards within the tolerance margins and so solves the issue of West Ward being outside of tolerances	Nil

This option provides a better balance of electors to elected members ratios.

Implementation of this option at 2017 election:

Ward	Vacancies - October 2017 election	Continuing – October 2017 election	Action at October 2017 election – Schedule 4.2 of the Act
Central	1	2	No changes required: vacant positions can be filled as per usual. Candidates from both South and West wards can be candidates for the new combined
East	1	2	
South + West	4	2	

ward.

1.7.6 Option 6 – Three wards and reduce elected member numbers to eight

This option combines South and West Wards into one new ward, same as Option 5, and reduces the number of elected members to eight.

This option has two advantages:

- It brings all three wards within tolerance margins; and
- It brings representation levels closer to the metropolitan average of 3,707 electors per elected member.

October 2017 elections

Ward	Councillors	Electors	Ratio of electors per elected member	ratio deviation from average
Central	2	7,314	3,657	10.32%
East	2	6,868	3,434	3.59%
South + West	4	12,338	3,085	-6.95%
Total/average	8	26,520	average 3,315	

October 2019 elections

Ward	Councillors	Electors	Ratio of electors per elected member	ratio deviation from average
Central	2	7,498	3,749	9.61%
East	2	7,171	3,586	4.83%
South + West	4	12,693	3,173	-7.22%
Total/average	8	27,362	average 3,420	

October 2021 elections

Ward	Councillors	Electors	Ratio of electors per elected member	ratio deviation from average
Central	2	7,678	3,839	8.89%
East	2	7,485	3,743	6.15%
South + West	4	13,042	3,261	-7.52%
Total/average	8	28,205	average 3,526	

October 2023 elections

Ward	Councillors	Electors	Ratio of electors per elected member	ratio deviation from average
Central	2	7,875	3,938	8.40%
East	2	7,799	3,900	7.35%
South + West	4	13,385	3,346	-7.88%
Total/average	8	29,059	average 3,632	

Assessment of Option 6 against “Factors to be considered”:

Factor	Strength	Weakness
Community of interest	This option combines South and West Wards into one ward. Both wards have similar communities of interest	Nil
Physical and topographic features	Ward boundaries roughly follow suburb/locality boundaries, Great Eastern Highway and national park boundaries	Nil
Demographic trends	South and West Ward populations are projected to grow at similar rates	Nil
Economic factors	Growth over the period 2016 – 2023 will essentially be residential. This option does not affect current industrial or commercial areas	Nil
Ratio of elected members to electors in the various wards	This option brings the new ward, combined from South and West Wards within the tolerance margins and so solves the issue of West Ward being outside of tolerances.	Nil

Reducing the number of elected members from twelve to eight could save between \$60,000 and \$104,640 per annum, depending on the Council determination of the level of councillor remuneration within the allowable range determined by SAT.

Implementation of this option at 2017 election:

Ward	Vacancies - October 2017 election	Continuing – October 2017 election	Action at October 2017 election – Schedule 4.2 of the Act
Central	0	2	No election in 2017, the two currently elected members continue their four-year term.
East	0	2	No election in 2017, the two currently elected members continue their four-year term.
South + West	2	2	The current two elected members continue their four-year term + election of two elected members

1.7.7 Option 7 – Two wards and reduce number of elected members to nine

This option combines South and West Wards and combines Central and East Wards, leaving the Shire with two wards. At the same time the number of elected members is reduced from twelve to nine.

This option has two advantages:

- Both wards are well within tolerance margins; and
- Representation levels are very balanced and closer to the metropolitan average of 3,707 electors per elected member.

October 2017 elections

Ward	Councillors	Electors	Ratio of electors per elected member	ratio deviation from average
Central + East	5	14,182	2,836	-3.74%
South + West	4	12,338	3,085	4.68%
Total/average	9	26,520	average 2,947	

October 2019 elections

Ward	Councillors	Electors	Ratio of electors per elected member	ratio deviation from average
Central + East	5	14,669	2,934	-3.50%
South + West	4	12,693	3,173	4.38%
Total/average	9	27,362	average 3,040	

October 2021 elections

Ward	Councillors	Electors	Ratio of electors per elected member	ratio deviation from average
Central + East	5	15,163	3,033	-3.23%
South + West	4	13,042	3,261	4.04%
Total/average	9	28,205	average 3,134	

October 2023 elections

Ward	Councillors	Electors	Ratio of electors per elected member	ratio deviation from average
Central + East	5	15,674	3,135	-2.91%
South + West	4	13,385	3,346	3.64%
Total/average	9	29,059	average 3,229	

Assessment of Option 7 against “Factors to be considered”:

Factor	Strength	Weakness
Community of interest	Combining South and West into one ward and Central and East into a second ward does not substantially alter existing communities of interest	Nil
Physical and topographic features	Ward boundaries roughly follow suburb/locality boundaries and national park boundaries	Nil
Demographic trends	Under this option representation becomes more balanced over time, as Central/East is projected to grow at a slightly faster rate than South/West	Nil
Economic factors	Growth over the period 2016 – 2023 will essentially be residential. This option does not affect current industrial or commercial areas	Nil
Ratio of elected members to electors in the various wards	Both wards are well within tolerance levels and the small difference in representation levels diminishes over the 8-year period under review	Nil

Reducing the number of elected members from twelve to nine could save between \$45,000 and \$78,480 per annum, depending on the Council determination of the level of councillor remuneration within the allowable range determined by SAT.

Implementation of this option at 2017 election:

Ward	Vacancies - October 2017 election	Continuing – October 2017 election	Action at October 2017 election – Schedule 4.2 of the Act
Central + East	1	4	The four currently elected members continue their four-year term + election of one elected member according to number of votes.
South + West	2	2	The current two elected members continue their four-year term + election of two elected members according to number of votes

1.7.8 Option 8 – No wards and reduce number of elected members to eight

This option abolishes all wards and reduces the number of elected members to eight.

Abolishing all wards means that there is no need to compare the ratio of electors to elected members between wards. A reduction from twelve elected members to eight brings representation closer to the metropolitan average of 3,707 electors per elected member.

Year	Electors	Electors per elected member
October 2017	26,520	3,315
October 2019	27,362	3,420
October 2021	28,205	3,526
October 2023	29,059	3,632

Some positives and negatives of having no wards:

Positive features	Less positive features
Promotes the concept of a shire-wide focus, with elected members being elected by and concerned for the Shire as a whole, rather than pursuing parochial interests	May lead to significant communities of interest and points of view being unrepresented May lead to elected members being relatively inaccessible for residents in parts of the Shire
Gives residents and ratepayers a choice of elected members to approach with their concerns	May lead to confusion of responsibilities and duplication of effort on the part of elected members May be difficult for voters to assess the performance of individual elected members
Each voter has the opportunity to express a preference for every candidate for the council election	Larger numbers of candidates might be confusing for voters
Removes the need to (re)define internal ward boundaries	
Results in simple, less expensive voters roll for elections as compared with separate voters' rolls for individual wards.	

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Another benefit of abolishing wards is that time and money is saved by not having to conduct ward reviews. The cost of managing elections will also greatly be reduced.

Implementation of this option at 2017 election:

Ward	Vacancies - October 2017 election	Continuing – October 2017 election	Action at October 2017 election – Schedule 4.2 of the Act
Central + East + South + West	2	6	The six currently elected members continue their four-year term + election of two elected members according to number of votes

This option presents substantial savings:

- Reducing the number of elected members from twelve to eight could save between \$60,000 and \$104,640 per annum, depending on the Council determination of the level of councillor remuneration within the allowable range determined by SAT; and
- Reduced cost of managing elections.

**Review of Wards and Representation
- Feedback Form -**

1. The Act provides for local governments to have not less than six and not more than 15 elected members. In your opinion, what is the ideal number of elected members for Shire of Mundaring?

- 12 9 8 other: ____

Comments:

2. Do you have a preferred option out of those presented in this Community Discussion Paper?

- Option 1: 4 wards (Central Ward cedes Hovea), 12 elected members
- Option 2: 4 wards (Central Ward cedes Hovea), 8 elected members
- Option 3: 4 wards (amendments to Central, South and West Wards), 12 elected members
- Option 4: 4 wards (amendments to Central, South and West Wards), 8 elected members
- Option 5: 3 wards, 12 elected members
- Option 6: 3 wards, 8 elected members
- Option 7: 2 wards, 9 elected members
- Option 8: no wards, 8 elected members

Comments:

3. Do you propose a different option for the number of wards and the number of elected members for Shire of Mundaring?

Comments:

4. Do you have any suggestions for ward names?

4. Do you have any further comments?

Optional:

Your name: _____

Your address: _____

Your telephone no.: _____

Your email address: _____

Thank you for your interest and involvement in this review. The Shire welcomes your comments on any matters that may assist it to make informed and responsible decisions for the benefit of the community of Shire of Mundaring. You can provide this feedback and any other comments you may have in a number of ways:

In person or by mail:

Shire of Mundaring
Review of Wards and Representation
7000 Great Eastern Highway
Mundaring WA 6073

By email:

Submissions can be sent to shire@mundaring.wa.gov.au

By fax:

Fax: 08 9295 3288

All submissions must be received by 4.00 pm on 30 June 2016.