

WARD AND REPRESENTATION REVIEW 2022

Discussion Paper

The Shire invites residents to consider the appropriateness and effectiveness of its current representation and ward system, and to suggest options for change. Details of the current situation, the review process and examples of possible options for change are set out in this discussion paper.

The Shire is not promoting any particular option and is open to alternative proposals from the community; however the advice contained in the 'summary' section of this discussion paper should be noted. Residents, ratepayers and businesses within the shire are encouraged to review this discussion paper and provide feedback on the options presented.

Public submissions close 4.30pm Monday 19 December 2022.

Please use the feedback form available on the '[Engage Mundaring](#)' platform and on the Shire's website.

Alternative formats are available on request.

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Email: shire@mundaring.wa.gov.au

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1. Summary of statutory requirements and review process

In July 2022, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) released the Local Government Reform – Full Reform Proposals. According to this document, it is proposed that local governments that have a population of between 5000 and 75,000 (including Shire of Mundaring) would have five to nine council members, including the President.

In September 2022, the Minister for Local Government advised that an Amendment Act (expected to be introduced in early 2023) would determine that all offices be declared vacant, all wards (if applicable) be abolished and that the number of Council offices be set based on the reform proposals. Additionally, the Minister advised that all local governments will be required to have a directly elected President.

An alternative option was provided to enable Councils to voluntarily implement the required changes to reduce the number of offices and to change the method of electing the President to a direct vote.

Accordingly, at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 11 October 2022 it was resolved (in part):

“That Council:

- 1. Change, by absolute majority, in accordance with section 2.11 of the Local Government Act 1995, the method of filling the office of Shire President used by the Shire of Mundaring from the election by the council method to the election by the electors’ method (directly elected);*
- 2. Advises the Department of Local Government of the change of method of filling the office of Shire President to the election by the electors’ method (directly elected);*
- 3. Advises the Department of Local Government that the Shire will proceed with the voluntary pathway with a ward and representation review to commence.”*

This discussion paper forms part of the ward and representation review referred to in part 3 of the above resolution and is in accordance with schedule 2.2 of the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act).

The Act provides that a periodic review be completed every eight years. This is to review ward boundaries and the number of offices of councillor for each ward.

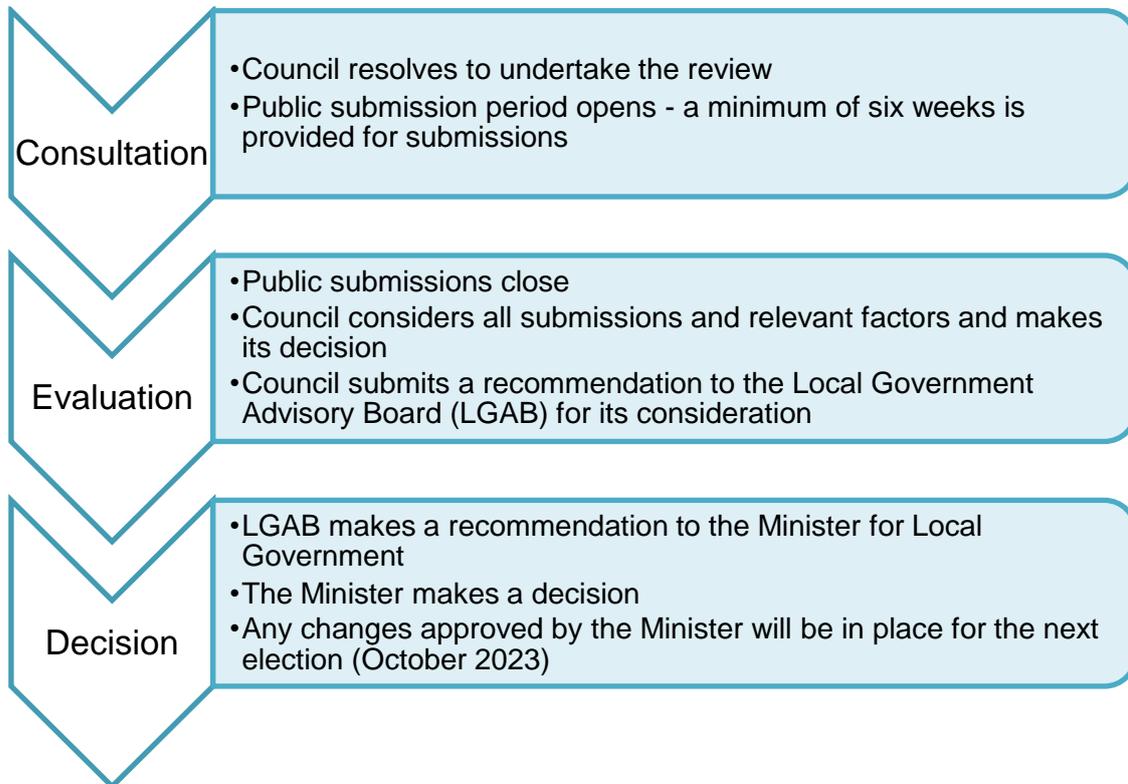
The last formal ward and representation review was undertaken in 2016. At that time it was resolved that the number of offices of councillor be maintained at 12, with amendments made to ward boundaries to allow for equal ratios within acceptable variances.

For the Shire to comply with the proposed Amendment Act a number of options and scenarios exist. These options have been limited in this discussion paper to those that are considered to be generally in keeping with current council member and community sentiments.

Council will consider all submissions received and will then make a determination on wards and council member representation levels. Any changes to the current structure supported by Council will then be submitted to the Local Government Advisory Board and Minister for approval by the specified due date of 14 February 2023.

1.1. 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:



1.2. Formal assessment factors

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
- Specifying or changing the number of offices of councillor for the district
- Specifying or changing the number of offices of councillor for a ward

It is important to remember that section 2.10 of the Act requires a council member to represent the interests of electors, ratepayers and residents of the district. This means that each council member, regardless of the ward they have been elected to, must represent the interests of all the electors, ratepayers and residents of the district (i.e. the entire Shire).

When considering changes to representation (and wards), 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.

The formal assessment of factors to be considered are:

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 council members to electors in the various wards

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

Source: A Guide for Local Governments: How to conduct a review of wards and representation for local governments with and without a ward system - Department of Local Government

The Local Government Advisory Board places particular emphasis on an even ratio of electors per council member where a local government is divided into wards but considers a deviation of plus or minus ten percent between wards to be reasonable.

The *Local Government Act 1995* currently provides that “*if the method of filling the office of ... president is election by the council, the council is to consist of not less than 6 nor more than 15 councillors*”. Previously, there was little guidance for local governments on how to determine the optimal number of council members to achieve adequate representation or how to make informed decisions about council member numbers.

In July 2022, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) released the Local Government Reform – Full Reform Proposals. According to this document, it is proposed:

- That local governments that have a population of up to 5000 will have a total of between five and seven council members, including the President.
- That local governments that have a population of between 5000 and 75,000 (**including Shire of Mundaring**) will have a total of between five and nine council members, including the Mayor or President.

- That local governments that have a population of above 75,000 will have a total of between nine and 15 council members, including the Mayor.

By way of comparison, the following table provides an overview of the current council member representation levels at other local governments and corresponding council member to elector ratios. Representation ranges from 169 electors per council member in Shire of Peppermint Grove, to 10,987 electors per council member in City of Stirling.

Across all metropolitan local governments each council member represents on average 4458 electors. Shire of Mundaring council members each represent 2339 electors on average.

Local Government	Number of Council Members	Number of electors *	Council Member: elector ratio
Armadale	14	59,657	1 : 4261
Bassendean	7	11,437	1 : 1634
Bayswater	11	48,546	1 : 4413
Belmont	9	26,913	1 : 2990
Cambridge †	9	20,220	1 : 2247
Canning †	10	56,815	1 : 5682
Claremont †	9	7931	1 : 881
Cockburn †	9	80,422	1 : 8936
Cottesloe †	8	6144	1 : 768
East Fremantle †	8	5803	1 : 725
Fremantle †	12	24,041	1 : 2003
Gosnells	12	77,162	1 : 6430
Joondalup †	12	115,498	1 : 9625
Kalamunda	12	41,732	1 : 3478
Kwinana	8	28,347	1 : 3543
Melville †	12	73,829	1 : 6152
Mosman Park †	6	6403	1 : 1067
Mundaring	12	28,064	1 : 2339
Nedlands †	12	15,798	1 : 1317
Peppermint Grove	7	1185	1 : 169
Perth †	8	14,646	1 : 1831
Rockingham †	11	90,146	1 : 8195
Serpentine-Jarrahdale	9	21,328	1 : 2370
South Perth †	8	30,196	1 : 3775
Stirling	14	153,690	1 : 10987
Subiaco †	8	12,140	1 : 1518
Swan	15	101,196	1 : 6746
Victoria Park †	8	23,923	1 : 2990
Vincent †	8	25,565	1 : 3196
Wanneroo †	14	137,538	1 : 9824
Total / Average	302	1,346,315	1 : 4458

† indicates local governments with directly elected Mayors or Presidents.

* WAEC enrolment statistics (as at 30 June 2022). The number of electors are those only listed on the Residents Roll for each local government and do not include electors on individual local government's non-residents Owners and Occupiers roll.

Source: Number of council members obtained from the WA Local Government Directory 2022. Number of Electors obtained from the Western Australian Electoral Commission (WAEC) enrolment statistics

2. Current situation

2.1. Current ward system

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

South Ward

Comprised of the portion of Boya south of Coulston Road, Darlington, a portion of Glen Forrest south of Glen Forrest Drive and Helena Valley.

Bounded by the City of Swan and the Shire of Kalamunda, Great Eastern Highway and Glen Forrest.

West Ward

Comprised of Bellevue (part), Midvale (part), Swan View (part), Greenmount, the portion of Boya north of Coulston Road and John Forrest National Park in Hovea.

Bounded by the City of Swan, Great Eastern Highway to Greenmount and John Forrest National Park.

Central Ward

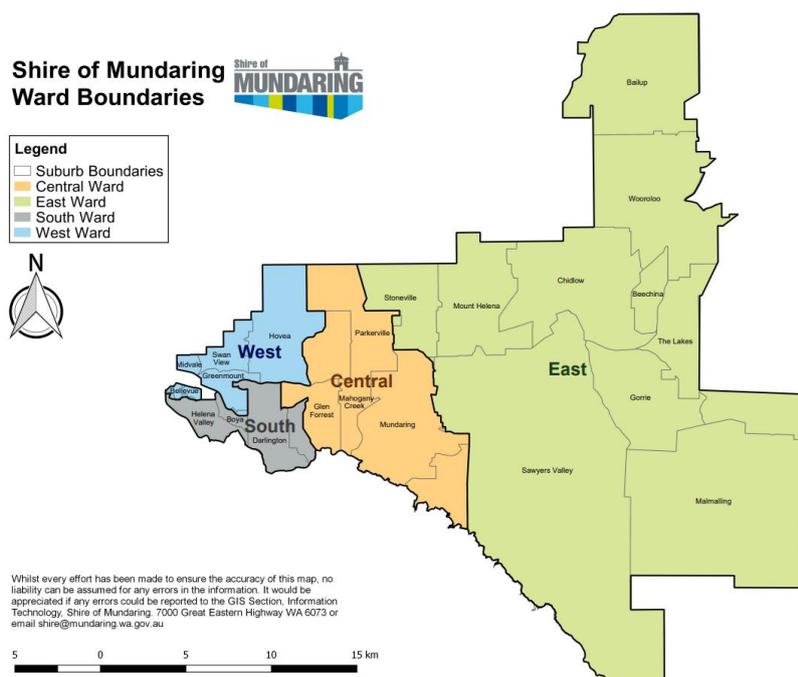
Comprised of a portion of Glen Forrest north of Glen Forrest Drive, the populated part of Hovea, Mahogany Creek, Mundaring, almost all of Parkerville and an unpopulated portion of Sawyers Valley near Mundaring Weir. Central Ward also contains two small portions of Darlington (one north of Rycroft Road and one south of Darlington Estate Wines) but neither of these are populated.

Bounded by John Forrest National Park, City of Swan, Stoneville, Sawyers Valley and Darlington.

East Ward

Comprised of Bailup, Beechina, Chidlow, Gorrie, Wooroloo, The Lakes, Malmalling, Mount Helena, the populated parts of Sawyers Valley and Stoneville.

Bounded by Parkerville, City of Swan, the Shires of Toodyay, Northam, York and Kalamunda, and the suburb/ locality of Mundaring.



2.2. Current representation

Shire of Mundaring Council is presently comprised of twelve council members elected from four wards. Currently the President is elected by the Council.

Elector numbers and ratios from the 2021 elections were:

2021 Local Government Election				
Ward	Number of council members	Number of electors	Council member: elector ratio	Ratio deviation from average
Central	3	7231	1 : 2410	4.15%
East	3	6969	1 : 2323	0.38%
South	3	6670	1 : 2223	-3.93%
West	3	6898	1 : 2299	-0.65%
Total/ Average	12	27,768	1 : 2314	

3. Role and remuneration of council members

3.1. Role of council members

The role of a Councillor is defined in section 2.10 of the Act:

“A councillor —

- (a) represents the interests of electors, ratepayers and residents of the district; and
- (b) provides leadership and guidance to the community in the district; and
- (c) facilitates communication between the community and the council; and
- (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.”

3.2. Remuneration of council members

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

In April 2022 SAT determined minimum and maximum levels for a band 2 local government, including Shire of Mundaring as follows:

	Minimum	Maximum	Shire of Mundaring Allowances 2022/ 23
Shire President	\$15,237	\$31,928	\$28,901
Other council members	\$15,237	\$23,811	\$22,121
Shire President’s allowance	\$15,761	\$64,938	\$56,554
Information and Communication Technology Allowance	\$500	\$3500	\$3500

4. General considerations

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held 11 October 2022, it was resolved that the method of filling the office of President would be changed to the President being directly elected by the electors of the Shire.

The Minister for Local Government has indicated that all local governments will be required to change the method of voting to have a directly elected Mayor or President as part of the Amendment Act.

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 11 October 2022 it was resolved (in part):

“That Council:

- 1. Change, by absolute majority, in accordance with section 2.11 of the Local Government Act 1995, the method of filling the office of Shire President used by the Shire of Mundaring from the election by the council method to the election by the electors’ method (directly elected);*
- 2. Advises the Department of Local Government of the change of method of filling the office of Shire President to the election by the electors’ method (directly elected);”*

As such, this discussion paper does not consider options for a President elected by Council.

As noted previously, the Shire has been advised that as part of the Amendment Act, local governments that have a population of between 5000 and 75,000 will be required to change the representation to have between five and nine council members, including the President. It is not proposed that there be an increase in the number of council members.

It is also anticipated that this will not be possible should the Amendment Act be passed restricting the number of council members. However, that does not mean that the community cannot provide feedback as part of the public submission process that representation should be maintained or increased and will therefore be considered as part of the review process.

The options detailed in this discussion paper have been provided to aid discussion and public comment and may not necessarily meet the criteria of the formal assessment factors. Any preferred option will need to be considered against the formal assessment factors (refer to section 1.2) and other matters as detailed in this discussion paper.

4.1. Future representation numbers

The current council member to elector ratio is based on the number of electors per ward that a council member represents based on the electoral rolls used for the 2021 local government elections.

In an attempt to provide an indicative future projection council member representation levels in each of the Shire’s existing wards, estimated population figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, as well as population to elector ratios for each suburb, have been used.

It is anticipated that there will not be a large increase to the Shire’s population (and, in turn, elector numbers) based on growth over the last ten years.

The below table outlines the population differences between the 2011 census and the 2021 census. The population increase of Mundaring is significantly less than the population increase for the greater Perth area.

Population	2011 Census	2021 Census	Increase
Shire of Mundaring (local government area)	36,529	39,166	2637 (7.2%)
Greater Perth Area	1,728,867	2,116,647	387,780 (22.4%)

As such, the elector numbers for the 2023, 2025 and 2027 are not expected to exponentially increase and impact the elector to council member ratio to be considered as part of the ward and representation review.

The population forecasts have been calculated from the 2021 census results and are based on a series of assumptions (that the Shire's population grows as forecast, the percentage of each ward's population who enrol as electors remains similar).

Elector numbers are estimated to be:

	2023 Ordinary Election	2025 Ordinary Election	2027 Ordinary Election
Central	7336	7442	7549
East	7070	7172	7276
South	6766	6864	6963
West	6998	7099	7201
Total projected number of Electors	28,170	28,577	28,989

5. Options to consider

Due to the large number of options available to consider and the significance of any changes implemented in response to the ward and representation review, information relevant to maintaining or changing wards has been included under one heading with the options for representation presented separately.

This also allows the community to advise their preferred options for wards and for representation separate to the defined options included in this paper.

5.1. Wards

Consideration has been given to:

Option 1	Maintaining the current ward system (four wards)
Option 2	Reducing to three wards
Option 3	Reducing to two wards
Option 4	Abolishing wards

There are a number of advantages and disadvantages to having wards as well as advantages and disadvantages of not having wards.

Some **advantages** of a ward system may include:

- Different sectors of the community can be represented ensuring a good spread of representation and interests amongst council members.
- There is more opportunity for council members to have a greater knowledge and interest in the issues in the ward.

Some **disadvantages** of a ward system may include:

- The community and council members may tend to regard the local government in terms of wards rather than as a whole community.
[Note: the *Local Government Act 1995* provides that council members are to represent the district, not only the ward to which they are elected.]
- Ward boundaries may appear to be placed arbitrarily and may not reflect the social interaction and community interests of the community.

Some **advantages** of having no wards includes:

- There is balanced representation with each council member representing the whole community with council members being elected by and concerned for the Shire as a whole, rather than pursuing parochial interests.
- Council members can use their speciality skills and knowledge for the benefit of the whole local government.
- Gives residents and ratepayers a choice of council members to approach with their concerns.
- Each voter has the opportunity to express a preference for every candidate for the council election.

Some **disadvantages** of having no wards includes:

- Electors may feel that they are not adequately represented or that significant communities are if they do not have a council member within their immediate area.
- May lead to significant communities of interest and points of view being unrepresented
- May lead to council members being relatively inaccessible for residents in parts of the Shire
- Larger numbers of candidates might be confusing for voters

Option 1: Maintaining the current ward system

This option maintains the current wards and their boundaries. Ratios of electors to council members meet requirements and therefore it is not necessary for any changes to be made to ward boundaries.

Further information is included for options maintaining the current ward system (refer to section 5.2). The options take into consideration how the current ward system would be maintained whilst transitioning to a reduced number of council members to meet the anticipated requirements of the Amendment Act.

Option 2: Reducing to three wards

This option combines South Ward and West Ward into one new ward maintaining East Ward and Central Ward.

'Factors to be Considered' Assessment of Wards – Option 2	
Community of Interest	This option combines South and West wards into one ward. Both wards have similar communities of interest.
Physical and topographic features	Ward boundaries roughly follow suburb/ locality boundaries, Great Eastern Highway and national park boundaries.
Demographic trends	South and West Ward populations are projected to grow at similar rates.
Economic factors	Expected growth will essentially be residential. This option does not affect current industrial or commercial areas.
Ratio of council members to electors	The reduction to three wards as a direct transition would mean four council members representing the largest ward and two council members for the two smaller wards. This would result in an imbalance in the number of council members per ward, however the ratio is meets the accepted requirements.

A reduction to three wards would be incorporated with one of the options included under representation (refer to Option 4 under Representation). Council members representing each current ward would transition to be responsible for the newly created ward. For example, council members that currently represent the South ward and West ward would be transitioned across as the council members for the new combined ward.

When considering the introduction of three wards, combined with the maximum number of offices of council member allowed and a directly elected President, some options are not feasible. For example, it is not possible to have three wards, each with three council members and a directly elected President as this totals ten council members which is more than the proposed maximum number of nine offices.

Option 3: Reducing to two wards

This option combines South Ward and West Ward and combines Central Ward and East Ward, leaving the Shire with two wards.

'Factors to be Considered' Assessment of Wards – Option 3	
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
Physical and topographic features	Ward boundaries roughly follow suburb/ locality boundaries and national park boundaries.
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.
Economic factors	Growth will essentially be residential. This option does not affect current industrial or commercial areas.
Ratio of council members to electors	The reduction to two wards as a direct transition would mean four council members representing the largest ward and two council members for the two smaller wards.

A reduction to two wards would be incorporated with one of the options included under representation (refer to Option 5 under Representation). Council members representing each current ward would transition to be responsible for the newly created ward. For example, council members that currently represent the South ward and West ward would be transitioned across as the council members for one of the new combined wards and council members that currently represent the Central ward and East ward would be transitioned across as the council members for the other newly created ward.

Option 4: Abolishing wards

This option abolishes all wards. Abolishing all wards means that there is no need to compare the ratio of electors to council members between wards.

5.2. Representation

To meet the requirements of the proposed Amendment Act which would introduce restrictions on the number of offices of council member, consideration has been given to:

Option 1	Reducing to nine council members (i.e. eight council members plus President) at the October 2023 ordinary local government election - maintaining current four wards with two council members per ward
Option 2	Reducing to seven council members (i.e. six council members plus President) at the October 2023 ordinary local government election - abolishing wards
Option 3	Staggering the reduction to nine council members (i.e. eight council members plus President) over the October 2023 and October 2025 ordinary local government elections - maintaining current four wards with two council members per ward
Option 4	Staggering the reduction to nine council members (i.e. eight council members plus President) over the October 2023 and October 2025 ordinary local government elections - transitioning to three wards with four council members in the largest ward and two council members in the two smaller wards
Option 5	Staggering the reduction to nine council members (i.e. eight council members plus President) over the October 2023 and October 2025 ordinary local government elections - transitioning to two wards with four council members in each ward
Option 6	Staggering the reduction to five council members (i.e. four council members plus President) over the October 2023, October 2025 and October 2027 local government elections - maintaining current four wards with one council member per ward

Consideration was given to maintaining the current ward system or the introduction of two wards with a total of six or eight council members, however, when combined with a directly elected President, it was considered to result in an imbalance of representation between wards.

There are a number of advantages and disadvantages to reducing the number of council members.

Some **advantages** of reducing the number of council members include:

- The decision-making process may be more effective and efficient if the number of council members is reduced.
- The cost of maintaining council members is likely to be reduced.
- The increase in the ratio of council members to electors is unlikely to be significant in comparison to other local governments in the metropolitan area.
- Consultation with the community can be achieved through a variety of means in addition to individuals and groups contacting their local council member.
- Fewer council members are more readily identifiable to the community
- There is a state-wide trend for reductions in the number of council member and many local governments have found that having fewer council members works well.

Some **disadvantages** to reducing the number of council members include:

- A smaller number of council members may result in an increased workload and may lessen effectiveness. A demanding role may discourage others from nominating for Council.
- There is the potential for dominance in Council by a particular interest group, with a potential to create factions or alliances.
- A reduction in the number of council members may limit the diversity of interests around the Council table.
- An increase in the ratio of council members to electors may place too many demands on council members.

Option 1: Reducing to nine council members (i.e. eight council members plus President) at the October 2023 ordinary local government election - maintaining current four wards with two council members per ward

The 2023 ordinary election would have six continuing council members, which would mean there are vacancies for:



The 2025 ordinary election would have three continuing council members, which would mean there are vacancies for:



The ratio of council members to electors maintaining the current ward system for the 2023 local government ordinary election are as follows:

Ward	Number of council members	Number of electors	Council member: elector ratio	Ratio deviation from average
Central	2	7336	1 : 3668	4.17%
East	2	7070	1 : 3535	0.40%
South	2	6766	1 : 3383	-3.91%
West	2	6998	1 : 3499	-0.62%
Total/ Average	8 (plus directly elected Shire President)	28,170	1:3521	

Some **advantages** of Option 1: reducing to nine council members (i.e. eight council members plus President) at the October 2023 ordinary local government election - maintaining current four wards with two council members per ward include:

- Relatively simple change which affects a minimal number of electors.
- Retains the existing wards.
- Reduced number of council members will result in reduced costs.

Some **disadvantages** of Option 1: reducing to nine council members (i.e. eight council members plus President) at the October 2023 ordinary local government election - maintaining current four wards with two council members per ward include:

- Having vacancies for two thirds of the Council in 2025 may have a significant impact in the loss of knowledge and long standing council members may be required to assist those council members elected in 2025. It should be noted that vacancies may be filled by previously elected or returning council members.

Option 2: Reducing to seven council members (i.e. six council members plus President) at the October 2023 ordinary local government election - abolishing wards

It is not possible for the Shire to have a ‘total’ spill’ of its own accord, however, due to the reduction from 12 council members to seven council members, utilising the terms ending in 2023 would, in reality, require a spill of all council members when implemented in combination with abolishing wards.

This option has been included for the purposes of this paper, however, in conjunction with the proposed local government reforms, no action would be undertaken by the Shire and instead, this would be implemented by the Minister for Local Government under the reform election pathway which would abolish all wards.

The 2023 ordinary election would have no continuing council members, which would mean there are vacancies for:



Subsequent elections would have an even split between vacancies for each ward with the election of the directly elected President to occur every four years.

Abolishing wards would have a ratio of one council member to 3521 electors. This is still under the metropolitan average of one council member representing 4458 electors.

Some **advantages** of Option 2: reducing to seven council members (i.e. six council members plus President) at the October 2023 ordinary local government election - abolishing wards include:

- Council members would be elected by the whole community not just a section of it.
- Members of the community who want to approach a council member can speak to any council member.
- Reduced number of council members will result in reduced costs.

Some **disadvantages** of Option 2: reducing to seven council members (i.e. six council members plus President) at the October 2023 ordinary local government election - abolishing wards include:

- A significant change from the current ward and representation in the Shire with all electors impacted.
- Having vacancies for the entire Council may have a significant impact in the loss of knowledge. It should be noted that vacancies may be filled by previously elected or returning council members.

Option 3: Staggering the reduction to nine council members (i.e. eight council members plus President) over the October 2023 and October 2025 ordinary local government elections - maintaining current four wards with two council members per ward

The 2023 ordinary election would have six continuing council members, which would mean there are vacancies for:



There would be a total of 11 council members following the 2023 ordinary election, to be reduced further at the 2025 ordinary election.

The 2025 ordinary election would have five continuing council members, which would mean there are vacancies for:



Subsequent elections would have an even split between vacancies for each ward with the election of the directly elected President to occur every four years.

The ratio of council members to electors maintaining the current ward system for the 2023 local government ordinary election are as follows:

Ward	Number of council members	Number of electors	Council member: elector ratio	Ratio deviation from average
Central	2	7336	1 : 3668	4.17%
East	2	7070	1 : 3535	0.40%
South	2	6766	1 : 3383	-3.92%
West	2	6988	1 : 3499	-0.62%
Total/ Average	8 (plus directly elected Shire President)	28,170	1 : 3521	

Some **advantages** of Option 3: staggering the reduction to nine council members (i.e. eight council members plus President) over the October 2023 and October 2025 ordinary local government elections - maintaining current four wards with two council members per ward include:

- Transitioning to a reduced number of council members over two election cycles would better maintain corporate knowledge within Council.
- Reduced number of council members will result in reduced costs.

Some **disadvantages** of Option 3: staggering the reduction to nine council members (i.e. eight council members plus President) over the October 2023 and October 2025 ordinary local government elections - maintaining current four wards with two council members per ward include:

- The transition to the required number of council members would take longer.

Option 4: Staggering the reduction to nine council members (i.e. eight council members plus President) over the October 2023 and October 2025 ordinary local government elections - transitioning to three wards with four council members in the largest ward and two council members in the two smaller wards

As noted under Wards Option 2, this option combines South Ward and West Ward into one new ward maintaining East Ward and Central Ward.

The 2023 ordinary election would have six continuing council members, which would mean there are vacancies for:



There would be a total of 11 council members following the 2023 ordinary election to be reduced further at the 2025 ordinary election.

The 2025 ordinary election would have five continuing council members, which would mean there are vacancies for:



Subsequent elections would have an even split between vacancies for each ward with the election of the directly elected President to occur every four years.

The below table provides council member to electors ratios for the 2023 local government ordinary election if there was a reduction to three wards with a total of nine council members (excluding the directly elected Shire President):

Ward	Number of council members	Number of electors	Council member: elector ratio	Ratio deviation from average
Central	2	7336	1 : 3668	4.17%
East	2	7070	1 : 3535	0.39%
South and West	4	13,764	1 : 3441	-2.27%
Total/ Average	8 (plus directly elected Shire President)	28,170	1 : 3521	

Some **advantages** of Option 4: staggering the reduction to nine council members (i.e. eight council members plus President) over the October 2023 and October 2025 ordinary local government elections - transitioning to three wards with four council members in the largest ward and two council members in the two smaller wards include:

- Reduced number of council members will result in reduced costs.

Some **disadvantages** of Option 4: staggering the reduction to nine council members (i.e. eight council members plus President) over the October 2023 and October 2025 ordinary local government elections - transitioning to three wards with four council members in the largest ward and two council members in the two smaller wards include:

- A significant change from the current ward system with approximately half of all electors impacted.
- The transition to the required number of council members would take two election cycles.

Option 5: Staggering the reduction to nine council members (i.e. eight council members plus President) over the October 2023 and October 2025 ordinary local government elections - transitioning to two wards with four council members in each ward

As noted above, this option combines South Ward and West Ward and combines Central Ward and East Ward, leaving the Shire with two wards.

The 2023 ordinary election would have six continuing council members, which would mean there are vacancies for:



There would be a total of 11 council members following the 2023 ordinary election to be reduced further at the 2025 ordinary election.

The 2025 ordinary election would have five continuing council members, which would mean there are vacancies for:



Subsequent elections would have an even split between vacancies for each ward with the election of the directly elected President to occur every four years.

The below table provides council member to electors ratios for the 2023 local government ordinary election if there was a reduction to two wards with a total of nine council members (excluding the directly elected Shire President):

Ward	Number of council members	Number of electors	Council member: elector ratio	Ratio deviation from average
Central and East	4	14,406	1 : 3602	2.30%
South and West	4	13,764	1 : 3441	-2.27%
Total/ Average	8 (plus directly elected Shire President)	28,170	1:3521	

Some **advantages** of Option 5: staggering the reduction to nine council members (i.e. eight council members plus President) over the October 2023 and October 2025 ordinary local government elections - transitioning to two wards with four council members in each ward include:

- Reduced number of council members will result in reduced costs.

Some **disadvantages** Option 5 staggering the reduction to nine council members (i.e. eight council members plus President) over the October 2023 and October 2025 ordinary local government elections - transitioning to two wards with four council members in each ward include:

- A significant change from the current ward system with all electors impacted.
- The transition to the required number of council members would take two election cycles.

Option 6: Staggering the reduction to five council members (i.e. four council members plus President) over the October 2023, October 2025 and October 2027 local government elections - maintaining current four wards with one council member per ward

The 2023 ordinary election would have six continuing council members, which would mean there are vacancies for:



There would be a total of 11 council members following the 2023 ordinary election to be reduced further at the 2025 ordinary election.

The 2025 ordinary election would have five continuing council members, which would mean there are vacancies for:



There would be a total of nine council members following the 2025 ordinary election to be reduced further at the 2027 ordinary election.

The 2027 ordinary election would have five continuing council members, which would mean there are vacancies for:



Subsequent elections would have vacancies for two of the wards at each election, with the election of the directly elected President to occur every four years.

The ratio of council members to electors maintaining the current ward system for the 2023 local government ordinary election are as follows:

Ward	Number of council members	Number of electors	Council member: elector ratio	Ratio deviation from average
Central	1	7336	1 : 7336	4.17%
East	1	7070	1 : 7070	0.40%
South	1	6766	1 : 6766	-3.92%
West	1	6998	1 : 6998	-0.62%
Total/ Average	4 (plus directly elected Shire President)	28,170	1 : 7042	

Some **advantages** of Option 6: staggering the reduction to five council members (i.e. four council members plus President) over the October 2023, October 2025 and October 2027 local government elections - maintaining current four wards with one council member per ward may include:

- Transitioning to a reduced number of council members over three election cycles would maintain the knowledge of Council.
- Reduced number of council members will result in reduced costs.

Some **disadvantages** of Option 6: staggering the reduction to five council members (i.e. four council members plus President) over the October 2023, October 2025 and October 2027 local government elections - maintaining current four wards with one council member per ward may include:

- The transition to the required number of council members would take three election cycles which may not be supported by the LGAB or the Minister.