



BRIEFING NOTE

Concept Forum
15 September 2020

SUBJECT : **Ward & Representation Review 2020**
AUTHOR(S) : Sue Mearns, Executive Support Officer

Purpose / Summary:

The purpose of this briefing note is to provide additional information and data to Councillors on the Ward and Representation review.

Background:

At the Council Meeting held 21 July 2020, Council was asked to consider the submissions received in relation to the Ward and Representation review and determine its position prior to making a submission to the Local Government Advisory Board for final approval/order.

Council decided at this meeting to defer the item until the October 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting, seeking further information to inform their decision.

Statutory Obligations or Implications:

The Local Government Act 1995, Schedule 2.2 requires a Local Government that has a ward system, to carry out reviews of its ward boundaries and the number of offices of councillor for each ward "from time to time so that not more than eight (8) years elapse between successive reviews."

It must be noted that any decision with respect to the Ward Review must be by an absolute majority.

Policy or Delegation Implications:

Nil

Integrated Planning Framework:

The report and officer recommendation is consistent with Council's adopted Strategic Plan Objectives and Goals and the Corporate Business Plan Actions and Projects in the following specific ways:

Denmark 2027

L5.0 Our Local Government

The Shire of Denmark is recognised as a transparent, well governed and effectively managed Local Government.

L5.1 To be high functioning, open, transparent, ethical and responsive.

L5.2 To have meaningful, respectful and proactive collaboration with the Community.

L5.3 To be decisive and to make consistent and well considered decisions.

Corporate Business Plan

L.5.2.10 - Undertake a Ward and Representation Review to ensure balanced representation.

Comment / Discussion:

The Officer has been advised that Councillors requested information on the amount of Wards other Shires/Councils have within Western Australia and confirmation of advantages and disadvantages of:

20 October 2020 - Attachment 8.3.1c

- Establishing a ‘no ward’ structure; or
- Retaining the current ward structure being 3 wards and 9 Councillors.

Spreadsheet of Western Australian LGO ward structures

Locality	# Wards	# Electors
Shire of Augusta-Margaret River	0	10574
Town of Bassendean	0	11096
Shire of Beverley	0	1325
Shire of Boddington	0	1161
Shire of Brookton	0	684
Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup	0	696
Shire of Bruce Rock	0	659
City of Bunbury	0	22958
City of Busselton	0	27998
Shire of Capel	0	11737
Shire of Carnamah	0	383
Shire of Chapman Valley	0	982
Shire of Chittering	0	3922
Shire of Collie	0	6276
Shire of Coolgardie	0	1670
Shire of Coorow	0	732
Shire of Corrigin	0	804
Shire of Cranbrook	0	725
Shire of Cuballing	0	623
Shire of Cue	0	120
Shire of Cunderdin	0	778
Shire of Dalwallinu	0	798
Shire of Dandaragan	0	2348
Shire of Dardanup	0	9815
Shire of Derby-West Kimberley	0	3308
Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup	0	4339
Shire of Dowerin	0	472
Shire of Dundas	0	334
Shire of Exmouth	0	1573
Shire of Gingin	0	3581
Shire of Gnowangerup	0	740
Shire of Goomalling	0	663
City of Gosnells	0	73121
City of Greater Geraldton	0	26666
Shire of Halls Creek	0	1461
Shire of Harvey	0	18897
Shire of Irwin	0	2653
Shire of Jerramungup	0	758
City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder	0	16682
Shire of Katanning	0	2416
Shire of Kellerberrin	0	805
Shire of Kent	0	330
Shire of Kojonup	0	1269

Shire of Kondinin	0	533
Shire of Koorda	0	258
City of Kwinana	0	25889
Shire of Lake Grace	0	893
Shire of Laverton	0	238
Shire of Leonora	0	413
Shire of Meekatharra	0	324
Shire of Merredin	0	2118
Shire of Moora	0	1643
Shire of Morawa	0	393
Shire of Mount Magnet	0	211
Shire of Mount Marshall	0	325
Shire of Mukinbudin	0	369
Shire of Murchison	0	70
Shire of Murray	0	12641
Shire of Narambeen	0	519
Shire of Narrogin	0	3193
Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku	0	680
Shire of Nungarin	0	155
Shire of Peppermint Grove	0	1135
Shire of Perenjori	0	291
City of Perth	0	12504
Shire of Pingelly	0	776
Shire of Plantagenet	0	3596
Town of Port Hedland	0	8271
Shire of Quairading	0	729
Shire of Ravensthorpe	0	1072
Shire of Sandstone	0	57
Shire of Tammin	0	236
Shire of Three Springs	0	316
Shire of Toodyay	0	3325
Shire of Trayning	0	235
Shire of Upper Gascoyne	0	108
Shire of Wagin	0	1288
Shire of Wandering	0	321
Shire of Waroona	0	2964
Shire of West Arthur	0	580
Shire of Westonia	0	186
Shire of Wickepin	0	496
Shire of Williams	0	662
Shire of Wiluna	0	168
Shire of Wongan-Ballidu	0	930
Shire of Woodanilling	0	294
Shire of Wyalkatchem	0	340
Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley	0	3223
Shire of Yalgoo	0	106
Shire of Yilgarn	0	654
Shire of York	0	2690

Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes	2	3438
Shire of Broome	2	7553
Town of Cambridge	2	19505
Shire of Esperance	2	9146
Shire of Menzies	2	193
Shire of Mingenew	2	291
Town of Mosman Park	2	6100
Shire of Northampton	2	2172
Shire of Shark Bay	2	504
Town of Victoria Park	2	22512
City of Vincent	2	24350
City of Belmont	3	25163
Town of Claremont	3	7396
City of Cockburn	3	74749
Shire of Denmark	3	4537
City of Karratha	3	11583
Shire of Nannup	3	1020
City of Rockingham	3	84744
Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale	3	19257
City of Wanneroo	3	127120
City of Bayswater	4	46289
Shire of Carnarvon	4	3156
Town of Cottesloe	4	5997
Shire of Dumbleyung	4	457
Town of East Fremantle	4	5657
City of Kalamunda	4	40597
Shire of Kulin	4	548
City of Mandurah	4	62177
Shire of Mundaring	4	27316
City of Nedlands	4	15291
Shire of Northam	4	7351
City of South Perth	4	29283
City of Subiaco	4	11670
Shire of Victoria Plains	4	547
Shire of Boyup Brook	5	1200
City of Canning	5	54090
City of Albany	6	27016
Shire of East Pilbara	6	2973
City of Fremantle	6	22978
City of Joondalup	6	112543
Shire of Manjimup	6	6374
City of Melville	6	70919
City of Swan	6	93658
City of Armadale	7	55639
Shire of Ashburton	8	2949
City of Stirling	8	147623

Breakdown of Western Australian LGOs – per ward structure

0 Wards	91
2 Wards	11
3 Wards	9
4 Wards	14
5 Wards	2
6 Wards	7
7 Wards	1
8 Wards	2
Total LGOs	137

Graph indicating breakdown of Western Australian LGOs – per ward structure



Spreadsheet of advantages/disadvantages of particular ward structures

Advantages of a 'no ward' structure	Disadvantages of a 'no ward' structure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elected Members are elected by the whole of the electorate, not just a section of it. Elected Members, in accordance with the Act are required to represent the views of all electors of the Shire, and make decisions in the best interest of the municipality as a whole. • Knowledge and interest in all areas of the Shire’s affairs would result in broadening the views beyond the immediate concerns of those within a ward. • Members of the community who want 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electors may feel that they are not adequately represented if they do not have an affinity with any of the Elected Members. Elected Members living in a certain area may have a greater affinity and understanding of the issues specific to that area. • Elected Members may feel overwhelmed by having to represent all electors, and may not have time or opportunity to understand and represent all the issues. • It may be more difficult and costly for candidates to be elected if they need

<p>to approach an Elected Member could speak to any Elected Member, rather than only an Elected Member who (seemingly only) represents a particular ward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elected Members could use their speciality skills and knowledge for the benefit of the whole local government. • There could be more balanced representation with each Elected Member representing an equal number of Electors regardless of changes to numbers of Electors or population distribution. • The election process is much simpler for the community and for the Shire to administer. 	<p>to canvass the entire number of Electors.</p>
<p>Advantages of retaining current structure</p>	<p>Disadvantages of retaining current structure</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retains the current ward structure which is known to the community and Electors. • Removes the need to (re)define internal ward boundaries. • Election process is maintained. • May be easier and less expensive for candidates to focus electioneering to ward only. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May lead to Councillors being less accessible to residents. • May be seen as under-representing Electors. • Elected Members could become too focused on their own wards, and less focused on the affairs of other wards and the whole local government. • Competition for resources could develop where electors in each ward come to expect the services and facilities provided in other wards, whether they are appropriate or not. • The community and Elected Members could regard the local government in terms of wards rather than as a whole community. • Ward boundaries may appear to be placed arbitrarily and may not reflect the social interaction and communities of interest of the community.

Conclusion / Recommendation:

In conclusion, the Officer feels that the recommendation provided in item 8.3.1 from 21 July 2020 is appropriate as it supports the majority of the ‘clear and concise’ submissions received from the Community.

However it is acknowledged that the data provided indicates 90 Councils from a total of 137 in Western Australia, favour a ‘no ward’ structure.