



Review of Wards and Representation

2014



Submissions can be made by ~~5pm on 09 January 2015~~ – The deadline for submissions has been extended by the City and now closes on Tuesday 27 January 2015 at 4.00pm. A public information session is also scheduled for 21 January 2015 – refer to back page for venue details.

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Background

The City of Wanneroo is undertaking a review of its ward system and representation.

Under the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act), local governments with wards must carry out reviews of the ward boundaries and the number of Councillors for each ward at least once every eight years.

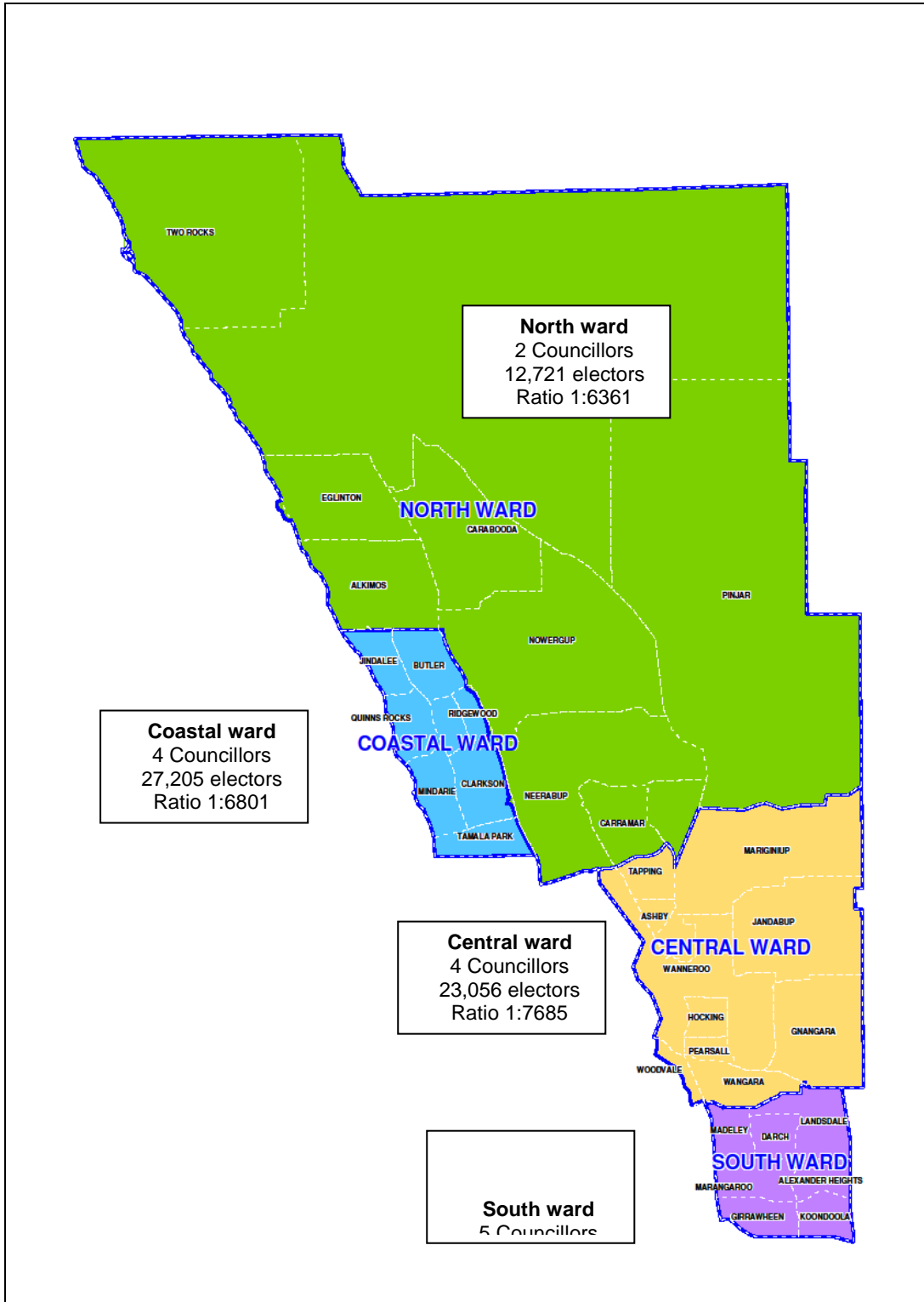
The last review by the City was undertaken in 2006.



Current situation

The Council of the City is presently made up of 15 members, being 14 Councillors elected for 4 year terms, from 4 wards and a Mayor elected at large.

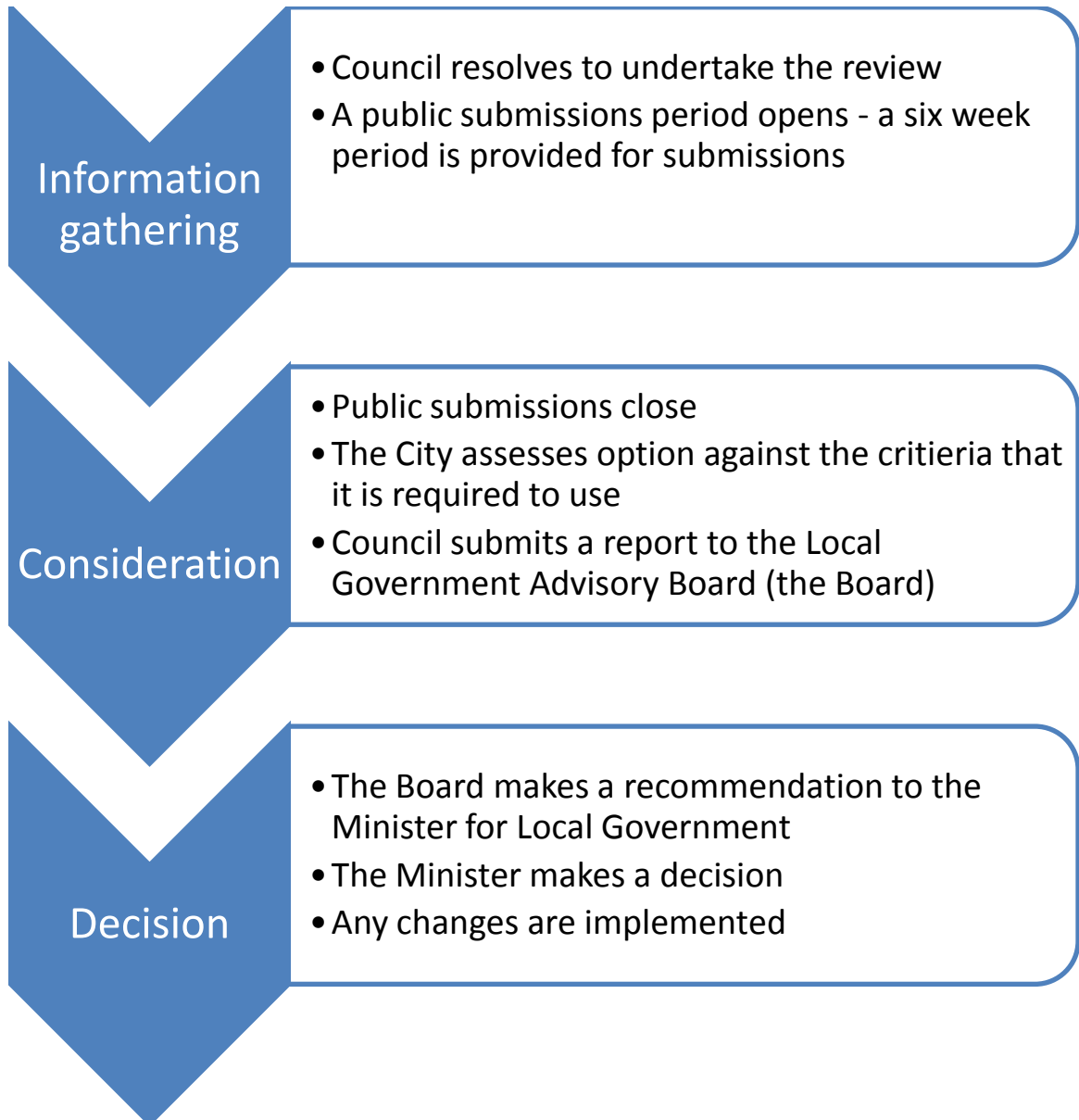
The present wards and their boundaries are:



Review process

The review process must be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1995,

It involves a number of steps:



Council elections are scheduled to be held in October 2015. In order to ensure any required changes are made, the City will need to make a submission to the Board by 31 March 2015.

Factors to be considered

The purpose of the review is to assess the arrangements in place for the ward boundaries and representation that is most appropriate and best suits the characteristics of the City of Wanneroo and its residents.

As a result of the Review, the City may propose any of the following:

- Creating new wards;
- Changing ward boundaries;
- Abolishing any or all wards;
- Changing the name of a district or a ward;
- Changing the number of Councillors; and/or
- Specifying or changing the number of offices of Councillor for a ward.
- Section 2.17 of the Local Government Act 1995 provides that where its Mayor is elected at large, a local government must have a minimum of six and no more than 15 (including the Mayor and up to 14 Councillors) elected members.

The City currently has 14 Councillors and a Mayor elected at large, the allowable maximum number of elected members.

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

- Community of interest;
- Physical and topographic features;
- Demographic trends;
- Economic factors; and
- Ratio of Councillors to electors in the various wards.

What do these factors mean?

The Local Government Advisory Board (LGAB) interprets these factors as:

Community of interest	Physical and topographic features	Demographic trends	Economic factors	Ratio of Councillors to electors
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	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	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	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	The Board considers that the ratio of Councillors to electors is particularly significant - it is expected that each local government will have similar ratios of electors to Councillors across its wards. The Board will not support deviations of more than plus or minus 10% of

Community of interest	Physical and topographic features	Demographic trends	Economic factors	Ratio of Councillors to electors
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.	railway lines and freeways.	be relevant as well as similarities and differences between areas within the local government.	and infrastructure such as road networks.	the average ratio of electors to Councillors between wards.

What does this mean for the City of Wanneroo?

Community of interest	Physical and topographic features	Demographic trends	Economic factors	Ratio of Councillors to electors
<p>Most of the City's population lives in its southern half.</p> <p>It also includes the communities of Yanchep and Two Rocks, and the 'old' townsites of Wanneroo and Quinns Rocks which are now effectively part of the greater suburban area of Perth but were distinct and separate town sites for many years.</p> <p>The City has rural areas in its northern and central areas such as Nowergup, Mariginiup, and Carabooda.</p> <p>Lifestyle semi-rural communities are notable in the areas east of Wanneroo, and include a focus on</p>	<p>Natural features include coastal zones, lakes and their surrounding catchments such as Gnangara, Jandabup, Mariginiup, Neerabup, Nowergup and Pinjar, with Lakes Joondalup and Goollelal forming part of the boundary with the City of Joondalup).</p> <p>Other features include the Gnangara Pine Plantation, the Yanchep National Park, and the Neerabup National Park.</p> <p>Manmade features include the northern passenger rail line and Mitchell Freeway (both built and reserved areas).</p>	<p>The population of the City is forecast to grow significantly in the future.</p> <p>Urban development along the coastal areas, particularly in a northerly direction is expected to have a significant impact.</p> <p>In addition, increased urban densities in established suburbs such as Girrawheen and Koondoola in the south of the City will also affect population.</p>	<p>The southern areas of the City are predominantly residential.</p> <p>Light industrial areas are located in the Landsdale, Wangara, Neerabup, and Yanchep areas.</p> <p>Regional shopping centres include Kingsway, Wanneroo, and Clarkson. The Mindarie Marina is also an area of economic activity.</p> <p>Road networks tend to run north/south or east/west and include Wanneroo Rd, Marmion Avenue, Hepburn Ave, Ocean Reef Rd, and others.</p>	<p>The ratio of Councillors to electors for the October 2013 council elections was above the 10% ratio for the North Ward (this means that electors in that area were over represented) and under for Central ward (which means that elector were under represented).</p> <p>Given the weight placed on this factor by the Board, this issue, past and possible future effects if the City were to leave Wards 'as is' are detailed below.</p>

Community of interest	Physical and topographic features	Demographic trends	Economic factors	Ratio of Councillors to electors
equine activities as well as market gardens.				

More detail about the Local Government Advisory Board, its roles and processes is available at <http://www.dlg.wa.gov.au/Content/LG/AdvisoryBoard/Default.aspx>.

Ratio of Councillors to electors – now and projected

The LGAB considered that the overriding factor when establishing wards and levels of representation is the ratio of elector per Councillor. This ratio should be as even as possible across wards so that electors have equal representation.

Some variation is inevitable, but a rule of thumb applied by the LGAB is that the ratio should deviate from the district wide average by more or less than 10%.

(Figures are shown in red where an option shown in this paper results in a % deviation of more than 10%)

The ratios of electors per Councillor as at the October 2011 and 2013 City of Wanneroo elections were:

October 2011 Council elections				
Ward	Councillors	Electors	Ratio of electors per Councillor	% ratio Deviation
South	5	30223	6045	-0.92%
Central	3	20634	6878	-14.84%
Coastal	4	23685	5921	1.14%
North	2	9310	4655	22.28%
Totals/ average	14	83852	5989	

October 2013 Council elections				
Ward	Councillors	Electors	Ratio of electors per Councillor	% ratio Deviation
South	5	32457	6491	3.22%
Central	3	22654	7551	-12.58%
Coastal	4	26639	6660	0.71%
North	2	12156	6078	9.39%
Totals/ Average	14	93906	6708	

In March 2014, the ratio was:

March 2014				
Ward	Councillors	Electors	Ratio of electors per Councillor	% ratio Deviation
South	5	32993	6599	3.75%
Central	3	23056	7685	-12.11%
Coastal	4	27205	6801	0.79%
North	2	12721	6361	7.22%
Totals/ Average	14	95975	6855	

What is notable from the above is that over the past 3 years population growth has reduced the deviation from the average number of electors per Councillor by ward.

However, in considering the next 8 years and the current representation levels, it is wise to consider future possible changes in population (and hence electors) over that time period. During this period there are council elections scheduled for 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2021. The City is projected to grow along the coast and northern areas (see http://www.wanneroo.wa.gov.au/Planning/Population_Forecast_Community_Profiles for more information).

Assuming that:

- The City's population grows as projected;
- The present Ward structure continues;
- Present Councillor numbers are maintained; and
- The percentage of the City's population in each Ward who enroll as electors remains similar;

Then future electors and resultant Councillor/elector ratios will be:

		2015			2017		
Ward	Councillors	Estimated electors	Ratio of electors per Councillor	% ratio Deviation	Estimated electors	Ratio of electors per Councillor	% ratio Deviation
North	2	14511	7255	-3.00%	17972	8986	-18.00%
Coastal	4	27519	6880	2.33%	29396	7349	3.50%
Central	3	23298	7766	-10.25%	24456	8152	-7.04%
South	5	33287	6657	5.49%	34793	6959	8.63%
Totals/ average	14	98615	7044		106617	7615	
		2019			2021		
Ward	Councillors	Estimated electors	Ratio of electors per Councillor	% ratio Deviation	Estimated electors	Ratio of electors per Councillor	% ratio Deviation
North	2	21716	10858	-32.72%	25511	12755	-45.51%
Coastal	4	31030	7758	5.18%	32737	8184	6.64%
Central	3	25624	8541	-4.40%	26853	8951	-2.11%
South	5	36166	7233	11.59%	37624	7525	14.16%
Totals/ average	14	114536	8181		122725	8766	

From the above it appears that if no changes are made that electors in the North Ward will be significantly underrepresented by 2017, and by 2021 the South Ward overrepresented.

Options to consider

There are a wide number of options that could be considered. Changes could include:

- Creating new wards;
- Combining wards;
- Changing the boundaries of a ward;
- Having no wards;
- Changing the name of a district or a ward;
- Changing the number of Councillors; and/or
- Specifying or changing the number of Councillors for a ward.

The City does not have an established position on this topic, and the following points are provided to aid discussion only.

The options for change fall into three broad categories:-

1. Stay with four wards and 14 Councillors, but vary ward boundaries to achieve a more even ratio of electors per Councillor;
2. Change the number of wards and/or Councillors to simplify representation and also achieve a more even ratio of electors per Councillor;
3. Dispense with wards altogether.

The following options illustrate the possible effects of the broad categories of options identified above and have been compared to the factors required to be considered when establishing or changing wards.

When comparing or devising options, note that:

1. The period under consideration is to 2021;
2. There are council elections scheduled for 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2021;
3. The expected population of the various localities of the district takes into account as many known variables as possible, including any rezonings;
4. When considering potential boundaries, locality (ie suburb) boundaries are used;
5. Each option seeks to get as close as possible to the required tolerance of plus or minus 10% of the average number of electors per Councillor by 2021 within the option parameters; and
6. The proportion of the population who are electors (that is, over 18 and enrolled to vote) has been estimated using percentages by the current ward where the locality is located.

Option 1 – Keep current wards and boundaries, adjust Councillors between wards

This option maintains the existing wards and their present boundaries, but adjusts the number of Councillors per ward – in North ward increased from 2 to 3; and South ward reduced from 5 to 4. Coastal and Central wards remain with 4 and 3 Councillors respectively.

14 Councillors, 4 wards
 Ratios are well outside allowable range in 2015 but fall within the required tolerances by 2021

In essence, this option provides for expected growth in the City's population to correct imbalances in representation by 2021.

This option results in the following ratios of Councillors to electors for the period 2015 to 2021 as follows:

Ward	2015				2017			
	Councillors	Estimated electors	Electors per Councillor	% ratio Deviation	Councillors	Estimated electors	Electors per Councillor	% ratio Deviation
North	3	14511	4837	31.33%	3	17972	5991	21.33%
Coastal	4	27519	6880	2.33%	4	29396	7349	3.50%
Central	3	23298	7766	-10.25%	3	24456	8152	-7.04%
South	4	33287	8322	-18.14%	4	34793	8698	-14.22%
Totals/average	14	98615	7044		14	106617	7615	

Ward	2019				2021			
	Councillors	Estimated electors	Electors per Councillor	% ratio Deviation	Councillors	Estimated electors	Electors per Councillor	% ratio Deviation
North	3	21716	7239	11.52%	3	25511	8504	2.99%
Coastal	4	31030	7758	5.18%	4	32737	8184	6.64%
Central	3	25624	8541	-4.40%	3	26853	8951	-2.11%
South	4	36166	9041	-10.52%	4	37624	9406	-7.30%
Totals/average	14	114536	8181		14	122725	8766	

Assessment of Option 1 against criteria in Act

Factor	Strengths	Weaknesses
Community of interest	This option maintains current communities of interest as they exist within the present wards of the City.	Do current ward boundaries accurately reflect communities of interest for the period to 2021?
Physical and topographical features	The ward boundaries follow locality boundaries. In most cases these also follow major roads.	Not all locality boundaries follow major roads.
Demographic trends	This option deals with expected growth by 2021. Wards where growth is expected are maintained.	Over the period in question urban growth moves from the coastal ward and into the north ward.
Economic factors	The pattern of growth of the City over the period in question is	Nil.

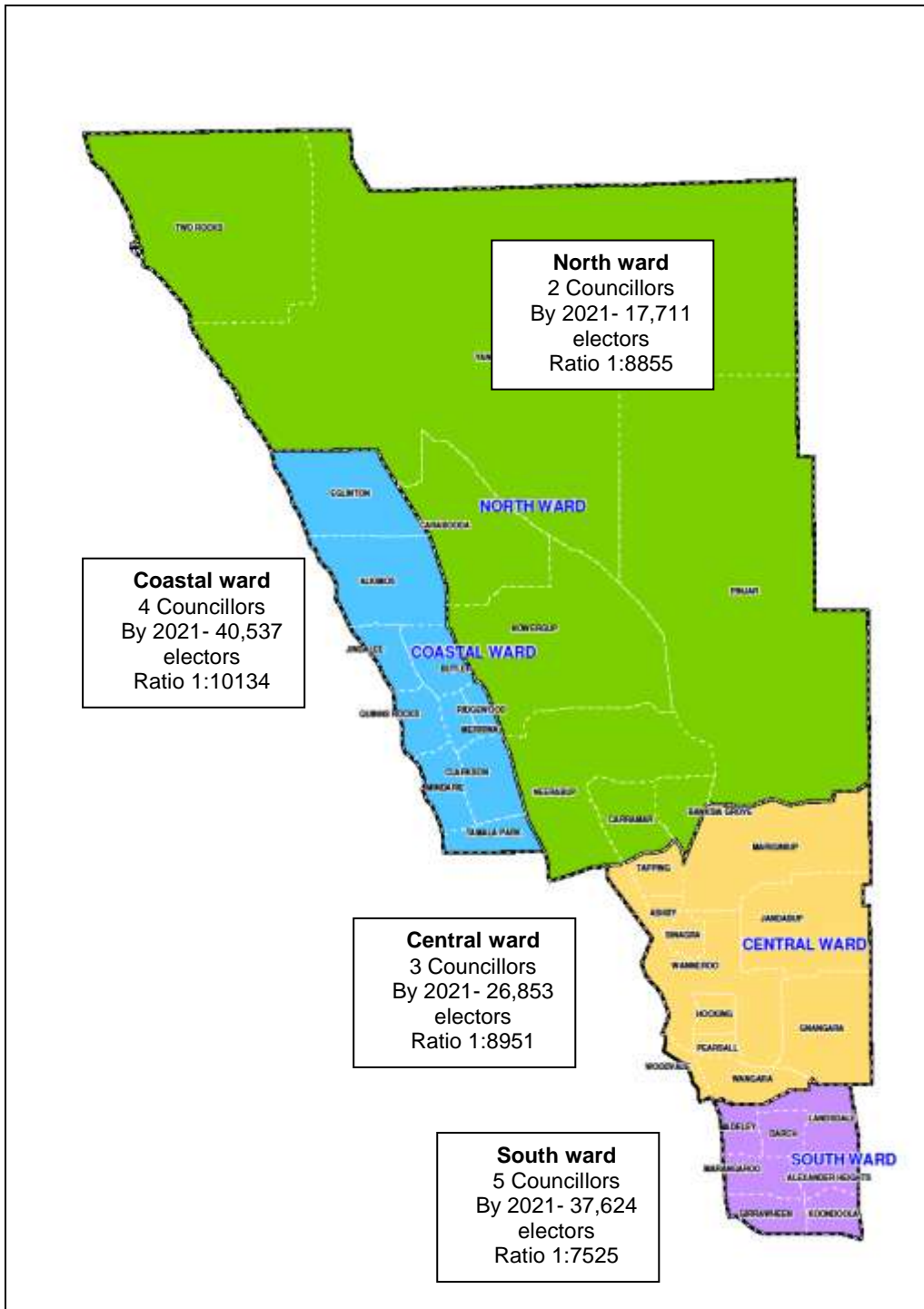
	essentially residential. This option sees those areas of industrial and light industrial activity maintained within present wards.	
Ratio of councillors to electors	Ratios are within acceptable limits by 2021.	This option presents significant deviations from an allowable variation of plus or minus 10% in 2015 and 2017

Option 2 – Keep current wards and number of Councillors, adjust ward boundaries

This option maintains the existing wards and the number of Councillors per ward, but adjusts the ward boundaries even out any issues with equal representation.

In summary, the localities of Eglinton and Alkimos are moved from the North ward to the Coastal ward.

14 Councillors, 4 wards
Ratios vary from -14% to +10% for North and Central wards in 2015 but by 2021 ratios for Coastal and South wards are -16% and +14%



This results in the following ratios of Councillors to electors for the period 2015 to 2021 as follows:

Ward	2015				2017			
	Councillors	Estimated electors	Electors per Councillor	% ratio Deviation	Councillors	Estimated electors	Electors per Councillor	% ratio Deviation
North	2	12117	6058	13.99%	2	13894	6947	8.78%
Coastal	4	29913	7478	-6.17%	4	33475	8369	-9.89%
Central	3	23298	7766	-10.25%	3	24456	8152	-7.04%
South	5	33287	6657	5.49%	5	34793	6959	8.63%
Totals/ average	14	98615	7044		14	106617	7615	

Ward	2019				2021			
	Councillors	Estimated electors	Electors per Councillor	% ratio Deviation	Councillors	Estimated electors	Electors per Councillor	% ratio Deviation
North	2	15784	7892	3.54%	2	17711	8855	-1.02%
Coastal	4	36962	9241	-12.95%	4	40537	10134	-15.61%
Central	3	25624	8541	-4.40%	3	26853	8951	-2.11%
South	5	36166	7233	11.59%	5	37624	7525	14.16%
Totals/ average	14	114536	8181		14	122725	8766	

Assessment of Option 2 against criteria in Act

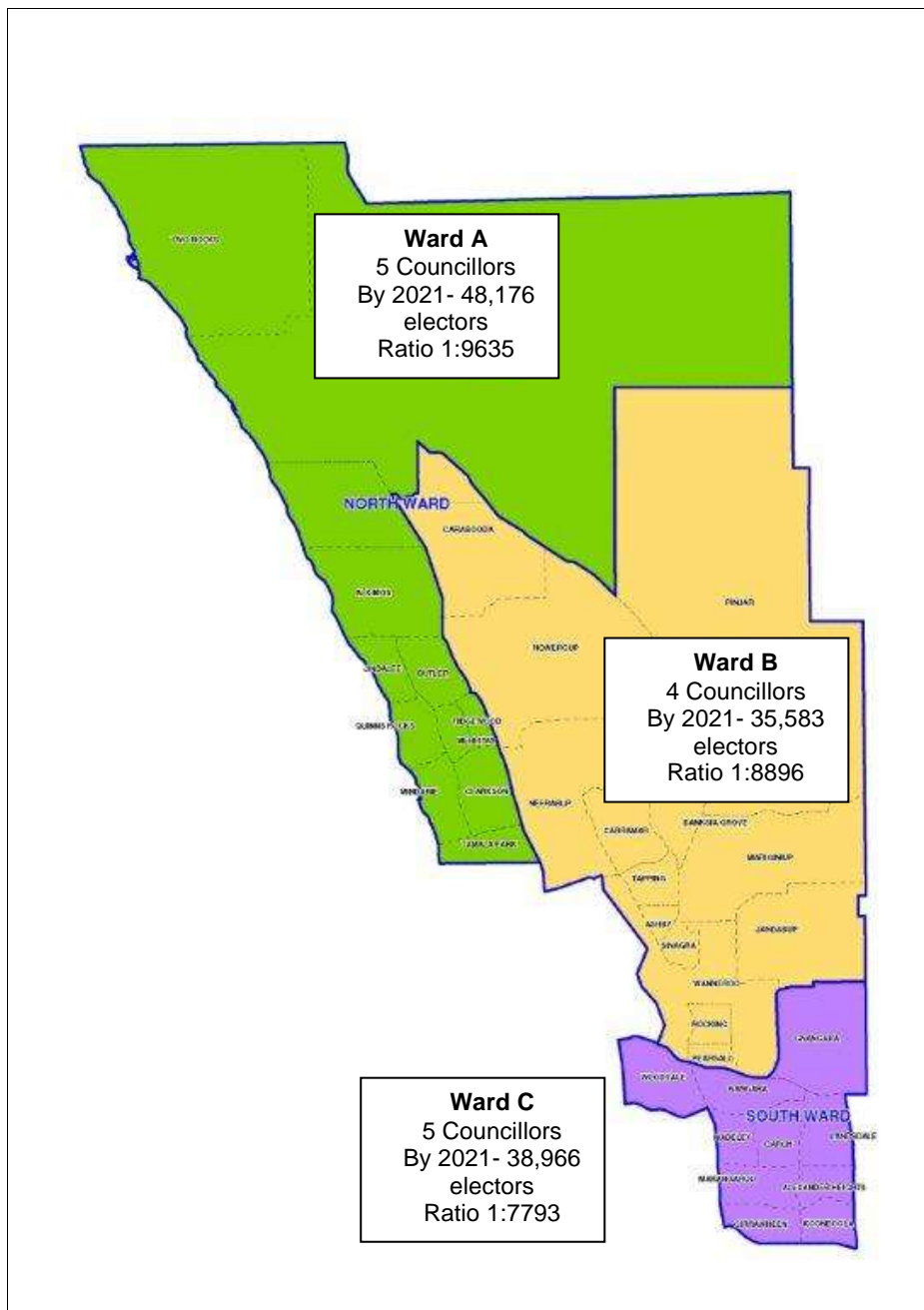
Factor	Strengths	Weaknesses
Community of interest	This option maintains most current communities of interest as they exist within the present wards of the City.	Nil.
Physical and topographical features	The ward boundaries follow locality boundaries. In most cases these also follow major roads.	Not all locality boundaries follow major roads.
Demographic trends	This option deals with expected growth by 2021. Wards where growth is expected are grouped together.	Nil.
Economic factors	The pattern of growth of the City over the period in question is essentially residential. This option sees those areas of industrial and light industrial activity maintained within present wards.	Nil.
Ratio of councilors to electors	Ratios are within acceptable limits for all wards in 2017 only.	This option presents significant deviations from an allowable variation of plus or minus 10% in 2015, 2019 and 2021

Option 3 – Adjust Councillors, wards and ward boundaries

This option sees a reduction in the number of wards from four to three, maintains the existing number of Councillors across the City at 14, and adjusts ward boundaries to even out representation.

14 Councillors, 3 wards
Adjust Councillors per ward to be as even as possible; ward boundaries to achieve even representation

The number of councillors per ward is made as even as possible, with five in the proposed Ward A (the former Coastal and the northern half of the former North ward), four in Ward B (most of the former Central ward and the southern part of the former North ward) and five in Ward C (most of the former South ward, with the localities of Wangara and Gngangara transferred to it).



This results in the following ratios of Councillors to electors for the period 2015 to 2021 as follows:

Ward	2015				2017			
	Councillors	Estimated electors	Electors per Councillor	% ratio Deviation	Councillors	Estimated electors	Electors per Councillor	% ratio Deviation
A	5	34405	6881	2.31%	5	38816	7763	-1.94%
B	4	29914	7478	-6.17%	4	31850	7962	-4.56%
C	5	34296	6859	2.62%	5	35951	7190	5.58%
Totals/average	14	98615	7044		14	106617	7615	

Ward	2019				2021			
	Councillors	Estimated electors	Electors per Councillor	% ratio Deviation	Councillors	Estimated electors	Electors per Councillor	% ratio Deviation
A	5	43445	8689	-6.21%	5	48176	9635	-9.91%
B	4	33676	8419	-2.91%	4	35583	8896	-1.48%
C	5	37415	7483	8.53%	5	38966	7793	11.10%
Totals/average	14	114536	8181		14	122725	8766	

Assessment of Option 3 against criteria in Act

Factor	Strengths	Weaknesses
Community of interest	Coastal communities are within the same ward Rural areas are almost all in one ward area	The parts of the City that are rural in nature are split over two wards although only Gnangara is affected
Physical and topographical features	Locality boundaries are used and mostly follow major roads	The boundary between the locality of Gnangara (proposed to be in the southern ward) and Wanneroo/Jandabup is not well defined
Demographic trends	The proposed structure provides a robust system of representation for an extended period of forecast growth across the City	Nil
Economic factors	Areas of commercial activity such as Wangara and Landsdale are in one ward	Nil
Ratio of councilors to electors	The proposed structure and numbers of Councillors per ward provide for ratios within tolerances across the entire period to 2021	The ratio for one ward is slightly above tolerance by 2021.

Option 4 – No wards, current number of Councillors maintained

This option dispenses with wards altogether. Given the size and expected growth of the City, the number of Councillors is maintained at the present (and maximum allowable) level of 14.

14 Councillors, no wards The ratio of Councillors to electors is the same across the City.

As there are no wards under this option, the ability to provide some measure of differentiation to deal with different characteristics is lost.

Some advantages and disadvantages of dispensing with wards altogether are:

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elected members are elected by the whole community not just a section of it. Knowledge and interest in all areas of the Council’s affairs would result broadening the views beyond the immediate concerns of those in a ward.• The smaller town sites and rural areas have the whole Council working for them.• Members of the community who want to approach an elected member can speak to any elected member.• Social networks and communities of interest are often spread across a local government and elected members can have an overview of these.• Elected members can use their specialty skills and knowledge for the benefit of the whole local government.• There is balanced representation with each elected member representing the whole community.• The election process is much simpler for the community to understand and for the Council to administer.	<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.•• It may be more difficult and costly for candidates to be elected if they need to canvass the whole local government area.

Other Options

The list above is meant simply to assist with community input and discussion – it is not meant to be exhaustive and other options are welcome.

Transitional arrangements

Note that if ward boundaries change (or if the City opts for a ‘no wards’ outcome) it is possible that existing Councillors whose terms of office go beyond October 2015 may also be moved to represent those new wards or adjusted boundaries. This does depend on how any proposed new arrangement fits the requirements of the Act in terms of its overall requirements, such as requiring half of the number of councillors retiring at each election, and half from each ward. Councillors also have a choice as to whether to represent any ‘new’ ward and similarly, if the total number of councillors changes it may be necessary to adjust transitional arrangements, but it is important to note that a change to ward boundaries does not necessarily mean a change in representation.

How to make a Submission

**Submissions must be received by:
5pm ~~09 January 2015~~**

**The deadline for submissions has been extended by the City
and now closes on Tuesday 27 January 2015 at 4.00pm.**

City of Wanneroo
Locked Bag 1
Wanneroo WA 6946
Attention: Coordinator Governance

Or

23 Dundebur Road
Wanneroo WA 6065
Email: enquiries@wanneroo.wa.gov.au (Attention Coordinator Governance)
Fax: (08 9405 5097)

For further information (and a copy of the discussion paper) please contact the Coordinator Governance on 9405 5018 or alternatively refer to the "Your Say" Section of the City's Website: www.wanneroo.wa.gov.au/yourcouncil/yoursay.

**A public information session is also scheduled for 21 January
2015 at the Council Chambers, Civic Centre, 23 Dundebur
Road, Wanneroo commencing at 6.00pm.**

Please feel free to use the feedback form attached
or simply send us your comments



REVIEW OF WARDS AND REPRESENTATION
Feedback form

Option 1 – Keep current wards (4) and boundaries, adjust Councillors per ward

How would you rate this option on a scale of 1 (very poor) to 5 (very good)?

<i>Please tick the box that most closely corresponds to your opinion</i>	1	2	3	4	5
	<i>Very poor</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Very good</i>
What changes would you make to Option 1?					

Option 2 – Keep current wards and number of Councillors per ward, adjust ward boundaries

How would you rate this option on a scale of 1 (very poor) to 5 (very good)?

<i>Please tick the box that most closely corresponds to your opinion</i>	1	2	3	4	5
	<i>Very poor</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Very good</i>
What changes would you make to Option 2?					

Option 3 – Change to 3 wards, adjust ward boundaries

How would you rate this option on a scale of 1 (very poor) to 5 (very good)?

<i>Please tick the box that most closely corresponds to your opinion</i>	1	2	3	4	5
	<i>Very poor</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Very good</i>
What changes would you make to Option 3?					

Option 4 – No wards

How would you rate this option on a scale of 1 (very poor) to 5 (very good)?

<i>Please tick the box that most closely corresponds to your opinion</i>	1	2	3	4	5
	<i>Very poor</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Very good</i>
What changes would you make to Option 4?					

Other comments
