

# Ward Boundary and Elected Member Representation Review 2022-2023

Report to Local Government Advisory Board

**February 2023**



## Contents

Acknowledgement of Country .....	3
Executive Summary .....	4
Report to the Local Government Advisory Board .....	9
Background .....	9
Details .....	9
Review Process.....	10
Proposal 1 - District Ward .....	11
Proposal 2 – Option 1 – 2 Wards with 4 Offices of Councillor in each.....	12
Proposal 2 – Option 2 – 2 Wards with 4 Offices of Councillor in each.....	13
Proposal 3 – Option 1 – Retain Existing Wards with 2 Offices of Councillor in each with no Boundary Amendments .....	14
Proposal 3 – Option 2 – Retain Existing Wards with two Offices of Councillor in each with a Minor Boundary Amendment between the North and Nort-West Wards.....	15
Implementation of Ward and Representation Outcome.....	16
Council Recommendation to Advisory Board .....	18
Attachments.....	19

### **Acknowledgement of Country**

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners, The Whadjuk Noongar People as the Custodians of this land. We also pay respect to all Aboriginal community Elders, past and present, who have resided in the area and have been an integral part of the history of this region.

## Executive Summary

**Local Government Name:**

City of Kalamunda

**Outcome of Council Deliberations:**

Special Council Meeting 7 February 2023.

*That Council:*

1. *NOTE the submissions received during the public submission period.*
2. *pursuant to clause 9 of Schedule 2.2 of the Local Government Act 1995, SUBMIT a report to the Local Government Advisory Board seeking the making of an order under sections 2.2 (1) (c) and 2.18 (3) (c) of the Local Government Act 1995 to:*
  - a) *amend ward boundaries as detailed in the Proposal 3 Option 2 of the City of Kalamunda Ward and Representation Discussion paper 2022/23 (Attachment 1) and the map at (Attachment 3).*
  - b) *declare that the number of offices of Councillor for the City of Kalamunda is reduced to eight with each ward to have two offices of Councillor.*

Note the significant deliberations outlined in the attached minutes of the Special Council Meeting from 7 February 2023 to arrive at this resolution.

These deliberations are also available for viewing on the City's YouTube channel at the following URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A62XPV04ZUk>

**Summary of Proposal to Board**

Ordinary Council Meeting 22 November 2022 council resolved to undertake a Ward and Representation Review.

*RESOLVED OCM 164/2022*

*That Council AGREE to issuing the City of Kalamunda Ward Review Discussion Paper 2022 shown as Attachment 1 for community consultation from 25 November 2022 until 20 January 2023, subject to the replacement of the Table on page 12 with the Table marked as Attachment 2.*



## City of Kalamunda - Ward Boundary and Elected Member Representation Review 2022-23

Special Council Meeting 7 February 2023.

*That Council:*

1. *NOTE the submissions received during the public submission period.*
2. *pursuant to clause 9 of Schedule 2.2 of the Local Government Act 1995, SUBMIT a report to the Local Government Advisory Board seeking the making of an order under sections 2.2 (1) (c) and 2.18 (3) (c) of the Local Government Act 1995 to:*
  - a) *amend ward boundaries as detailed in the Proposal 3 Option 2 of the City of Kalamunda Ward and Representation Discussion paper 2022/23 (Attachment 1) and the map at (Attachment 3).*
  - b) *declare that the number of offices of Councillor for the City of Kalamunda is reduced to eight with each ward to have two offices of Councillor.*

### Background

The City's previous review of Ward Boundaries and Elected Member Representation was in December 2016.

The Ward Boundaries Review and Elected Member Representation resulted in the following being recommended by the Council and accepted by the Local Government Advisory Board (LGAB).

Retain existing ward structure and amend boundaries to balance elector numbers.

### Elector Ratios

Current elector ratios as per following table:

12 Councillors equals 3473 electors/councillor

Ward	Number of Electors	Number of Councillors	Electors/Councillor	Deviation from Average (Ave)
North West	11,369	3	3,790	-9.13%
South West	10,473	3	3,491	-0.52%
North	9,797	3	3,266	+5.96%
South East	10,036	3	3,345	+3.68%
	<b>41,675</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3,473 (Ave)</b>	

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City of Kalamunda - Ward Boundary and Elected Member Representation Review 2022-23

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Proposed elector ratios as per following table:

**Four Wards - 8 Councillors equals 5209 electors/councillor**

Ward	Number of Electors	Number of Councillors	Electors/ councillor	Deviation from Average
North West	10,459	2	5,229	-0.76%
South West	10,473	2	5,236	-0.52%
North	10,707	2	5,353	-2.768%
South East	10,036	2	5,018	+3.67%
	<b>41,675</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5209 (Ave)</b>	

**Review Process**

The review process was initiated by Council at its meeting of 22 November 2022.

*RESOLVED OCM 164/2022*

*That Council AGREE to issuing the City of Kalamunda Ward Review Discussion Paper 2022 shown as Attachment 1 for community consultation from 25 November 2022 until 20 January 2023, subject to the replacement of the Table on page 12 with the Table marked as Attachment 2.*

The City of Kalamunda held a seven-week consultation period which commenced on 25 November 2022 and concluded on 20 January 2023.

A community engagement plan was prepared as part of the review process and included several key areas such as advertising, a community discussion paper, use of social media and a public submission process.

The following consultation and promotional activities were then undertaken in relation to this matter:

- Online survey and online submission form hosted on the City of Kalamunda's website
- Posting on the City of Kalamunda's Facebook social media account
- The provision of printed submission forms and discussion papers from council offices and the City's four public libraries.
- Notices and information pages were published in the local newspapers:
  - Echo Newspaper on 25 November 2022

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City of Kalamunda - Ward Boundary and Elected Member Representation Review 2022-23

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Council advises that a total of **44** public submissions were received in hardcopy and via an online survey in relation to the review.

#### Summary of public submissions

Proposal 1	Proposal 2 (Option 1)	Proposal 2 (Option 2)	Proposal 3 (Option 1)	Proposal 3 (Option 2)
34	2	2	0	5

\* One submission suggested splitting the City into 2 separate Local Government areas each with 2 wards – 8 councillors each

#### Conclusion

Based on the community feedback received, and following council discussions, it was determined that the City of Kalamunda propose the following outcome.

Maintains alignment to the principles established in the previous review particularly in retaining the integrity of the four (4) Ward system.

The minor boundary proposed in this option involves moving approximately 910 electors in Maida Vale from the North-West Ward to the North Ward thus placing the whole of Maida Vale in one ward and therefore a better community of interest for the Maida Vale residents.

The effect of this boundary change improves the elector; councillor ratio for both of these wards.

Accordingly, at the Special Council Meeting of 7 February 2023 it was resolved to submit a report to the LGAB, recommending.

#### *That Council:*

1. *NOTE the submissions received during the public submission period.*
2. *pursuant to clause 9 of Schedule 2.2 of the Local Government Act 1995, SUBMIT a report to the Local Government Advisory Board seeking the making of an order under sections 2.2 (1) (c) and 2.18 (3) (c) of the Local Government Act 1995 to:*
  - a) *amend ward boundaries as detailed in the Proposal 3 Option 2 of the City of Kalamunda Ward and Representation Discussion paper 2022/23 (Attachment 1) and the map at (Attachment 3).*
  - b) *declare that the number of offices of Councillor for the City of Kalamunda is reduced to eight with each ward to have two offices of Councillor.*

**Local government confirmation**

The City of Kalamunda confirms the resolution as stated above is consistent with the requirements of the local government electoral reforms.

Please tick which of the following apply to your individual local government, and as are required under the reforms:

- ☒ Change to directly elected Mayor or President
- ☒ Reduce council representation.
- ☐ Abolish all wards
- ☐ Other (please specify)

## Report to the Local Government Advisory Board

### Background

This review was initiated as a consequence of the State Government's July 2022 announcement of significant changes with respect to councillor numbers and the method of election of the Mayor/President for some local governments as part of a major review of the *Local Government Act 1995* (Act). As a result, the decision taken by Council was to proceed down the Voluntary Reform Pathway.

Under the proposed changes to the Act, the minimum/maximum number of councillors will now be determined by population and for local governments within the Band 1 or 2 classifications, the Mayor/President must be elected by the electors of the district.

Consequently, the City, which is classified as a band 2 local government and has a current population nearing 61,000, will need to move to an outcome of a minimum of 4 and maximum of 8 councillors plus a Mayor, elected by the electors.

In accordance with clause 6 of Schedule 2.2 of the Act the City has undertaken the review of its Ward Boundaries and Elected Member Representation to assess the appropriateness of:

- the current ward boundaries.
- the number of councillors representing each ward.

The previous review of Ward Boundaries and Elected Member Representation was completed in 2016.

### Details

At the Ordinary Council Meeting (OCM) of 25 October 2022, the Council resolved, pursuant to clause 6 (1) of Schedule 2.2 of the Act, to initiate a review of its Ward Boundaries and Elected Member Representation.

The Council's preference is to have the maximum number of offices of councillor permitted under the proposed changes to the Act. Consequently, the discussion paper required to undertake the ward boundary and representation review has been developed on the basis of eight offices of councillor plus a Mayor elected by the electors.

At the OCM of 22 November 2022 the Council endorsed a Public Discussion document (Attachment 1).

Public Notice of the review and inviting public submissions was published in The Echo Newspaper on 25 November 2022 (Attachment 2) with a closing date of 20 January 2023.

Public Notices were published on the City's website and also placed on the Public Notice Boards at the Administration Centre and the City's four (4) Libraries.

Public submissions were invited to be submitted:

- Via email,
- Postal mail, and
- Through an online form on the City's website.

## Review Process

The Council's preference for having the maximum number of offices of councillor, that will be permitted under the Act, and a directly elected Mayor guided the development of the Discussion Paper.

In developing the proposals, the Council did not support any reduction below the maximum number of elected representatives as it considered this number is appropriate and required to:

- facilitate achievement of its strategic objectives;
- provide proper open and accountable governance; and
- provide sufficient opportunities for any community member to represent their community as an elected member.

Additionally, over the next 4-5 years, the City will undergo an acceleration in development, particularly residential associated with a number of urban areas being planned for in accordance with State Government statutory and strategic land use planning frameworks.

Apart from the proposal for a District Ward, all other proposals were developed taking into account the following factors:

- Community of Interest;
- Physical and topographic features
- Demographic trends;
- Economic factors; and
- Ratio of elected members to electors across the district and in the various wards.

With respect to the key factor of the ratio of Elected Members: Electors across each of the proposed wards and the district incorporating as far as practicable the principle of 'one vote, one value', all of the proposals are within the accepted tolerance of plus or minus 10% of the average ratio for the City.

At the conclusion of the public submission period, 44 submissions were received. Details of these submissions are provided in Attachment 5.

Full details of all submissions were provided to all councillors and considered at the Special Council Meeting on 7 February 2023.

A majority (34) of the submitters indicated a preference for Proposal 1 – No Wards. Of the remaining ten submissions, five supported the Council's preferred option.

Most submissions did not indicate any changes in the number of Councillors per ward from the City's preference for each option, however some indicated a preference for the minimum number of Councillors.

## Proposals Presented and Considered

The Discussion Paper contained the following three proposals, with a total of five (5) options:

### Proposal 1 – No wards (District Ward)

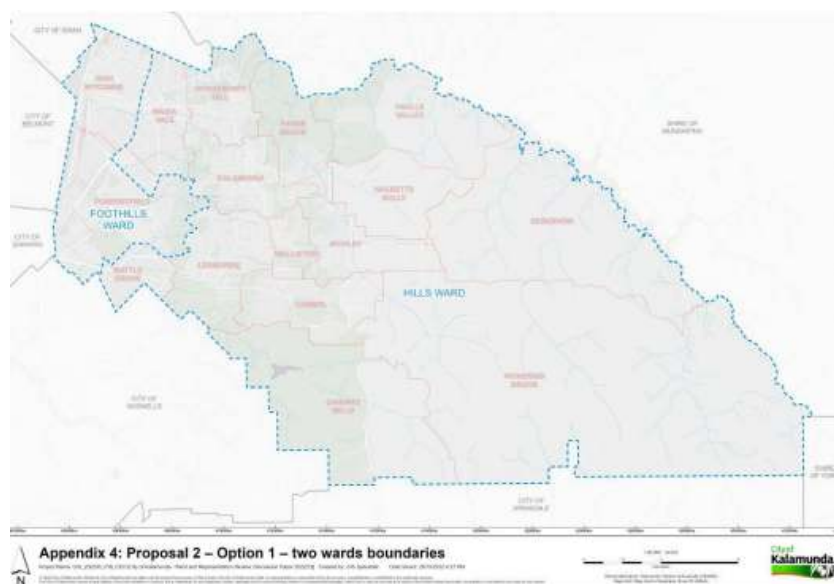
### Proposal 2 - Two Wards with two options for ward boundary alignment

### Proposal 3 – Four Wards with two options for ward boundary alignment

## Proposal 1 - District Ward

The Council does not favour this proposal as it diminishes the 'local' representation of elected members for the community. It is also considered that the physical size of the City is an issue for servicing the community effectively by the elected members.

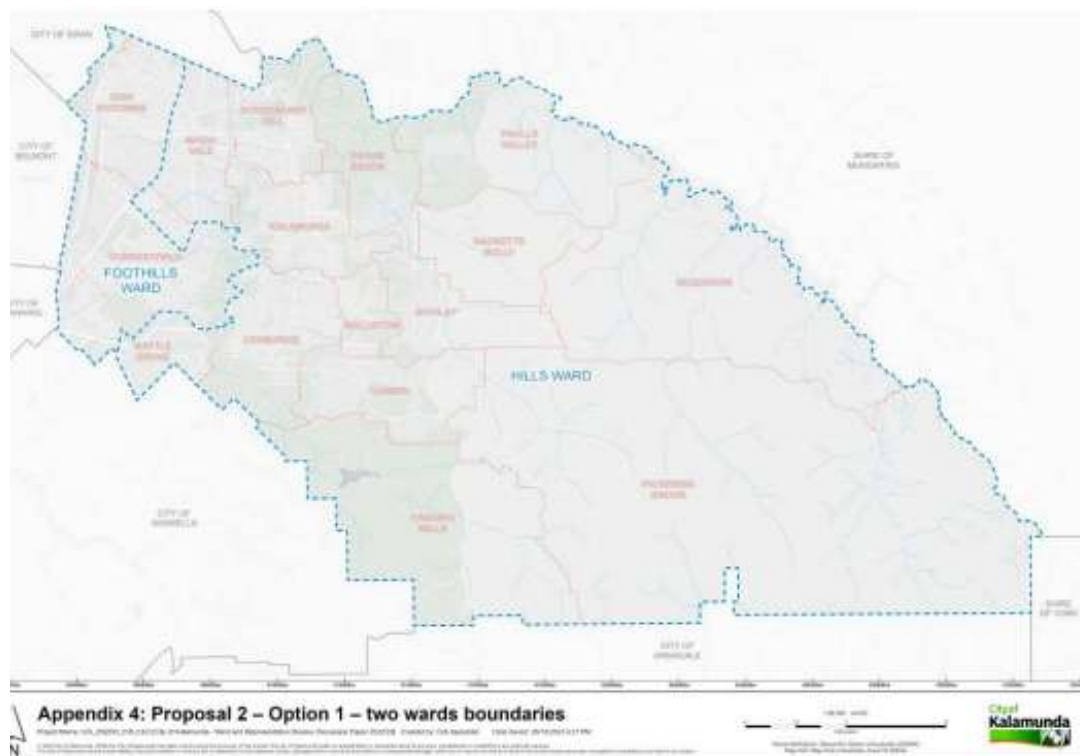
Additionally, there are concerns that the cost of standing for Council could be prohibitive to the average community member therefore impacting on the ability of them to exercise the opportunity to represent their community on Council.



### Proposal 2 – Option 1 – 2 Wards with 4 Offices of Councillor in each

This proposal is considered to meet all of the key factors for determining a ward structure and representation, particularly an easily identifiable and definable physical boundary in the scarp.

This proposal was not preferred by sufficient councillors to be considered further as it was deemed that some of the area included in the proposed East Ward did not reflect consistency in the Community of Interest factor.

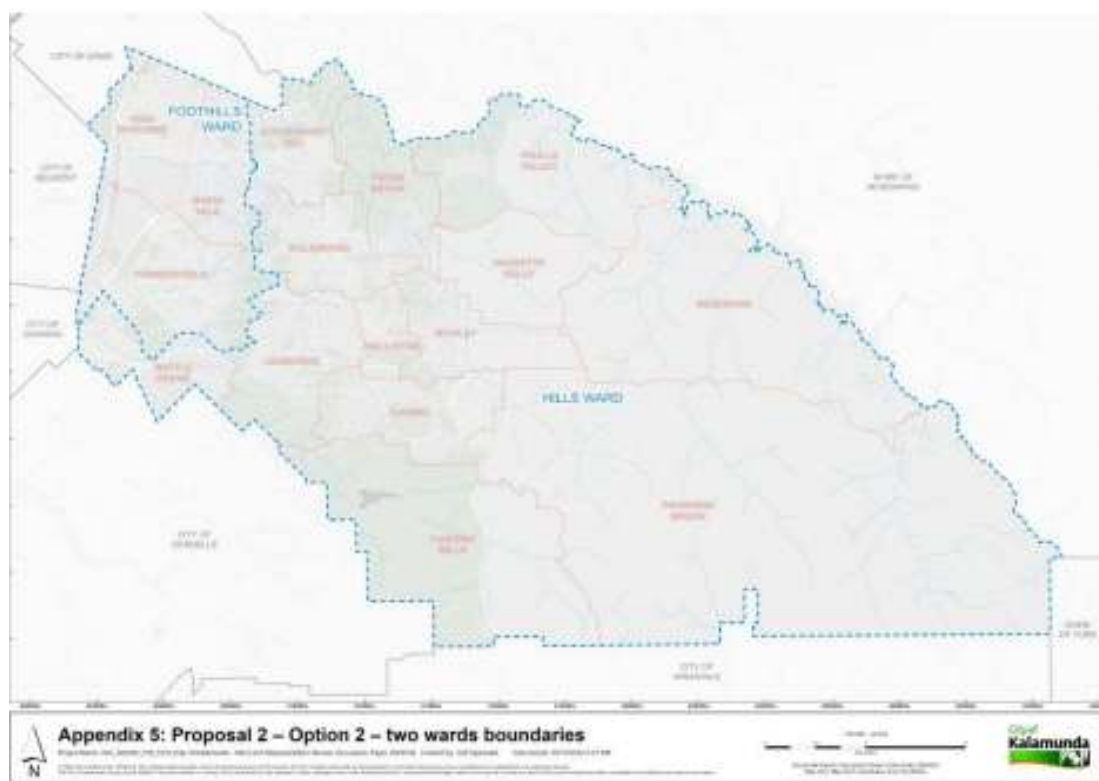




### Proposal 2 – Option 2 – 2 Wards with 4 Offices of Councillor in each

This proposal as configured is considered to meet all of the key factors for determining a ward structure and representation, particularly an easily identifiable and definable physical boundary in the scarp.

This proposal was supported by a sufficient number of councillors to be proposed for adoption. It did not receive final support as it was considered that it would enshrine an “Uphill/Downhill” differentiation which would not be in the longer-term benefit for a cohesive, strategically oriented Council and community.



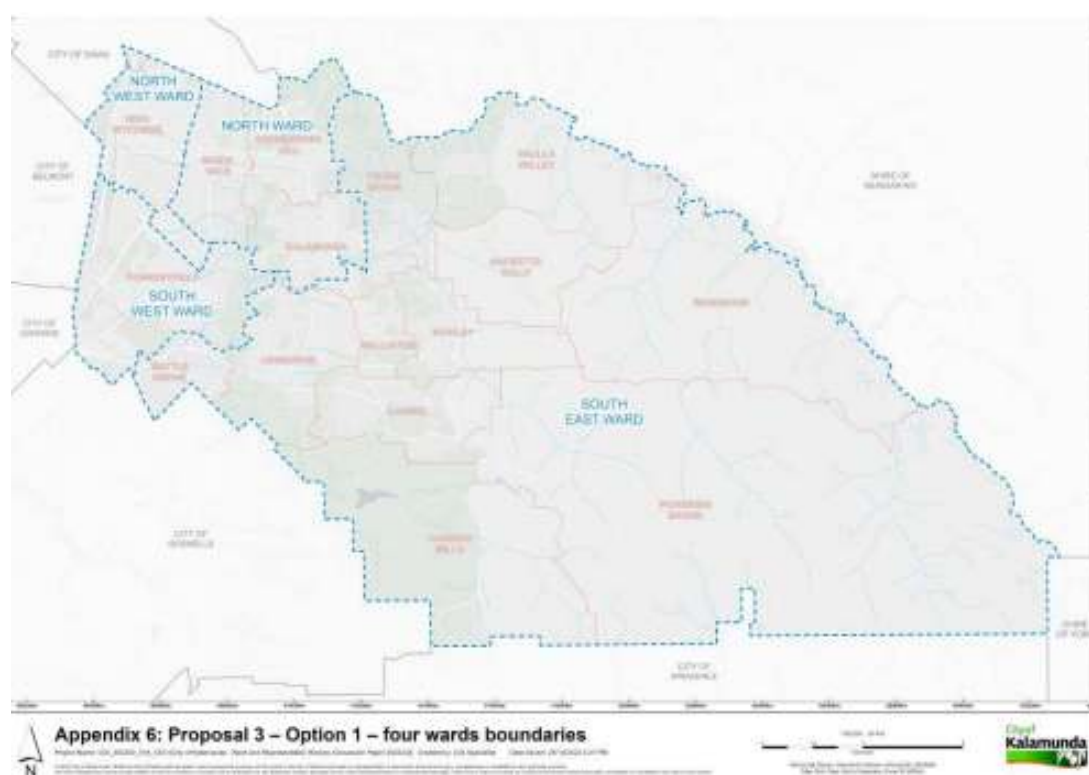
### Proposal 3 – Option 1 – Retain Existing Wards with 2 Offices of Councillor in each with no Boundary Amendments

This proposal as configured is considered to generally meet all of the key factors for determining a ward structure and representation.

This option has been operating since the last review in 2016, consolidating the communities of interest alignments established as a key factor in 2008. It will meet the requirements of the review factors and will have no impact upon the community other than a reduction in councillor numbers.

The current enrolment statistics shows the largest deviation of electors: councillors in North West ward and is likely to grow above 10% as increasing development occurs in this ward.

This proposal maintains alignment to the principles established in the previous review particularly in retaining the integrity of the four (4) Ward system.



## City of Kalamunda - Ward Boundary and Elected Member Representation Review 2022-23

### Proposal 3 – Option 2 – Retain Existing Wards with two Offices of Councillor in each with a Minor Boundary Amendment between the North and North-West Wards

This proposal as configured is considered to meet all of the key factors for determining a ward structure and representation.

Similar to proposal 3 Option 1, this proposal is considered to be suitable as it maintains alignment to the principles established in the previous review particularly in retaining the integrity of the four (4) Ward system.

The minor boundary proposed in this option involves moving approximately 910 electors in Maida Vale from the North-West Ward to the North Ward thus placing the whole of Maida Vale in one ward and therefore a better community of interest for the Maida Vale residents.

The effect of this boundary change improves the elector; councillor ratio for both of these wards and result in the following ward statistics: -

Ward	Suburbs Included	Number of Electors	Number of Councillors	Electors per Councillor	Deviation from Ave
<b>North West</b>	Forrestfield (part) High Wycombe	10,459	2	5,229	-0.76%
<b>South West</b>	Forrestfield, Kewdale (part), Wattle Grove, (part)	10,473	2	5,236	-0.52%
<b>North</b>	Gooseberry Hill, Maida Vale and Kalamunda (part),	10,707	2	5,353	-2.768%
<b>South East</b>	Lesmurdie, Walliston, Carmel, Canning Mills, Pickering Brook, Bickley, Hacketts Gully, Piesse Brook, Pauls Valley, Reservoir, Wattle Grove (part) and Kalamunda (part).	10,036	2	5,018	+3.67%
		<b>41,675</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5,209</b>	

\* **Note** – a positive deviation indicates that the ward is over-represented – that is, there is less than the average number of electors per Councillor. A negative deviation indicates that the ward is under-represented, with more than the average number of electors per Councillor.

This is the preferred option overall. The map of the proposed Ward Boundaries is provided at Attachment 6.

## Implementation of Ward and Representation Outcome

Council, at the Special Council Meeting on 7 February 2023 resolved that a 4 ward / 8 Councillor plus Mayor model is preferred.

However, when Councillors considered how to move from 4 wards of 3 councillors (as exists at present) to 4 wards of 2 councillors, there was considerable debate on the implementation pathway.

It is recognised that any implementation of changes to councillor numbers will need to be addressed only after the Minister for Housing; Lands; Homelessness; Local Government makes the determination regarding this Ward and Representation Review.

The Council considered two (2) motions which included a reference to either a normal election cycle being rolled out or encouraging councillors to facilitate a full spill, notwithstanding the current provisions of the Act, not providing for the Council to mandate a full spill.

Voting Requirements: Absolute Majority													
<u>RESOLVED SCM 03/2023</u>													
That Council:													
1.	NOTE the submissions received during the public submission period.												
2.	pursuant to clause 9 of Schedule 2.2 of the Local Government Act 1995, SUBMIT a report to the Local Government Advisory Board seeking the making of an order under sections 2.2 (1) (c) and 2.18 (3) (c) of the Local Government Act 1995 to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) amend ward boundaries as detailed in the Proposal 3 Option 2 of the City of Kalamunda Ward and Representation Discussion paper 2022/23 (Attachment 1) and the map at (Attachment 3).</li> <li>b) declare that the number of offices of Councillor for the City of Kalamunda is reduced to eight with each ward to have two offices of Councillor.</li> </ul>												
3.	NOTE the 2023 local government election will be for election of the Mayor and one (1) Councillor in each of the South-West and South-East Wards.												
Moved:	<b>Cr Geoff Stallard</b>												
Seconded:	<b>Cr Dylan O'Connor</b>												
Vote:	<table> <tr> <td><u>For</u></td><td><u>Against</u></td></tr> <tr> <td><b>Cr Geoff Stallard</b></td><td><b>Cr Janelle Sewell</b></td></tr> <tr> <td><b>Cr Lisa Cooper</b></td><td><b>Cr Brooke O'Donnell</b></td></tr> <tr> <td><b>Cr Dylan O'Connor</b></td><td><b>Cr Kellie Miskiewicz</b></td></tr> <tr> <td><b>Cr Kathy Ritchie</b></td><td><b>Cr Sue Bilich</b></td></tr> <tr> <td><b>Cr Margaret Thomas</b></td><td></td></tr> </table>	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<b>Cr Geoff Stallard</b>	<b>Cr Janelle Sewell</b>	<b>Cr Lisa Cooper</b>	<b>Cr Brooke O'Donnell</b>	<b>Cr Dylan O'Connor</b>	<b>Cr Kellie Miskiewicz</b>	<b>Cr Kathy Ritchie</b>	<b>Cr Sue Bilich</b>	<b>Cr Margaret Thomas</b>	
<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>												
<b>Cr Geoff Stallard</b>	<b>Cr Janelle Sewell</b>												
<b>Cr Lisa Cooper</b>	<b>Cr Brooke O'Donnell</b>												
<b>Cr Dylan O'Connor</b>	<b>Cr Kellie Miskiewicz</b>												
<b>Cr Kathy Ritchie</b>	<b>Cr Sue Bilich</b>												
<b>Cr Margaret Thomas</b>													
<b>LOST (NO ABSOLUTE MAJORITY) (5/4)</b>													
The motion was lost as an absolute majority was not reached.													
Voting Requirements: Absolute Majority													

## City of Kalamunda - Ward Boundary and Elected Member Representation Review 2022-23

RESOLVED SCM 04/2023

*That Council:*

1. *NOTE the submissions received during the public submission period.*
2. *pursuant to clause 9 of Schedule 2.2 of the Local Government Act 1995, SUBMIT a report to the Local Government Advisory Board seeking the making of an order under sections 2.2 (1) (c) and 2.18 (3) (c) of the Local Government Act 1995 to:*
  - a) *amend ward boundaries as detailed in the Proposal 3 Option 2 of the City of Kalamunda Ward and Representation Discussion paper 2022/23 (Attachment 1) and the map at (Attachment 3).*
  - b) *declare that the number of offices of Councillor for the City of Kalamunda is reduced to eight with each ward to have two offices of Councillor.*
3. *has a PREFERRED position that there be a full spill of all offices of councillor in 2023.*

*Moved: Cr Sue Bilich*

*Seconded: Cr Janelle Sewell*

*Vote:*

*For*

***Cr Janelle Sewell  
Cr Brooke O'Donnell  
Cr Kellie Miskiewicz  
Cr Sue Bilich***

*Against*

***Cr Geoff Stallard  
Cr Lisa Cooper  
Cr Dylan O'Connor  
Cr Kathy Ritchie  
Cr Margaret Thomas***

***LOST (NO ABSOLUTE MAJORITY) (4/5)***

*The motion was lost as an absolute majority was not reached.*

The full Minutes from the Special Council Meeting with the supporting officer report and final resolution are provided at Attachment 5.

### Council Recommendation to Advisory Board

The Council at a Special Council Meeting on 7 February 2023, resolved to accept Proposal 3 Option 2 as set out in the Discussion Paper.

The recommendation passed by Council at the meeting is:

<b>Voting Requirements: Absolute Majority</b>
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**RESOLVED SCM 05/2023**

*"That Council:*

1. *Note the public submissions received.*
2. *Pursuant to clause 9 of Schedule 2.2 of the Local Government Act 1995, SUBMIT a report to the Local Government Advisory Board seeking the making of an order under sections 2.2 (1) (c) and 2.18 (3) (c) of the Local Government Act 1995 to-*
  - a) *amend ward boundaries as detailed in the proposal 3 option 2 of the City of Kalamunda Ward and Representation Discussion paper 2022/23 (Attachment 1) and the map at (Attachment 3).*
  - b) *declare that the number of offices of councillor for the City of Kalamunda is reduced to 8 with each ward to have two (2) offices of councillor."*

Moved: Cr Margaret Thomas

Seconded: Cr Kathy Ritchie

Vote: **CARRIED/ABSOLUTE MAJORITY (9/0)**

## Attachments

- Attachment 1 – Discussion Paper
- Attachment 2 – Newspaper Advert – Echo, 25 November 2022
- Attachment 3 – Details of Submissions
- Attachment 4 – Extract of Council Meeting Minutes of 22 November 2022
- Attachment 5 – Minutes of the Special Council Meeting of 7 February 2023 (including supporting officer report)
- Attachment 6 – Map of Proposed Wards 2023

City of Kalamunda Ward Boundary &  
Elected Member Representation  
Review 2022-23

**Attachment 1.**

# **Ward and Representation Review**

Discussion Paper  
2022/2023







### Acknowledgement of Country

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners, the Whadjuk Noongar People as the Custodians of this land. We also pay respect to all Aboriginal community Elders, past, present and future who have and continue to reside in the area and have been an integral part of the history of this region.

*Artwork by Aurora Abraham, Rainbow Bee Eater*



## Table of Contents

<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	4
<b>AN OVERVIEW OF OUR COMMUNITY</b> .....	5
<b>REVIEW PROCESS</b> .....	8
<b>ROLE OF THE DISCUSSION PAPER</b> .....	9
<b>FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED</b> .....	10
<b>SOME OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION</b> .....	22
<b>PROPOSALS TO AMEND THE NUMBER OF WARDS AND/OR COUNCILLORS</b> .....	23
<b>Proposal 1 - Have no wards</b> .....	23
<b>Proposal 2 - Reduce the existing number of wards to two only</b> .....	23
<b>Proposal 3 - Retain existing four (4) ward structure</b> .....	28
<b>APPENDICES</b> .....	33
Appendix 1 Suburb boundaries .....	33
Appendix 3 Current ward boundaries .....	35
Appendix 4 Proposal 2 – Option 1 – two wards boundaries .....	36
Appendix 5 Proposal 2 – Option 2 – two wards boundaries .....	37
Appendix 6 Proposal 3 – Option 1 – four wards boundaries .....	38
Appendix 7 WAEC Number of Electors By Ward and Suburb .....	39
Appendix 8 Public submission form .....	40

## INTRODUCTION

The State Government as part of a major review of the *Local Government Act 1995*, has recently announced significant changes with respect to councillor numbers and the method of election of the Mayor/President for some local governments.

The minimum/maximum number of councillors will now be determined by population and for local governments within the Band 1 or 2 classifications, the Mayor/President must be elected by the electors of the district.

Councillor numbers permitted by population bands are:

- Up to 5,000 – 5 councillors (including the President).
- Between 5,000 and 75,000 – 5 to 9 councillors (including the Mayor/President)
- Above 75,000 – 9 to 15 councillors (including the Mayor)

Consequently, the City of Kalamunda (City) which is classified as a band 2 local government and has a current population nearing 61,000, can now only have a minimum of 5 and maximum of 8 councillors plus a Mayor elected by the electors.

The City currently operates under a four-ward structure.

1. North Ward
2. North West Ward
3. South West ward
4. South East Ward

To ensure there is no imbalance in the number of electors per councillor between the wards and the number of councillors for the City, as well as each ward, meets the legislative requirements and is appropriate for providing proper governance and community representation across the district, the City is reviewing its wards and representative structure.

Currently the City's four (4) electoral wards have been electing three (3) councillors. The Mayor is elected by the councillors.

Council last reviewed its wards and representation in November 2016.

The review is being carried out in accordance with clause 6 of Schedule 2.2 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and will assess the appropriateness of: -

- the current ward boundaries.
- the number of councillors representing each ward.

## AN OVERVIEW OF OUR COMMUNITY

The City of Kalamunda is approximately 24 kilometres (under 30 minute drive) from Perth's CBD, located in the foothills of Perth's eastern suburbs and part of the Darling Ranges. The area features natural bushland, amazing views, and beautiful countryside. With a long history, proud artistic identity, fresh produce, and an abundance of recreational opportunities such as bush walks and mountain bike trails, the City of Kalamunda offers a unique lifestyle for its residents.

Geographically, the City is made up of three distinct areas:

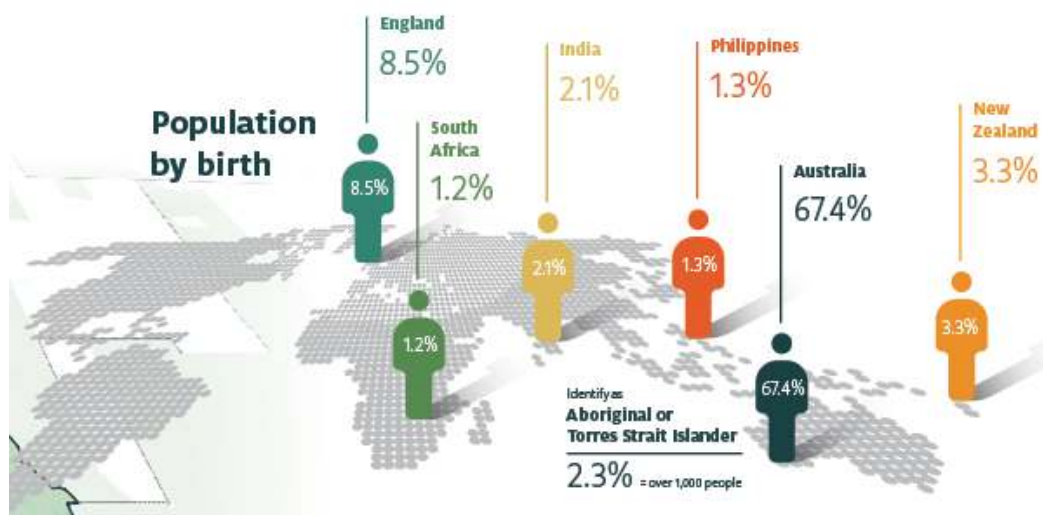
- The Foothills/Plains: Forrestfield, High Wycombe, Maida Vale and Wattle Grove
- The Escarpment: Lesmurdie, Kalamunda and Gooseberry Hill
- The Eastern Rural Districts: Walliston, Bickley, Carmel, Pickering Brook, Piesse Brook, Paulls Valley, Hacketts Gully and Canning Mills

The name Kalamunda comes from local Aboriginal words **Cala** (home or fire) and **Munnda** (forest – also associated with Munday – the fire of Munday). The City of Kalamunda is located in Perth's south-eastern suburbs, about 24 kilometres from the Perth CBD. The City of Kalamunda is bounded by the City of Swan in the north, the Shire of Mundaring in the east, the Cities of Armadale and Gosnells in the south, and the Cities of Canning and Belmont in the west.

The City of Kalamunda Estimated Resident Population for 2021 is 60,803, with a population density of 187.6 persons per square km. The land area within the boundaries of the City is 324 square kilometres



The City of Kalamunda is located in Perth's south-eastern suburbs, about 24 kilometres from the Perth CBD.



City of Kalamunda - Households (Enumerated)	2021			2016			Change
	Number	%	Greater Perth %	Number	%	Greater Perth %	
Total dwellings	23,340	100.0	100.0	22,786	100.0	100.0	+554
Occupied private dwellings	21,938	94.0	91.7	21,097	92.6	89.4	+841
Population in non-private dwellings	723			746	--	--	-23
Average household size (persons per dwelling)	3		2.5	3	--	--	-0

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2016 and 2021 (Enumerated).  
Compiled and presented in profile.id by .id (informed decisions).

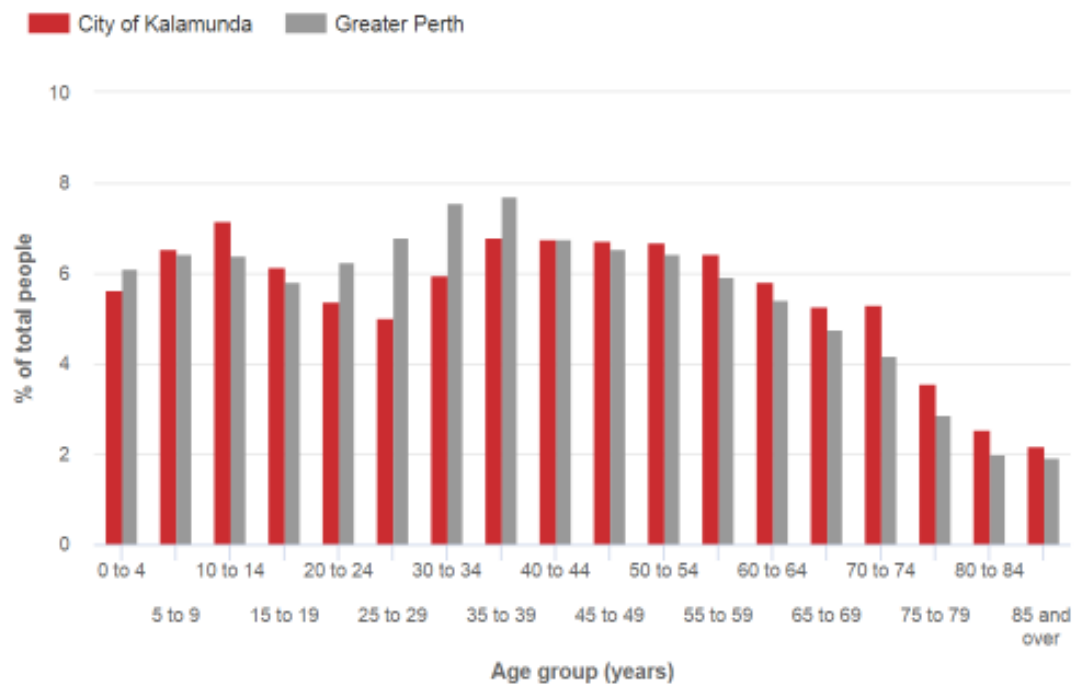
<http://www.id.com.au>

In 2021, the largest age group in City of Kalamunda was 10 to 14 year olds. The group that changed the most since 2016 was 70 to 74 year olds, increasing by 813 people.

The Age Structure of City of Kalamunda provides key insights into the level of demand for age based services and facilities such as child care. It is also an indicator of City of Kalamunda's residential role and function and how it is likely to change in the future.

The following chart shows the comparison of the City's population against greater Perth.





## Employment

### The predominant sectors are:

-  Freight and Logistics
-  Construction
-  Manufacturing
-  Professional
-  Scientific
-  Technical

### Rural land use consists of:

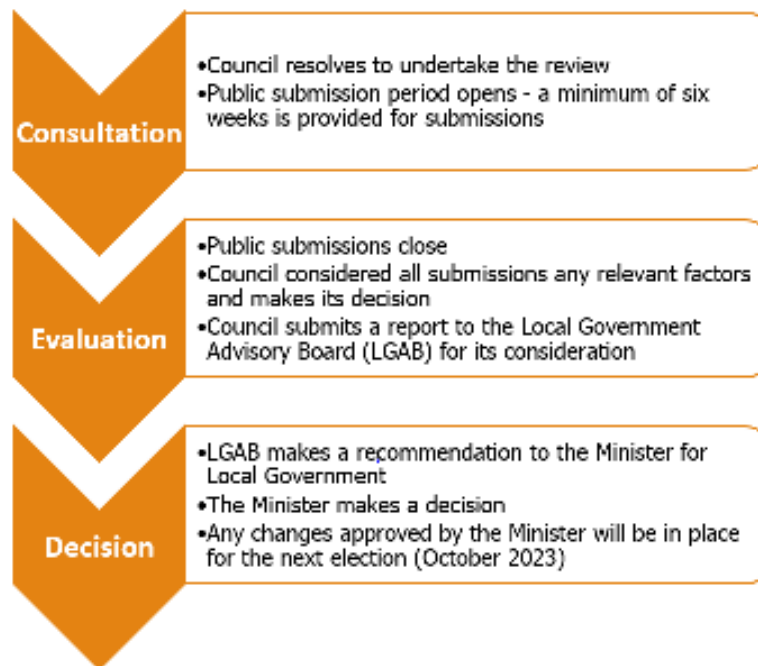
-  Orchards
-  Wineries and Cideries
-  Horticulture
-  Grazing
-  Animal Agistment
-  Tourism Enterprises



## REVIEW PROCESS

The review process must be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act).

It involves several steps as follows:



## ROLE OF THE DISCUSSION PAPER

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

The City, in discussion with Council, has based the proposals outlined in this paper on having the allowable maximum of 8 councillors. This was considered based on the size of the City, the population and current workloads of councillors. External committees and advisory committees are numerous and often councillors are attending meetings and events up to 3 nights a week. Community and civic events, requiring councillor participation, occur frequently and community groups hold an expectation that councillors will attend their events.

Whilst the Council can have a minimum of 5 councillors it is viewed that any outcome other than 8 councillors is considered not practicable from a community engagement and workload perspective. Notwithstanding this view, the City through the public consultation phase is interested to hear the community's view on councillor representation and how many councillors would be appropriate under the new requirements.

Residents, ratepayers, and businesses within the City are encouraged to review the discussion paper and provide feedback on the options presented. You do not have to limit submissions to the options presented in this document, if you have a different option, please make a submission. Council will consider all submissions received and will then decide 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 (LGAB) and Minister for approval.

A submission form is provided at the end of this document for your convenience. You do not have to use this form if you would prefer to make your submission in another manner.

**All submissions must be received by  
5pm Friday 20 January 2023.**

Your submission can be lodged by any of the following methods –

Complete online: [engage.kalamunda.wa.gov.au](https://engage.kalamunda.wa.gov.au)

Hand delivery to the City Administration Office, 2 Railway Road, KALAMUNDA or any of the City of Kalamunda Libraries or Recreation Centres

By mail to City of Kalamunda PO Box 42, KALAMUNDA WA 6926

By Email [kaya@kalamunda.wa.gov.au](mailto:kaya@kalamunda.wa.gov.au)

Online [www.kalamunda.wa.gov.au](https://www.kalamunda.wa.gov.au)



## 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 most appropriate and which best suits the characteristics of the City 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 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 Local Government Act details the factors which must be considered and articulated by a local government as part of the review process.

These factors are:

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

The Local Government Advisory Board interprets the factors to be taken into consideration as follows:

### **1. Community of interest**

The term community of interest has several 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 facilities and 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. Ideally, suburbs and towns would not be divided between wards.

**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 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 district and various wards**

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

In considering the above five (5) factors within the City, the following commentary is made to provide context.

**Community of interest**

Within the City of Kalamunda, it could be said the larger suburbs are individual communities of interests – Forrestfield, High Wycombe, Maida Vale, Wattle Grove, Gooseberry Hill, Kalamunda and Lesmurdie. Residents within each suburb share community facilities and would identify as being part of that community. The City's less populated suburbs to the east, such as Piesse brook, Pauls Valley, Hacketts Gully, Pickering Brook, Carmel Bickley and parts of Walliston could be grouped together as a separate community, characterised by low-density housing, agricultural activities, and a more 'rural' lifestyle.

Previous Ward Reviews in 2008 and 2016 resulted in these "community of interests" being recognised and boundaries drawn accordingly.



The one notable exception was Maida Vale being split almost in half with part in the North Ward and part in the North West Ward.

The existing ward boundaries were established in 2016 encompass the following suburbs –

*Table 1: Number of electors supplied by the WA Electoral Commission, as at 2016 Ward review*

WARD	SUBURBS INCLUDED	NUMBER OF ELECTORS
<b>North West</b>	High Wycombe	7,637
	Maida Vale (portion)	972
	Forrestfield (portion)	1,230
		<b>Total 9,839</b>
<b>South West</b>	Forrestfield (portion)	6,877
	Wattle Grove	2,660
	Kewdale	0
		<b>Total 9,537</b>
<b>North</b>	Maida Vale (portion)	2,311
	Kalamunda (portion)	4,355
	Gooseberry Hill	2,612
		<b>Total 9,278</b>
<b>South East</b>	Kalamunda (portion)	858
	Lesmurdie	5,676
	Walliston	675
	Bickley	500
	Carmel	482
	Pickering Brook	426
	Piesse Brook	133
	Pauls Valley	59
	Hacketts Gully	35
	Canning Mills	14
	Reservoir	0
	Wattle Grove (portion)	500
		<b>Total 9,358</b>
Total as at 2016		<b>Grand Total 38,012</b>

**See Appendix 1 for a map showing suburb boundaries**

**Key Physical and Topographic Features of the City**

The major waterway of the Helena River forms the boundary between the City of Kalamunda and the Shire of Mundaring. There are several small creeks and waterways within the City, however these are not dominant features in terms of topography.

The dominant physical feature of the City of Kalamunda is the Darling Scarp, which separates the foothills and the hills areas.

The Darling Scarp effectively forms the boundary between the South East and North Wards and the South West and North West Wards. However, the North Ward transcends the natural boundary of the Darling Scarp and includes both foothills (Maida Vale) and hills (Gooseberry Hill and part of Kalamunda) areas. Similarly South East Ward which is largely in the hills region contains South East Wattle Grove.

Major roads are an obvious physical feature which create significant barriers to movement within individual communities. For example, development on either side of Kalamunda Road or Welshpool Road is very similar, so using the road as a boundary would tend to divide a community of interest.

Whilst some of the major roads in the City – Roe Highway, Tonkin Highway, Abernethy Road, Kalamunda Road and Welshpool Road East – form some of the existing City boundaries, they do not form significant parts of the Ward boundaries created in 2008 and re-established in 2016.

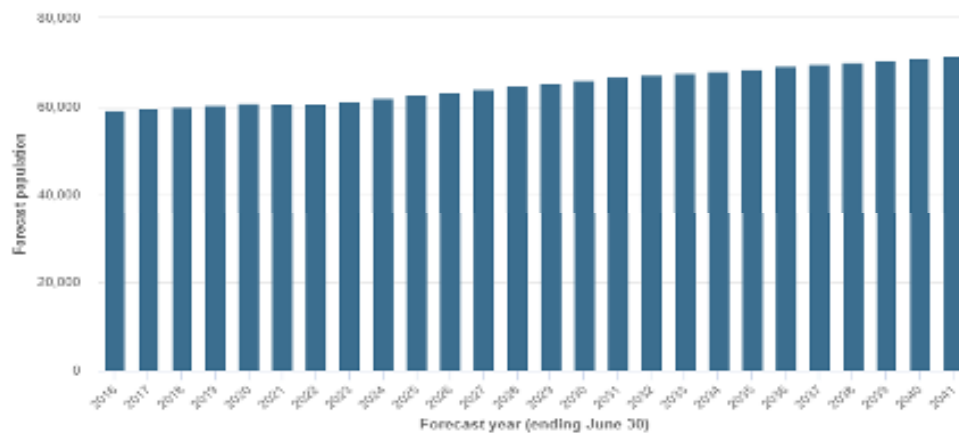
**Demographic trends**

Although the City of Kalamunda will continue to experience significant population growth over the next 10 to 20 years, the variance between suburbs, and consequently wards, will be considerable. This is due to subdivision and development activity that is occurring under the City's Local Planning Strategy in areas such as Wattle Grove, High Wycombe, Forrestfield, and Maida Vale over the coming decade or so.

In considering changes to ward boundaries, current and projected population characteristics will be relevant, as well as similarities and differences between areas within the City.

This review must be carried out based on current elector numbers, rather than predictions, however the potential increase in population is a factor to be taken into consideration. The City of Kalamunda population forecast for 2022 is 60,633 and is forecast to grow to 71,407 by 2041 as shown in the following chart.

**Forecast population**  
City of Kalamunda



Source: Population and household forecasts, 2016 to 2041, prepared by [id](https://forecast.id.com.au/kalamunda) (coloured diamonds), February 2021.

(Source: <https://forecast.id.com.au/kalamunda>)

The change in the number of electors between the 2017 election, and the 2021 election for each ward is shown below.

**Table 1**

2017				
Ward	No. of Electors	No. of Councillors	Electors per Councillor	Deviation from Avg.
North West	10,385	3	3,462	-4.23%
South West	9,939	3	3,313	+0.27%
North	9,657	3	3,219	+3.10%
South East	9,881	3	3,294	+0.84%
	<b>39,862</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3,322 Ave.</b>	

**Table 2**

2021				
Ward	No. of Electors	No. of Councillors	Electors per Councillor	Deviation from Avg
North West	11,169	3	3,723	-7.91%
South West	10,386	3	3,462	-0.35%
North	9,822	3	3,274	+5.10%
South East	10,030	3	3,343	+3.10%
	<b>41,407</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3,450 Ave.</b>	

\* Note – a positive deviation indicates that the ward is over-represented – that is, there is less than the average number of electors per Councillor. A negative deviation indicates that the ward is under-represented, with more than the average number of electors per Councillor.

In both the above tables, the number of electors per Councillor in all wards is within the accepted deviation. However, with the number of electors generally increasing much faster in the North West and South West Wards, particularly in the development areas such as Forrestfield, Maida Vale, High Wycombe and Wattle Grove, the deviation from the average is likely to increase with population growth beyond the accepted 10% deviation.

Whilst the numbers of electors in the North and South-East Wards have remained reasonably constant since the last boundary adjustments in 2008 and in 2016, the numbers of electors in the North-West and South West wards have increased significantly. This is due to subdivision and development activity in areas such as Forrestfield, High Wycombe, and Wattle Grove.

The 2008 and 2016 reviews which established current ward boundaries provided a framework for harmonising demographic trends within the City at those times. In 2022 it may be viewed as that things are different and other structures may better serve the City of Kalamunda into the future.

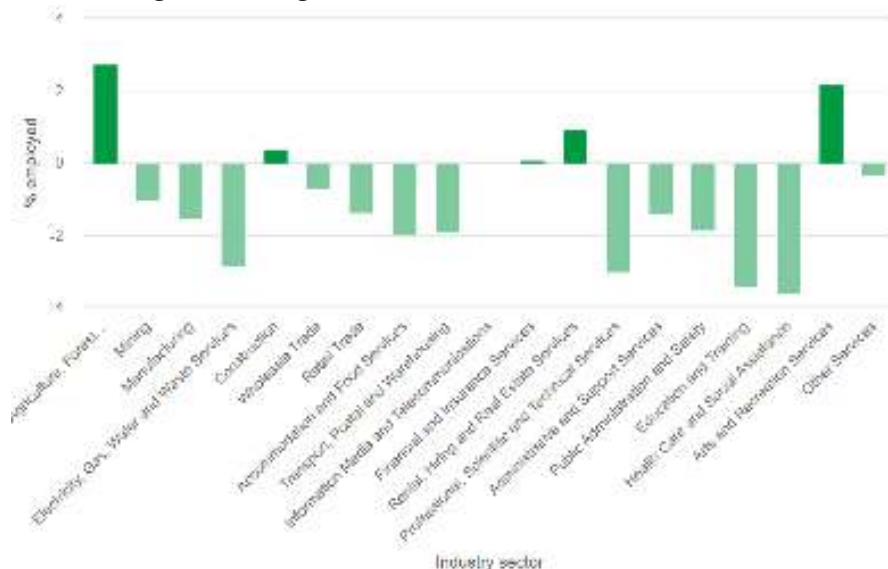
### **Economic factors**

Except for many of the eastern and south-eastern suburbs, the City of Kalamunda is largely defined as a “dormitory” suburb, that is, an area where most people reside but travel out of to their place of employment. Around 60% of workers from the City travel out each day. The eastern/south-eastern suburbs differ as it has been a rural and fruit growing of State-wide significance.

Of the 16,325 local workers in the City of Kalamunda, 6,638 or 40.7% also live in the area. In 2021, 23.0% of the City of Kalamunda’s resident workers were employed locally. Self-containment measures the proportion of resident workers who are employed within the boundaries of the Local Government Area or region.

The noteworthy change in the City’s employment profile is that more industry segments have reduced in self-containment with agriculture, arts and recreation services being the only sectors growing in numbers where people who live in the City are working in local jobs.

The following chart change in self-containment since 2016 to 2021.



More details about Journey to Work (workers) data can be found on the City's website at:- <https://economy.id.com.au/kalamunda/workers-place-of-residence-industry>

This data shows the degree to which the local economy draws on the wider region to supply labour for its industries. It is also useful in planning and advocacy for roads and public transport provision.

In the City of Kalamunda 54.6% of the local workers (All industries) are males and 45.4% are female.

The local workers are made up of all the people who are employed in the local area, regardless of where they live. This results in the self-sufficiency rate.

Local workers statistics reveal how the characteristics of the local workers in the City of Kalamunda vary between each industry sector and indicates specific industry sector local workers requirements and employment opportunities.

The City of Kalamunda's Gross Regional Product is estimated at \$2.73 billion, which represents 0.85% of the state's GSP (Gross State Product).

The Construction industry had the largest number of total registered businesses in City of Kalamunda, comprising 20.6% of all total registered businesses, compared to 17.2% in Western Australia.

An analysis of the jobs held by the local workers in the City of Kalamunda in 2020/21 shows the three largest industries were:

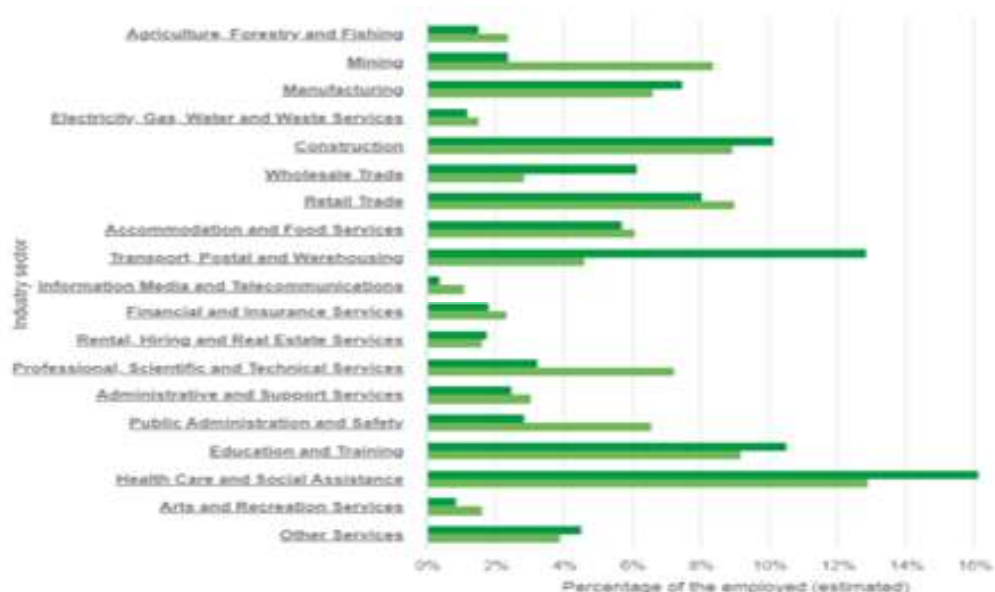
1. Health Care and Social Assistance (2,933 people or 16.1%)
2. Transport, Postal and Warehousing (2,334 people or 12.8%)
3. Education and Training (1,911 people or 10.5%)

In combination these three industries accounted for 7,179 people in total or 39.5% of the local workers.

In comparison, Western Australia employed 12.9% in Health Care and Social Assistance; 4.6% in Transport, Postal and Warehousing and 9.2% in Education and Training. The major differences between the jobs held by local workers of the City of Kalamunda and Western Australia were:

- A larger percentage of local workers employed in the field of Transport, Postal and Warehousing (12.8% compared to 4.6%)
- A smaller percentage of local workers employed in the field of Mining (2.4% compared to 8.4%)
- A smaller percentage of local workers employed in the field of Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (3.3% compared to 7.2%)
- A smaller percentage of local workers employed in the field of Public Administration and Safety (2.8% compared to 6.6%)

The following chart shows employment by industry in 2021 compared to greater Perth.



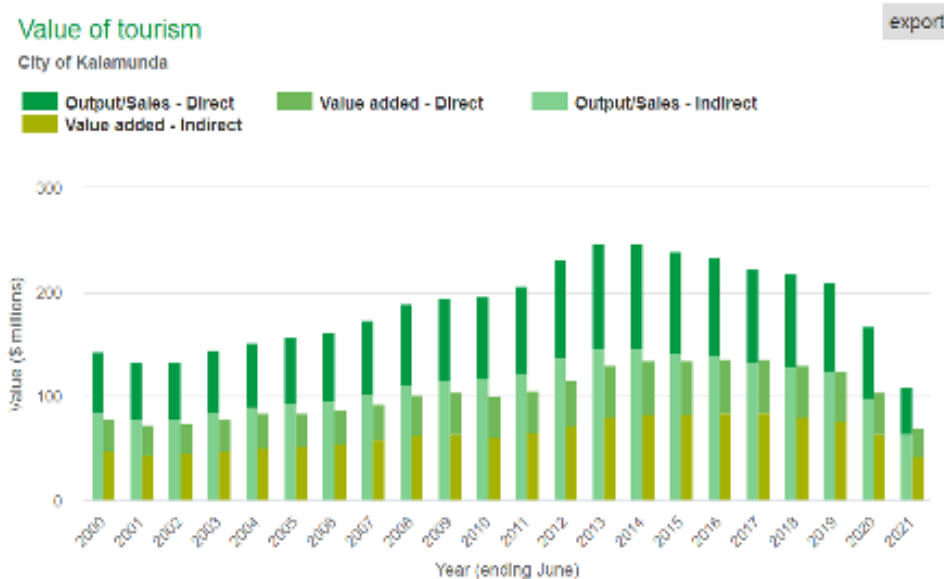
Kalamunda Perth



To see the more detailed information about businesses within the City of Kalamunda go to:- <https://economy.id.com.au/kalamunda/number-of-businesses-by-industry>.

### The Tourism Sector

The tourism sector is largely concentrated within the Perth Hills and whilst it was growth sector in the past decade the past few years has seen a decline in output likely due to the impacts of COVID 19.



Across the City can be seen discreet pockets of industry and business operating. For example:

#### North West Ward -High Wycombe and Maida vale

High Wycombe has a substantial share of light industry in its east west pocket. Being adjacent an airport it is reasonable for such industry to operate. Within the residential areas are found commercial services operating to service the local communities.

#### South West Ward - Forrestfield and Wattle Grove

South West ward has a similar profile as to North West Ward. Central to Forrestfield is the Forrestfield Activity Centre. This centre is the one of two activity centres within the City. The other being the Kalamunda Townsite.

Although there is significant economic impact for the City generated by the industrial development areas of Access Park (South-West/North-West Wards) and the newly developed adjacent Forrestfield Light industrial area, there are very few electors within these areas and would therefore not justify being a stand- alone ward.

### **North Ward - Kalamunda**

Kalamunda is one of two activity centres within the City. It is recognised as a tourist destination and has a long history in this regard. The Kalamunda Townsite has recently been expanded under the Kalamunda Activity Centre Plan and is undergoing re-development and revitalisation. The traditional, as well as emerging small businesses, in the area of arts, markets, local produce and designs supports the tourism industry and the flow on effects of visitation then support other local businesses.

### **South East – the Rural Hinterlands**

It is understood from our fruit growers the industry is under immense pressure. To counteract the pressures many rural landowners have diversified. Restaurants, cellar doors, wineries, fresh market gardens, event destinations, short stay accommodation etc. are emerging and the Perth Hills is re-inventing itself to take on the challenges and opportunities of the tourism industry.

There has been a steady increase in agricultural related tourism in the rural suburbs, over the past decade particularly Bickley, Carmel and Pickering Brook, as established agricultural properties diversify into value-added products and accommodation. In 2020/21, the total tourism sales in the City of Kalamunda was \$109.7m, the total value added was \$69.7 million however there has been little change in the population for these individual suburbs.

Other small pockets of commercial/industrial development are found in the hills region notably the Walliston Industrial Park.

### Community Assets Overview

Community assets are reasonably distributed throughout the City with larger facilities concentrated in the areas of highest population.

Community assets include sporting reserves, parks, community and cultural centres and recreation centres.

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Major Community Assets</b>
North Ward	Kalamunda Sporting Precinct Maida vale reserve Ledger Reserve Gooseberry Hill Kalamunda Community centre Stirk District park Kalamunda Performing Arts Centre Zig Zag Visitors centre Kalamunda library Kalamunda water park Kalamunda tennis reserve

Ward	Major Community Assets
North West Ward	Scott Reserve Sporting precinct High Wycombe Recreation centre Range View Tennis and Sporting Reserve High Wycombe Library Cyril Road Community centre Fleming District park' Elmore Dog park Jacaranda Springs park Gladys Newton Nature park
South West Ward	Hartfield Park sporting reserve Hartfield Park recreation centre Woodlupine Community centre Forrestfield Library Forrestfield Hall Forrestfield Skate park Wattle Grove nature playground Anderson Road Community centre
South East Ward	Ray Owen Sporting Reserve Pickering Brooke Sporting reserve Anderson Road Park Bill Shaw Park Lesmurdie hall Lesmurdie Library Lesmurdie Men's Shed Lesmurdie tennis reserve Williston Transfer station

The City also has around 50 community facilities that are leased by various community groups. The total asset base of the City is currently approaching \$541mil.

#### **Ratio of councillors to electors**

The Local Government Advisory Board judges this to be the most important factor to consider in formalising proposals for changes in representation.

The Board believes that as far as practicable the principle of 'one vote, one value' should be applied.

The Department of Local Government Sport and Cultural Industries requires that the ratio of electors per Councillor is within plus or minus 10% of the average ratio for the City.

As of 30 September 2022, there were 41,675 electors in the City. With 12 Councillors, the average is 3,473 electors per Councillor. The individual ward statistics are shown in the following table:

*Table 2: Number of electors supplied by the WA Electoral Commission, as at 30 September 2022 residents electoral roll)*

Ward	Number of Electors	Number of Councillors	Electors per Councillor	Deviation from Average *
North West	11,369	3	3,790	-9.13%
South West	10,473	3	3,491	-0.52%
North	9,797	3	3,266	+5.96%
South East	10,036	3	3,345	+3.68%
	<b>41,675</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3,473 Ave.</b>	

\* Note – a positive deviation indicates that the ward is over-represented – that is, there is less than the average number of electors per Councillor. A negative deviation indicates that the ward is under-represented, with more than the average number of electors per Councillor.

A noteworthy point is the high negative deviation in the North West Ward. This means this ward is underrepresented compared to the others and will soon be over the 10% deviation requirement if wards remain the same.

***See Appendix 3 for a map showing current ward boundaries***

## SOME OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Whilst most previous ward boundary reviews have resulted in minor adjustments to the boundaries to 'balance' the number of electors per councillor, the 2008 ward boundary review was more significant and resulted in a reduction in the number of wards from five (5) to four (4).

Although the current ward statistics indicate that the number of electors per councillor in all wards is within the accepted deviation (+/- 10%) and therefore there is no need to make any changes to the current ward boundaries, this should not preclude the consideration of options for change.

Based on current and future growth within the City and particularly the "foothills" area, in view of the potential arising from the development of the train line to High Wycombe and the provision of appropriate councillor representation across the district.

For discussion purposes, all of the following Proposals and options have been prepared on the basis of eight (8) councillors, the maximum provided under the electoral reform currently being introduced by the State Government.

- Proposal 1 – No wards
- Proposal 2 – Two wards with two options
- Proposal 3 – Four wards with two options

The City however is very interested to know if members of the community have other views about wards and the number of councillors the City should have.

## **PROPOSALS TO AMEND THE NUMBER OF WARDS AND/OR COUNCILLORS**

### **Proposal 1 - Have no wards**

Whether a local government has wards or not, Councillors are required to consider and vote on issues that affect the whole district, not just their own ward.

There are advantages and disadvantages to having no wards.

In a no ward system, a member of the community would have the whole Council representing them and could approach any Councillor if they had an issue or query. The system is simpler to understand, both for residents and for candidates in Council elections. There are cost savings in the running of Council elections, as only one set of ballot papers would need to be produced.

However, a member of the community may feel that their interests are not being represented, particularly if they are from an area with a small population, and if most of the councillors are from more populated areas. The residents of certain areas of the City may have specific concerns that are not relevant to residents of other areas and may feel that their issues are not understood or seen as being important.

As at the 2015 Local Government Elections five of the 30 local governments within the metropolitan region had no wards – Town of Bassendean and Cities of Gosnells, Kwinana, Perth and the Shire of Peppermint Grove.

### **Proposal 2 - Reduce the existing number of wards to two only**

Proposal 2 outlines two options for a two ward structure for the City by placing different areas into each option as outlined as follows.

#### **Option 1 – Abolish the current wards and create a Hills” and “Foothills” Ward**

This option groups the suburbs of Forrestfield, High Wycombe, Wattle Grove and the small portion of Kewdale within the City, into a proposed “Foothills Ward” with the remainder of the suburbs forming the proposed “Hills Ward”.

The option would continue the principles established in the 2008 Review and retained in the 2016 Review of grouping generally like areas of the City together. It also acknowledges the distinct differences between these areas of the City, particularly from a residential development perspective.

An advantage of this option is that it would provide for half the councillors of each ward to face an election every two years rather the current situation with 12 councillors of some wards having more councillors facing an election than other wards every two years.

Based on retaining full suburbs to form the wards, the Councillor to elector ratio would be: -

Ward	Suburbs Included	Number of Electors	Number of Councillors	Electors per Councillor	Deviation from Ave
<b>Foothills</b>	Forrestfield (part) <sup>(1)</sup> , High Wycombe, Wattle Grove (part) <sup>(1)</sup> , Kewdale	22,211	4	5,553	-6.50%
<b>Hills</b>	Forrestfield (part) <sup>(2)</sup> , Wattle Grove (part) <sup>(2)</sup> , Maida Vale, Gooseberry Hill, Kalamunda, Lesmurdie, Walliston, Bickley, Canning Mills, Carmel, Hacketts Gully, Pauls Valley, Pickering Brook, Piesse Brook, Helena Valley	19,464	4	4,866	+6.60%
		<b>41,675</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5,209</b>	

\* Note – a positive deviation indicates that the ward is over-represented – that is, there is less than the average number of electors per Councillor. A negative deviation indicates that the ward is under-represented, with more than the average number of electors per Councillor.

Note <sup>(1)</sup> This part of Forrestfield and Wattle Grove are both currently in the South West Ward.

Note <sup>(2)</sup> This part of Forrestfield and Wattle Grove are currently in the North West and South East Wards respectively.



See Appendix 4 for a map showing ward boundaries (number of electors supplied by the WA Electoral Commission, as of 30 September 2022 residents electoral roll).

### Option 2 – Abolish the current wards and Create an “Foothills” and “Hills” Ward

The difference between this option and option 1 is that the suburb of Maida Vale has been included in the proposed “Foothills Ward” rather than the proposed “Hills Ward”, and the whole of Wattle Grove has been included in the “Hills Ward”.

This option still acknowledges the principles established in the 2008 and 2016 Reviews of grouping generally like areas of the City together and the distinct differences between these areas of the City, particularly from a residential development perspective.

Based on retaining full suburbs to form the wards, the Councillor to elector ration would be:-

Ward	Suburbs Included	Number of Electors	Number of Councillors	Electors per Councillor	Deviation from Ave
<b>Foothills</b>	Forrestfield, Maida Vale, High Wycombe, Kewdale	21,102	4	5,275	-1.27%
<b>Hills</b>	Gooseberry Hill, Kalamunda, Lesmurdie, Wattle Grove, Walliston, Bickley, Canning Mills, Carmel, Hacketts Gully, Paulls Valley, Pickering Brook, Piesse Brook, Helena Valley	20,573	4	5,143	+1.27%
		<b>41,675</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5,209</b>	

\* Note – a positive deviation indicates that the ward is over-represented – that is, there is less than the average number of electors per Councillor. A negative deviation indicates that the ward is under-represented, with more than the average number of electors per Councillor.

See Appendix 5 for a map showing ward boundaries (number of electors supplied by the WA Electoral Commission, as of 30 September 2022 residents electoral roll).

## Option 1 and 2 - Two Wards Analysis

### Communities of interests

Option one has parts of some suburbs in the hills ward as shown on Appendix 3. Whereas option two no suburbs have been divided between wards, however the whole of Wattle Grove has been placed in the Hills ward and it could be viewed that the western section of Wattle Grove which is a high density residential area has a closer community of interest with Forrestfield.

Both options best reflect the use of community facilities, as there are major shopping facilities and recreation areas in each of the wards.

### Physical and topographical features

These options generally reflect the most dominant physical feature of the City – the Darling Scarp except option two where the whole of Wattle Grove being placed in the Hills Ward. A large portion of Wattle Grove north of Welshpool Road and west of Tonkin Highway is more reflective of the foothills than the hills.

### Demographic trends

Both options reflect the similarities between Kalamunda, Lesmurdie and Gooseberry Hill, and between High Wycombe, Forrestfield, Wattle Grove. The growth areas of the City would be in one ward, namely Forrestfield and High Wycombe and the area of least population growth in the other.

### Economic factors

The fruit-growing areas of the City continue to be included in one ward. Community facilities and assets are divided between the wards. The Hills is also a tourism destination with the Kalamunda town centre offering commercial services to tourists as well as the residential community.

The Foothills Ward is characterised by industrial areas on the western borders adjacent to the Perth Airport and commercial services through the foothills.

### Ratio of councillors to electors in the various wards

Both options result in compliant deviations in the Councillor to elector ratio. Option one however has a much larger deviation than does option two.

Nevertheless, it would be expected that a deviation in the ratio will become evident as growth occurs in the “West” ward (the number of electors per Councillor is expected to increase in the West Ward at a greater rate than in the East Ward).

### Proposal 3 - Retain existing four (4) ward structure

Proposal three outlines two options for a four ward structure for the City by placing different areas into each option as outlined as follows.

#### Option 1 – Retain the Existing Boundaries for all four wards

This option has been operating since the last review in 2016. It will meet the requirements of the review factors and will have no impact upon the community other than a reduction in councillor number.

Ward	No. of Electors	No. of Councillors	Electors per Councillor	Deviation from Ave
North West	11,169	2	5585	-7.89%
South West	10,386	2	5193	-0.33%
North	9,822	2	4911	+5.12%
South East	10,030	2	5015	+3.11%
	<b>41,407</b>	<b>8</b>	5176	

\* Note – a positive deviation indicates that the ward is over-represented – that is, there is less than the average number of electors per Councillor. A negative deviation indicates that the ward is under-represented, with more than the average number of electors per Councillor.

See Appendix 3 for a map showing ward boundaries (number of electors supplied by the WA Electoral Commission, as of 30 September 2022 residents electoral roll).

The current status shows the largest deviation in North West ward and is likely to grow above 10% as increasing development occurs in this ward.

#### Option 2– Amend boundaries of North West and North Wards by including all of Maida Vale in North Ward

Based on the current elector to councillor numbers this would be the option involving the least changes to the current ward boundaries and electors per ward and generally maintain the principles established in the 2008 and 2016 Ward Boundary Reviews when these wards were established.

The current statistics indicate that to improve the ratio of electors to councillors would only involve moving approximately 910 electors in Maida Vale from the North West Ward to the North Ward. This would place the whole of the suburb of Maida Vale in one ward rather than as currently being split between two wards.

This would result in the following ward statistics: -

Ward	Suburbs Included	Number of Electors	Number of Councillors	Electors per Councillor	Deviation from Ave
<b>North West</b>	Forrestfield (part) High Wycombe	10,459	2	5,229	-0.76%
<b>South West</b>	Forrestfield, Kewdale (part), Wattle Grove, (part)	10,473	2	5,236	-0.52%
<b>North</b>	Gooseberry Hill, Maida Vale and Kalamunda (part),	10,707	2	5,353	-2.768%
<b>South East</b>	Lesmurdie, Walliston, Carmel, Canning Mills, Pickering Brook, Bickley, Hacketts Gully, Piesse Brook, Pauls Valley, Reservoir, Wattle Grove (part) and Kalamunda (part).	10,036	2	5,018	+3.67%
		<b>41,675</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5,209</b>	

\* Note – a positive deviation indicates that the ward is over-represented – that is, there is less than the average number of electors per Councillor. A negative deviation indicates that the ward is under-represented, with more than the average number of electors per Councillor.

***See Appendix 6 for a map showing ward boundaries (number of electors supplied by the WA Electoral Commission, as at 30 September 2022 residents electoral roll)***

## Option 1 and 2 Four Wards Factor Analysis

### COMMUNITIES OF INTERESTS

This option maintains the principles established in the 2008 Review and reinforced in 2016, of grouping like suburbs together, due to the differences in growth patterns across the City, more suburbs have been split between the various wards.

Nevertheless, each ward has its own schools, recreation areas, libraries and shopping centres and as such would have facilities and interests in common.

### PHYSICAL AND TOPOGRAPHIC FEATURES

In general, roads have been used to define the ward boundaries. Other features, such as the Darling Scarp, have minimal impact on the proposed boundaries.

### DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

The demographic data across the City's four wards show the people in the two North and South West Wards have higher than average aging population than those wards across the foothills.

In North Ward, 31.1% of households were made up of couples with children in 2021, compared with 33.5% across the City of Kalamunda. In 2021, North Ward had lower proportion of children (under 18) and a higher proportion of persons aged 60 or older than across the City of Kalamunda.

In South East Ward, 38.6% of households were made up of couples with children in 2021, compared with 33.5% in City of Kalamunda. In 2021, South East Ward had similar proportion of children (under 18) and a higher proportion of persons aged 60 or older than City of Kalamunda.

In North West Ward, 31.9% of households were made up of couples with children in 2021, compared with 33.5% across the City of Kalamunda. In 2021, North West Ward had higher proportion of children (under 18) and a lower proportion of persons aged 60 or older than across the City of Kalamunda.

In South West Ward, 33.1% of households were made up of couples with children in 2021, compared with 33.5% across the City of Kalamunda. In 2021, South West Ward had higher proportion of children (under 18) and a lower proportion of persons aged 60 or older than across the City of Kalamunda.

Source - <https://profile.id.com.au/kalamunda>

### ECONOMIC FACTORS

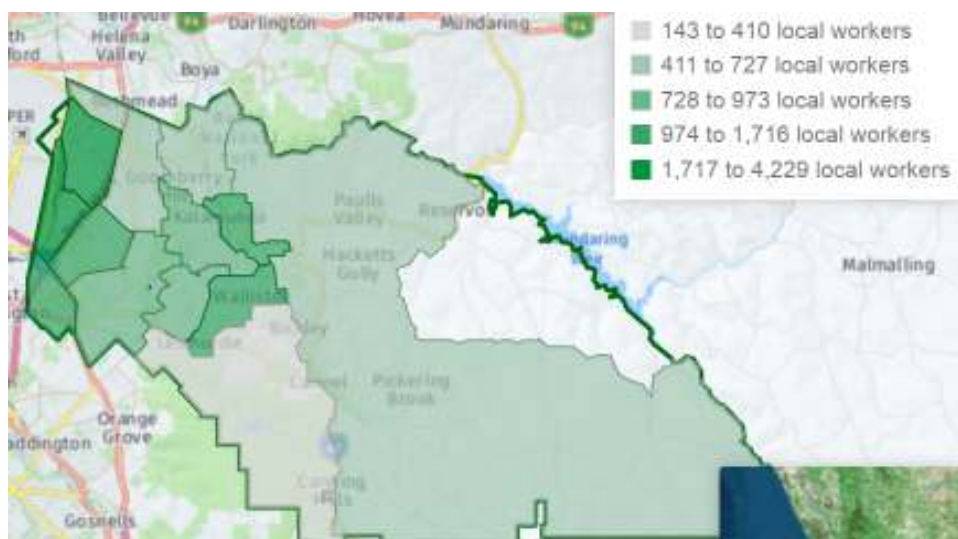
The City has its greatest concentration of local employment centres across the western border where the industrial areas are found. These areas are found in North West Ward and South West Ward.

In South West Ward is found the Forrestfield Activity Centre where commercial activities are abundant.

The Kalamunda Townsite and the Wallison Industrial area are the key employment generators within the North Ward and South East ward.

The hinterland's rural area is based on agricultural pursuits and are experiencing an emergence of tourism related industries. Under a four ward structure the orchard area and the emerging tourism area of the City continue to be included in South East ward.

The following map highlights the spread of local workers within the City.



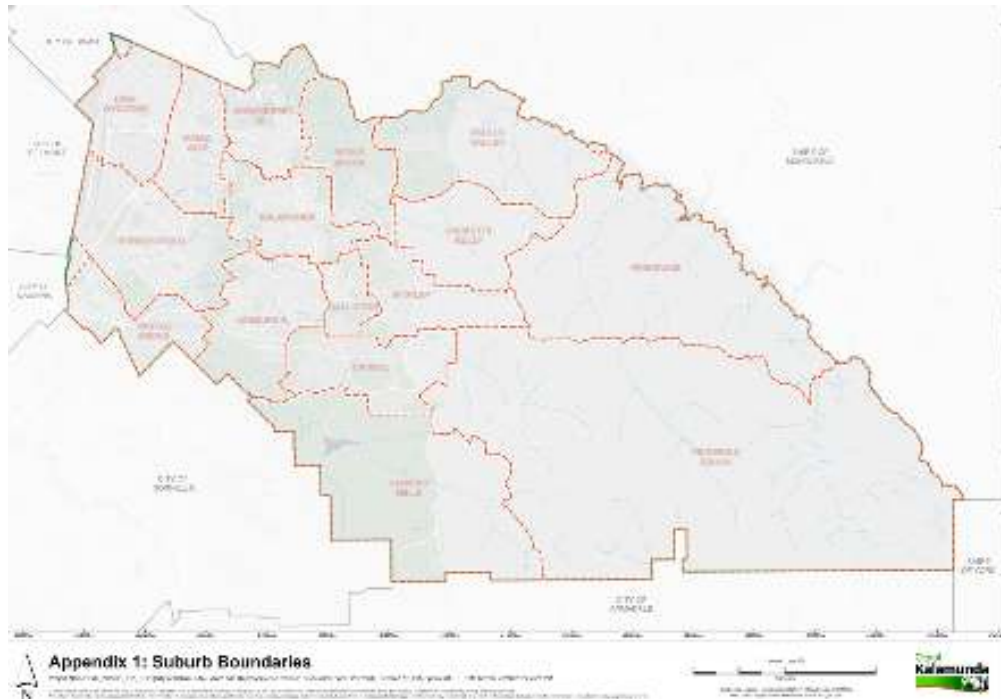
**RATIO OF COUNCILLORS TO ELECTORS IN THE VARIOUS WARDS**

Both options comply with the required deviations, however option one shows a higher deviation in North West Ward approaching 8%.

Option 2 proposes the inclusion of the whole of Maida Vale within North Ward which results in a better Councillor:Elector ratio than would be achieved by maintaining the boundaries exactly as they are currently.

## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1 Suburb boundaries



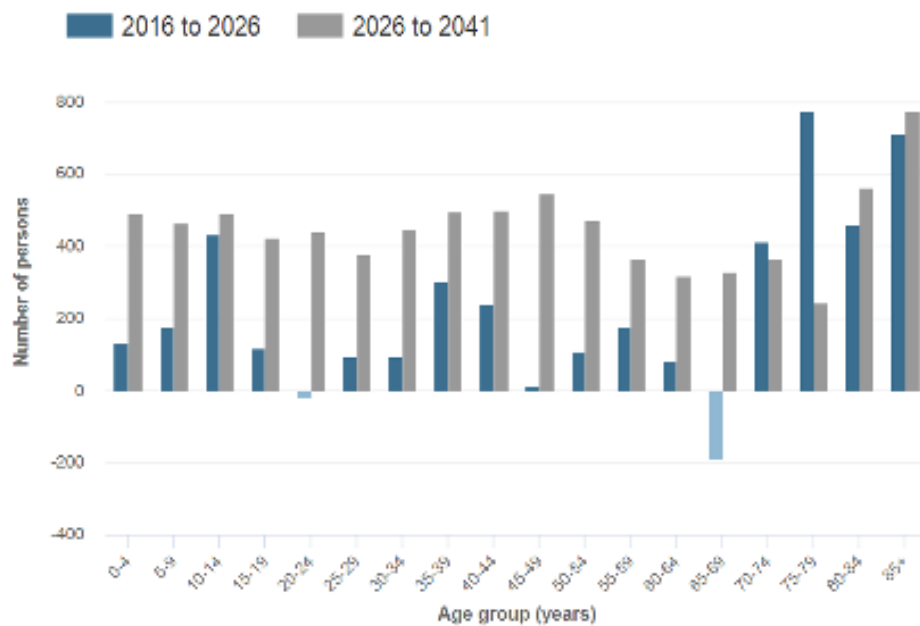


## Appendix 2 - Population Forecast

The population of the City for 2022 is 60,633 and is forecast to grow to 71,407 by 2041.

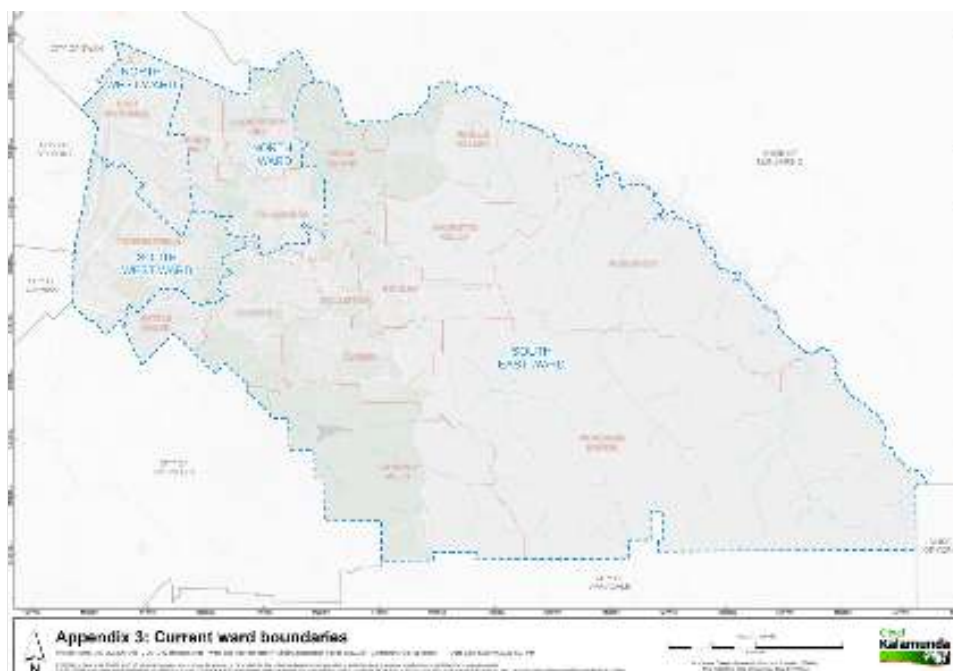
### Forecast change in age structure - 5 year age groups

City of Kalamunda - Total persons

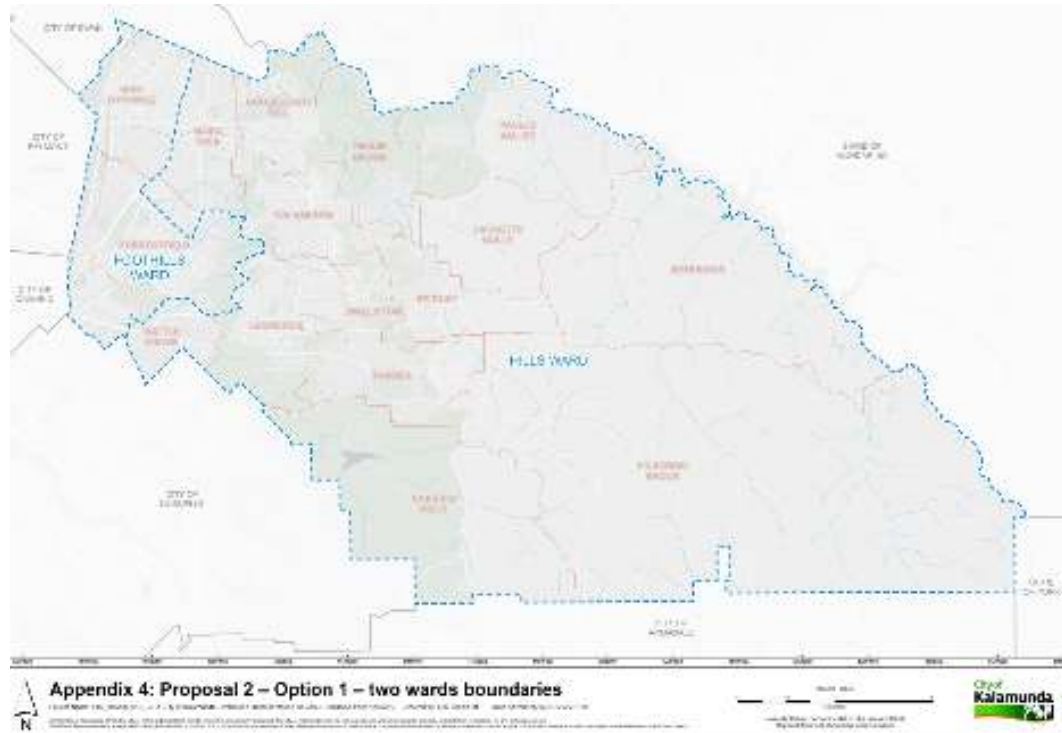


It is noteworthy that the 65-69 age group have reduced significantly since 2016 suggesting that upon retirement people have moved elsewhere. The population groups 75 years on are still showing large numbers of seniors across the City and this trend will continue for the next two decades.

## Appendix 3 Current ward boundaries

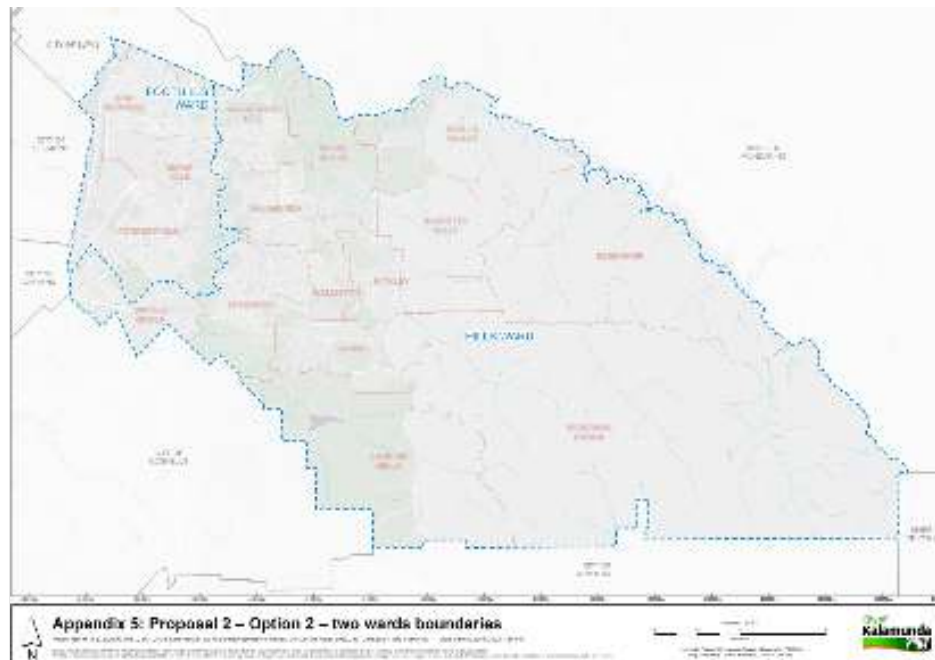


## Appendix 4 Proposal 2 – Option 1 – two wards boundaries

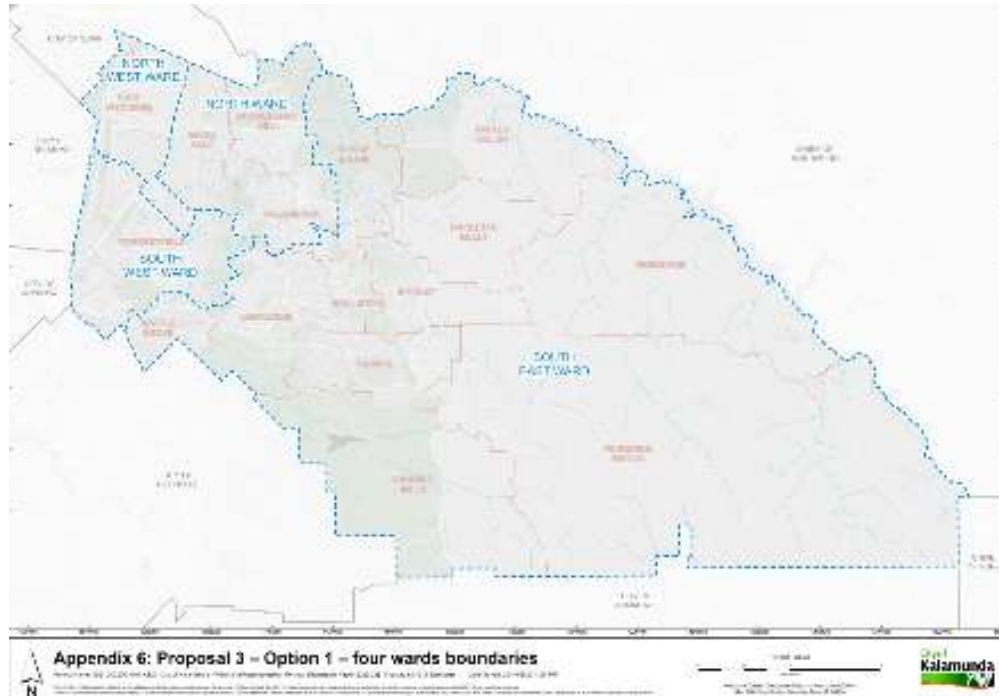


## Appendix 5

## Proposal 2 – Option 2 – two wards boundaries



## Appendix 6      Proposal 3 – Option 1 – four wards boundaries



## Appendix 7      WAEC Number of Electors By Ward and Suburb

Source: WAEC Electorate Statistics 2022

<b>North</b>	<b>9,797</b>
Gooseberry Hill	2,634
Kalamunda	4,707
Maida Vale	2,456
<b>North West</b>	<b>11,369</b>
Forrestfield	1,915
High Wycombe	8,544
Maida Vale	910
<b>South East</b>	<b>10,036</b>
Bickley	562
Canning Mills	9
Carmel	522
Hacketts Gully	33
Kalamunda	892
Lesmurdie	6,050
Paulls Valley	61
Pickering Brook	437
Piesse Brook	148
Walliston	734
Wattle Grove	588
<b>South West</b>	<b>10,473</b>
Forrestfield	7,277
Kewdale	2
Wattle Grove	3,194
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>41,675</b>

## Appendix 8 Public submission form



### 2022 Review of Ward Boundaries & Representation

The State Government, as part of a major review of the Local Government Act 1995, has recently announced significant changes with respect to councillor numbers and the method of election of the Mayor/President for some local governments.

The minimum/maximum number of councillors will now be determined by population and for local governments within the Band 1 or 2 classifications, will mean the Mayor/President must be elected by the electors of the district.

Councillor numbers permitted by population bands are:

- » Up to 5,000 – 5 councillors (including the President).
- » Between 5,000 and 75,000 – 5 to 9 councillors (including the Mayor/President)
- » Above 75,000 – 9 to 15 councillors (including the Mayor)

Consequently, the City of Kalamunda (City) which is classified as a band 2 local government and a current population of around 61,000, can now only have a maximum of 8 councillors plus a Mayor elected by the electors.

To ensure that there is not an imbalance in the number of electors per councillor between the wards and that

the number of councillors for the City and each ward meets the legislative requirements and is appropriate for providing proper governance and community representation across the district, the City is reviewing its wards and representative structure.

Currently the City is divided into four (4) electoral wards, each electing three (3) councillors. The Mayor is elected by the councillors.

Council last reviewed its wards and representation in November 2016.

The review is being carried out in accordance with clause 6 of Schedule 2.2 of the Local Government Act 1995 and will assess the appropriateness of:

- » The current ward boundaries.
- » The number of councillors representing each ward.

You can read the review at [engage.kalamunda.wa.gov.au](https://engage.kalamunda.wa.gov.au), at the City Administration and your local Library or call us on 9257 9999.

This form has been provided for your convenience. Written public submissions do not have to be made on this form.

[engage.kalamunda.wa.gov.au](https://engage.kalamunda.wa.gov.au)

Please return this survey to a City of Kalamunda Library on:  
2 Railway Road KALAMUNDA WA 6076 PO Box 42, KALAMUNDA WA 6026  
T 9257 9999 F 9492 2715 E [kalamunda@kalamunda.wa.gov.au](mailto:kalamunda@kalamunda.wa.gov.au)



### I support the following proposal, as described in the discussion paper:

- ☐ **Proposal 1:** No Wards
- ☐ **Proposal 2:** Option 1
- ☐ **Proposal 2:** Option 2
- ☐ **Proposal 3:** Option 1
- ☐ **Proposal 3:** Option 2

Comments (for example: reasons for support, suggested ward names).

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Please attach additional pages if required.

### I believe the City of Kalamunda should have a ward system as follows:

Number of wards:

Number of Councillors (by law, must be between 5 and 8):

Comments (for example: reasons for support, suggested ward names).

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Please attach additional pages if required.

#### Your details

*Note: Information will only be recorded for statistical purposes and unless you wish to be contacted further on this matter or other City matters, your personal details will remain confidential.*

Name

Email

Suburb

Gender ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Prefer not to say

Age ☐ 16-25 ☐ 26-35 ☐ 36-45 ☐ 46-55 ☐ 56-65 ☐ 65+

Please keep me informed about:

- ☐ Any developments regarding this ward review
- ☐ Information about services and activities in the City of Kalamunda



# Employers awarded for supporting volunteers

**ANITA McINNIS**

EMPLOYERS who have been awarded for supporting emergency services volunteers include Belenus in Midvale, C.H. Robinson and AFGRI Equipment Australia in South Guildford.

Along with Salini Impregilo-NRW Joint Venture's Forrestfield airport link project the local businesses were recognised at the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) Volunteer Employer Recognition Awards.

VERA acknowledges businesses that go above and beyond to provide flexible working arrangements, enabling their staff to respond to emergencies during work hours.

Belenus business development manager-sales director Mark Taylor said the company supported two workers who volunteer – operations manager Liam Day and electrician Rohan Lowe.

He said Liam volunteered for Kalamunda Volunteer Bush Fire

Brigade and Rohan for East Swan Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade.

Mr Taylor said as a local business they always tried to seek ways to give back to the community where they could.

"Supporting and encouraging our colleagues to volunteer directly helps the community in a consistent way all year round in our view.

"We've been encouraging this for over three years now and the overall impact on the business has certainly been a positive one in our experience."

At the awards Emergency Services Minister Stephen Dawson congratulated the 56 Western Australian businesses and organisations recognised for their invaluable support of emergency service volunteers.

"Every year more than 26,000 emergency services personnel volunteer their time across the state and many of them couldn't do this without the support of their employers," he said.



Belenus operations manager Liam Day and electrician Rohan Lowe at the DFES volunteer employer recognition awards.

## eye on crime Caversham murder

A CAVERSHAM man has been sentenced to life in prison for the murder of his mother while he was substance-affected.

Steven Staggard, a 46-year-old FIFO worker, had taken methamphetamine the night before the offence although he was aware it made him paranoid and aggressive.

The offender had tried to implicate others for the attack on Roselyn Staggard (67), who was stabbed 24 times.

He will now serve a 20-year minimum sentence.

## Jane Brook assault

MIDLAND detectives are investigating an assault on a woman at a Jane Brook park on Tuesday, November 15.

The woman, heavily pregnant, was approached by a man in Sherlock Park and attacked at about 4.30pm.

Her assailant is described as 18-20 years-old, with a thin build and a dark complexion.

He was wearing a blue and red basketball jersey and had previously been seen playing basketball in the area.

## Forrestfield road rage

AT 5.30am on Thursday, November 17, after a collision between two utilities near Roe Hwy and Tonkin Hwy in Forrestfield, police allege a driver was badly assaulted.

A short time later one of the drivers was stopped at traffic lights, before the other white utility pulled in front of his vehicle.

The unknown male driver of the utility, and the driver of the Toyota Hilux, exited their vehicles before the male attempted to punch the man, causing him to fall to the ground.

The assailant then punched the 46-year-old victim in the face and stomped on his head, before leaving the scene.

The unknown driver was caucasian, in his mid-20s, with a mostly shaven head with dreadlocks at the back, and he was wearing a yellow high vis short sleeved shirt, beige shorts and yellow and blue socks.

Police urge anyone who saw the incident, or who may have dash cam or mobile phone vision, to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or report online at [www.crimestopperswa.com.au](http://www.crimestopperswa.com.au)

Police want anyone with information regarding the above incidents to call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or you can make a report online at [www.crimestopperswa.com.au](http://www.crimestopperswa.com.au)



## 2022 Review of Ward Boundaries and Representation

The City is reviewing its wards and representative structure. Currently the City is divided into four (4) electoral wards, each electing three (3) councillors. The Mayor is elected by the councillors.

The review is being carried out in accordance with clause 6 of Schedule 2.2 of the Local Government Act 1995 and will assess the appropriateness of:

- The current ward boundaries.
- The number of councillors representing each ward.

More information, along with the associated documents can be viewed via [engage.kalamunda.wa.gov.au](http://engage.kalamunda.wa.gov.au) or alternatively, the information can be viewed at the City of Kalamunda Administration, 2 Railway Road, Kalamunda during business hours.

Comments close 20 January 2023

## Magnolia Way Reserve, Forrestfield Playground Upgrade

Magnolia Way Reserve is being upgraded to create a vibrant multi-purpose all abilities outdoor space which connects park users with the surrounding natural environment and offers contemporary facilities for all park users.

This park is being upgraded as a joint initiative of the City of Kalamunda and the State Government of WA.

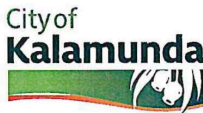
The proposed park upgrades can be viewed via [engage.kalamunda.wa.gov.au](http://engage.kalamunda.wa.gov.au) or alternatively, the information can be viewed at the City of Kalamunda Administration, 2 Railway Road, Kalamunda during business hours.

Comments close 12 December 2022

You can provide your comments on both of these projects via:

Online: [engage.kalamunda.wa.gov.au](http://engage.kalamunda.wa.gov.au) | Email: [enquiries@kalamunda.wa.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@kalamunda.wa.gov.au) | Post: PO Box 42, Kalamunda WA 6926 | In Person: 2 Railway Road, Kalamunda

Rhonda Hardy  
Chief Executive Officer



Have  
your  
say!





**WARD & REPRESENTATION REVIEW 2022****Summary of Submissions**

City of Kalamunda Ward Boundary & Elected  
Member Representation Review 2022-23

**ATTACHMENT 3**

<b>Submission No.</b>	<b>Proposal 1</b>	<b>Proposal 2 (Option 1)</b>	<b>Proposal 2 (Option 2)</b>	<b>Proposal 3 (Option 1)</b>	<b>Proposal 3 (Option 2)</b>	<b>Other Suggestions</b>
1	Yes					
2	Yes					
3					Yes	
4	Yes					
5	Yes					
6	Yes					
7	Yes					
8	Yes					
9					Yes	
10					Yes	
11	Yes					
12	Yes					
13	Yes					
14	Yes					
15	Yes					
16						Split into 2 separate shires each with 2 wards – 8 councillors each
17	Yes					
18	Yes					
19	Yes					
20	Yes					
21	Yes					
22					Yes	
23	Yes					
24	Yes					
25	Yes					
26	Yes					
27	Yes					

28	<b>Yes</b>					
29		<b>Yes</b>				
30			<b>Yes</b>			
31			<b>Yes</b>			
32		<b>Yes</b>				
33	<b>Yes</b>					
34	<b>Yes</b>					
35	<b>Yes</b>					
36	<b>Yes</b>					
37	<b>Yes</b>					
38	<b>Yes</b>					
39	<b>Yes</b>					
40	<b>Yes</b>					
41					<b>Yes</b>	
42	<b>Yes</b>					
43	<b>Yes</b>					
44	<b>Yes</b>					

**Additional Comments**

- No. 1** - I believe the whole shire should be one ward
- No. 2** - Give Elected members portfolios, so that passionate elected members can advocate for the betterment of the entire LGA. For example, a Councilor that is passionate about the environment can better represent all the constituents that also are passionate about environmental issues. Not just the ones that happen to live in the same area. This also allows voters to have more say, what happens if the three people running in one ward don't align with my values but there are individuals running in the area over that better align with my thoughts and beliefs? This eliminates this issue.
- No. 3** - The fairest for all residents. Several Councillors are never available anyway, and at least one is completely unknown in the foothills. Cut down the number of Councillors and ensure they earn what they are now paid.
- No. 4** - i think it is time to move away from the constant perception of an up the hill, down the hill City and the only way we can do that is to have no wards. In turn we should be seeking to align Councillor appointments with portfolios and seek specific skillsets from within the community. i have always found it difficult to understand why i can only vote for 3 councillors but all 12 could make a decision that affected me. Remove the ward boundaries and try to unite the City not divide.
- No. 5** - Please record that I have a preference to have the minimum number of councillors permitted (5), including the Mayor.
- No. 6** - I would suggest no wards otherwise the high population small areas will have a disproportionate say in the overall mix.
- No. 7** - Please record that I have a preference to have the MINIMUM number of councillors permitted (5), including the Mayor.
- No. 8** - All Councillors vote on all decisions so it shouldn't matter where they live. Decisions should be made for the benefit of the whole community.
- No. 9** - nil
- No. 10** - Need local councillors for local suburbs not one that lives up the hill to decide for other suburbs that aren't their own
- No. 11** - To Whom It May Concern. Please record that I have a preference to have the MINIMUM number of councillors permitted (5), including the Mayor and the NO WARDS option.
- No. 12** - To Whom It May Concern. Please record that I have a preference to have the MINIMUM number of councillors permitted (5), including the Mayor and the NO WARDS option.
- No. 13** - To Whom It May Concern. Please record that I have a preference to have the MINIMUM number of councillors permitted (5), including the Mayor and the NO WARDS option.
- No. 14** - Please record that I have a preference to have the minimum number of councillors permitted (5), including the Mayor and the NO WARDS option.
- No. 15** - I am in favour of no wards and minimum counsellors, the reason being I fail to see the value of any of it. The meetings I've been to in the past and there are many, most of the time if not all the time the counsellors adopt the offices recommendation. Even if it's against the wishes of the people they are supposed to represent. I think also the mayor should be elected by the people, this could go some way to breathe new life into the city something drastically needs

- No. 16** - Needs of the two areas are different in that the property ages, sizes and flora/fauna content are very different. Hills people are interested in preserving history and village for tourism. Foothills are about convenience in living and getting to work.
- No. 17** - Please record that I have a preference for the minimum number of councillors permitted (5), including the Mayor, and the 'no wards' option.
- No. 18** – See comments attached (Appendix 1).
- No. 19** - I believe this review is well overdue as I have felt that for some time Local Government has been top heavy with councillors. I have attended a number of council meetings and have come away unimpressed with the performance of those who are there to represent us. I could count on one hand those that were switched-on and attentive to the proceedings while the others were fiddling with mobile phones. Others, by the comments they made, were there because of blatant self-interests.

When council elections are due we have pamphlets and fliers circulating stating how active and supportive of the area they would be. Unfortunately, once elected their statements and promises do not bear the fruit they espouse. It is also very obvious by the comments made by one long standing councillor, that they are only in it for the remuneration.

Therefore, in my opinion the area could be adequately serviced by a maximum number of five councillors with no wards.

**No. 20** - To Whom It May Concern

As I have no idea who our local councillors are and have never seen (apart from some unknown representatives hidden behind computer screens at Council meetings) nor heard, nor been contacted by our local councillors, I have a preference to have the minimum number of councillors permitted (5), including the Mayor and the NO WARDS option please.

**No. 21** – We therefore want to express a preference for the MINIMUM number of Councillors permitted (that is five, including the Mayor) and NO WARDS.

See attached submission for further comments (Appendix 2)

**No. 22** - I have concerns about the workload for Councillors with 25% less representation than currently exists. As Stated in the report many members attend committees on multiple nights per week as well as community events. The significant increase in reading and deliberation of items will make their positions more onerous. I believe we will see an increase in delegated authority to staff to make more and more decisions on behalf of the City. This will mean effectively less representation of the community. Representation should continue with Communities of similar content - The existing boundaries could be tweaked to keep population numbers similar such as using Lyndhurst Road instead of Mundaring Road for North Ward. All wards need to reflect population for at least a 6-8 year period. - Not just current when we are fully aware of further infill subdivision and future urban subdivisions. The commercial imperative of business is not always effectively considered by the City as there is no relationship of the importance when local government voting is considered. A decision to split the City into two ward should be resisted at all cost. A polarised city would not be a good governance result.

**No. 23** - To Whom It May Concern.

Please record that I express a preference for the City of Kalamunda to have the minimum number of councillors permitted (5), including the Mayor and the NO WARDS option.

The current number of councillors are an unnecessary cost on the rate-payer and do not reflect value for money.

Cutting the number will increase competition and attract better, more qualified candidates.

**No. 24** - To Whom It May Concern.

Please record that I express a preference for the City of Kalamunda to have the minimum number of councillors permitted (5), including the Mayor and the NO WARDS option.

The current number of councillors are an unnecessary cost on the rate-payer and do not reflect value for money.

Cutting the number will increase competition and attract better, more qualified candidates.

**Nos. 25 & 26** – See attached comments (Appendix 3)

**No. 27** – To Whom It May Concern,

Please record that I have a preference to have the minimum number of councillors permitted (5), including the Mayor and the NO WARDS option.

**No. 28** - To Whom It May Concern,

Please record that I have a preference to have the minimum number of councillors permitted (5), including the Mayor and the NO WARDS option.

**No. 29** - Similar needs for residents between the Foothills suburbs.

**No. 30** – Nil

**No. 31** – Nil

**No. 32** – Nil

**No. 33** - To Whom It May Concern

Please record that we have a preference to have the minimum number of councillors permitted (5), including the Mayor and the NO WARDS option.

**No. 34** - I was going to complete your questionnaire but felt it was bias as to how you wanted the community to respond to the questions and decided to write instead.

I am against keeping the ward system as it stands as I believe there are too many Councillors. I feel that there really is no need to have the excessive amount of Councillors which are tied into a ward. I believe we should eradicate the ward system and Councillors fight to be elected by all ratepayers within the city. Make Councillors represent everyone and not be thinking of how do I please my ward so I can get re-elected and only requiring a small amount of votes or at times have no one opposed and get an easy vote in.

No to wards and reduce the amount of Councillors.

**No. 35** – See attachment for additional comments (Appendix 4).

**No. 36** – To Whom It May Concern.

Please put on record that I would prefer for the City of Kalamunda to have the minimum number of councillors permitted (5), including the Mayor and the NO WARDS option. The current number of councillors are an unnecessary cost on the rate-payer and do not reflect value for money. Cutting the number will increase competition and attract better, more qualified candidates.

The current council set up have presided over many controversial decisions that has led to the degradation of what once was a place proud of its natural habitat. The sitting councillors have shown little regard for residents wanting to keep our greenspace and pandered to high density developers.

They have ignored science and study after study that tells us to manage our resources better.

**No. 37** - To Whom It May Concern.

Please record that I express a preference for the City of Kalamunda to have the minimum number of councillors permitted (5), including the Mayor and the NO WARDS option.

The current number of councillors are an unnecessary cost on the rate-payer and do not reflect value for money. Cutting the number will increase competition and attract better, more qualified candidates.

**No. 38** - The survey form is extremely limited in the feedback it permits to be entered so I feel it must be noted separately by email that my feedback is this.

The city of Kalamunda should move toward a no ward structure with the maximum of 5 Councillors being required. There appears to be absolutely no benefit whatsoever to any resident of the shire to require more than 5 councillors. So 5 it should be

**No. 39** - Nil

**No. 40** – Nil

**No. 41** - If a two ward system is chosen, the two wards should both have an equal number of Hills constituents and an equal number of Foothills constituents in each and therefore an equal number of Councillors. This would eliminate the conflict of "uppers verses downers.

**No. 42** - With regard to the above mentioned subject, we would like it recorded that the minimum number of councillors , (5) be permitted to sit on the Kalamunda Shire Council Board, including the Mayor and the NO WARDS option.

**No. 43** - In regards to the abovementioned subject I thank you for the opportunity to have my view recorded which is to have the **minimum** number of councillors permitted (5), including the Mayor and the NO WARDS option.

**No. 44** - After consideration of the published documents I feel the Town of Kalamunda would function adequately with 5 council representatives elected from the Town Districts under a no ward system. The current much larger council does not generate active debate and seldom expresses the views of the people they represent. With a much smaller council residents can be more targeted in their deputations and members more confident of their influence.

Appendix 1

Submission to the City of Kalamunda relating to  
Ward Boundaries and Councillor Numbers  
16<sup>th</sup> January 2023

**To Whom It May Concern**

I am a rate-payer living in the city of Kalamunda.

In responding to the City of Kalamunda's request for Public submissions from electors and ratepayers, I submit my comments as follows:

**NO WARDS**

I strongly support abolishing all Wards in the City of Kalamunda.

The reasons for my position are:

1. Both the City's *Governance and Policy Framework* (Section 8.1) and the *Local Government Act 1995* (Section 2.10, p.16), state that "...a councillor represents the interests of electors, ratepayers and residents of the district."  
As all councillors vote on issues affecting every ward, the separation into wards serves no effective purpose and implies a barrier to those seeking assistance from a Councillor outside one's ward.
2. Electors would perceive a wider range of Councillors to select from in presenting their issues.
3. There is a general sense among City residents that a number of our City Councillors do not take an interest in or represent the community concerns of their wards.  
As a resident of Piesse Brook and an elector in the South East Ward, with over 50 concerned residents, I observed the disinterest of our Ward councillors in representing amenity concerns relating to a development, either in private or at Council meetings.
4. In its *Discussion Paper*, the city has indicated a cost-saving in running Council elections. This is a contributing factor in favour of abolishing the obsolete Ward system



## NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS

I strongly support a reduction in the number of Councillors to **a maximum of 5 competent councillors plus a Mayor/President** elected by the community (a total of 6 elected members).

The benefit of reduced numbers would be:

1. Time/opportunity at Council meetings for more Councillor voices to be heard, the opportunity/requirement for each Councillor to state the reason for his or her position with regard to an issue. With the current number of Councillors this often does not occur. Council meetings are lengthy events. Some representatives make long, rambling statements, others are silent. A small number remain on message, state reasons for their positions and are respected by the community.
2. It is recognised by this constituent that Councillors have a significant workload. However, the current larger numbers do not appear to have generated either sound or inclusive decision-making on a number of community issues.
3. Annual cost savings in reduced numbers.

Thank you,  
Yours faithfully,

**Appendix 2**

**TO: CITY OF KALAMUNDA**

**BY**

---

**SUBMISSION RE: Local government structural reform process: Ward and Representation review**

**Date of document: 17 January 2023**

On 21 September 2022, the Minister for Local Government Hon. John Carey issued a media statement proposing a set of local government reforms. Under the voluntary pathway to enact these reforms, local councils were required to conduct a **full** Ward and Representation Review (WRR). We allege the WRR process currently underway in the City of Kalamunda fails to comply with the Minister's directives for a fit and proper review in a number of important respects in that it

- contravenes the Local Government Act 1995
- places the government reform process in jeopardy
- undermines public confidence in elected officials.

It has implications not only for the conduct of local government but crucially raises the question of whether the Local Government Advisory Board may knowingly permit a flawed review process to stand.

### **WHAT IS A SUITABLE REVIEW?**

The voluntary reform pathway chosen by the City of Kalamunda requires a **full** Ward and Representation Review, as described in the Minister's media statement (21 September 2022). Further enquiries with the Minister's Office confirmed that if a "suitable review" was not completed within the timeframe permitted, then the Board may recommend that the Reform Election Pathway be enacted.

The Local Government Act does not define what constitutes a "suitable" review, although it does specify technical factors to be considered in relation to establishing or varying ward boundaries.

In the absence of a legal definition, the common meaning of the word "suitable" is *"the quality of being right or appropriate for a particular person, purpose, or situation"*.

Within the context of the Act, a suitable review would therefore be one that reflects the intent of the Act as described in section 1.3(2) (see Appendix B), the good governance principle arising from section 3.1 (see Appendix B) and the Local Government Advisory Board guiding principles (see Appendix C) which reflect the provisions of Schedule 2.2 of the Act. It would also be in accord with the Government's guide *"How to conduct a review of wards and representation for local governments with and without a ward system"* (October 2017).

In the current context of a comprehensive and costly local government reform agenda, a "suitable review" must go beyond the technical factors cited above to encompass procedural fairness and full disclosure of relevant facts in an objective, relevant and timely manner. A review would be suitable only if it were to assist the community to contribute their ideas and participate meaningfully in decisions relating to both council size and ward structures, if any.

Neither of these outcomes is enabled by the Council's initiated current consultation process.

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW PANEL FINAL REPORT**

The final report of the Local Government Review Panel 2020 outlined recommendations to guide the subsequent reform agenda. The panel considered community engagement ("inclusive local democracy") as the bedrock of good government, with the local government being there for, and to respond to, the community. The panel enunciated the following principles:

- Councils actively engage with their local communities.
- Councils are responsive to the needs, interests and aspirations of individuals and groups within its community.

- Community engagement processes have clearly defined objectives and scope.
- Participants in community engagement have access to **objective, relevant and timely information** to inform their participation. (added emphasis from the authors)
- Participants in community engagement are representative of the persons and groups affected by the matter that is the subject of the community engagement.
- Participants in community engagement are entitled to reasonable support to enable meaningful and informed engagement.
- Participants in community engagement are informed of the ways in which the community engagement process will influence council decision-making.

To form opinions based on reason, the community needs information we can rely on. Whatever the reason, the Council endorsed process has been based on a continuous stream of **misinformation** that directly militates against the Minister's stated objectives and the intent and spirit of the reform agenda. It wholly undermines the basis of the term "suitable review". In our view a new system poisoned at the source cannot be allowed to stand into the future.

### **FAILURES OF CITY OF KALAMUNDA REVIEW PROCESS**

In the media statement of 21 September 2022, the Minister described the intent of the reform agenda as follows:

*"Our reform agenda is clear – we are strengthening the transparency, accountability and efficiency of local governments, and this set of electoral reforms will enable stronger local democracy and community engagement."*

Standards for decision-making and community engagement require that information and options be presented in a balanced, complete and neutral (objective) manner. The Council's current review process fails on all three counts. Alternatives are not clearly defined. The right information is not presented, and the costs and benefits are not fully explored. For example, **all** mention of the current cost of councillor remuneration (around \$30,000 per year each) is entirely absent from the Council's documentation package.

Indeed, the City's discussion paper shows blatant bias towards alternatives that perpetuate the status quo. In local government, where sins of commission (doing something) tend to be punished much more severely than sins of omission (doing nothing), the status quo holds a particularly strong attraction. But in failing to seize the occasion when change is expected, the City is failing electors and undermining the objectives of the Government's reform agenda.

Without balanced, complete and unbiased information, we have no democracy. Making these rights real requires remedial action now before the projected benefits of reform are lost. Enacting the Reform Election Pathway is an obvious step to ensure the review process is professional and legal, and that community protections are real and effective.

#### Misleading information

On 25 November 2022, the Council uploaded documents relating to the reform process on their website, inviting public comment by Friday, 20 January 2023, at 5pm.

The introduction stated that the Council was reviewing its wards and representative structure at the behest of the State Government in order:

*“To ensure that there is not an imbalance in the number of electors per councillor between the wards and that the number of councillors for the City and each ward meets the legislative requirements and is appropriate for providing proper governance and community representation across the district.”*

This wording misconstrues the Government’s purpose by inferring the retention of the ward structure is a “given” and that the community is simply being given the opportunity to comment upon the distribution of councillors across existing wards.

Seven attachments, including a discussion paper, accompanied the Council’s proposal. However, 5 of the attachments were identical, each directing the reader back to the 40-page discussion paper. Whether or not a deliberate ploy, the sheer bulk of 7 attachments could be expected to have a chilling effect on community members, making the background reading appear more daunting than it should have been. The attention of electors, seemingly buried under paperwork, might have lapsed as a result.

#### Out of the equation

And these readers were the lucky ones. They at least had found their way to the discussion on the Council’s webpage. The ‘Have your say’ section of the website appears to have been the **only** avenue adopted by the Council to notify residents of their right to participate in the consultation process at all. The only exception appears to have been a mention of the WRR in the Mayor’s online newspaper column published on 2 December 2022.

Unless residents made a habit of checking the City’s website or, were among the few who attended actual council meetings, they would generally remain unaware of this opportunity to make a submission.

As the Council has possession of the full contact details of property owners, we contend that the failure to use all available means to contact residents directly constituted an improper restriction on the people’s right to participate in the reform process. Further, only computer literate people had easy access to the relevant information. In effect, many people’s right to participate in the (ratepayer-funded) consultation process was negated.

#### Discussion paper

A discussion paper is a central element of the process of consultation by the Council with stakeholders. It is intended to highlight the key considerations that must be taken into account in future Council deliberations.

In order to determine an appropriate policy response, a discussion paper is therefore expected to be factual, evidence-based and nonsuggestive. The Council’s current discussion paper fails on all three counts, as shown below. In particular, we contend the information package was designed to deliver a predetermined result (“business as usual”), albeit with a minor reduction in councillor numbers as required by the Minister. In fact, page 9 of the discussion paper states this bias plainly:

*“The City, in discussion with Council, has based the proposals outlined in this paper on having the allowable maximum of 8 councillors.”*

and

*“Whilst the Council can have a minimum of 5 councillors it is viewed that any outcome other than 8 councillors is considered not practicable from a community engagement and workload perspective.”*

### Bias

Local government in Western Australia has either a ward system, or no wards, for the representation of electors. The title of the Council’s own discussion paper, Ward and Representation Review, contains a reference to the ward system.

However, the public submission form permits residents to express an opinion about representation (the future size of the Council) **only** if they first agree to continue with the ward system. The rationale for the no ward option is manifestly inadequate.

Rather than eliciting alternative community views, the discussion paper presents only the single option of the status quo as in the best interests of the community.

While page 9 contains a disclaimer: “The City is not promoting any single option”, the very next paragraph gives the lie to this statement: “The City, in discussion with Council, has based the proposals outlined in this paper on having the allowable maximum of 8 councillors. This was considered based on the size of the City, the population and current workloads of councillors.”

In case electors remained in doubt, the discussion paper goes on to say:

*“Whilst the Council can have a minimum of 5 councillors it is viewed that any outcome other than 8 councillors is considered not practicable from a community engagement and workload perspective. Notwithstanding this view, the City through the public consultation phase is interested to hear the community’s view on councillor representation and how many councillors would be appropriate under the new requirements.”*

At 2 relevant public council meetings, Councillors reiterated their desired outcome of the maximum 8 councillors (see Appendix D).

As stated above, the submission form does not permit an opinion on representation, **except** in the context of an elector first agreeing to continue with a ward structure.

Even if an elector expresses a view on the number of councillors by some other means, the discussion paper states that **only views supported by Council** will be submitted to the Board and Minister for approval.

*“Council will consider all submissions received and will then decide 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 (LGAB) and Minister for approval.”*

Given that the Council has already made it clear that it has a preferred position – that is, 8 councillors, plus a Mayor and the continuation of a 4 ward system, this proviso makes a mockery of the reform process in particular and local democracy in general. That the vast power imbalance between electors and the City is real is shown by previous experience. For example, in 2020 only 2 submissions were received in support of an advertised concept plan compared with 145 against. Councillors simply substituted a “ring in” concept plan and, without further reference to the

community, submitted it to the WAPC for approval. The City’s understanding of “suitable review” and “community consultation” is therefore farcical.

All the more reason for the Board to enable legitimate scrutiny and debate of the proposed reforms by declaring the default option for Kalamunda forthwith.

*Failure to disclose financial impacts*

The City openly announced its intention of retaining the maximum number of councillors while failing to disclose the financial implications of their plan. For example, the paper omits all reference to the costs associated with each councillor position. Moreover, demographic trends show that the City it is not expected to reach the “trigger point” for a permitted increase in Council size for at least 20 years. This represents a potential saving of approximately \$1.8 million over the next 20 years if the City opted for the minimum number of councillors (5) instead of the maximum (8).

By failing to disclose relevant information, the City has attempted to steer community thinking, making it harder for electors to choose wisely. The financial impacts of reform may be considered even more significant given that the Council’s budget management has recently been the subject of adverse comment by the Auditor General. This comment is recorded in points 17 and 18 of the minutes of the City’s Special Council Meeting held on 27 June 2022. The minutes reveal that the Auditor General has highlighted a deteriorating trend with respect to the City’s Operating Surplus Ratio, which has declined over the past 3 years. Clearly therefore, the financial aspects of councillor representation are a key consideration.

Consideration of the financial impact of changes to the ward system is also obligatory for the Board. The Guiding Principles of the Board (see Appendix C) form the basis for the consideration of any changes to local government boundaries, which in this instance must include consideration of the Minister’s publicly announced reform agenda and the alternative of the Minister’s Reform Election Pathway. Factors that affect the viability of local government, including financial viability, must also form part of any WRR review.

By failing to include the required cost–benefit analysis of the various reform options, the Council has exposed the community to a lack of evidentiary basis for change and the Board to the flow-on effects of non-compliance.

As it is the community who shoulder the financial responsibility for local government services, the absence of full financial disclosure in the discussion paper is particularly galling.

*A ward system, or no wards*

On 28 July 2018, *The West Australian* newspaper reported Minister Templeman as saying there was a pressing need for the State Government to intervene earlier when councils “go off the rails”. The Reform Election Pathway proposed by his Ministerial successor was seen as a much-needed fresh start for troubled local government authorities. The public record shows the City of Kalamunda falls into that “troubled” category in need of a fresh start. It has gone “off the rails” in many of its responsibilities, including environmental sustainability, climate change, community engagement and budget management. But it has failed to grasp this review as an opportunity for genuine engagement, much less to seek feedback on whether a ward system should be retained, or ward boundaries be abolished, based on an objective analysis of both options.

On page 22, the discussion paper pre-empts public consideration of changes to the ward system by stating:

*“There is no need to make any changes to the current ward boundaries.”*

and

*“All of the following proposals and options have been prepared on the basis of eight (8) councillors.”*

Comprehensive omissions in the discussion paper also relate to Proposal 1 “Have no wards”. For example, the rationale for Proposal 1 implies that one of the disadvantages to a no ward system may be that:

*“... a member of the community may feel that their interests are not being represented, particularly if they are from an area with a small population, and if most of the councillors are from more populated areas. The residents of certain areas of the City may have specific concerns that are not relevant to residents of other areas and may feel that their issues are not understood or seen as being important.”*

This statement implies that councillors with a personal connection to a specific ward, either by living or working in the ward, are necessarily more effective than a colleague who lives in an adjacent ward. This has no basis in fact. Nor is residency in a specific ward a legal requirement, a pertinent fact that is omitted from the rationale for Proposal 1. While physical proximity may have played a major role in communications in horse-and-buggy days, modern technology breaks down any distance barrier.

Nor does the discussion paper point out the potential advantage of no wards in terms of providing voters with a larger pool of candidates. Given generally low levels of community participation in the affairs of local government, increasing potential voter choice is entirely consistent with the government’s goal of greater community participation and the one-vote, one-value principle.

The Department of Local Government advised the authors on 6 December 2022 that there are 30 local governments in the metropolitan area, 6 without wards. Yet on page 23 of the discussion paper, the Council states:

*“As at the 2015 Local Government Elections five of the 30 local governments within the metropolitan region had no wards – Town of Bassendean and Cities of Gosnells, Kwinana, Perth and the Shire of Peppermint Grove.”*

Apart from using data that was 7 years old, in the interests of completeness the paper could have just as easily said that 85 local governments out of 137 across the state have opted for No Wards.

The Council’s selective comment is a psychological trap that undermines free and critical thinking. It implies that the vast majority of local government authorities had duly weighed up the pros and cons and concluded that No Wards was undesirable. In reality, their structure simply reflected historical precedent. Far better perhaps for the discussion paper to have quoted Frank Zappa:

*“Without deviation from the norm, progress is not possible.”*

A ward system, or no wards? The discussion paper fails utterly to present either case beyond the presumption of the status quo, underscoring the cynical nature of the City’s entire review process.

*Public submission form*



Appendix 8 of the discussion paper is the public submission form. The introduction to the form fails to reflect all the facts and is slanted towards a desired outcome (the status quo).

Examples include:

*“Consequently, the City of Kalamunda (City) ... can now only have a maximum of 8 councillors plus a Mayor elected by the electors.”*

and

*“The review is being carried out in accordance with clause 6 of Schedule 2.2 of the Local Government Act 1995 and will assess the appropriateness of:*

- *The current ward boundaries.*
- *The number of councillors representing each ward.”*

The above statement refers only to changing the boundaries of existing wards and conceals the crucial option of doing away with wards altogether.

In summary, when the outcome doesn't fit the Council's narrative, the Council abandons the facts, not the narrative. Virtually every piece of information the community get through these documents has been massaged, curated and manipulated before it reaches us. The Council cannot be counted on to reflect all the facts, which must be recognised as an unacceptable state of affairs in a democracy.

We are far from alone in expressing our dissatisfaction with the process, as evidenced by 2 recent Letters to the Editor in the local *Echo* newspaper (see Appendix E). The newspaper titled the letter by J Jeavons, of Wattle Grove, published on 2 December 2022, as “Ward woes”. This letter said in part:

*“In my view, adopting the Minister's reform election pathway would provide residents in the City with the ‘circuit breaker’ we so desperately need ...*

*It is clear from reading relevant council minutes that the current councillors want the maximum number of councillors permitted and want to continue with some form of ward structure.*

*In my view, the wording of the ‘discussion paper’ is clearly slanted to increase the chance that the community will endorse these councillor views ...*

*In my view, such a high-handed disregard for the community's right to participate in fair and objective consultation processes only serves to underscore the desperate need for local government reform as recognised by the Minister.”*

The letter by M Ryan of Wattle Grove, published on 3 November 2022, was titled “Partial say not good enough”. After saying the Council's discussion paper could cause confusion and bamboozle the community, the letter concluded:

*“The people should be given a say on all aspects of the full representation and ward review and not just have a partial say on wards only.”*

In another instance, the first statement of preference on the public submission form permits a choice of No Wards but does not prompt the elector to comment on the level of representation they think should be linked with a No Ward structure.

The second statement of preference permits the elector to express a preference for the number of councillors but only within the constraint of accepting the continuance of a ward system.

It is technically open for a community member to respond ‘one’ to the question about the desired number of wards, which could then be interpreted as them having selected the “No Wards” option. However, equating “one” ward with “No Wards” is trickery. If the elector had answered the first statement of preference as “No Wards”, the second statement of preference would be irrelevant. The use of such deceptive methodology is surely to be condemned.

#### *Predetermined view*

A comprehensive guide for local governments on how to conduct a review of wards and representation was published in October 2017. The full title of the guide was “*How to conduct a review of wards and representation for local governments with and without a ward system*”.

A basic principle of the guide was that councils should not try to “sell” a particular option. The City of Kalamunda continues to act in contravention of this principle.

Election reform was the subject at an ordinary council meeting of the City of Kalamunda on 25 October 2022 and again one month later on 22 November 2022.

Minutes of each meeting (see Appendix D) clearly show the Council stating and “selling” its preferred option, regardless of the wishes of residents. As no alternatives additional to the current ward system can or will be considered, the consultation process perpetuated by the Council is an administrative fraud and should not be supported.

#### **HOW DOES KALAMUNDA COMPARE?**

The Board is in a far better position than the authors to compare the merits of each Council’s review process as well as ensure their compliance with the Act. But the unevenness of the process is evident even from public documents. For example, the quality of the public documentation issued by the City of Albany stands in stark contrast to the misinformation supplied by the City of Kalamunda (see Figure 1). While Albany’s discussion paper fulfils both the letter and the spirit of the intended reforms, Kalamunda’s effort can only be described as incompetent at best or deliberately misleading at worst.

<b>Factor</b>	<b>City of Albany</b>	<b>City of Kalamunda</b>
Objectivity	✓	✗
Comprehensiveness	✓	✗
Influence of community feedback	✓	✗
Cost–benefit analysis of councillor numbers	✓	✗
Options explained	✓	✗
Clear feedback submission form	✓	✗

**Figure 1 Comparison of quality of public discussion papers**

#### *a) Objectivity*

The City of Albany's discussion paper is objective and impartial, with no apparent position on the preferred number of councillors. The discussion paper by the City of Kalamunda is heavily biased. The Council has openly adopted the maximum number of councillors (8) as their preferred position and has explicitly ruled out alternative views.

*b) Comprehensiveness*

Albany makes it clear that both the future size of the Council and the ward system are to be reviewed. Kalamunda explicitly rules out the No Ward option, referring only to a review of existing ward boundaries, and omits any choice on Council size if one opts for a No Ward preference.

*c) Influence of community feedback*

Albany undertakes to reflect community feedback in their final position to be forwarded to the Board and Minister as follows:

*"The City will make a determination on a preferred option following consideration of all submissions received."*

Kalamunda gives no such undertaking. In fact, the opposite. Kalamunda is quite open about the fact that only one model will be forwarded to the Board – and that is the Council's preferred model as proposed in the discussion paper.

*"Any Council-supported changes to the current structure will then be submitted to the Local Government Advisory Board and Minister for approval."*

Kalamunda treats the discussion paper as a cynical public relations exercise, which is an insult to the administration of local government and the people it supposedly represents.

*d) Cost–benefit analysis of Councillor numbers*

Albany includes and addresses the financial impacts of various options as shown below in the extract from the City of Albany discussion paper.

Councillors	Electors	Cr: Elector ratio	Estimated savings
12 (current)	28,093	1:2341	N/A
10	28,093	1:2809	–\$71,940
8	28,093	1:3511	–\$143,880
6	28,093	1:4682	–\$215,820
4	28,093	1:7023	–\$287,760

***Table 3. Financial Implications – Reduction in Elected Representation (based on Councillor Payments approved in the 2022–23 Budget).***

. Kalamunda does not include any cost-benefit analysis of Council size in the discussion paper. Nor does it refer even to the annual cost to ratepayers per councillor.

*e) Options explained*

Albany presents a balanced discussion of the options, including drawing electors' attention to the fact that councillors do not need to live in the ward they represent. Kalamunda omits significant facts, rules out options that should logically remain on the table, and generally presents a very biased discussion of the issues. Their weak explanation of the no ward option purports that councillors need to live in the ward they represent if they are to be effective. This is factually incorrect.

*f) Submission forms*

Albany outlines all options available to the community clearly (see Appendix F). Kalamunda allows the community to comment upon the future size of the Council **only** if they first agree to retain wards (see Appendix G).

The overall lack of transparency is an indictment of the City of Kalamunda, which is going through the motions of a WRR solely to maintain a veneer of propriety while driving its own status quo agenda.

We hope that the Board will act to restore the integrity of the process that is to shape the future of local government in Western Australia if the Council fails to do so.

## **CONCLUSION**

Fake news' may feel like a new problem to society, but it has a long pedigree at the City of Kalamunda. This is not the first time that residents have been tricked into tokenistic engagement designed to ratify a predetermined outcome.

In our view, by failing to initiate a suitable review, Councillors have forfeited the right to automatic continuation in the role beyond 2023 via the voluntary pathway. Enacting the Reform Election Pathway provides a way forward that is both fair to the community and supportive of the Government's reform agenda.

We therefore want to express a preference for the MINIMUM number of Councillors permitted (that is five, including the Mayor) and NO WARDS.

Yours sincerely

**Appendix 3**

City of Kalamunda

Re Ward and Representation Review

To All Whom It Concerns

As property owners of above, we wish it recorded that we have a definite preference to have the minimum number of councillors permitted (5), including the Mayor, as well as the No Wards option.

A brief history to quantify our reasonings.

In 1987 we moved from the country, purchasing a house in Bottega Place Lesmurdie.

In 1995/96 we purchased this property in Wattle Grove.

At no stage in all these years, has an elected Councillor or Ward Representative ever made personal contact explaining their intentions, responsibilities or plans for their given ward.

At election time we see the Billboards, 'Vote for.....,' but no knock on the door or personal contact.

Of late (ie the last few years) Ward Representatives for our area (Wattle Grove South) have made decisions it seems, favouring the minority rather than the majority. Decisions also made by council, which have a devastating environmental impact, such as the Hale Road Logistics Park.

Reducing the number of councillors to the minimum of 5 and doing away with the ward system would also be of obvious financial benefit.

Please record our preference(s) one each as individuals, (X2) rather than one as a couple.

Yours Sincerely

Wednesday 18th January 2023

## Appendix 4

## No. 35 - Additional Comments

To: Whomsoever it may concern.

Further to the entirely reasonable request from the WA Minister responsible for Local Government Hon John Carey for all Local Governments to carry out a Review of Ward and Representation Review **taking the views of ratepayers fully into account** . -

**I consider that the City Officers and Council of Kalamunda have so far within the expected time scale - failed to openly and adequately consult the ratepayer electorate,** and should refer back to the Local Government Act Section 1...3(2) that spells out the intended result being better decision making; greater community participation in the affairs of local governments; greater accountability to their communities; and more efficient and effective local governments. Good governance principles arise from Section 3.1 of the Act.

In contrast –

- a. Completely inadequate effort has been made to ensure that all Kalamunda ratepayers are aware of this Review.
- b. The documentation offered is inadequately objective in content and presents an impression of the current Officers/ Council wishing without refence to community opinion, to preserve the status quo in terms of maintaining a Ward structure *(in which incidentally some current Councillors do not even reside within the wards they are supposed to represent)* and retaining the current excessive numbers of Councillors **required to ensure adequate community participation.**

**c)** Contrary to the 'Options offered for Wards and filling positions' I consider (as apparently does the Hon LG Minister) that the 'population size, land mass and nature of communities' does not warrant the current number of Councillors. 5 Councillors including the Mayor (elected by Council) and no Wards will be adequate, provided that each and every one of them in future fully and continuously engage personally with the community. -


*E.g. Having attended most Council meetings in person for several years I have noticed that several current Councillors have not made any contribution whatsoever personally to discussions and debate; and some others convey an impression of expressing their own personal views on topics arising for decision, sometimes without having previously sought the views of electors in their respective 'wards'.*

**10.4.4. Ward and Representation Review 2022/2023***Declaration of financial / conflict of interests to be recorded prior to dealing with each item.*

Previous  
Items  
Directorate Office of the CEO  
Business Unit Governance  
File Reference  
Applicant  
Owner

Attachments 1. City of Kalamunda Ward and Representation Review  
Discussion Paper 2022/2023 [10.4.4.1 - 40 pages]

**TYPE OF REPORT**

Advocacy	When Council is advocating on behalf of the community to another level of government/body/agency
Executive	When Council is undertaking its substantive role of direction setting and oversight (eg accepting tenders, adopting plans and budgets)
Information	For Council to note
 Legislative	Includes adopting Local Laws, Town Planning Schemes and Policies. When Council determines a matter that directly impacts a person's rights and interests where the principles of natural justice apply. Examples include town planning applications, building licences, other permits or licences issued under other Legislation or matters that could be subject to appeal to the State Administrative Tribunal

**STRATEGIC PLANNING ALIGNMENT***Kalamunda Advancing Strategic Community Plan to 2031***Priority 4: Kalamunda Leads****Objective 4.1** - To provide leadership through transparent governance.**Strategy 4.1.1** - Provide good governance.**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement to issue the City of Kalamunda (City) Ward Review Discussion Paper 2022 for community consultation.

Ordinary Council Meeting 22 November 2022

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2. On the 20 September 2022, the Minister for Local Government formally advised the City, in writing, of the forthcoming amendments to the Local Government Act and requested the Council to provide written formal response on these matters by the 28 October 2022.
3. Council agreed it would pursue the voluntary pathway option and in doing so would undertake a ward review process.
4. This report recommends Council approve the City of Kalamunda Ward Review Discussion Paper 2022 for the purpose of community consultation until 20 January 2023 when the submission period will close.

#### **BACKGROUND**

5. On 3 July 2022, the Minister for Local Government the Hon. John Carey announced the final package of proposed local government reforms, following a review of public submissions.
6. As part of the reforms to strengthen local democracy and increase community engagement, new requirements will be introduced to provide for:
  - a) The introduction of optional preferential voting.
  - b) Directly elected Mayors and Presidents for band 1 and 2 local governments. Note: The City of Kalamunda is a band 2 Local Government.
  - c) Councillor numbers based on population.
  - d) The removal of wards for band 3 and 4 local governments.
7. Work on a Bill to amend the Local Government Act 1995 (the Act) is ongoing, and a Bill is expected to be introduced into Parliament in early 2023.
8. According to the Minister's advice many of the reform proposals relating to Council representation are based on recent trends and are intended to provide greater consistency between districts.
9. The reform proposals do require the City of Kalamunda to reduce the number of elected members in accordance with proposed population thresholds as follows:
  - a) For a population of up to 5,000 – five councillors (including the President)
  - b) For a population of between 5,000 and 75,000 – five to nine councillors (including the Mayor/President)



Ordinary Council Meeting 22 November 2022

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- c) population of above 75,000 – nine to fifteen councillors (including Mayor).
10. The City has a population of 60,803 and hence will be required to reduce to no more than 8 councillors and a Mayor which gives a total of nine elected members.
11. The Council at its Ordinary Council meeting on 25th October resolved by absolute majority as follows:
1. *AGREE to undertake a voluntary election reform process.*
  2. *Pursuant to section 2.11 (2) of the Local Government Act 1995 AGREE to change the method of filling the office of mayor from the Council method to the election by the electors' method in 2023.*
  3. *REQUEST the Chief Executive Officer to prepare a Ward Boundary Review discussion paper, including all possible appropriate options, for consideration by Council in November 2022 and for the purpose of issuing the discussion paper for an 8-week public advertising period.*
  4. *REQUEST the Chief Executive Officer to advise the Department of Local Government, Sport of Cultural Industries by the 28 October 2022 of Council's intention to undertake the voluntary reform pathway and will submit a high-level plan outlining the potential changes to be implemented for the ordinary elections to be held in 2023 (and in 2025, if applicable) as outlined in this report.*
12. **Voluntary Pathway**  
Using this method, the City may formulate a plan to implement these changes on a voluntary basis. This pathway will require the City to commence the steps outlined in the Minister's advice immediately and could involve staging any larger changes in the number of Councillors over two ordinary elections. This pathway provides the greatest possible lead time to plan for the 2023 ordinary elections.

#### DETAILS AND ANALYSIS

13. In accordance with Council's resolution of 25 October 2022, the City has prepared a Ward Review Discussion Paper shown as Attachment 1 to this report, which is now presented to Council for consideration to issue the paper into the community to seek public comment.
14. Requirements and timeframes associated with the ward review are formulated based on the requirements outlined in the Minister's advice letter dated 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022. This letter stated Council was required to submit its review report and decision to the Local Government Advisory Board (LGAB) by 10 February 2023.

## Ordinary Council Meeting 22 November 2022

15. Given the deadlines set by the Minister the City has acted quickly to develop a Ward Review Discussion paper shown as Attachment 1. This will allow the maximum amount of time possible for community to consider the review paper. The proposed consultation process will commence on Friday 25 November 2022 and close on Friday 20 January 2023.
16. The following steps will need to occur to allow the City to meet the 30 June 2023 timeframe of publication in the Government Gazette of any proposed ward and representation review changes, ahead of the October 2023 local government elections.

17.	<b>Process</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
	1. Council resolves to change the method for election of the Mayor and to undertake a ward and representation review.	25 October 2022 – <b>Completed</b>
	2. Council formally advise the DLGSC of Council's decisions.	28 October 2022 <b>Completed</b>
	<b>3. A comprehensive discussion paper is developed and adopted by Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting in November.</b>	<b>22 November 2022</b> <b>Purpose of this Report</b>
	4. Council advertises it is conducting a review and the associated Discussion paper is published and community consultation commences.	25 November 2022
	5. Community consultation closes	20 January 2023
	6. Assessment of all submissions are considered against the relevant factors to be considered, and a draft report is prepared for Council decision.	31 January 2023
	7. The draft review report is presented to Council containing the outcome of the community consultation and will make recommendations for submitting to the Advisory Board.	Special Council Meeting 7 February 2023.

Ordinary Council Meeting 22 November 2022

8. The Council's adopted preferred option is submitted to the Advisory Board via the formal report, for the Board's consideration and recommendation.	10 February 2023
9. The Advisory Board considers the Council's review report, and a recommendation is submitted to the Minister, which can either be accepted or rejected.	February to June 2023

18. The City, by virtue of this report, has completed the City of Kalamunda Ward Review Discussion Paper 2022 shown as Attachment 1.

#### APPLICABLE LAW

19. *The Local Government Act 1995 Section 2.2. states:*  
*Districts may be divided into wards*  
*(1) The Governor, on the recommendation of the Minister, may make an order dividing a district into wards; or*  
*creating new wards in a district that is already divided into wards; or*  
*changing the boundaries of a ward; or*  
*abolishing any or all of the wards into which a district is divided; or*  
*as to a combination of any of those matters.*  
*(3) Schedule 2.2 (which deals with wards and representation) has effect.*  
*(4) The Minister can only make a recommendation under subsection (1) if the Advisory Board has recommended under Schedule 2.2 that the order in question should be made.*

*The Local government Act 1995 Schedule 2.2 states:*  
*Point 8. Matters to be considered in respect of wards*  
*Before a local government proposes that an order be made —*  
*(a) to do any of the matters in section 2.2(1), other than discontinuing a ward system; or*  
*(b) to specify or change the number of offices of councillor for a ward, or proposes under clause 4(2) that a submission be rejected, its council is to have regard, where applicable, to —*  
*(c) community of interests; and*  
*(d) physical and topographic features; and*  
*(e) demographic trends; and*  
*(f) economic factors; and*

Ordinary Council Meeting 22 November 2022

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*(g) the ratio of councillors to electors in the various wards*

#### **APPLICABLE POLICY**

20. Service 5: Communication and Engagement

#### **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

21. The Act requires a ward review discussion paper to be made available for public consultation for a minimum of six weeks.

In considering the Christmas break the City has been able to have a review paper ready to be issued to the community by 25 November 2022.

Thus, enabling the discussion paper to be available for 8 weeks and distributed through engage HQ for online submissions to be received as well as in all libraries across the City. Submissions will close on 20 January 2023.

#### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

22. The cost of advertising and promoting the consultation process will be in the order of \$1,000-\$2,000 and funded from the Council's approved advertising budget.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY**

23. Nil.

#### **RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 24.
- |  |                   |               |
|--|-------------------|---------------|
| <b>Risk:</b> The Council decides upon a ward review that does not meet the criteria outlined in Section 2.2 (8) of the Local Government Act 1995.  |                   |               |
| <b>Consequence</b>   | <b>Likelihood</b> | <b>Rating</b> |
| Moderate   | Possible          | Medium        |
| <b>Action/Strategy</b>   |                   |               |
| The Council should carefully consider the merit of any decision against the criteria required for establishing wards to avoid the decision not being accepted by the Local Government Advisory Board.. |                   |               |

Ordinary Council Meeting 22 November 2022

25.

<b>Risk:</b> The submission period being over the Christmas period causes community concerns.		
<b>Consequence</b>	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Rating</b>
Moderate	Possible	Medium
<b>Action/Strategy</b>		
The City will advise community members of the imposed requirements regarding timing of this ward review given the review has to be completed and ready for Council decision on 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2023. The City proposes to increase the time to 8 weeks, rather than the mandatory 6 weeks and commence community consultation on the 25 <sup>th</sup> of November 2022 following the Ordinary Council Meeting decision to maximise community awareness of the opportunity to provide input into the ward boundary review process and the closing date.		

**CONCLUSION**

26. There are many options that could be considered and submitted by the community through the consultation process. Notwithstanding this, the discussion paper presents several options viewed by the City as being feasible and justifiable against the key factors and would likely be accepted by the LGAB and the Minister.

<b>Voting Requirements: Simple Majority</b>
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**RECOMENDATION**

That Council AGREE to issuing the City of Kalamunda Ward Review Discussion Paper 2022 shown as Attachment 1 for community consultation from 25 November 2022 until 20 January 2023.

RESOLVED OCM 164/2022

That Council AGREE to issuing the City of Kalamunda Ward Review Discussion Paper 2022 shown as Attachment 1 for community consultation from 25 November 2022 until 20 January 2023, subject to the replacement of the Table on page 12 with the Table marked as Attachment 2.

Moved: **Cr Kathy Ritchie**

Seconded: **Cr Lisa Cooper**

Vote: **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (12/0)**



City of Kalamunda Ward Boundary & Elected  
Member Representation Review 2022- 23

## ATTACHMENT 5

# Special Council Meeting

Minutes

7 February 2023



Special Council Meeting 7 February 2023

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## INDEX

<b>1. Official Opening .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Attendance, Apologies and Leave of Absence Previously Approved .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3. Public Question Time.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4. Petitions/Deputations .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5. Announcements by the Member Presiding Without Discussion.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>6. Matters for Which the Meeting may be Closed .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>7. Disclosure of Interest .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>8. Reports to Council.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>8.1. Chief Executive Officer Reports.....</b>	<b>6</b>
8.1.1. Ward and Representation Review .....	6
<b>9. Meeting Closed to the Public.....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>10. Closure .....</b>	<b>17</b>



Special Council Meeting 7 February 2023

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**1. Official Opening**

The Presiding Member opened the meeting at 6:30pm and welcomed Councillors, Staff and Members of the Public Gallery. The Presiding Member also acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet the Whadjuk Noongar people.

**2. Attendance, Apologies and Leave of Absence Previously Approved**

**Councillors**

**South East Ward**

Janelle Sewell

Geoff Stallard

**South West Ward**

Brooke O'Donnell

Cr Kellie Miskiewicz (by telephone)

**North West Ward**

Sue Bilich

Lisa Cooper

Dylan O'Connor

**North Ward**

Kathy Ritchie

Margaret Thomas JP (Mayor) Presiding Member

**Members of Staff**

**A/Chief Executive Officer**

Peter Varelis

**Executive Team**

Gary Ticehurst - Director Corporate Services

Brett Jackson - Director Asset Services

Chris Lodge - A/Director Development Services

Nicole O'Neill - Director Community Engagement

**Management Team**

Alida Ferriera - Manager Financial Services

**Administration Support**

Darrell Forrest - Governance Advisor

Donna McPherson - Executive Assistant to the CEO

**Members of the Public 3**

**Members of the Press Nil.**

**Apologies**

Cr John Giardina

Cr Mary Cannon

Cr Andrew Osenton

Special Council Meeting 7 February 2023

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**Leave of Absence Previously Approved Nil**

**3. Public Question Time**

*A period of not less than 15 minutes is provided to allow questions from the gallery on matters relating to the functions of this meeting. For the purposes of Minuting, these questions and answers will be summarised.*

3.1 Nil.

**4. Petitions/Deputations**

4.1 A deputation was received from Bev Dornan, Wattle Grove, in relation to Item 8.1.1 Ward and Representation Review. Ms Dornan spoke against the recommendation.

**5. Announcements by the Member Presiding Without Discussion**

5.1 Stirk Park Skate Park

The Presiding Member and Cr Bilich attended the turning of the sod to commence the building of the skate park at Sirk Park. This is a very exciting project which is anticipated with excitement by the community.

**6. Matters for Which the Meeting may be Closed**

6.1 Item 8.1.1. Ward and Representation Review – Confidential Attachment – 2022/23 Ward Review Submitters

Reason for Confidentiality: *Local Government Act 1995 (WA) Section 5.23 (2) (b) - "the personal affairs of any person."*

**7. Disclosure of Interest**

**7.1. Disclosure of Financial and Proximity Interests**

a. Members must disclose the nature of their interest in matter to be discussed at the meeting. (Section 5.56 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.)

b. Employees must disclose the nature of their interest in reports or advice when giving the report or advice to the meeting. (Section 5.70 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.)

7.1.1 Nil

Special Council Meeting 7 February 2023

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**7.2. Disclosure of Interest Affecting Impartiality**

- a. Members and staff must disclose their interest in matters to be discussed at the meeting in respect of which the member or employee had given or will give advice.

7.2.1 Nil.

Special Council Meeting 7 February 2023

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## 8. Reports to Council

### 8.1. Chief Executive Officer Reports

#### 8.1.1. Ward and Representation Review

*Declaration of financial / conflict of interests to be recorded prior to dealing with each item.*

Previous Items	OCM 164/2022
Directorate	Office of the CEO
Business Unit	Governance
File Reference	OR-BOU-001
Applicant	N/A
Owner	N/A
Attachments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Draft Discussion Paper for Public Release 2022 Amended 22 Nov [<b>8.1.1.1</b> - 41 pages]</li> <li>2. Summary of Submissions 2022-2023 Review [<b>8.1.1.2</b> - 33 pages]</li> <li>3. City of Kalamunda - Proposed Ward Boundaries 2023 [<b>8.1.1.3</b> - 1 page]</li> <li>4. Confidential Attachment - 2022 23 Ward Review Submitters details [<b>8.1.1.4</b> - 1 page]</li> </ol>

#### TYPE OF REPORT

Advocacy	When Council is advocating on behalf of the community to another level of government/body/agency
Executive	When Council is undertaking its substantive role of direction setting and oversight (eg accepting tenders, adopting plans and budgets)
Information	For Council to note
✓ Legislative	Includes adopting Local Laws, Town Planning Schemes and Policies. When Council determines a matter that directly impacts a person's rights and interests where the principles of natural justice apply. Examples include town planning applications, building licences, other permits or licences issued under other Legislation or matters that could be subject to appeal to the State Administrative Tribunal

Special Council Meeting 7 February 2023

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## STRATEGIC PLANNING ALIGNMENT

*Kalamunda Advancing Strategic Community Plan to 2031*

### Priority 4: Kalamunda Leads

**Objective 4.1** - To provide leadership through transparent governance.

**Strategy 4.1.1** - Provide good governance.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is for Council to consider public submissions received following advertising of the Ward and Representation Review Discussion Paper (WRRDP) and to adopt a preferred option with respect to the City of Kalamunda's (City) Councillor numbers and ward structure.
2. The WRRDP was advertised on 25 November 2022 with public submissions closing on 20 January 2023. A total of 44 submissions were received.
3. The recommended outcome is that a four ward structure be retained albeit modified from present boundaries to align to a more equitable proportion of Councillors to electors. This was detailed as Proposal 3 Option 2 and presented to the community for consideration.
4. It is also recommended the City, from the 2023 Council Election has eight Councillors with two offices of Councillor in each ward.
5. It is recommended Council-
  1. NOTE the submissions received during the public submission period.
  2. pursuant to clause 9 of Schedule 2.2 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, SUBMIT a report to the Local Government Advisory Board seeking the making of an order under sections 2.2 (1) (c) and 2.18 (3) (c) of the *Local Government Act 1995* to:
    - a) amend ward boundaries as detailed in the Proposal 3 Option 2 of the City of Kalamunda Ward and Representation Discussion paper 2022/23 (Attachment 1) and the map at (Attachment 3).
    - b) declare that the number of offices of Councillor for the City of Kalamunda is reduced to eight with each ward to have two offices of Councillor.

Special Council Meeting 7 February 2023

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3. NOTE the 2023 local government election will be for election of the Mayor and one (1) Councillor in each of the South-West and South-East Wards.

## BACKGROUND

6. The ward and representation review is a required step in meeting the City's statutory obligation in accepting the voluntary pathway in reducing Councillor numbers to align with proposed amendments to the *Local Government Act 1995* (Act).
7. Schedule 2.2 of the Act provides the statutory framework and requirements for a ward and representation review.
8. At the November 2022 OCM, Council determined (OCM 164/2022) "*to issuing the City of Kalamunda Ward Review Discussion Paper 2022 shown as Attachment 1 for community consultation from 25 November 2022 until 20 January 2023 et al.*"
9. Council had already determined at the October 2022 OCM (OCM 145/2022) that (in part) - *Pursuant to section 2.11 (2) of the Local Government Act 1995 AGREE to change the method of filling the office of mayor from the Council method to the election by the electors method in 2023.*

## DETAILS AND ANALYSIS

10. The WRRDP (Attachment 1) approved by Council at the November 2022 Ordinary Council Meeting provided three proposals with a total of five options for a ward boundary/representation structure.

Proposal 1	Proposal 2 (Option 1)	Proposal 2 (Option 2)	Proposal 3 (Option 1)	Proposal 3 (Option 2)
No Wards	2 Wards	2 Wards	4 Wards Maintain Current Ward Boundaries	4 Wards with minor boundary change within North West Ward and North Ward involving Maida Vale

Special Council Meeting 7 February 2023

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11. **Community Feedback**

The WRRDP was advertised in the Echo Newspaper on 25 November 2022 with public submissions closing on 20 January 2023. Details of the review were also published on the City's website, various media platforms and all Public Notice Boards.

A total of 44 submissions were received and summarised in the following table:-

Proposal 1	Proposal 2 (Option 1)	Proposal 2 (Option 2)	Proposal 3 (Option 1)	Proposal 3 (Option 2)
34	2	2	0	5

*\*One submission suggested splitting the City into 2 separate Local Government areas each with 2 wards – 8 councillors each*

Full details are provided in (Attachment 2).

12. The majority of submissions indicated a preference for Proposal 1 – No Wards and the minimum number of councillors permitted, five (5) plus the Mayor.
13. Whilst the Council can have a minimum of 5 councillors it is viewed that any outcome other than 8 councillors is considered not practicable from a community engagement and workload perspective, including;
- Significant commitments to internal and external committees and local government representative organisations;
  - The impact of potential Councillor absences through illness, work life and family commitments;
  - The benefit of more point of views and perspectives for significant decisions;
  - Increased diversity of representations.
14. Additionally, the City's landscape is diverse and a smaller number of Councillors is not representative of the City's diverse landscape. It is for these reasons this option is not preferred.
- Preferred Ward Boundaries Option**
15. The preferred option from this review is Proposal 3, Option 2 – Retain 4 Wards with an amendment to the boundaries of the North and North-West Wards.

Special Council Meeting 7 February 2023

16. Based on the current elector to councillor numbers, this would be the option involving the least changes to the current ward boundaries and electors per ward and generally maintain the principles established in the 2008 and 2016 Ward Boundary Reviews when these wards were established.
17. The general principle for establishing wards, used in this and previous reviews, is consistent with 'one vote, one value', and there should not be more than a plus or minus 10% deviation in the average number of electors per councillor across the wards in a local government.
18. The current statistics indicate to improve the ratio of electors to councillors would only involve moving approximately 910 electors in Maida Vale from the North-West Ward to the North Ward. This would place the whole of the suburb of Maida Vale in one ward rather than currently being split between two wards.
19. This would result in the following ward statistics: -

Ward	Suburbs Included	Number of Electors	Number of Councillors	Electors per Councillor	Deviation from Ave
<b>North West</b>	Forrestfield (part) High Wycombe	10,459	2	5,229	-0.76%
<b>South West</b>	Forrestfield, Kewdale (part), Wattle Grove, (part)	10,473	2	5,236	-0.52%
<b>North</b>	Gooseberry Hill, Maida Vale and Kalamunda (part),	10,707	2	5,353	-2.768%
<b>South East</b>	Lesmurdie, Walliston, Carmel, Canning Mills, Pickering Brook, Bickley, Hacketts Gully, Piesse Brook, Paulls Valley, Reservoir, Wattle Grove (part) and Kalamunda (part).	10,036	2	5,018	+3.67%
		<b>41,675</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5,209</b>	

20. Whilst most of the submissions favoured a no ward proposal, it is viewed that this is not the best outcome. As stated in the WRRDP, the disadvantages of the no ward option that a member of the community may feel that their locale-specific interests are not being represented.



Special Council Meeting 7 February 2023

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21. This is particularly relevant to the City as it is unique to other metropolitan local governments in that it does have localities with sparse populations and particular rural-oriented interests. These areas are different to those of other more densely populated areas of the City. It is considered that this risk negates the benefits of a no ward outcome and is thus not recommended.
22. **Preferred Election Cycle**  
Under the voluntary reform pathway agreed to by Council and retaining a four-ward structure with eight (8) Councillors, there are two (2) election cycle options available –
23. Option A  
a) Spill all positions and elect eight (8) Councillors at the ordinary Council elections in 2023 (two in each ward).  
Declare the candidate elected with the highest vote count, in each ward, have a four-year term and the candidate with the second highest vote count have two-year term.  
The election in 2025 would then see one of the two Councillor positions in each ward up for election for a 4 year term and for each normal election cycle thereafter
24. Option B  
b) Retain those Councillors with terms expiring in 2025, abolish four (4) Councillor positions, being one in each ward, and conduct an election for the remaining vacant Councillor position in the South-West and South-East Wards in 2023.  
Declare for the 2025 ordinary election the terms for the council offices in North Ward and North-West Ward will be four years for the candidate with the most votes in each Ward and the second highest vote recipient would have two-year term.  
This would then return all Councillor positions to four (4) year terms.
25. Both options have advantages and disadvantages. The principal issues are-
- a) Option A would require all Councillors with terms expiring in 2025 to voluntarily resign effective from the 2023 election day.
  - b) Option A would enable all current Councillors the same opportunity to seek election in 2023.
  - c) Option A would disadvantage those current Councillors with terms expiring in 2025 by forcing them to an early election.
  - d) Option A may result in the loss of significant experience and knowledge should the majority of current Councillors not be re-

Special Council Meeting 7 February 2023

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elected. Such a situation may have significant impact on effective operation of the Council.

- e) Option B does not enable current Councillors in the North and North-West Wards, whose terms expire in 2023, to seek re-election in their current area,
  - f) Option B provides the opportunity to retain significant experience and knowledge on Council which would minimise disruption to the effective operation of the Council.
  - g) Under Option B the electors would not be given the opportunity to vote for half the members of council (3 out of 9). Nevertheless, it is considered the retention of experience and knowledge on Council far outweighs this one-off election with less than half Councillor positions available.
26. With the requirement to hold a district wide election for the Mayor in 2023, it is considered the election costs for either of the election cycle options would not be significantly different. Costs for election cycle option b) may be less due to there being no printing costs for election packages for election of Councillors.
27. It is therefore considered that election Option B would be the overall preferred option.
28. **Report to the Local Government Advisory Board (LGAB)**
29. The Act requires Council submit a report to the LGAB on the outcome of the ward and representation review.
30. The LGAB is required to assess the report and Council's decisions on the review and make a recommendation to the Minister as to the terms of an order under sections 2.3 (1) (c) and 2.18 (3) (c) of the Act with respect to the ward structure and membership of the Council.
31. The LGAB considers the outcome of the ward and representation review for compliance with the requirements of the legislation and its expectations.
32. The LGAB makes a recommendation to the Minister, who can only accept or reject the recommendation.

#### **APPLICABLE LAW**

33. *Local Government Act 1995*

Special Council Meeting 7 February 2023

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#### **APPLICABLE POLICY**

34. N/A

#### **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

35. A WRRDP was approved by Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting in November 2022 to enable the statutory public consultation to be undertaken.
36. The WRRDP was advertised in the Echo Newspaper on 25 November 2022 with public submissions closing on 20 January 2023. Details of the review were also published on the City's website, various media platforms and all Public Notice Boards.
37. Details of the submissions received are reported in paragraph 8 and (Attachment 1). The total number of submissions received is a poor outcome considering the City's population.

#### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

38. The current annual allowances cost of having 12 Councillors, one of which is Mayor and one is Deputy Mayor is \$414,018 per annum. Reducing to 8 Councillors (one of which is Deputy Mayor) and a Mayor is anticipated to cost approximately \$333,000 per annum.
39. With the requirement to hold a district wide election for the Mayor in 2023, it is considered the election costs for either of the election cycle options would not be significantly different. Costs for Option B maybe less as no printing costs would be incurred for election packages for election of Councillors in the North or Nort-West wards.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY**

40. A key matter in making decision about the future council structure is one that needs to be considered in the context of how the decisions may impact on the sustainability of the City and the Community. The City is currently experiencing significant growth and change as it gentrifies and redevelops its infrastructure base, ensuring there is historical knowledge within the council is a critical component to the future success of the City

Special Council Meeting 7 February 2023

**RISK MANAGEMENT**

41.	<b>Risk:</b> Proposed ward boundaries and representation do not meet community expectations.		
	<b>Consequence</b>	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Rating</b>
	Moderate	Unlikely	Low
	<b>Action/Strategy</b>		
	Ensure community is informed of Council and legislative requirements to provide appropriate governance and community representations.		
42.	<b>Risk:</b> Reputational impacts due to recommending that the City comprises four wards contrary to the majority view of the feedback received.		
	<b>Consequence</b>	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Rating</b>
	Insignificant	Likely	Low
	<b>Action/Strategy</b>		
	Ensure community who have raised concerns are informed of the reasoning for this decision.		
43.	<b>Risk:</b> Proposed ward boundaries and representation do not meet legislative requirements.		
	<b>Consequence</b>	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Rating</b>
	Moderate	Unlikely	Low
	<b>Action/Strategy</b>		
	Ensure proposed ward boundaries and/or representation are amended to comply.		
44.	<b>Risk:</b> Not completing the voluntary pathway process is inconsistent with previous advice provided to the State.		
	<b>Consequence</b>	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Rating</b>
	Moderate	Likely	Medium
	<b>Action/Strategy</b>		
	Timely delivery of the submission to the LGAB.		

Special Council Meeting 7 February 2023

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## CONCLUSION

45. The finalisation of the Ward Boundary and Representation Review completes the statutory requirements for the Council to continue the voluntary pathway provided by the State Government to meet the proposed new provisions of the Act with respect to election of the Mayor by the electors and permitted Councillor numbers.

The Presiding Member proposed standing orders be suspended to allow all members speak to aspects of the report.

### RESOLVED SCM 01/2023

That Council suspend standing orders.

Moved: Cr Kathy Ritchie

Seconded: Cr Janelle Sewell

Vote: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (9/0)

Standing Orders were suspended at 6:48pm.

### RESOLVED SCM 02/2023

That Council reinstate standing orders.

Moved: Cr Janelle Sewell

Seconded: Cr Brooke O'Donnell

Vote: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (9/0)

Standing Orders were reinstated at 7:17pm.

The A/CEO left the meeting at 6:50pm and returned at 6:56pm.

The Presiding Member invited Cr Bilich to speak to a proposed amendment to the recommendation.

The Presiding Member called for a mover for the substantive recommendation. A mover and seconder were received, the motion was debated before being put to a vote.

Special Council Meeting 7 February 2023

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**Voting Requirements: Absolute Majority**

**RESOLVED SCM 03/2023**

That Council:

1. NOTE the submissions received during the public submission period.
2. pursuant to clause 9 of Schedule 2.2 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, SUBMIT a report to the Local Government Advisory Board seeking the making of an order under sections 2.2 (1) (c) and 2.18 (3) (c) of the *Local Government Act 1995* to:
  - a) amend ward boundaries as detailed in the Proposal 3 Option 2 of the City of Kalamunda Ward and Representation Discussion paper 2022/23 (Attachment 1) and the map at (Attachment 3).
  - b) declare that the number of offices of Councillor for the City of Kalamunda is reduced to eight with each ward to have two offices of Councillor.
3. NOTE the 2023 local government election will be for election of the Mayor and one (1) Councillor in each of the South-West and South-East Wards.

Moved: **Cr Geoff Stallard**

Seconded: **Cr Dylan O'Connor**

Vote:	<u>For</u> <b>Cr Geoff Stallard</b> <b>Cr Lisa Cooper</b> <b>Cr Dylan O'Connor</b> <b>Cr Kathy Ritchie</b> <b>Cr Margaret Thomas</b>	<u>Against</u> <b>Cr Janelle Sewell</b> <b>Cr Brooke O'Donnell</b> <b>Cr Kellie Miskiewicz</b> <b>Cr Sue Bilich</b>
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**LOST (NO ABSOLUTE MAJORITY) (5/4)**

The motion was lost as an absolute majority was not reached.

The Presiding Member accepted Cr Bilich's motion. The motion received a seconder. The motion was put to the vote.

Special Council Meeting 7 February 2023

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**Voting Requirements: Absolute Majority**

RESOLVED SCM 04/2023

That Council:

1. NOTE the submissions received during the public submission period.
2. pursuant to clause 9 of Schedule 2.2 of the Local Government Act 1995, SUBMIT a report to the Local Government Advisory Board seeking the making of an order under sections 2.2 (1) (c) and 2.18 (3) (c) of the *Local Government Act 1995* to:
  - a) amend ward boundaries as detailed in the Proposal 3 Option 2 of the City of Kalamunda Ward and Representation Discussion paper 2022/23 (Attachment 1) and the map at (Attachment 3).
  - b) declare that the number of offices of Councillor for the City of Kalamunda is reduced to eight with each ward to have two offices of Councillor.
3. has a PREFERRED position that there be a full spill of all offices of councillor in 2023.

Moved: Cr Sue Bilich

Seconded: Cr Janelle Sewell

Vote:	<u>For</u> <b>Cr Janelle Sewell</b> <b>Cr Brooke O'Donnell</b> <b>Cr Kellie Miskiewicz</b> <b>Cr Sue Bilich</b>	<u>Against</u> <b>Cr Geoff Stallard</b> <b>Cr Lisa Cooper</b> <b>Cr Dylan O'Connor</b> <b>Cr Kathy Ritchie</b> <b>Cr Margaret Thomas</b>
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**LOST (NO ABSOLUTE MAJORITY) (4/5)**

The motion was lost as an absolute majority was not reached.

The Presiding Member proposed and moved an amendment to the substantive motion. This received a seconder and was put to a vote.

Special Council Meeting 7 February 2023

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**Voting Requirements: Absolute Majority**

RESOLVED SCM 05/2023

That Council:

1. NOTE the submissions received during the public submission period.
2. pursuant to clause 9 of Schedule 2.2 of the Local Government Act 1995, SUBMIT a report to the Local Government Advisory Board seeking the making of an order under sections 2.2 (1) (c) and 2.18 (3) (c) of the *Local Government Act 1995* to:
  - a) amend ward boundaries as detailed in the Proposal 3 Option 2 of the City of Kalamunda Ward and Representation Discussion paper 2022/23 (Attachment 1) and the map at (Attachment 3).
  - b) declare that the number of offices of Councillor for the City of Kalamunda is reduced to eight with each ward to have two offices of Councillor.

Moved: Cr Margaret Thomas

Seconded: Cr Kathy Ritchie

Vote: **CARRIED/ABSOLUTE MAJORITY (9/0)**

**9. Meeting Closed to the Public**

9.1 Nil.



Special Council Meeting 7 February 2023

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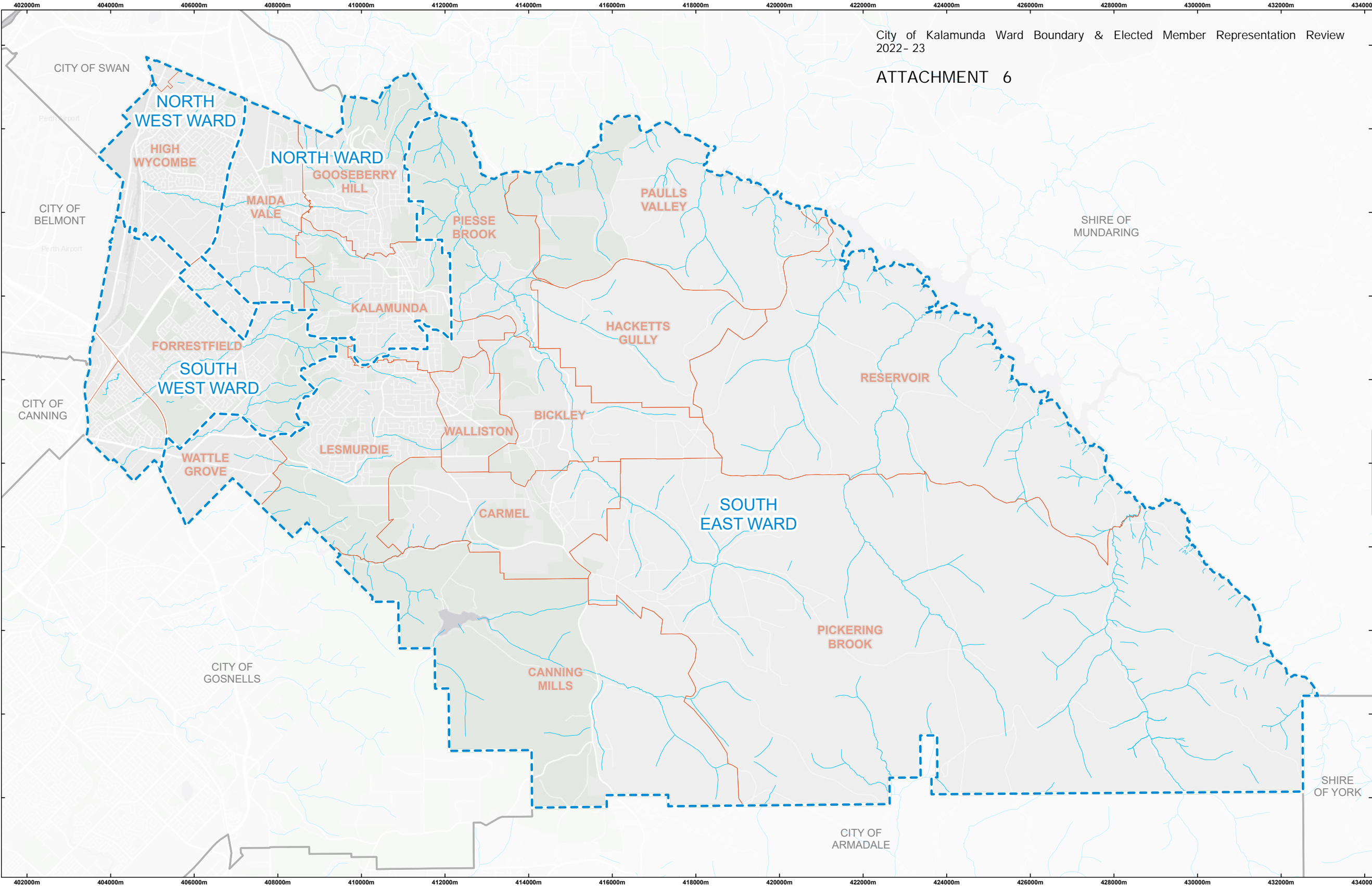
**10. Closure**


There being no further business, the Presiding Member declared the Meeting closed at 8:20pm.

I confirm these Minutes to be a true and accurate record of the proceedings of this Council.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Presiding Member

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2023.

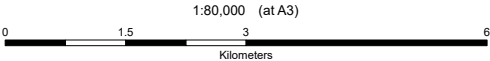




## City of Kalamunda - Proposed Ward Boundaries 2023


Project Name: GIS\_202200\_018\_CEO [City of Kalamunda - Ward and Representation Review, Discussion Paper 2022/23] Created by: GIS Specialist Date Saved: 25/01/2023 10:14 AM

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1:80,000 (at A3)

Kilometers



Horizontal Datum: Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA94)  
Map Grid: Map Grid of Australia, Zone 50 (MGA)