

CSF041: WARDS AND REPRESENTATION REVIEW

Proponent : City of Albany
Consulted Reference : Email: EF1380749 - GO.CLS.23 - FW: EF1380734 -
GO.BOU.1 - RE: City of Albany - Review of Wards and
Representation Status
Responsible Officer(s): : Executive Director Corporate Services (G Adams)

Responsible Officer Signature



ADDENDUM

In Brief:

- Additional Information.

DISCUSSION

1. Department of Local Government Email (EF1380749) dated 12 November 2013 advised:
 - Although the City of Albany was under no obligation to undertake a review, it did (2011), but ultimately no action was taken to make a recommendation to the Local Government Advisory Board (Board).
 - As far as the Board is concerned the City's 8 year review is due in 2014.
 - The City of Albany (Council) may wish to "reactivate" the 2011 review to support a recommendation to the board.
 - Note that the Board may decide that a new review is appropriate in the circumstances.
2. Initiating the review does not bind the Council in any way to a decision, it simply initiates the review process.
3. No decision on a recommendation to the Board has been made. A recommendation is made after the review process has been completed.
4. The City has two options:

Option One.

Initiate the Review: (Recommended Course of Action)

- Establish a working group to review the previous review.
- Evaluate the review against the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data to ensure review is still relevant, including:
 - a. **Ratio of councillors to electors in various wards.** The Board considers that this factor is significant. It is expected by the LGAB that the City of Albany will have similar ratio of electors to councillors across the wards of its district. Historically, the Minister for Local Government has indicated that he will not consider changes to ward boundaries and representation that result in wards with councillor/elector ratios that are greater than plus or minus 10% of the average councillor/elector ratio for the municipality.

- b. **Community of interest.** The term 'community of interest' has a number of elements. These include a sense of community identity and belonging, similarities in characteristics of the residents of a community and similarities in economic activities. It can also include dependence on the shared facilities in an area as reflected in catchment areas of local schools and sporting teams, or the circulation areas of local newspapers. Neighbourhoods, suburbs and towns are important units in physical, historical and social infrastructure and often generate a feeling of community and belonging.
- c. **Physical and topographic features.** These may be natural or artificial features that will vary from area to area. Water features such as rivers and catchment boundaries may be relevant considerations. Coastal plain and foothills regions, parks and reserves may be relevant as may other man made features such as railway lines and major roads.
- d. **Demographic trends.** Several measurements of the characteristics of human populations, such as population size, and its distribution by ages, 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 City of Albany.

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 the City of Albany (or the release of land for these) and the distribution of community assets and infrastructure such as road networks.

- e. **Other considerations.** Such as the number of councillors for each ward and the district.
- Consider making a recommendation to Council, if appropriate, to reactivate the 2011 review and make a recommendation to the Board (therefore initiating the "*ward and representation review process*").

Option Two.

- Do nothing and wait for the Board to initiate the process.