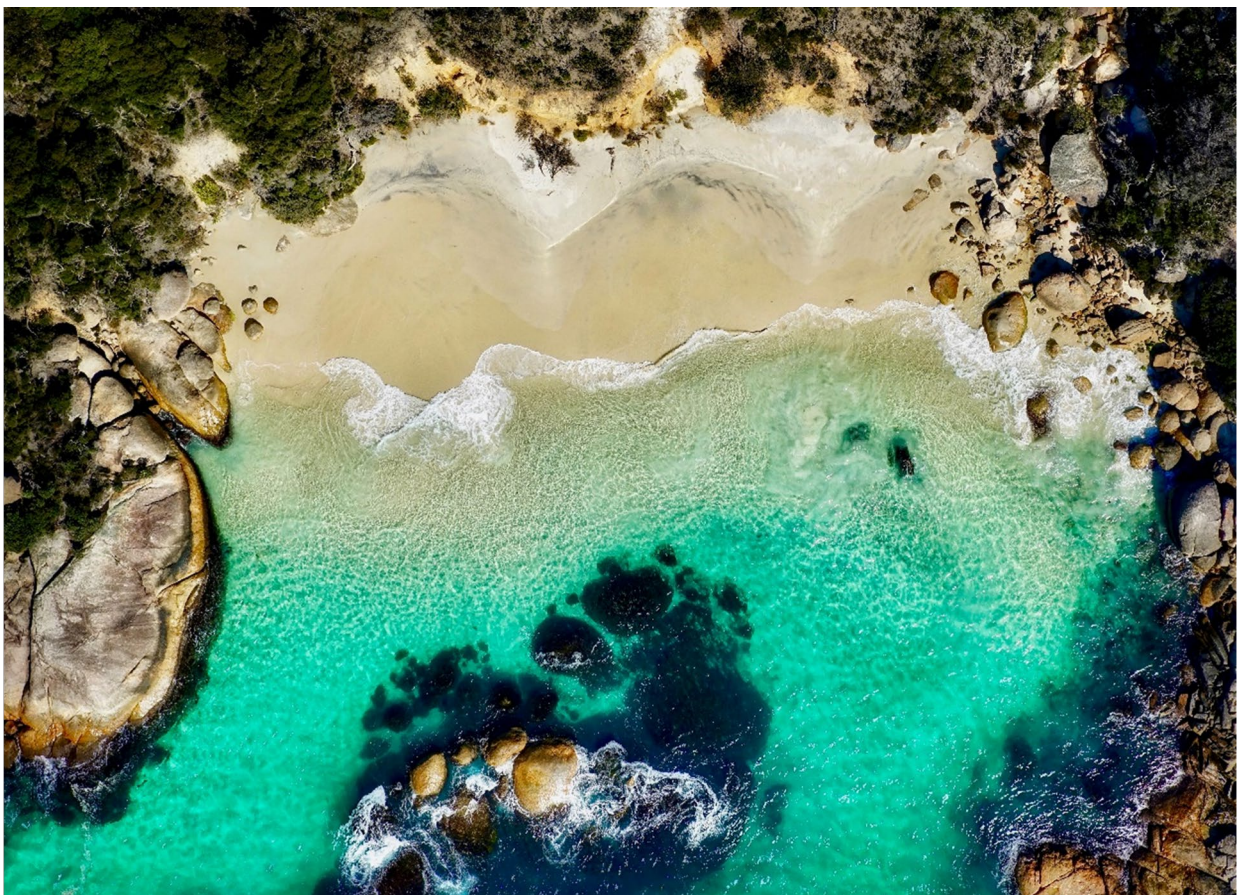


Discussion Paper

Review of Ward Names, Boundaries and Councillor Representation Levels



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Message from the Chief Executive Officer



In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995*, the City of Albany is reviewing its Ward system and boundaries. The purpose of the Ward Review is to assess the City's current structure and to evaluate options to ensure that the community is best represented. The last ward review for the City of Albany was in 2014, therefore the City is required to conduct a review of its wards and representation this year.

It should be noted that recent reforms to local government in Western Australia include the introduction of tiered limits on the number of elected members. Those limits are based on the population of a local government.

The proposal for local governments with a population between 5,000 and 75,000 will be five to nine elected representatives including the Mayor/President. The City of Albany is one of the local governments which fall into this category.

This Discussion Paper has been developed to assist the community in considering proposals and ideas as well as understand the legislative requirements of this Ward Review.

The community is encouraged to suggest alternative options for consideration by Council. The City will make a determination on a preferred option following consideration of all submissions received. The Public Submission period opens on **Thursday 27 October 2022** and will close at 5.00pm on **Thursday 08 December 2022**.

An online [Public Submission Form](#) is available, and this Discussion Paper can be found [here](#). Hard copies of the Discussion Paper are available from the Albany Public Library or the City's Administration Building located at 102 North Road, Yakamia.

Andrew Sharpe
Chief Executive Officer



Background

Local government in Western Australia has either a ward system, or no wards, for the representation of electors. A ward system provides for the division of the local government district into 'wards', with one or more elected representatives from each ward.

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1995, local governments with a ward structure must review the wards and representation levels every 8 years to ensure that there is balanced representation across the whole district. The last ward review for the City of Albany was conducted in 2014, and is now required to undertake a ward and representation review in 2022.

When the City of Albany was created on 01 July 1998 with the amalgamation of the Town of Albany and the Shire of Albany, a ward structure was created, with the following seven wards:

- Breaksea
- Frederickstown
- Hassell
- Kalgan
- Vancouver
- West
- Yakamia

In 2007, eight years after the creation of the 1998 ward structure, the City undertook a Ward Review which resulted in the abolition of Hassell Ward and Kalgan Ward, and a new ward named Kalgan Ward was created, reducing the number of wards to 6.

Subsequent ward reviews have retained the six ward structure, with changes to ward boundaries to accommodate the councillor to elector ratio.

This review is seeking feedback from the community on whether a ward system should be retained, or ward boundaries be abolished.

Should ward boundaries be retained, this review is also seeking comment on the number of councillors representing each ward, bearing in mind that local government reforms require that local governments with a population between 5,000 and 75,000 must have a maximum of eight and a minimum of four elected members, with a popularly elected Mayor.

Local Government Reform

On 20 September 2022 the Minister for Local Government advised that in accordance with Local Government reforms, the City of Albany had been identified as one of the local governments required to reduce the number of council members.

Voluntary Pathway

The Minister has advised that local governments affected by the reforms to elected representation levels have the opportunity to implement those changes on a voluntary basis.

In order to take the voluntary pathway to local government reform, local governments are required to advise the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries no later than 28 October 2022 that they have initiated a ward and representation review.

By initiating a ward and representative review by the deadline of 28 October 2022, the City has the opportunity to phase in the reduction in elected representatives over the next two Ordinary Local Government Elections 21 October 2023 and 18 October 2025, and participate in the voluntary pathway.

Reform Election Pathway

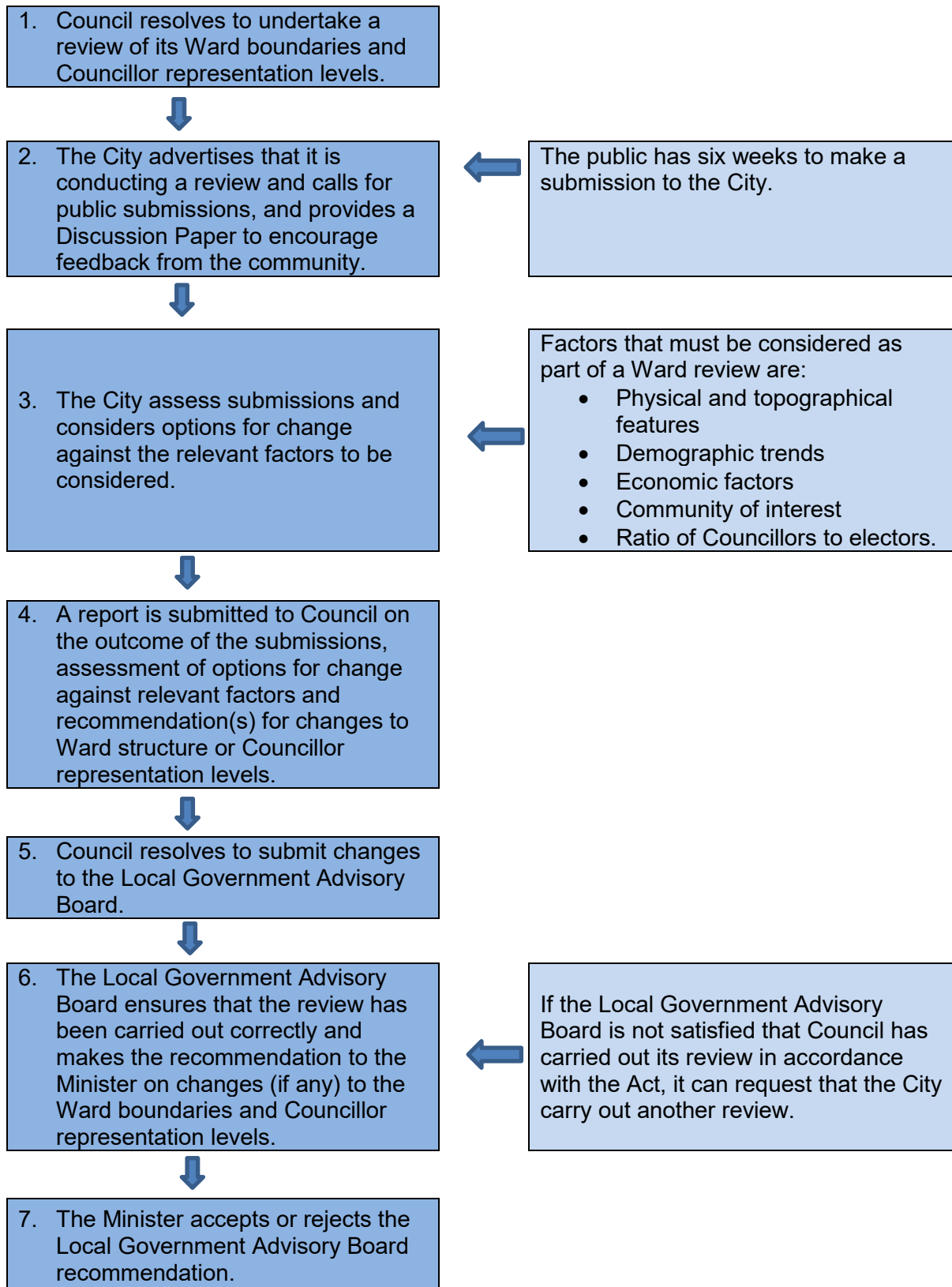
Should the City not meet the deadline for initiating a ward and representation review, any changes will be implemented through reform elections in October 2023. This will mean a complete spill of all elected representatives at the 2023 Ordinary Local Government Election.

A reform election could result in four vacancies only, the minimum number of elected representatives required for the City's population level.

If the City is to take the Reform Election Pathway, following the 2023 election Council would then need to decide on a new ward system to accommodate the reduction in elected representatives and the councillor to elector ratio, or decide to abolish all ward boundaries and implement a no ward system.

Review Process

The Local Government Act 1995 provides the legislative framework for undertaking a review. It is anticipated that any changes to the City of Albany ward boundaries, if adopted, will be in place for the 2023 Ordinary Local Government election.



Current Representation Levels

The City of Albany currently has 12 elected members and a popularly elected Mayor. The City of Albany is divided into six wards, each represented by two elected members. The Mayor represents the whole of the City of Albany municipality.

The councillor to elector ratio for each ward is shown below (as at the time of the 2021 ordinary local government election):

Ward	No. Electors	No. Councillors	Councillor: Elector Ratio	%Ratio Deviation
Breaksea	4361	2	1:2180	6.28%
Frederickstown	4522	2	1:2261	2.28%
Kalgan	4819	2	1:2409	-3.56%
Vancouver	4936	2	1:2468	-6.08%
West	4725	2	1:2362	-1.54%
Yakamia	4556	2	1:2278	2.09%
Total	27,919	12	1:2326	

Table 1 – Current Representation Levels

Local governments with a ward system require a similar ratio of councillors to electors across all wards. A balanced representation means that there must be a representation ratio of no more than plus or minus 10% variation.

In 2014, the Ward Review resulted in changes to existing ward boundaries to accommodate the Councillor to elector ratio of plus or minus 10%. Those changes have been effective in maintaining the plus or minus 10% ratio deviation over the last eight years.

The changes to ward boundaries in 2014 has resulted in boundaries that are not readily identifiable to electors. The need to accommodate the councillor to elector ratio mean that suburbs have been split, and major roads and other significant topographical features, which would have provided an easily understood boundary, are no longer relevant.

Councillor Representation Comparison with other Local Governments.

The following table provides an overview of regional local governments Councillor to elector ratios.

Local Government	Population	Size (Square Km)	Wards	No. Councillors	No. Electors	Cr:Electors Ratio
Capel	18,161	558	0	8	12,203	1:1525
Harvey	28,299	1,728	0	12	19,644	1:1637
Kalgoorlie	30,053	95,498	0	12	16,849	1:1404
Geraldton	39,489	12,626	0	11	27,578	1:2507
Bunbury	32,987	66	0	12	23,694	1:1974
Albany	40,115	4,310	6	12	27,099	1:2258
Busselton	41,041	1,455	0	8	29,852	1:3731
Mandurah	93,414	174	4	12	66,190	1:5515

Table 2 – Local Government Comparison

**Mayors and Presidents not included in ratios.*

**Number of electors current as at 16 October 2021.*

**Square kilometres have been rounded to the nearest whole number.*

Formal Assessment Factors

When considering changes to Ward names, boundaries and Councillor representation levels, certain factors must be taken into account.

Community of Interest

“Community of interest includes a sense of community identity and belonging, similar characteristics within the locality, shared history, shared facilities and infrastructure and similar catchment areas. Neighbourhoods and suburbs are important units in the physical, historical and social infrastructure, generating a feeling of community and belonging.”

Albany is home to the Menang Noongar people who inhabited the area for over 18,000 years before it was first visited by Europeans.

Albany was the first European settlement in Western Australia, with a contingent of soldiers and convicts arriving in Princess Royal Harbour in December 1826, and proclaimed to be a settlement in January 1827. Albany’s unique character is captured in its landscape and heritage architecture.

Albany’s naturally protected deep water harbour made it Western Australia’s premier port in the State’s early years. Albany became an important whaling base during the 1840’s, an industry which was the last surviving shore-based whaling enterprise in the Southern Hemisphere until its closure in 1978.

The Municipality of Albany was gazetted in 1871. It was initially headed by a chairman, with William Finlay becoming the first Mayor in 1885. On 01 July 1961, the Municipality of Albany became the Town of Albany and the Albany Road Board (gazetted in 1896) became the Shire of Albany. On 01 July 1998, the Town of Albany and Shire of Albany amalgamated to become the City of Albany.

The City of Albany offers both urban and rural lifestyles for its over 40,000 residents, and provides diverse facilities such as a library, leisure and aquatic centre, airport, day care and visitor centre.

Major industries in Albany include health care and social assistance, agriculture, timber products, tourism and exports from the Port of Albany including grain, mineral sands and woodchips.

Albany is also the southern terminus for the Munda Biddi Trail and the Bibbulmun Track, and offers outstanding natural beauty for bushwalking, rock climbing, hiking, mountain biking, swimming and surfing.

Albany saw the first and second Anzac convoys leave for Egypt, where Australian and New Zealand troops would train before being landed at Gallipoli. For thousands of Australian soldiers, this was the last time they walked on Australian soil, as so many lost their lives in Gallipoli and other conflicts during World War I.

Albany holds a Dawn Service each Anzac Day on the summit of Mount Clarence at the Desert Mounted Corps Memorial, and Albany is acknowledged as being the home of the Anzacs.

Physical and topographical features

“Physical and topographic features may be natural or man made. Features include rivers, coastal plains, parks, reserves, railway lines, freeways or main arterial roads”.

The City of Albany is bounded by the Southern Ocean to the south, the left bank of the Hay River to the west, the right bank of the Pallinup River to the east and shares a northern boundary with the Shire of Plantagenet.

It is preferable that any Ward boundaries do not dissect suburbs, and the use of significant physical features as Ward boundaries may ensure suburb integrity.

The current Ward boundaries were created to ensure that the Councillor to Elector ratio was consistent with the plus or minus 10% ratio. The current boundaries intersect suburbs, and are not clearly defined by major arterial roads or other physical or topographical features.

Demographic trends

“Several measurements of the characteristics of populations, such as population size, and its distribution by age, gender, occupation and location provide important demographic information. Current and project population characteristics are relevant, as well as similarities and differences between areas of the local government.”

Several measurements of the characteristics of populations, such as the size of the population, its distribution by age, gender, occupation and location provide important demographic information.

Current and projected population characteristics are relevant, as well as similarities and differences between areas of the local government.

With a current population estimated at 40,115, the City of Albany population continues to grow at a rate of around 2% per year. In 2021, the largest age group in the City of Albany was 60 to 64 year olds. The group that has changed the most since 2016 is 70 to 74 year-olds, increasing by 615 people.

Families with children comprise 13.1% of households in 2021, an increase of 4.9% since 2016.

Development in the suburbs of McKail, Bayonet Head and Oyster Harbour has continued since the last ward review in 2014, and the Albany Ring Road project will provide opportunities for re-evaluation of land use in its vicinity, particularly in the areas surrounded by the Ring Road.

Albany is characterised by low density residential development. The City is encouraging urban infill development and increased housing density (multi-storey) close to the City centre in order to reduce the urban sprawl. There is currently land available which has been rezoned to future urban, leading to a moratorium by Council on Scheme Amendment Requests until such time as that future urban land is developed.

Increased housing density makes it easier for residents to access public transport, pedestrian and cycle paths to live, work and shop. Community feedback has shown that residents value safety, connectivity and streetscape connectivity.

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

The highest value industries in the City are health care and social assistance, agriculture, fishing and forestry and retail. In 2020, the City had 3,488 registered businesses. The City of Albany Gross Regional Product in June 2020 was \$2.15 billion, with an unemployment rate of 3.6%, significantly lower than that of Western Australia (6.7%). The median house price has increased from \$411,949 in 2019 to \$668,000 in 2022.

Economic activities are spread across the municipality, including the Albany Port and associated infrastructure in the Frederickstown Ward, light and heavy industrial and retail and service industries are distributed across all wards, and education and health care services are situated in the Frederickstown, Breaksea, Vancouver, Yakamia and Kalgan Wards.

Ratio of Councillors to Electors

For those local governments with a ward system, it is expected that each ward will have a similar ratio of Councillors to electors. The Local Government Advisory Board considers this to be the most relevant determining factor within the ward system.

A balanced representation must fall within a plus or minus 10% ratio. Currently, all wards within the City of Albany fall within that ratio.

In isolation, the ratio of Councillors to electors may be an unreliable indicator of democratic quality. Population size does not indicate how many elected representatives are required for effective governance.

Should a ward system be retained, those wards need to accommodate the reduction in elected member representation as a result of local government reforms, and it is anticipated that significant changes to the current six ward system will be needed.

Changes may not accurately reflect the expectations of electors with regard to communities of interest and other opportunities such as economic growth and liveability within certain suburbs.

Other issues for consideration

In conducting a ward review, there are a number of other issues that should be considered, including:

- The current ward system and existing Councillor representation levels.
- The creation of new wards by either increasing or decreasing the number of wards.
- Changes to the boundaries of the current ward system.
- Abolition of all wards.
- Changes to the names of existing wards or adopting a new ward structure.
- Changes to the Councillor representation levels across a ward system.

Reducing the number of Councillors

The Minister of Local Government advised on 20 September 2022 that the City of Albany has been identified as a local government which is required to reduce its number of elected representatives in accordance with the tiered representation limits which will be legislated as part of local government reform in Western Australia.

Whilst this Ward and Representation Review discusses a number of options, any changes to the current numbers of elected representatives or wards cannot diverge from the proposed reforms, which require that the City of Albany reduce the number of elected representatives from 12 to a maximum of eight over the next two local government elections in 2023 and 2025.

The **advantages** of reducing the number of Councillors may include:

- The decision making process may be more efficient if the number of elected members is reduced. It is more timely to ascertain the views of a fewer number of representatives and decision making may be easier. There may be greater scope for team spirit and cooperation amongst a smaller number of people.
- Consultation with the community may be achieved through a variety of means in addition to individuals and groups contacting their local Councillor.
- Fewer positions on Council may lead to a greater interest in elections, resulting in contested vacancies and those elected gaining a proportionally higher level of support from the community.
- The cost of maintaining Councillors is likely to be reduced.
- A reduction in the number of Councillors may result in an increased commitment from those elected reflected in greater interest and participation in Council's affairs.
- Fewer Councillors are more readily identified by the community.
- There is a state-wide trend for reduction in the number of elected members, and many local governments are finding that fewer Councillors works well.

The **disadvantages** of reducing the number of Councillors may include the following:

- A smaller number of Councillors may result in an increased workload and may lessen effectiveness.
- A demanding role may discourage others from nominating for Council.
- There is a potential for dominance in Council by a particular interest group.
- Less Councillors may limit the diversity of interests among the elected member group.

The cost of maintaining elected members will be reduced. The reduction in meeting/sitting fees and other allowances paid to elected members will result in savings which could be redirected to community projects and/or programs.

In addition, there will be a reduction in associated costs such as professional development, IT allowances, catering and conferences.

Cost comparisons for meeting/sitting fees are detailed in the following table (not including the Mayor):

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)

Ward System

A Ward System provides for the subdivision of the local government district into 'Wards' (usually a collection of suburbs) with Councillors elected from each Ward and representing the electors in that Ward. A Ward System is similar to the electorate system used for State and Federal voting, in that electors vote only for their representative/s.

A ward system is not able to truly reflect communities of interest, and is less flexible in adapting to shifts and changes within communities. Ward boundaries, have, and will continue to be of declining relevance as they are unable to truly meet changes to the elector mix as they occur.

Should a ward system be retained which requires significant change, i.e. a reduction or increase in the number of wards, consideration should be given to creating new ward boundaries using easily identified topographical, geographical or man-made features, in addition to the principle of communities of interest and councillor to elector ratios.

The **advantages** of a Ward System may include the following:

- Different sectors of the community (e.g. rural, urban and commercial/industrial) can be represented.
- There is an opportunity for Councillors to have great knowledge and interest in the issues in their Ward.
- It is easier for candidates to be elected if they only need to canvass residents in their Ward.
- Councillors may be more accessible and readily identifiable to electors in the Ward that they represent.

The **disadvantages** of a Ward System may include the following:

- Councillors may become focused on their Wards and less focused on the whole of the local government. The community and Council may tend to view the local government in terms of Wards rather than as a whole community.
- Competition for resources can occur when electors in each Ward come to expect the same services and facilities provided for other Wards, whether they are appropriate or not.
- Ward boundaries may not be clearly defined by suburb, nor reflect communities of interest. This is particularly relevant when considering the current Ward boundaries within the City of Albany which intersect suburbs.
- Balanced representation may be difficult to achieve if the local government has highly populated urban areas and sparsely populated rural areas.
- Wards may mean that a candidate in one ward is elected on a smaller number of votes than an unsuccessful candidate achieved in another ward.
- Wards do not allow flexibility in accommodating differing elected member representation levels.

No Ward System

A No Ward System provides for Councillors to be elected by all electors from across the whole district.

No wards removes the need to periodically review ward boundaries to ensure councillor to elector ratios remain within the plus or minus 10% deviation.

Knowledge and interest in all areas of the City's affairs would broaden views beyond the immediate interests and concerns of those in a particular ward. It should be noted that currently, elected members are not required to reside in the ward that they represent.

Elected representatives may also provide skill based representation as opposed to geographic representation.

The **advantages** of a No Ward System may include the following:

- Councillors are elected by the whole community. Under the Local Government Act 1995 Councillors are required to represent the views of all electors and make decisions which are in the best interests of the whole district.
- Knowledge and interest in all areas of the district would broaden the views of Councillors beyond the immediate concerns of a Ward.
- Community members can speak to any Councillor regarding a particular matter.
- Council can use skills and knowledge to benefit the whole community.
- There is a balanced representation with each Council representing the whole community.
- The election process is easier to understand and for the City to administer.
- Each voter has the opportunity to support their preferred candidate.
- Should a vacancy arise during an elected representative's term, providing that the remaining elected representation is above 80%, an extraordinary election may not be required.

The **disadvantages** of a No Ward System may include the following:

- Electors may feel that they are not adequately represented if not represented by a Ward Councillor. This may be particularly relevant to Wards which encompass rural areas.
- There may be potential for a particular interest group to dominate Council.
- Some Councillors may feel that there is an increased workload in representing all electors.
- Candidates will have a larger area to canvass during elections.

Options to Consider

As part of this Discussion Paper, the City has developed the following options for consideration. The community is invited to submit other options which may contribute to the final recommendations to Council.

Option One: Retain a Ward System

The City of Albany has been advised by the Minister for Local Government on 20 September 2022 that in accordance with local government reforms it is now required to reduce elected representative numbers from 12 to 8 by no later than October 2025.

The City currently has six wards, each with two elected representatives. The current ward system is unable to accommodate the reduction in elected representatives proposed by local government reforms, which will see a maximum of eight elected representatives with a popularly elected Mayor by October 2025.

At the 2023 Ordinary Local Government Election it is proposed that the City voluntarily reduce the number of vacancies from six to four. This means that post the 2023 election, there will be 10 elected representatives. The current ward structure of six wards is unable to accommodate the councillor to elector ratio with ten elected representatives.

A voluntary reduction of the remaining six vacancies at the 2025 election resulting in a total of eight elected representatives would have the same result i.e. eight elected representatives are unable to fulfil the requirements of the councillor to elector ratio with the current six ward system.

To retain a Ward System, the existing ward boundaries will need to be abolished and new wards created.

If a ward system is to be retained, it will need to provide flexibility to accommodate the reduction in elected member representation in 2023 without the need to further amend ward boundaries in 2025, or redistribute elected member representatives to ensure compliance with the councillor to elector ratio.

When considering creation of a ward system to replace the current six wards, it is important to understand the distribution of elected representatives amongst the wards. For example: a four ward system will not be able to accommodate 10 elected representatives post the 2023 election unless ward boundaries are created that allow an uneven distribution of councillors to accommodate the councillor to elector ratio.

Similarly, should a ward system be created to accommodate the councillor to elector ratio post the 2023 election when there will be ten elected representatives, for example five wards, that ward system will not accommodate eight elected representatives post the 2025 election.

It is important to give consideration to creating new ward boundaries using clearly identified topographical, geographical or man-made features, whilst also considering the other formal assessment factors.

Two options for a ward system have been presented for discussion, Option 1A and Option 1B. Both options are for a two ward system, which provide the flexibility required to accommodate the staged reduction in elected representation.

Should a two ward system be adopted, following the 2023 election Council may then redistribute the ten elected members to each of those wards in accordance with the numbers required to ensure a balanced councillor to elector ratio.

The total number of elected representatives following the 2025 election will be eight. Again, Council may again choose to redistribute elected members to ensure a balanced councillor to elector ratio.

If alternate ward options are proposed, consideration must be given to whether there is sufficient flexibility in those options to accommodate the reduction in elected representation over the 2023 and 2025 elections.

Submissions are also invited regarding naming of the proposed two wards, or any other ward options presented for consideration during the public comment period.

Option 1A (2 Ward System)

This option proposes a two ward system (nominally called West Ward and East Ward), clearly defined by a main arterial road, Albany Highway continuing south onto York Street, terminating on a line continuing on from York Street through Anzac Park to the northern waterline of Princess Royal Harbour. The Torndirrup Peninsula would fall within the West Ward.

Both wards contain a mix of land uses. This option satisfies the principles of physical and topographical features by using a major road/s to delineate ward boundaries, ratio of elected members to electors and communities of interest and economic factors. Submissions are invited with regard to naming of the two proposed wards.

Demographic trends in both the East and West Ward will see growth in areas previously identified in the 2014 ward review. The suburbs of McKail and Gledhow will continue to grow in the West Ward, and the suburbs of Oyster Harbour and Bayonet Head will continue to grow in the East Ward.

The West Ward will have 10,942 electors and East Ward 17,151 electors.

The East Ward will have more electors and a larger land area. Allocating a greater number of elected representatives to this ward allows balanced representation when applying the councillor to elector ratio. Given that this ward has a larger land area, it is appropriate that it has a greater number of elected representatives.

This option will require a redistribution of elected members which will take place after the 2023 ordinary local government election. This redistribution will be a decision for Council.

Two comparison tables have been prepared which show the ratio deviation of equal and unequal representation over the next two ordinary local government elections in 2023 and 2025:

Table 4: Representation and Distribution Options post the 2023 LG Election

Ward	No. Electors	No. Councillors	Councillor : Elector Ratio	%Ratio Deviation
WEST WARD	10,942	4	1:2736	2.63%
EAST WARD	17,151	6	1:2859	-1.75%
Total	28,093	10		

**This option is likely to be supported by the Local Government Advisory Board as it provides balanced representation across the district.*

Table 5: Representation and Distribution Options post the 2023 LG Election

Ward	No. Electors	No. Councillors	Councillor : Elector Ratio	%Ratio Deviation
WEST WARD	10,942	5	1:2188	22.10%
EAST WARD	17,151	5	1:3430	-22.10%
Total	28,093	10		

**This distribution option is unlikely to be supported by the Local Government Advisory Board as it falls outside the plus or minus 10% councillor to elector ratio.*

Table 6: Representation and Distribution Options post the 2025 LG Election

Ward	No. Electors	No. Councillors	Councillor : Elector Ratio	%Ratio Deviation
WEST WARD	10,942	3	1:3647	-3.86%
EAST WARD	17,151	5	1:3430	2.32%
Total	28,093	8		

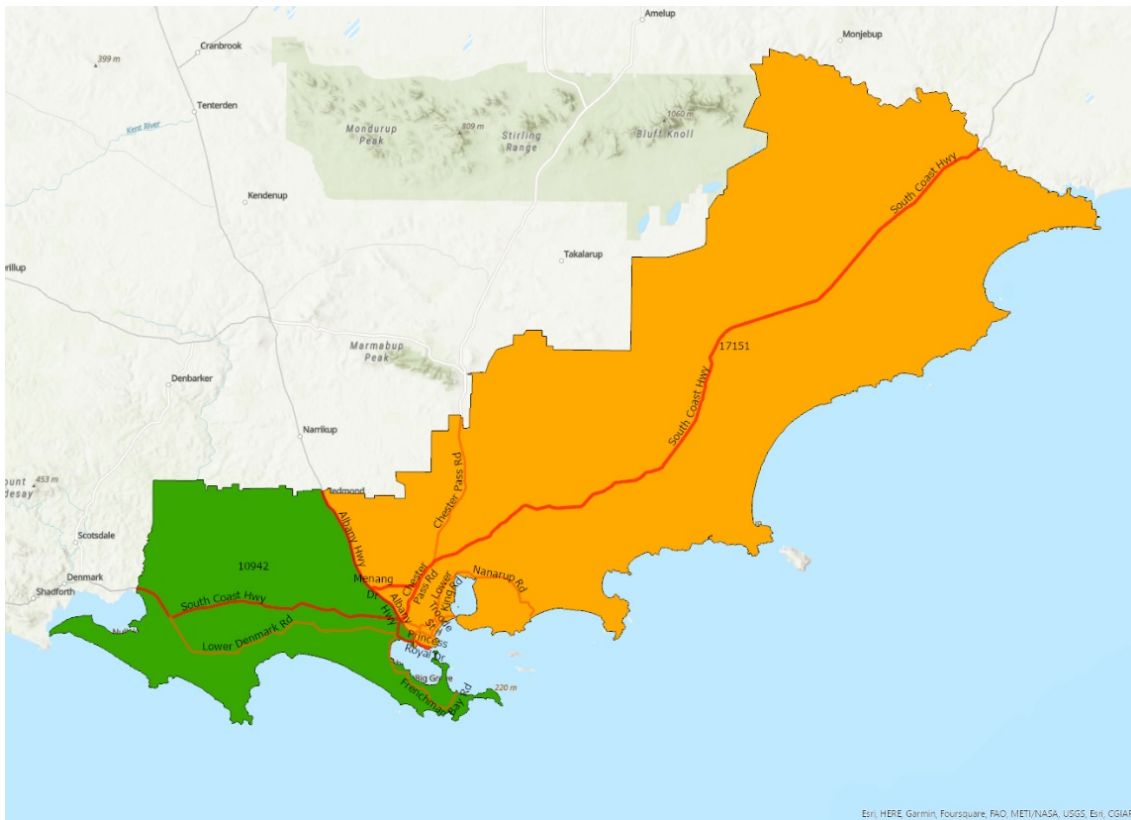
**This option is likely to be supported by the Local Government Advisory Board as it provides balanced representation across the district.*

Table 7: Representation and Distribution Options post the 2025 LG Election

Ward	No. Electors	No. Councillors	Councillor : Elector Ratio	%Ratio Deviation
WEST WARD	10,942	4	1:2736	22.10%
EAST WARD	17,151	4	1:4288	-22.10%
Total	28,093	8		

**This distribution option is unlikely to be supported by the Local Government Advisory Board as it falls outside the plus or minus 10% councillor to elector ratio.*

OPTION 1A - 2 WARD OPTION MAP



**Please refer to the Appendices to this discussion paper to view a larger version of the proposed ward map for Option 1A.*

Option 1B (2 Ward System)

Option 1B creates two wards, West Ward and East Ward, delineated by Chester Pass Road, Albany Highway and York Street. This option provides two wards with similar elector numbers, allowing for even elected member representation in both wards.

Both wards contain a mix of land uses. This option satisfies the principles of physical and topographical features by using a major road/s to delineate ward boundaries, ratio of elected members to electors and communities of interest and economic factors.

Again, areas identified as experiencing growth in the 2014 ward review in both wards is expected to continue.

Submissions are invited with regard to naming of the two proposed wards.

This option will require a redistribution of elected members following the 2023 ordinary local government election, which is a decision for Council.

The comparison tables below show the councillor to elector ratio over the next two ordinary local government elections:

Table 8: Representation and Distribution Options post the 2023 LG Election

Ward	No. Electors	No. Councillors	Councillor : Elector Ratio	%Ratio Deviation
WEST WARD	13,371	5	1:2674	4.75%
EAST WARD	14,705	5	1:2941	-4.75%
Total	28,093	10		

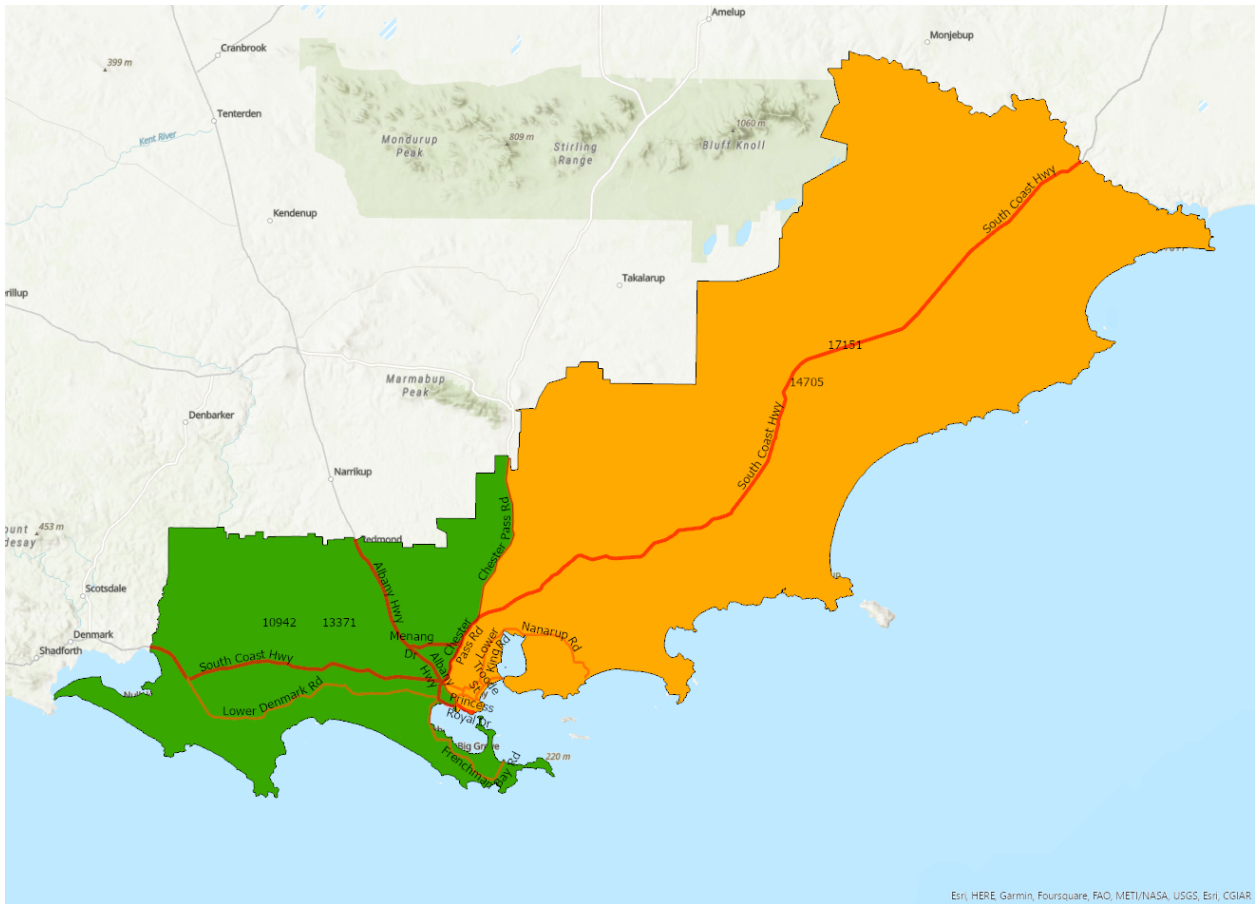
**This option is likely to be supported by the Local Government Advisory Board as it provides balanced representation across the district.*

Table 9: Representation and Distribution Options post the 2025 LG Election

Ward	No. Electors	No. Councillors	Councillor : Elector Ratio	%Ratio Deviation
WEST WARD	13,371	4	1:3343	4.75%%
EAST WARD	14,705	4	1:3676	-4.75%
Total	28,093	8		

**This option is likely to be supported by the Local Government Advisory Board as it provides balanced representation across the district.*

OPTION 1B - 2 WARD OPTION MAP



**Please refer to the Appendices to this discussion paper to view a larger proposed ward map for Option 1B.*

Option Two (No Wards)

Option 2 for discussion is to abolish all ward boundaries, and reduce the number of elected members over two Ordinary Local Government elections in 2023 and 2025.

Option Two will facilitate the reduction by decreasing the number of vacancies at the 2023 and 2025 Ordinary Local Government elections. Electors will vote for candidates representing the whole of the district. In addition, the City will not need to undertake a Ward Review every eight years. The City will still be required to ensure that elected representation levels are appropriate to provide good governance to the municipality.

In October 2023, six terms will expire. Option Two proposes that the vacancies in 2023 be reduced from six to four, reducing the number of elected representatives to 10 Councillors and a popularly elected Mayor until the next Ordinary Local Government election to be held in October 2025.

In October 2025, six terms will expire for those Councillors elected in 2021. It is proposed that those vacancies be reduced from six to four, reducing the number of elected representatives to eight Councillors and a popularly elected Mayor.

Option 2		No. Electors	Councillors	Cr: Elector Ratio
Year 2023	6 terms expire. Reduce vacancies to 4.	28,093	10	1:2809
Year 2025	6 terms expire. Reduce vacancies to 4.	28,093	8	1:3511

Table 10: Option Two (No Wards) Transitioning Ratios

Option Three (Other Ideas)

We invite you to consider proposing an alternative option by making a submission during the public consultation period. Submissions received will be summarised and presented to Council for consideration as part of the decision-making process and final resolution.

How to make a submission

Members of the community are encouraged to make a submission to the City of Albany regarding this review. You can make a submission on the City's website www.albany.wa.gov.au, or a Submission Form can be found in the Appendices to this discussion paper.

Submissions may be posted to:

The Chief Executive Officer
City of Albany
PO Box 484
ALBANY WA 6331

Hand delivered to:

Administration Building
City of Albany
102 North Road
YAKAMIA WA 6330

Or lodged by email to staff@albany.wa.gov.au

All submissions must be received by Thursday 08 December 2022.

Thank you for your interest and involvement in this review. Council welcomes your comments on any matters that may assist it to make informed and responsible decisions for the benefit of the people of the City of Albany.



Dennis Wellington
MAYOR



Andrew Sharpe
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Frequently Asked Questions

Can a public submission be made?

- Yes, public submissions will be accepted until **5.00pm 08 December 2022**. A Public Submission form is included in the Discussion Paper. You may also lodge your submissions by email, or by completing the online submission form: <https://www.albany.wa.gov.au/forms/review-of-ward-boundaries-and-representation-2022/89>

Who will determine new Ward names?

- Ward names will be a consideration only if a ward system is to be retained.
- Council may determine if it is preferable to use the names of localities, names of pioneering families, names of prominent geographical features, or names with local indigenous significance.
- Suggestions for ward names can be included in your submission.

How do these changes affect me as a resident and ratepayer?

- Any changes will not affect the services currently being offered by the city.

Is the ratio of councillor to electors in various wards a significant factor?

- The Local Government Advisory Board (the Board) considers that this factor is significant.
- The Board and the City of Albany will expect that any wards will have similar ratios of councillors to electors.
- The Board has a policy of less than plus or minus 10% variation in elector ratios.
- If Council can demonstrate a need to apply ratios outside the plus or minus 10% to address exceptional circumstances, the board will take this into consideration.

What happens next?

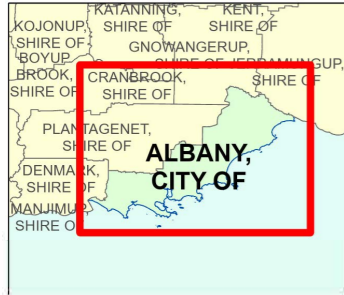
- Once the public submission period is closed Council will consider the submissions and make a recommendation to the Local Government Advisory Board. Any changes to the ward system or the number of elected representatives will be in place for the next Ordinary Local Government Election to be held on 21 October 2023.

Will this have an effect on my Rates?

- Ward & Boundary distribution will not affect rate calculations or amounts.

How hard will this be to administer in the future?

- Changes to the number of wards and councillors will have a small administrative impact.
- Ward maps will be updated and databases amended accordingly.



- Map Legend**
- Adjacent LGA's
 - Adjacent LGA's
 - Ocean
 - Ocean
 - Ward Realignment Boundaries
 - East
 - West
 - Roads
 - Main
 - State Highway

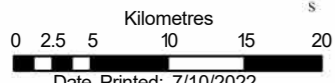


Statistics

Ward	Number of Electors
Western Ward	10942
Eastern Ward	17151
Unknown	172
Total	28265

SCALE@A3:
1:450,000

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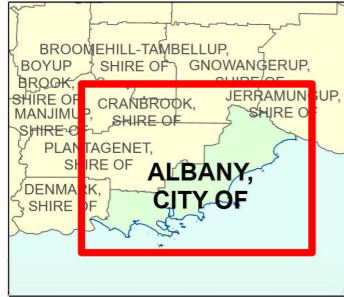
Ward Realignment Option 1

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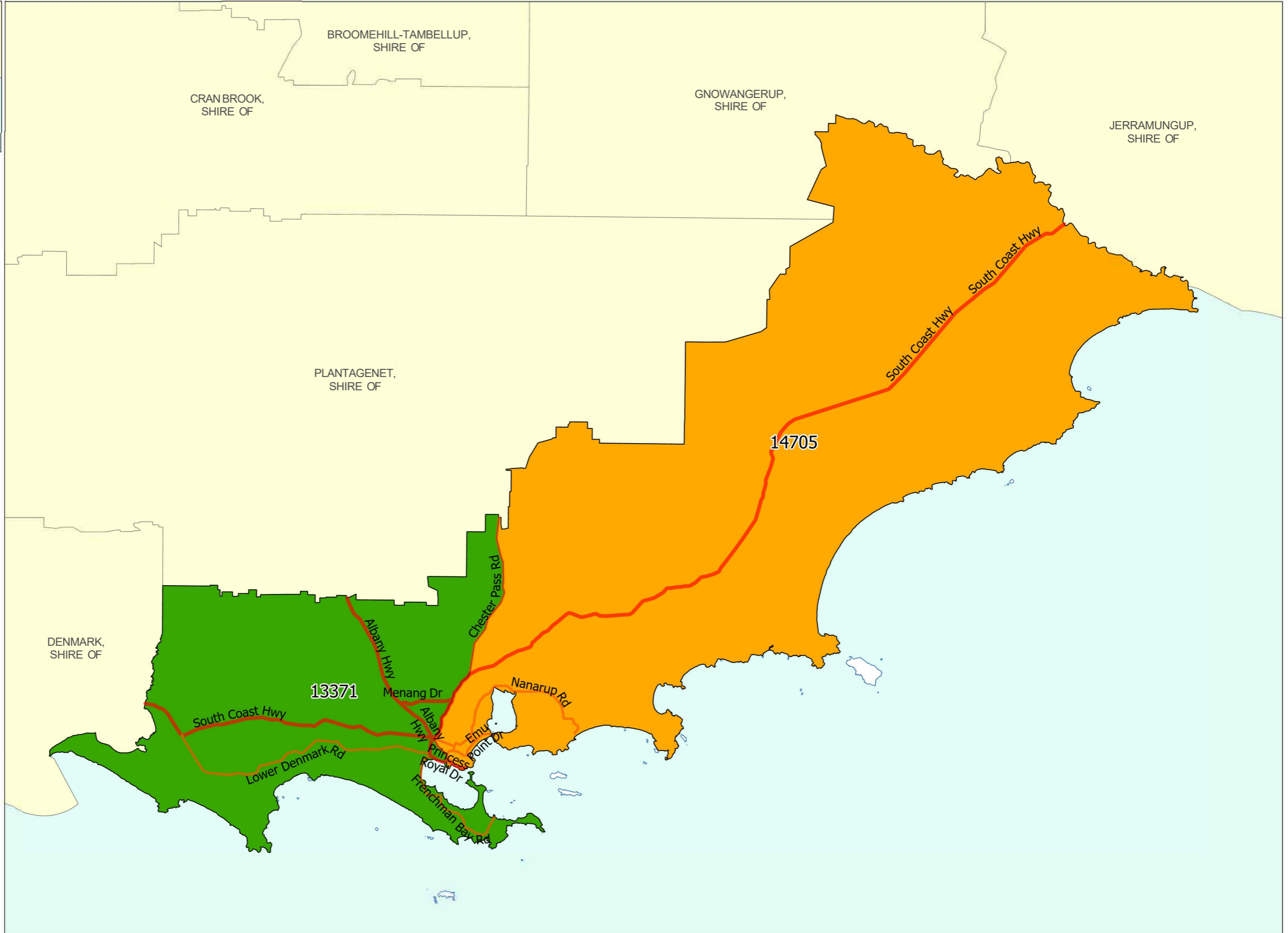


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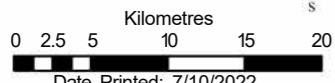
- Map Legend**
- Adjacent LGA's
 - Adjacent LGA's
 - Ocean
 - Ocean
 - Ward Realignment Boundaries
 - East
 - West
 - Roads
 - Main
 - StateHighway



Statistics

Ward	Number of Electors
Western Ward	13371
Eastern Ward	14705
Unknown	189
Total	28265

SCALE@A3:
1:450,000



Date Printed: 7/10/2022

Ward Realignment Option 2

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