

# Review of Wards & Representation Discussion Paper 2014

FINAL DRAFT

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draftv0.3	Manager Governance & Risk Management	Third Draft – Amendments made post feedback from LGAB and review from Council. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annexure C – additional option explored being 5 Wards and 10 Councillors.</li> <li>• Annexure A - pages updated 8, 25, 26 to 31 updated in accordance with latest LGAB guidance.</li> <li>• Profile.id data removed.</li> <li>• Annexure E - pictures from history of previous reviews removed to alleviate confusion.</li> <li>• Branded and reformatted.</li> </ul>	13/11/2014
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draftv0.5	Manager Governance & Risk Management	<p>Fifth Draft - Administrative amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Page 4: added the word 'it' after the word 'however' in point 6.</li> <li>• FAQ page 6: this line: "<i>The cost of maintaining elected members is likely to be reduced...</i>" Detail added: (approx cost per councillor: \$22,000 [sitting fee], \$3,500 [IT Allowance], minimum \$50 [reimbursements for travel and accommodation], totalling \$25,550 per annum)</li> <li>• FAQ page 7: Inserted missing words in this line: <i>There is balanced representation with each elected member representing the whole community.</i></li> <li>• Additional information on how to submit comments.</li> <li>• Updated Map Keys.</li> <li>• Grammatical corrections.</li> </ul>	17/11/2014
Draftv0.6	Manager Governance & Risk Management	<p>Sixth Draft – Minor amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Page 6 – Accent box moved to following page above description of considerations for flow of document and carry on points numbered 19 on page 6. ... etc – to ensure the importance and issues under Clause 8 are emphasized.</li> <li>• Page 1 of FAQs – removed statement: <i>Rates are calculated on Gross Rental Valuation (GRV), on review determined irrelevant extra information.</i></li> <li>• Page 3 of FAQs - Removed question: "<i>What will happen with existing councillors who are not up for election in October 2015?</i>", heading not relevant.</li> <li>• Page 3 of Options - use of term 'representation' in dot point could impart different/multiple meanings, therefore amended to read: <i>balanced to councillor to elector ratio across the municipality.</i></li> <li>• Subjective statements removed, for example: <i>most financial savings.</i></li> <li>• Time frames removed and referenced back to maximum councillor to elector % deviations.</li> </ul>	20/11/2014

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**Annexure:**

- A – Frequently Asked Questions
- B – Public Submission Form
- C – Proposed Options
- D – Number of Electors by Suburb
- E – History of Review Conducted in 2006 and the Review Initiated by Council in 2009

## Executive Summary

The City of Albany is required to undertake a review of Council wards and representation.

This discussion paper sets out six possible options for changes to wards and representation in the City of Albany for consideration by Council and the community.

<b>Option 1</b>	<b>No Wards</b>
<b>Option 2</b>	<b>Two Wards</b>
<b>Option 3</b>	<b>Three Wards</b>
<b>Option 4</b>	<b>Four Wards</b>
<b>Option 5</b>	<b>Five Wards</b>
<b>Option 6</b>	<b>Six Wards</b>

The Council will consider the options and members of the community may suggest others.

Members of the community are invited to make a submission about any aspect of ward boundaries and representation **by 5pm on 6 March, 2015.**

Also under consideration will be the number of Councillors for each ward and the district and how the Mayor is elected.

### How to make a submission

Members of the community are invited to make a submission about ward boundaries and representation by 5pm on 6 March, 2015.

There are several ways to submit your input which are detailed below.

**IMPORTANT: Before making a submission, you will need to carefully read this document in order to understand the six different options that are being suggested.**

You are welcome to submit an alternate option, providing you include supporting arguments. You are also welcome to make other comments, such as suggestions for new ward names, where appropriate.

### Ways to submit comments:

- Visit [www.albany.wa.gov.au](http://www.albany.wa.gov.au) to complete a short online survey.
- A hard copy submission form is available at the City's North Road Administration Building, and as an annex to this discussion paper. You can mail the completed form to City of Albany | PO Box 484 | Albany WA 6330, or submit it in person at North Road. You could also scan it and email to [staff@albany.wa.gov.au](mailto:staff@albany.wa.gov.au).
- The submission form is also available in PDF form at [www.albany.wa.gov.au](http://www.albany.wa.gov.au). The form can be printed out and mailed, or filled in online and emailed to [staff@albany.wa.gov.au](mailto:staff@albany.wa.gov.au).

## Introduction

1. The Local Government Advisory Board has the responsibility for ensuring that recommendations from local governments for changes to wards and representation conform to the requirements of Schedule 2.2 of the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act).
2. Local governments that have a ward system are required to review their ward boundaries and representation every so often to ensure that no more than eight years elapse between successive reviews.
3. At its 9 June 2014 meeting, the Local Government Advisory Board (the Board) resolved to request that the City of Albany complete an eight year review of its wards and representation in accordance with clause 6(1) of Schedule 2.2 of the Act.

## Background

4. The City of Albany has resolved to undertake a review of its ward system to comply with the requirements of the Act.
5. The last review of wards in the City of Albany was undertaken in 2006 and it is now appropriate to carry out another review.
6. It should be noted that a voluntary review was initiated by Council in 2009; however it was not completed. A history of that review is detailed at annexure E.

## Current Situation

7. The latest available data from the Western Australian Electoral Commission (WAEC) was used to evaluate the current ward system Elected Member Ratios.
8. Currently the City of Albany has twelve (12) councillors elected from six (6) wards and a popularly elected Mayor.
9. The City's councillor to elector ratios at the time of the October 2013 elections were as follows:

Ward	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors	Councillor to Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
Breaksea	2	3,886	1,943	+4.74%
Fredrickstown	2	3,664	1,832	+10.19%
Kalgan	2	4,086	2,043	-0.16%
Vancouver	2	3,649	1,825	+10.55%
West	2	4,777	2,389	-17.10%
Yakamia	2	4,415	2,208	-8.22%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>24,477</b>	<b>2,040</b>	

**Table 1: City of Albany elector to councillor ratios – as at October 2013**

*A negative % deviation indicates that the ward is under represented and a positive % deviation indicates that the ward is over represented.*

10. Data obtained from the WAEC in October 2014 was as follows:

Ward	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors	Councillor to Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
Breaksea	2	3823	1,912	+5.70%
Fredrickstown	2	3572	1,786	+11.89%
Kalgan	2	4029	2,015	+0.62%
Vancouver	2	3620	1,810	+10.70%
West	2	4798	2,399	-18.35%
Yakamia	2	4482	2,241	-10.56%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>24,324</b>	<b>2,027</b>	

**Table 2: City of Albany elector to councillor ratios – as at October 2014**

*Note: Owners and Occupiers Roll Eligibility claims expire (usually 6 months after the holding of the second ordinary election after the claim was accepted).*

11. The % ratio deviation gives a clear indication of the % difference between the average councillor/elector ratio for the whole local government and the councillor/elector ratio for each ward.
12. It can be seen that there is an imbalance in representation across the City with the Frederickstown and Vancouver Wards being over represented and the West Ward being significantly under represented. A balanced representation would be reflected in the % ratio deviation being within plus or minus 10%.
13. A review must comply with the requirements of clause 7 of Schedule 2.2 of the Act. After the review is completed, the City is required to forward a report to the Board and may propose that an order be made under sections 2.2(1), 2.3(3) or 2.18(3) of the Act.
14. Should the City propose any changes to be implemented in time for the 2015 ordinary local government elections, the required documentation will need to be submitted to the Board by **31 March 2015**. This will allow adequate time to complete the various statutory requirements.

## Review Process

15. The review process involves a number of steps:
  - a. The local government must give public notice advertising that a review is to be carried out and that submissions may be made to the local government;
  - b. The submission period is to be not less than six weeks;
  - c. The local government is to invite submissions from the public; and
  - d. Consultation may also include public meetings, forums, questionnaires, interviews with key stakeholders etc.
16. A local government's final report to the Board should include:
  - a. Copy of minutes from the council meeting containing the resolution to change or review ward boundaries or representation;
  - b. Reasons for determining the change is minor or does not require public submissions (if relevant);
  - c. Advertisement of the review (if applicable);
  - d. Assessment of the proposal against the prescribed matters; and
  - e. The Council's decision.

17. The review process will involve the following steps:

<b>Steps</b>	<b>Activity</b>
<b>Step 1</b>	Council resolved to initiate the ward and representation review process
<b>Step 2</b>	Council workshop considered draft Discussion Paper (Version 2). Based on feedback amendments made.
<b>Step 3</b>	Council endorse final discussion paper (options for consideration by the public) and submission period opens.
<b>Step 4</b>	Public submission period opens <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advertising commences</li> <li>• Information provided to the community for discussion</li> </ul> Public Submission period closes (min: 27/12/2014, max: 06/03/2015)
<b>Step 5</b>	Corporate Services and Finance Committee consider submissions and make a recommendation to Council.
<b>Step 6</b>	Special Council Meeting - Council endorses preferred option. A second meeting will be scheduled if more work is required.
<b>Step 7</b>	Council submits report to the Local Government Advisory Board (LGAB) for consideration. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LGAB submits a recommendation to the Minister for Local Government and Community (the Minister)</li> <li>• If accepted by the Minister, the Minister will make a recommendation to the Governor for the making of the appropriate order</li> </ul>

18. When the Board has requested that a local government undertake a review or when a local government has chosen to conduct a review, the Board will assess if the review has met the following requirements of the Act:

- a. The review was advertised;
- b. The community had at least six weeks to make submissions;
- c. Submissions were considered by the council; and
- d. The review appropriately considered the prescribed matters in accordance with clause 8 of Schedule 2.2 of the Act.

19. Where the Board does not believe that a review has correctly taken into account the prescribed matters to be considered, it may request the local government to make a proposal that correctly takes those matters into account.

20. Where a local government fails to submit a new proposal, the Board may recommend the making of an order to correctly take into account the prescribed matters.

21. When the Board recommends the making of an order to the Minister, the Minister may accept or reject its recommendation. Should the Minister reject the Board's recommendation the proposal may be referred back to the Board for reconsideration.

22. Any changes approved by the Minister will be in place prior to the Local Government Ordinary Elections taking place in October 2015.

**Local Government Act 1995, clause 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 —*

- *community of interests;*
- *physical and topographic features;*
- *demographic trends;*
- *economic factors; and*
- *the ratio of councillors to electors in the various wards.*

## Factors to be considered

23. The Board offers the following interpretation of the factors to be considered:

- a. **Community of interest.** The term community of interest has a number of elements. These include a sense of community identity and belonging, similarities in the characteristics of the residents of a community and similarities in the economic activities. It can also include dependence on the shared facilities in an area as reflected in catchment areas of local schools and sporting teams, or the circulation areas of local newspapers.
- b. Neighbourhoods, suburbs and towns are important units in the physical, historical and social infrastructure and often generate a feeling of community and belonging.
- c. **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 considerations.
- d. Coastal plain and foothills regions, parks and reserves may be relevant as may other man made features such as railway lines and freeways.
- e. **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.
- f. **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.
- g. **Ratio of Councillors to Electors in the various wards.** It is expected that each local government will have similar ratios of electors to councillors across the wards of its district.

## Options to Consider

24. The Council will consider the following options and members of the community may suggest others:

- Option 1** No Wards
- Option 2** Two Wards. *(two wards based on demographic suburb groupings).*
- Option 3** Three Wards. *(1 x central & 2 x rural wards)*
- Option 4** Four Wards. *(displayed as concentric circles radiating out from the City centre)*
- Option 5** Five Wards *(based on suburb groupings)*
- Option 6** Six Wards. *(retain status quo with suburb reallocation and boundary adjustments).*

25. The attached maps indicate the options (annexure C).

26. Also under consideration will be:

- a. The number of councillors for each ward and the district.
- b. The method of electing the Mayor. *For example, popularly elected Mayor versus a Mayor elected by the Council.*
- c. The names of the wards will also be considered. *For example, rather than the current names, it may be preferable to use the names of localities, or the names of pioneering families in the district.*

## Public Submissions

27. Members of the community are invited to make a written submission about any aspect of ward boundaries and representation and lodge it at:

City of Albany  
102 North Road | Yakamia WA 6330

or

City of Albany  
PO Box 484 | Albany WA 6331

Fax: 9841 4099

Submissions will also be accepted by email: [staff@albany.wa.gov.au](mailto:staff@albany.wa.gov.au)

All submissions must be received by **5pm on 6 March 2015**.

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**

Graham Foster  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 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 the wards will have similar ratios.
- 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.

### Why is this happening and does this happen to other councils?

- This process does happen to other councils. The *Local Government Act 1995*, requires local governments with wards to carry out reviews of the ward boundaries and the number of councillors for each ward, from time to time, so that not more than eight years elapse between successive reviews.
- The last review of wards was conducted in 2006, which resulted in a reduction of councillors from 14 to 12 and wards from 7 to 6.
- This particular review was undertaken in response to the Board's request to do a review.
- It is a legislative requirement for the City to conduct this review.

### After this meeting can a public submission be made?

- Yes, public submissions will be accepted until **6 March 2015** or alternatively complete the public submission form included at annexure B of the discussion paper.

### Can we keep the current wards and boundaries? Why do we need to change?

- Council may consider it appropriate to maintain the status quo based on the recommendations from the community.

### What happens next?

- Council will make a decision after considering any public submissions and the assessment of options against the factors included under clause 8 of Schedule 2.2 of the *Local Government Act 1995*. These factors are detailed in the discussion paper.

### How will this affect the rates?

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

## Frequently Asked Questions

### How will this affect my representation?

- The Local Government Advisory Board will not normally consider changes to ward boundaries and representation that result in ward councillor/elector ratios being greater than plus or minus 10% of the average councillor/elector ratio. As previously stated the Board will consider exceptional circumstances when applying the 10% policy.

### Will the reduction of representation will be of concern and affect Council decision making?

- The ideal number of elected members is a matter for the local government to determine.
- There is a diverse range of councillor/elector ratios across Western Australia reflecting the sparsely populated remote areas and the highly populated urban areas.
- One train of thought is that fewer councillors can still provide adequate representation and this may result in financial savings and more effective and efficient decision making.
- Another train of thought is that more councillors increase the perspective of the decision making process.

### 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.

### Who will determine new Ward names?

- Ward names will be considered once a proposed ward system has been recommended for adoption.
- Council may determine if it is preferable to use name of localities, names of pioneering families, name of prominent geographical features, or names with local indigenous significance. Suggestions can be submitted as part of your submission to this review.

### What is the cost of doing this?

- The cost of doing the review at this time will be reduced as it will coincide with an ordinary election of Council scheduled for October 2015. Costs involved also include the cost of Landgate to prepare Technical Descriptions (TDs), if applicable, and the cost to publish the Orders in the Government Gazette. These costs vary depending on the time the TDs take to be prepared and the length of the Order to be published, but an approximate cost is \$400 each.

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

- Any changes will not affect the services currently being offered by the City of Albany.

## **The Impact of Ward and Representation Changes on Councillor Terms and Representation Policy**

- The following information details the Local Government Advisory Board's policy regarding the implementation of ward and representation changes.

### **All wards are abolished**

- It is not necessary for all offices of councillor to be declared vacant to implement a change from a ward system to no wards.
- If a local government proposes that councillors whose terms do not expire at the next ordinary elections continue to serve in the district ward, and the request is supported by the Board, at the next ordinary elections councillors complete their terms as normal and nominations are called to fill these vacancies. The remaining councillors who still have two years in office represent the electors of the whole district.

*Example 1 - A local government with four wards and nine councillors decides to abolish its wards. It is not necessary to declare all offices of councillor vacant. At the next ordinary elections, five councillors complete their terms leaving four councillors who still have two years in office. Elections are held for the five vacant positions and the four remaining councillors represent the whole district.*

### **New wards are created**

- It is not necessary for all offices of councillor to be declared vacant to implement the creation of a ward system where there are no wards.
- A local government can recommend the allocation of councillors who still have two years in office to the new wards.
- If the request is supported, at the next ordinary elections councillors complete their terms as normal. Continuing councillors would be allocated to the new wards and elections are held for all vacant positions.

*Example 2 - A local government with no wards and nine councillors decides to create a three ward system (Patterson Ward, Brown Ward and McDowell Ward) with three councillors in each ward.*

*At the next ordinary elections four councillors are due to complete their terms leaving five who still have two years in office. The local government advertises that it intends to make a submission to the Board recommending the allocation of the remaining five councillors to the three wards with one in Patterson Ward, two in the Brown Ward and two in the McDowell Ward based on where the councillors currently reside. Public submissions are invited.*

*After consideration of submissions the allocations are recommended to the Board. This is supported, councillors are allocated to the new wards and elections are held for two vacancies in the Patterson Ward, one vacancy in the Brown Ward and one vacancy in the McDowell Ward.*

## Frequently Asked Questions

### All wards are abolished and new wards created

- It is not necessary for all offices of councillor to be declared vacant where all wards are abolished and a new ward system created.
- A local government can recommend the allocation of councillors who still have two years in office to the new wards.
- If the local government request is supported, at the next ordinary elections councillors complete their terms as normal. Continuing councillors would be allocated to the new wards and elections are held for all vacant positions.

*Example 3 - A local government with five wards and ten councillors decides to create a new ward structure with two wards (Patterson Ward and McDowell Ward) and four councillors in each ward.*

*At the next ordinary elections five councillors are due to retire leaving five who still have two years in office. The local government advertises that it intends to make a submission to the Board recommending the allocation of the remaining five councillors to the new wards with three in the Patterson Ward and two in the McDowell Ward based on where the councillors currently reside. Public submissions are invited.*

*After consideration of submissions the allocations are recommended to the Board. This is supported, councillors are allocated to the new wards and elections are held for one vacancy in the Patterson Ward and two vacancies in the Brown Ward.*

### Ward boundaries are amended

- It is not necessary for offices of councillor to be declared vacant to implement amendments to ward boundaries.
- The local government can recommend the allocation of councillors who still have two years in office to the new wards if necessary.
- If the local government request is supported, at the next ordinary elections councillors complete their terms as normal. Continuing councillors may be allocated to the new wards and elections are held for all vacant positions.

*Example 4 - A local government with four wards and two councillors in each ward abolishes one ward (Ritchie Ward) and amends the boundaries of the other three wards (Patterson Ward with three councillors; Brown Ward with three councillors and McDowell Ward with two councillors).*

*At the next ordinary elections four councillors complete their terms leaving four who still have two years in office. Three of these councillors continue to reside in the wards from which they were elected however one councillor, Cr Keen, was elected from the Ritchie Ward that no longer exists. Cr Keen can be reallocated to any of the new wards, however the local government must give consideration to clauses 1 and 2 of Schedule 4.2 of the Local Government Act 1995, where near as practical to half of the total number of councillors are to retire every two years and as near as practical to half of the councillors representing each ward are to retire every two years.*

## Frequently Asked Questions

*Although Cr Keen now resides in the Patterson Ward most of her former constituents live in the Brown Ward. The local government advertises that it intends to make a submission to the Board recommending the allocation of Cr Keen to the Brown Ward. Public submissions are invited.*

*After consideration of submissions the allocation of Cr Keen to the Brown Ward is recommended to the Board. This is supported, Cr Keen is allocated to the Brown Ward and elections are held for two vacancies in the Patterson Ward, one vacancy in the Brown Ward and one vacancy in the McDowell Ward.*

### Number of councillors reduced

- In most instances, a reduction to the number of councillors can be implemented by reducing the number of vacancies at the next ordinary election.
- There are some exceptions to this and the Board may declare offices of councillor vacant in the following circumstances:
  - Where the number of councillors in a ward or district is reduced and the number of councillors remaining after the next ordinary election would be greater than the number of positions available.

*Example 5 - A local government decides to reduce the number of councillors in a ward from three to one. At the next ordinary election only one councillor in that ward is due to complete his term leaving two councillors but only one position. One or more of the continuing councillors are therefore required to conclude their terms and an election is held for the one vacancy.*

### Declaring offices vacant

- Section 2.35 of the *Local Government Act 1995* deals with vacancies on the restructure of districts, wards and representation. This section provides that offices of council can be declared vacant where it is necessary to effect changes in boundaries or wards. It is very rare that a change to a local government's ward structure or boundaries and or representation will require any offices of councillor to become vacant, as councillors with terms continuing beyond the next ordinary election have a right to complete their terms in office.
- A 'complete spill' of positions, could be effected if all of the continuing councillors agree to resign prior to the next ordinary election.
- If a local government is considering declaring all offices vacant it is recommended that the local government seeks advice from the Department of Local Government and Communities prior to submitting a recommendation to the Board.

**The following advantages and disadvantages are open for consideration:****Reduction in elected members:**

- The **advantages** of a reduction in the number of elected members may include the following:
  - The decision making process may be more effective and efficient if the number of elected members is reduced. It is more timely to ascertain the views of a fewer number of people and decision making may be easier.
  - There is also more scope for team spirit and cooperation amongst a smaller number of people.
  - The cost of maintaining elected members is likely to be reduced (*\$22,000 [sitting fee], \$3,500 [IT Allowance], minimum \$50 [reimbursements for travel and accommodation], totalling approximately \$25,550 per annum per councillor*)
  - The increase in the ratio of councillors to electors is unlikely to be significant.
  - Consultation with the community can be achieved through a variety of means in addition to individuals and groups contacting their local elected member.
  - A reduction in the number of elected members may result in an increased commitment from those elected reflected in greater interest and participation in Council's affairs.
  - Fewer elected members are more readily identifiable to the community.
  - Fewer positions on Council may lead to greater interest in elections with contested elections and those elected obtaining a greater level of support from the community.
  - There is a State wide trend for reductions in the number of elected members and many local governments have found that fewer elected members works well.
- The **disadvantages** of a reduction in the number of elected members may include the following:
  - A smaller number of elected members may result in an increased workload and may lessen effectiveness. A demanding role may discourage others from nominating for Council.
  - There is the potential for dominance in the Council by a particular interest group.
  - A reduction in the number of elected members may limit the diversity of interests around the Council table.
  - Opportunities for community participation in Council's affairs may be reduced if there are fewer elected members for the community to contact.
  - An increase in the ratio of councillors to electors may place too many demands on elected members.

## Frequently Asked Questions

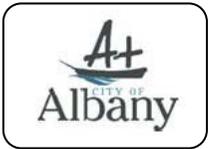
### No wards system

- The **advantages** of a no ward system may include:
  - Elected members are elected by the whole community not just a section of it.
  - Knowledge and interest in all areas of the Council's affairs would result in broadening the views beyond the immediate concerns of those in a ward.
  - The smaller town sites and rural areas have the whole Council working for them.
  - Members of the community who want to approach an elected member can speak to any elected member.
  - Social networks and communities of interest are often spread across a local government and elected members can have an overview of these.
  - Elected members use their specialty skills and knowledge for the benefit of the whole local government.
  - There is balanced representation with each elected member representing the whole community.
  - The election process is much simpler for the community to understand and for the Council to administer.
- The **disadvantages** of a no ward system may include:
  - Electors may feel that they are not adequately represented if they don't have an affinity with any of the elected members.
  - Elected members living in a certain area may have a greater affinity and understanding of the issues specific to that area.
  - There is potential for an interest group to dominate the Council.
  - Elected members may feel overwhelmed by having to represent all electors and may not have the time or opportunity to understand and represent all the issues.
  - It may be more difficult and costly for candidates to be elected if they need to canvass the whole local government area.

### Ward System

- Many local governments have a ward system and find that it works well for them.
- The **advantages** of a ward system may include:
  - Different sectors of the community can be represented ensuring a good spread of representation and interests amongst elected members.
  - There is more opportunity for elected members to have a greater knowledge and interest in the issues in the ward.
  - It may be easier for a candidate to be elected if they only need to canvass one ward.
- The **disadvantages** of a ward system may include:
  - Elected members may become too focussed on their wards and less focussed on the affairs of other wards and the whole local government.
  - An unhealthy competition for resources can develop where electors in each ward come to expect the services and facilities provided in other wards, whether they are appropriate or not.
  - The community and elected members may regard the local government in terms of wards rather than as a whole community.
  - Ward boundaries may appear to be placed arbitrarily and may not reflect the social interaction and communities of interest of the community.
  - Balanced representation across the local government may be difficult to achieve, particularly if a local government has highly populated urban areas and sparsely populated rural areas.





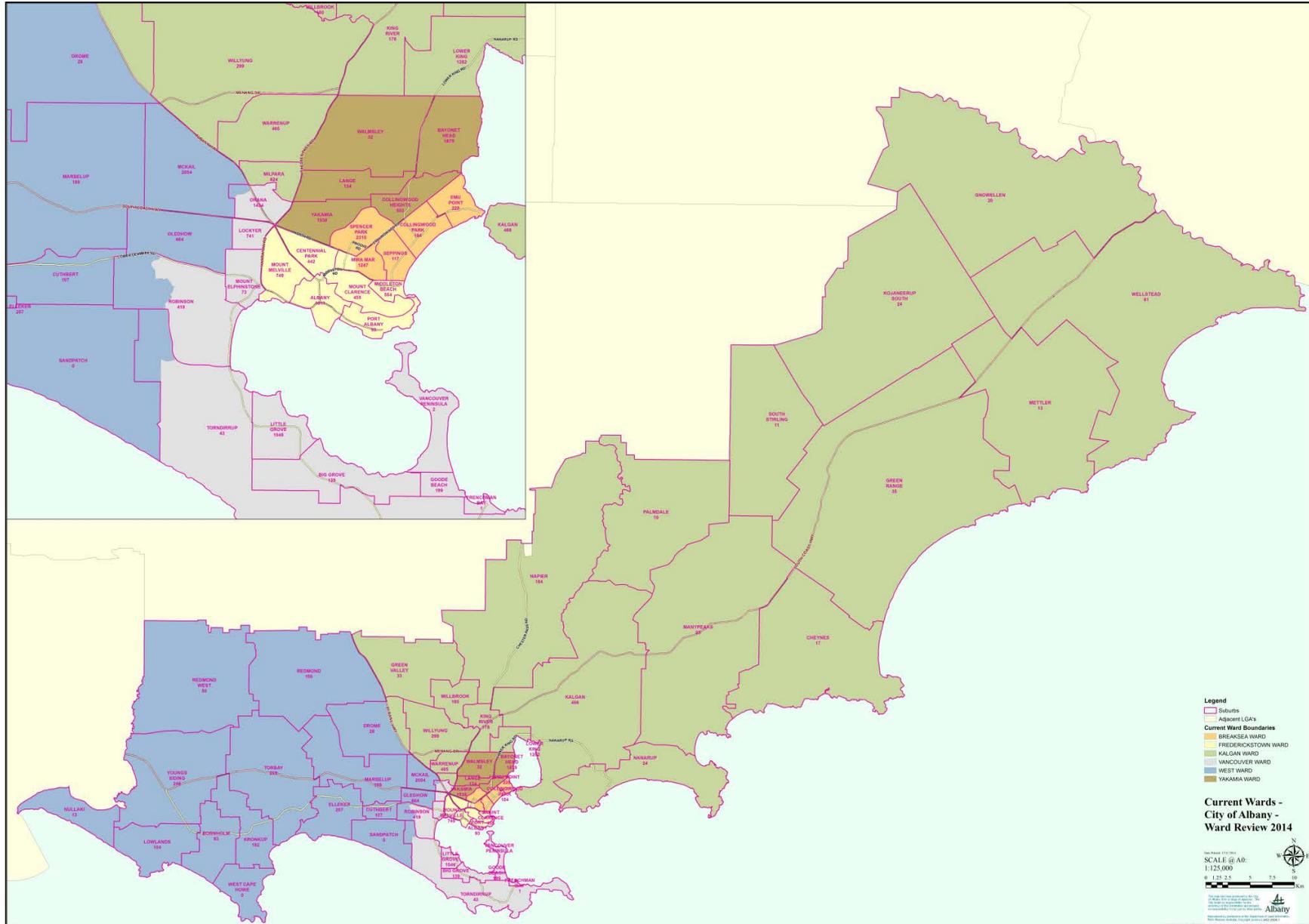
**Proposed Options**

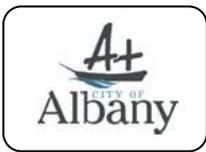
**Summary of Proposed Options**

To determine which option is the best one for the City of Albany the following rating system was applied:

<b>Options</b>	<b>Community of Interest</b>	<b>Physical &amp; topographic features</b>	<b>Demographic trends</b>	<b>Economic Factors</b>	<b>Ratio C:E</b>
1	No	No	No	No	Yes
2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
3	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
5	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
6	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

### CURRENT WARD REPRESENTATION MAP





**Proposed Options**

**OPTION 1 – NO WARDS**

The following is an assessment of this option against the factors.

**Community of interest:** Communities of interest are not reflected by the local government boundary.

**Demographic trends:** Identified growth does not have an impact on the district boundary.

**Physical and topographic features:** The district boundary does not follow any physical or topographic features.

**Economic factors:** The district boundary does not reflect the areas of economic activity.

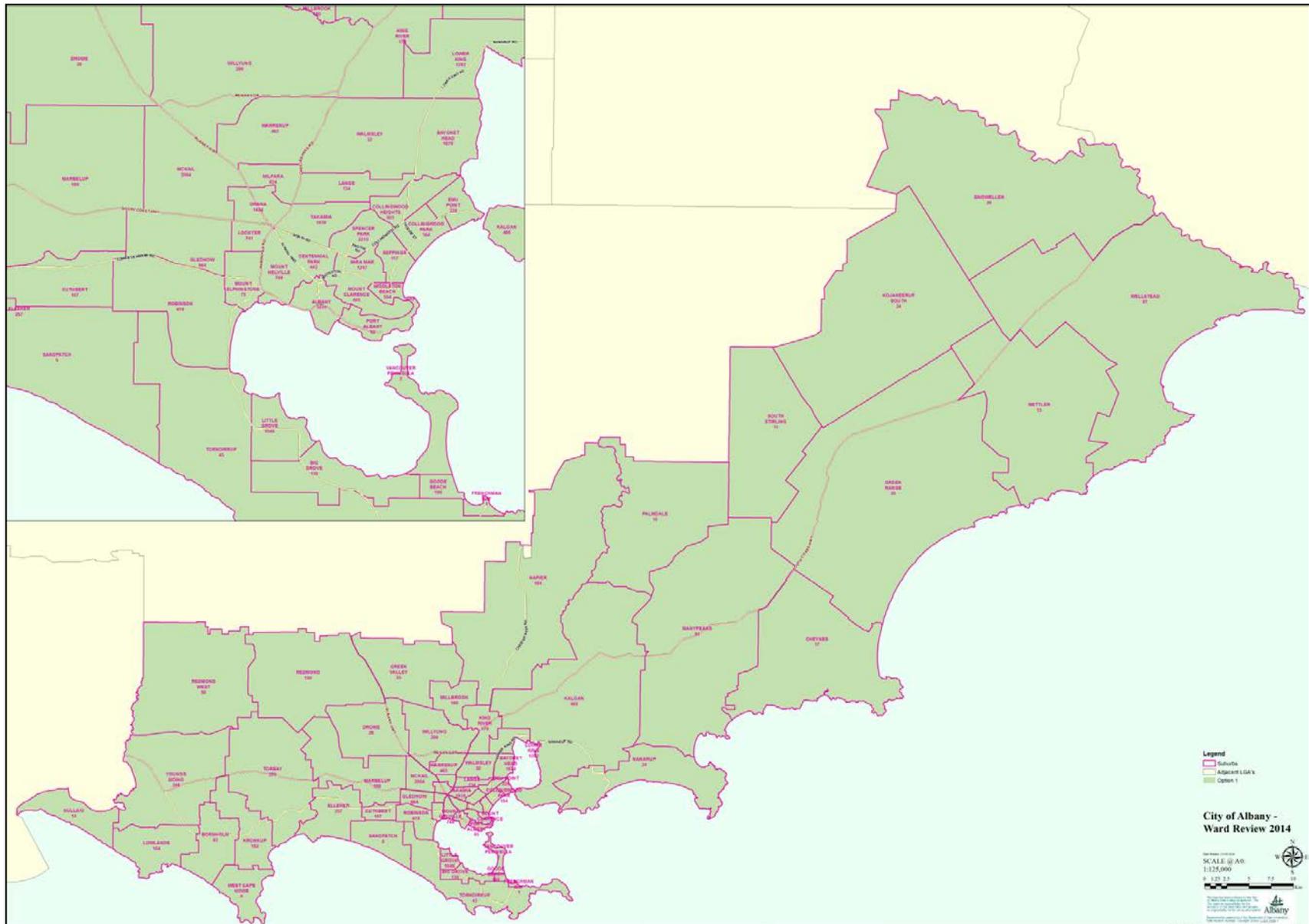
**Ratio of Councillors to Electors** *Note: A negative result indicates that the ward is under represented and a positive result indicates that the ward is over represented.*

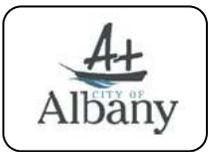
**Table: City of Albany – Option 1 – councillor to elector ratios for no wards and 12, 10 and 8 offices of councillor.**

District	Number of Electors	Twelve Member Council			Ten Member Council			Eight Member Council		
		Number of Councillors	Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation	Number of Councillors	Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation	Number of Councillors	Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
	24,324	12	1: 2,027	0.00%	10	1: 2,432	0.00%	8	1:3,041	0.00%

- This option results in a balanced councillor to elector ratio across the municipality for 12, 10 or 8 offices of councillor and is within the % ratio deviation specified by the Board.
- Noting a ratio deviation of 0.00%.
- The 8 councillor option would provide the most financial savings.
- The question of adequate representation for 4,800 square kilometres of land area, coupled with an average councillor/elector ratio remains open for consideration.

**OPTION 1 – NO WARDS**





**Proposed Options**

**OPTION 2 – TWO WARDS**

Create two wards based on demographic suburb groupings.

**Community of interest:** Communities of interest are reflected by both wards.

**Demographic trends:** This option takes into account the divide between urban and semi urban areas.

**Physical and topographic features:** The ward boundaries follow suburb boundaries delineated by roads.

**Economic factors:** Ward boundaries reflect the demographic area suburb groupings.

**Ratio of Councillors to Electors** *Note: A negative result indicates that the ward is under represented and a positive result indicates that the ward is over represented.*

**Table: City of Albany – Option 2 – councillor to elector ratios for two wards and 12, 10 and 8 offices of councillor.**

Ward	Number of Electors	Twelve Member Council			Ten Member Council			Eight Member Council		
		Number of Councillors	Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation	Number of Councillors	Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation	Number of Councillors	Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
Ward A	12,614	6	1: 2,102	-3.72%	5	1: 2,523	-3.72%	4	1: 3,154	-3.72%
Ward B	11,710	6	1: 1,952	+3.72%	5	1: 2,342	+3.72%	4	1: 2,928	+3.72%
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,324</b>	<b>12</b>			<b>10</b>			<b>8</b>		

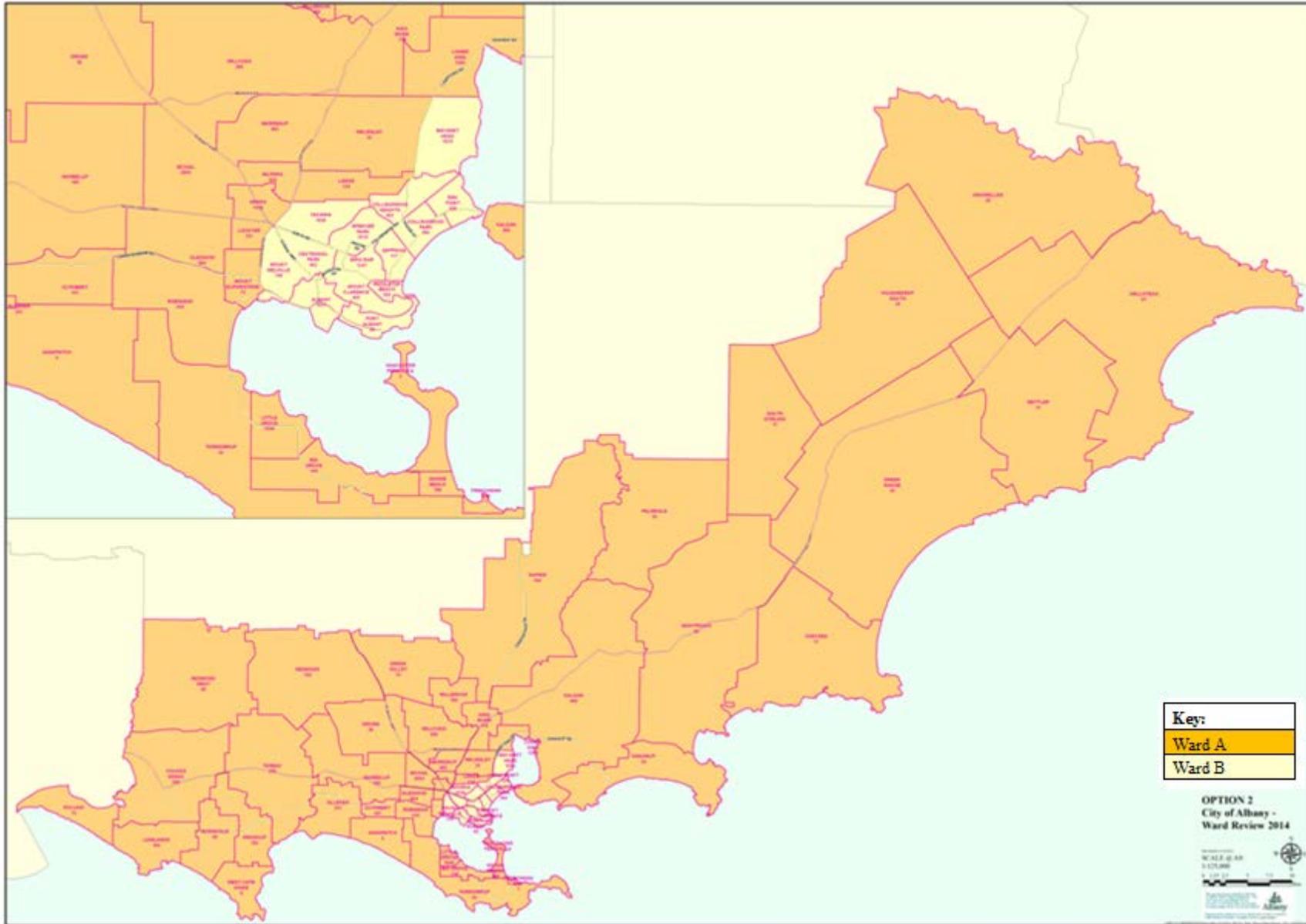
- This option results in a balanced councillor to elector ratio across the municipality for 12, 10 or 8 offices of councillor and is within the % ratio deviation specified by the Board.
- Noting a maximum ratio deviation of +3.72% and -3.72%.
- The 8 councillor option would provide the most financial savings.
- The question of adequate representation for 4,800 square kilometres of land area, remains open for consideration.

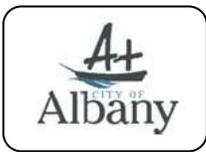
**OPTION 2 – TWO WARDS**

Demographic Suburb Groupings used to create this option:		
Wards		Number of Electors
<b>Ward A</b>	Rural East	2,279
	Lower King	1,282
	Milpara - Orana	2,058
	Rural West	1,664
	Robinson - Little Grove & District	1,922
	Lockyer - Gledhow	1,405
	McKail	2,004
<b>Ward B</b>	Albany - Centennial Park & District	2,295
	Spencer Park - Collingwood Heights	2,813
	Bayonet Head	1,879
	Yakamia	1,938
	Mt Clarence - Middleton Beach & District	1,538
	Mira Mar	1,247
<b>Total</b>		<b>24,324</b>

Source: <http://profile.id.com.au/albany>

**OPTION 2 – TWO WARDS**





**Proposed Options**

**OPTION 3 – THREE WARDS**

Create three wards, with one ward encompassing the central business district and more densely populated urban areas, and two wards representing the east and west outer regions of the municipality.

**Community of interest:** Communities of interest are reflected this option. In particular, rural and urban communities.

**Demographic trends:** This option takes into account population trends in the medium term.

**Physical and topographic features:** The ward boundaries follow suburb boundaries delineated by roads.

**Economic factors:** Ward boundaries reflect the suburb groupings and broad economic activities, such as farming.

**Ratio of Councillors to Electors** *Note: A negative result indicates that the ward is under represented and a positive result indicates that the ward is over represented.*

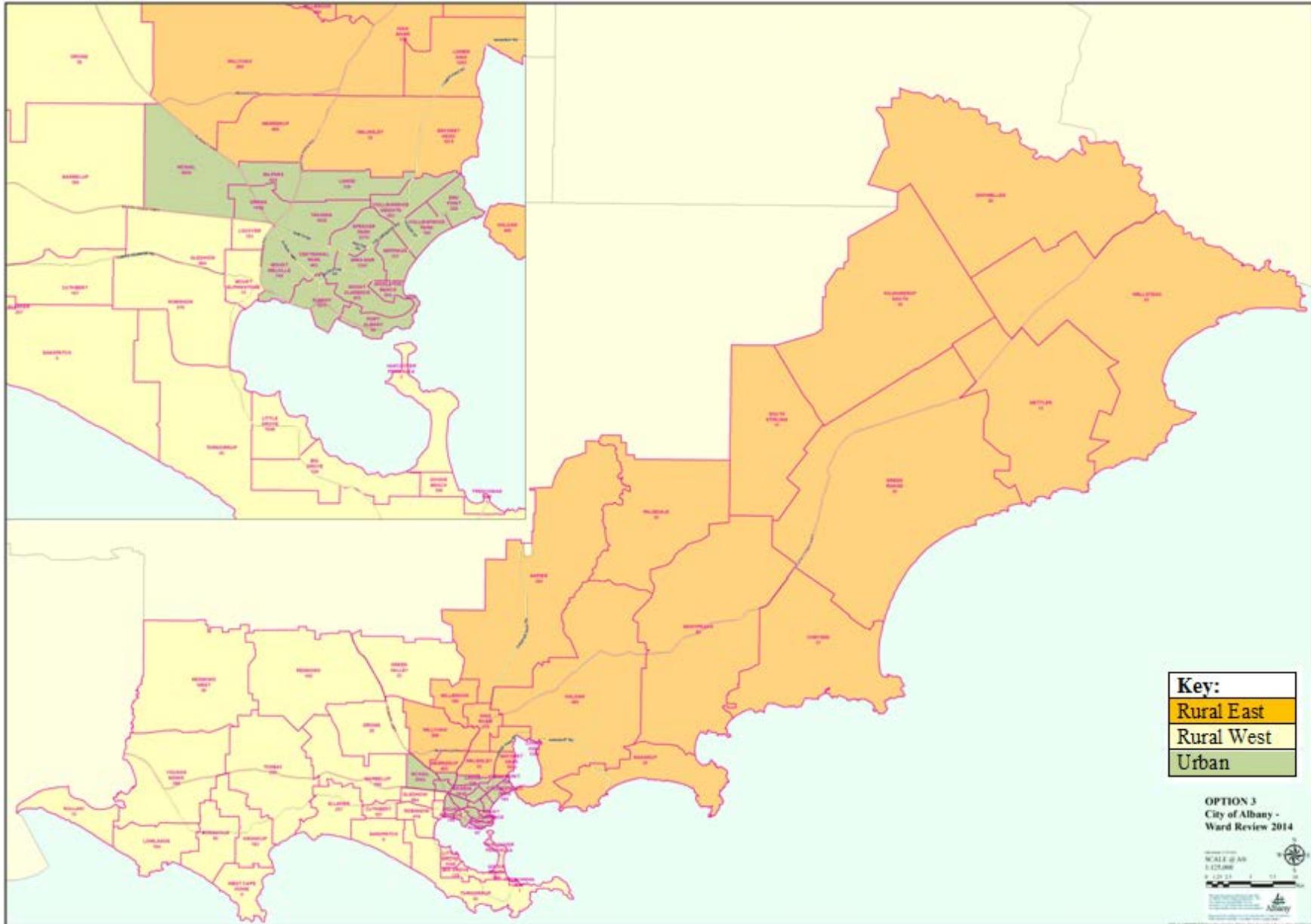
**Table: City of Albany – Option 3 – councillor to elector ratios for three wards and 14, 10 and 9 offices of councillor.**

Ward	Number of Electors	Fourteen Member Council			Ten Member Council			Nine Member Council		
		Number of Councillors	Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation	Number of Councillors	Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation	Number of Councillors	Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
Rural East	5,273	3	1: 1,758	-1.68%	2	1: 2,637	-5.65%	2	1: 2,637	+0.56%
Rural West	5,024	3	1: 1,675	+3.12%	2	1: 2,512	-0.66%	2	1: 2,512	+5.25%
Urban	14,027	8	1: 1,753	-1.44%	6	1: 2,338	+6.32%	5	1: 2,805	-5.81%
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,324</b>	<b>14</b>			<b>10</b>			<b>9</b>		

- This option results in a balanced councillor to elector ratio across the municipality for 14, 10 or 9 offices of councillor and is within the % ratio deviation specified by the Board.
- Noting a maximum ratio deviation of +5.25% and -5.81%.
- The 12 or 8 offices of councillor options were not explored as they did not comply with the specified % ratio deviation.

<b>Ward Suburb Groupings:</b>	
<b>Wards</b>	<b>Suburbs</b>
Rural East	Bayonet Head, Cheynes, Gnowellen, Green Range, Kalgan, King River, Kojaneerup South, Lower King, Manypeaks, Mettler, Millbrook, Nanarup, Napier, Palmdale, South Stirling, Walmsley, Warrenup, Wellstead and Willyung.
Rural West	Big Grove, Bornholm, Cuthbert, Drome, Elleker, Frenchman Bay, Gledhow, Goode Beach, Green Valley, Kronkup, Little Grove, Lockyer, Lowlands, Marbelup, Mt Elphinstone, Nullaki, Redmond, Redmond West, Robinson, Torbay, Torndirrup, Vancouver Peninsula and Youngs Siding.
Urban	Albany, Centennial Park, Collingwood Heights, Collingwood Park, Emu Point, Lange, McKail, Middleton Beach, Milpara, Mira Mar Mt Clarence, Mt Melville, Orana, Port Albany, Seppings, Spencer Park and Yakamia.

**OPTION 3 – THREE WARDS**



**Proposed Options**

**OPTION 4 – FOUR WARDS**

Create four wards, displayed as concentric circles radiating out from the City Centre.

**Community of interest:** Communities of interest for urban and rural communities are catered for in this option.

**Demographic trends:** This option addresses population trends in the medium to long term. Population growth areas have been identified and are expected to occur across all four proposed wards.

**Physical and topographic features:** The ward boundaries follow suburb boundaries delineated by roads.

**Economic factors:** Ward boundaries reflect economic activities.

**Ratio of Councillors to Electors** Note: A negative result indicates that the ward is under represented and a positive result indicates that the ward is over represented.

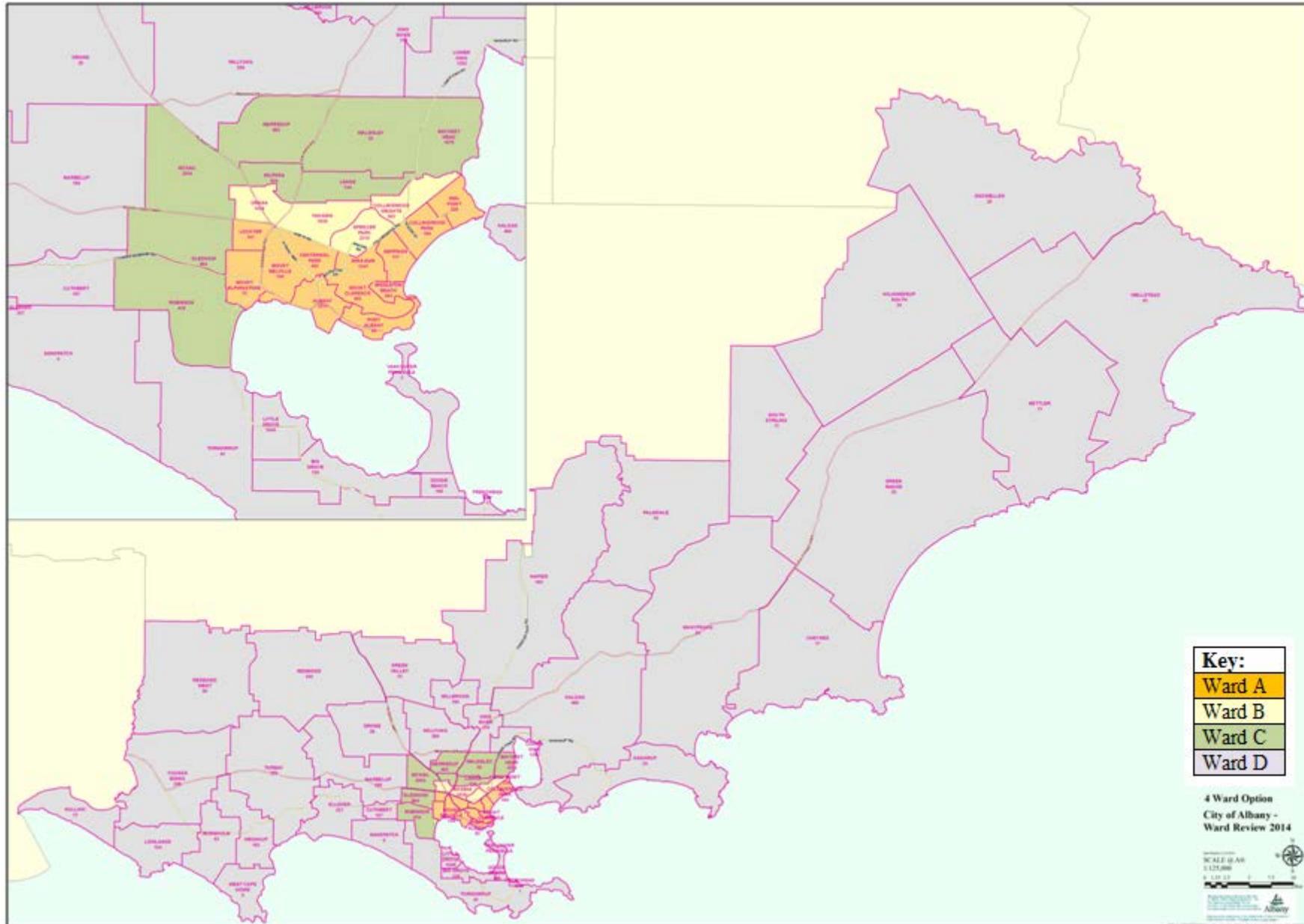
**Table: City of Albany – Option 4 – councillor to elector ratios for four wards and 12, 10 and 8 offices of councillor.**

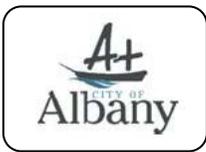
Ward	Number of Electors	Twelve Member Council			Ten Member Council			Eight Member Council		
		Number of Councillors	Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation	Number of Councillors	Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation	Number of Councillors	Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
Ward A	5,894	3	1: 1,965	+3.08%	2	1: 2,947	-16.47%	2	1: 2,947	+3.08%
Ward B	6,185	3	1: 2,062	-1.71%	2	1: 3,093	-22.22%	2	1: 3,093	-1.71%
Ward C	6,221	3	1: 2,074	-2.30%	3	1: 2,074	+18.05%	2	1: 3,111	-2.30%
Ward D	6,024	3	1: 2,008	+0.94%	3	1: 2,008	+20.64%	2	1: 3,012	+0.94%
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,324</b>	<b>12</b>			<b>10</b>			<b>8</b>		

- This option results in a balanced councillor to elector ratio across the municipality for 12 or 8 offices of councillor only and is within the % ratio deviation specified by the Board.
- Noting a maximum ratio deviation of +3.08%.

Ward Suburb Groupings:	
Ward	Suburbs
Ward A	Albany, Centennial Park, Collingwood Park, Emu Point, Lockyer, Middleton Beach, Mira Mar, Mt Clarence, Mt Elphinstone, Mt Melville, Port Albany and Seppings.
Ward B	Collingwood Heights, Orana, Spencer Park and Yakamia.
Ward C	Bayonet Head, Gledhow, Lange, McKail, Milpara, Robinson, Walmsley and Warrenup.
Ward D	Big Grove, Bornholm, Cheynes, Cuthbert, Drome, Elleker, Frenchman Bay, Gnowellen, Goode Beach, Green Range, Green Valley, Kalgan King River, Kojaneerup South, Kronkup, Little Grove, Lower King, Lowlands, Manypeaks, Marbelup, Mettler, Millbrook, Nanarup, Napier, Nullaki, Palmdale, Redmond, Redmond West, South Stirling, Torbay, Torndirrup, Vancouver Peninsula, Wellstead, Willyung and Youngs Siding.

**OPTION 4 – FOUR WARDS**





**Proposed Options**

**OPTION 5 – FIVE WARDS**

Create five wards, based on suburb groupings.

**Community of interest:** Communities of interest for urban and rural communities are catered for in this option.

**Demographic trends:** This option addresses population trends in the medium to long term.

**Physical and topographic features:** The ward boundaries follow suburb boundaries delineated by roads.

**Economic factors:** Ward boundaries reflect economic activities.

**Ratio of Councillors to Electors** *Note: A negative result indicates that the ward is under represented and a positive result indicates that the ward is over represented.*

**Table: City of Albany – Option 5 – councillor to elector ratios for five wards and 12, 10 and 8 offices of councillor.**

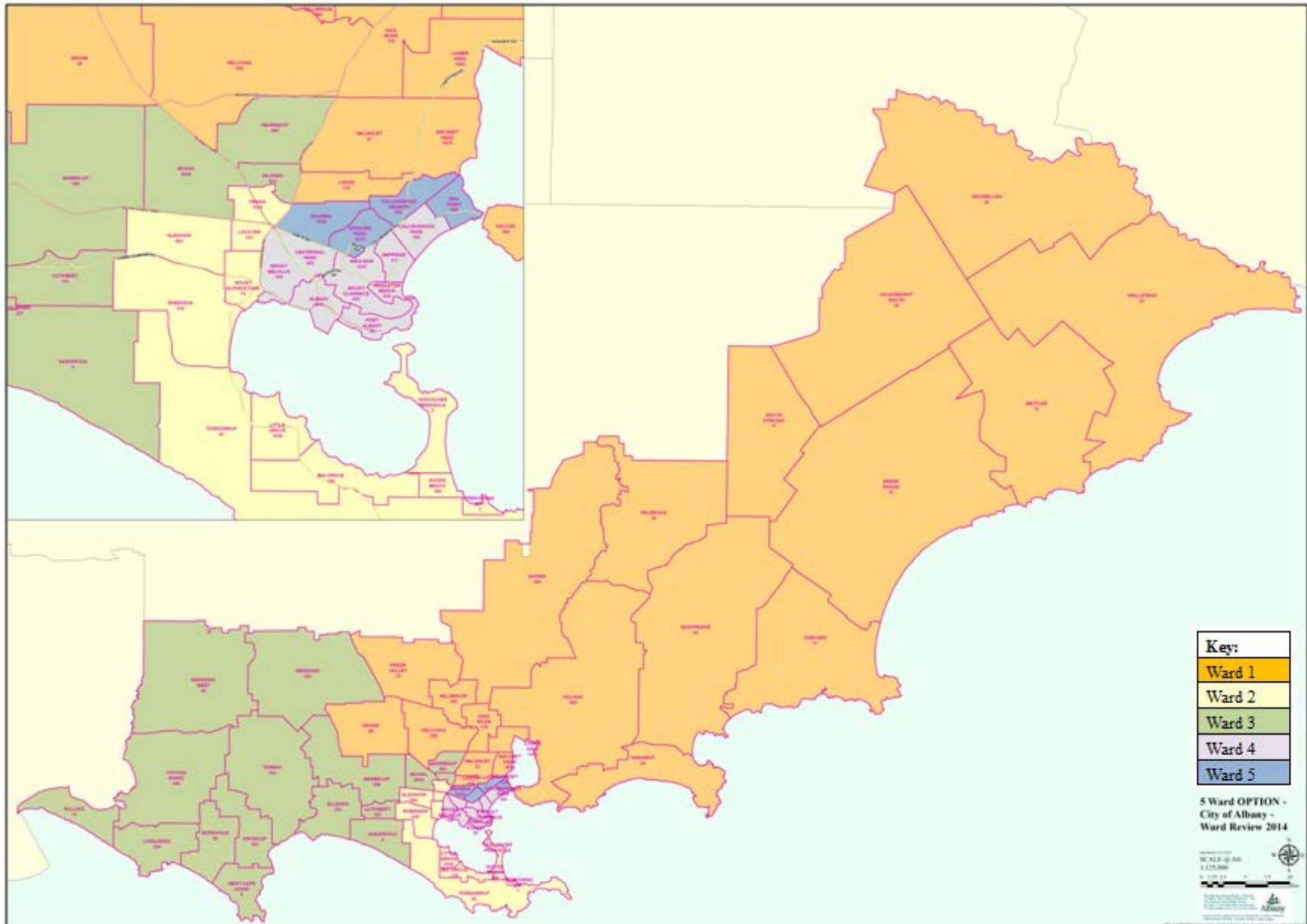
Ward	Number of Electors	Twelve Member Council			Ten Member Council			Eight Member Council		
		Number of Councillors	Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation	Number of Councillors	Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation	Number of Councillors	Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
Ward 1	5,003	3	1: 1,668	+20.57%	2	1: 2,502	-2.84%	1	1: 5,003	-45.83
Ward 2	4,761	2	1: 2,381	-13.38%	2	1: 2,381	+2.13%	2	1: 2,381	+30.61
Ward 3	4,729	2	1: 2,365	-12.61%	2	1: 2,365	+2.79%	2	1: 2,365	+31.08
Ward 4	4,852	2	1: 2,426	-15.54%	2	1: 2,426	+0.26%	2	1: 2,426	+29.28
Ward 5	4,979	3	1: 1,660	+20.96%	2	1: 2,490	-2.35%	1	1: 4,979	-45.13
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,324</b>	<b>12</b>			<b>10</b>			<b>8</b>		

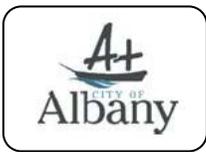
- This option results in a balanced councillor to elector ratio across the municipality for 10 offices of councillor only and is within the % ratio deviation specified by the Board.
- Noting a maximum ratio deviation of -2.84%.

**Ward Suburb Groupings:**

Ward	Suburbs
Ward 1	Bayonet Head , Cheynes, Drome, Gnowellen, Green Range, Green Valley, Kalgan, King River , Kojaneerup Sth, Lange, Lower King, Manypeaks, Mettler, Millbrook , Nanarup, Napier, Palmdale, South Stirling, Walmsley, Wellstead and Willyung.
Ward 2	Big Grove, Frenchman Bay, Gledhow, Goode Beach, Little Grove, Lockyer, Mt Elphinstone, Orana, Robinson, Torndirrup and Vancouver Peninsula.
Ward 3	Bornholm, Cuthbert, Elleker, Kronkup, Marbelup, McKail, Milpara, Nullaki , Lowlands ,Redmond West, Redmond, Torbay, Warrenup and Youngs Siding.
Ward 4	Albany, Centennial Park, Collingwood Pk, Middleton Bch, Mira Mar, Mt Clarence, Mt Melville, Port Albany and Seppings.
Ward 5	Collingwood Hts, Emu Point , Spencer Park and Yakamia.

**OPTION 5 – FIVE WARDS**





Proposed Options

**OPTION 6 – SIX WARDS**

Redistribute current ward suburb allocation and adjust ward boundaries, to create a balanced representation across the municipality, in order to maintain the status quo and reflect the appropriate elector to councillor ratio as required by the Board.

**Community of interest:** Communities are attempted to be reflected in this option, noting suburbs are split by ward boundaries.

**Demographic trends:** This option addresses population trends in the medium term.

**Physical and topographic features:** The ward boundaries follow suburb boundaries delineated by roads.

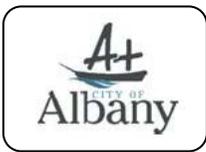
**Economic factors:** Ward boundaries do not reflect economic activity. However, Frederickstown Ward represents the Central Business District (CBD) and Kalgan and West Wards represent rural communities.

**Ratio of Councillors to Electors** Note: A negative result indicates that the ward is under represented and a positive result indicates that the ward is over represented.

**Table: City of Albany – Option 6 – councillor to elector ratios for six wards and 12 and 6 offices of councillor.**

Ward	Number of Electors	Twelve Member Council			Six Member Council		
		Number of Councillors	Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation	Number of Councillors	Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
Breaksea	4,025	2	1: 2,013	+0.72%	1	1: 4,025	+0.72%
Frederickstown	4,365	2	1: 2,183	-7.67%	1	1: 4,365	-7.67%
Kalgan	3,850	2	1: 1,925	+5.03%	1	1: 3,850	+5.03%
Vancouver	3,949	2	1: 1,975	+2.59%	1	1; 3,949	+2.59%
West	3,978	2	1: 1,989	+1.87%	1	1: 3,978	+1.87%
Yakamia	4,157	2	1: 2,079	-2.54%	1	1: 4,157	-2.54%
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,324</b>	<b>12</b>			<b>6</b>		

- This option results in a balanced councillor to elector ratio across the municipality for 12 of 6 offices of councillor only and is within the % ratio deviation specified by the Board
- The current six ward system cannot be supported by 8 councillors without significant changes to current ward boundaries and the splitting of suburbs.
- Noting the Frederickstown Ward ratio deviation of -7.67%.



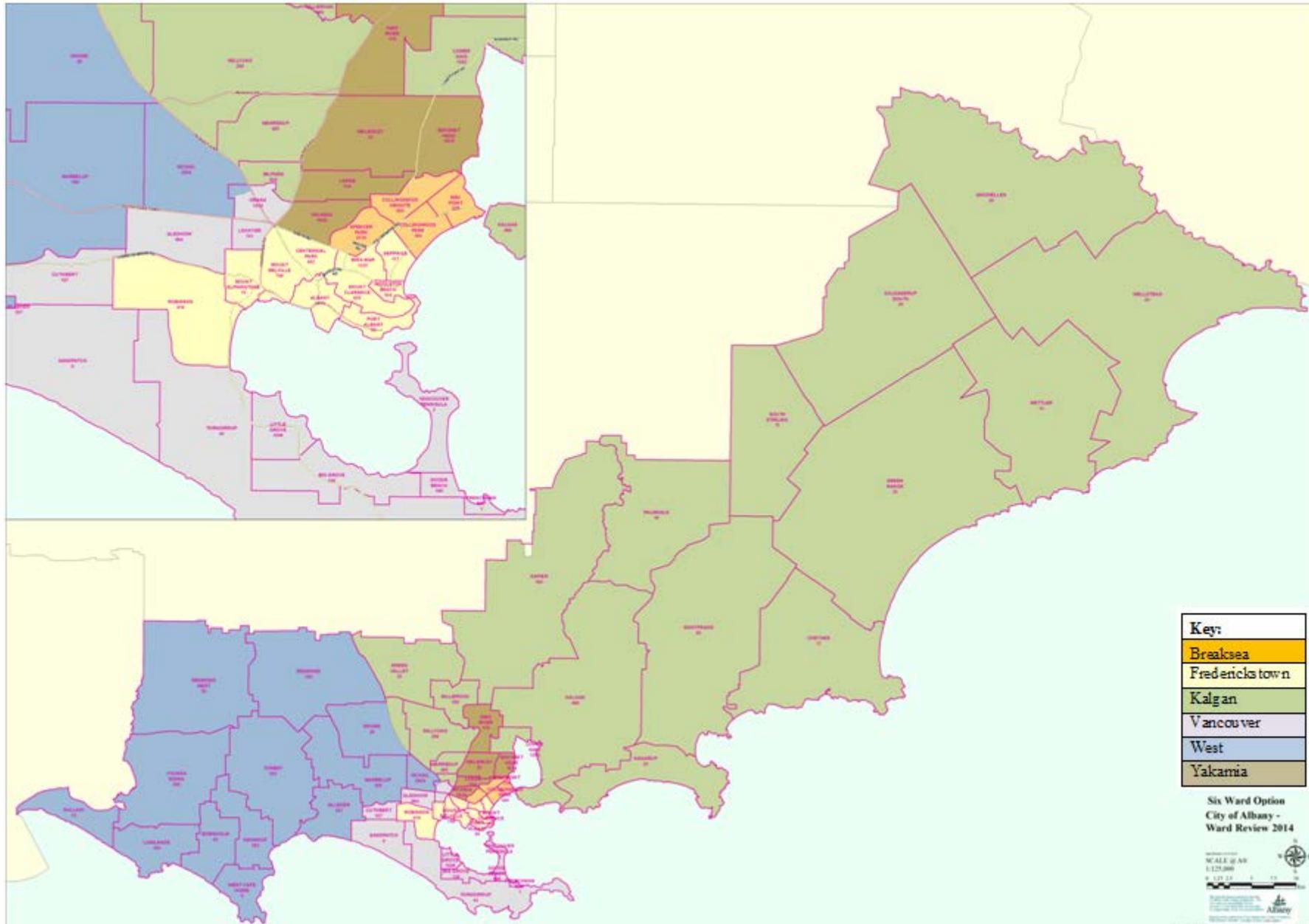
### OPTION 6 – SIX WARDS

<b>Ward Suburb Groupings:</b>	
<b>Breaksea</b>	Collingwood Heights, Emu Point, Mira Mar and Spencer Park.
<b>Frederickstown</b>	Albany, Centennial Park, Collingwood Park, Middleton Beach, Mt Clarence, Mt Elphinstone, Mt Melville, Port Albany, Robinson and Seppings.
<b>Kalgan</b>	Cheynes, Drome (part), Gnowellen, Green Range, Green Valley, Kalgan, Kojaneerup South, Lower King, Manypeaks, Mettler, Millbrook, Milpara, Nanarup, Napier, Palmdale, South Stirling, Warrenup, Wellstead and Willyung.
<b>Vancouver</b>	Big Grove, Cuthbert, Gledhow, Goode Beach, Little Grove, Lockyer, Orana, Torndirrup and Vancouver Peninsula.
<b>West</b>	Bornholm, Drome (part), Elleker, Kronkup, Lowlands, Marbelup, McKail, Nullaki, Orana, Redmond, Redmond West, Torbay and Youngs Siding.
<b>Yakamia</b>	Bayonet Head, King River, Lange, Walmsley and Yakamia.

**The following changes made to existing suburb allocation:**

- Mt Elphinstone and Robinson to Frederickstown Ward;
- Cuthbert and Gledhow to Vancouver Ward;
- Collingwood Heights to Breaksea Ward;
- King River to Yakamia Ward; and
- Collingwood Park and Seppings to Frederickstown Ward.

**OPTION 6 – SIX WARDS**



### Number of Electors by Suburb

Suburb	No. of Electors	Suburb	No. of Electors
Albany	1011	Orana	1434
Bayonet Head	1879	Palmdale	10
Big Grove	139	Port Albany	93
Bornholm	83	Redmond	150
Centennial Park	442	Redmond West	50
Cheynes	17	Robinson	419
Collingwood Heights	503	Seppings	117
Collingwood Park	184	South Stirling	11
Cuthbert	107	Spencer Park	2310
Drome	28	Torbay	255
Elleker	257	Torndirrup	43
Emu Point	228	Vancouver Peninsula	2
Frenchman Bay	1	Walmsley	32
Gledhow	664	Warrenup	465
Gnowellen	20	Wellstead	61
Goode Beach	199	Willyung	299
Green Range	35	Yakamia	1938
Green Valley	33	Youngs Siding	246
Kalgan	466	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>24,324</b>
King River	178		
Kojaneerup South	24		
Kronkup	182		
Lange	134		
Little Grove	1046		
Lockyer	741		
Lower King	1282		
Lowlands	104		
Manypeaks	93		
Marbelup	189		
McKail	2004		
Mettler	13		
Middleton Beach	554		
Millbrook	180		
Milpara	624		
Mira Mar	1247		
Mt Clarence	455		
Mt Elphinstone	73		
Mt Melville	749		
Nanarup	24		
Napier	184		
Nullaki	13		

- A review of City of Albany ward boundaries was undertaken in 2006.
- The 2006 review resulted in a reduction of councillors from 14 to 12, and wards from 7 to 6.
- At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 18 August 2009, Council resolved the following:

*THAT Council receive the Draft City of Albany Structural Reform Report (Version 1 with the following committee recommended amendments (pages 4 & 5)):*

*City of Albany (at this time) is a sustainable Local Government, which:*

- *Retains its current boundaries;*
  - *Resolves to conduct a Ward Review with the preferred intention of introducing 4 wards with two Elected Members per ward and a popularly elected Mayor-thereby reducing its Elected Members from 12, plus a popularly elected Mayor, to 8 plus a popularly elected Mayor as of October 2011;*
  - *Works with the Shire of Katanning as a Regional Grouping;*
  - *Further develops the “Regional Cities Alliance” proposal with our partners for high profile projects across WA;*
  - *Scopes, introduces and develops its own bespoke business unit to assist service delivery to interested Local Governments, with relevant and required technical and business skills on a fee for service basis; and*
  - *Welcomes the opportunity of further discussion on Local Government Reform post this voluntary stage instigated by the Minister.*
- Council resolved to carry out a ward review and the number of elected representatives for each ward. On 19 October 2010 Council resolved:

*The previous decision to reduce the number of elected members from twelve (12), plus a popularly elected Mayor, to eight (8) plus a popularly elected Mayor be reaffirmed and the administration be authorised to commence the process of conducting a Ward and elected member review to ascertain the cause and effect of the following scenarios:*

*Reduce the existing six (6) wards to four (4) with two (2) elected representatives for each ward and a directly elected Mayor; with the objective of the reduction taking effect from the October 2011 elections.*

- In addition to the option proposed by the Council resolution, additional options were considered.
- Public consultation was undertaken, with submissions closing 8 February 2011.

- A total of 33 submissions were received.

Options	Submission Supporting Option
Option 1 (6 wards with 2 elected reps for each ward)	25
Option 2 (4 wards with 2 elected reps for each ward)	3
Option 3 (8 wards with one elected reps for each ward)	1
Option 4 (no wards with 8 elected representatives)	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>

- At the Special Council Meeting held on 22 February 2011, Council considered the submissions received during the consultation process. The following Alternate Motion was considered by Council:

*That Council:*

- *In accordance with Schedule 2.2(9) of the Local Government Act 1995 (the Act) recommends to the Local Government Advisory Board (LGAB) that the current elected member ward representation and ward boundaries remain in place.*
- *Undertakes another review of the wards and representation in three years time.*

- The Motion was lost 5-4 as it did not achieve Absolute Majority.
- Council then considered the Responsible Officer Recommendation, which read:

- *Reaffirm Council’s prior decision at the ordinary meeting of Council on 19/10/2010 to reduce the number of elected members from twelve with a popularly elected Mayor, to eight with a popularly elected Mayor.*
- *The Local Government to undertake another review of wards and representation in three years time.*

- The Motion was lost 3-6.

Note: The following Responsible Officer Recommendation 2 was not moved and therefore lapsed:

*In accordance with Schedule 2.2 (9) of the Local Government Act 1995 (the Act), it is recommended to the Local Government Advisory Board that:*

- *An order be made under s 2.2 (1) to abolish the existing ward boundaries and divide the district into four new wards with boundaries as detailed in the Map for Option 1B as detailed in the Officer’s Report – Review of Wards and Representation;*
- *An order be made under s2.18 to designate the following number of offices of councillors for each ward: 2;*
- *At the October 2011 elections, a full spill occurs and an election for 2 councillors for each ward be undertaken;*
- *The local government to undertake another review of wards and representation in 3 years time.*