

PRESENTATION TO THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, 22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY, 2011.

Your Worship, electors and fellow councillors, this meeting represents probably the most important for the City of Albany for many years and gives us an opportunity to maintain a system of local government which will allow democracy to flourish.

The dictionary definition of democracy is "government of the people by the people, or by individuals elected to represent the will of the people", the critical phrase in this definition being; the will of the people". We are not elected because we are cleverer than the people, to think for them, to force our views on them or to act as their conscience. Our role is simply to represent their will.

Regretably, in most western countries, mere lip service is now paid to the democratic principle and once elected politicians conveniently forget their duties and become dictators who pay little attention to what the people want. The process is far advanced at state government level but is still achievable locally, provided those elected desire such an outcome..

The democratic principle is by no means universally accepted because it places a massive responsibility on elected members to discover what the will of the people actually is, while removing any self importance which might be achieved by wielding power for the term of their appointment. The question therefore arises as to why anyone would be prepared to undertake the role at all, as it represents a huge amount of effort for little obvious reward.

The answer, apart from paying representatives a working salary, which would be money well spent, is that our present system has, and will continue to, cause serious discord and strife both within and between communities. I am convinced that, had representative democracy been in place in Germany at the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century then neither of the wars which brought the world to its knees would have been possible, since the people, who consistently demonstrate far more sense than their leaders and generals, had little desire for either.

But, I hear you say, what has any of this got to do with the ward system in Albany?

A major problem with representative democracy is how, in a population of many thousands, is it possible to discover what the will of the people is? We hear a lot about the silent majority, whose opinion always seems to coincide with that of the person invoking it although it is, in fact worthless. All that can be certain about this majority is that it is silent and the only way to discover what the people want is to ask a significant cross section of the population for their views, which is much easier to achieve by retaining the ward system and as many individual councillors as possible.

When councillors are linked to specific wards, although they continue to represent the whole city it is easier to get to know and develop a rapport with electors, which would not be possible otherwise. In addition, the ward system identifies an individual councillor who electors know and can apply to for advice, rather than a faceless name if the ward system is abolished.

Apart from the powerful philosophical imperative for maintaining the present ward system there are purely practical considerations for so doing; Although the race does not always go to the swift,

nor victory to the big battalions, that's what the smart money is on, and there is no doubt that elections can be heavily influenced by advertising. Therefore, in the absence of a ward system, powerful and wealthy vested interest groups will have a huge advantage over well meaning but impecunious individuals for whom personal contact with a significant number of electors would be impossible.

Another disadvantage of having no wards is the sheer logistics of conducting the election itself. If we suppose that 8000 electors are voting for 8 councillors, from a total of 40 candidates, if the votes are fairly evenly distributed some candidates could be elected with a majority of just a few votes, resulting in interminable calls for recounts, whereas with the ward system it is usual for the result to be decided by hundreds of votes.

Furthermore, when each elector is faced with a list of 40 candidates, from which they must choose 8, not only will the actual counting be difficult and potentially inaccurate but the so called donkey vote will become prevalent. This term is applied to voters who simply tick the required number of boxes at the top of the list indiscriminately and is so called for two distinct reasons. Some voters employ the method because they can't be bothered to read all the 40 statements supplied by the candidates whilst others believe that since all the candidates are donkeys it won't make any difference who they vote for. The first 8 names on the list will therefore be at a considerable advantage.

None of these problems are encountered with the present system and I would urge all councillors to vote for the status quo, thus allowing Albany to retain the potential to be one of the last bastions of representative democracy in this state.

Response to Questions Taken on Notice  
Ward & Representation Public Forum  
27 January 2011

### What is the cost of a No Ward System?

#### City of Albany Postal Election Cost Estimates - Proposed District Structure provided by the Western Australian Electoral Commission (WAEC)

Ward Structure (No Wards)	Councillor Vacancies	Mayor Vacancy	Estimate \$	Comment
District	8	1	80,000	all councillor positions up for election
District	4	1	78,000	LG ordinary election scenario, ever two years
District	1	0	60,000	Example cost for an extra ordinary election.

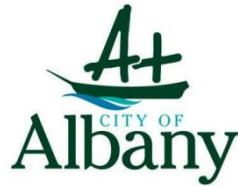
#### Assumptions

- Voter turnout 50%
- Number of electors in district 24,000
- Non statutory advertising costs not included
- Cost estimates do not include any legal expenses other than those that are determined to be borne by the Western Australian Electoral Commission in a Court of Disputed Returns
- Cost estimates do not include one local government staff member to work in the polling place on election day
- Cost estimates to be confirmed upon confirmation of council restructure
- Cost estimates include GST

### How many local governments have a district (no ward) system?

There are **66** local governments that have no wards, out of 143, being:

CITY OF BUNBURY	SHIRE OF HALLS CREEK	SHIRE OF WEST ARTHUR
CITY OF GOSNELLS	SHIRE OF HARVEY	SHIRE OF WESTONIA
CITY OF KALGOORLIE-BOULDER	SHIRE OF IRWIN	SHIRE OF WICKEPIN
TOWN OF KWINANA	SHIRE OF JERRAMUNGUP	SHIRE OF WILLIAMS
SHIRE OF BUSSELTON	SHIRE OF KATANNING	SHIRE OF WILUNA
SHIRE OF BODDINGTON	SHIRE OF KELLERBERRIN	SHIRE OF WONGAN-BALLIDU
SHIRE OF CAPEL	SHIRE OF KENT	SHIRE OF WYNDHAM-EAST KIMBERLEY
SHIRE OF CARNAMAH	SHIRE OF KOJONUP	SHIRE OF YALGOO
SHIRE OF CHITTERING	SHIRE OF MERREDIN	SHIRE OF DUNDAS
SHIRE OF KONDININ	SHIRE OF MOORA	SHIRE OF EXMOUTH
SHIRE OF KOORDA	SHIRE OF MORAWA	SHIRE OF GNOWANGERUP
SHIRE OF MEEKATHARRA	SHIRE OF MOUNT MAGNET	SHIRE OF TRAYNING
SHIRE OF COOLGARDIE	SHIRE OF MOUNT MARSHALL	SHIRE OF UPPER GASCOYNE
SHIRE OF COOROW	SHIRE OF NARROGIN	SHIRE OF WAGIN
SHIRE OF CORRIGIN	SHIRE OF NGAANYATJARRAKU	SHIRE OF WANDERING
SHIRE OF CUNDERDIN	SHIRE OF PINGELLY	SHIRE OF WAROONA
SHIRE OF DANDARAGAN	SHIRE OF PLANTAGENET	SHIRE OF WOODANILLING
SHIRE OF DERBY-WEST KIMBERLY	SHIRE OF QUAIRADING	SHIRE OF WYALKATCHEM
SHIRE OF DONNYBROOK-BALINGUP	SHIRE OF SANDSTONE	SHIRE OF YILGARN
SHIRE OF BROOKTON	SHIRE OF TAMMIN	SHIRE OF YORK
SHIRE OF BRUCE ROCK	SHIRE OF THREE SPRINGS	
SHIRE OF COLLIE	TOWN OF NARROGIN	
SHIRE OF CUE	TOWN OF PORT HEDLAND	



Paper For  
Council's Consideration

# **Review of Wards & Representation 2011**

## Version Control

Version	Date	Status	Distribution	Comment
01	18/02/2011	Draft	Internal (CEO, Councillors)/ External (Public)	Author: EM Business Governance S. Jamieson
02	21/02/2011	Draft	Internal/External	Consolidated Paper for Council's consideration
03	21/02/2011	Final	Internal/External	Presented to Special Meeting of Council – 22/02/11, additional options presented for review.
04	03/03/2011	Amended	Internal/External	Formatting only.

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## 1. Background

The last review of ward boundaries was undertaken in 2006 as a statutory requirement under Schedule 2.2 of the Local Government Act 1995 (the Act), which 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 conducted in 2006 resulted in a reduction of councillors from 14 to 12 and wards from 7 to 6.

### Structural Reform

On 18 Aug 2009, the City of Albany, resolved to endorse a Draft paper, titled "Reform Submission Paper: Local Government Structural and Electoral Reform in Western Australia Report", drafted by the Chief Executive Officer, Mr Paul Richards, with the following amendments (inter alia):

*"...The 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..."*

On 22 Sep 2010, the Department of Local Government, Manager for Reform Implementation requested the City of Albany consider working towards one of the Minister for Local Government's Key Objectives to initiate an amendment to legislation to change the prescribed number of elected members to between six and nine.

There is a large body of evidence that suggest that the most effective size of any governance body is between 6 to 10, with 7 to 9 being ideal for best practice decision making.

On 19 Oct 2010, Council resolved to carry out a review of its ward boundaries and the number of elected council representatives for each ward:

"That 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, being:

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"

The Majority of Council felt that this resolution satisfied the Minister's intent to reduce elected member prescribed numbers.

The Chief Executive Officer (Interim), Mr John Bonker, in consultation with the Local Government Advisory Board (LGAB), felt that even though Council resolved to reduce the existing six wards and the number of elected representatives, it was considered appropriate that other options should be considered and views from the public be sought.

**The options considered were:**

- 6 wards with 2 elected representatives for each ward (12 councillors);
- 4 wards with 2 elected representatives for each ward (8 councillors);
- 8 wards with 1 elected representative for each ward (8 councillors); and
- No wards with 8 elected representatives (8 councillors).

The following table shows that all wards in the current ward system comply with 10 % tolerance for the councillor/elector ratio, the exception being West Ward.

If Council can demonstrate a need to apply ratios outside the plus or minus 10 %, the board will take this into consideration.

Ward	No. Of Electors	No. of Councillors per ward	Councillor Elector Ratio 1:	% Ratio Deviation
Ward Breaksea	3866	2	1933	0.47
Ward Frederickstown	3503	2	1752	-8.97
Ward Kalgan	3824	2	1912	-0.62
Ward Vancouver	3543	2	1772	-7.93
Ward West	4308	2	2154	11.95
Ward Yakamia	4046	2	2023	5.15
<b>Total</b>	<b>23090</b>			

\*Based on data supplied by the WAEC on 25/10/10.

The % ratio deviation gives a clear indication of the percentage difference between the average councillor/elector ratio of 1:1924 for the whole of the City and the councillor/elector ratio for each ward.

A map showing the current ward boundaries and a table showing suburbs that are encompassed by existing ward boundaries is detailed in the annexure .

## 2. Review Process

The review process involved the following steps:

Step	Action Date
• Council resolved to undertake structural reform and reduce the number of elected member	18/08/09
• DLG requested City to work towards reduction in elected members	22/09/10
• Council resolved to undertake the review:	19/10/10
• Council endorsed options for consideration by the public (Discussion Paper & Information Sheets)	14/12/10
• Initiate advertising commences	16/12/10
• Information provided to the community for discussion	07/12/10
• Public submission period opens	16/12/10
• Public forum & workshop	27/01/11
• Public submission period closed	08/02/11
• The Council considers all submission and relevant factors at an elected member workshop	17/02/11
• The Council considers all submissions and relevant factors and makes a decision (Special Council Meeting)	22/02/11
• The Council submits a report to the LGAB for consideration	01/03/11
• The LGAB submits a recommendation to the Minister for Local Government and Regional Development (the Minister)	~ end April 2011
• If accepted by the Minister, the Minister will make a recommendation to the Governor for the making of the appropriate order	~ end July 2011

It is anticipated that any changes approved by the Minister will be in place for the next ordinary election, currently scheduled for October 2011.

The review has been undertaken at this time to reduce costs of the future election in October 2011, based on the following postal election cost estimates.

### Financial considerations

#### City of Albany Postal Election Cost Estimates - Proposed Ward Restructure

Ward Structure	Councillor Vacancies	Mayor Vacancy	Estimate \$	Comment
6 Wards	6	1	86,000	1 vacancy from 6 wards
6 Wards	6	1	67,000	2 vacancies from 3 wards
6 Wards	12	1	92,000	all councillor positions up for election
4 Wards	2	1	57,000	1 vacancy from 2 wards
4 Wards	8	1	85,000	all councillor positions up for election

#### Assumptions:

- Voter turnout 50%
- Number of electors in district 24,000
- 6 wards based on current 6 wards structure
- Number of electors in proposed 4 wards 6,000 electors
- Non statutory advertising costs not included
- Cost estimates do not include any legal expenses other than those that are determined to be borne by the Western Australian Electoral Commission in a Court of Disputed Returns
- Cost estimates do not include one local government staff member to work in the polling place on election day Cost estimates to be confirmed upon confirmation of ward restructure



### **3. Factors considered**

When considering changes to wards and representation, Schedule 2.2 of the Act specifies the Council, as part of the review process, must consider the following five factors.

#### **3.1 Ratio of councillor to electors in various wards**

The Board considers that this factor is significant. It is expected by the LGAB that the City of Albany will have similar ratio of electors to councillors across the wards of its district.

Historically, the Minister for Local Government has indicated that he will not consider changes to ward boundaries and representation that result in wards with councillor/elector ratios that are greater than plus or minus 10% of the average councillor/elector ration for the municipality.

#### **3.2 Community of interest**

The term 'community of interest' has a number of elements. These include a sense of community identity and belonging, similarities in characteristics of the residents of a community and similarities in economic activities. It can also include dependence on the shared facilities in an area as reflected in catchment areas of local schools and sporting teams, or the circulation of areas of local newspapers.

Neighbourhoods, suburbs and towns are important units in physical, historical and social infrastructure and often generate a feeling of community and belonging.

#### **3.3 Physical and topographic features**

These may be natural or artificial features that will vary from area to area. Water features such as rivers and catchment boundaries may be relevant considerations. Coastal plain and foothills regions, parks and reserves may be relevant as may other man made features such as railway lines and major roads.

#### **3.4 Demographic trends**

Several measurements of the characteristics of human populations, such as population size, and its distribution by ages, sex, occupation and location provide important demographic information. Current and projected population characteristics will be relevant as well as similarities and differences between areas within the City of Albany.

#### **3.5 Economic factors**

Economic factors can be broadly interpreted to include any factor that reflects the character of economic activities and resources in the area.

This may include the industries that occur in the City of Albany (or the release of land for these) and the distribution of community assets and infrastructure such as road networks.

### **4. Other considerations**

Also under consideration was the number of councillors for each ward and the district.

Council has already indicated that they support the current reform process reducing the number of councillors, from twelve (12) to eight (8) on two separate occasions, being: (OCM 18 Aug 2009, Item 16.2.1, OCM 19 Oct 2010 Item 4.10)

One view is that fewer councillors will provide adequate representation, financial savings and may provide more effective and efficient decision making.

Another view is "Safety in Numbers"; that more minds applied to a problem results in better decision making.

## **5. Proposed Ward System Options Considered**

Council resolved on the 19/10/10 that:

*"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, being:*

*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"*

However, as previously discussed additional options were developed for consideration in addition to the above resolution, being:

- **Option 1.** Four (4) wards with 2 elected representatives for each ward (8 councillors):
  - **Option 1A.** Description: Concentric circles radiating out from the City Centre.
  - **Option 1B.** Description: Corridors radiating out from the City Centre.
- **Option 2.** Eight (8) wards with 1 elected representative for each ward (8 councillors)
  - Description: Radiating out from City Centre.
- **Option 3.** No wards with 8 elected representatives (8 councillors)
  - Description: No Wards
- **Option 4.** Six (6) wards with 2 elected representatives for each ward (12 councillors)
  - Description: No change. Retain current ward structure and representation.

## **6. Community Feedback (Additional Options proposed)**

Community feedback resulted in the following options for consideration:

- **Option 5.** Four (4) wards, with 3 elected representatives for each ward (12 councillors)
  - Description. Corridors radiating out from the City Centre. Same as 1B, however with 3 representatives per ward.
- **Option 6.** No Wards, with 5 to 6 elected representatives for each ward.
  - Description. No wards.
- **Option 7.** No Wards, no Councillors.
  - Description. No wards.

There are many options available; however only options proposed and suggested options from the public submissions were considered.

## 7. Ward Names

The names of wards will need to be considered. For example, it may be preferable to use names of localities, names of pioneering families, name of prominent geographical features, or names with local indigenous significance.

## 8. Proposed Ward Systems

In order to determine which alternate ward system is best for Albany in assessing the Council options and public submissions, primary consideration was given to the following factors:

- ratio of councillors to electors;
- community of interest; and
- councillor numbers.

All options presented follow suburb boundaries.

### 8.1. Option 1. Four (4) wards with two (2) elected representatives for each ward (8 councillors).

Both options 1A & 1B proposed to reduce wards from 6 to 4 and councillors from 12 to 8.

#### 8.1.1. Option 1A. Description: Concentric circles radiating out from the City Centre.

Ward	No. of Electors	No. of Councillors per ward	Councillor Elector Ratio 1:	% Ratio Deviation
Ward A	5828	2	2914	0.96
Ward B	6052	2	3026	4.84
Ward C	5514	2	2757	-4.48
Ward D	5696	2	2848	-1.33
<b>Total</b>	23090			
<b>Average per ward</b>	5773			

#### 8.1.2. Option 1B. Description: Corridors radiating out from the City Centre.

Ward	No. of Electors	No. of Councillors per ward	Councillor Elector Ratio 1:	% Ratio Deviation
Ward A	6325	2	3163	9.57
Ward B	5328	2	2664	-7.70
Ward C	5141	2	2571	-10.94*
Ward D	6296	2	3148	9.07
<b>Total</b>	23090			
<b>Average per ward</b>	5773			

Note\*: The ratio deviation in Ward C can be reduced by including a portion of the suburb of McKail.

## **Community of Interest**

Option 1A & 1B – (4/8) accepts that neighbourhoods and suburbs are important units in the physical, historical and social infrastructure and generate a feeling of community and belonging. Given this, ward boundaries follow locality (suburb) boundaries delineated by roads.

In some instances the councillor/elector ratio has dictated locating a ward boundary that divides a community of interest. Where this has occurred the divide has been made in an attempt to accommodate similarities in neighbourhood characteristics.

For example: A divide between urban/semi-urban neighbourhoods and hobby farms/special rural neighbourhoods, etc. However, these divides have also been guided by the necessity to meet necessary councillor/elector ratios.

## **Physical and topographic features**

Ward boundaries do not reflect physical or topographic features; however, ward boundaries follow major roads.

## **Demographic trends**

Significant population growth areas have been identified and are expected to occur across all four proposed wards. No significant areas of population decline have been identified. The ward boundaries take into consideration these expected population trends.

## **Economic factors**

The ward boundaries do not reflect areas of economic activity.

## **Number of Councillors**

Option 1A provides for a total of 8 councillors, with 2 wards represented by 4 councillors representing the rural/semi-rural and 2 wards representing the urban areas.

Option 1B provides for a total of 8 councillors, with 3 wards representing urban, semi rural and rural areas and 1 ward predominantly urban.

Option 1B, Ward C; however is outside the recommended +/- 10% and would require suburbs to be split to accommodate an even spread of numbers.

This distribution of 8 councillors for 4,800 square kilometres of land areas, provides an average councillor/elector ratio of 1:2886.

Maps showing the Option 1A & 1B are detailed in the Discussion Paper (appendix C).

**8.2. Option 2. Eight (8) wards with one (1) elected representative for each ward (8 councillors). Description: Radiating out from City Centre.**

This option proposed 8 Councillors elected from 8 wards and gives primary consideration to grouping localities as communities of interest.

Ward	No. of Electors	No. of Councillors per ward	Councillor Elector Ratio 1:	% Ratio Deviation
Ward A	3116	1	3116	7.96
Ward B	2054	1	2054	-28.83
Ward C	4219	1	4219	46.18
Ward D	2725	1	2725	-5.59
Ward E	4233	1	4233	46.66
Ward F	1909	1	1909	-33.86
Ward G	3317	1	3317	14.92
Ward H	1517	1	1517	-47.44
<b>Total</b>	23090			
<b>Average per ward</b>	2886			

This proposal utilised existing suburbs delineated by roads.

This option is very problematic as equal councillor to elector ratios is difficult to accommodate without splitting community groups. Currently, with the suburb groupings all bar one Ward is substantially greater than the 10 % rule.

**Community of Interest**

Option 2 accepts that neighbourhoods and suburbs are important units in the physical, historical and social infrastructure and generate a feeling of community and belonging. Given this, ward boundaries follow locality boundaries delineated by roads.

This option attempts to accommodate similarities in neighbourhood characteristics.

**Physical and topographic features**

Ward boundaries do not reflect physical or topographic features; however, ward boundaries follow major roads.

**Demographic trends**

Significant population growth areas have been identified and are expected to occur across all four proposed wards. No significant areas of population decline have been identified. The ward boundaries take into consideration these expected population trends.

**Economic factors**

The ward boundaries do not reflect areas of economic activity.

**Number of Councillors**

Option 2 provides for a total of 8 councillors, with 3 representing urban wards, 3 representing rural and semi rural and 2 representing mainly rural.

Average councillor/elector ratio remains 1:2886.

**8.3. Option 3. No wards with eight (8) elected representatives (8 councillors).**  
**Description: No Wards, municipality is regarded as one ward.**

Ward	No. of Electors	No. of Councillors per ward	Councillor Elector Ratio 1:	% Ratio Deviation
Ward A	23090	8	2886	0
<b>Total</b>	23090			
<b>Average per ward</b>	N/A			

**Community of Interest**

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

**Physical and topographic features**

The district boundary does not follow any physical or topographic features.

**Demographic trends**

The identified growth is not defined by the district boundary.

**Economic factors**

The district boundary does not reflect the areas of economic activity.

**Ratio of Councillors to Electors**

This option results in a balanced representation across the City.

The 8 Councillor option would provide the most financial savings and lead to more effective and efficient decision making.

Average councillor/elector ratio remains 1:2886.

**8.4. Option 4. Six (6) wards with two (2) elected representatives for each ward (12 councillors). Description: Retain current ward structure and Representation.**

Ward	No. Of Electors	No. of Councillors per ward	Councillor Elector Ratio 1:	% Ratio Deviation
Ward Breaksea	3866	2	1933	0.46
Ward Frederickstown	3503	2	1752	-8.97
Ward Kalgan	3824	2	1912	-0.63
Ward Vancouver	3543	2	1772	-7.93
Ward West	4308	2	2154	11.94*
Ward Yakamia	4046	2	2023	5.14
<b>Total</b>	23090			
<b>Average electors per ward</b>	3848			

Note\*: West Ward is outside of the 10 % rule; however Council does not have a statutory requirement to review the ward structure till 2014.

### **Community of Interest**

Communities of interest are reflected by this option.

### **Physical and topographic features**

The ward boundaries follow suburb boundaries delineated by roads.

### **Demographic trends**

This ward structure does not accommodate the growth areas currently being experienced in the suburbs of Yakamia, McKail, and Gledhow which is demonstrated in the comparative ward table above.

### **Economic factors**

Ward boundaries do not reflect economic activity, however the Frederickstown Ward does represent predominantly small business in the City centre and surrounds.

### **Ratio of Councillors to Electors**

This option results in a balanced representation across the City of approximately 1: 3848.

- 8.5. Option 5. Four (4) wards, with 3 elected representatives for each ward (12 councillors).**  
**Description:** Corridors radiating out from the City Centre. Same as 1B, however with 3 representatives per ward.

**8.5.1. Option 5A. Description:** Concentric circles radiating out from the City Centre.

Ward	No. of Electors	No. of Councillors per ward	Councillor Elector Ratio 1:	% Ratio Deviation
Ward A	5828	3	1943	0.96
Ward B	6052	3	2017	4.84
Ward C	5514	3	1838	-4.48
Ward D	5696	3	1899	-1.33
<b>Total</b>	23090			
<b>Average per ward</b>	5773			

**8.5.2. Option 5B. Description:** Corridors radiating out from the City Centre.

Ward	No. of Electors	No. of Councillors per ward	Councillor Elector Ratio 1:	% Ratio Deviation
Ward A	6325	3	2108	9.57
Ward B	5328	3	1776	-7.70
Ward C	5141	3	1714	-10.94
Ward D	6296	3	2099	9.07
<b>Total</b>	23090			
<b>Average per ward</b>	5773			

Note\*: The ratio deviation in Ward C can be reduced by including a portion of the suburb of McKail.

**Community of Interest:** Same as Option 1A & 1B

**Physical and topographic features:** Same as Option 1A & 1B

**Demographic trends:** Same as Option 1A & 1B

**Economic factors:** Same as Option 1A & 1B

**Number of Councillors**

Option 5A provides for a total of 12 councillors, with 2 wards represented by 6 councillors representing the rural/semi-rural and 2 wards representing the urban areas.

Option 5B provides for a total of 8 councillors, with 3 wards representing urban, semi rural and rural areas and 1 ward predominantly urban.

Option 5B, Ward C; however is outside the recommended +/- 10% and would require suburbs to be split to accommodate an even spread of numbers.



**8.6. Option 6. No Wards, with 5 to 6 elected representatives for each ward. Description. No wards.**

Ward	No. of Electors	No. of Councillors per ward	Councillor Elector Ratio 1:	% Ratio Deviation
District (5 councillors)	23090	5	4618	0
Total	23090			
Average per ward	N/A			

Ward	No. of Electors	No. of Councillors per ward	Councillor Elector Ratio 1:	% Ratio Deviation
District (6 councillors)	23090	6	3848	0
Total	23090			
Average per ward	N/A			

**Community of Interest**

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

**Physical and topographic features**

The district boundary does not follow any physical or topographic features.

**Demographic trends**

The identified growth is not defined by the district boundary.

**Economic factors**

The district boundary does not reflect the areas of economic activity.

**Ratio of Councillors to Electors**

This option results in a balanced representation across the City.

The 5 to 6 Councillor option would provide the most financial savings and lead to more effective and efficient decision making.

**8.7. Option 7. No Wards, No Councillors. Description. No wards.**

Not considered, Local Government Act 1995 stipulates Councillor representation.

## 9. Assessment of options

To determine which option is the best one for the City of Albany the following non-weighted rating system has been considered:

Option	Community of Interest	Physical & topographic features	Demographic trends	Economic Factors	Ratio C:E
1A – 4 wards, 8 councillors (concentric circles)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
1B – 4 wards, 8 councillors (radiating)	Yes	No	No	No	No
2 – 8 wards, 8 councillor	Yes	No	No	No	No
3 – No wards, 8 councillors	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
4 – Current situation	Yes	No	No	No	No
5 – 4 wards, 12 councillors	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
6 – No wards, 5 to 6 councillors	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
7 – No wards, No councillors	No	No	No	No	No

## 10. Options considered

The Council and members of the community considered the following options:

- **Option 1.** Four (4) wards with 2 elected representatives for each ward (8 councillors)
  - **Option 1A.** Description: Concentric circles radiating out from the City Centre.
  - **Option 1B.** Description: Radiating Track out from the City Centre.
- **Option 2.** Eight (8) wards with 1 elected representative for each ward (8 councillors)
  - Description: Radiating out from City Centre.
- **Option 3.** No wards with 8 elected representatives (8 councillors)
  - Description: No Wards, municipality is regarded as one ward.
- **Option 4.** Six (6) wards with 2 elected representatives for each ward (12 councillors)
  - Description: Retain current ward structure and representation.
- **Option 5.** Four (4) wards, with 3 elected representatives for each ward (12 councillors)
  - Description. Corridors radiating out from the City Centre. Same as 1B, however with 3 representatives per ward.
- **Option 6.** No Wards, with 5 to 6 elected representatives.
  - Description. No wards.
- **Option 7.** No Wards, no Councillors.
  - Description. No wards.

## **11. Community consultation process**

A community consultation plan was prepared in order to achieve the following objectives:

- Meet the City of Albany's legislative public notice and submission obligations under Schedule 2.2 of the Local Government Act 1995.
- Provide an appropriate level of written information and documentation to the public.
- Provide the community with meeting forum opportunities to discuss, ask questions, contribute to, and be provided with information regarding the review.
- Provide the public with a clear avenue for making formal submissions to Council regarding the review of boundaries and representation.

The community consultation plan included several areas such as advertising, website presence, a community discussion paper, and frequently asked questions paper, a public forum and a public submission process.

### **Media Coverage**

Statutory advertising commenced on the 23 December 2010, with follow up articles on the City of Albany Website, Media Releases (14/12/10) and editorials: Albany Great Southern Weekend (20/01/11, page 4), Albany Advertiser (25/01/11, page 3), The Weekender (27/01/11, page 3), in the paper.

### **Community Discussion Paper**

A community information package was prepared and made available to the public.

The purpose of the information package was to provide comprehensive and clear information and to facilitate informed community discussion. As such, the information package supplied background information on the boundary and review process, outlined the factors that must be considered by Council under the Act, and provided 5 possible ward system options, with supporting information explaining how the options were determined.

The document, including maps, was made available on the City's website, at the Albany public Library and the City of Albany's Administration Building North Road.

References to the discussion paper were made in all media advertising and the community forum session.

### **Public Forum Session**

An open public forum was held on Thursday 27 January 2011 from 5.30pm.

The forum was communicated via the City's website and local news papers as an invitation for interested members of the community to attend.

The Executive Manager Business Governance and the Chief Executive Officer (Interim) conducted the forum.

The format was designed to provide opportunities to ask questions, contribute to, and be provided with information regarding the review and formal submission process.

All participants received a copy of the Community Discussion and Frequently Asked Questions Paper.

## 12. Public Submissions

Members of the community were invited to make written submissions about any aspect of the ward and representation review and lodge it with the City by 5pm on Tuesday 8 February 2011.

The invitation was included in the Community Discussion Paper, all media advertising, community forum session and made available on the City's website.

A total of 32 submissions were received, with no submission received after the submission deadline.

Three submissions offered an alternate ward system.

## 13. Summary of public submissions

Supported Options	Sub-totals
<b>Option 1.</b> Four (4) wards with 2 elected representatives for each ward (8 councillors)	
○ Option 1A. Description: Concentric circles radiating out from the City Centre.	0
○ Option 1B. Description: Corridors radiating out from the City Centre.	1
<b>Option 2.</b> Eight (8) wards with 1 elected representative for each ward (8 councillors)	0
<b>Option 3.</b> No wards with 8 elected representatives (8 councillors)	5
<b>Option 4.</b> Six (6) wards with 2 elected representatives for each ward (12 councillors)	22
<b>Option 5.</b> Four (4) wards, with 3 elected representatives for each ward (12 councillors). Corridors radiating out from the City Centre. Same as 1B, however with 3 representatives per ward.	1
<b>Option 6.</b> No Wards, with 5 to 6 elected representatives for each ward. Description.	1
<b>Option 7.</b> No Wards, no Councillors.	1
None of the Above	1
<b>Total Returns</b>	<b>32</b>

Wards or No Wards	
Wards	27
No Wards	5
<b>Total Returns</b>	<b>32</b>

## 14. Annexure:

- A. Council resolutions to undertake a review of wards and representation (OCM 18/08/2009; OCM 14/12/10)
- B. Copies of summarised and assessed public submissions against options & original public submission forms.
- C. Proposed Ward Boundary Maps

## 4.7: WARDS AND REPRESENTATION REVIEW

File Number (Name of Ward)	: GO.BOU.1 (All Wards)
Previous Reference	: OCM 16/08/2005 Item 14.2.1 OCM 20/12/2005 Item 14.2.2 OCM 18/04/2006 Item 14.2.2 OCM 10/03/09 Item 5.1 OCM 18/08/09 Item 16.2.1 OCM 19/10/10 Item 4.10
Attachment	: Draft Election Time Table for 15 October 2011 Local Government Elections
Appendices	: Proposed Ward Distribution Maps & Community Discussion Paper-to be distributed separately
Consulted References	: <u>Local Government Act 1995 (Act)</u>
Reporting Officer	: Executive Manager Business Governance (S Jamieson)
Responsible Officer	: Chief Executive Officer – Interim (J Bonker)

### IN BRIEF

- Council request the Local Government Advisory Board (LGAB) for an extension to allow for public submissions and public consultation to be conducted.

### BACKGROUND

1. On 22 Sep 10, the Manager for Reform Implementation requested the City of Albany to consider working towards the Minister for Local Government's Key Objectives, in particular to initiate amendments to legislation to change the prescribed number of elected members to between six and nine.
2. Council resolved at the Ordinary meeting of Council held 19/10/10 to carry out a review of its ward boundaries and the number of elected council representatives for each ward.
3. On 19/10/10, 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, being: 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"*
4. The Majority of Council felt that this resolution satisfied the Minister's intent to reduce elected member prescribed numbers.
5. Post the meeting the Local Government Advisory Board was contacted and Management was advised that Council should explore three possible scenarios to find the most appropriate model for Albany.
6. The City of Albany completed its statutory review of wards and representation in 2006 and has until 2015 to conduct its next statutory review.

7. The Local Government Advisory Board (LGAB) was contacted by the EMBG to ascertain if an extension to complete the return could be sought.
8. The LGAB advised that an extension till the 1<sup>st</sup> Week of March 2011 could be granted, if it was still Council's intent to effect a change at the October 2011 ordinary elections.

#### DISCUSSION

9. The last day for agreement of the Electoral Commissioner to conduct a postal election is the 27/07/2011. An ordinary election time line for the October 2011 election follows this report.
10. It considered that an extension to the 01 Mar 11, would allow enough time for all the statutory processes to be completed and appropriate orders be made and gazetted.

#### Representation Ratio

11. It is expected by the LGAB and Minister that the review will produce similar ratios of electors to councillors across the wards of its district. Deviation to the mean councillor/elector ratio must be less than 10%.
12. It can be seen that there is there is a potential for a significant imbalance in representation across the City.

#### Community Identity

13. The community identity is driven primarily by a sense of belonging within the context of historical and social infrastructure associated with rural areas, urban areas, and localities.
14. However with increasing urban development extending northeast to Bayonet Head and Lower King, west to McKail and Gledhow, north to Yakamia, and South along the Vancouver Peninsula, it is becoming increasingly difficult to categorise areas as purely urban or purely rural.

#### Current Representation

15. The City currently has 12 councillors (2 from each ward) and it is generally accepted that this provides adequate representation for the district. The councillor budget for 12 Councillors and a popularly elected Mayor is currently set at \$250,798 per annum (exclusive of the councillor conference budget).

##### Current Budget

Councillor Training	\$12,000
Member Fees & Allowances	\$144,200
Refreshment & Entertainment	\$60,000
Mayoral Vehicle	\$14,598
Member Expense Reimbursement	\$20,000

#### Previous Public Submissions (2006)

16. During the last review Council received 45 public submissions. It is expected that similar responses will be received when submissions are called for.

**Assessing the Council Options and Public Submissions**

17. In assessing the Council options and public submissions, to determine which alternate ward system is the best for Albany, it is recommended that primary consideration be been given to the following factors:
  - ratio of councillors to electors,
  - community of interest, and
  - councillor numbers.
18. It is recommended that if it is still Council's intent to have the review conducted prior to the October 2011 elections that an extension is requested from the Chair of the Local Government Advisory Board.

**Current Ward to Elected member ratios:**

Ward	Number of Electors	Elected members	Councillor/ Elector Ratio
Breaksea	3866	2	1: 1933
Frederickstown	3503	2	1: 1752
Kalgan	3824	2	1: 1912
Vancouver	3543	2	1: 1772
West	4308	2	1: 2154
Yakamia	4046	2	1: 2023

**Elected representation if review is enacted**

19. Given that the physical size and form of the proposed wards will be affected by the review it is recommended that a full spill of the Council is affected.
20. However, Council may chose to only conduct an election for the councillors up for election and a redistribution of serving councillors is conducted.

**STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

21. It should be noted that the City of Albany has not received an order from the Governor to change the number of elected members or number of wards.
22. The last review of the Ward System was conducted in 2006; therefore the City is not required to conduct a review till 2015.
23. *Local Government Act 1995 Schedule 2.2, clause 5: Local government may propose ward changes or make minor Proposals: A local government may, whether or not it has received a submission —*
  - (a) *carry out a review of whether or not an order under section 2.2 (Districts may be divided into wards.), 2.3 (Names of districts and wards ) or 2.18 (Fixing and changing the number of councillors) should, in the council's opinion, be made;*
  - (b) *propose\* to the Advisory Board the making of an order under section 2.2(1), 2.3(3) or 2.18(3) if, in the opinion of the council, the proposal is —*
    - (i) *one of a minor nature; and*
    - (ii) *not one about which public submissions need be invited;*

*or*

  - (c) *propose\* to the Minister the making of an order changing the name of the district or a ward.*

*\* Absolute majority required.*

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

24. The financial implications of administering the review process is minimal as it will be accommodated from within existing budgeted funds, and existing staff resources.
25. *Cost of a Full Spill:\**
26. *Cost of a partial spill and redistribution:\**

*\*This information is being compiled by the WA Electoral Commission. At the time of printing this agenda, the information was not yet available, but will be distributed to Elected Members prior to the Agenda Briefing Session.*

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

27. Detailed in the Community Discussion Paper.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**ITEM 4.7: RESPONSIBLE OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

That Council write to the Local Government Advisory Board and request an extension be granted to allow an appropriate amount of time to conduct public consultation.

That an extension until the 01 March 2011 be requested.

Council **ENDORSES** options for consideration as detailed in the Proposed Ward Distribution Maps & Community Discussion Paper (appendix) and commence advertisement for public comment.

That all submissions must be received by 5pm on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011.

**ITEM 4.7: RESOLUTION (Responsible Officer Recommendation)**

**MOVED: COUNCILLOR HAMMOND**  
**SECONDED: COUNCILLOR HOLDEN**

**THAT the Responsible Officer Recommendation be ADOPTED.**

**CARRIED 8-0**  
**ABSOLUTE MAJORITY**



## 4.10: WARDS AND REPRESENTATION REVIEW

File Number (Name of Ward)	: GO.BOU.1 (All Wards)
Previous Reference	: OCM 18/08/2009 Item 16.2.1 OCM 10/03/09 Item 5.1 OCM 18/04/06 Item 14.2.2
Attachment(s)	: Nil
Appendices	: Nil
Consulted References	: • <a href="#">Local Government Act 1995 (Act)</a> • <a href="#">Local Government Reform Submission Summary</a> • <a href="#">Department of Local Government – Structural Reform Guidelines</a>
Reporting Officer(s)	: Executive Manager Business Governance (S Jamieson)
Responsible Officer	: Chief Executive Officer – Interim (J Bonker)

### IN BRIEF

- Review wards and elected member representation

### BACKGROUND

1. On 18 Aug 09, Council resolved:

*"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.*

2. On 24 Sep 10, the Department advised that if Council still wished to pursue reductions, the required documentation will need to be submitted by no later than 31 December 2010 to allow adequate time to comply with statutory requirements.

### DISCUSSION

3. **Option One (1).** If Council reaffirms its previous decision to reduce the number of elected members from thirteen (13) to (9) in time for the 2011 local government elections a review of wards and representation in accordance with the Act will need to be conducted and a report to the Local Government Advisory Board (LGAB) will be required proposing that an order be made under section 2.2(1), 2.3(3) or 2.18(3).

4. **Option Two (2).** The City can propose to the Board that it deal with the reduction as a minor matter in accordance with clause 5(b) of Schedule 2.2 of the Act.

Should Council elect to progress the proposal as a minor matter, it is to resolve by absolute majority to progress the reduction as a minor matter and provide the Board with the justification as to why it considers the matter to be minor in nature.

If, after reviewing the report the Board decides that a review is required, it will refer the proposal back to the City and request that a review is conducted.

#### Overview of the review process

5. The review process involves a number of steps:
- Council resolves to undertake the review;
  - Council endorses options for consideration by the public;
  - Initial advertising commences;
  - Information provided to the community for discussion;
  - Public submission period opens;
  - Public submission period closes;
  - Assessment of Council options and public submissions;
  - Council briefing on assessment report;
  - Agenda item for **November** Special/Ordinary Council Meeting;
  - Council considers all options and submissions against relevant factors and makes a decision **December** Special/Ordinary Council Meeting;
  - Council submits a report to the LGAB for consideration by no later than **31 December 2010**.
  - The LGAB submits a recommendation to the Minister for Local Government (the Minister); and
  - If accepted by the Minister, the Minister will make a recommendation to the Governor for the making of the appropriate order.
6. Any changes approved by the Minister will be in place for the next ordinary election, currently scheduled for October 2011.
7. When considering changes to wards and representation the Act specifies that Council, as part of the review process, will consider the following factors:
- a. The ratio of councillors to electors in various wards;
  - b. Community of interest;
  - c. Physical and topographical features;
  - d. Demographic trends;
  - e. Economic factors;
  - f. The number of offices of councillor for each ward and the district; and
  - g. Ward names.

in order to determine the best option for Albany.

#### PUBLIC CONSULTATION / ENGAGEMENT

8. Between March and August 2009, public consultation was conducted in regards to local government reform which influenced Councils decision to the number of elected representatives from 12, plus a popularly elected Mayor, to 8 plus a popularly elected Mayor as of October, 2011.

9. It is recommended that as part of the review process that a community consultation plan is prepared to achieve the following objectives:
- meet the City of Albany's legislative public notice and submission obligations under Schedule 2.2 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.
  - provide an appropriate level of written information and documentation to the public.
  - provide the community with meeting forum opportunities to discuss, ask questions, contribute to, and be provided with information regarding the review.
  - provide the public with a clear avenue for making formal submission to Council regarding the review of boundaries and representation.
  - The community consultation plan will include key areas such as advertising, direct mailing, a community discussion paper, public forum sessions, and a public submission process.

#### STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

10. The process for reducing councillor numbers is set out in Schedule 2.2 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

11. *Local Government Act 1995*:

**s2.2. Districts may be divided into wards.** (1) *The Governor, on the recommendation of the Minister, may make an order —*

- (a) *dividing a district into wards;*
- (b) *creating new wards in a district that is already divided into wards;*
- (c) *changing the boundaries of a ward;*
- (d) *abolishing any or all of the wards into which a district is divided; or*
- (e) *as to a combination of any of those matters.*

**s2.3. Names of districts and wards.** (3) *If a local government proposes under Schedule 2.2 that an order be made changing the name of the district or a ward, the Minister may recommend to the Governor that the order be made, and the Governor may make the order accordingly.*

**s2.18. Fixing and changing the number of councillors.** (3) *The Governor, on the recommendation of the Minister, may make an order —*

- (a) *changing the number of offices of councillor on a council;*
- (b) *specifying or changing the number of offices of councillor for a ward; or*
- (c) *as to a combination of those matters.*

12. *Schedule 2.2*:

**Clause 5. Local government may propose ward changes or make minor**

**Proposals.** *A local government may, whether or not it has received a submission —*  
(a) *carry out a review of whether or not an order under section 2.2, 2.3(3) or 2.18 should, in the council's opinion, be made;*

(b) *propose\* to the Advisory Board the making of an order under section 2.2(1), 2.3(3) or 2.18(3) if, in the opinion of the council, the proposal is —*

- (i) *one of a minor nature; and*
- (ii) *not one about which public submissions need be invited;*

*or*

(c) *propose\* to the Minister the making of an order changing the name of the district or a ward.*

*\* Absolute majority required.*

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

13. The financial implications of administering the review process is minimal as it will be accommodated from within existing budgeted funds, and existing staff resources.

#### COMMENT

14. The reduction of four (4) elected members can be achieved by either dispensing with the Wards altogether or reducing the present six (6) Wards to four (4).
15. The reduction in Wards would be more economical, both from the cost to the City of holding a by-election, and the campaign cost to candidates standing for election. A local authority as large and diverse as Albany would also risk losing representation from its more outlying and less populous communities if wards were abolished.
16. As the next Mayoral election is scheduled for October 2011, it is considered appropriate to conduct a ward review now to ensure that next Mayoral term is not interrupted by a statutory review requirement in 2013.

#### RECOMMENDATION

#### ITEM 4.10 – RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS RECOMMENDATION

Council reaffirm its previous decision to reduce its Elected Members from twelve (12), plus a popularly elected Mayor, to eight (8) plus a popularly elected Mayor and authorise the administration to commence the process of reducing the existing six (6) Wards to four (4) with the objective of the reduction taking effect from the October 2011 elections.

#### ITEM 4.10: MOTION 1

MOVED: COUNCILLOR DUFTY  
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR SUTTON

THAT Standing Order Clause 5.7-Order of Call in Debate be SUSPENDED to allow discussion.

CARRIED 11-0

#### ITEM 4.10: MOTION 2

MOVED: COUNCILLOR MATLA  
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR SUTTON

THAT Standing Order Clause 5.7- Order of Call in Debate be RESUMED.

CARRIED 11-0

**ITEM 4.10: ALTERNATE MOTION BY COUNCILLOR WELLINGTON**

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:

- A. **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,

**ITEM 4.10: RESOLUTION (Alternate Motion by Councillor Wellington)**

**MOVED: COUNCILLOR WELLINGTON**

**SECONDED: COUNCILLOR MATLA**

**THAT the Alternate Motion by Councillor Wellington be ADOPTED.**

**CARRIED 8-3**

**Against the Motion: Councillors Dufty, Leavesley and Swann**

**Councillor's Reason:**

It is acknowledged that the Minister for Local Government has made a number of Key recommendations, in particular to initiate amendments to legislation to change the prescribed number of elected members to between six and nine.

The proposal recommended by this alternate motion satisfies the Minister's intent to reduce elected member prescribed numbers by exploring three possible scenarios to find the most appropriate model for Albany.



Name	Address	Option	Wards or NO Wards	Remarks	No. Wards	No. Cllrs
Tony Harrison	Little Grove	4	Wards	Having 6 wards and 12 councillors will give the ratepayers better representation on development issues or controversial topics within Council. The public is having their appeal rights slowly taken away. We need to protect our right.	6	12
Mitchell Torr	Not disclosed	4	Wards	As existing.	6	12
Albany Chamber of Commerce	Albany	3	No Wards	RE: Public Submission: City of Albany Review of Wards & Representation 2011 Albany, like any municipality, deserves to be governed by the best elected councillors possible. Achieving that outcome is not possible under the current wards system for the following reasons. The main argument to retain the present wards system is; "I need a local representative to look after my local needs". This reason, whilst understandable from an individual resident perspective, is misguided in that the Local Government Act stipulates that elected councillors must represent the interests of all ratepayers, not just those in their own ward. Removal of the wards system demands that elected councillors have a more global whole-of-City approach, rather than narrowly focussing on the immediate needs of their respective ward. Fears of councils becoming CBD centric are unfounded and have simply not eventuated in other jurisdictions. Speak to Shire of Plantagenet CEO Rob Stewart to confirm this point. The current system is also flawed in that it does not preclude candidates from standing in a ward outside of where they are domiciled, yet ratepayers are unable to vote for candidates other than those in their own ward. Removal of the wards system also greatly reduces the opportunity for 'one-issue' candidates to become elected...a matter that has been the bane of past Albany Council elections. The present ward system, where a person owns land in different wards, allows for more than one vote per person. Currently, that allows some Albany residents six votes, a vote in each ward. This situation is hardly democratic.	0	8

Name	Address	Option	Wards or NO Wards	Remarks	No. Wards	No. Cllrs
				<p>Removal of wards provides true democracy where ratepayers are only entitled to one vote.</p> <p>The wards system, as per what happened last election, allows for councillors in one ward to be elected unopposed, whereas well qualified candidates miss out where there are more than two nominations in other wards.</p> <p>As a candidate is only allowed to nominate in one ward, luck plays a significant part in their personal election based upon which ward other candidates choose to nominate in. Currently, the extraordinary situation exists where candidates delay their nomination until the very last moment waiting, as per progressive notification of declared candidates per ward listed at the City, to determine which ward they believe they stand the best chance to be (re)elected. Albany needs councillors elected on merit, not luck.</p> <p>Here is a current hypothetical: Six highly qualified and highly desirable candidates nominate for Ward A, whereas two less qualified, less desirable candidates nominate for Ward B. Four of the highly qualified miss out, the two less desirable are elected unopposed.</p> <p>Albany is definitely the poorer for having a wards electoral system that allows this highly undesirable situation to occur.</p> <p>The current system is also open to manipulation whereby parties can 'stack' individual wards to their collective advantage. No such opportunity exists with an open whole-of-city electoral system.</p> <p>Another anomaly created by the wards system, regarded by some as the most undemocratic aspect of all, is that councillors are elected by a few, yet govern for the whole. For example, let's say the number of wards is reduced from the current six, to four. That means each councillor is elected by only 25% of eligible constituents, yet when elected, they govern for all, including the other 75% of voters who had absolutely no say in their being elected.</p> <p>In a whole of City system without wards, the best candidates, as determined by</p>		



Name	Address	Option	Wards or NO Wards	Remarks	No. Wards	No. Cllrs
				<p>ALL ratepayers, would be elected.</p> <p>The above arguments are shared by the majority of regional WA local government electorates, hence the current move away from the wards system. The 2009 local government elections saw 59% of regional WA municipalities opt to abolish their wards system. Across the Great Southern, that figure is currently 64%, the Wheat belt is 65%.</p> <p>Based on recent trends, many more councils are expected to abolish their current wards electoral system for the upcoming 2011 elections in order to provide the best level of governance for their respective communities. Giving further support to the community benefits of a whole-of-municipality electoral system, the Department of Local Government confirms that they are unaware of any Local Government that has reverted to a wards system. Another benefit is that the election process is much simpler and less expensive as there is only one election to conduct, as opposed to separate elections in each ward.</p> <p>Internal savings are also achieved as there is no requirement to alter ward boundaries, to comply with the 'plus-or-minus-ten' formula, due to population shift prior to every election.</p> <p>A question for current councillors to ponder; If you are in favour of retaining the current wards system, is your position based on what you truly, in your heart of hearts, believe to be in the best overall interest of Albany's future, or is it based more on personal reasons of increasing your chance of re-election at the upcoming October 2011 election?</p> <p>Local Government elections are not about the personal interests of the candidate, they are about what's in the best long term interest of Albany and its citizens.</p> <p>No-one can argue against Albany deserving the best...however that outcome is simply not possible under the current wards system which, as clearly demonstrated by 59% of WA regional councils, is an idea whose time is well passed its use-by date.</p>		

Name	Address	Option	Wards or NO Wards	Remarks	No. Wards	No. Cllrs
				Albany has an opportunity to modernise its electoral system and move forward with the times to deliver increased benefits to its residents. ACCI urges all Councillors to support the removal of the current wards and adopt a whole of city single electorate voting system.		
Dot Price	Bay View Drive, Little Grove	4	Wards	<p>Albany is a rural city with significant numbers of its population residing, by choice, in rural or semi - rural areas. The interests of residents in these areas often differ from those residents in more urban or inner city areas. These inhabitants did not surrender their rights to local representation when they made the choice to reside where they do.</p> <p>I strongly support the maintenance of a Ward system for the election of Councillors in order to ensure representative Local Government in the City of Albany.</p> <p>This Ward system mirrors our State and Federal Governments, obviously designed to ensure that electors in rural areas always have a voice in the State and Federal Parliaments. We need the same assurance of representation in the City of Albany.</p> <p>I therefore strongly support the continuation of our present 6 Ward system, with 2 Councillors being elected for each Ward.</p> <p>I also strongly support the maintenance of the election of the Mayor by popular vote.</p> <p>To leave the election of the Mayor to a group of Councillors is, in my view, to weaken the voice of the people.</p> <p>I ask Councillors to consider these points when voting on this issue.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.</p>	6	12
WA & WL Wood	Cull Rd Lockyer	4	Wards	<p>We believe in retaining, Option 4 as the best option for Albany.</p> <p>REASONS BEING,</p> <p>As Albany expands in residential numbers, the workload and demand for each councillor's time will also increase, therefore we should actually be raising the numbers of councillors to cope with this anticipated increased demand.</p> <p>The ward system we have at the present time is functioning satisfactory and is</p>	6	12

Name	Address	Option	Wards or NO Wards	Remarks	No. Wards	No. Cllrs
				<p>not broken. Why change for the sake of change.</p> <p>Councillors are volunteers representing the WHOLE of Albany's ratepayer's interests.</p> <p>At council meetings they vote on the WHOLE of the issues brought forward on the agenda, not only the issues in their home ward.</p> <p>Councillors are voted into council to represent the interests and wishes of all of the electorates, not what they want for their own personal interest.</p> <p>The ward system gives councillor's a home base with local knowledge of issues, meetings and happenings in their ward, plus the physical conditions of the area, like topography, ecology, flora and fauna, etc. It also makes it easier for locals to make contact and familiarise themselves with "their" councillors.</p> <p>Another reason why the ward system should be retained is that by-elections are smaller and probably easier to execute and possibly less costly.</p> <p>The whole of one large electorate would have to vote, if the wards were totally eliminated. For example in previous years we have had by-elections for many councillors leaving at separate times in one year. This would mean the WHOLE of Albany having to vote on many occasions in one year. Electors would soon complain about this inconvenience, thus fewer residents would turn out for elections.</p> <p>Another reason why we believe the ward system should be retained is, Potential nominees for council will be eliminated on the basis of the huge financial cost involved in standing for council. These people will be lost, who potentially could make excellent councillors with great input into our community.</p> <p>The amount of money needed to pamphlet drop the whole of the geographic area and canvass every house, farm and business would be catastrophic.</p> <p>This would make Albany City Council less democratic, as the more financially endowed person, would be able to canvass the whole electorate to the disadvantage of the less financial candidate, making our council dominated by the more financially endowed nominee.</p> <p>If there are fewer councillors, it will mean leave or sickness etc, will put a</p>		

Name	Address	Option	Wards or NO Wards	Remarks	No. Wards	No. Cllrs
				quorum of councillor's in doubt at meetings. Please retain the system as is, because we believe it will be disadvantageous to the Albany residents if it is changed. Thank you .		
Tony Demarteau	Lorenzo Way Albany	1B & 4	Wards	My First option would be support 1B with my second option being No. 04. If we have to make a change then 1B offer a fairly even distribution of wards with three wards representing Urban, Semi Rural and Rural with one ward mainly Urban. If we don't have to make a change then I would prefer option 4 with a slight variation in reallocating the voter base change in 2009 back from the West Ward to the Vancouver Ward. This will correct the % discrepancy. Having no wards is not economically viable to people who want to sand but don't have a lot of money. People have council's ownership in wards and the Councillors represent both their wards and the City of Albany as a whole. Most the expense is in letters not advertising as suggested at the public meeting. The local Government Act will need to be amended to restrict campaigning.	1 <sup>st</sup> pref. 1B (4)  2 <sup>nd</sup> pref. option 4 (6)	1st pref. 8  2 <sup>nd</sup> pref. 12
Kim Stanton	Little Grove	4	Wards	Speaking not only as a concerned resident but as an ex-councillor who is familiar with the subject, I would like to make the following comments. My preference is to retain 6 Wards with 2 councillors for each ward (12) and a People's elected Mayor. Definitely not a One Ward System. If a by-election was necessary the cost to the City of Albany would be enormous. In 2008 when Cr Chris Morris resigned from Council, the Council Meeting Minute 18 <sup>th</sup> November records the cost to conduct that election would be approx \$17,000. Unfortunately a short time later Cr Williams also resigned and the two councillor positions went to election on 28th February 2009. The cost for this was thankfully around the \$23,500 not the double we expected of \$34,000. These were postal votes to approx 3,700 electors in each Ward being West and Frederickstown. These costs are paid by the CoA and we the ratepayers are	6	12

Name	Address	Option	Wards or NO Wards	Remarks	No. Wards	No. Cllrs
				<p>the ones really paying the bill.</p> <p>Later Councillors Buegge, Wiseman and Price resigned. 2 of these were held with separate elections costing the City but one was included in the October Elections 2010.</p> <p>Therefore, Councillors must remember this when making the decision re how many wards. What will it cost us?</p> <p>Resignations do and will occur. And it is expensive to the City and to the ratepayers.</p> <p>From a prospective or "hoping for" re-election councillor, the cost to run in a 'One Ward system' would be only for the very rich, It would definitely rule out the ordinary dedicated hopeful from running. As an example, to cover just one of the present Wards the cost was approx. \$5,000 to advertise, printing and leaflet 'drops' and postage costs to send to mail boxes and out of town Electors. You image what it would cost for the One Ward System with the Albany population growing.</p> <p>Also a single ward could be manipulated by business or CBD interests by support through generous donations to help their chosen person or persons run for council.</p> <p>I am not saying this would occur only that it needs to be considered. Diversity is the key to good debate and good governance in Council and we need prospective Councillors from all walks of life and all ages.</p> <p>Personally I am quite happy with the 6 Ward System and 12 Councillors we have at the moment.</p> <p>I understand the need to continually re-adjust the Ward Boundaries for population growth etc but why change to less Wards. We need what gives the best representation to the residents and ratepayers. We need 2 Councillors to each Ward in case one is ill, on holidays etc. or resignations or not attending Council Meetings, In my Vancouver Ward Cr. Paver is only attending every 3 months. Even though I am not a Councillor now, I am always receiving phone calls asking for advice and information concerning this Ward because people</p>		

Name	Address	Option	Wards or NO Wards	Remarks	No. Wards	No. Cllrs
				<p>want to speak to someone they know and hopefully trust.</p> <p>The recent increase in vacant land rates kept me on the phone for 2 weeks. This also proves the importance of not having the One Ward System. Residents feel comfortable having what they consider to be their Councillor, the person who lives in the Ward who understands their needs and expectations. Yes, all Councillors work and make decisions for the whole of Albany but are still considered "special" by their own Ward Electors.</p> <p>The time has come I believe for the City of Albany to recommend compulsory voting to the State Govt. It is the normal for State and Federal Elections, so why not for Local Govt. The Albany average of 32% voting is ridiculously bad. Compulsory voting gets people thinking and making decisions about who to vote for.</p> <p>It makes the system fairer, not the single cause issue, which often drives electors when the big issue happens in their town or ward. Those voters can and do make a difference to the voting pattern.</p> <p>For these reasons, if the One Ward System was introduced then compulsory voting would need to occur.</p> <p>Comments in the Advertiser Newspaper recently said a reduction in councillors and wards would save \$ and result in less conflict but that is untrue. In fact with less or one Ward, Councillors would need to be paid a better allowance \$ to cover their costs of attending local community meetings and investigating residents concerns and problems. Areas in West and Kalgan Wards and on out to Wellstead do have meetings that Councillors should attend. Also Councillors attend Civic Functions and community functions and deserve to be better compensated for their time given.</p> <p>However, if a reduction does occur, then a Total Spill of all councillors must occur. It happened when the Kalgan and West Wards combined in 2008 and some excellent councillors who wanted to continue did lose their seats. It was unfortunate but the system is in place and will need to occur again if the present Council votes for less Wards and less councillors.</p>		

Name	Address	Option	Wards or NO Wards	Remarks	No. Wards	No. Cllrs
				Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue.		
Albany Ratepayers & Residents Association Inc.	Albany	4	Wards	<p>This submission is being submitted on behalf of the Albany Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc. (ARRA).</p> <p>Concerns have been raised by members that if the City of Albany was to choose a no ward system that it would limit the choice of candidates that would run for Council due to the costs that would be incurred for such a large campaign.</p> <p>It is the opinion of ARRA that due to the size and demographics of the City of Albany that the preference would be to remain as it is. However it would be a preference that the ward boundaries be changed to ensure that all wards include CBD, Urban and Rural as part of the ward. This would ensure that all Councillors would have a clear understanding for the concerns of all the constituents and therefore be informed when making decisions.</p> <p>If it isn't possible for Council to stay as it currently is then the next preferred option for ARRA is to have four wards with two Councillors per ward with the ward boundaries be changed to ensure that all wards include CBD, Urban and Rural as part of the ward. As mentioned previously this would ensure that all Councillors would have a clear understanding for the concerns of all the constituents and therefore be informed when making decisions.</p> <p>ARRA would like to thank the City of Albany for allowing us the opportunity to have a say regarding this very important decision.</p>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> pref. 6</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> pref. 4</p>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> pref. 12</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> pref. 8</p>

Name	Address	Option	Wards or NO Wards	Remarks	No. Wards	No. Cllrs
Albany & Districts Property Rights Group	Albany		Wards	<p>This submission is being submitted on behalf of the Albany &amp; Districts Property Rights Group Inc. (A&amp;DPRG).</p> <p>It is important that the constituents of the City of Albany are represented by Councillors that have a complete understanding of issues in all areas. It is A&amp;DPRG's concern that unless each ward represents the CBD, Urban and Rural sections that Councillors will not have a fair understanding of issues as they come forward.</p> <p>It doesn't matter whether it is the current ward option or a four or eight ward option the fundamental issue is representing all sections of the community. If representation is covered by the CBD, Urban and Rural and each Councillor is representing these sections then they will be able to make a more informed decision as they will have a better understanding of the needs of each section. Concerns have been raised by members that if the City of Albany was to choose a no ward system that it would limit the choice of candidates that would run for Council due to the costs that would be incurred for such a large campaign.</p> <p>A&amp;DPRG hopes that when making its decision that the Council will consider the above concerns that have been raised.</p>	4 or 8	12
Edith Webb	Spencer Park		Wards	<p>A friend has shown me the literature which you apparently made available to ratepayers who attended your recent meeting regarding the review of wards etc, for the City of Albany.</p> <p>It certainly covers quite comprehensively to subject but I do feel it should have been available for all the relevant electors.</p> <p>I do definitely considered having a council member connected to each ward makes it easier and more comfortable for electors to contact and discuss relevant matter with and for the councillor to better understand those people and conditions.</p> <p>Surely if councillors have genuine feeling for the best for the City they can see which needs and remedies should be handled first.</p>		



Name	Address	Option	Wards or NO Wards	Remarks	No. Wards	No. Cllrs
Mrs Ann James	Yakamia	3	No Wards	<p>I hereby make a submission on the Albany City Review of Wards and Representation.</p> <p>At present the City of Albany has a 6 ward system of electing representatives as Councillors to the City of Albany to represent the residents of Albany. I submit the proposal of a system of no wards at all and the election of 8 Councillors and [only) an elected Mayor.</p> <p>I believe a no ward system would progress the future of Albany In a far more positive way than the present system of wards. With no wards a more honest and transparent representation of councillors would emerge. Residents would determine they had a person from their area If they had Issues needing resolution at Council. Times are changing In Local Government and the Government needs to be heeded to for the changes as proposed. The City of Albany needs to become more proactive and move with the times as many other councils In W.A. have done, to great advantage to their residents.</p> <p>With modern communications wards are not so necessary as every Councillor Is available at all times at the flick of a switch. Councillors should be elected with open minds to know every part of their local government area and be prepared to take Interest In all areas of their council and local communities. That is why a Councillor is/should be elected. If a resident has an Issue he/she should be able to contact the councillor they feel comfortable with and not have the conscience of only contacting the local one.</p> <p>With knowledge of Local Government and having been part of a change from wards to no wards I strongly urge the City Of Albany to adopt the notion of no wards. The Shire in my instance has 3 towns; all need support in every manner of Local government, and has vast distances Including roads and communications. The major result in going to a no ward system is the changed attitude at Council level with a very positive attitude with all councillors, not the "them and us" attitude as existed for many years previous.</p> <p>This change in attitude occurred in about 2 years and all areas of the Local Government were still represented because that is what people are familiar with</p>	0	8

Name	Address	Option	Wards or NO Wards	Remarks	No. Wards	No. Cllrs
				<p>and it has worked far better than ever envisaged. It was a difficult transition but as Councillors were determined to make it work for the greater benefit of residents, it did!</p> <p>As a new ratepayer in Albany and soon to be full time resident I urge the City of Albany and the elected members to make the change to a system of no wards. As a new C.E.O. takes the helm let the City be seen to be adopting a new and positive attitude as it moves through the new era of Local Government. Now is an optimum time for the change to happen. I would like to reside in a community that looks outside the norm and looks to a great and positive future. The number of Councillors goes hand in hand with the above and I would suggest 8 with an elected Mayor. This should be sufficient to cover the Local government area of Albany; Councillors are elected to take on a demanding role and need to be dedicated to the position. It is not to be taken lightly and is one of total commitment. It is a position of self sacrifice but the benefits far out way the negatives, if carried out in the right manner. This number complies with the requirement as set out on the Local Government guidelines to change in local government.</p> <p>The City of Albany can be a better and more progressive City if the right attitude is adopted and then be led forward to a magnificent future.</p>		
Anthony Wood	McKail	4	Wards	<p>The only option I can support, and I believe the only option put forward that is best for the whole of the City of Albany is option 4.</p> <p>My points for this are;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ward boundaries are satisfactory, and are possibly fairer with good representation of business, urban and rural. If demographic trends change, then change the boundaries.</li> <li>2. Having wards gives a councillor a sense of home base for their electorate. Being able to concentrate on the issues in their ward and attend local meetings and events i.e. Progress Associations, Sporting Groups, Action Groups etc.</li> <li>3. Having wards makes it easier and more comfortable for local ratepayers &amp; residents to approach their LOCAL councillor.</li> </ol>	6	12

Name	Address	Option	Wards or NO Wards	Remarks	No. Wards	No. Cllrs
				<p>4. Having wards would be less costly In the event of by-elections, which seem to happen regularly.</p> <p>5. Not having wards would Increase the cost for candidates trying for council. As this is an unpaid position and an electorate of approx 4800km2 this could cost the city many good candidates for council.</p> <p>6. Removing ward boundaries and reducing the number of councillors could make it more possible for lobby groups and organizations such as ACCI, Farmers Federation, Unions, etc to dominate council chambers. Especially by financially backing candidates.</p> <p>7. Reduced numbers of councillors means less representation of a broader community and being less democratic.</p> <p>8. Reduced number of councillors will cause problems with having a quorum at council meetings, with conflicts of Interest, sickness and leave having caused problems In the past.</p> <p>9. Reducing the number of councillors will cause a higher workload on councillors. This Is a voluntary position and council should be represented at more organizations and functions than is currently attended.</p> <p>10. With the City of Albany Increasing in population, development and Industry getting bigger, environmental Issues more serious, surely if councillors are diligent in their work, then numbers should be increased not decreased.</p> <p>11. As a rate-payer the cost Is always a concern. But a reduction of 2 more councillors [approx \$30k] Is not a saving if our representation is reduced. Finally having been to most council meetings in the past 2 years or more, I feel that council has forgotten that they represent the rate-payers of this city and I feel strongly that the other options put forward will not give adequate representation and not give a broad perspective In the decision making process.</p>		
Jonathan Price	Little Grove	4	Wards	<p>Thank you for an opportunity to comment on proposed changes In electoral matters for the City of Albany.</p> <p>I would like to submit In support of continuing the six ward system for the</p>	6	12

Name	Address	Option	Wards or NO Wards	Remarks	No. Wards	No. Cllrs
				<p>election of Councillors, two per ward. In its present form. For a start these boundaries were altered only recently to potentially ensure a fairer distribution of the franchise.</p> <p>Albany is a rural city with significant numbers of its population residing in rural or semi-rural areas. The interests of these residents often differ from those of residents in the inner city and close suburban areas. It is vital that the rights of all be truly appreciated and carry fair weight in the deliberations of Council.</p> <p>In essence then. I do strongly support the maintenance of a Ward system for the election of Councillors in order to encourage representative Local Government in the City of Albany. The system also essentially mirrors the franchises of our State and Federal Governments, and was designed to ensure that electors in rural areas have a voice in their governing bodies. We need the same assurance of representation in the City of Albany.</p> <p>A change to a smaller Council. and ignoring district representation, would certainly encourage and open the way for people with hopes of commercial advantage to achieve power in the Council and gain such commercial advantage. This would, almost inevitably be at the expense of environmental, heritage and lifestyle considerations, as history has powerfully demonstrated over the years; especially, in many peoples' opinion. at local government level.</p> <p>I also, further believe in the election of our Mayor by popular vote. To leave the election of the Mayor to a group of Councillors not only weakens the voice of the people but, should those Councillors now be few and favouring outcomes contrary to the wider ambitions of the City's residents, democracy would seem to be under serious threat.</p> <p>I ask Councillors and the Minister to consider these points when voting on this issue.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.</p>		
R & J Nesbitt	West Albany	4	Wards	<p>As ratepayers we believe in retaining Option 4, that is a proven system.</p> <p>REASONS: As Albany's population increases so will the workload and demands on Councillors. Councillors, as stated at a recent Ward &amp;</p>	6	12

Name	Address	Option	Wards or NO Wards	Remarks	No. Wards	No. Cllrs
				<p>Boundary Review meeting, currently attend various functional meetings beside their normal duties. The proposal to reduce the number of Councillors and Wards is not taking into consideration the increase in workload as the population expands.</p> <p>The current ward system appears to be working well as each ward is represented by two Councillors who are, or should be, conversant with local issues and the needs of their respective constituents.</p> <p>Councillors are volunteers and as stated at a recent meeting only receive a total sum of \$9,000 per annum. However, as their workload increases travel and telephone expenses and other costs will increase. The current sum in my opinion would have to be increased to be in line with current market conditions so they do not incur any out of pocket expenses.</p> <p>Having the current ward system whereby two local Councillors are appointed gives the ratepayers within that ward a sense of trust and wellbeing that their issues are understood and addressed.</p> <p>It was stated at a recent Ward &amp; Boundary meeting by several current Councillors that they represent all ratepayers within the City of Albany. However, I can assure you that when I spoke to a Councillor regarding a local government issue involving our property this particular Councillor had no interest in the issue at hand.</p> <p>By reducing the Ward and Councillors one hopes that a negative outlook would not be the result due to an increase in workload.</p> <p>By retaining the current ward system, by-elections would be smaller resulting in less cost to the nominees. Larger or one ward areas would entail greater cost to the potential nominees to Council which would deter possible excellent Councillors from nominating. We believe everyone should have the opportunity to nominate and not be restricted by costs.</p> <p>Ward reductions would require all eligible persons to vote in by-elections thus imposing extra costs and continued inconvenience to rate payers</p>		

Name	Address	Option	Wards or NO Wards	Remarks	No. Wards	No. Cllrs
				<p>should several by-elections occur In a sort time period.</p> <p>By reducing the number of Councillors does not necessarily give a better view on an Issue that needs to be addressed. The current number of councillors provides a more diverse view on issues.</p> <p>As with any business, in the event of one person being sick, on leave or absent for any reason Increases the workload on others. If Councillors are not available to work for any reason, decision making would be limited to the remaining few who may not bring the diversity of view points necessary to the table.</p> <p>Local Ward Councillors have provide excellent service to date and any move from the current system, In my opinion, would not serve the needs of the local areas.</p>		
Barbara Black & Neil Cock	Albany	4	Wards	<p>Retaining the existing 6 wards and 12 councillors will help to ensure that the diversity of interests is adequately represented. The cost savings in having fewer councillors is outweighed by the range of opinion interests and experience that 12 councillors bring to the democratic decision making process. The current size of the Council is more likely to encourage participation by women, indigenous people and those with a migrant background than a small council, which is likely to be comprised of business people and mates for the most part.</p>	6	12
Not provided	Eclipse Drive	2	Wards	Option two gives a fair representation of councillors in each ward. Eight is a good number.		8

Name	Address	Option	Wards or NO Wards	Remarks	No. Wards	No. Cllrs
KG O'Dea	Lower King	4	Wards	I like the ward system to carry on as it has been over the life of the City as it is not to change is my preference. The reason is less councillors have been a problem at times in the past because at least a third have been away, not attending committees and monthly meetings. People away from the City and suburbs do not get the services that we expect from the City. If the wards and Councillors are brought back as 8 plus Mayor it can and will come back to a few councillors with a bigger work load. I still like the status quo.	6	12
Pat McKail	East Bank Rd	4	Wards	I have always preferred ward system, e.g. conditions of roads being a basic responsibility of Council there is a greater chance that most roads will be seen every day by some councillors. I prefer option 4 with 12 people. Should 2 or 3 happen to be absent their area still a reasonable number to discuss and vote on issues. Quite likely in the case of husband and wife, both could be absent at the same time. I can't support the motion that fewer Councillors mean a financial saving. It no doubt means more time and work for fewer people and at least one Councillor already believes has stated publically that Councillors should be paid more. I can't believe either that fewer Councillors would result in more effective and efficient decision making.	6	12
Don Phillips	Frenchmans Bay Rd	4	Wards	Status Quo to be maintained.	6	12
R Armstrong	Boyup Brook	4	Wards	Option 4 is our preferred option. Reduced wards and councillors will create larger workloads and large areas for Councillors to cover. This can in turn mean less understanding of what areas require in services planning etc. And creates problems at council meetings in the event of absentees.	6	12

Name	Address	Option	Wards or NO Wards	Remarks	No. Wards	No. Cllrs
Ashley John Powis	Dempster Road	4	Wards	<p>Re: Current discussions about ward changes, I am strongly in favour of the following;  Retain the current ward system with 6 wards and 2 councillors per ward. So there will be 12 councillors, plus a popular elected Mayor.  My reasons for this are as follows;  1. The work load is already excessive. So less councillors must make it worse.  2. I cannot see any value in 8 councillors; it could lead to special interest groups with money to spend, gaining control or political parties.  3. Is this been proposed just to show that bureaucracy and the minister are doing something to justify themselves and their jobs?  4. I do not think the best interest of rural ratepayers in the City of Albany will be looked after by a reduction in the number of councillors or wards. The ward system enables community minded locals to represent their district and keeps the cost of running the council down.  5. By having 12 councillors you have 'safety in numbers' you do not have a small group able to dominate the council.  I am firmly in favour of retaining the status quo.</p>	6	12



Name	Address	Option	Wards or NO Wards	Remarks	No. Wards	No. Cllrs
Pat Svanberg	Nanarup			<p>I would like to voice my concern that the number of councillors and /or wards may be reduced.</p> <p>As a rural ratepayer, I do not think my best interests will be well looked after by any such reductions. It's already bad enough that my choices of garbage disposal have been reduced by the reduction of hours that the Bakers Junction Tip operates, without the threat of loss of representation on the Council.</p> <p>When the shire and town councils amalgamated, the shire brought a lot to the resulting city. The reduction of representation now would be a slap in the face for the former shire ratepayers.</p> <p>The ward system enables community minded locals to represent their district. Having 12 councillors also means that should one of these hardworking volunteers not be able to make a meeting, the impact on a quorum will not be as great.</p> <p>Having 12 councillors should reduce the possibility of small groups of vested interests being able to dominate council.</p> <p>I am firmly in favour of retaining the status quo.</p>		12

Name	Address	Option	Wards or NO Wards	Remarks	No. Wards	No. Cllrs
Alastair & Carolyn Dowling	Bayonet Head	3	No Wards	<p>This is a submission following the Discussion Paper entitled 'Review of Wards &amp; Representation 2011' (the "Paper"). We support the principles of 'Option 3' of the Paper, being fewer councillors and abolition of the Ward System.</p> <p>Fewer councillors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce number of councillors to 12 to 8 (plus Mayor).</li> <li>• Abolish the current preferential system and introduce a 'first past the post' voting system for councillors and the Mayor.</li> <li>• Less councillors minimises expense to City of Albany.</li> <li>• Smaller team works more efficiently and minimises ineffective decision making.</li> <li>• Ensures that only the best councillors are elected and subsequent elections are more likely to be performance based.</li> </ul> <p>Abolish ward system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminates problems with ward ratios, thus eliminating reviews (and accompanying costs involved).</li> <li>• Easier administration by council.</li> <li>• All rate payers voted for all councillors.</li> <li>• Councillors required to adopt a more holistic view of needs of the City of Albany, discouraging single interest groups.</li> </ul> <p>We note that over 60% of West Australian country councils have already taken this step.</p>	0	8
John A Jamieson	Bornholm		Wards	<p><b>SUBMISSION</b></p> <p>In offering this submission, my points and comments are offered from the stand-point of having served as a WEST WARD City of Albany councillor for the period from 2003 to 2007 and having served on numerous committees during that period.</p>	6 to 4	12 to 8

Name	Address	Option	Wards or NO Wards	Remarks	No. Wards	No. Cllrs
				<p>I also offer these comments from my current position as the principal of Albany Mapping &amp; Surveying Services, carrying out Surveying, Mapping and Town Planning commissions throughout the City of Albany municipality and all the surrounding local authority areas in the Great Southern that abut the City of Albany boundaries, as well as inland to other areas throughout the south west region.</p> <p>In my discussions with owners, occupiers, ratepayers and residents there is a desire to retain a WARD structure, particularly throughout the City of Albany. Whilst many people would like to see the existing Ward Areas retained in the current format, with the same level of representation, they would be prepared to see the total number of councillors reduced to not less than eight (8) in not less than four (4) wards. There appears to be a desire that the Mayor continue to be elected by a popular vote, as is the case currently. Another point that a great majority of the electors made was that they definitely want FIRST PAST THE POST method of having their votes cast and counted. Many people believe that abandoning this well proven method of voting resulted in the City of Albany ending up electing some very poor quality councillors during the October 2007 elections. It's a bit hard to argue with this, when you see how the Council ended up in a chaotic state since October 2007.</p> <p>I also believe that if the electoral commission is to continue running the local government elections, in particular by Postal Ballot, then there should be a larger area provided for candidates to put forward their individual CV's so that the electors, who may never actually get to meet the candidates face to face, get an opportunity to evaluate each of the candidates and the ability of each to properly represent their community.</p> <p>From some research I've done, by retaining a WARD structure into the future, rather than dispensing with wards and having one big "ward" that covers the whole of the Albany municipality, there are considerable savings to be had in holding any bye-elections. It would seem that a WARD bye-election for a candidate would cost the City about \$14,000 - \$15,000 to conduct, where-as if</p>		

Name	Address	Option	Wards or NO Wards	Remarks	No. Wards	No. Cllrs
				<p>there is only one “ward” of councillors, this cost would likely cost anything from \$45,000 - \$65,000 to conduct. With the number of bye-elections I’ve seen since October 2007, projected forward beyond October 2011 in the case of a “no ward” Council, the ratepayers could end up out of pocket from anything between \$100,000 and \$180,000 in paying for bye-elections.</p> <p>I would also like to see a situation whereby any councillor who fails to complete his appointed term pays for the full cost of a bye-election. In the case where the councillor passes away during his or her term, no charge would apply. Similarly, if the reason he or she resigns from Council is 100% due to a health condition, then no charge would apply in the event of a bye-election. In all other cases, the City should be compensated, as I would see any other reason of resigning to be a dereliction of duty to the community.</p> <p>It should be noted that the City of Albany is the biggest employer in the region, so any prospective councillors should have a good grasp of financial management and how to run a business as part of their skill base. When one looks closely at the problems that the City has experienced during the last three years, very large sums of money have been wasted by the administration. Local government is the closest level of government to the people, so it will always receive much closer scrutiny by the ratepayers, residents and electors. Unless these people think that the Council has the capacity to operate an efficient and cost effective administration, then there will be a deterioration of confidence and business people will quickly decide that their efforts are better deployed in some other locality.</p> <p><b>WARD FORMATION</b></p> <p>I think that if four (4) wards are to be put in place, they should radiate from the centre of Albany out to the limits of the municipality, so that the elected Council can be composed of members who must accommodate a wide cross-section of electors from the rural, semi-rural and urban areas of each ward. This option is offered and I support this.</p> <p><b>MAYOR ELECTION</b></p>		

Name	Address	Option	Wards or NO Wards	Remarks	No. Wards	No. Cllrs
				<p>I would continue to support a popularly elected mayor on a “first past the post” basis.</p> <p><b>PAYMENT FOR COUNCILLOR DUTIES</b></p> <p>If the number of councillors is reduced to eight (8) then there will be an increasing work load as the City of Albany grows and develops. In business, there is an old adage: “If you pay peanuts, then you will attract monkeys”. In order to try and attract the highest calibre candidates for the position of Mayor and Councillor, then there should be some fair reward for their service.</p> <p>To do the work of a Councillor effectively, from my experience, one needs to set aside 2 or 3 days each week, every week of the year, in order to do justice to the appointment. This estimate was based on the fact that there were 12 elected councillors in place at the City of Albany during my term on Council. If there is a reduction of one-third, from 12 to 8, then I suspect the work load will increase accordingly. If it becomes a 4-Ward council of 8, then I can visualise the time one would need to do the job diligently and effectively would probably increase from 2-3 days a week to 3-4 days a week, depending on the number of committees one is appointed to serve on.</p> <p>With respect to the various committees in council, I’d prefer to see a <b>WHOLE OF COUNCIL COMMITTEE</b>, as ultimately the Council must make its decisions <b>FOR THE WHOLE OF THE CITY OF ALBANY</b>. This of course requires the capacity of the elected members to make themselves available to a greater extent. I’ve noticed that in the term of the existing Council, a number of elected representatives have avoided taking part in sharing the work-load of the committees, which in turn puts more stress on the rest of the elected members on Council.</p> <p>There is the opportunity for the City of Albany to try and re-vamp its operations, review the exiting 6 wards back to 4 and the number of councillors back from 12 to 8. Ultimately it will depend on how the community views a new re-structured Council, but in October 2011 there is the opportunity for the whole of Council to be elected and start afresh, putting aside the last couple of years of</p>		

Name	Address	Option	Wards or NO Wards	Remarks	No. Wards	No. Cllrs
				poor performance. Any elected new Council will only be as good as those who nominate and get elected to serve. If 2 elected members are chosen in each of the wards, then I think that the person gaining the highest number of votes should get a four (4) year term and the one with the second highest number of votes a two (2) year term based on a FIRST PAST THE POST count.		
Yvonne Atwell	Albany			<p>Times have changed. Regulations and compliance have increased. Financial matters are more complex. There are a multitude of government departments to deal with. Time is costly.</p> <p>We can no longer afford to think that the man or woman off the street is the best person to be in a position of authority, making decisions on a multitude of complex matters and all voluntarily.</p> <p>We cannot believe that more is better or that having a number of representatives for a particular area will make better governance.</p> <p>We must have the best people, both officers and councillors to lead our community into the future.</p> <p>We must pay both officers and councillors commensurate to their level, an adequate salary with the expectation that they are responsible for their decisions. After all, they are running a multimillion dollar business on our behalf making decisions that will affect Albany well into the future.</p> <p>The time has come that we need to consider the elimination of wards, and a reduction of elected councillors to 5 or 6 persons, with an elected head of council i.e. Mayor. We must strive to attract the best possible candidates for the positions on Council from the whole community, not just from one area. We often see 3 very good candidates stand in one ward but with only one vacancy available while in another ward, there are no candidates.</p> <p>Each elected member should be paid a salary and be expected to attend to the duties of Council with a minimum of 25 hours per week. They should take it in turns to be rostered to be in attendance at council every day during office hours to be available should a citizen of Albany require attention.</p> <p>This time can also be put understanding the system and evaluating policy and</p>	0	5 to 6

Name	Address	Option	Wards or NO Wards	Remarks	No. Wards	No. Cllrs
				<p>decisions.</p> <p>The office of Mayor should be a full time job and should be paid accordingly.</p> <p>The leadership that comes from our Mayor is a major source of how we are perceived within and from outside of our community. We must have in place the incentives to attract the right persons to the job.</p> <p>The role between officers and elected members is clearly defined and there must be respect and recognition of each other's abilities. This is paramount to the successful future of our City.</p> <p>Only by doing this can we hope to move forward and make the correct and best decisions for our region and City. Thank you for the opportunity to put forward my views.</p>		
Lynne Danks	McKail	3	No Wards	<p>I am an elector in West Ward living in the suburb of McKail. It appears to me that McKail is somewhat isolated in this Ward because the majority of people are in places such as Cuthbert, Elleker, Redmond etc.</p> <p>McKail is a lot closer to the City of Albany than any of the aforementioned and therefore is worthy of inclusion in a Ward closer to the CBD. However, my true preference is that there be no Wards and no Councillors.</p> <p>Do away with elections. Most people who set themselves up as candidates have a vested interest and are only "pushing their own barrow".</p>		
Colin Pyle	Napier	4	Wards	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to contribute,</p> <p>I would like to oppose the practice of a popularly elected Mayor. I believe the Mayor should be elected as a ward councillor and at the new council's inaugural meeting the mayor and deputy mayor should be nominated and elected by their fellow councillors. I cannot overstate the importance of this system of choosing our Mayor.</p> <p>As a much younger man I served as a councillor with the Shire of Albany during the 1980's. I had sat through only a couple of monthly meetings and it was very clear that we had chosen the best person for the role of Shire President.</p> <p>The fact that we put him in that position meant that most of the time he enjoyed our support and respect and that was generally reciprocated. It made for a</p>	6	12

Name	Address	Option	Wards or NO Wards	Remarks	No. Wards	No. Cllrs
				<p>unified, constructive and generally pleasant, functioning council. During my six years there was never any " block voting".</p> <p>A popularly elected Mayor may well mean the candidate presents well, may be media savvy, may well be a popular person in a discipline other than local government, may be a respected local business person in the community or may be a highly regarded volunteer worker in the town.</p> <p>It doesn't automatically follow that they understand and/or respect the institution and function of local government. Nor do they require the respect and support of their peers in the chamber. Under this system the Mayor is potentially much less able to command unity within council.</p> <p>Councillors are popularly elected representatives of their people via the ward system.( Which incidentally secures community of interest )</p> <p>They are trusted to jointly make the big decisions on behalf on behalf of residents and ratepayers but not to choose from amongst their number who is best suited to represent them as the Mayor.</p> <p>I would also like to state my support for retaining twelve councillors on City of Albany council. It was only a dozen years ago that what is now the City area was represented and served by over twenty committed, available, community minded citizens.</p> <p>The City today is larger and more complex than ever before and any reduction in councillor numbers significantly reduces opportunity for ratepayers and residents to access and interact with their representatives.</p> <p>Albany's residents would increasingly be pleading their case with a bureaucracy which simply doesn't function with the prospect of direct accountability that elected representatives do. The prospect of six or eight elected members is democratically regressive.</p> <p>A reduction in council members would constitute a betrayal of voters by the present council.</p>		



Name	Address	Option	Wards or NO Wards	Remarks	No. Wards	No. Cllrs
Colin Pyle	Napier	4	Wards	<p>REVIEW OF WARDS AND REPRESENTATION. CITY of ALBANY. 2011  Supplementary to submission of am this day.  An obvious point that I omitted from my earlier text is that a councillor who  aspires to Mayoral duties and fails to secure the support of the popular vote is  subsequently penalised by not being on council at all. A very strange way to  treat aspiring community leaders.</p> <p>In conclusion I would note that our State Premier and Prime Minister do not  hold the leadership positions and preside in cabinet as a result of a direct  popular vote.  They are elected by their peers.</p>	6	12

Name	Address	Option	Wards or NO Wards	Remarks	No. Wards	No. Cllrs
Vera A Torr	Sussex St	4	Wards	<p>SIX WARDS - TWO COUNCILLORS ELECTED BY EACH WARD - A POPULARLY ELECTED MAYOR.</p> <p>The critical factor missing is Councillor training. This “need” could be facilitated by calling the elections earlier and allowing a two week mandatory training and briefing period. No Councillor should sit in Chambers and make serious decisions as a raw rookie.</p> <p>Albany is in desperate need of stability. Changing the ward system and numbers at this time will create a full spill of Council and again expertise and continuity may be lost.</p> <p>We are only reducing the ward numbers to facilitate a reduction of Councillors. Not for better representation of the electorate and the diverse structure of the Albany district. This is not reason enough to change the system when there is no rationale given as to why we are reducing Councillor numbers, apart from Minister Castrilli quoting a figure.</p> <p>The required ratio of being within 10 percent of the number of electors per ward is achieved under the current six ward system.</p> <p>Reducing Councillor numbers has the potential to “centralise” the representation given to electors.</p> <p>The ward system provides a social sense of belonging and a sense of localised representation to those in the individual ward.</p> <p>A ward system brings accountability to the Councillor representing that ward.</p> <p>After attending the Public Meeting on this issue comments were offered:</p> <p>A Councillor was handling a matter from outside his ward. With a no wards system he would still be handling the matter so there is no gain to the Councillor.</p> <p>It would prevent candidates waiting till the last minute to nominate for the ward where they feel they have the best chance of being elected. This is not illegal and you will still get last minute candidates who have a rush of adrenalin and jump in the ballot.</p> <p>That some people might have six votes. Actually that is only an extra five votes</p>	6	12

Name	Address	Option	Wards or NO Wards	Remarks	No. Wards	No. Cllrs
				<p>that he may have and each one is only a single vote per each ward. I hardly think that anybody is going to buy property in every ward to get an extra single vote for each ward. He still only has one mayoral vote. In fact the difference between the mayoral count and the councillor count in 2007 was less than 137 votes spread across six wards. Hardly relevant.</p> <p>WHY WE ARE IN FRONT.</p> <p>We amalgamated our Town and Shire in 1998/9. We reduced our Councillors from 24 to 14.</p> <p>Our system was reviewed in 2007. We further reduced our wards and councillors to 6 wards and 12 councillors.</p> <p>WALGA is calling on Minister Castrilli to justify his call for less Councillors. Minister Castrilli called for amalgamations and cited Councillor reductions would occur with the amalgamations. There has been no amalgamations with Albany (nor Bunbury for that matter – Bunbury is retaining 12 Councillors)) and until Minister Castrilli forces amalgamations Albany must maintain its current representation of the electorate. To do otherwise may be an expensive and futile exercise as there is a strong possibility the scene may change again. Minister Castrilli mentioned that with reduced Councillor numbers a higher remuneration could be offered to attract better qualified candidates. I have not seen a package offered to date. The money would be better spent ensuring new Councillors are trained.</p> <p>It is thought that perhaps a referendum conducted at the October elections would allow the entire electorate to determine how they are represented at the Local Government Level. A democratic process.</p> <p>I totally support the status quo</p>		
Juliet Albany		4	Wards	<p>February 8. Submission on Wards and Representation from Juliet Albany. Please note that I wholeheartedly support Vera Torr's emailed submission - as I have not had the time to do one like hers. I would also like to add that to</p>	6	12

Name	Address	Option	Wards or NO Wards	Remarks	No. Wards	No. Cllrs
				<p>reduce councillors would in my mind make the existing undemocratic planning system even worse - we need all the representation we can get. But Councillors have to be educated - I know that WAMA or whatever they call themselves today do courses for councillors these should be mandatory for Albany Councillors.</p> <p>Ward representation is good in that it allows more specific representation of different interests.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to submit this.</p>		
Ross Fenwick	Kalgan	4	Wards	I am not in favour of reducing or eliminating wards in the City of Albany, nor am I in favour of reducing the numbers of councillors. There is already too few councillors. I believe the number of councillors should be increased.	6	12
Trish Travers	Festing St, Albany	3	No Wards	<p>No Ward System. Elected members represent the whole community so the whole community should be able to vote for all elected members (not just their ward).</p> <p>I believe voting should be compulsory.</p> <p>I believe there should be a band on all forms of advertising radio/print/TV for elections and only door knocking and one equal form of information be used and community "meet the candidates forum" be held.</p> <p>I believe we should move to an online voting system with free access to vote online at the council office and library if some people do not have computer/internet access.</p> <p>Please note my limitation of the submission form in that the 1 preferred council option's 1A &amp; 1B are noted as the first 2 options this could bias results of submissions as the options were not randomly selected and put in order.</p> <p>I also note that the Public Forum was held on 27/1/2011 (I attended) which was only 5 days before public submissions closed.</p> <p>This forum was also held just after a public holiday. I believe this forum should have been held at least 2 weeks prior to submissions closing.</p>	0	8 to 10

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Option</b>	<b>Wards or NO Wards</b>	<b>Remarks</b>	<b>No. Wards</b>	<b>No. Cllrs</b>
Melrob Pty Ltd	Boyup Brook	4	Wards	The present ward system is our preferred option. With less Councillors it makes it hard for people to see Councillors and vice versa. With less Wards Councillor will have larger areas to cover making it difficult to understand the problems areas may be having. Also with 12 Councillors there is more of a change of having a quorum for meetings in the event of absentees.	6	12

**This form has been provided for your convenience.  
Written public submissions do not have to be on this form.  
Closing date for submission Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011**

Fax: (08) 9841 4099  
Email: [council@albany.wa.gov.au](mailto:council@albany.wa.gov.au)

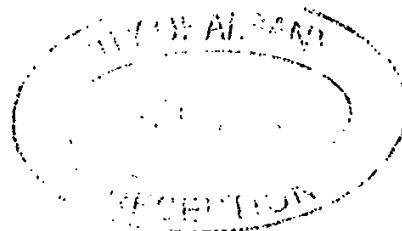
☐ Option 1A
 ☐ Option 2  
☐ Option 1B
 ☐ Option 3  
☐ Or Other — as described on the
 ☐ Option 4  
 following page

HAVING 6 WARDERS AND 12 COUNCILORS WILL  
GIVE THE RATEPAYERS BETTER REPRESENTATION  
ON DEVELOPMENT ISSUES OR CONTROVERSIAL  
TOPICS WITHIN COUNCIL.

THE PUBLIC IS HAVING THEIR APPEAL RIGHTS SLOWLY  
TAKEN AWAY. WE NEED TO PROTECT OUR RIGHTS

TONY HARRISON  
34 GORDON ST LITTLE GROVE.

Number of wards: 6  
Number of councillors (by law must be between 6 & 15) 12



# **Review of Ward Boundaries and Representation Public Submission Form**

This form has been provided for your convenience.  
Written public submissions do not have to be on this form.  
Closing date for submission Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011

Doc No:  
File:  
Date:  
Officer:

City of Albany Records  
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08 FEB 2011  
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Attach:  
Box:  
Vol:  
Box+Vol:

City of Albany  
PO Box 484  
ALBANY WA 6926

Fax: (08) 9841 4099  
Email: [council@albany.wa.gov.au](mailto:council@albany.wa.gov.au)

I support the following option, as described in the discussion paper:

- ☐ Option 1A                                      ☐ Option 2  
☐ Option 1B                                      ☐ Option 3  
☐ Or Other – as described on the ☐ Option 4  
following page

Comments (for example, reason for support, suggested ward names) – please attached additional pages if required.

As Existing.

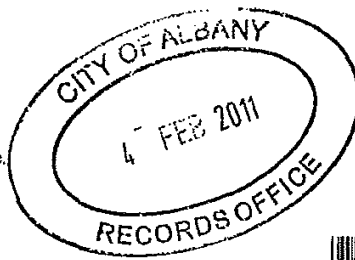
Names and address (optional)

Mitchell Tarr.

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

Number of wards: 6  
Number of councillors (by law must between 6 & 15) 12.





7<sup>th</sup> February 2011



Faileen James  
Chief Executive Officer  
City of Albany  
102 North Road  
Albany WA 6330

Doc No: City of Albany Records  
File: ICR1129836  
Date: GO.BOU.2  
Officer: 04 FEB 2011  
EMBG

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Dear Faileen

**RE: Public Submission: City of Albany Review of Wards & Representation 2011**

Albany, like any municipality, deserves to be governed by the best elected councillors possible. Achieving that outcome is not possible under the current wards system for the following reasons.

The main argument to retain the present wards system is;  
"I need a local representative to look after my local needs".

This reason, whilst understandable from an individual resident perspective, is misguided in that the Local Government Act stipulates that elected councillors must represent the interests of all ratepayers, not just those in their own ward.

Removal of the wards system demands that elected councillors have a more global whole-of-City approach, rather than narrowly focussing on the immediate needs of their respective ward. Fears of councils becoming CBD centric are unfounded and have simply not eventuated in other jurisdictions. Speak to Shire of Plantagenet CEO Rob Stewart to confirm this point.

The current system is also flawed in that it does not preclude candidates from standing in a ward outside of where they are domiciled, yet ratepayers are unable to vote for candidates other than those in their own ward.

Removal of the wards system also greatly reduces the opportunity for 'one-issue' candidates to become elected...a matter that has been the bane of past Albany Council elections.

The present ward system, where a person owns land in different wards, allows for more than one vote per person. Currently, that allows some Albany residents six votes, a vote in each ward. This situation is hardly democratic. Removal of wards provides true democracy where ratepayers are only entitled to one vote.

The wards system, as per what happened last election, allows for councillors in one ward to be elected unopposed, whereas well qualified candidates miss out where there are more than two nominations in other wards.

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As a candidate is only allowed to nominate in one ward, luck plays a significant part in their personal election based upon which ward other candidates choose to nominate in. Currently, the extraordinary situation exists where candidates delay their nomination until the very last moment waiting, as per progressive notification of declared candidates per ward listed at the City, to determine which ward they believe they stand the best chance to be (re)elected. Albany needs councillors elected on merit, not luck.

Here is a current hypothetical:

Six highly qualified and highly desirable candidates nominate for Ward A, whereas two less qualified, less desirable candidates nominate for Ward B.

Four of the highly qualified miss out, the two less desirable are elected unopposed. Albany is definitely the poorer for having a wards electoral system that allows this highly undesirable situation to occur.

The current system is also open to manipulation whereby parties can 'stack' individual wards to their collective advantage. No such opportunity exists with an open whole-of-city electoral system.

Another anomaly created by the wards system, regarded by some as the most undemocratic aspect of all, is that councillors are elected by a few, yet govern for the whole. For example, let's say the number of wards is reduced from the current six, to four. That means each councillor is elected by only 25% of eligible constituents, yet when elected, they govern for all, including the other 75% of voters who had absolutely no say in their being elected.

In a whole of City system without wards, the best candidates, as determined by ALL ratepayers, would be elected.

The above arguments are shared by the majority of regional WA local government electorates, hence the current move away from the wards system.

The 2009 local government elections saw 59% of regional WA municipalities opt to abolish their wards system. Across the Great Southern, that figure is currently 64%, the Wheatbelt is 65%.

Based on recent trends, many more councils are expected to abolish their current wards electoral system for the upcoming 2011 elections in order to provide the best level of governance for their respective communities.

Giving further support to the community benefits of a whole-of-municipality electoral system, the Department of Local Government confirms that they are unaware of any Local Government that has reverted to a wards system.

Another benefit is that the election process is much simpler and less expensive as there is only one election to conduct, as opposed to separate elections in each ward. Internal savings are also achieved as there is no requirement to alter ward boundaries, to comply with the 'plus-or-minus-ten' formula, due to population shift prior to every election.

A question for current councillors to ponder;  
If you are in favour of retaining the current wards system, is your position based on what you truly, in your heart of hearts, believe to be in the best overall interest of Albany's future, or is it based more on personal reasons of increasing your chance of re-election at the upcoming October 2011 election?

Local Government elections are not about the personal interests of the candidate, they are about what's in the best long term interest of Albany and its citizens.

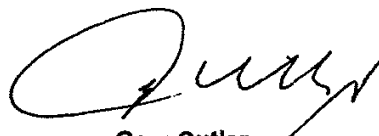
No-one can argue against Albany deserving the best... however that outcome is simply not possible under the current wards system which, as clearly demonstrated by 59% of WA regional councils, is an idea whose time is well passed its use-by date.

Albany has an opportunity to modernise its electoral system and move forward with the times to deliver increased benefits to its residents. ACCI urges all Councillors to support the removal of the current wards and adopt a whole of city single electorate voting system.

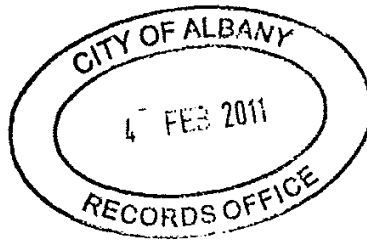
Best regards,



Graham Harvey  
Chief Executive Officer



Gary Cutler  
President



166 Bay View Drive  
LITTLE GROVE WA 6330

The CEO  
City of Albany  
North Road  
YAKAMIA WA 6330

RE: WARDS / MAYORAL ELECTIONS, CITY OF ALBANY

Dear Sir/ Madam

Albany is a rural city with significant numbers of its population residing, by choice, in rural or semi - rural areas. The interests of residents in these areas often differ from those residents in more urban or inner city areas. These inhabitants did not surrender their rights to local representation when they made the choice to reside where they do.

I strongly support the maintenance of a Ward system for the election of Councillors in order to ensure representative Local Government in the City of Albany.

This Ward system mirrors our State and Federal Governments, obviously designed to ensure that electors in rural areas always have a voice in the State and Federal Parliaments. We need the same assurance of representation in the City of Albany.

I therefore strongly support the continuation of our present 6 Ward system, with 2 Councillors being elected for each Ward.

I also strongly support the maintenance of the election of the Mayor by popular vote.

To leave the election of the Mayor to a group of Councillors is, in my view, to weaken the voice of the people.

I ask Councillors to consider these points when voting on this issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dot Price".

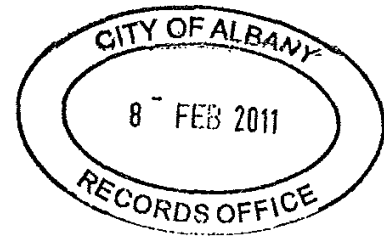
Dot Price  
Resident and Ratepayer

6/2/2011



Doc No.	City of Albany Records
File	ICR1129835
Date:	GO.BOU.2
Officer:	04 FEB 2011
	EMBG

Attach:  
Box:  
Vol:  
Box+Vol:



To the CEO, Submission on WARD and BOUNDARY REVIEW.

From W.A. + W.L. Wood  
Lot 75 Cull Rd.  
P O Box 1515 Albany.

We believe in retaining, OPTION 4. as the best option for Albany.

REASONS BEING,

As Albany expands in residential numbers, the workload and demand for each councillor's time will also increase, therefore we should actually be raising the numbers of councillors to cope with this anticipated increased demand.

The ward system we have at the present time is functioning satisfactory and is not broken. Why change for the sake of change.

Councillors are volunteers representing the WHOLE of Albany's ratepayer's interests. At council meetings they vote on the WHOLE of the issues brought forward on the agenda, not only the issues in their home ward.

Councillors are voted into council to represent the interests and wishes of all of the electorates, not what they want for their own personal interest.

The ward system gives councillor's a home base with local knowledge of issues, meetings and happenings in their ward, plus the physical conditions of the area, like topography, ecology, flora and fauna, etc. It also makes it easier for locals to make contact and familiarise themselves with "their" councillors.

Another reason why the ward system should be retained is that by-elections are smaller and probably easier to execute and possibly less costly.

The whole of one large electorate would have to vote, if the wards were totally eliminated. For example in previous years we have had by-elections for many councillors leaving at separate times in one year. This would mean the WHOLE of Albany having to vote on many occasions in one year. Electors would soon complain about this inconvenience, thus fewer residents would turn out for elections.

Another reason why we believe the ward system should be retained is, Potential nominees for council will be eliminated on the basis of the huge financial cost involved in standing for council. These people will be lost, who potentially could make excellent councillors with great input into our community.

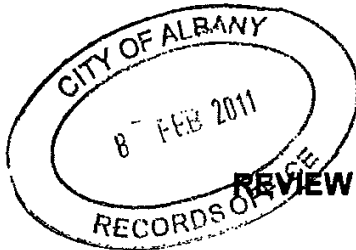
The amount of money needed to pamphlet drop the whole of the geographic area and canvass every house, farm and business would be catastrophic.

This would make Albany City Council less democratic, as the more financially endowed person, would be able to canvass the whole electorate to the disadvantage of the less financial candidate, making our council dominated by the more financially endowed nominee.

If there are fewer councillors, it will mean leave or sickness etc, will put a quorum of councillor's in doubt at meetings.

Please retain the system as is, because we believe it will be disadvantageous to the Albany residents if it is changed. Thankyou.

*W.A. Wood, W.L. Wood.*



City of Albany Records  
 Doc No: ICR1129827  
 File: GO.BOU.2  
 Date: 08 FEB 2011  
 Officer: EMBG

Attach:  
 Box:  
 Vol:  
 Box+Vol:

## REVIEW OF WARD BOUNDARIES AND R PUBLIC SUBMISSION FO

This form has been provided for your convenience.  
 Written public submissions do not have to be on this form.  
 Closing date for submission Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011

City of Albany  
 PO Box 484  
 ALBANY WA 6926

Fax: (08) 9841 4099  
 Email: [council@albany.wa.gov.au](mailto:council@albany.wa.gov.au)

I support the following option, as described in the discussion paper:

- ☐ Option 1A  
☒ Option 1B  
☐ Or Other – as described on the following page  
☐ Option 2  
☐ Option 3  
☒ Option 4

Comments (for example, reason for support, suggested ward names) – please attached additional pages if required.

MY FIRST OPTION WOULD BE SUPPORT 1B WITH MY  
 SECOND OPTION BEING NO 4  
 IF WE HAVE TO MAKE A CHANGE THEN 1B OFFER  
 A FAIRLY EVEN DISTRIBUTION OF WARDS WITH THREE  
 WARDS REPRESENTING URBAN, SEMI RURAL AND RURAL WITH  
 ONE WARD MAINLY URBAN.  
 IF WE DON'T HAVE TO MAKE A CHANGE THEN I  
 WOULD PREFER OPTION 4 WITH A SLIGHT MODIFICATION IN  
 RE ALLOCATING THIS VOTER BASE CHANGES IN 2009 DUE  
 FROM THE WEST WARD TO THE VANCOUVER WARD. THIS  
 WILL CORRECT THIS % DISCREPANCY.  
 HAVING NO WARDS IS NOT ECONOMICALLY VIABLE TO PEOPLE  
 WHO WANT TO STAND BUT DON'T HAVE A LOT OF MONEY.  
 PEOPLE HAVE COUNCILLOR OWNERSHIP IN WARDS AND THE  
 COUNCILLORS REPRESENT BOTH THEIR WARDS & THE CITY OF  
 ALBANY AS A WHOLE. MOST THE GRIEVANCE IS IN LETTING  
 NOT ADAPTATING AS SUGGESTED AT PUBLIC MEETING. THE LOCAL  
 Names and address (optional) GOVERNMENT ACT WILL NEED TO BE AMENDED  
 TO RESTRICT CAMPAIGNING.

TONY DEMANTAN  
 24 CORONA WAY ALBANY

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

Number of wards: 6  
 Number of councillors (by law must between 6 & 15) 12 COUNCILLORS + MAYOR.

Submission from Ms Kim Stanton 55 Chipana Dr. Little Grove - 27/1/2011  
Workshop  
For the Ward Boundary Review

Speaking not only as a concerned resident but as an ex-councillor who is familiar with the subject, I would like to make the following comments.

My preference is to retain 6 Wards with 2 councillors for each ward (12) and a people's elected Mayor.

Definitely not a One Ward System.

If a bi-election was necessary the cost to the City of Albany would be enormous. In 2008 when Cr Chris Morris resigned from Council, the Council Meeting Minutes 18<sup>th</sup> November record the cost to conduct that election would be approx \$17,000. Unfortunately a short time later Cr Williams also resigned and the two councillor positions went to election on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2009. The cost for this was thankfully only around the \$23,500 not the double we expected of \$34,000. These were postal votes to approx 3,700 electors in each Ward being West and Fredrickstown. These costs are paid by the CoA and we the ratepayers are the ones really paying the bill. Later Councillors Buegge, Wiseman and Price resigned. 2 of these were held with separate elections costing the City but one was included in the October Elections 2010.

Therefore, Councillors must remember this when making the decision re how many wards. What will it cost us?

Resignations do and will occur. And it is expensive to the City and to the ratepayers.

From a prospective or "hoping for" re-election councillor, the cost to run in a 'One Ward system' would be only for the very rich. It would definitely rule out the ordinary dedicated hopeful from running. As an example, to cover just one of the present Wards the cost was approx. \$5,000 to advertise, printing and leaflet 'drops' and postage costs to send to mail boxes and out of town Electors. You image what it would cost for the One Ward System with the Albany population growing. Also a single ward could be manipulated by business or CBD interests by support through generous donations to help their chosen person or persons run for council. I am not saying this would occur only that it needs to be considered. Diversity is the key to good debate and good governance in Council and we need prospective Councillors from all walks of life and all ages.

Personally I am quite happy with the 6 Ward System and 12 Councillors we have at the moment.

I understand the need to continually re-adjust the Ward Boundaries for population growth etc but why change to less Wards. We need what gives the best representation to the residents and ratepayers. We need 2 Councillors to each Ward in case one is ill, on holidays etc. or resignations or not attending Council Meetings. In my Vancouver Ward Cr. Paver is only attending every 3 months. Even though I am not a Councillor now, I am always receiving phone calls asking for advice and information concerning this Ward because people want to speak to someone they know and hopefully trust. The recent increase in vacant land rates kept me on the phone for 2 weeks.

This also proves the importance of not having the One Ward System. Residents feel comfortable having what they consider to be their Councillor, the person who lives in the Ward who understands their needs and expectations.

Yes, all Councillors work and make decisions for the whole of Albany but are still considered "special" by their own Ward Electors.

The time has come I believe for the City of Albany to recommend compulsory voting to the State Govt. It is the normal for State and Federal Elections, so why not for Local Govt. The Albany average of 32% voting is ridiculously bad.

Compulsory voting gets people thinking and making decisions about who to vote for. It makes the system fairer, not the single cause issue, which often drives electors when the big issue happens in their town or ward. Those voters can and do make a difference to the voting pattern.

For these reasons, if the One Ward System was introduced then compulsory voting would need to occur.

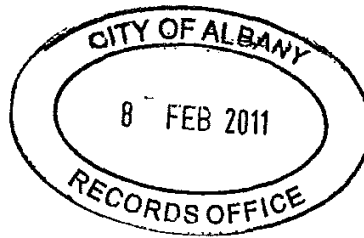
Comments in the Advertiser Newspaper recently said a reduction in councillors and wards would save \$ and result in less conflict but that is untrue. In fact with less or one Ward, Councillors would need to be paid a better allowance \$ to cover their costs of attending local community meetings and investigating residents concerns and problems. Areas in West and Kalgan Wards and on out to Wellstead do have meetings that Councillors should attend. Also Councillors attend Civic Functions and community functions and deserve to be better compensated for their time given.

However, if a reduction does occur, then a Total Spill of all councillors must occur. It happened when the Kalgan and West Wards combined in 2008 and some excellent councillors who wanted to continue did lose their seats. It was unfortunate but the system is in place and will need to occur again if the present Council votes for less Wards and less councillors.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue.

Ms Kim Stanton





PO Box 1470 Albany WA 6331 Tel: 9841 7131  
Email: robert@albanyis.com.au ABN 97 974 906 601

The Chief Executive Officer: Mr Bonker

Re Ward Boundary Submission

7<sup>th</sup> February 2011



Doc No: City of Albany Records  
ICR1129825  
File: GO.BOU.2  
Date: 08 FEB 2011  
Officer: EMBG

Attach:  
Box:  
Vol:  
Box+Vol:

Dear Mr Bonker,

This submission is being submitted on behalf of the Albany Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc. (ARRA).

Concerns have been raised by members that if the City of Albany was to choose a no ward system that it would limit the choice of candidates that would run for Council due to the costs that would be incurred for such a large campaign.

It is the opinion of ARRA that due to the size and demographics of the City of Albany that the preference would be to remain as it is. However it would be a preference that the ward boundaries be changed to ensure that all wards include CBD, Urban and Rural as part of the ward. This would ensure that all Councillor would have a clear understanding for the concerns of all the constituents and therefore be informed when making decisions.

If it isn't possible for Council to stay as it currently is then the next preferred option for ARRA is to have four wards with two Councillors per ward with the ward boundaries be changed to ensure that all wards include CBD, Urban and Rural as part of the ward. As mentioned previously this would ensure that all Councillor would have a clear understanding for the concerns of all the constituents and therefore be informed when making decisions.

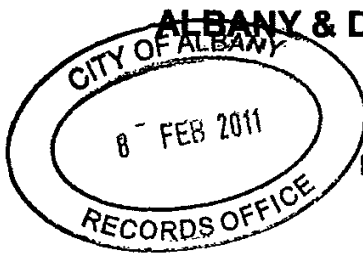
ARRA would like to thank the City of Albany for allowing us the opportunity to have a say regarding this very important decision.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "EABT".

Elizabeth Barton  
President





**ALBANY & DISTRICTS PROPERTY RIGHTS GROUP  
(A&DPRG) Inc.**

P.O. Box 3086, Albany W.A. 6330  
Email: [sprg09@yahoo.com.au](mailto:sprg09@yahoo.com.au)  
Phone: 08- 98-448777 or 0-98-417131



The Chief Executive Officer: Mr Bonker

Re Ward Boundary Submission

7<sup>th</sup> February 2011

Doc No: City of Albany Records  
File: ICR1129820  
Date: GO.BOU.2  
Officer: 08 FEB 2011  
EMBG

Attach:  
Box:  
Vol:  
Box+Vol:

Dear Mr Bonker,

This submission is being submitted on behalf of the Albany & Districts Property Rights Group Inc. (A&DPRG).

It is important that the constituents of the City of Albany are represented by Councillors that have a complete understanding of issues in all areas. It is A&DPRG's concern that unless each ward represents the CBD, Urban and Rural sections that Councillors will not have a fair understanding of issues as they come forward.

It doesn't matter whether it is the current ward option or a four or eight ward option the fundamental issue is representing all sections of the community. If representation is covered by the CBD, Urban and Rural and each Councillor is representing these sections then they will be able to make a more informed decision as they will have a better understanding of the needs of each section.

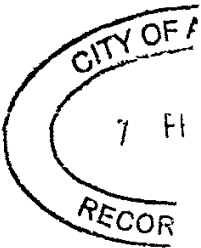
Concerns have been raised by members that if the City of Albany was to choose a no ward system that it would limit the choice of candidates that would run for Council due to the costs that would be incurred for such a large campaign.

A&DPRG hopes that when making its decision that the Council will consider the above concerns that have been raised.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Barton".

Elizabeth Barton  
Secretary



City of Albany Records  
 Doc No ICR1129839  
 File GO BOU 2  
 Date 07 FEB 2011  
 Officer EMBG

Attach  
 Box  
 vol  
 Box+Vol

14 Rycraft Drive,  
 Spencer Park,  
 Albany, 6330.  
 3/2/11

Albany City Council,

Dear Sir,

A friend has shown me the literature which you apparently made available to ratepayers who attended your recent meeting regarding the review of wards etc, for the city of Albany.

It certainly covers quite comprehensively the subject but I do feel it should have been available for all the relevant electors.

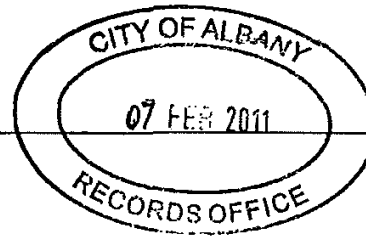
I do definitely consider having a council member connected to each ward makes it easier & more comfortable for electors to contact and discuss relevant matters with & for the councillor to better understand those people & conditions.

Surely if councillors have genuine feelings for the best for the city they can see which needs and remedies should be handled first.

Yours faithfully,  
 Edith B. Wehl

**Ann James**

**From:** "Ann James" <gilandann@westnet.com.au>  
**To:** <council@albany.wa>; <gov.au>  
**Sent:** Sunday, 6 February 2011 7:03 AM  
**Subject:** Review of wards and representation



#### Review of Wards and Representation

I hereby make a submission on the Albany City Review of Wards and Representation.

At present the City of Albany has a 6 ward system of electing representatives as Councillors to the City of Albany to represent the residents of Albany. I submit the proposal of a system of no wards at all and the election of 8 Councillors and [only] an elected Mayor.

I believe a no ward system would progress the future of Albany in a far more positive way than the present system of wards. With no wards a more honest and transparent representation of councillors would emerge. Residents would determine they had a person from their area if they had issues needing resolution at Council. Times are changing in Local Government and the Government needs to be heeded to for the changes as proposed. The City of Albany needs to become more proactive and move with the times as many other councils in W.A. have done, to great advantage to their residents.

With modern communications wards are not so necessary as every Councillor is available at all times at the flick of a switch. Councillors should be elected with open minds to know every part of their local government area and be prepared to take interest in all areas of their council and local communities. That is why a Councillor is/should be elected. If a resident has an issue he/she should be able to contact the councillor they feel comfortable with and not have the conscience of only contacting the local one.

With knowledge of Local Government and having been part of a change from wards to no wards I strongly urge the City Of Albany to adopt the notion of no wards. The Shire in my instance has 3 towns, all need support in every manner of Local government, and has vast distances including roads and communications. The major result in going to a no ward system is the changed attitude at Council level with a very positive attitude with all councillors, not the "them and us" attitude as existed for many years previous. This change in attitude occurred in a bout 2 years and all areas of the Local Government were still represented because that is what people are familiar with and it has worked far better than ever envisaged. It was a difficult transition but as Councillors were determined to make it work for the greater benefit of residents, it did!

As a new ratepayer in Albany and soon to be full time resident I urge the City of Albany and the elected members to make the change to a system of no wards. As a new C.E.O. takes the helm let the City be seen to be adopting a new and positive attitude as it moves through the new era of Local Government. Now is an optimum time for the change to happen. I would like to reside in a community that looks outside the norm and looks to a great and positive future.

The numbers of Councillors goes hand in hand with the above and I would suggest 8 with an elected Mayor. This should be sufficient to cover the Local government area of Albany. Councillors are elected to take on a demanding role and need to be dedicated to the position. It is not to be taken lightly and one of total commitment. It is a position of self sacrifice but the benefits far outway the negatives, if carried out in the right manner. This number complies with the requirement as set out on the Local Government guidelines to change in local government.

The City of Albany can be a better and more progressive City if the right attitude is adopted and the be led forward to a magnificent future.



City of Albany Records  
 Doc No: ICR1129837  
 File: GO.BOU.2  
 Date: 07 FEB 2011  
 Officer: EMBG

Ann James [Mrs]  
 11 Hall Rise  
 Yakamaia.

Attach:  
 Box:  
 Vol:  
 Box+Vol:

6/02/2011

# REVIEW OF WARD BOUNDARIES AND REPRESENTATION SUBMISSION

Anthony wood  
5 Cordillera St  
Mckail 6330

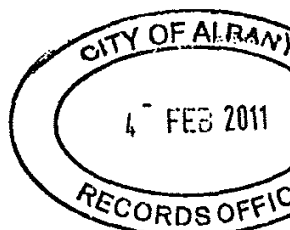
The only option I can support, and I believe the only option put forward that is best for the whole of the City of Albany is option 4.

My points for this are;

1. Ward boundaries are satisfactory, and are possibly fairer with good representation of business, urban and rural. If demographic trends change, then change the boundaries.
2. Having wards gives a councillor a sense of home base for their electorate. Being able to concentrate on the issues in their ward and attend local meetings and events ie Progress Associations, Sporting Groups, Action Groups etc.
3. Having wards makes it easier and more comfortable for local ratepayers & residents to approach their LOCAL councillor.
4. Having wards would be less costly in the event of by-elections, which seem to happen regularly.
5. Not having wards would increase the cost for candidates trying for council. As this is an unpaid position and an electorate of approx 4800km2 this could cost the city many good candidates for council.
6. Removing ward boundaries and reducing the number of councillors could make it more possible for lobby groups and organizations such as ACCI, Farmers Federation, Unions, etc to dominate council chambers. Especially by financially backing candidates.
7. Reduced numbers of councillors means less representation of a broader community and being less democratic.
8. Reduced number of councillors will cause problems with having a quorum at council meetings, with conflicts of interest, sickness and leave having caused problems in the past.
9. Reducing the number of councillors will cause a higher workload on councillors. This is a voluntary position and council should be represented at more organizations and functions than is currently attended.
10. With the City of Albany increasing in population, development and industry getting bigger, environmental issues more serious, surely if councillors are diligent in their work, then numbers should be increased not decreased.
11. As a rate-payer the cost is always a concern. But a reduction of 2 more councillors [aprox \$30k] is not a saving if our representation is reduced.

Finally having been to most council meetings in the past 2 years or more, I feel that council has forgotten that they represent the rate-payers of this city and I feel strongly that the other options put forward will not give adequate representation and not give a broad perspective in the decision making process.

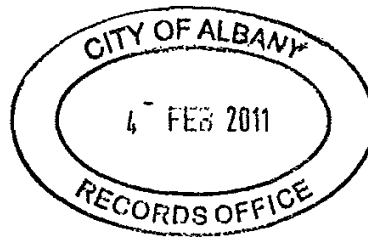
*Anthony Wood*  
5/2/11



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City of Albany Records  
ICR1129838  
GO.BOU.2  
04 FEB 2011  
EMBG



166 Bay View Drive  
LITTLE GROVE WA 6330

The CEO  
City of Albany  
North Road  
YAKAMIA WA 6330

**RE: WARDS & MAYORAL ELECTIONS, CITY OF ALBANY**

Dear Sir/ Madam

Thank you for an opportunity to comment on proposed changes in electoral matters for the City of Albany.

I would like to submit in support of continuing the six ward system for the election of Councillors, two per ward, in its present form. For a start these boundaries were altered only recently to potentially ensure a fairer distribution of the franchise.

Albany is a rural city with significant numbers of its population residing in rural or semi-rural areas. The interests of these residents often differ from those of residents in the inner city and close suburban areas. It is vital that the rights of all be truly appreciated and carry fair weight in the deliberations of Council.

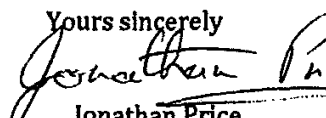
In essence then, I do strongly support the maintenance of a Ward system for the election of Councillors in order to encourage representative Local Government in the City of Albany. The system also essentially mirrors the franchises of our State and Federal Governments, and was designed to ensure that electors in rural areas have a voice in their governing bodies. We need the same assurance of representation in the City of Albany.

A change to a smaller Council, and ignoring district representation, would certainly encourage and open the way for people with hopes of commercial advantage to achieve power in the Council and gain such commercial advantage. This would, almost inevitably, be at the expense of environmental, heritage and lifestyle considerations, as history has powerfully demonstrated over the years; especially, in many peoples' opinion, at local government level.

I also, further, believe in the election of our Mayor by popular vote. To leave the election of the Mayor to a group of Councillors not only weakens the voice of the people but, should those Councillors now be few and favouring outcomes contrary to the wider ambitions of the City's residents, democracy would seem to be under serious threat.

I ask Councillors and the Minister to consider these points when voting on this issue.  
Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

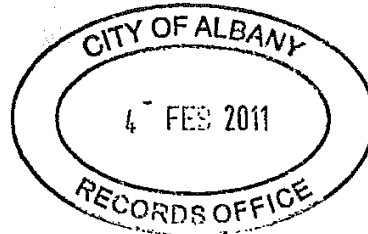
Yours sincerely

  
Jonathan Price.  
Resident and Ratepayer



City of Albany Records  
Doc No: ICR1129834  
File: GO.BOU.2  
Date: 04 FEB 2011  
Officer: EMBG

Attach:  
Box:  
Vol:  
Box+Vol:



## WARD AND BOUNDARY REVIEW

**SUBMISSION FROM R&J NESBITT  
144 GROVE STREET WEST  
ALBANY WA 6330**

**3 February 2011**



City of Albany Records  
Doc No: ICR1129833  
File: GO.BOU.2  
Date: 04 FEB 2011  
Officer: EMBG

**To: The Chief Executive Officer  
City of Albany**

Attach:  
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Box+Vol:

As ratepayers we believe in retaining Option 4, that is a proven system.

### REASONS:

As Albany's population increases so will the workload and demands on Councillors. Councillors, as stated at a recent Ward & Boundary Review meeting, currently attend various functional meetings beside their normal duties. The proposal to reduce the number of Councillors and Wards is not taking into consideration the increase workload as the population expands.

The current ward system appears to be working well as each ward is represented by two Councillors who are, or should be, conversant with local issues and the needs of their respective constituents.

Councillors are volunteers and as stated at a recent meeting only receive a total sum of \$9,000 per annum. However, as their workload increases travel and telephone expenses and other costs will increase. The current sum in my opinion would have to be increased to be inline with current market conditions so they do not incur any out of pocket expenses.

Having the current ward system whereby two local Councillors are appointed gives the ratepayers within that ward a sense of trust and wellbeing that their issues are understood and addressed.

It was stated at a recent Ward & Boundary meeting by several current Councillors that they represent all ratepayers within the City of Albany. However, I can assure you that when I spoke to a Councillor regarding a local government issue involving our property this particular Councillor had no interest in the issue at hand.

By reducing the Ward and Councillors one hopes that a negative outlook would not be result due to an increase in workload.

By retaining the current ward system, by-elections would be smaller resulting in less cost to the nominees. Larger or one ward areas would entail greater cost to the potential nominees to Council which would deter possible excellent Councillors from nominating. We believe everyone should have the opportunity to nominate and not be restricted by costs.

Ward reductions would require all eligible persons to vote in by-elections thus imposing extra costs and continued inconvenience to rate payers should several by-elections occur in a short time period.

By reducing the number of Councillors does not necessarily give a better view on an issue that needs to be addressed. The current number of councillors provides a more diverse view on issues.

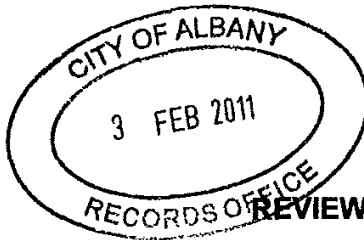
As with any business, in the event of one person being sick, on leave or absent for any reason increases the workload on others. If Councillors are not available to work for any reason, decision making would be limited to the remaining few who may not bring the diversity of view points necessary to the table.

Local Ward Councillors have provide excellent service to date and any move from the current system, in my opinion, would not serve the needs of the local areas.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R Nesbitt', with a stylized, cursive script.

**R Nesbitt**



City of Albany Records  
 Doc No: ICR1129832  
 File: GO.BOU.2  
 Date: 03 FEB 2011  
 Officer: EMBG

## REVIEW OF WARD BOUNDARIES AND RI PUBLIC SUBMISSION FOR

This form has been provided for your convenience.  
 Written public submissions do not have to be on this form.  
 Closing date for submission Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011

City of Albany  
 PO Box 484  
 ALBANY WA 6926

Fax: (08) 9841 4099  
 Email: [council@albany.wa.gov.au](mailto:council@albany.wa.gov.au)

I support the following option, as described in the discussion paper:

- ☐ Option 1A  
☐ Option 1B  
☐ Or Other – as described on the following page
- ☐ Option 2  
☐ Option 3  
☒ Option 4 (retain current ward structure)

Comments (for example, reason for support, suggested ward names) – please attached additional pages if required.

Retaining the existing 6 wards + 12 councillors will help to ensure that the diversity of interests is adequately represented. The cost savings in having fewer councillors is outweighed by the range of opinions, interests + experience that 12 councillors bring to the democratic decision-making process. The current size of the Council is more likely to encourage participation by women, Indigenous people + those with a migrant background than a smaller council, which is likely to be comprised of business people + males for the most part.

Black A Cock

Names and address (optional)

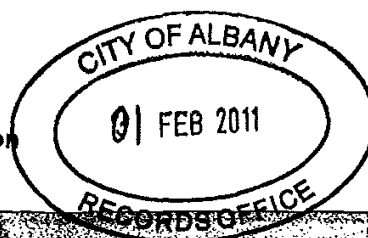
Barbara Black PO Box 5167, Albany, WA 6332 (41 Henebrius Rd)  
 Neil Cock " " " "

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

Number of wards: 6  
 Number of councillors (by law must between 6 & 15) 12



**Review of Ward Boundaries and Representation  
Public Submission Form**



Annexure E

This form has been provided for your convenience.  
Written public submissions do not have to be on this form.  
Closing date for submission Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011

City of Albany  
PO Box 484  
ALBANY WA 6926

Fax: (08) 9841 4000  
Email: [council@cityofalbury.wa.gov.au](mailto:council@cityofalbury.wa.gov.au)



I support the following option, as described in the discussion |

- ☐ Option 1A  
☐ Option 1B  
☐ Or Other – as described on the following page
- ☒ Option 2  
☐ Option 3  
☐ Option 4

Doc No: City of Albany Records  
 File: ICR1129545  
 Date: GO.BOU.2  
 Officer: 01 FEB 2011  
 Attach: EMBG  
 Box:  
 Vol:  
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Comments (for example, reason for support, suggested ward names, additional pages if required).

Option two gives a fair representation of  
councillors in each ward.  
Eight is a good number

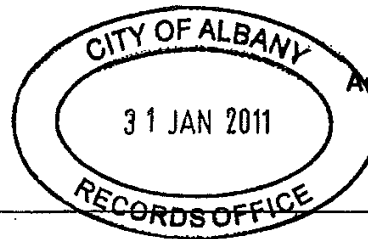
Names and address (optional)

116 ECWIPSE DR.

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

Number of wards: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of councillors (by law must be between 6 & 15) \_\_\_\_\_

**Review of Ward Boundaries and Representation  
Public Submission Form**



Annexure E

This form has been provided for your convenience.  
Written public submissions do not have to be on this form.  
Closing date for submission Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011

City of Albany  
PO Box 484  
ALBANY WA 6926

Fax: (08) 9841 4000  
Email: [council@a](mailto:council@albanycity.wa.gov.au)



City of Albany Records  
Doc No: ICR1129558  
File: GO.BOU.2  
Date: 31 JAN 2011  
Officer: EMBG

I support the following option, as described in the discussion paper:

- ☐ Option 1A  
☐ Option 1B  
☐ Or Other -- as described on the following page
- ☐ Option 2  
☐ Option 3  
☒ Option 4

Attach:  
Box:  
Vol:  
Box+Vol:

Comments (for example, reason for support, suggested ward names) – please attached additional pages if required.

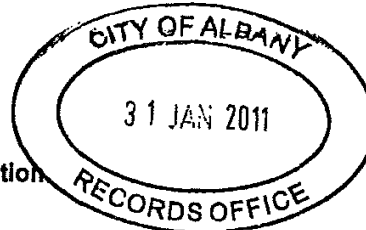
I like the ward system going on, as it has been over the life of the City as it is not to change is my preference. The reasons the less councillors have been a problem at times in the past because at least a third have been away – not attending committees and monthly meetings. People away from the city and suburbs do not get the services that we expect from the city. If the wards and councillors are brought back to 8 Plus Mayor it can and will come back as a fair councillors with a bigger work load. I still like the status quo.

Names and address (optional)

K. Gordon  
82 Bushby Rd Lower King 6330

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

Number of wards: 6  
Number of councillors (by law must between 6 & 15) 12 Plus Mayor



Annexure E

**Review of Ward Boundaries and Representation  
Public Submission Form**

This form has been provided for your convenience.  
Written public submissions do not have to be on this form.  
Closing date for submission Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011



City of Albany  
PO Box 484  
ALBANY WA 6926

Fax: (08) 9841  
Email: [council@](mailto:council@cityofalbury.wa.gov.au)

City of Albany Records  
Doc No: ICR1129547  
File: GO.BOU.2  
Date: 31 JAN 2011  
Officer: EMBG  
Attach:  
Box:  
Vol:  
Box+Vol:

I support the following option, as described in the discussion pa

- ☐ Option 1A  
☐ Option 1B  
☐ Or Other - as described on the following page
- ☐ Option 2  
☐ Option 3  
☒ Option 4

Comments (for example, reason for support, suggested ward names) – please attached additional pages if required.

I have always preferred ward system eg. Conditions of Roads being so basic responsibility of Council. There is a greater chance that most Roads will be road every day by some Councillors.

I prefer OPTION 4 with 12 people. Should 2 or 3 happen to be absent then we still a reasonable number to discuss & vote on issues. Quite likely in the case of husband & wife, both could be absent at the same time.

I can't support the notion that fewer Councillors means a financial saving. It no doubt means more time & work for fewer people AND at least one Councillor already believes & has stated publicly that Councillors should be paid more.

I can't believe either that fewer Councillors would result in more effective & efficient decision making.

Names and address (optional)

Pat McNeil 31.1.11  
42 East Bambi Rd.

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

Number of wards: 6  
Number of councillors (by law must between 6 & 15) \_\_\_\_\_



Doc No: City of Albany Records  
 File: ICR1129560  
 Date: GO.BOU.2  
 Officer: 28 JAN 2011  
 EMBG

**Review of Ward Boundaries and Representation  
 Public Submission Form**

Attach:  
 Box:  
 Vol:  
 Box+Vol:

This form has been provided for your convenience.  
 Written public submissions do not have to be on this form.  
 Closing date for submission Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011

City of Albany  
 PO Box 484  
 ALBANY WA 6926

Fax: (08) 9841 4099  
 Email: [council@albany.wa.gov.au](mailto:council@albany.wa.gov.au)

I support the following option, as described in the discussion paper:

- ☐ Option 1A                      ☐ Option 2  
☐ Option 1B                    ☐ Option 3  
☐ Or Other – as described on the ☒ Option 4  
    following page

Comments (for example, reason for support, suggested ward names) – please attached additional pages if required.

STATUS DUE TO BE  
 MAINTAINED

CITY OF ALBANY  
 28 JAN 2011  
 RECORDS OFFICE

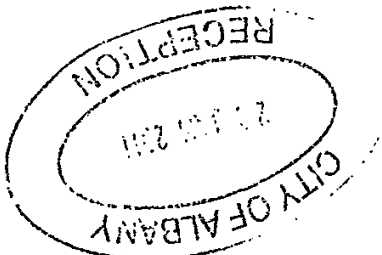
Names and address (optional)

Don Phillips  
 314 Frenchman Bay Rd.

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

Number of wards: AAA  
 Number of councillors (by law must between 6 & 15) \_\_\_\_\_

*[Signature]*  
 27/1/2011



From: 0897651049 Page: 1/1 Date: 1/02/2011 3:23:42 PM

## Annexure E

# REVIEW OF WARD BOUNDARIES AND REPRESENTATION PUBLIC SUBMISSION FORM

This form has been provided for your convenience.  
Written public submissions do not have to be on this form.  
Closing date for submission: Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011

City of Albany  
PO Box 484  
ALBANY WA 6926

Fax: (08) 9841 4099  
Email: [council@albany.wa.gov.au](mailto:council@albany.wa.gov.au)

I support the following option, as described in the discussion paper:

- ☐ Option 1A                      ☐ Option 2  
☐ Option 1B                    ☐ Option 3  
☐ Or Other - as described on the ☒ Option 4  
    following page

Comments (for example, reason for support, suggested ward names) – please attached additional pages if required.

Option 4 is our preferred option.
Reduced Wards & Councillors will create
Larger workloads & larger areas for Councillors to
Cover. This can in turn mean less understanding
of what areas require in services planning etc.
and creates problems at Council meetings in
the event of absences.

Names and address (optional)

R. ARMSTRONG (ERWIN P/L.)
PO Box 210 BOYUP BROOK

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

Number of wards: 6  
 Number of councillors (by law must be between 6 & 15) 12 + mayor

*Ward changes submission*

Dear Albany City Council,

**Re: Currant discussions about ward changes, I am strongly in favour of the following;**

Retain the currant ward system with 6 wards and 2 councillors per ward. So there will be 12 councillors, plus a popular elected Mayor.

My reasons for this are as follows;

1. The work load is already excessive. So less councillors must make it worse.
2. I cannot see any value in 8 councillors; it could lead to special interest groups with money to spend, gaining control or political parties.
3. Is this been proposed just to show that bureaucracy and the minister are doing something to justify themselves and their jobs?
4. I do not think the best interest of rural ratepayers in the City of Albany will be looked after by a reduction in the number of councillors or wards. The ward system enables community minded locals to represent their district and keeps the cost of running the council down.
5. By having 12 councillors you have 'safety in numbers' you do not have a small group able to dominate the council.

I am firmly in favour of retaining the status quo.

Yours sincerely,

Ashley John Powis  
Dempster Road  
Ph 98461217

**Stuart Jamieson**

---

**From:** patsvanberg@westnet.com.au  
**Sent:** Sunday, 6 February 2011 9:54 PM  
**To:** Stuart Jamieson  
**Subject:** Ward Changes

Hi Stuart,

I would like to voice my concern that the number of councillors and /or wards may be reduced.

As a rural ratepayer, I do not think my best interests will be well looked after by any such reductions. It's already bad enough that my choices of garbage disposal have been reduced by the reduction of hours that the Bakers Junction Tip operates, without the threat of loss of representation on the Council.

When the shire and town councils amalgamated, the shire brought a lot to the resulting city. The reduction of representation now would be a slap in the face for the former shire ratepayers.

The ward system enables community minded locals to represent their district.

Having 12 councillors also means that should one of these hardworking volunteers not be able to make a meeting, the impact on a quorum will not be as great.

Having 12 councillors should reduce the possibility of small groups of vested interests being able to dominate council.

I am firmly in favour of retaining the status quo.

Sincerely,

Pat Svanberg,

Nanarup

### Review of Ward Boundaries and Representation

This is a submission following the Discussion Paper entitled 'Review of Wards & Representation 2011' (the "Paper").

We support the principles of 'Option 3' of the Paper, being fewer councillors and abolition of the Ward System.

#### Fewer councillors

- Reduce number of councillors to 12 to 8 (plus Mayor).
- Abolish the current preferential system and introduce a 'first past the post' voting system for councillors and the Mayor.
- Less councillors minimises expense to City of Albany.
- Smaller team works more efficiently and minimises ineffective decision making.
- Ensures that only the best councillors are elected and subsequent elections are more likely to be performance based.

#### Abolish ward system

- Eliminates problems with ward ratios, thus eliminating reviews (and accompanying costs involved).
- Easier administration by council.
- All rate payers voted for all councillors.
- councillors required to adopt a more holistic view of needs of the City of Albany, discouraging single interest groups.

We note that over 60% of West Australian country councils have already taken this step.

Alastair & Carolyn Dowling  
19 Flynn Way  
Bayonet Head  
ALBANY WA 6330  
Email: [dowlingac@bigpond.com](mailto:dowlingac@bigpond.com)



**Stuart Jamieson**

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**From:** John A Jamieson [jaj@omninet.net.au]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 6 February 2011 5:24 PM  
**To:** Council  
**Subject:** Review of Councillor Numbers & Wards

Attention: Chief Executive Officer  
 City of Albany

**SUBMISSION**

In offering this submission, my points and comments are offered from the stand-point of having served as a WEST WARD City of Albany councillor for the period from 2003 to 2007 and having served on numerous committees during that period.

I also offer these comments from my current position as the principal of Albany Mapping & Surveying Services, carrying out Surveying, Mapping and Town Planning commissions throughout the City of Albany municipality and all the surrounding local authority areas in the Great Southern that abut the City of Albany boundaries, as well as inland to other areas throughout the south west region.

In my discussions with owners, occupiers, ratepayers and residents there is a desire to retain a WARD structure, particularly throughout the City of Albany. Whilst many people would like to see the existing Ward Areas retained in the current format, with the same level of representation, they would be prepared to see the total number of councillors reduced to not less than eight (8) in not less than four (4) wards. There appears to be a desire that the Mayor continue to be elected by a popular vote, as is the case currently. Another point that a great majority of the electors made was that they definitely want FIRST PAST THE POST method of having their votes cast and counted. Many people believe that abandoning this well proven method of voting resulted in the City of Albany ending up electing some very poor quality councillors during the October 2007 elections. It's a bit hard to argue with this, when you see how the Council ended up in a chaotic state since October 2007.

I also believe that if the electoral commission is to continue running the local government elections, in particular by Postal Ballot, then there should be a larger area provided for candidates to put forward their individual CV's so that the electors, who may never actually get to meet the candidates face to face, get an opportunity to evaluate each of the candidates and the ability of each to properly represent their community.

From some research I've done, by retaining a WARD structure into the future, rather than dispensing with wards and having one big "ward" that covers the whole of the Albany municipality, there are considerable savings to be had in holding any bye-elections. It would seem that a WARD bye-election for a candidate would cost the City about \$14,000 - \$15,000 to conduct, where-as if there is only one "ward" of councillors, this cost would likely cost anything from \$45,000 - \$65,000 to conduct. With the number of bye-elections I've seen since October 2007, projected forward beyond October 2011 in the case of a "no ward" Council, the ratepayers could end up out of pocket from anything between \$100,000 and \$180,000 in paying for bye-elections.

I would also like to see a situation whereby any councillor who fails to complete his appointed term pays for the full cost of a bye-election. In the case where the councillor passes away during his or her term, no charge would apply. Similarly, if the reason he or she resigns from Council is 100% due to a health condition, then no charge would apply in the event of a bye-election. In all other cases, the City should be compensated, as I would see any other reason of resigning to be a dereliction of duty to the community.

It should be noted that the City of Albany is the biggest employer in the region, so any prospective councillors should have a good grasp of financial management and how to run a business as part of their skill base. When one looks closely at the problems that the City has experienced during the last three years, very large sums of money have been wasted by the administration. Local government is the closest level of government to the people, so it will always receive much closer scrutiny by the ratepayers, residents and electors. Unless these people think that the Council has the capacity to operate an efficient and cost effective administration, then there will be a deterioration of confidence and business people will quickly decide that their efforts are better deployed in some other locality.

**WARD FORMATION**

I think that if four (4) wards are to be put in place, they should radiate from the centre of Albany out to the limits of the municipality, so that the elected Council can be composed of members who must accommodate a wide cross-section of electors from the rural, semi-rural and urban areas of each ward. This option is offered and I support this.

## MAYOR ELECTION

I would continue to support a popularly elected mayor on a "first past the post" basis.

## PAYMENT FOR COUNCILLOR DUTIES

If the number of councillors is reduced to eight (8) then there will be an increasing work load as the City of Albany grows and develops. In business, there is an old adage: "If you pay peanuts, then you will attract monkeys". In order to try and attract the highest calibre candidates for the position of Mayor and Councillor, then there should be some fair reward for their service.

To do the work of a Councillor effectively, from my experience, one needs to set aside 2 or 3 days each week, every week of the year, in order to do justice to the appointment. This estimate was based on the fact that there were 12 elected councillors in place at the City of Albany during my term on Council. If there is a reduction of one-third, from 12 to 8, then I suspect the work load will increase accordingly. If it becomes a 4-Ward council of 8, then I can visualise the time one would need to do the job diligently and effectively would probably increase from 2-3 days a week to 3-4 days a week, depending on the number of committees one is appointed to serve on.

With respect to the various committees in council, I'd prefer to see a WHOLE OF COUNCIL COMMITTEE, as ultimately the Council must make its decisions FOR THE WHOLE OF THE CITY OF ALBANY. This of course requires the capacity of the elected members to make themselves available to a greater extent. I've noticed that in the term of the existing Council, a number of elected representatives have avoided taking part in sharing the work-load of the committees, which in turn puts more stress on the rest of the elected members on Council.

There is the opportunity for the City of Albany to try and re-vamp its operations, review the exiting 6 wards back to 4 and the number of councillors back from 12 to 8. Ultimately it will depend on how the community views a new re-structured Council, but in October 2011 there is the opportunity for the whole of Council to be elected and start afresh, putting aside the last couple of years of poor performance. Any elected new Council will only be as good as those who nominate and get elected to serve. If 2 elected members are chosen in each of the wards, then I think that the person gaining the highest number of votes should get a four (4) year term and the one with the second highest number of votes a two (2) year term based on a FIRST PAST THE POST count.

Yours sincerely  
John A Jamieson  
40 Mountain Road East BORNHOLM via Albany WA 6330  
PO Box 2036 ALBANY DC 6331 WA  
Tel: (08) 9845 1239 Fax: (08) 9845 1242 Mob: 0418 115 347  
Email: [jaj@omninet.net.au](mailto:jaj@omninet.net.au)

**Y (Yvonne) W Attwell**  
ABN 72 499 874 293  
**PO Box 354**  
**ALBANY WA 6331**

Home: 98421 899  
Mobile: 0419 851 343  
Office: 61 8 9842 2464  
Fax: 61 8 9842 2515  
email: [ywa@westnet.com.au](mailto:ywa@westnet.com.au)

City of Albany.

Email: [council@albany.wa.gov.au](mailto:council@albany.wa.gov.au)

### Comments on Ward Review- City of Albany.

Times have changed. Regulations and compliance have increased. Financial matters are more complex. There are a multitude of government departments to deal with. Time is costly.

We can no longer afford to think that the man or woman off the street is the best person to be in a position of authority, making decisions on a multitude of complex matters and all voluntarily.

We cannot believe that more is better or that having a number of representatives for a particular area will make better governance.

We must have the best people, both officers and councillors to lead our community into the future.

We must pay both officers and councillors commensurate to their level, an adequate salary with the expectation that they are responsible for their decisions. After all, they are running a multimillion dollar business on our behalf making decisions that will affect Albany well into the future.

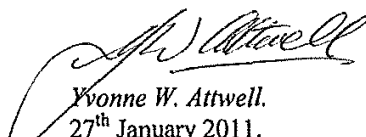
The time has come that we need to consider the elimination of wards, and a reduction of elected councillors to 5 or 6 persons, with an elected head of council ie Mayor. We must strive to attract the best possible candidates for the positions on Council from the whole community, not just from one area. We often see 3 very good candidates stand in one ward but with only one vacancy available while in another ward, there are no candidates.

Each elected member should be paid a salary and be expected to attend to the duties of Council with a minimum of 25 hours per week. They should take it in turns to be rostered to be in attendance at council every day during office hours to be available should a citizen of Albany require attention. This time can also be put understanding the system and evaluating policy and decisions.

The office of Mayor should be a full time job and should be paid accordingly. The leadership that comes from our Mayor is a major source of how we are perceived within and from outside of our community. We must have in place the incentives to attract the right persons to the job.

The role between officers and elected members is clearly defined and there must be respect and recognition of each other's abilities. This is paramount to the successful future of our City.

Only by doing this can we hope to move forward and make the correct and best decisions for our region and City. Thank you for the opportunity to put forward my views.



Yvonne W. Attwell.  
27<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

**Stuart Jamieson**

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**From:** Lynne Danks [kwi61648@bigpond.net.au]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 25 January 2011 8:12 PM  
**To:** Council  
**Subject:** Wards

**To Whom It May Concern**

I am an elector in West Ward living in the suburb of McKail.

It appears to me that McKail is somewhat isolated in this Ward because the majority of electors are in places such as Cuthbert, Elleker, Redmond etc.

McKail is a lot closer to the City of Albany than any of the aforementioned and therefore is worthy of inclusion in a Ward closer to the CBD. However, my true preference is that there be no Wards and no Councillors.

Do away with elections. Most people who set themselves up as candidates have a vested interest and are only "pushing their own barrow".

Yours sincerely

(Mrs) L.F. Danks  
18 Lancaster Road  
McKAIL WA 6330

**Stuart Jamieson**

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**From:** Records  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 8 February 2011 12:01 PM  
**To:** Stuart Jamieson  
**Subject:** FW: Submission

Margaret McRae  
 Records Officer  
 Corporate & Community Services  
 Phone 98 419 275 Fax 98 414 099  
 PO Box 484 Albany WA 6330




---

**From:** Colin &Dianne Pyle [<mailto:pyley@bigpond.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 8 February 2011 11:55 AM  
**To:** Records  
**Subject:** Submission

SUBMISSION RE. REVIEW OF WARDS AND REPRESENTATION 2011. CITY OF ALBANY.

Thankyou for the opportunity to contribute,

I would like to oppose the practice of a popularly elected Mayor. I believe the Mayor should be elected as a ward councillor and at the new council's inaugural meeting the mayor and deputy mayor should be nominated and elected by their fellow councillors. I cannot overstate the importance of this system of choosing our Mayor.

As a much younger man I served as a councillor with the Shire of Albany during the 1980's. I had sat through only a couple of monthly meetings and it was very clear that we had chosen the best person for the role of Shire President.

The fact that we put him in that position meant that most of the time he enjoyed our support and respect and that was generally reciprocated. It made for a unified, constructive and generally pleasant, functioning council. During my six years there was never any "block voting".

A popularly elected Mayor may well mean the candidate presents well, may be media savvy, may well be a popular person in a discipline other than local government, may be a respected local business person in the community or may be a highly regarded volunteer worker in the town. It doesn't automatically follow that they understand and/or respect the institution and function of local government. Nor do they require the respect and support of their peers in the chamber. Under this system the Mayor is potentially much less able to command unity within council.

Councillors are popularly elected representatives of their people via the ward system. (Which incidentally secures community of interest)  
 They are trusted to jointly make the big decisions on behalf of residents and ratepayers but not to choose from amongst their number who is best suited to represent them as the Mayor.

I would also like to state my support for retaining twelve councillors on City of Albany council. It was only a dozen years ago that what is now the City area was represented and served by over twenty committed, available, community minded citizens.

The City today is larger and more complex than ever before and any reduction in councillor numbers significantly reduces opportunity for ratepayers and residents to access and interact with their representatives.

Albany's residents would increasingly be pleading their case with a bureaucracy which simply doesn't function with the prospect of direct accountability that elected representatives do. The prospect of six or eight elected members is democratically regressive.

A reduction in council members would constitute a betrayal of voters by the present council.

Kind Regards Colin Pyle  
386 Mawson Rd.  
Napier, 6330  
98 443065

**Stuart Jamieson**

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**From:** Records  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 9 February 2011 8:39 AM  
**To:** Stuart Jamieson  
**Subject:** FW: Supplementary to submission

Margaret McRae  
**Records Officer**  
Corporate & Community Services  
Phone 98 419 275 Fax 98 414 099  
PO Box 484 Albany WA 6330



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**From:** Colin &Dianne Pyle [<mailto:pyley@bigpond.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 8 February 2011 4:27 PM  
**To:** Records  
**Subject:** Supplementary to submission

REVIEW OF WARDS AND REPRESENTATION. CITY of ALBANY. 2011

Supplementary to submission of am this day.

An obvious point that I omitted from my earlier text is that a councillor who aspires to Mayoral duties and fails to secure the support of the popular vote is subsequently penalised by not being on council at all. A very strange way to treat aspiring community leaders.

In conclusion I would note that our State Premier and Prime Minister do not hold the leadership positions and preside in cabinet as a result of a direct popular vote. They are elected by their peers.

Kind Regards,

Colin Pyle.  
386 Mawson Rd.  
Napier, 6330.  
98 443065

**Stuart Jamieson**

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**From:** Records  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 8 February 2011 11:18 AM  
**To:** Stuart Jamieson  
**Subject:** FW: WARD SUBMISSION Attn CEO

Margaret McRae  
Records Officer  
Corporate & Community Services  
Phone 98 419 275 Fax 98 414 099  
PO Box 484 Albany WA 6330



---

**From:** vera torr [<mailto:mussop@westnet.com.au>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 8 February 2011 10:03 AM  
**To:** Records  
**Subject:** WARD SUBMISSION Attn CEO

I submit the attached:

---

The CEO  
CITY OF ALBANY  
102 NORTH RD  
ALBANY WA 6330

February 8, 2011

SUBMISSION FROM V A TORR

**REVIEW OF WARDS AND REPRESENTATION 2011.**

I support the current position held.

SIX WARDS

TWO COUNCILLORS ELECTED BY EACH WARD

A POPULARLY ELECTED MAYOR.

The critical factor missing is Councillor training. This "need" could be facilitated by calling the elections earlier and allowing a two week mandatory training and briefing period. No Councillor should sit in Chambers and make serious decisions as a raw rookie.

- Albany is in desperate need of stability. Changing the ward system and numbers at this time will create a full spill of Council and again expertise and continuity may be lost.



- We are only reducing the ward numbers to facilitate a reduction of Councillors. Not for better representation of the electorate and the diverse structure of the Albany district. This is not reason enough to change the system when there is no rationale given as to why we are reducing Councillor numbers, apart from Minister Castrilli quoting a figure.
- The required ratio of being within 10 percent of the number of electors per ward is achieved under the current six ward system.
- Reducing Councillor numbers has the potential to “centralise” the representation given to electors.
- The ward system provides a social sense of belonging and a sense of localised representation to those in the individual ward.
- A ward system brings accountability to the Councillor representing that ward.

After attending the Public Meeting on this issue comments were offered:

- **A Councillor was handling a matter from outside his ward.** With a no wards system he would still be handling the matter so there is no gain to the Councillor.
- **It would prevent candidates waiting till the last minute to nominate for the ward where they feel they have the best chance of being elected.** This is not illegal and you will still get last minute candidates who have a rush of adrenalin and jump in the ballot.
- **That some people might have six votes. Actually that is only an extra five votes that he may have** and each one is only a single vote per each ward. I hardly think that anybody is going to buy property in every ward to get an extra single vote for each ward. He still only has one mayoral vote. In fact the difference between the mayoral count and the councillor count in 2007 was less than 137 votes spread across six wards. Hardly relevant.

WHY WE ARE IN FRONT.

We amalgamated our Town and Shire in 1998/9. We reduced our Councillors from 24 to 14.

Our system was reviewed in 2007. We further reduced our wards and councilors to 6 wards and 12 councillors.

WALGA is calling on Minister Castrilli to justify his call for less Councillors. Minister Castrilli called for amalgamations and cited Councillor reductions would occur with the amalgamations. There has been no amalgamations with Albany (nor Bunbury for that matter – **Bunbury is retaining 12 Councillors**)) and until Minister Castrilli forces amalgamations Albany **must maintain its current representation of the electorate**. To do otherwise may be an expensive and futile exercise as there is a strong possibility the scene may change again.

Minister Castrilli mentioned that with reduced Councillor numbers a higher remuneration could be offered to attract better qualified candidates. I have not seen a package offered to date. The money would be better spent ensuring new Councillors are trained.

It is thought that perhaps a referendum conducted at the October elections would allow the entire electorate to determine how they are represented at the Local Government Level. A democratic process.

I totally support the status quo

Vera Anne Torr  
18 Sussex St  
Albany WA 6330

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**Stuart Jamieson**

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**From:** Records  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 9 February 2011 8:40 AM  
**To:** Stuart Jamieson  
**Subject:** FW: Ward Submission attention CEO

**Importance:** High

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Margaret McRae  
Records Officer  
Corporate & Community Services  
Phone 98 419 275 Fax 98 414 099  
PO Box 484 Albany WA 6330

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Juliet [<mailto:albanyj@inet.net.au>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 8 February 2011 9:34 PM  
**To:** Records  
**Subject:** Ward Submission attention CEO  
**Importance:** High

The CEO  
City of Albany

February 8  
Submission on Wards and Representation from Juliet Albany.  
Please note that I wholeheartedly support Vera Torr's emailed submission  
- as I have not had the time to do one like hers. I would also like to add that to reduce  
councillors would in my mind make the existing undemocratic planning system even worse -  
we need all the representation we can get. But Councillors have to be educated - I know  
that WAMA or whatever they call themselves today do courses for councillors these should  
be mandatory for Albany Councillors.  
Ward representation is good in that it allows more specific representation of different  
interests.  
thank you for the opportunity to submit this.  
Juliet

**Stuart Jamieson**

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**From:** Ross Fenwick [ross.fenwick@bigpond.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, 31 January 2011 12:11 PM  
**To:** Stuart Jamieson  
**Subject:** ward changes

I am not in favour of reducing or eliminating wards in the City of Albany, nor am I in favour of reducing the numbers of councillors. There is already too few councillors. I believe the number of councillors should be increased.

Ross Fenwick  
Southern Rural Consulting  
45894 South Coast Hwy  
Kalgan WA 6330  
Ph/Fax: (08) 9844 3724  
Mob: 0408 464 123

From: 08 9842 2643

Page: 1/1

Date: 29/01/2011 10:55:01 AM

## Annexure E

# Review of Ward Boundaries and Representation Public Submission Form

This form has been provided for your convenience.  
Written public submissions do not have to be on this form.  
Closing date for submission: Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011

City of Albany  
PO Box 484  
ALBANY WA 6926

Fax: (08) 9841 4099  
Email: [council@albany.wa.gov.au](mailto:council@albany.wa.gov.au)

I support the following option, as described in the discussion paper:

- ☐ Option 1A  
☐ Option 1B  
☐ Or Other – as described on the following page
- ☐ Option 2  
☒ Option 3 *NO WARDS*  
☐ Option 4

Comments (for example, reason for support, suggested ward names) – please attached additional pages if required.

*No wards system.*  
*elected members represent the whole community so the whole community should be able to vote for all elected members (not just their ward).*

*I believe voting should be compulsory.*  
*I believe there should be a ban on all forms of advertising radio/print/TV for elections and only door knocking & one equal form of information be "used + community meet the candidates forum" be held.*  
*I believe we should move to an online voting system with free access to vote online at the council office & library if some people do not have computer/internet access.*

*Please note my limitation of the submission form in that the 2 preferred council options 1A & 1B are noted on the first 2 options this could bias results of submissions on the options where not "randomly selected" and put in order.*

*Trish Travers 38 Festing Street Albany.*

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

Number of wards: 0  
 Number of councillors (by law must be between 6 & 15) 8-10

*I also note that the Public forum was held on 27/1/2011 (I attended) which was only 5 days before public submissions closed. This forum was also held just after a public holiday. I believe this forum should have been held at least 2 weeks prior to submissions closing.*

## Annexure E

# REVIEW OF WARD BOUNDARIES AND REPRESENTATION PUBLIC SUBMISSION FORM

This form has been provided for your convenience.  
Written public submissions do not have to be on this form.  
Closing date for submission: Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011

City of Albany  
PO Box 484  
ALBANY WA 6926

Fax: (08) 9841 4099  
Email: [council@albany.wa.gov.au](mailto:council@albany.wa.gov.au)

I support the following option, as described in the discussion paper:

- ☐ Option 1A  
☐ Option 1B  
☐ Or Other - as described on the following page
- ☐ Option 2  
☐ Option 3  
☒ Option 4

Comments (for example, reason for support, suggested ward names) – please attached additional pages if required.

The present Ward System is our preferred option. With less Councillors it makes it hard for people to see Councillor & vice versa. With less Wards Councillors will have larger areas to cover making it difficult to understand the problems areas may be having.

Also with 12 Councillors there is more of a chance of having a quorum for meetings in the event of ~~absentees~~ absentees

Names and address (optional)

Malcolm Atty Ltd  
PO Box 215 Boyup Brook

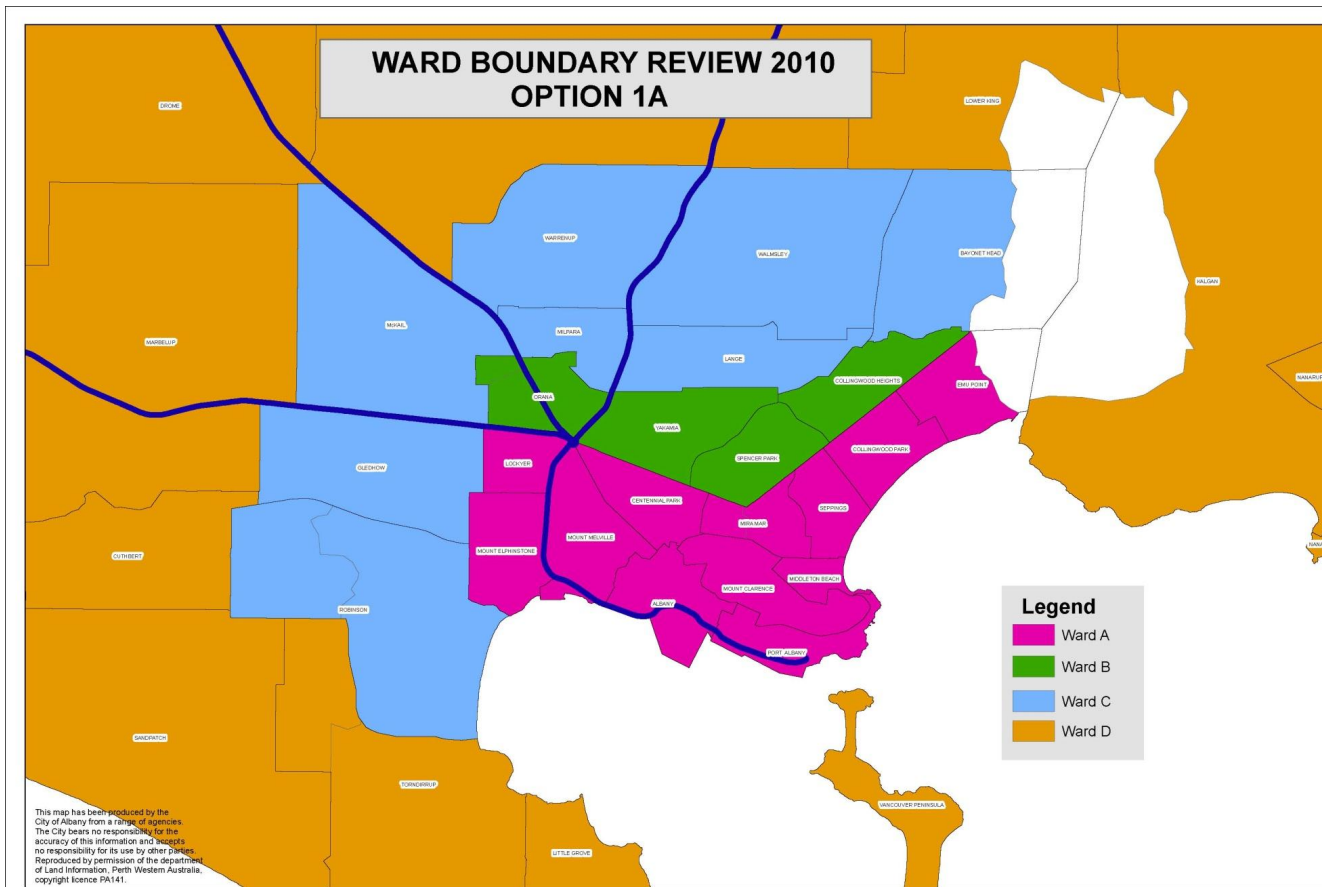
I believe the City of Albany should have a ward system as follows:

Number of wards: 6  
Number of councillors (by law must between 6 & 15) 12 + mayor

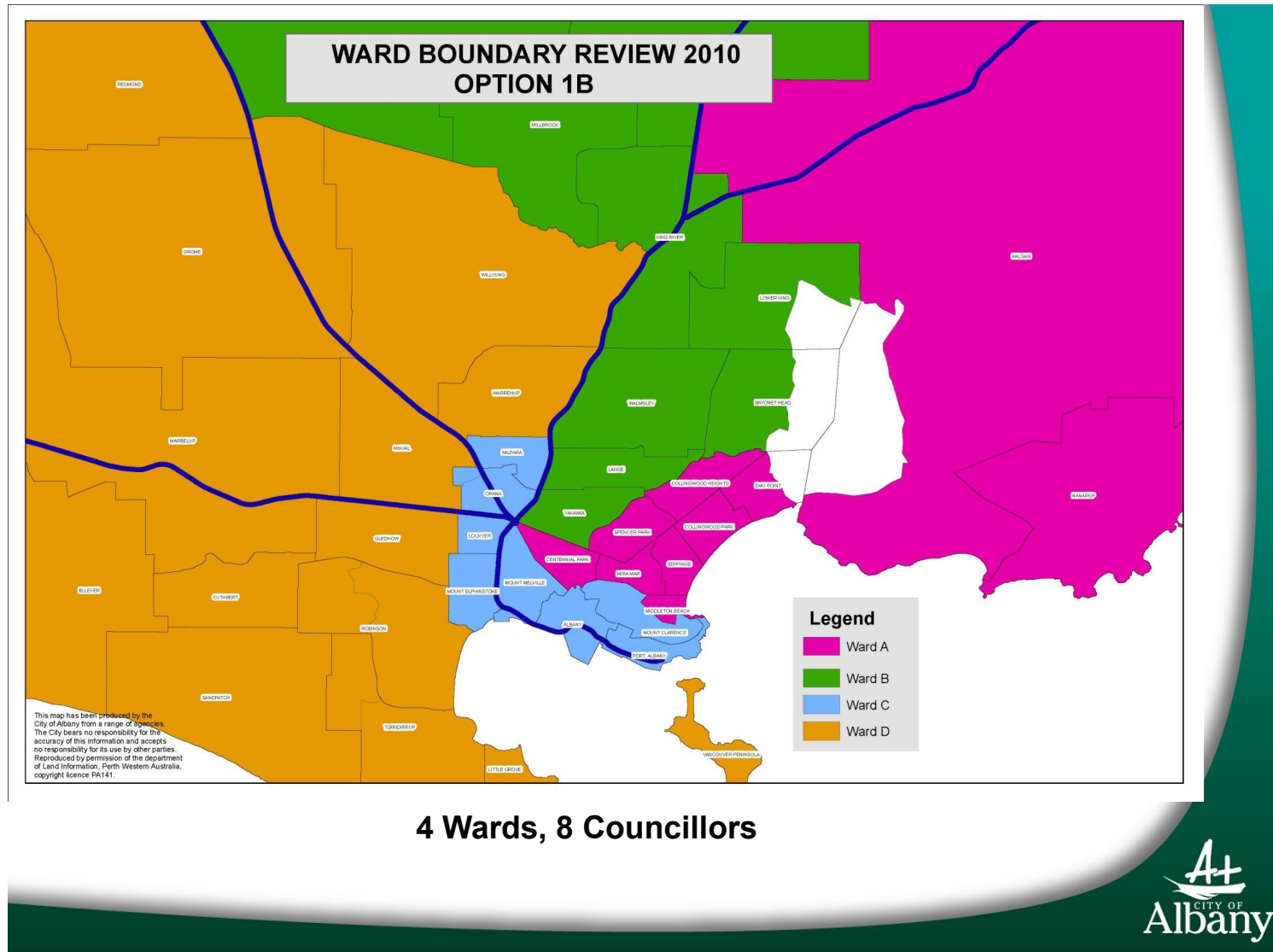


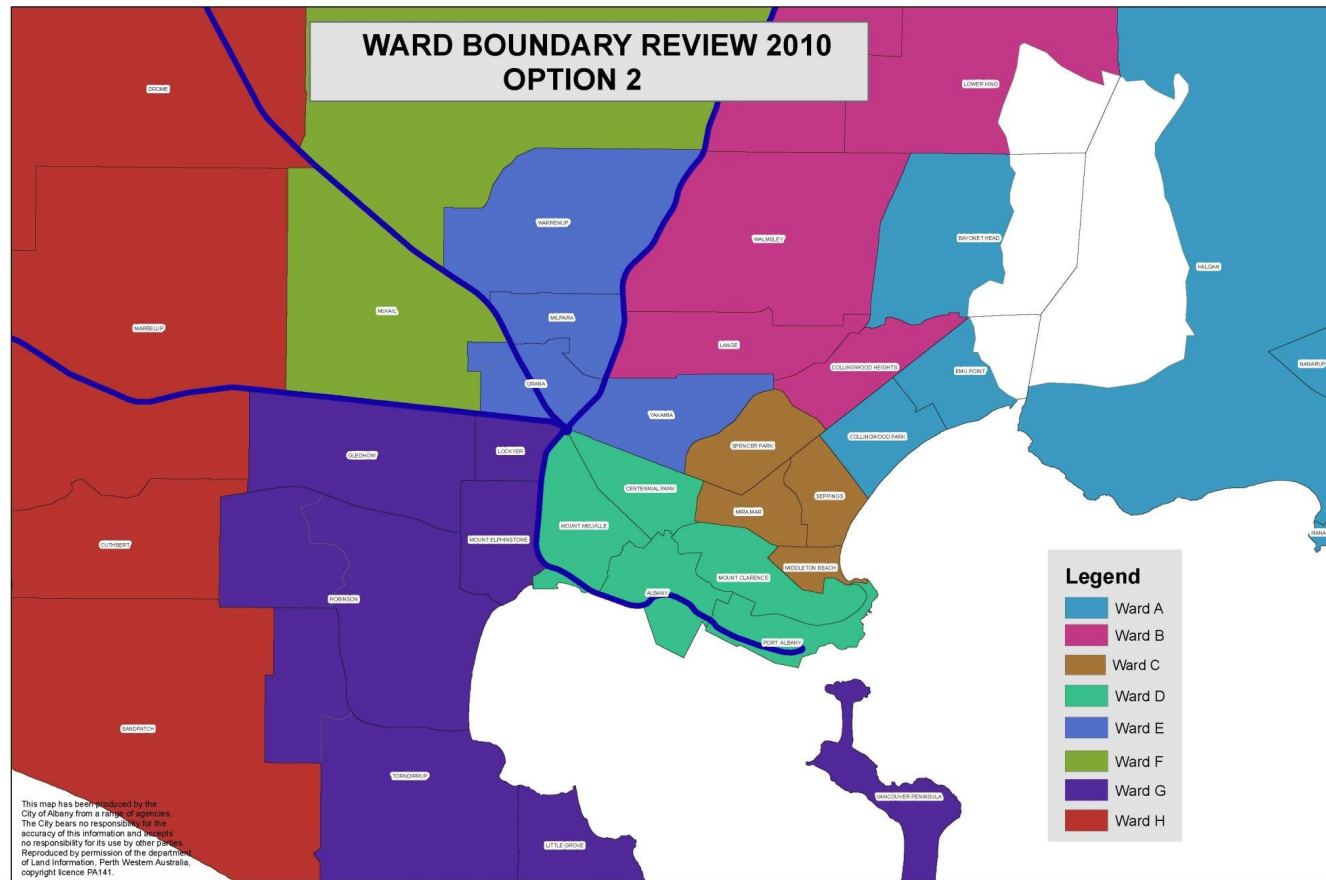
**PROPOSED  
WARD & BOUNDARY MAPS**





## 4 Wards, 8 Councillors





**8 Wards, 8 Councillors**

