

## 2022 Local Government Representation Reviews

### Information sheet

The 2022 Local Government Representation Reviews final report has been released, read the final report [here](#).

The final report has been prepared by the Local Government Representation Committee and determines a structure for each local government council to ensure fair representation.

### Who are the Local Government Representation Committee?

Local Government Representation Committee consists of the following members:

- CEO Local Government Association, Mr Sean Holden - Chairperson of the committee.
- Electoral Commissioner, Mr Iain Loganathan
- Surveyor-General, Mr Robert Sarib

### What are the Local Government Representation Reviews?

As prescribed by the *Local Government Act 2019*, reviews of representation must be conducted after every local government general election. The Local Government Representation Reviews assess electoral boundaries and structures to ensure electors are represented fairly at the 2025 general elections. Specifically, these reviews will assess ward boundaries and the number of elected members representing each ward and council.

### What are wards?

Wards are segments of a council area defined by a boundary, represented by one or more members elected to council.

### What are the pros for a council with wards?

- Direct representation of all areas within the council.
- Encourages candidates from different locations within the council area and potentially result in greater diversity among elected members.
- Elected members can focus on local issues as well as council-wide issues.
- Elected members are more likely to be known to their ward constituents.
- Potentially lessen the number of candidates per ward which results in a smaller number of candidates on a ballot papers and reduces the informal voting rate.
- If a councillor resigns, a by-election would only need to be held for the ward, rather than for the whole council area.
- Less campaigning resources and efforts are required for a smaller ward area.

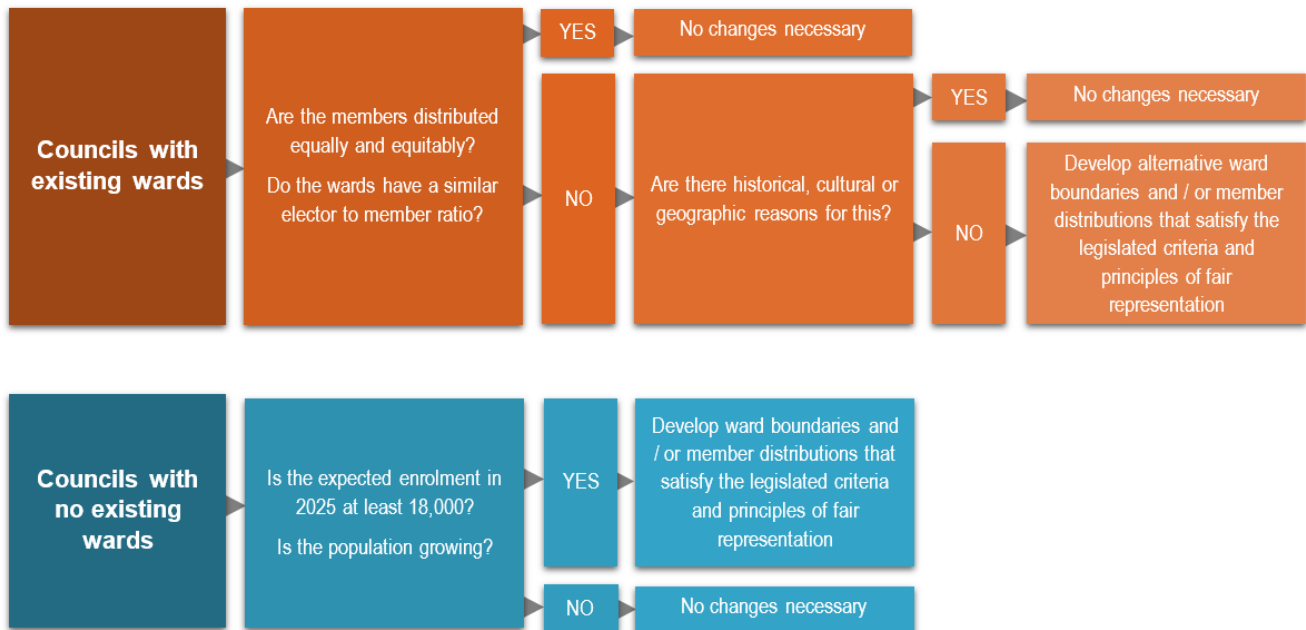
### What are the pros for a council without wards?

- Promotes the concept of a council-wide focus.
- Residents have a choice of councillors to approach with their concerns.
- Each voter has the opportunity to vote for every candidate contesting the council area.

- It removes the need to define internal ward boundaries. Ward boundaries may be difficult to define and may result in divided communities of interest.
- While wards are likely to attract a lower number of candidates, it also makes it more likely that it may not attract enough candidates, resulting in an uncontested election or a supplementary election.

### How does the committee determine if wards are to be implemented?

The committee uses the below methodology to determine the implementation of wards.



### What are the determinations within the final report?

Following the assessment of submissions received and consultation with councils, the final report determines no changes for 16 of the 17 local government councils in the Northern Territory. The City of Palmerston is the only exception, where a 3 ward structure will be implemented to provide greater opportunity for fair representation to meet the needs of a fast-growing city.

The report also recommends that the number of councillors be increased by one from 7 to 8.

While the Local Government Representation Committee determines ward structures, any change to the number of elected members requires the approval of the Minister for Local Government. The report therefore contains 2 scenarios.

- Scenario A - A 3 ward structure with 8 councillors (recommended)
- Scenario B - A 3 ward structure with 7 councillors.

The report has recommended further consultation with the City of Palmerston on ward names.

### What are the next steps?

The ward boundaries will come into effect at the 2025 local government general election.

For more information email [secretariat.ntec@nt.gov.au](mailto:secretariat.ntec@nt.gov.au) or call 08 8999 7641.