

27 May 2022

Northern Territory Election Commission

Via <https://ntec.nt.gov.au/forms/2022-lg-reviews-submission-form>

To whom it may concern

2022 Northern Territory Local Government Representation Reviews

Further to the contributions made by Elected Members at your presentation to Alice Springs Town Council on 21 April 2022, I make this submission to the 2022 Northern Territory Local Government Reviews on behalf of Alice Springs Town Council.

Currently the Alice Springs Local Government Area is without wards.

Alice Springs is a home to people from many countries and cultures, with an Aboriginal population of 18.1% and almost 20% of residents speaking a language other than English at home.

Alice Springs is a tightknit community where people help each other when in need. There is no division or separation between neighbourhoods or someone's home address. Every person is part of the one Alice Springs community. This is carried over to the Elected Members, where each Member represents every person in Alice Springs, without distinction. The smaller site and geographic nature of the municipality also supports this position of unity.

As a result, Alice Springs Town Council will strongly advocate for it remaining a Council without wards.

Further benefits of remaining a Council without wards:

- We endorse all the benefits and restrictions regarding no wards as identified on your website, but particularly endorse the below which relates to Alice Springs.
- An undivided council will ensure that there is a council-wide focus on community issues.
- The Elected Members are elected for all of Alice Springs, rather than for specific areas of neighbourhoods.
- It gives residents and ratepayers a choice of Elected Members to approach with their concerns.
- Each voter has the opportunity to express a preference for every candidate contesting the Alice Springs local government elections.

Alice Springs Town Council

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Office of the Chief Executive

- It removes the need to define internal ward boundaries. Ward boundaries may be difficult to define and may result in divided communities of interest.
- Current legislation allows for candidates to stand for a ward they do not live in, as long as they live in the Alice Springs council area. This means that subdividing Alice Springs into wards will not necessarily result in all wards being represented by people who reside within that ward.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely,



Robert Jennings
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER