
22 November 2022

Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell
City of Palmerston Council
Civic Plaza 1 Chung Wah Terrace
Palmerston NT 0830
Email: mayor@palmerston.nt.gov.au

Dear Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell,

I refer to your letter dated 17 November 2022, where you have asked to meet with the committee and requested new ward scenarios based on feedback received in your previous correspondence.

While your social and practical concerns regarding the boundaries are acknowledged, the committee is of the view that the two scenarios in the preliminary report appropriately addresses the assessment criteria to determine fair ward structures.

If the City of Palmerston are of the opinion that there are more appropriate and practical ward boundaries that meet the assessment criteria, council is invited to submit alternatives for discussion at our meeting.

Email: secretariat.ntec@nt.gov.au

Phone: [08 8999 7641](tel:089997641)

Website: www.ntec.gov.au

In developing alternative ward scenarios council should review sections 31 and 32 of the *Local Government Act 2019* and the committee's methodology provided in the preliminary report. In addition to the criteria and methodology, council should review the following data which was used by the committee:

- enrolments per suburb - attached
- the community profiles for individual suburbs and the whole of Palmerston (not including newly incorporated areas) – freely available on the [Australian Bureau of Statistic's website](#)

Any scenarios must be submitted to the secretariat so they can be reviewed prior to our meeting.

The committee has considered the feedback provided in your correspondence dated 19 October 2022 and concluded that it was impractical to split the industrial estate. This was determined due to the low enrolment numbers and the inconsistency with the assessment criteria stated in section 32(2)(d) of the *Local Government Act* to 'include an identifiable community wholly within one ward if practical'.

Similarly, the proposed ward which includes the older suburbs of Palmerston the committee concluded that splitting those suburbs would be inconsistent with the assessment criteria stated in section 32(2)(c) of the *Local Government Act* to 'keep the demographic and geographic nature of each ward as uniform as practicable'. These suburbs are also contiguous and surrounded by arterial roads making them impractical to separate.

The committee is unable to meet on Tuesday 29 November and suggests Tuesday 13 December which I understand is the date of the next council meeting. At the meeting the committee is also keen to hear views on appropriate ward names.

The committee has agreed to postpone the publication of the 2022 Local Government Representation Reviews Final Report to allow time for further consultation with the City of Palmerston.

The committee understands council's apprehension to the introduction of wards and is agreeable to meet again to discuss alternative boundaries options and ward names.

If you have any questions, please contact the committee secretariat on (08) 8999 7641 or at Secretariat.NTEC@nt.gov.au.

Regards,



Sean G Holden
Chair of the Local Government Representation Committee
22 November 2022