

Representation reviews are an important part of democracy. They aim to ensure that all voters in a local government area are fairly represented.

Input from stakeholders and individuals assists the committee in understanding local issues and provides views of those likely to be impacted by its decisions. It may also raise awareness of issues not considered by the committee.

More information on making an informed submission can be found at ntec.nt.gov.au/submissions.

Ward structures – deciding for or against

The committee may determine:

- if a local government area is divided into wards:
 - ♦ that the local government area remain divided into the same wards or be divided into different wards; or
 - ♦ that the local government area should not be divided into wards; or
- if a local government area is not divided into wards:
 - ♦ that the local government area remain that way; or
 - ♦ that the local government area should be divided into wards.

Councils with existing ward structures

Areas you may want to consider in your submission (please provide reasons supporting your comments):

- keeping the current ward structure
- changing the current ward boundaries
- changing the number of members per ward
 - ♦ Please note: the committee cannot make decisions about the total number of members prescribed for the council area; therefore, your suggestion on members per ward must add up to the total number of members prescribed
- adding or removing one or more wards
- splitting or combining existing wards
- Abolishing wards in the council area altogether

Ward names

While the committee cannot make decisions about ward names it can make recommendations to the Minister for Local Government.

You may:

- suggest ward names if you have submitted comments about additional or new wards
- suggest a current ward name is changed

Councils without existing ward structures

If you are suggesting a council introduces a ward structure, and commenting on how that structure looks, you may want to consider the following in your submission (please provide reasons supporting your comments):

- number of wards
- number of members per ward
 - ◆ Please note: the committee cannot make decisions about the total number of members prescribed for the council area; therefore, your suggestion on members per ward must add up to the total number of members prescribed
- ward boundaries

Ward names

While the committee cannot make decisions about ward names it can make recommendations to the Minister for Local Government.

You may:

- suggest ward names if you have submitted comments supporting the introduction of wards

Areas of recommendation

In addition to ward names, the committee does not have the power to make decisions on the subjects listed below. It can, however, make recommendations to the Minister for Local Government if it believes those recommendations are beneficial. You can provide comments on these matters, and reasons supporting your comments, in your submission.

- council name
- external boundaries of a council area
- inclusion of current unincorporated land into a council area
- process by which the principal member (mayor/president) is chosen
- total number of elected members for a council area

The following information may also assist you with making a submission:

- [Maps](#) for each council area
- A table summarising the [current electoral representation structures](#) for each council area
- [Enrolment numbers for each council area](#) and ward
- [ABS population data for each council area](#) and ward
- Information about the [advantages and disadvantages of having a ward structure](#)
- [History of changes to councils](#)

The committee has identified areas of focus for the 2022 representation reviews which are summarised in the following table. However, submissions are invited on *any* matters concerning representation and ward structures.

Local government area	Areas of focus
Alice Springs Town Council	Possible introduction of wards to improve representation
Barkly Regional Council	No identified areas of focus
Belyuen Community Government Council	High number of representatives given the small population
Central Desert Regional Council	Representation in Akityarre ward - is there too many representatives for the population and number of electors?
Coomalie Community Government Council	High number of members given the small population
Darwin, City of	No identified areas of focus
East Arnhem Regional Council	Progress towards creation of separate Anindilyakwa regional council already started - how will this impact remaining wards?
Katherine Town Council	Possible introduction of wards to improve representation
Litchfield Council	No identified areas of focus
MacDonnell Regional Council	No identified areas of focus
Palmerston, City of	Possible introduction of wards to improve representation
Roper Gulf Regional Council	Jodetluk community is located within the boundary of Katherine Town Council, but representation is via Roper Gulf Regional Council
Tiwi Islands Regional Council	No identified areas of focus
Victoria Daly Regional Council	No identified areas of focus
Wagait Shire Council	No identified areas of focus
West Arnhem Regional Council	No identified areas of focus
West Daly Regional Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tyemirri Ward has small enrolment numbers (98), the smallest of all Northern Territory local government wards • Emu Point homeland has links with Peppimenarti community, but they are in different wards