

Local Government 
REPRESENTATION
Reviews
2022

Final report

ISBN: 978-0-6455391-0-3

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Local Government **REPRESENTATION** 2022

Reviews

Final report

The 2022 Local Government Representation Committee (the committee) has undertaken the first reviews of representation in the Territory's local government councils in accordance with Part 3.2 of the [Local Government Act 2019](#) (the Act).

In accordance with section 28 of the Act, the committee may determine the ward structure of local government areas and the number of members representing each ward. The committee may also recommend changing the total number of members in a council area. Before making a determination, the committee must undertake the following requirements:

- invite written submissions from councils and the public no later than 10 months after election day for a general election.
- allow at least 60 days after the invitation to receive submissions
- consider received submissions
- publish a preliminary report on its webpage of its determinations
- invite written submissions from councils and the public on the preliminary report
- allow at least 60 days after the invitation to receive submissions
- consider received submissions
- publish a final report on its webpage.

In compliance with section 30(c)(ii) of the Act, the committee's final report must be published along with maps showing new or altered boundaries.

In making their determinations, the committee has considered submissions received during each round of consultation as well as information from the Australian Electoral Commission and Australian Bureau of Statistics. The determinations and recommendations detailed in the following pages have been provided to the Minister for Local Government.



Sean Holden
Chairperson
2022 Local Government Representation Committee
9 February 2023

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Glossary

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics: the federal agency responsible for the collection, collation and dissemination of statistics relating to the Australian community, including population data.
AEC	Australian Electoral Commission: the federal agency responsible for managing the electoral roll in all Australian states and territories.
ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	To satisfy the object of the reviews, the committee must have regard to the following principles as detailed in section 31 of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> : (a) community of interests in the local government area including economic, social and regional interests; (b) types of communication and travel in the local government area with special reference to issues arising out of remoteness or distance; (c) the trend of population changes in the local government area; (d) the density of population in the local government area; (e) the physical features of the local government area.
BOUNDARIES	Borders defining the area of a ward or local government council.
CEO	Chief Executive Officer.
CHAIRPERSON	CEO of the prescribed corporation, the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory.
CONSULTATION PERIOD	A period of time in which persons and organisations can provide submissions (suggestions, comments and objections) to the committee.
COUNCILLOR	An elected ordinary member of council.
COMMENTS	The committee invites comments from the public and organisations on representation suggestions.
COMMISSION	Northern Territory Electoral Commission.
COMMISSIONER	Electoral Commissioner.
ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES	See boundaries.
ENROLMENT THRESHOLD	The number of electors each ward or council area should have. This is a concept that is legislated for Legislative Assembly redistributions, but not in Local Government Representation Reviews.
FINAL REPORT	The committee is responsible for considering objections to the preliminary report's proposals and making a final determination in the form of a final report, to be presented to the Minister for Local Government.
GENERAL ELECTION	Territory wide elections held every 4 years.
INFORMATION GUIDE	A document prepared by the committee and released in March 2022 defining the purpose, processes and timeframes of the reviews. The guide included resources to assist the public in understanding and participating in the reviews.

GLOSSARY

LGANT	Local Government Association of the Northern Territory.
LOCAL GOVERNMENT	The government of a specific local area constituting a subdivision of the Northern Territory.
LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION COMMITTEE (THE COMMITTEE)	The Local Government Representation Committee (the committee) consists of the Electoral Commissioner (a), the Surveyor-General (b), and the CEO of the prescribed corporation (c), who shall act as the Chairperson as prescribed under section 27 of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> . The powers of the committee are detailed in Parts 3.1 and 3.2 of the Act.
LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION REVIEWS (THE REVIEWS)	Local Government Representation Reviews (the reviews) are conducted for all 17 of the Northern Territory's local government councils in accordance with Part 3.2, Chapter 3 <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> .
LOCALITY	An area, generally a suburb, as defined by a boundary.
THE MINISTER	The Minister for Local Government.
MUNICIPAL COUNCILS	Local government councils in urban and regional areas of the Northern Territory.
NT	Northern Territory.
NTEC	Northern Territory Electoral Commission.
ORDINARY MEMBER	See councillor.
PRELIMINARY REPORT	The committee considered public suggestions and comments and prepared the first proposed representation reviews of the NT's local government councils.
REGIONAL COUNCILS	Local government councils in remote areas of the NT.
REPRESENTATIONAL STRUCTURE	The presence or absence of a ward structure and the number of elected ordinary members for a council area or ward.
REPRESENTATIVE	See councillor.
REVIEWS PROCESS	Any action taken under Part 3.2 of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> .
SUBMISSION	For the purpose of this final report, submission refers to the written submissions received from councils and the public. A submission can be in the form of suggestions, comments on suggestions or objections to the preliminary report. Following commencement of the reviews, submissions were invited from the public, councils, and any other interested party. These were considered by the committee and made available for public inspection on the webpage.
WARD	A segment of a council area defined by a boundary, represented by one or more ordinary members elected to council.
WARD STRUCTURE	The number of wards and location of their boundaries.

I. INTRODUCTION, DETERMINATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 Introduction from the chair

The task of the representation reviews is to determine an appropriate representational structure for each local government council, to ensure electors are fairly represented at the 2025 general elections. The 2022 Local Government Representation Committee is the first independent committee to convene to determine representation in the NT. Previous representation reviews were conducted by councils themselves, with the Minister for Northern Territory (NT) Local Government the delegate for approving changes.

With the privilege of leading this change comes the responsibility of establishing methodologies and practices to independently conduct the reviews; laying a foundation and precedent for future committees.

The NT is comprised of 17 local government councils, 153 councillors, more than 140,000 electorsⁱ and approximately 232,000 peopleⁱ spread over more than 1.3 million square kilometres. While we may all call the NT home, we are a diverse people with differing needs, challenges and experiences.

Iain Loganathan, Robert Sarib and I comprise the 3 members of the committee. Collective experience in surveying, electoral management and local government councils equips us with the knowledge and skills to make informed and balanced decisions.

The 2 questions we as the committee and the broader public have asked are, what is fair representation and how can this best be accomplished?

While it was possible to develop a definition of fair representation within the framework and our purview, it was agreed that the appropriate framework for supporting it will vary depending on the unique circumstances of each council. This is an inexact science, but by applying a considered methodology, understanding the history, reviewing relevant data and consulting with councils and stakeholders, the committee has reached its determinations.

Existing structures and representation will remain unchanged in all but one council area.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank those councils and individuals who provided submissions. Each was carefully considered and while the committee disagreed on some of the matters raised, we respect and appreciate your participation. I would also like to thank my fellow committee members and the secretariat for their hard work and professionalism.

1.2 Determinations and recommendations

Contained in section 5 and Appendix C of this report are the committee's determinations and recommendations for each local government council. The committee has determined existing representational structures will remain unchanged with the exception of City of Palmerston, where a ward structure will be introduced.

Determinations

A 3 ward structure will be implemented in the City of Palmerston.

Recommendations

The number of councillors for the City of Palmerston be increased from 7 to 8. If the Minister for Local Government (the Minister) accepts this recommendation, the ward boundaries in scenario A ([see map](#)) be implemented. If the number of councillors remain at 7, the ward boundaries in scenario B ([see map](#)) be implemented.

That further consultation on appropriate ward names be had with the City of Palmerston on the names listed in section 5.3 of this report and other suitable names.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 What are representation reviews?

As prescribed by the *Local Government Act 2019* (the Act), reviews of representation must be conducted after every local government general election. The Local Government Representation Reviews (the reviews) assess representational structures of a local government area. Specifically, these reviews will assess if a local government area is to be divided into wards or not, and if necessary determine the ward boundaries, as well as the number of elected members representing each ward.

Determinations resulting from the reviews will take effect at the 2025 local government general elections or at any general election held 12 months or more after the Minister's determination (Section 30(5) of the Act). This may impact where electors vote and the number of candidates that will represent them on council. Recommendations will require the approval of the Minister for Local Government (the Minister). If approved, these changes will take effect with the determinations.

2.2 Legislative base

The requirements for conducting reviews for the 17 local government councils in the NT are contained within:

- The [Local Government Act 2019](#) (the Act) Parts 3.1 and 3.2.

These reviews are the first of their kind since the introduction of the Local Government Representation Committee (the committee) under Part 3.2 of the Act. Previous reviews were conducted by each local government council in accordance with provisions of the [Local Government \(Electoral\) Regulations](#). The [2017 NT Council Elections Report](#) recommended that any changes to local government ward boundaries be determined by an independent process similar to that used for NT Legislative Assembly redistributions.

Part 3.2 of the Act outlines the powers, objectives and procedures of the representation committee.

2.3 Overview of process and timetable

The Act outlines the requisite sequence of events and timeframes for the representation reviews process.

The committee must:

- invite suggestions relating to the reviews no more than 10 months after the election day for a general election
- allow at least 60 days after the invitation to receive submissions
- consider the submissions
- publish a preliminary report detailing its determinations or alternate determinations
- invite written submissions from councils and the public on the preliminary report
- allow at least 60 days after the invitation to receive submissions
- consider the submissions
- publish a final report with its determinations on its webpage
- provide a copy of the final report to the Minister for Local Government at least 18 months before the next general election for the council.

After receiving a copy of the final report, the Minister must, by *Gazette* notice, notify the making of the determination. There is no legislated timeframe for the Minister to make this notification.

The determination takes effect from:

- if a general election for the council takes place 12 months or more after date of the determination – that election; or
- otherwise – the next general election in August 2025.

The timetable for the 2022 Representation Reviews is shown at Appendix A.

2.4 The committee

Pursuant to Section 27 of the Act, the 2022 Local Government Representation Committee consists of the following members:

- (a) the Electoral Commissioner, Mr Iain Loganathan
- (b) the Surveyor-General, Mr Robert Sarib
- (c) the CEO of the prescribed corporation, who will also be the Chairperson of the committee.

The prescribed corporation for the 2022 Local Government Representation Reviews is the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT), Mr Sean Holden is the CEO of LGANT and Chairperson of the committee.

2.5 Assessment criteria for the committee to use in determinations

In making determinations, the committee must consider the following matters as detailed in section 31 of the Act:

- (a) community of interests in the local government area including economic, social and regional interests
- (b) types of communication and travel in the local government area with special reference to issues arising out of remoteness or distance
- (c) the trend of population changes in the local government area
- (d) the density of population in the local government area
- (e) the physical features of the local government area.

2.6 Assessment criteria in relation to division of wards

When choosing to introduce or change a ward structure, the committee must consider the desirability as detailed in section 32(2) of the Act:

- (a) the number of electors for each ward being as near to equal as practicable at the next general election; and
- (b) keeping the area of each ward containing rural and remote areas as small as practicable; and
- (c) keeping the demographic and geographic nature of each ward as uniform as practicable; and
- (d) including an identifiable community wholly within one ward if practicable.

In addition to these criteria, Section 29 of the Act allows the committee to determine its own procedures. Consequently, the committee developed principles and a methodology to guide the reviews (section 4.3 of this report).

3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS AND COMMENTS

3.1 Community engagement

The primary source of information for the public was the Local Government Representation Reviews [webpage](#)ⁱ. The webpage includes the following information:

- information guide
- preliminary report
- maps of current external and ward boundaries for all local government areas
- maps of proposed and prospective external and ward boundaries for local government areas
- online subscription to newsletters for the reviews
- information on how to draft a submission
- a portal for providing submissions about the reviews
- submissions received
- final report

A page was also created on the NT Government’s ‘Have your say’ [webpage](#) which mirrored the resources available on the review’s webpage. A social media campaign was conducted to raise awareness of the reviews.

The committee compiled a mailing list of more than 300 stakeholders, including councils, media representatives and Aboriginal organisations. Stakeholders were informed of key stages of the reviews and provided with information to assist their participation via newsletters. Appendix B lists stakeholders on the mailing list. Table 1 lists the 7 newsletters that were emailed to stakeholders during key phases.

Table 1: Newsletters

Newsletter number	Date	Newsletter content
1	28 March 2022	Submission period opening Notification of the commencement of the 2022 Local Government Representation Reviews and invitation to participate by providing a submission.
2	17 May 2022	Submissions closing soon Notification of the pending closure of the first submission period.
3	3 June 2022	Submissions published Notification that submissions that had been received had been published to the reviews webpage.
4	31 August 2022	Preliminary report published Notification that proposed changes to representation had been published to the reviews webpage.
5	20 October 2022	Submissions closing soon Notification of the pending closure of the second submission period.
6	7 November 2022	Submissions published Notification that the submission period had closed, and all submissions received had been published to the reviews webpage.
7	9 February 2023	Final report published Notification that the final report had been published to the reviews webpage.

ⁱ <https://ntec.nt.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/local-government-areas/2022-local-government-representation-reviews>

3.2 Submissions received

The first round of submissions opened 28 March 2022 and closed 31 May 2022. Five submissions were received during this time and a further 2 in early June. Table 2 lists a summary of the 7 submissions received from councils.

Table 2: First submission period

Date	Submitted by	Regarding	Summary
22 April 2022	Coomalie Community Government Council	Coomalie Community Government Council	The council queried the suggestion in the information guide that the number of members be reduced.
27 May 2022	Alice Springs Town Council	Alice Springs Town Council	The introduction of a ward structure would not be beneficial to Alice Springs Town Council.
6 May 2022	MacDonnell Regional Council	MacDonnell Regional Council	No changes to representation are necessary at this time.
31 May 2022	Central Desert Regional Council	Central Desert Regional Council	The number of members representing Akityarre Ward should not be changed
31 May 2022	Litchfield Council	Litchfield Council	The areas of Holtze and Kowandi should remain a part of Litchfield Council
8 June 2022	Palmerston (City of)	Palmerston (City of)	Council does not support wards
9 June 2022	West Daly Regional Council	West Daly Regional Council	The number of council members should be increased

The second submission period opened 31 August 2022 and closed 4 November 2022. Table 3 lists a summary of the 7 submissions received from councils and individuals.

Table 3: Second submission period

Date	Submitted by	Regarding	Summary
28 August 2022	D Gomez	Darwin (City of)	The suburb of Ludmilla should not be split between 2 wards.
15 September 2022	B Raue	Palmerston (City of)	The 4 ward structure proposed in the preliminary report would not support fair representation.
3 October 2022	Central Desert Regional Council	Central Desert Regional Council	Reducing the number of members in Akityarre ward would not be benefit electors or council.
4 October 2022	J Armour	Palmerston (City of)	A ward structure is not necessary.
4 October 2022	S Gotch	Palmerston (City of)	A ward structure is not necessary.
13 October 2022	Litchfield Council	Litchfield Council	Council supports the committee's proposal to not make changes.
19 October 2022	Palmerston (City of)	Palmerston (City of)	Council does not support the committee's proposal to introduce wards.

After the close of the second submission period, the committee engaged in further consultation with the City of Palmerston. During this time, council provided a further 4 submissions. One of these submissions included a suggestion of a 2 ward scenario. This scenario was mapped and discussed at a workshop held on 13 December 2022.

Table 4: Further submissions from the City of Palmerston

Date	Submitted by	Regarding	Summary
17 November 2022	Palmerston (City of)	Palmerston (City of)	Council does not support the committee's proposal to introduce wards and does not support the scenarios in the preliminary report.
24 November 2022	Palmerston (City of)	Palmerston (City of)	Council does not support the committee's proposal to introduce wards and requested alternative scenarios be developed.
7 December 2022	Palmerston (City of)	Palmerston (City of)	Council does not support the committee's proposal to introduce wards and proposed a workshop to discuss alternative scenarios.
14 December 2022	Palmerston (City of)	Palmerston (City of)	Council does not support the committee's proposal to introduce wards. However, if a ward structure is to be implemented their preference is for their 2 ward scenario.

The committee provided formal responses to several submissions. These are listed below.

Table 5: Committee's responses to submissions

Date	Recipient	Summary
6 May 2022	Coomalie Community Government Council	Addressed queries and concerns raised in the council's submission regarding accuracy of Australian Bureau of Statistics data and statements made in the information guide.
2 September 2022	D Gomez	Clarification that the suburb of Ludmilla falls wholly within the Chan Ward.
11 November 2022	Palmerston (City of)	The committee acknowledged the council's objections to wards, but believes they are appropriate. The committee agreed to consult further with council to devise more suitable boundaries.
22 November 2022	Palmerston (City of)	The committee acknowledged council's objections to wards, but believes they are appropriate. The council is invited to provide boundaries they believe are suitable for the committee's consideration.
28 November 2022	Palmerston (City of)	The committee acknowledged the council's objections to wards, but believes they are appropriate. The council was invited to provide boundaries they believe are suitable for the committee's consideration.
8 December 2022	Palmerston (City of)	The committee agreed to attend a workshop with the City of Palmerston regarding ward boundaries.
15 December 2022	Palmerston (City of)	Following the workshop with the council, the committee agreed to include scenarios for 3 wards in the final report.

All submissions and committee responses are available on the reviews [webpage](#).

During the course of the reviews, the committee met with a number of councils and individuals to address queries and submissions. Table 6 provides an overview of these meetings.

Table 6: Consultations with stakeholders

Date	Participating parties	Summary of discussions
1 April 2022	Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet	The Cox-Daly and Marrakai-Douglas Daly unincorporated areas and their inclusion into a local government area(s) discussion paper.
21 April 2022	Alice Springs Town Council	The committee provided further details regarding the reviews and the opportunity for the council to ask questions.

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Date	Participating parties	Summary of discussions
17 May 2022	Palmerston (City of)	The committee provided further details regarding the reviews and the opportunity for the council to ask questions.
20 September 2022	Alice Springs Town Council	The committee discussed the prospective 3 ward scenario for Alice Springs in the preliminary report. The council was given the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback.
20 September 2022	Palmerston (City of)	The committee discussed the proposed 4 ward scenarios for Palmerston in the preliminary report. The council was given the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback.
31 October 2022	B Raue	The appropriate number of members per ward and other factors discussed in Mr Raue's submission.
13 December 2022	Palmerston (City of)	Workshop on possible ward boundaries for Palmerston.

4. DATA AND METHODOLOGY

4.1 Data and considerations

While the Act provides details on the assessment process for the reviews, Section 29 allows for the committee to develop its own procedures. To inform its decision making, the committee accessed data relevant to the reviews.

Enrolment statistics

Enrolment statistics by local government area and ward as at 14 March 2022 were made available on the reviews webpage and the information guide. Enrolment statistics as at 4 November 2022 were used to prepare this report and are available in Appendix C.

Community demographics

Population and demographic data collected by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in the census assisted in satisfying some of the legislated assessment criteria. The last census was conducted 10 August 2021, however, relevant information was not available at the commencement of the reviews. As a result, the committee initially utilised data from the 2016 census which was substituted once the 2021 census data became available.

Mapping systems

MapInfo, a desktop geographic information system, was used as the base mapping software for the reviews. Spatial layers to assist with the modelling process (NT localities, Aboriginal communities, roads, cadastral and local government boundaries) were obtained from the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL). Elector numbers by SA1 boundaries were used to model local government boundaries. The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) provided Boundary Maker, an application designed by the VEC to be used in conjunction with MapInfo to facilitate modelling of ward boundaries.

Maps showing the preliminary, prospective and final ward boundaries were produced by DIPL and can be viewed on the reviews [webpage](#).

Community of interest

Beyond the physical and technical aspects of the representation reviews is the concept of 'community of interest', which is challenging to define. Numerous references were used to guide the committee including:

- road configurations and consequent linkages
- locality (suburb) boundaries
- indicators of social diversity: for example, language usage and boundaries that represent cultural divides such as Aboriginal land councils.

4.2 Previous representation reviews

These are the first reviews undertaken by the committee established under the Act which came into force on 1 July 2021. Prior to this, representational structures (including wards, their boundaries and distribution of members) were determined under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2008* which allowed councils to conduct their own reviews and make recommendations about changes to the Minister for Local Government. The Minister would consider the recommendations before making a determination. Changes to representation could also be made via recommendations from the relevant government department.

Changes prior to the 2021 Local Government Elections were gazetted in December 2020 and resulted in changes to 3 councils.

Table 7: Previous changes to representation

Council	Representation or ward boundary change
City of Darwin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The suburb of Wagaman moved from Richardson Ward to Waters Ward. The suburb of The Narrows moved from Waters Ward to Lyons Ward. The suburb of Fannie Bay moved from Lyons Ward to Chan Ward.
Litchfield Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> East Ward was abolished resulting in the number of wards for Litchfield Council reducing from 4 to 3. There were resulting boundary changes to the remaining Central, North and South wards. There were adjustments to the representation numbers so that each of the 3 remaining wards has 2 elected members.
West Arnhem Regional Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barrah Ward was abolished and replaced with 2 new wards (Minjilang and Warruwi). Creation of Minjilang Ward which covers all of Croker Island only. Creation of Warruwi Ward which covers the remaining parts of the former Barrah ward, (i.e. excluding Minjilang Ward/Croker Island). The new wards are each represented by one elected member.

4.3 Principles and methodology

The primary task of the reviews is to evaluate council representational structures for the 2025 general elections. More specifically, the reviews consider whether local government council areas should be divided into wards, and if necessary also determine the ward boundaries and the number of elected members representing each ward. The committee may also recommend a change to the total number of members for a council area. (Section 28 of the Act)

The term ‘representational structure’ will appear several times in the report. This is used to refer to 2 of the elements that comprise the committee’s scope; ward boundaries and the number of members allocated to each council or ward. A comparative list of pros and cons for wards was included in the information guide, available on the reviews [webpage](#).

Section 29 of the Act allows the committee to ‘*determine its own procedures*’ and consequently the committee developed its own principles and methodology.

Principles

The legislation provides assessment criteria at section 31 for the committee to consider when making determinations regarding wards. However, the assessment criteria do not specify an enrolment threshold for wards or an appropriate ratio of electors to members. This provides the flexibility to consider individual circumstances of councils.

At the commencement of the reviews the committee agreed that ‘*fair representation*’ would be a core principle and that any changes resulting from the reviews must satisfy this principle. The committee defined fair representation as:

- electors having an equal and equitable opportunity to be represented by their council
- electors have an equal and equitable opportunity to be elected to council
- that the representation framework is fit for purpose and supports democratic principles.

Methodology

The committee noted that no local government council in the NT has less than 5 members and agreed this was an appropriate minimum, irrespective of geographic size or population. This allows a quorum to be maintained if a member is unable to attend meetings or resigns. For each council, enrolment and population data was graphed to analyse trends.

There are 17 local government councils in the NT, each with its own needs, challenges and circumstances. The committee grouped these councils into 2 categories and applied a specific method for councils with existing wards and councils without existing wards.

Councils with existing wards

There are 12 councils in the NT that have existing wards, including all 9 regional councils, one community government council and 2 municipal councils.

In comparison to municipal councils, regional councils typically have smaller populations, more members, a lower elector to member ratio and fewer electors per ward. This is appropriate given the geography of these councils and the varied and distinct cultural groups that reside in these areas.

Wards in regional councils have been determined on geographic, cultural and historical reasons. This was deemed necessary to support representation of distinct communities and/or cultural groups. It also divides vast areas of land into smaller areas that are easier to cover, which facilitates better communication between members and residents. These ward boundaries were created after extensive consultation with remote communities in the formation of regional councils.

The committee acknowledged that redefining ward boundaries in regional councils can have far reaching impacts and could therefore be contentious. Any significant changes to ward boundaries would require consultation with impacted councils and communities.

Municipal councils do not have the same distinct cultural groups as regional councils, but are diverse in other aspects. They have much larger populations with multiple and sometimes competing communities of interest. In comparison to regional councils, municipal councils typically have larger populations, fewer members, a higher elector to member ratio and more electors per ward. This is a consequence of the concentrated population and reduced geographic size of these councils.

When assessing member distributions and elector to member ratios between wards equity was a primary consideration. Historical, cultural and geographic factors were also considered in contemplating any change to member distributions and ward boundaries.

Councils with no existing wards

There are 5 councils in the NT that do not have wards, including one community government council, one shire council and 3 municipal councils.

The committee acknowledge that wards provide the opportunity for fair representation when the number of members and elector to member ratios between wards are as equal as practicable. The committee also recognise the appropriate number of wards varies depending on the characteristics of each council. These characteristics were considered during the committees determinations.

The committee determined that the introduction of wards should be considered for councils that are expected to have at least 18,000 electors by 2025 and an indicative growing population. This 18,000 threshold was not prescribed in legislation but formulated by the committee. It was calculated based on the following:

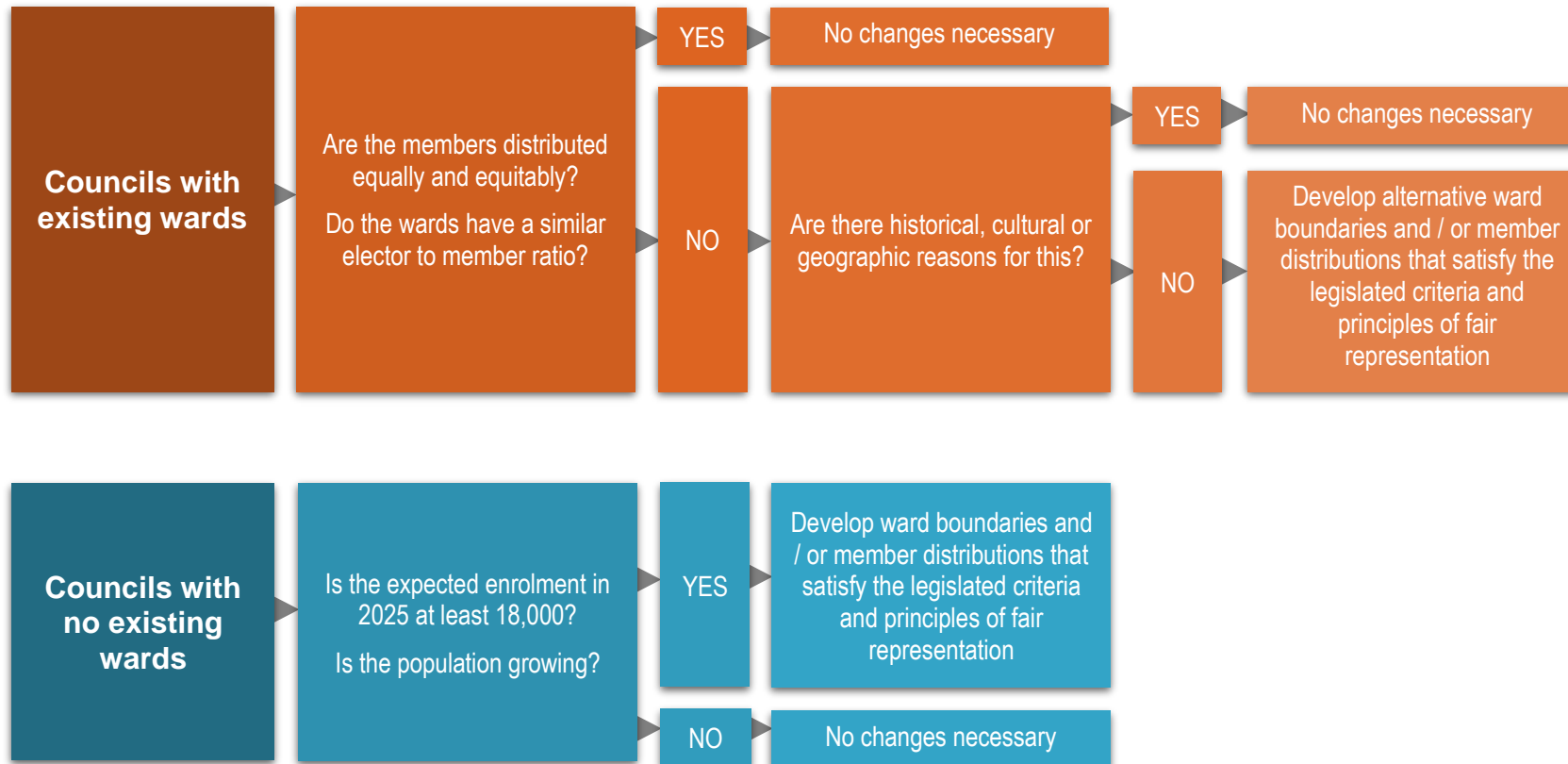
- If wards are to be adopted there should be a minimum of 3. This was founded on the premise that fewer than 3 wards are unlikely to deliver the benefits of a ward structure.
- The current average enrolments in Legislative Assembly divisions is 5,932ⁱⁱ. The committee used this as a guide in determining the approximate number of electors in each ward.
- 3 wards of approximately 6,000 electors each would require a minimum enrolment of 18,000.

When considering where to place ward boundaries, the committee applied the following principles as well as the legislated assessment criteria:

- using major roads as ward boundaries
- keeping individual suburbs wholly within one ward
- distributing members as evenly as practicable between wards
- maintaining (where practicable) an equitable elector to member ratio.

ⁱⁱ As of 30 November 2022

Methodology flowchart



5. DETERMINATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Section 28 of the Act establishes that the committee may determine:

- (1) (a) if a local government area is divided into wards:
 - (i) that the local government area remain divided into the same wards or be divided into different wards; or
 - (ii) that the local government area should not be divided into wards; or
- (b) if a local government area is not divided into wards:
 - (i) that the local government area may remain that way; or
 - (ii) that the local government area should be divided into wards.
- (2) If the committee makes a determination that a local government area be divided into wards or different wards, the committee must also determine:
 - (a) the number of wards for a local government area; and
 - (b) the boundaries of the wards for the local government area; and
 - (c) the number of ordinary members for each ward.
- (3) However, the determination under subsection (2)(c) must provide for the same total number of positions for ordinary members for the area that was in place before the determination.

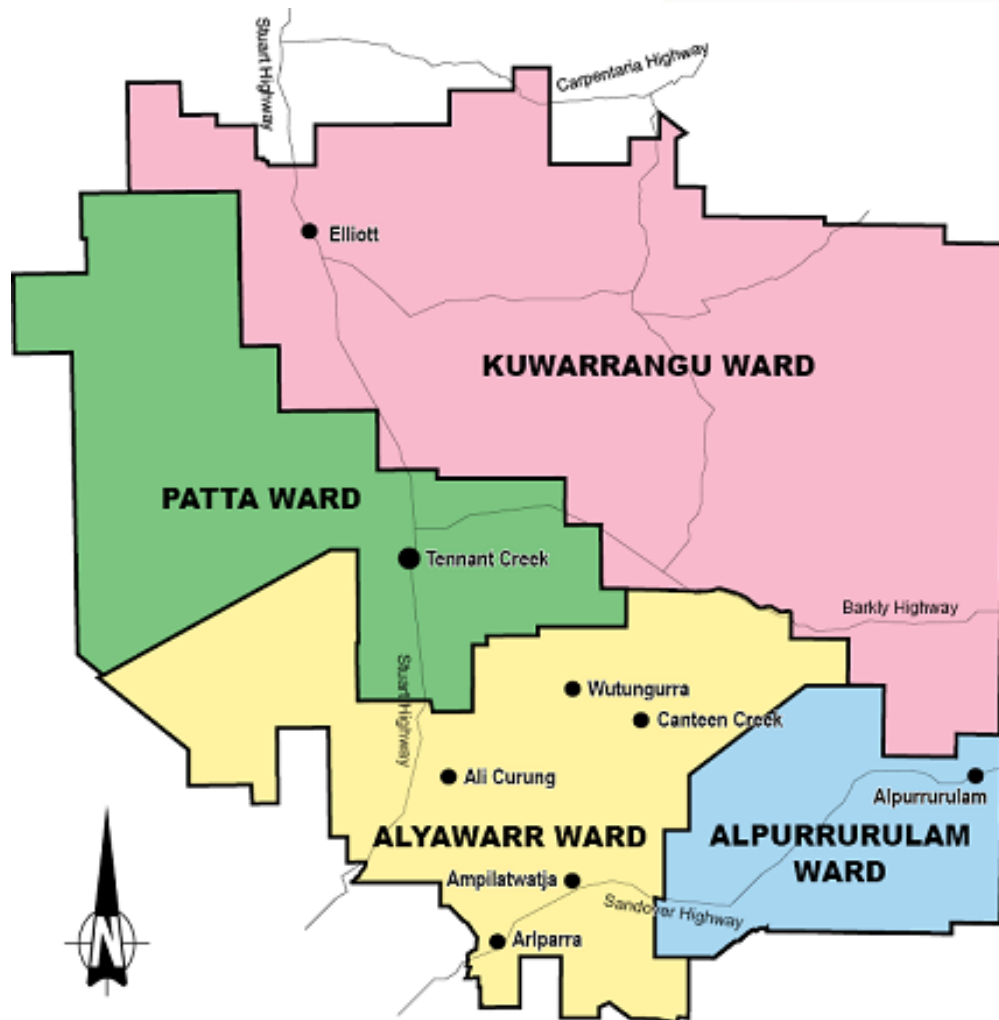
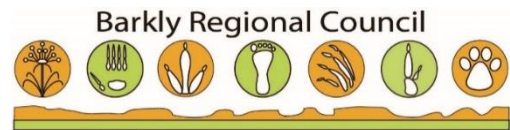
The Minister must give effect to determinations made by the committee (s30(4)).

While the committee may make determinations in regard to wards, other matters related to representation can only be recommended to the Minister (s28(4)). The Minister is obligated to give effect to determinations made by the committee, but exercises discretion for any recommendations.

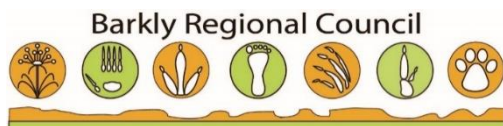
5.2 Regional, shire and community government councils

Barkly Regional Council

Current representation



This map is available on the NTEC's [webpage](#).



Size, structure and representation

4 wards
 One directly elected mayor
 12 ordinary members
 354 electors per ordinary member
 322,710 km²

Population

6,316 (2021 ABS census)
 6,655 (2016 ABS census)
 0.02 persons per km²

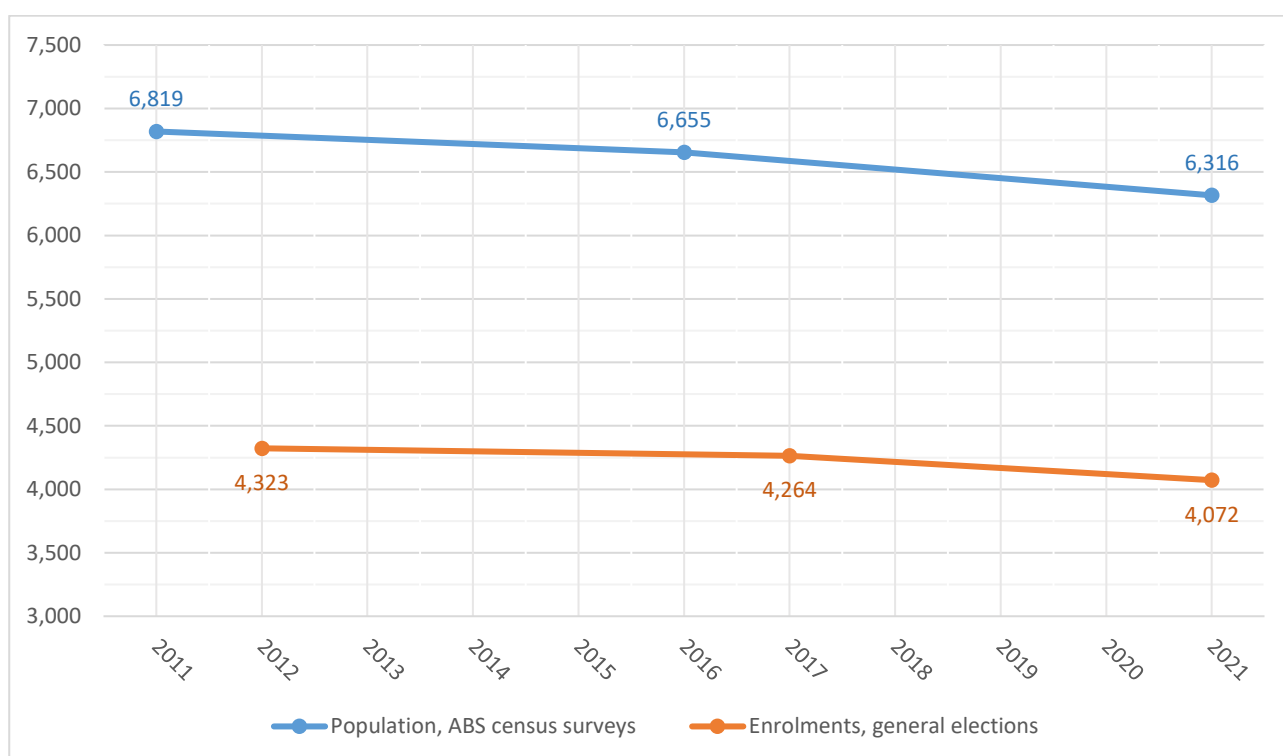
Enrolment

4,253 (November 2022)
 4,264 (August 2017)

Table 8: Barkly Regional Council enrolment and representation

Ward	Electors as at 4 November 2022	Council members	Electors per member
Alpurrurulam	213	1	213
Alyawarr	1,604	4	401
Kuwurrangu	508	2	254
Patta	1,928	5	386
Total / Average	4,253	12	354

Graph 1: Barkly Regional Council population and enrolment trends



Barkly Regional Council has 12 ordinary members and a directly elected mayor.

A detailed map of this local government council is available on the reviews [webpage](#).

Regional councils such as Barkly typically have a smaller population over a large geographic area. According to recent ABS census data, the population in this council area has decreased by 5.1% from 6,655 in 2016 to 6,316 in 2021.

Enrolment in Barkly Regional Council has decreased by 0.3% since the 2017 general elections and, as at 4 November 2022, there are 4,253 electors.

The council has a ratio of 354 electors per member, however, this ratio varies between wards. While Alyawarr Ward has 401 electors per member, Alpurrurulam Ward has 213. The number of members in each ward also varies, for example Alpurrurulam Ward has one, while Patta Ward has 5. While the current representational structure creates some disparity between wards, it also allows distinct communities individual representation on council. These communities were consulted when regional councils were created and ward boundaries were based on geographic, cultural and historical factors.

No submissions were received in regard to this council.

The committee decided that 12 members is appropriate given the number of discrete communities and geography of the region.

Determinations and recommendations

The committee determined not to change or recommend changes to the representational structure in Barkly Regional Council.

Belyuen Community Government Council

Current Representation



This map is available on the NTEC's [webpage](#).



Size, structure and representation

No wards
One president, elected by council
5 ordinary members
32 electors per ordinary member
41 km²

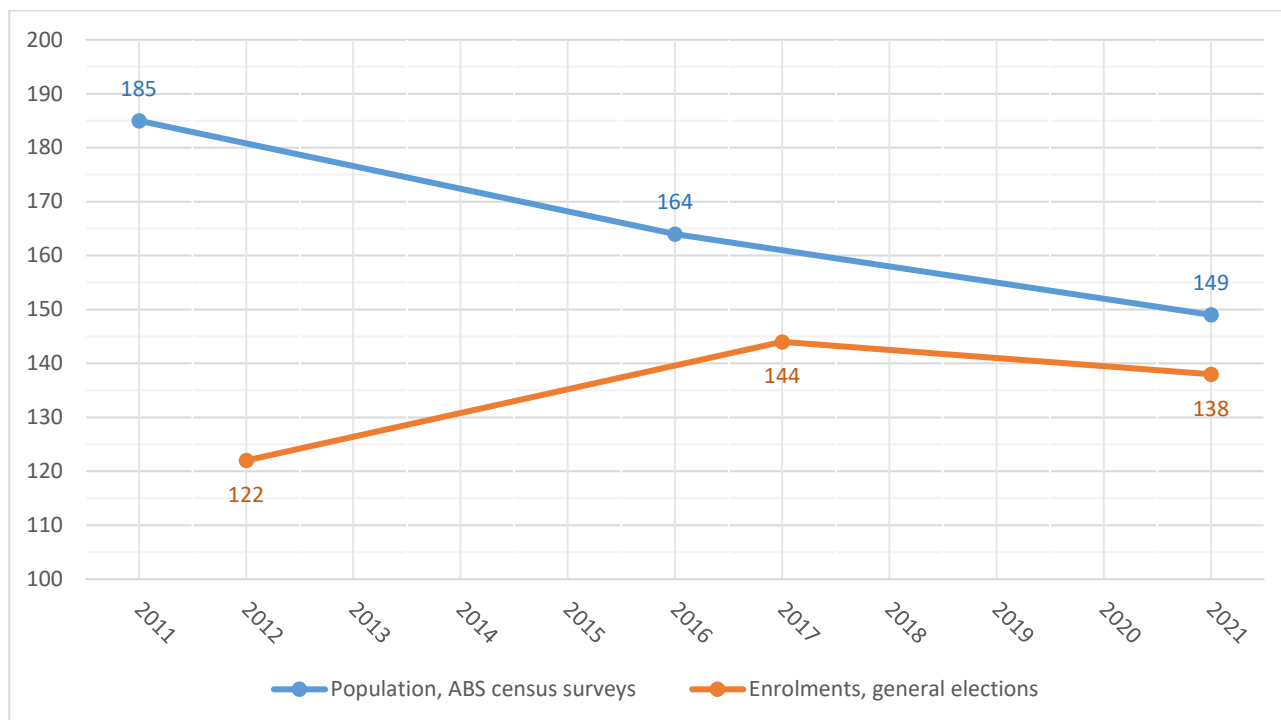
Population

149 (2021 ABS census)
164 (2016 ABS census)
3.6 persons per km²

Enrolment

162 (November 2022)
144 (August 2017)

Graph 2: Belyuen Community Government Council population and enrolment trends



Belyuen Community Government Council has 5 ordinary members and a president elected by the council.

A detailed map of this local government council is available on the reviews [webpage](#).

Enrolment in Belyuen Community Government Council has increased by 12.5% since the 2017 general elections and as at 4 November 2022 there are 162 electors. The council has a ratio of 32 electors per member.

While enrolments have increased, the population has dropped. According to the recent ABS census data the population has decreased by 9.1% from 164 in 2016 to 149 in 2021. This data indicates that either the elector or population numbers, or both, for Belyuen Community Government Council are not accurate.

The information guide (available on the reviews [webpage](#)) identified the *'high number of representatives given the small population'* as an area of focus for this council. The methodology (see section 4.3) stated there be a minimum of 5 members on a council, therefore the committee did not consider reducing this number.

The number of electors in this council is far less than the threshold at which the committee would consider introducing wards. Therefore, it was concluded that a ward structure was not necessary.

No submissions were received from or in regard to Belyuen Community Government Council.

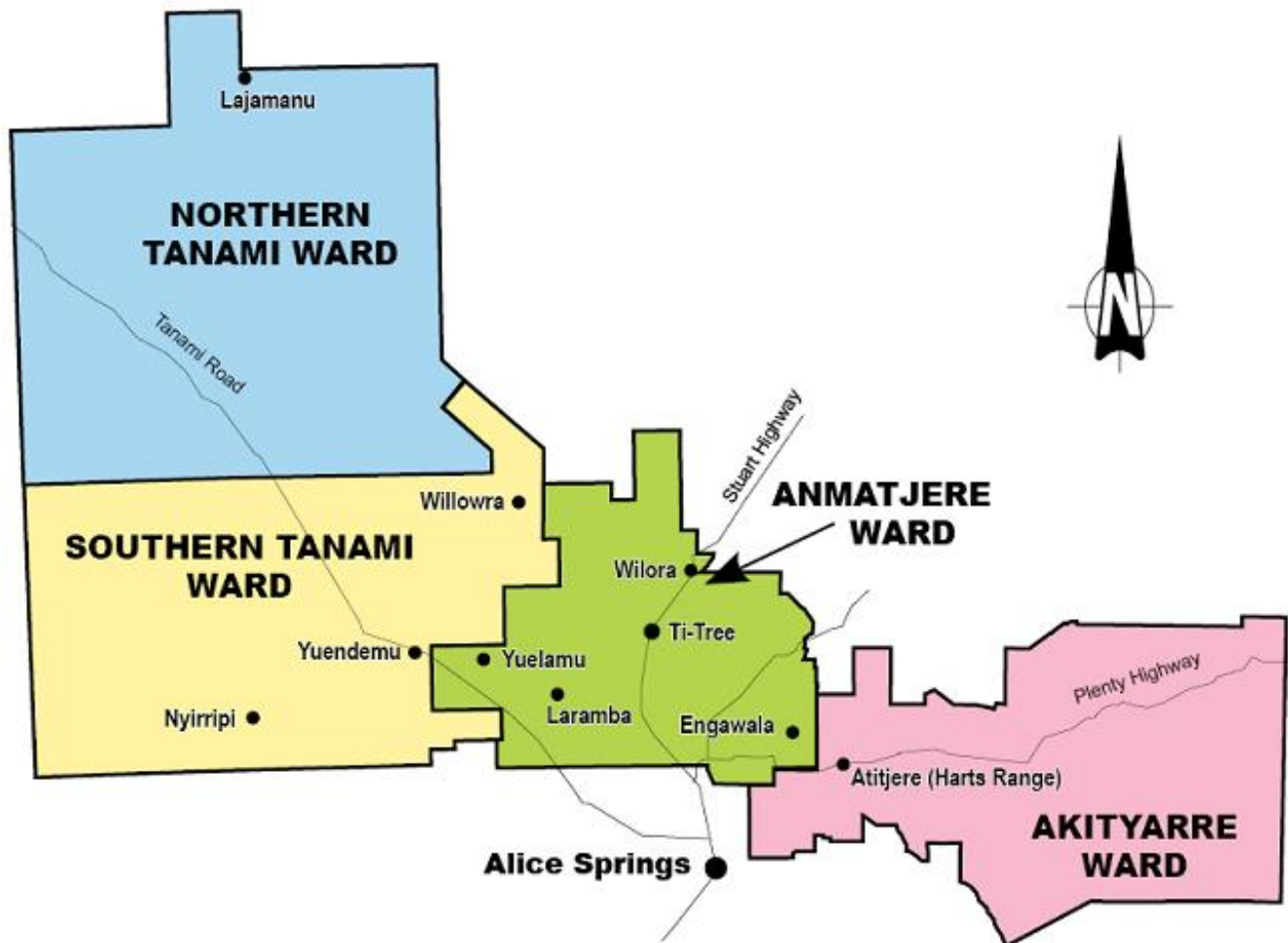
The committee decided that 5 members is appropriate given the number of discrete communities and geography of the region.

Determinations and recommendations

The committee determined not to change or recommend changes to the representational structure in Belyuen Community Government Council.

Central Desert Regional Council

Current representation



This map is available on the NTEC's [webpage](#).



CENTRAL DESERT
REGIONAL COUNCIL
two ways :: one outcome

Size, structure and representation

4 wards
One president, elected by the councillors
12 ordinary members
211 electors per ordinary member
281,338 km²

Population

3,591 (2021 ABS census)
3,677 (2016 ABS census)
0.01 persons per km²

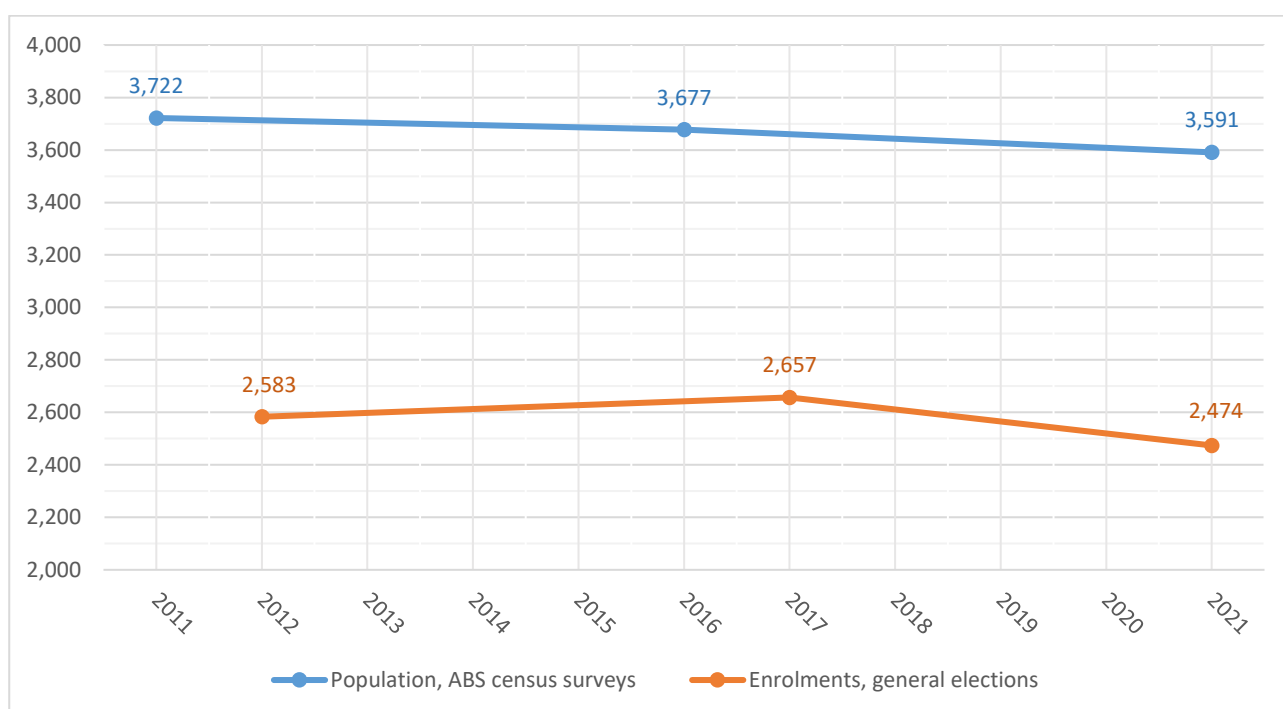
Enrolment

2,533 (November 2022)
2,657 (August 2017)

Table 9: Central Desert Regional Council enrolment and representation

Ward	Electors as at 4 November 2022	Council members	Electors per member
Akityarre	272	2	136
Anmatjere	988	4	247
Northern Tanami	382	2	191
Southern Tanami	891	4	223
Total / Average	2,533	12	211

Graph 3: Central Desert Regional Council population and enrolment trends



Central Desert Regional Council has 12 ordinary members, with a president elected by council.

A detailed map of this council's current ward boundaries is available on the reviews [webpage](#).

Enrolment in Central Desert Regional Council has decreased by 4.7% since the 2017 general elections and as at 4 November 2022, there are 2,533 electors.

Regional councils such as Central Desert typically have a smaller population over a large geographic area. According to the 2021 ABS census the population in this council area has decreased by 2.3% since 2016 to 3,591 people.

The average number of electors per member is 211 with some variation between wards, for example, while Anmatjere Ward has a ratio of 247, Akityarre Ward has 136. The number of members allocated to each ward also varies, with both Anmatjere and Southern Tanami wards having 4 members, while Akityarre and Northern Tanami wards have 2 each. This representational structure creates some disparity between wards, it also allows distinct communities individual representation on council. These communities were consulted when regional councils were created with the boundaries based on geographic, cultural and historical factors.

The preliminary report proposed that the ward boundaries remain unchanged but the number of members in Akityarre Ward be reduced from 2 to one. The rationale for this proposal was the recent number of failed and supplementary by-elections for the ward and the lower number of electors compared to other wards.

Central Desert Regional Council provided 2 submissions to the committee, which advocated the number of representatives for Akityarre Ward should not be decreased. In its second submission (dated 3 October 2022), the council outlined initiatives implemented to improve engagement and service delivery to pastoralists and residents that has renewed confidence in local government in Akityarre Ward. This submission also highlighted the Jervois Mine and Plenty Highway tourism project as likely sources of future population growth in the ward. Both submissions are available on the reviews [webpage](#).

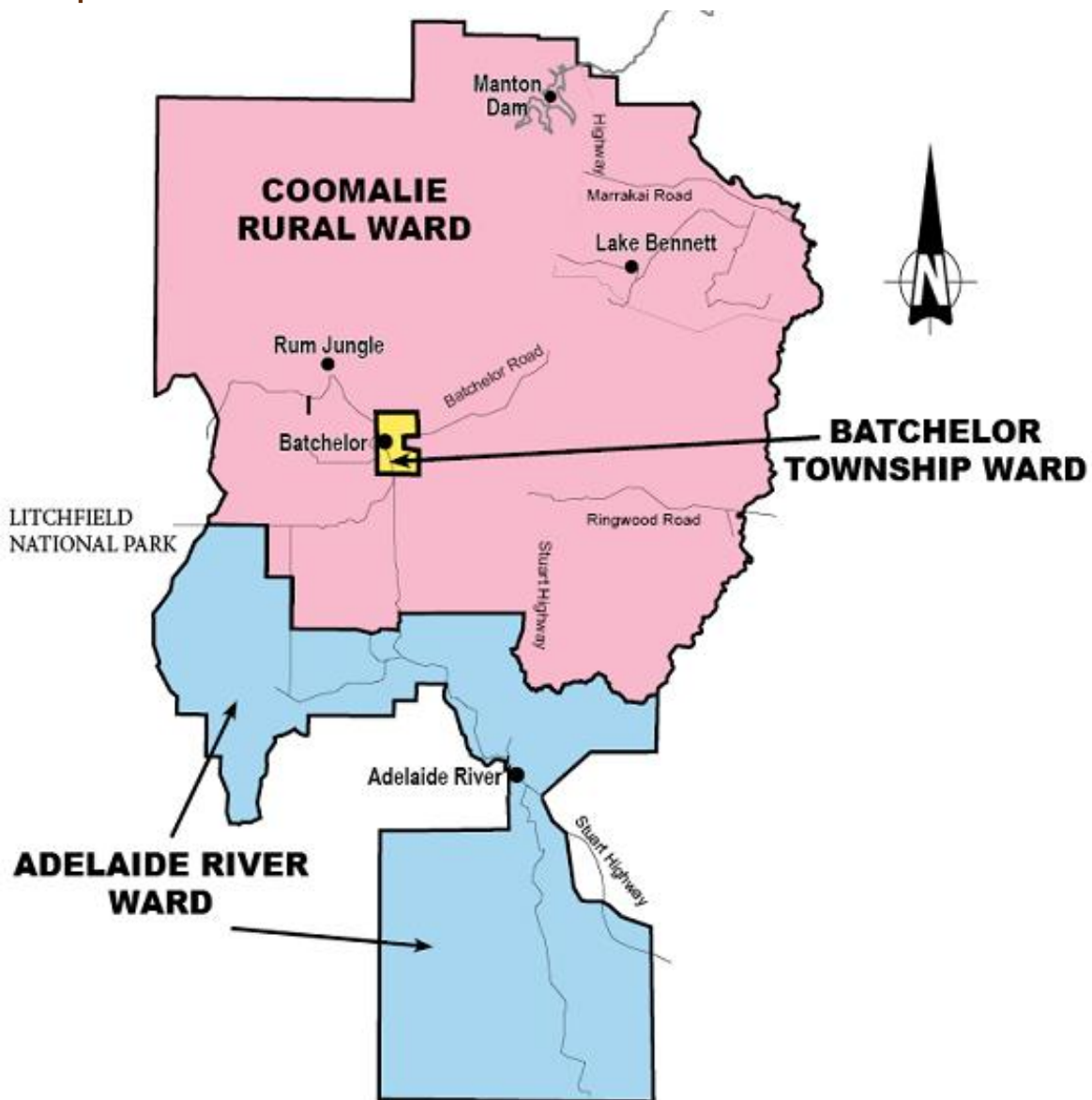
The committee accepted these contentions and agreed not to recommend a decrease in the number of members in Akityarre Ward.

Determinations and recommendations

The committee determined not to change or recommend changes to the representational structure in Central Desert Regional Council.

Coomalie Community Government Council

Current representation



This map is available on the NTEC's [webpage](#).



COOMALIE COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

Size, structure and representation

3 wards
One president, elected by the councillors
6 ordinary members
110 electors per ordinary member
2,056 km²

Population

1,276 (2021 ABS census)
1,319 (2016 ABS census)
0.6 persons per km²

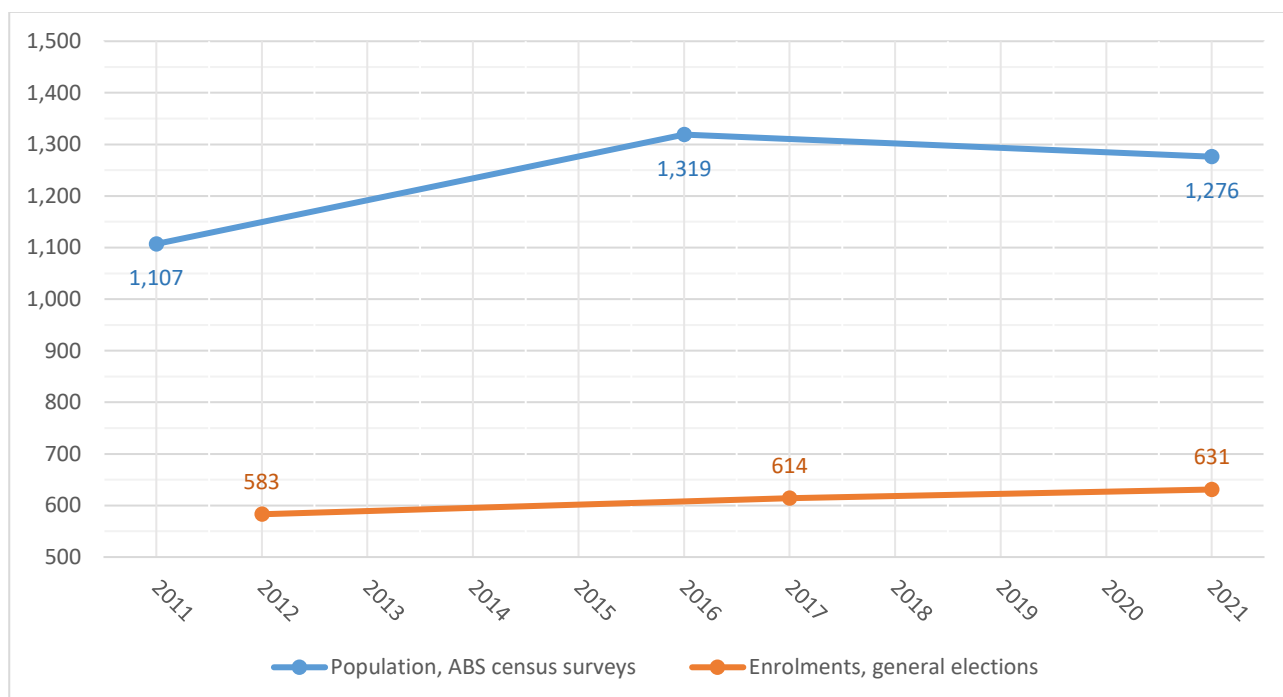
Enrolment

662 (November 2022)
614 (August 2017)

Table 10: Coomalie Community Government Council enrolment and representation

Ward	Electors as at 4 November 2022	Council members	Electors per member
Adelaide River	228	2	114
Batchelor Township	185	2	93
Coomalie Rural	249	2	125
Total / Average	662	6	110

Graph 4: Coomalie Community Government Council population and enrolment trends



Coomalie Community Government Council has 6 ordinary members with the president elected by the council.

A detailed map of this local government council is available on the reviews [webpage](#).

Enrolment in Coomalie Community Government Council has increased by 7.8% since the 2017 general elections and as at 4 November 2022 there are 662 electors. The average number of electors to members is 110 with all 3 wards having a similar ratio.

According to the ABS census data the population has decreased by 3.3% from 1,319 in 2016 to 1,276 in 2021.

The information guide identified there is a 'high number of members given the small population' as an area of focus for Coomalie Community Government Council. The council provided a submission that queried the committee's basis for this comment and the committee provided a response. All submissions and committee responses are available on the reviews [webpage](#).

While 6 members is more than the minimum (5), it is not excessive or inappropriate given the geographic size of the council. In addition, a reduction in the number of members would make the elector to member ratio less equitable.

Determinations and recommendations

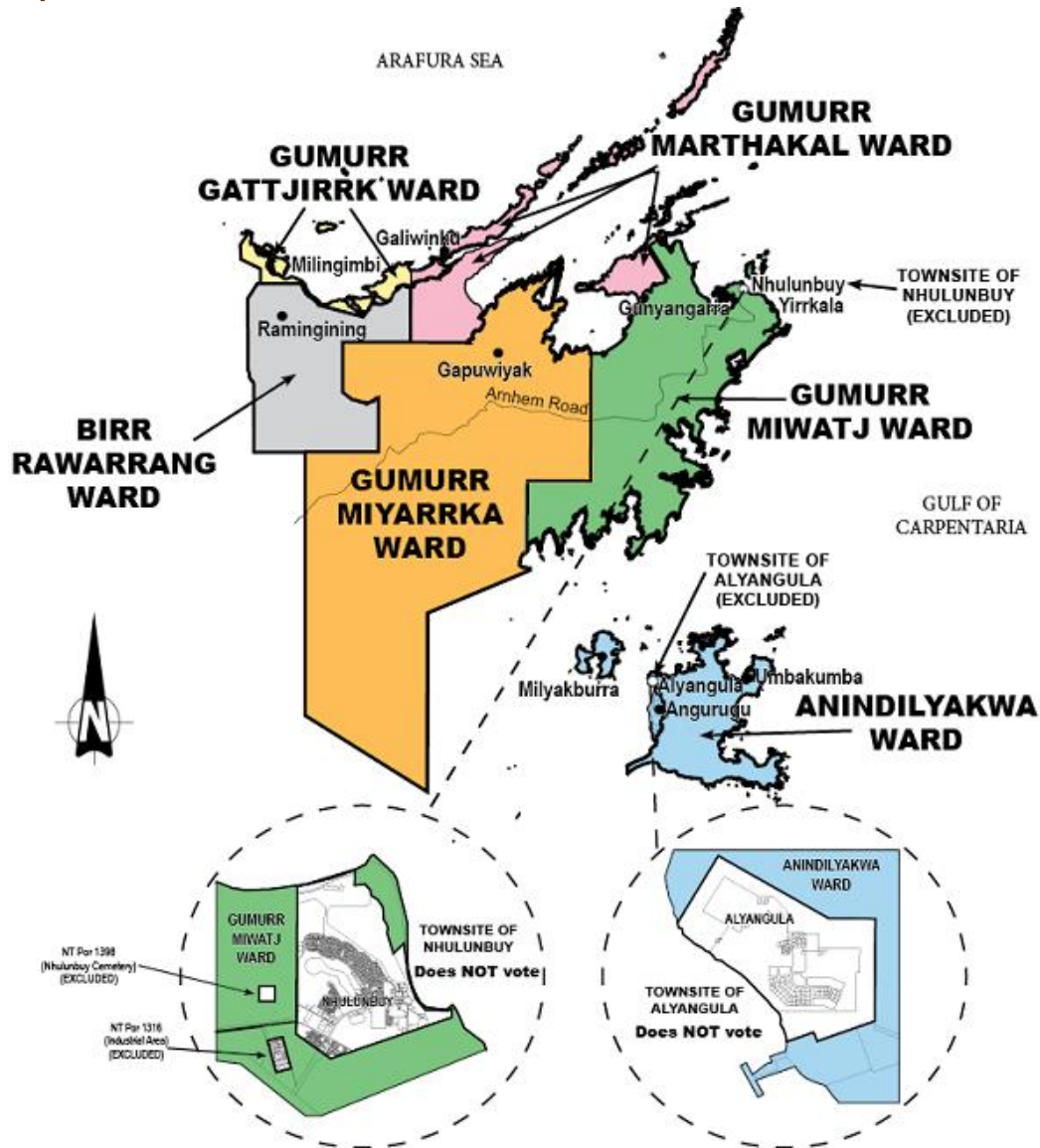
The committee determined not to change existing ward boundaries or recommend changes to representation in Coomalie Community Government Council.

2022 Local Government Representation Reviews

Final report

East Arnhem Regional Council

Current representation



This map is available on the NTEC's [webpage](#).



Size, structure and representation

6 wards
One president, elected by the councillors
14 ordinary members
467 electors per ordinary member
33,310 km²

Population

8,778 (2022 ABS census)
9,026 (2016 ABS census)
0.3 persons per km²

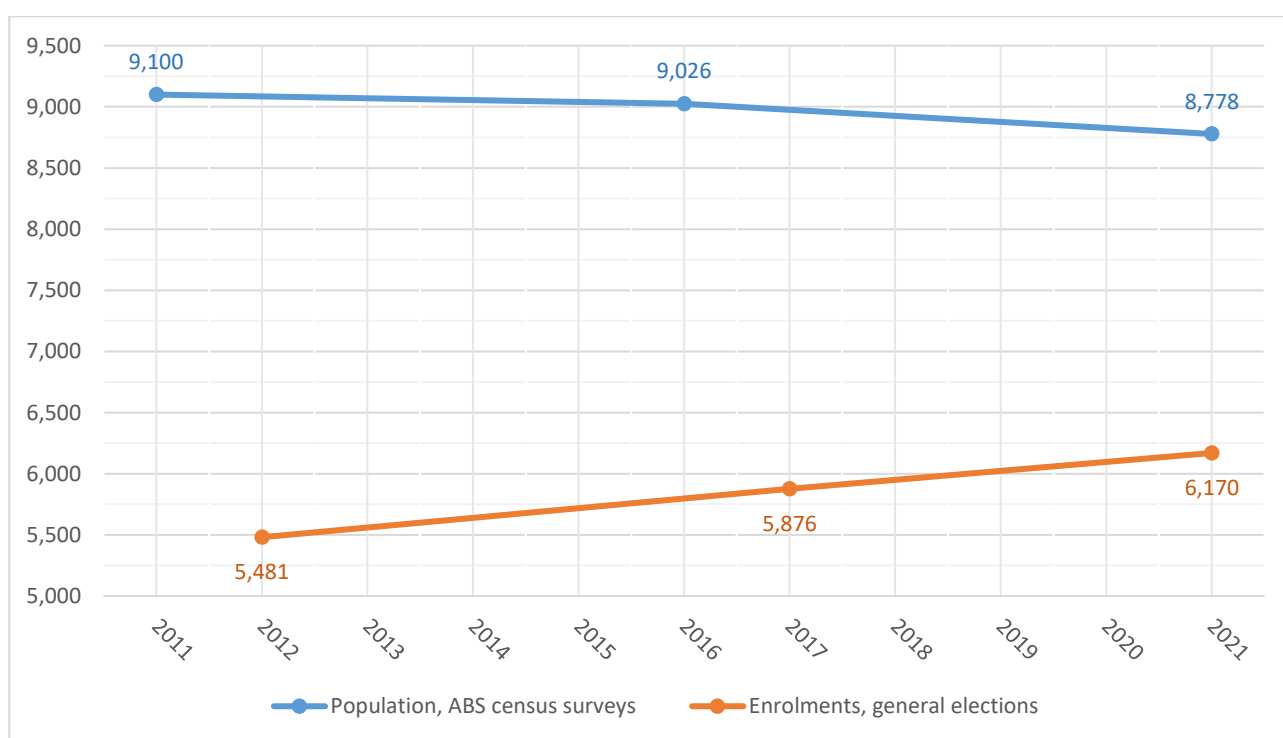
Enrolment

6,535 (November 2022)
5,876 (August 2017)

Table 11: East Arnhem Regional Council enrolment and representation

Ward	Electors as at 4 November 2022	Council members	Electors per member
Anindilyakwa	900	2	450
Birr Rawarrang	720	2	360
Gumurr Gattjirrk	823	2	412
Gumurr Marthakal	1,680	3	560
Gumurr Miwatj	1,534	3	511
Gumurr Miyarrka	878	2	439
Total / Average	6,535	14	467

Graph 5: East Arnhem Regional Council population and enrolment trends



East Arnhem Regional Council has 14 ordinary members with a president elected by the council.

A detailed map of this local government council is available on the reviews [webpage](#).

Enrolment in East Arnhem Regional Council has increased by 11.2% since the 2017 general elections and as at 4 November 2022, there are 6,535 electors. The council has an average ratio of 467 electors per member.

Regional councils such as East Arnhem typically have a smaller population over a large geographic area. According to the ABS census the population has decreased by 2.7% from 9,026 in 2016 to 8,778 in 2021.

While the members have been distributed relatively evenly between wards, there is some variation in the elector to member ratios. While Gumurr Marthakal Ward has 560 electors per member, Birr Rawarrang Ward has 360. The current representational structure creates some disparity between wards, but also allows distinct communities individual representation on council. These communities were consulted when regional councils were created and ward boundaries were based on geographic, cultural and historical factors.

The information guide identified the following as an area of focus for East Arnhem Regional Council:

'Progress towards creation of separate Anindilyakwa regional council already begun – how will this impact remaining wards?'

The committee understands that this matter is still under consideration and therefore it did not factor in the review.

The committee decided that 14 members is currently appropriate given the number of discrete communities and geography of the region.

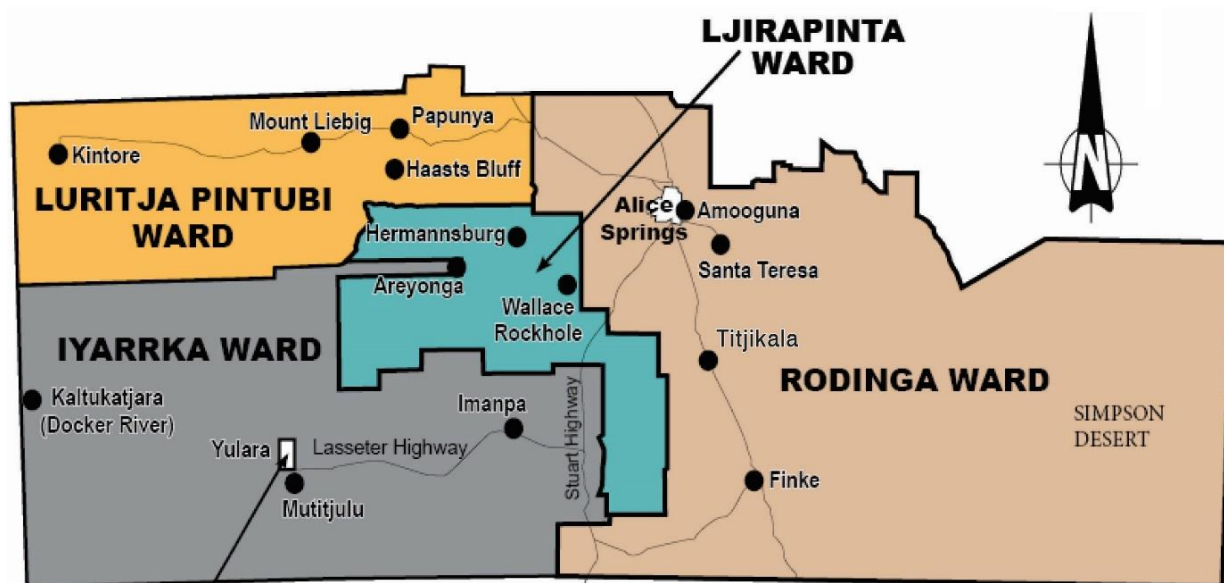
No submissions were received from or in regard to East Arnhem Regional Council.

Determinations and recommendations

The committee determined not to change existing ward boundaries or recommend changes to representation in East Arnhem Regional Council.

MacDonnell Regional Council

Current representation



NOTE: Electors residing in Yulara are **NOT** required to vote as this area is unincorporated.

This map is available on the NTEC's [webpage](#).



Size, structure and representation

4 wards
 One president, elected by the councillors
 12 ordinary members
 310 electors per ordinary member
 268,339 km²

Population

5,748 (2021 ABS census)
 6,029 (2016 ABS census)
 0.02 persons per km²

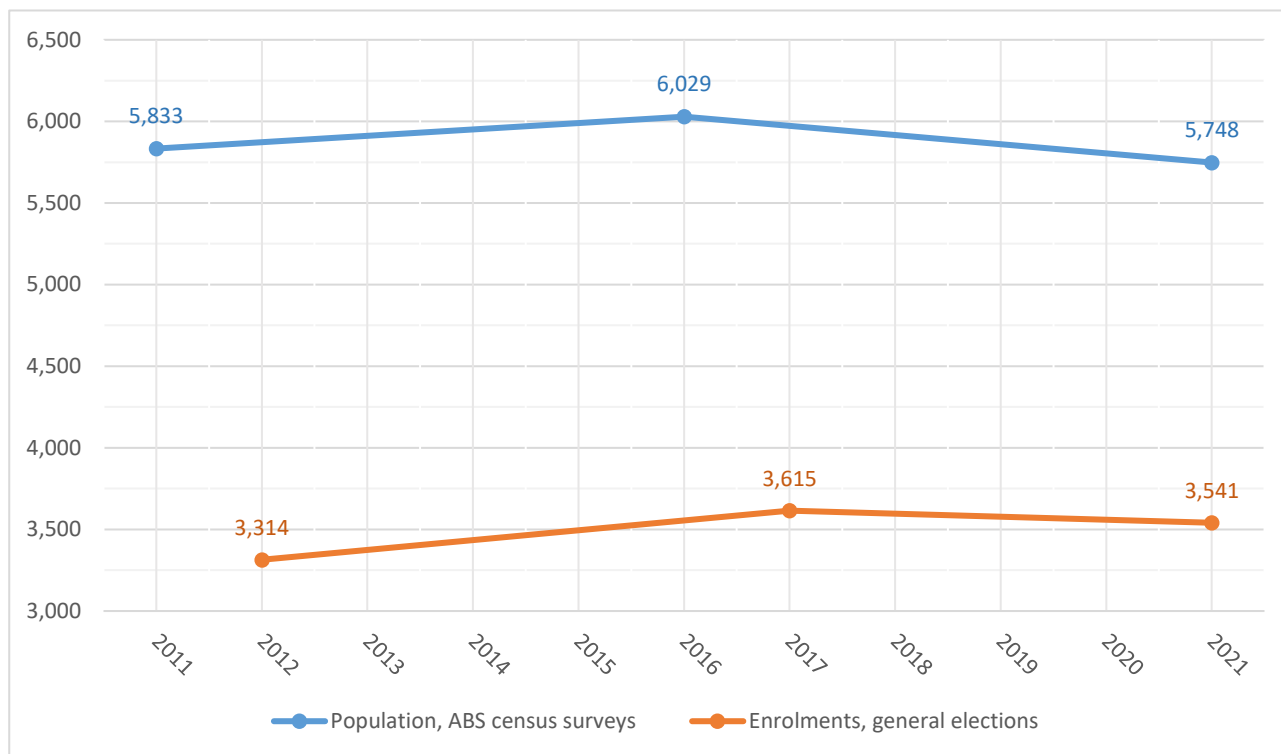
Enrolment

3,714 (November 2022)
 3,615 (August 2017)

Table 12: MacDonnell Regional Council enrolment and representation

Ward	Electors as at 4 November 2022	Council members	Electors per member
Iyarrka	814	2	407
Ljirapinta	685	3	228
Luritja Pintubi	1,084	3	361
Rodinga	1,131	4	283
Total / Average	3,714	12	310

Graph 6: MacDonnell Regional Council population and enrolment trends



MacDonnell Regional Council has 12 ordinary members with a president elected by the council.

A detailed map of this local government council is available on the reviews [webpage](#).

Enrolment in MacDonnell Regional Council has increased by 2.7% since the 2017 general election and as at 4 November there are 3,714 electors. The council has an average ratio of 310 electors per member.

Regional councils such as MacDonnell typically have a smaller population over a large geographic area. According to the ABS census data the population has decreased by 4.7% from 6,029 in 2016 to 5,748 in 2021.

There is some variation in the number of members allocated to each ward. While Rodinga Ward has 4, Iyarrka Ward has 2. There is also some variation in the elector to member ratios between wards. While Ljirapinta Ward has 228 electors per member, Iyarrka Ward has 407. The current representational structure creates some disparity between wards, it also allows distinct communities individual representation on council. These communities were consulted when regional councils were created and ward boundaries were based on geographic, cultural and historical factors.

The committee decided that 12 members is appropriate given the number of discrete communities and geography of the region.

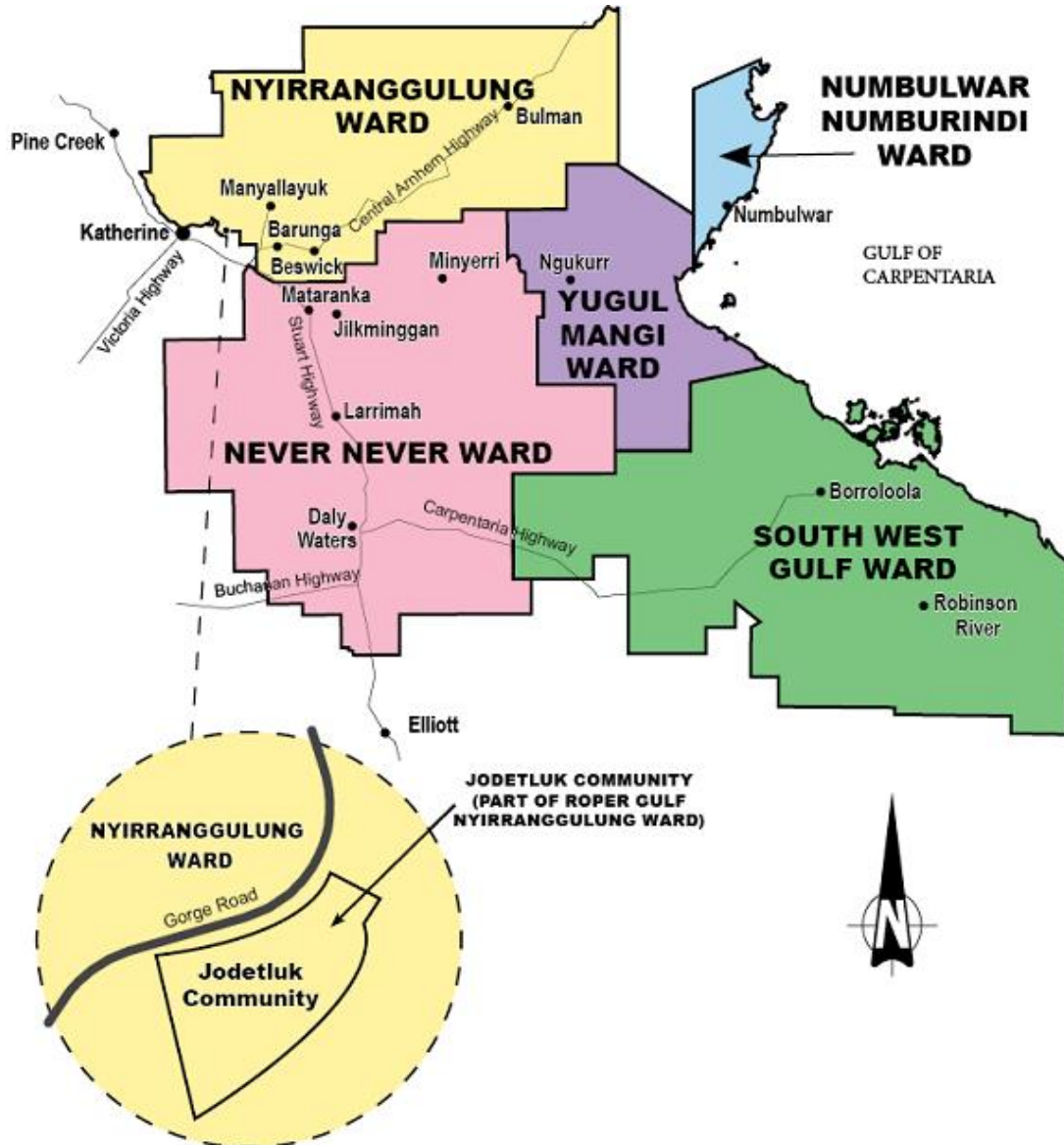
The MacDonnell Regional Council provided a brief submission stating they did not believe any changes to representation were necessary at this time. This submission is available on the representation reviews [webpage](#).

Determinations and recommendations

The committee determined not to change or recommend changes to the representational structure in MacDonnell Regional Council.

Roper Gulf Regional Council

Current representation



This map is available on the NTEC's [webpage](#).



Size, structure and representation

5 wards
 One mayor, elected by the councillors
 13 ordinary members
 324 electors per ordinary member
 185,214 km²

Population

6,486 (2021 ABS census)
 6,505 (2016 ABS census)
 0.04 persons per km²

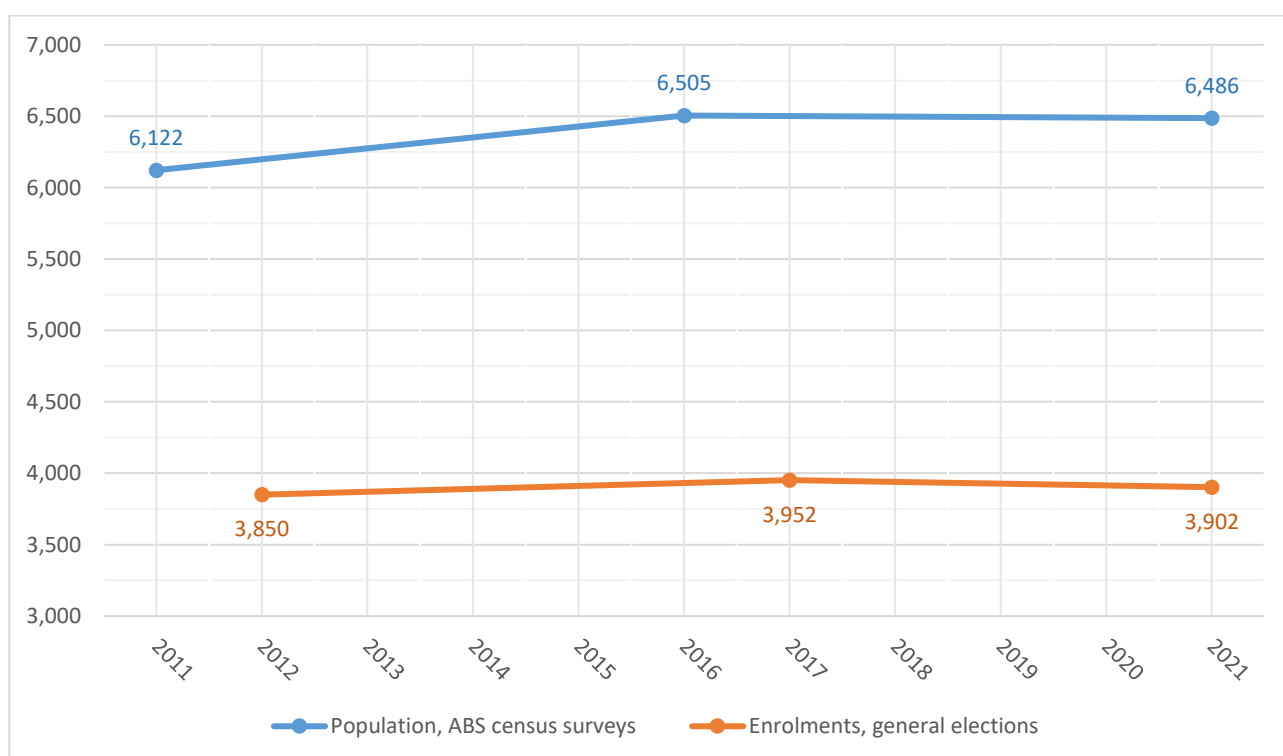
Enrolment

4,208 (November 2022)
 3,952 (August 2017)

Table 13: Roper Gulf Regional Council enrolment and representation

Ward	Electors as at 4 November 2022	Council members	Electors per member
Never Never	884	3	295
Numbulwar Numburindi	528	2	264
Nyirranggulung	970	3	323
South West Gulf	1,002	3	334
Yugul Mangi	824	2	412
Total / Average	4,208	13	324

Graph 7: Roper Gulf Regional Council population and enrolment trends



Roper Gulf Regional Council has 13 ordinary members with a mayor elected by council.

A detailed map of this local government council is available on the reviews [webpage](#).

Enrolment in Roper Gulf Regional Council has increased by 6.5% since the 2017 general elections and as at 4 November 2022 there are 4,208 electors. The average number of electors to members in this council is 324 and the members have been distributed equitably.

Regional councils such as Roper Gulf typically have a smaller population over a large geographic area. According to the ABS census data the population has decreased by 0.3% from 6,505 in 2016 to 6,486 in 2021.

The ratio of electors per member varies between wards. While Yugul Mangi Ward has 412 electors per member, Numbulwar Numburindi Ward has 264. The current representational structure may create some disparity between wards, but it allows distinct communities individual representation on council. These communities were consulted when regional councils were created and ward boundaries were based on geographic, cultural and historical factors.

The committee decided that 13 members is appropriate given the number of discrete communities and geography of the region.

The information guide produced by the committee identified an area of focus for this council. Within Katherine Town Council's boundaries there is an island of land that is represented by the Nyirrangulung Ward of Roper Gulf Regional Council. This small pocket is occupied by the Jodetluck community.

It may be confusing for electors when part of one council sits inside another council's area. However, the committee's main concern is how electors in this area can be fairly represented. Jodetluk has a relationship with the Roper Gulf area and communities in the Nyirrangulung Ward. Changing their representation to Katherine Town Council would disregard their relationship and cultural links.

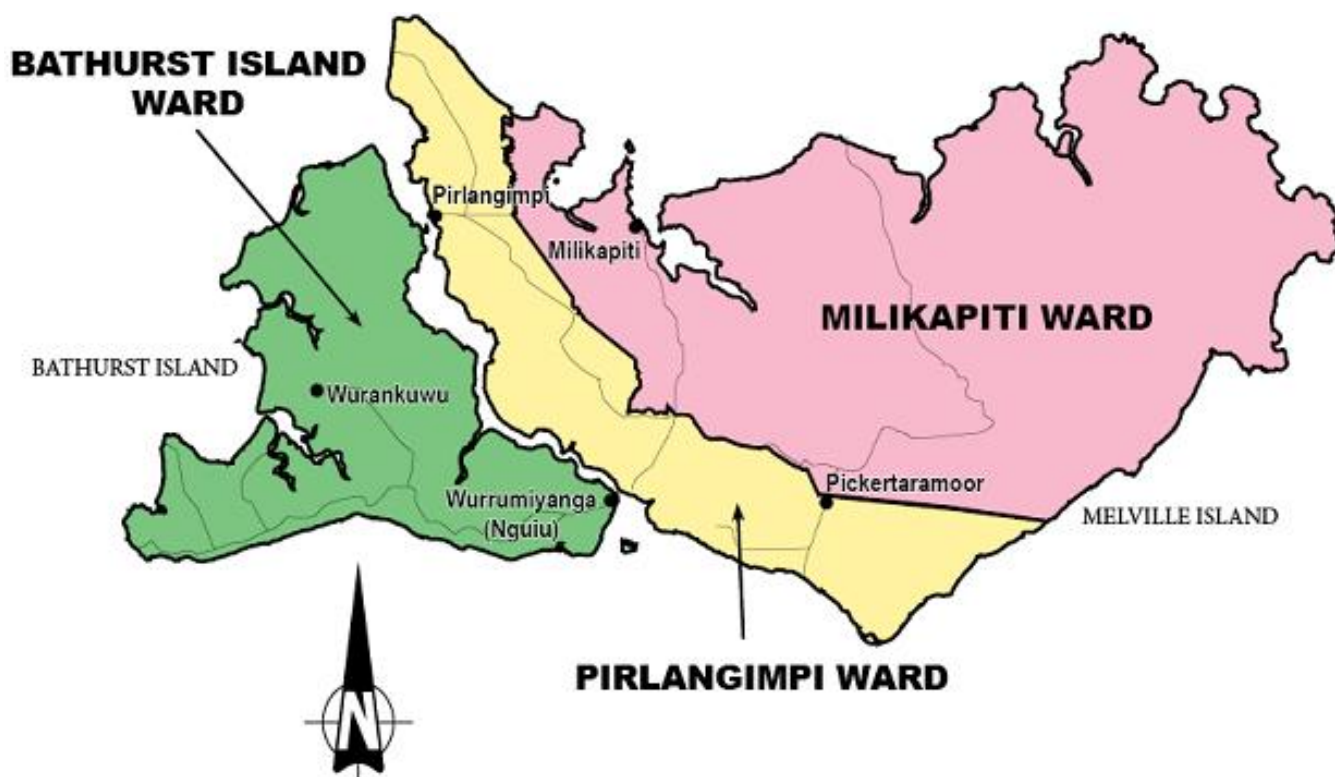
No submissions were received from or in regard to Roper Gulf Regional Council.

Determinations and recommendations

The committee determined not to change existing ward boundaries or recommend changes to representation in Roper Gulf Regional Council.

Tiwi Islands Regional Council

Current representation



This map is available on the NTEC's [webpage](#).



Size, structure and representation

3 wards
 One mayor, elected by the councillors
 12 ordinary members
 144 electors per ordinary member
 7,483 km²

Population

2,348 (2021 ABS census)
 2,453 (2016 ABS census)
 0.3 persons per km²

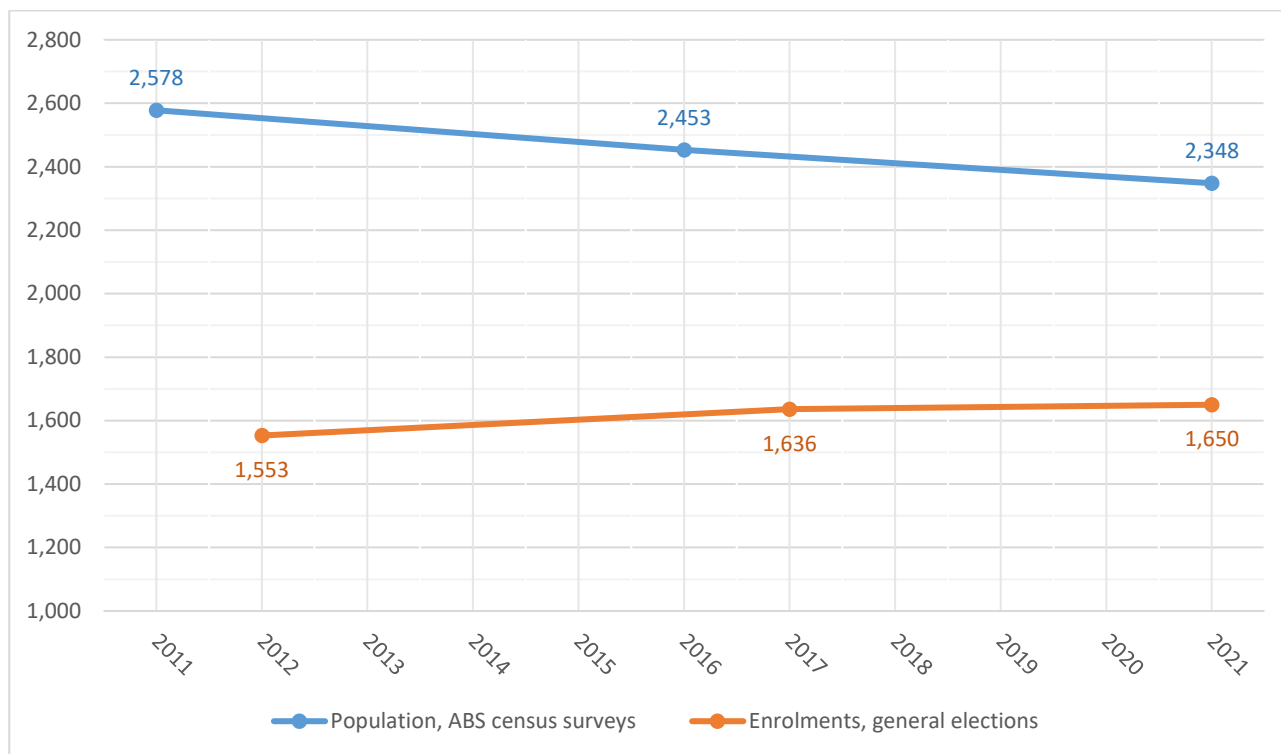
Enrolment

1,724 (November 2022)
 1,636 (August 2017)

Table 14: Tiwi Islands Regional Council enrolment and representation

Ward	Electors as at 4 November 2022	Council members	Electors per member
Bathurst	1,135	6	189
Milikapiti	325	3	108
Pirlangimpi	264	3	88
Total / Average	1,724	12	144

Graph 8: Tiwi Islands Regional Council population and enrolment trends



Tiwi Islands Regional Council has 12 ordinary members with a mayor elected by the council.

A detailed map of this local government council is available on the reviews [webpage](#).

Regional councils such as Tiwi Islands typically have a smaller population over a large geographic area. According to the ABS census data the population has decreased by 4.3% from 2,453 in 2016 to 2,348 in 2021.

Enrolment in Tiwi Islands Regional Council has increased by 5.4% since the 2017 general elections and as at 4 November 2022 there are 1,724 electors. The average number of electors to members in this council is 144. There is some variation in this figure between wards. While Bathurst Ward has an elector to member ratio of 189, Pirlangimpi Ward has a ratio of 88. Bathurst Ward also has twice as many members as its counterparts. While the current representational structure creates some disparity between wards, it also allows distinct communities individual representation on council. These communities were consulted when regional councils were created and ward boundaries were based on geographic, cultural and historical factors.

The committee decided that 12 members is appropriate given the number of discrete communities and geography of the region.

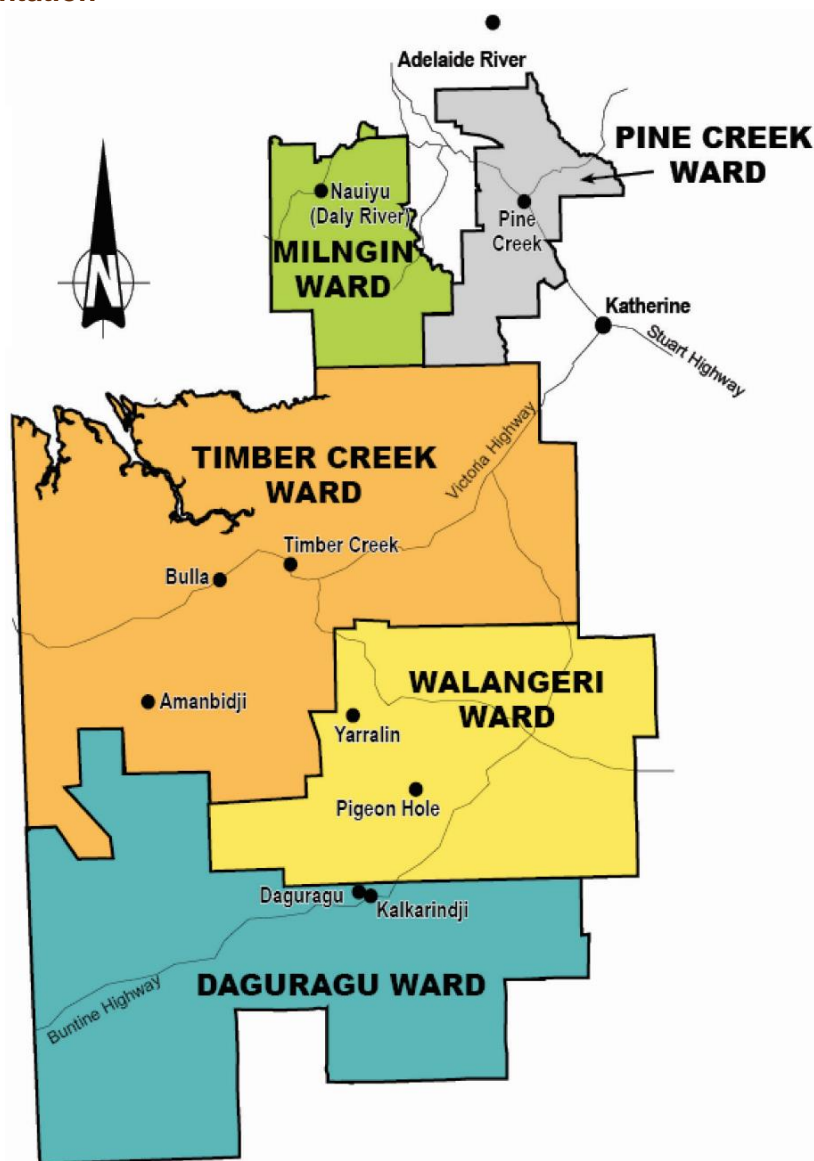
No submissions were received from or in regard to Tiwi Islands Regional Council.

Determinations and recommendations

The committee determined not to change or recommend changes to the representational structure in Tiwi Island Regional Council.

Victoria Daly Regional Council

Current representation



This map is available on the NTEC's [webpage](#).



Victoria Daly
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Size, structure and representation

5 wards
One mayor, elected by the councillors
5 ordinary members
363 electors per ordinary member
153,287 km²

Population

2,815 (2021 ABS census)
2,810 (2016 ABS census)
0.02 persons per km²

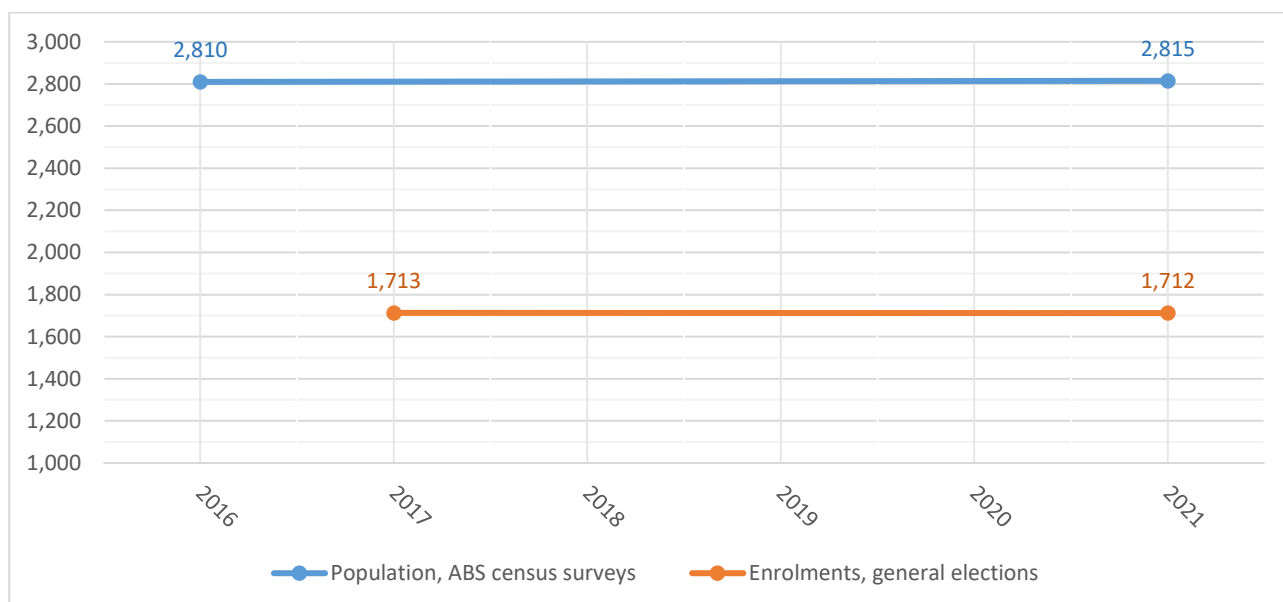
Enrolment

1,814 (November 2022)
1,713 (August 2017)

Table 15: Victoria Daly Regional Council enrolment and representation

Ward	Electors as at 4 November 2022	Council members	Electors per member
Daguragu	444	1	444
Milngin	388	1	388
Pine Creek	225	1	225
Timber Creek	434	1	434
Walangeri	323	1	323
Total / Average	1,814	5	363

Graph 9: Victoria Daly Regional Council population and enrolment trends



Victoria Daly Regional Council has 5 ordinary members with a mayor elected by the council.

A detailed map of this local government council is available on the reviews [webpage](#).

Enrolment in Victoria Daly Regional Council has increased by 5.9% since the 2017 general elections and as at 4 November 2022 there are 1,814 electors. The average number of electors to members is 363 and the members have been distributed evenly. There is some disparity in the electors to member ratios between wards. While Daguragu Ward has 444 electors per member, Pine Creek Ward has 225. This representational structure creates some disparity between wards, but also allows distinct communities individual representation on council. These communities were consulted when regional councils were created and ward boundaries were based on geographic, cultural and historical factors.

Regional councils such as Victoria Daly typically have a smaller population over a large geographic area. According to the ABS census data the population has increased by 0.2% from 2,810 in 2016 to 2,815 in 2021.

The committee decided that 5 members is appropriate given the number of discrete communities and geography of the region.

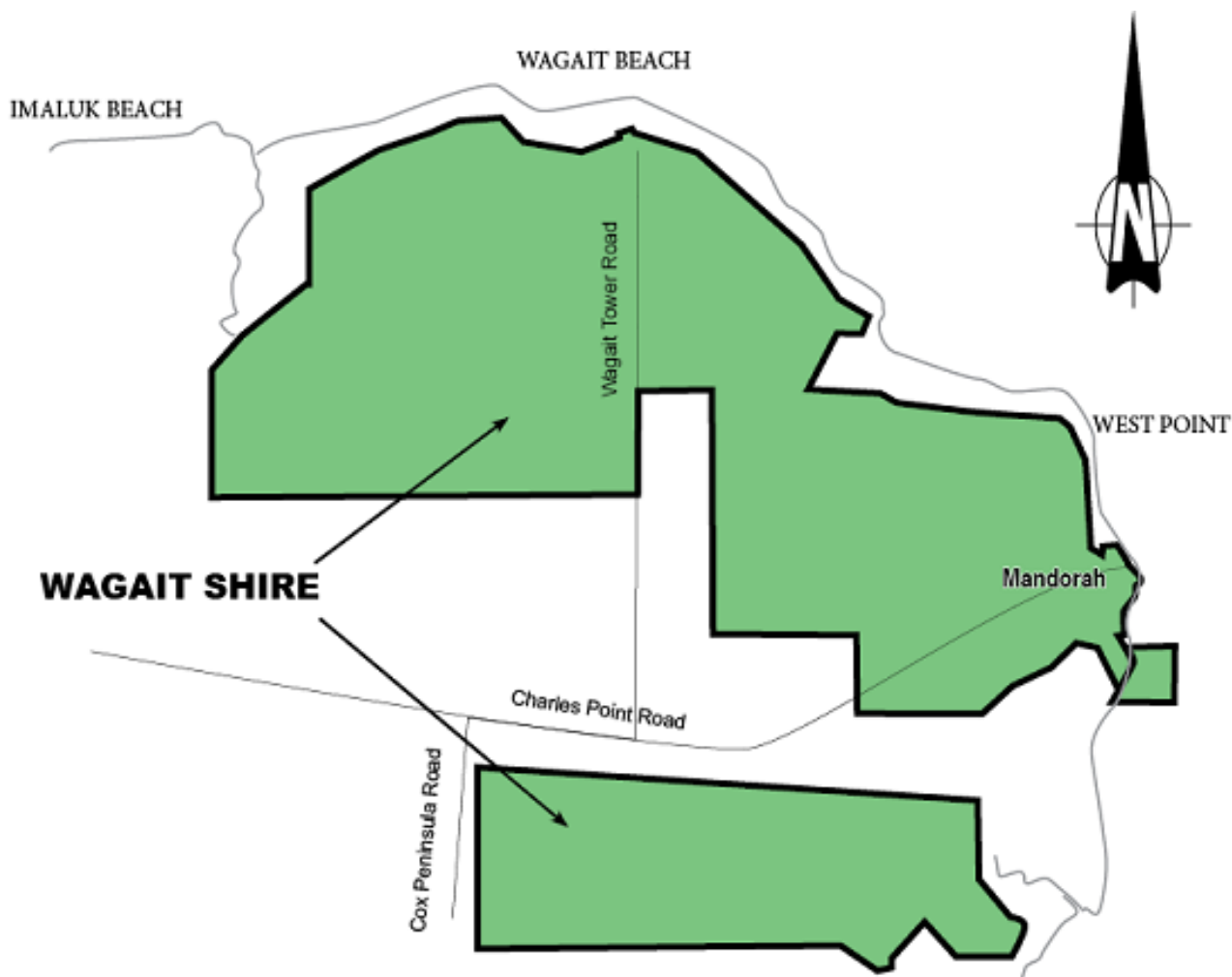
No submissions were received from or in regard to Victoria Daly Regional Council.

Determinations and recommendations

The committee determined not to change or recommend changes to the representational structure in Victoria Daly Regional Council.

Wagait Shire Council

Current representation



This map is available on the NTEC's [webpage](#).



Size, structure and representation

No wards
One president, elected by the councillors
5 ordinary members
63 electors per ordinary member
5.7 km²

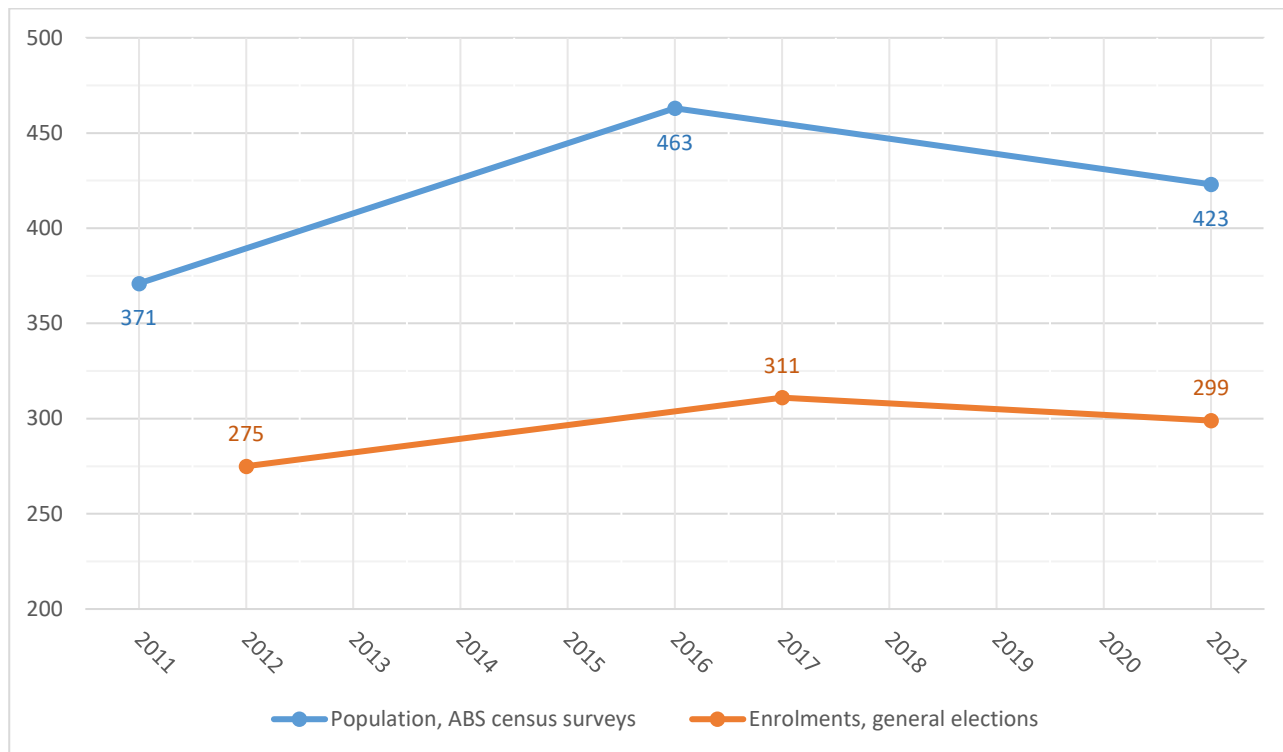
Population

423 (2021 ABS census)
463 (2016 ABS census)
74 persons per km²

Enrolment

315 (November 2022)
311 (August 2017)

Graph 10: Wagait Shire Council population and enrolment trends



Wagait Shire Council has 5 ordinary members and a president elected by the council.

A detailed map of this local government council is available on the reviews [webpage](#).

Enrolment in Wagait Shire Council has increased by 1.3% since the 2017 general elections and as at 4 November 2022, there are 315 electors. This figure is far less than the 18,000 threshold at which the committee would consider implementing a ward structure.

According to the ABS census data the population has decreased by 8.6% from 463 in 2016 to 423 in 2021.

The committee decided that 5 members is appropriate given the limited number of discrete communities and small geographic size of the region.

No submissions were received from or in regard to Wagait Shire Council.

Determinations and recommendations

The committee determined not change or recommend changes to the representational structure in Wagait Shire Council.

West Arnhem Regional Council

Current representation



This map is available on the NTEC's [webpage](#).



Size, structure and representation

5 wards
One mayor, elected by the councillors
12 ordinary members
319 electors per ordinary member
49,675 km²

Population

6,281 (2021 ABS census)
6,188 (2016 ABS census)
0.1 persons per km²

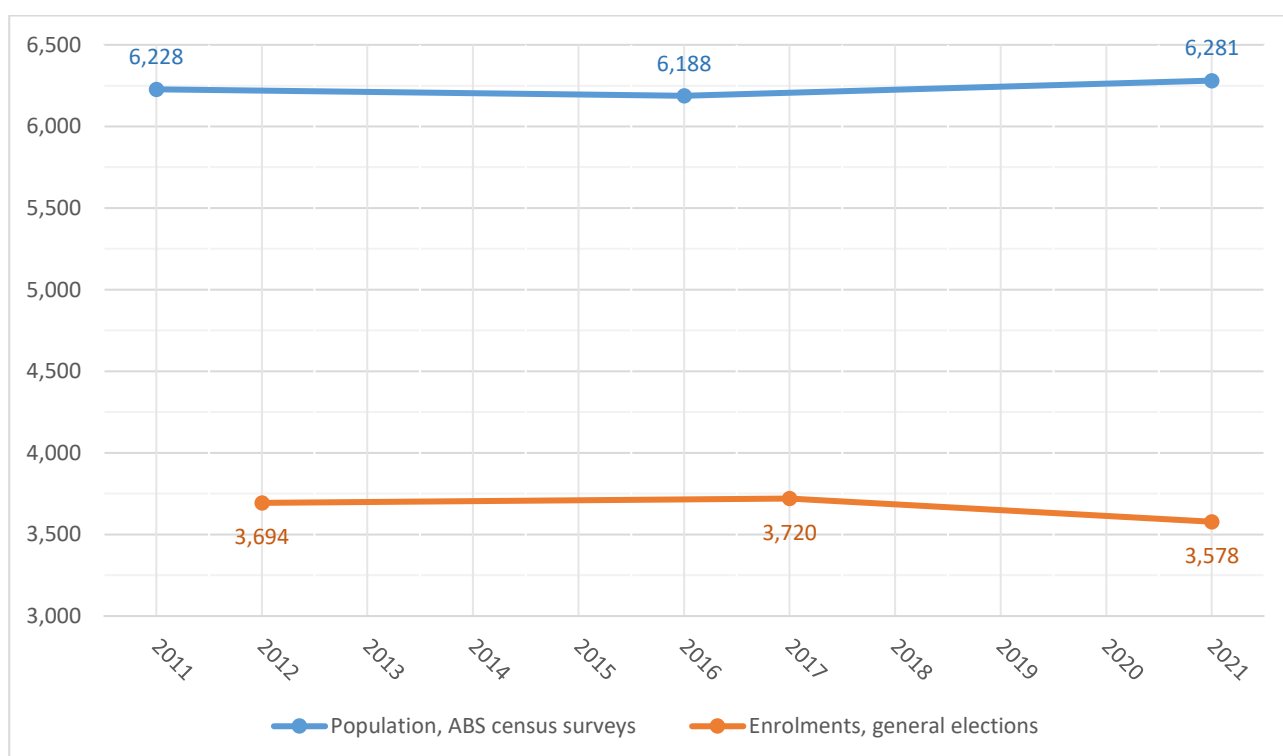
Enrolment

3,825 (November 2022)
3,720 (August 2017)

Table 16: West Arnhem Regional Council enrolment and representation

Ward	Electors as at 4 November 2022	Council members	Electors per member
Gunbalanya	915	3	305
Kakadu	551	3	184
Maningrida	1,881	4	470
Minjilang	167	1	167
Warruwi	311	1	311
Total / Average	3,825	12	319

Graph 11: West Arnhem Regional Council population and enrolment trends



West Arnhem Regional Council has 12 ordinary members with a mayor elected by the council.

A detailed map of this local government council is available on the reviews [webpage](#).

Enrolment in West Arnhem Regional Council has increased by 2.8% since the 2017 general elections and as at 4 November 2022, there are 3,825 electors.

Regional councils such as West Arnhem typically have a smaller population over a large geographic area. According to the ABS census data the population has increased by 1.5% from 6,188 in 2016 to 6,281 in 2021.

The average number of members per councillor is 319 with some variation between wards, in particular between Maningrida Ward with 444 electors per member and Minjilang Ward with 164. In addition to having a significantly larger elector to member ratio, Maningrida Ward also has 4 times as many members as Minjilang Ward. While the current representational structure creates some disparity between wards, it also allows distinct communities individual representation on council. These communities were consulted when regional councils were created and ward boundaries were based on geographic, cultural and historical factors.

The committee decided that 12 members is appropriate given the number of discrete communities and geography of the region.

No submissions were received in regard to West Arnhem Regional Council.

Determinations and recommendations

The committee determined not to change or recommend changes to the representational structure in West Arnhem Regional Council.

West Daly Regional Council

Current representation



This map is available on the NTEC's [webpage](#).



Size, structure and representation

3 wards
One mayor, elected by the councillors
6 ordinary members
348 electors per ordinary member
14,070 km²

Population

2,973 (2021 ABS census)
3,166 (2016 ABS census)
0.2 persons per km²

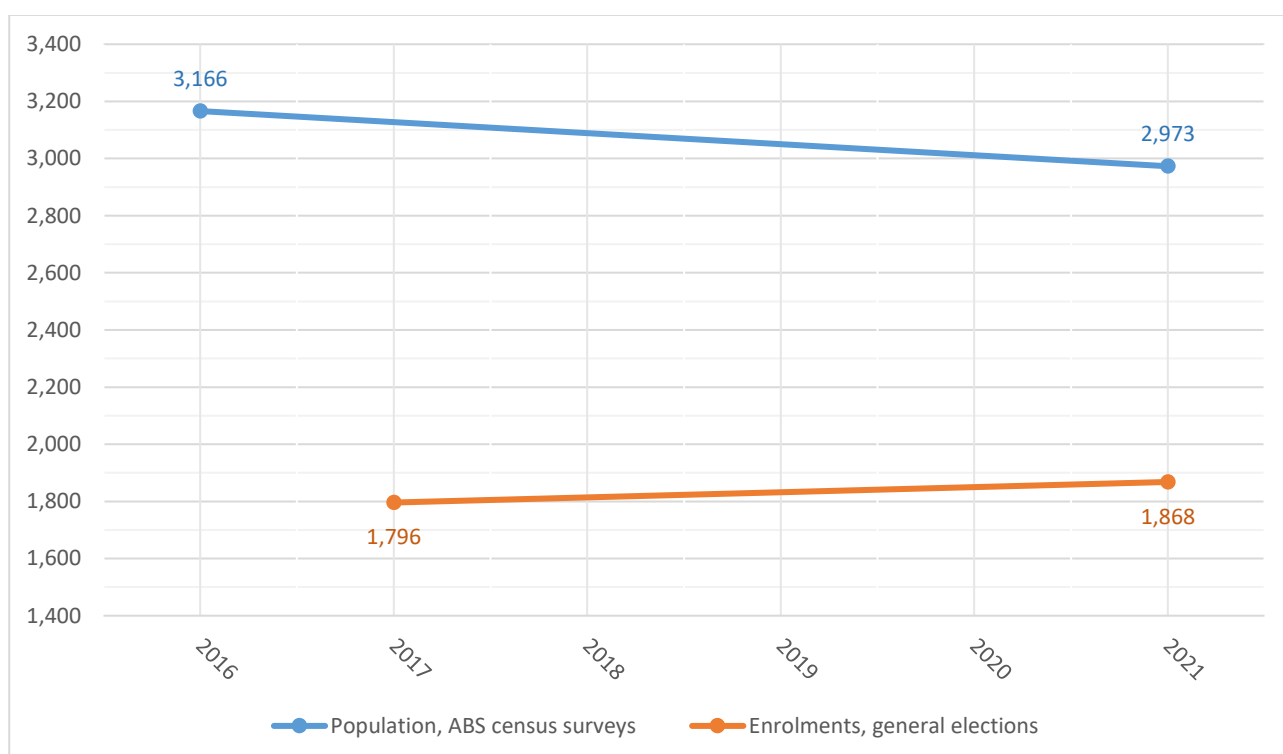
Enrolment

2,089 (November 2022)
1,796 (August 2017)

Table 17: West Daly Regional Council enrolment and representation

Ward	Electors as at 4 November 2022	Council members	Electors per member
Nganmariyanga	236	1	236
Thamarrurr / Pindi Pindi	1,746	4	437
Tyemirri	107	1	107
Total / Average	2,089	6	348

Graph 12: West Daly Regional Council population and enrolment trends



West Daly Regional Council has 6 ordinary members with a mayor elected by the council.

A detailed map of this local government council is available on the reviews [webpage](#).

Previously, the area comprising West Daly Regional Council were part of the Victoria Daly Shire Council. This council was split into 2 separate local government areas before the 2017 general elections.

Regional councils such as West Daly typically have a smaller population over a large geographic area. According to the ABS census data the population has decreased by 6.1% from 3,166 in 2016 to 2,973 in 2021. Geographically, West Daly is one of the smallest regional councils in the NT.

Enrolment in West Daly Regional Council has increased by 16% since the 2017 general elections and as at 4 November 2022, there are 2,089 electors.

The information guide identified the following areas of focus for this council:

- *Tyemirri ward has small enrolment numbers*
- *Emu Point homeland has links with Peppimenarti community, but they are in different wards.*

West Daly Regional Council provided a submission arguing that the number of members should be increased but did not specify how many would be appropriate. Neither did it describe how the

members should be distributed. This submission is available on the reviews [webpage](#). The committee agreed that 6 members is appropriate given the number of discrete communities and geography of the region.

The average number of electors per member is 348, with some disparity between wards, particularly Thamarrurr / Pindi Pindi Ward with 437 electors per member and Tyemirri Ward with 107. The number of members allocated to each ward also varies, with Thamarrurr / Pindi Pindi Ward having 4 while the remaining wards have one each. Thamarrurr / Pindi Pindi Ward has been allocated more members due to the fact it has significantly more electors.

These ward boundaries were established with the creation of the council and ensure the smaller communities of Peppimenarti and Nganmariyanga each have representation on council. The committee agreed that this was important and fair, despite the disparity in elector to member ratios.

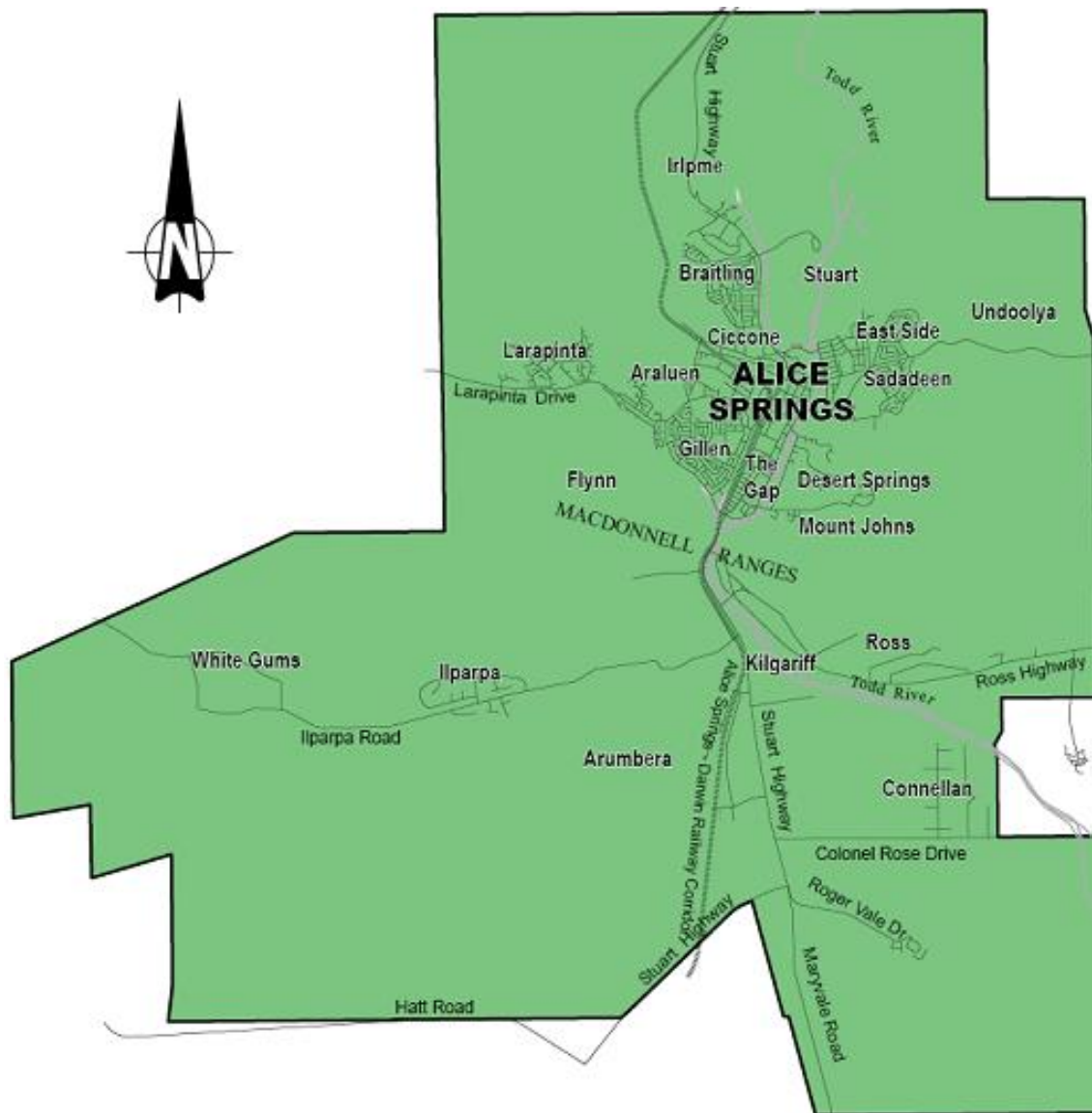
Determinations and recommendations

The committee determined not to change existing ward boundaries or recommend changes to representation in West Daly Regional Council.

5.3 Municipal councils

Alice Springs Town Council

Current representation



This map is available on the NTEC's [webpage](#).



Size, structure and representation

No wards
One directly elected mayor
8 ordinary members
2,018 electors per ordinary member
328 km²

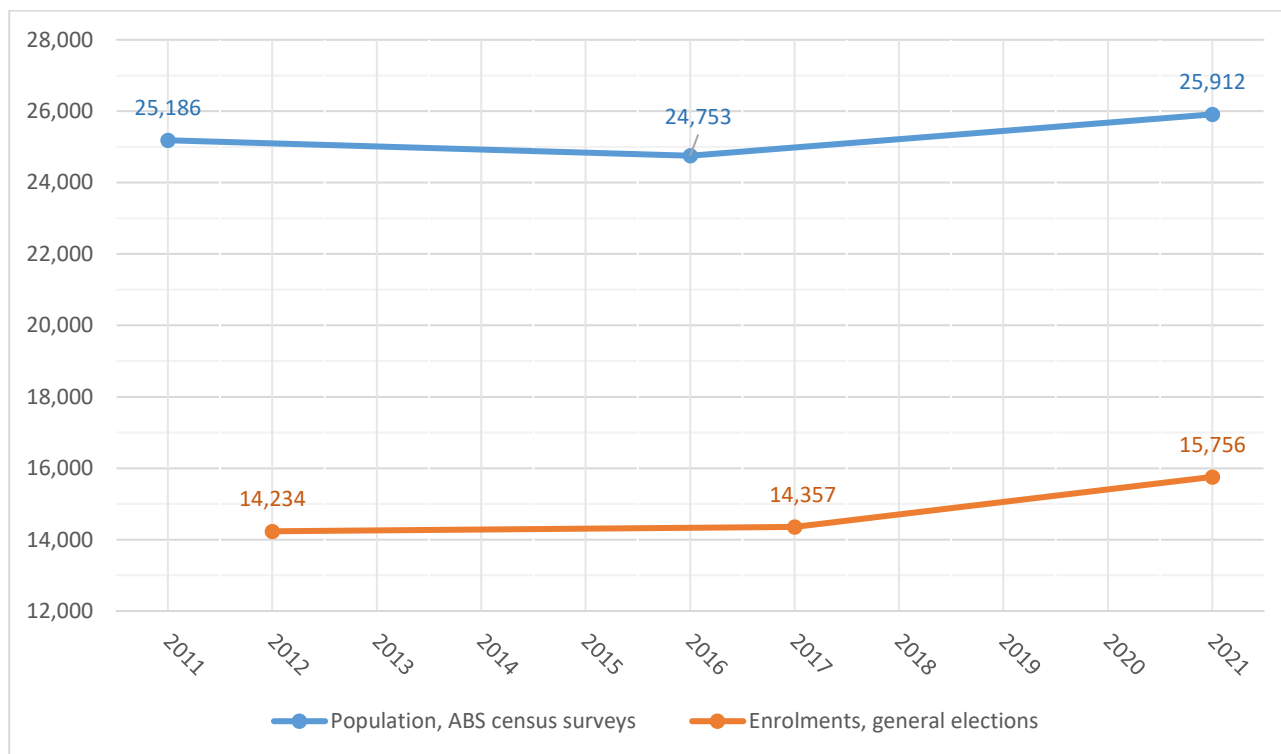
Population

25,912 (2021 ABS census)
24,753 (2016 ABS census)
79 persons per km²

Enrolment

16,145 (November 2022)
14,357 (August 2017)

Graph 13: Alice Springs Town Council population and enrolment trends



Alice Springs Town Council has 8 ordinary members and a directly elected mayor.

A detailed map of this local government council is available on the reviews [webpage](#).

Enrolment in Alice Springs Town Council has increased by 12.5% since the 2017 general elections and as at 4 November 2022, there are 16,145 electors. The council has a ratio of 2,018 electors per member.

According to the ABS census data the population has increased by 4.7% from 24,753 in 2016 to 25,912 in 2021.

The information guide identified the '*possible introduction of wards*' as an area of focus for this council.

A submission received from Alice Springs Town Council expressed that wards were not necessary at this time.

The committee decided that 8 councillors is appropriate given the variety of communities of interest, population, number of enrolments and geographic size of the council area.

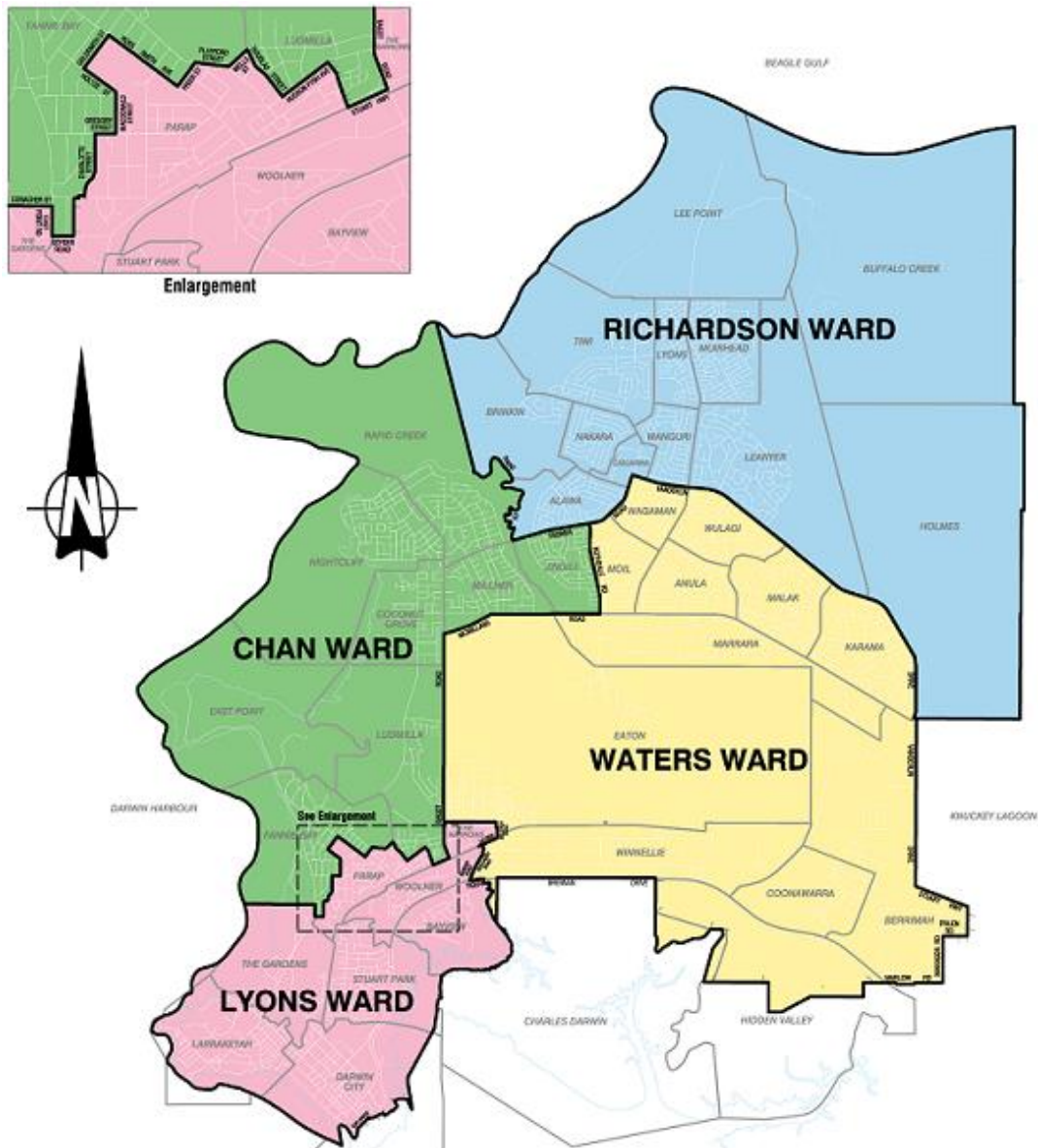
Alice Springs Town Council's enrolments have increased to a point approaching the threshold of 18,000 at which the committee would consider wards. The preliminary report did not propose the introduction of wards but did include a prospective scenario in order to obtain feedback. A map of this prospective scenario is available on the reviews [webpage](#). Alice Springs Town Council's submission did not support the introduction of wards and stated that the prospective boundaries were not suitable. All submissions are available on the representation reviews [webpage](#).

Determinations and recommendations

The committee determined not to change or recommend changes to the representational structure in Alice Springs Town Council.

Darwin (City of)

Current representation



This map is available on the NTEC's [webpage](#).



Size, structure and representation

4 wards
One directly elected mayor
12 ordinary members
4,341 electors per ordinary member
111 km²

Population

80,530 (2021 ABS census)
78,804 (2016 ABS census)
724 persons per km²

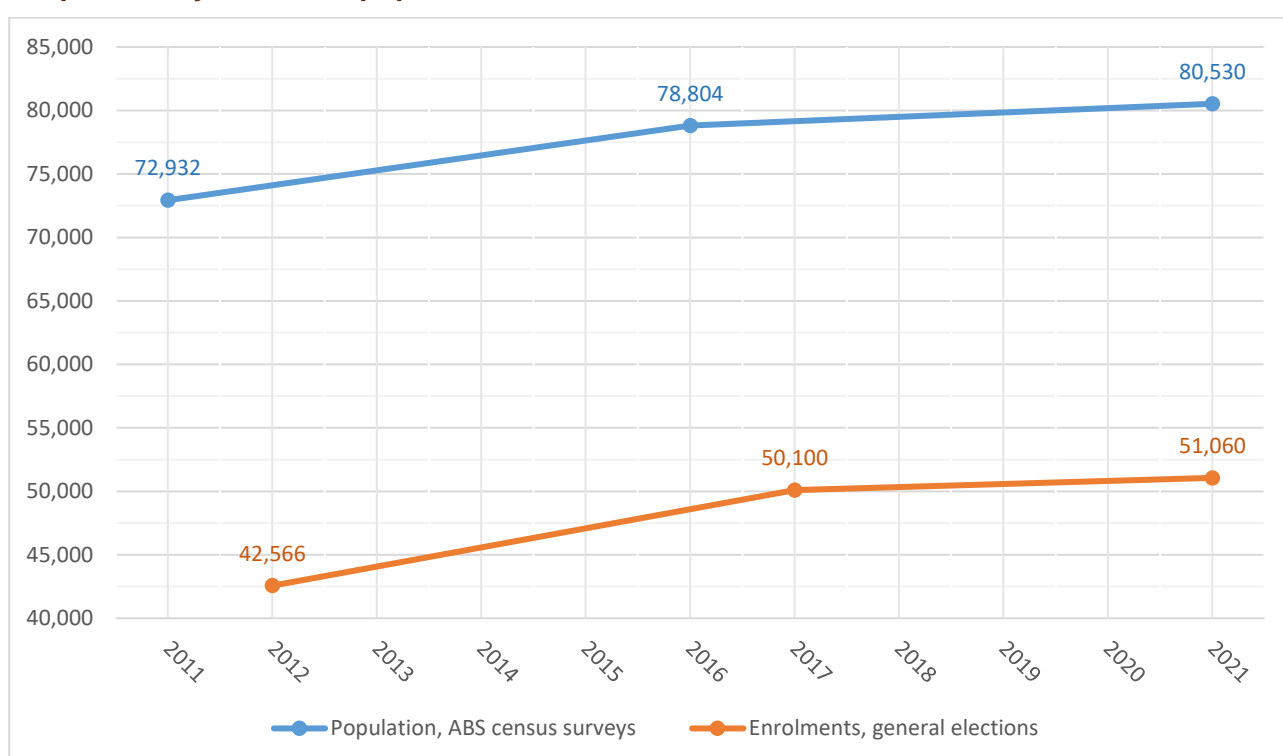
Enrolment

52,092 (November 2022)
50,100 (August 2017)

Table 18: City of Darwin enrolment and representation

Ward	Electors as at 31 May 2022	Council members	Electors per member
Chan	12,719	3	4,240
Lyons	13,362	3	4,454
Richardson	12,907	3	4,302
Waters	13,104	3	4,368
Total / Average	52,092	12	4,341

Graph 14: City of Darwin population and enrolment trends



The City of Darwin has 12 ordinary members and a directly elected mayor.

A detailed map of this local government council is available on the reviews [webpage](#).

Enrolment in the City of Darwin has increased by 4% since the 2017 general elections and as at 4 November 2022 there are 52,092 electors. The average number of electors to members is 4,341. All 4 individual wards have a similar ratio. The members have also been evenly distributed.

Municipal councils such as City of Darwin typically have a larger population over a small geographic area. According to the ABS census data the population has increased by 2.2% from 78,804 in 2016 to 80,530 in 2021.

The committee decided that 12 councillors is appropriate given the variety of communities of interest, population, number of enrolments and geographic size of the council area.

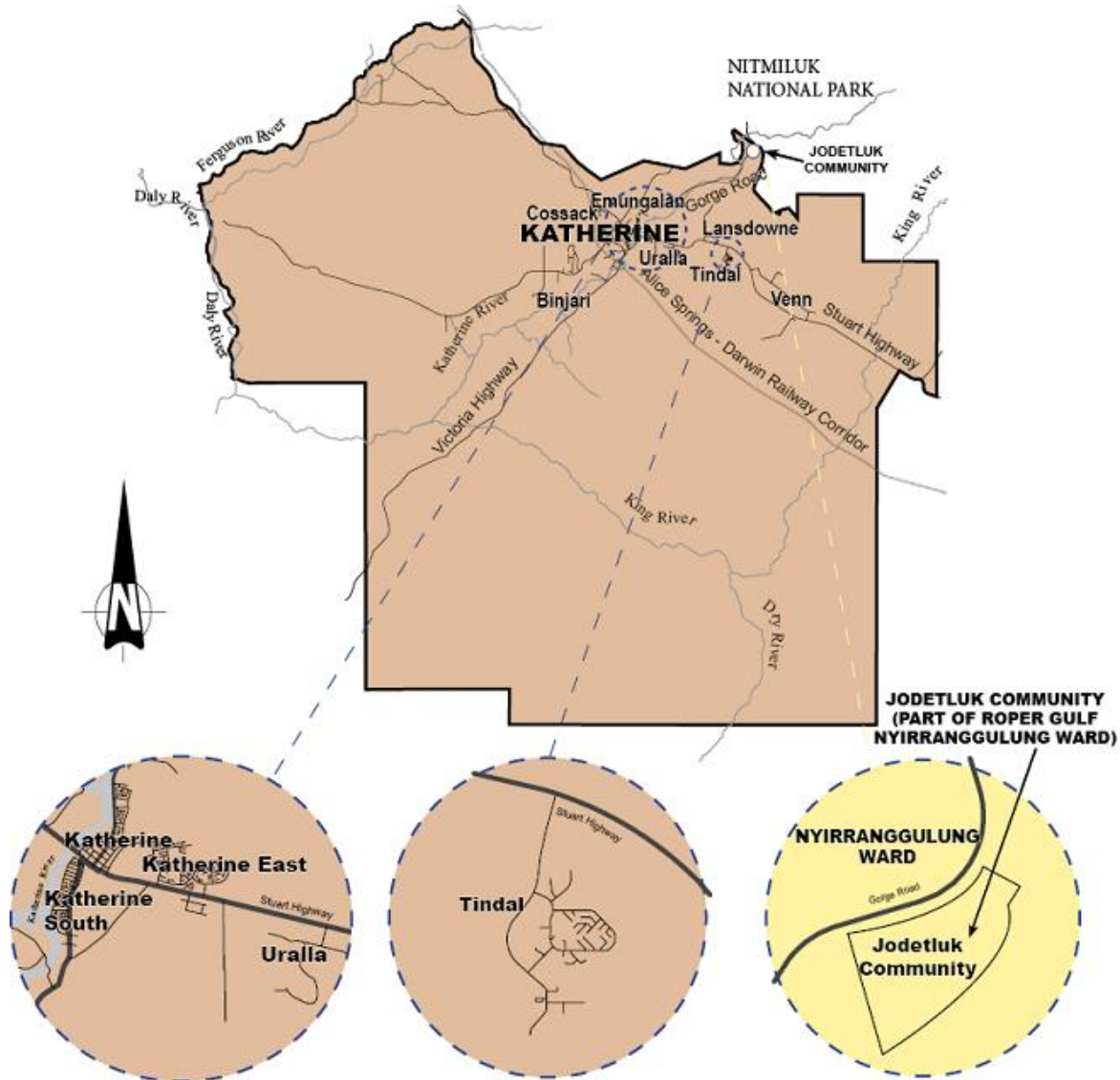
No submissions were received from or in regard to the City of Darwin.

Determinations and recommendations

The committee determined not to change existing ward boundaries or recommend changes to representation in the City of Darwin.

Katherine Town Council

Current representation



This map is available on the NTEC's [webpage](#).



Size, structure and representation

- No wards
- One directly elected mayor
- 6 ordinary members
- 1,110 electors per ordinary member
- 7,417 km²

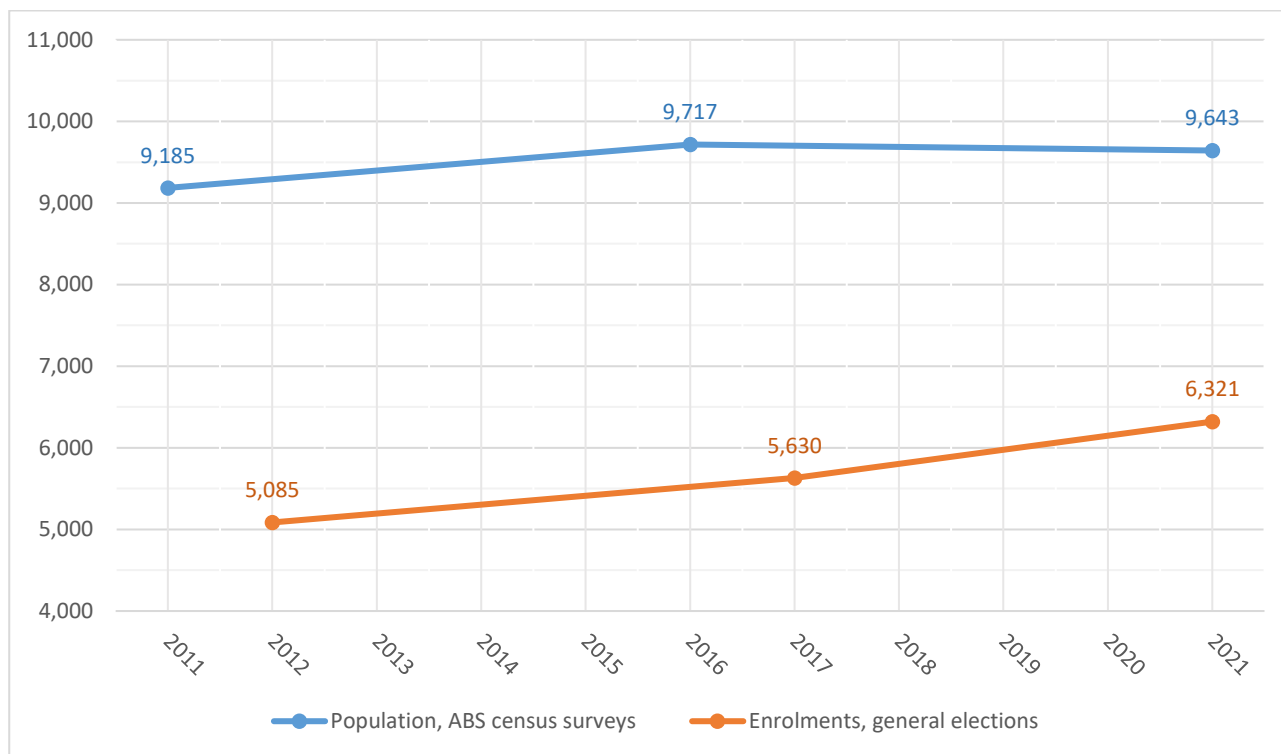
Population

- 9,643** (2021 ABS census)
- 9,717 (2016 ABS census)
- 1.3 persons per km²

Enrolment

- 6,661** (November 2022)
- 5,630 (August 2017)

Graph 15: Katherine Town Council population and enrolment trends



Katherine Town Council has 6 ordinary members and a directly elected mayor.

A detailed map of this local government council is available on the reviews [webpage](#).

Enrolment in Katherine Town Council has increased by 18% since the 2017 general elections and as at 4 November 2022 there are 6,661 electors.

According to the ABS census the population has decreased by 0.8% from 9,717 in 2016 to 9,643 in 2021.

The information guide identified the *‘Possible introduction of wards’* as an area of focus.

Enrolments currently fall well below the 18,000 threshold at which the committee would consider wards. While the council area is significantly larger than any other municipal council, it is not so large that wards would be warranted on that basis alone.

The committee decided that 6 councillors is appropriate given the variety of communities of interest, population, number of enrolments and geographic size of the council area.

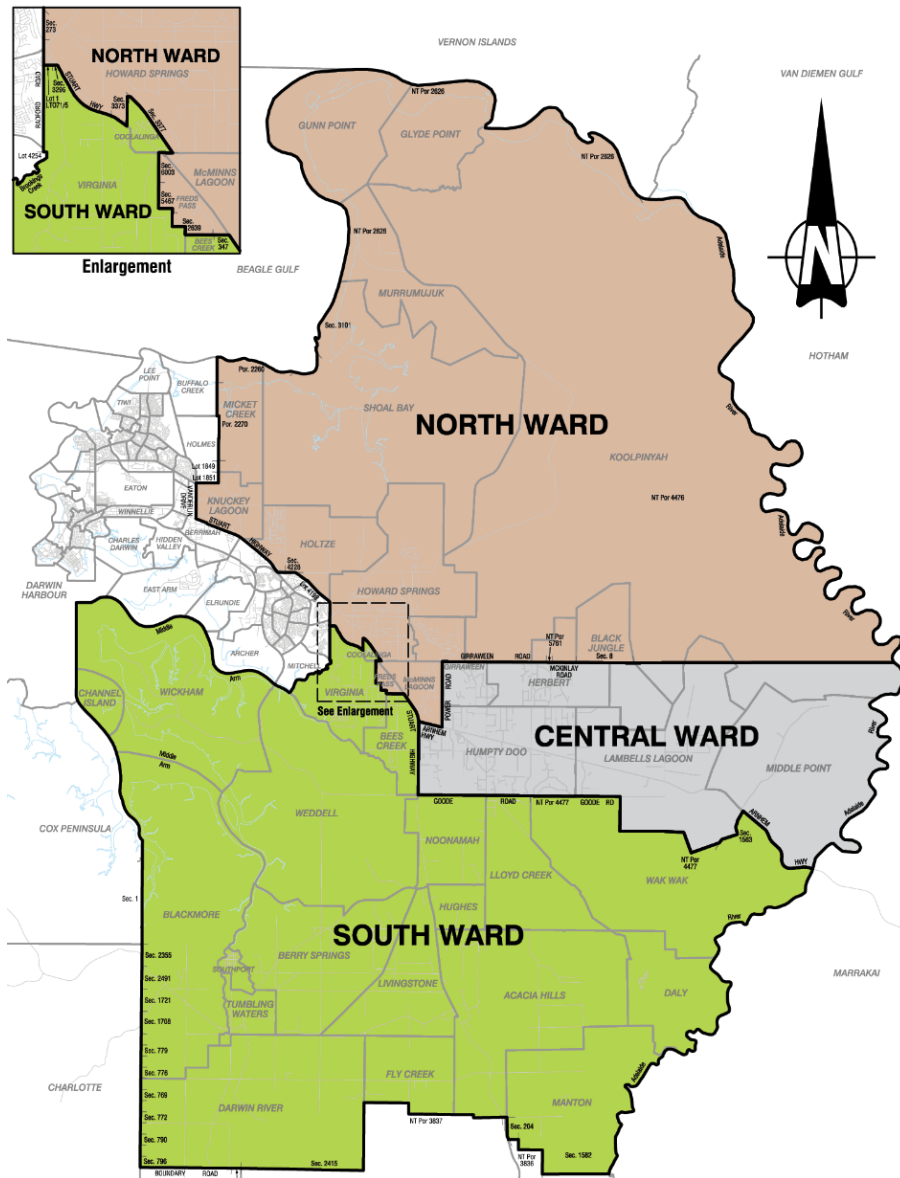
No submissions were received from or in regard to Katherine Town Council.

Determinations and recommendations

The committee determined not to change or recommend changes to the representational structure in Katherine Town Council.

Litchfield Council

Current representation



This map is available on the NTEC's [webpage](#).



Size, structure and representation

- 3 wards
- One directly elected mayor
- 6 ordinary members
- 2,207 electors per ordinary member
- 2,903 km²

Population

- 21,411 (2021 ABS census)
- 23,855 (2016 ABS census)
- 7.4 persons per km²

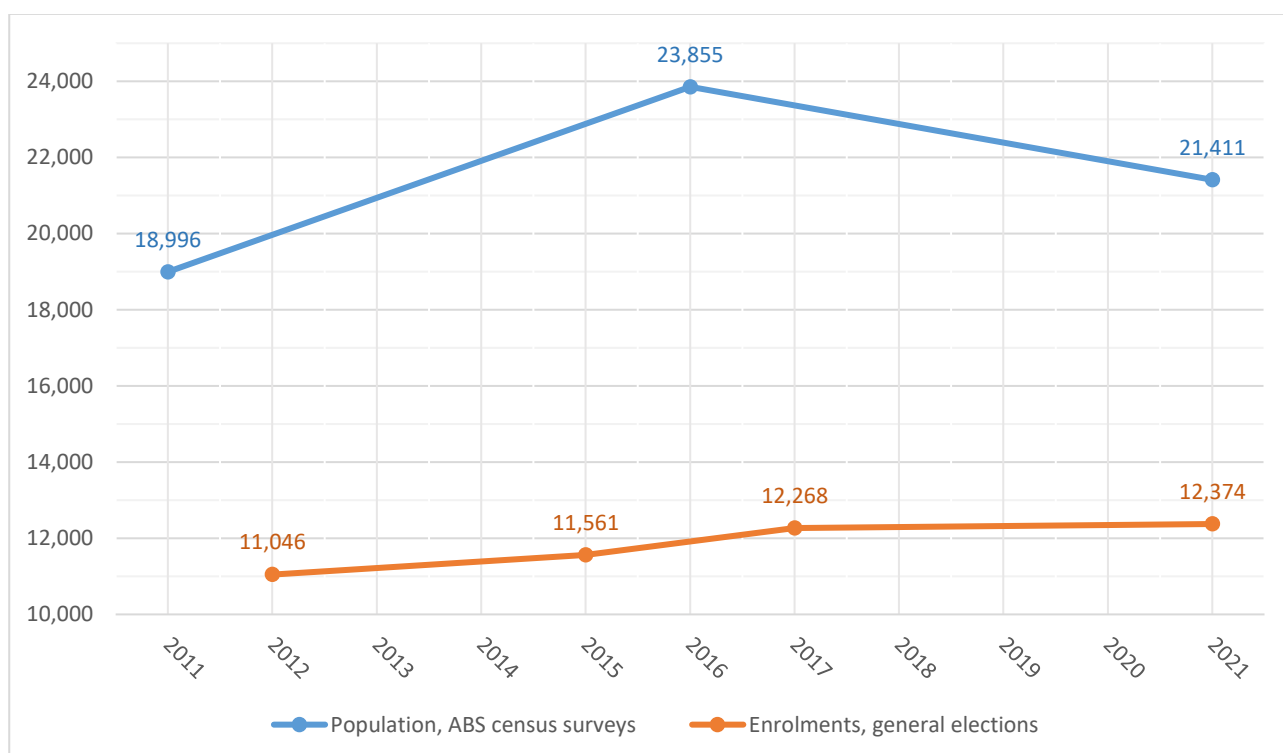
Enrolment

- 13,239 (November 2022)
- 12,268 (August 2017)

Table 19: Litchfield Council enrolment and representation

Ward	Electors as at 4 November 2022	Council members	Electors per member
Central	4,542	2	2,271
North	4,261	2	2,131
South	4,436	2	2,218
Total / Average	13,239	6	2,207

Graph 16: Litchfield Council population and enrolment trends



Litchfield Council has 6 ordinary members and a directly elected mayor.

A detailed map of this local government council is available on the reviews [webpage](#).

Enrolment in Litchfield Council has increased by 7.9% since the 2017 general elections and as at 4 November 2022, there are 13,239 electors.

The average number of electors to members is 2,207, with all 3 wards having a similar ratio. The number of members per ward has also been equitably distributed.

According to the ABS census data the population has decreased by 10.2% from 23,855 in 2016 to 21,411 in 2021.

The committee decided that 6 councillors is appropriate given the variety of communities of interest, population, number of enrolments and geographic size of the council area.

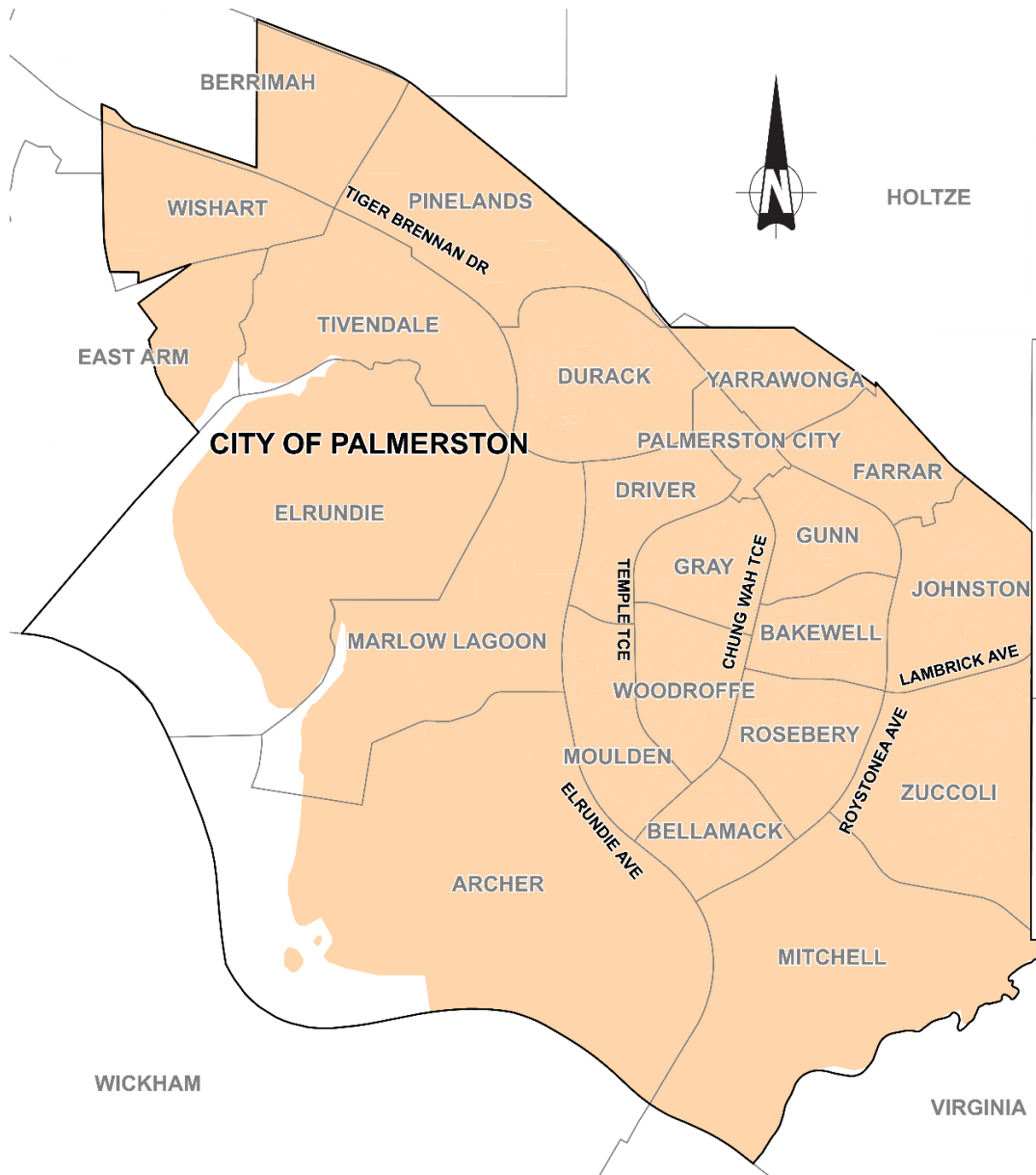
Litchfield Council provided 2 submissions to the committee stating no changes were necessary at this time. Both submissions are available on the reviews [webpage](#).

Determinations and recommendations

The committee determined not to change or recommend changes to the representational structure in Litchfield Council.

Palmerston (City of)

Current representation



This map is available on the NTEC's [webpage](#).



Size, structure and representation

No wards
 One directly elected mayor
 7 ordinary members
 3,516 electors per ordinary member
 77 km²

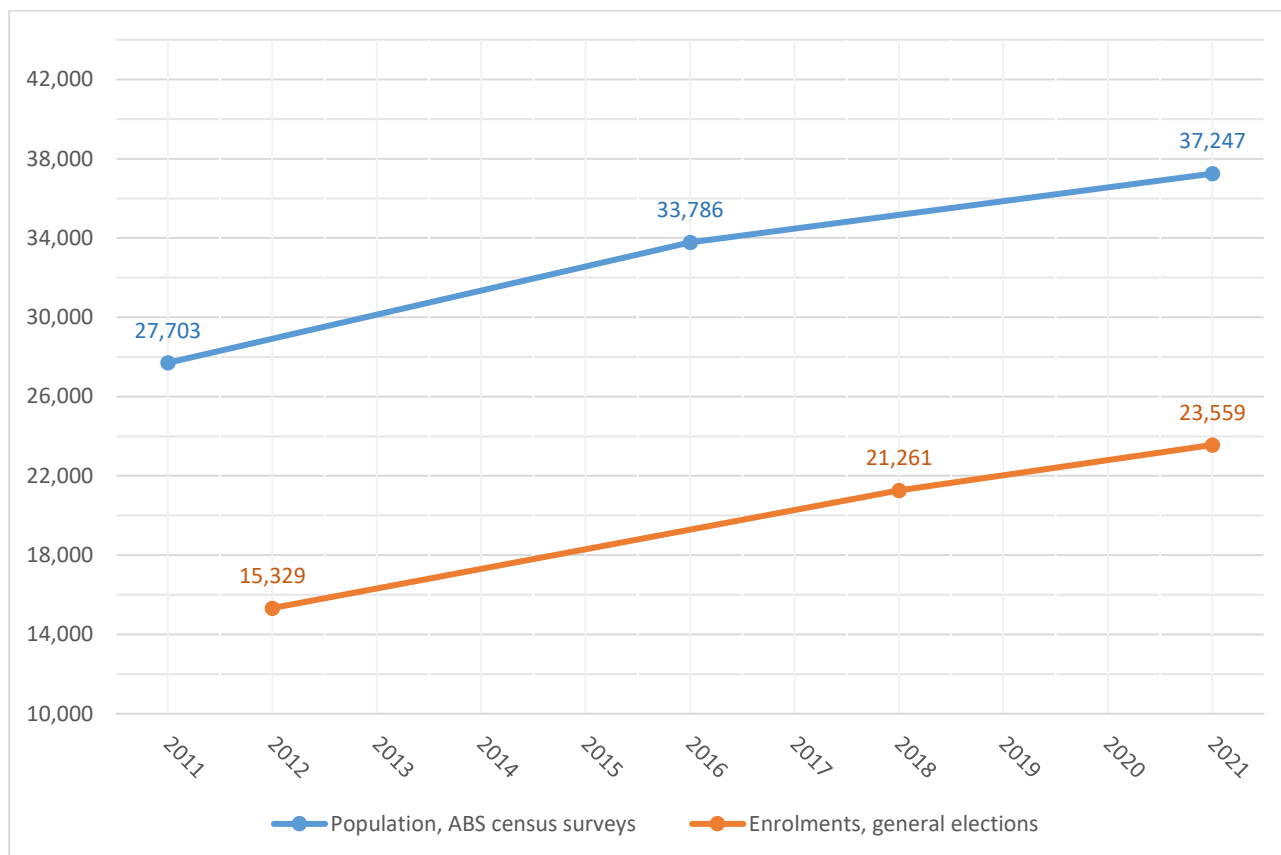
Population

37,247 (2021 ABS census)
 33,786 (2016 ABS census)
 482 persons per km²

Enrolment

24,611 (November 2022)
 21,261 (March 2018)

Graph 17: City of Palmerston population and enrolment trends



The City of Palmerston has 7 ordinary members and a directly elected mayor.

A detailed map of this local government council is available on the reviews [webpage](#).

Enrolment in the City of Palmerston has increased by 16% since the 2018 general election and as at 4 November 2022, there were 24,611 electors. The council had a ratio of 3,516 electors per member.

Municipal councils such as Palmerston typically have a larger population over a small geographic area. According to the ABS census data the population had increased by 10.2% from 33,786 in 2016 to 37,247 in 2021.

On 1 July 2022 the City of Palmerston's external boundaries were expanded to include previously unincorporated industrial land. These newly incorporated areas include:

- Berrimah (partial)
- East Arm (partial)
- Elrundie
- Tivendale
- Wishart (partial)

The information guide identified the '*possible introduction of wards*' as an area of focus for the City of Palmerston. In their initial submission and meetings with the committee, the council objected to the introduction of wards. Their reasons for not supporting wards are detailed in their submission, available on the reviews [webpage](#).

Palmerston is, geographically, the smallest municipal council in the NT. However, it is among the largest councils in regard to population, population density and enrolment; second only to the City of Darwin. The City of Palmerston also has among the highest enrolment and population growth rates of any council in the NT. As this council grows, so too does the diversity of its residents, their interests and their needs.

The methodology established in section 4.3 described that a minimum of 3 wards would be considered for municipal councils with at least 18,000 electors, and a growing population. Having met both criteria, the committee developed various ward scenarios for the City of Palmerston.

During this process the legislated assessment criteria and guiding principles were used to evaluate ward scenarios and boundaries. This included ensuring equitable elector to member ratios and distribution of councillors, using major roads as ward boundaries, and keeping suburbs wholly within a ward.

In its preliminary report, the committee proposed 2 scenarios of 4 wards for the City of Palmerston. Maps of these scenarios are available on the reviews [webpage](#).

Further submissions from the City of Palmerston again objected to the introduction of wards and raised concerns about both 4 ward scenarios in the preliminary report. The committee provided written responses to their submissions and met with the council to discuss its concerns. All correspondence between the council and the committee is available on the reviews [webpage](#).

To enable further consultation with the City of Palmerston, the committee delayed the release of the final report by a month. The council were invited to submit alternative ward scenarios that addressed their concerns and submitted a 2 ward scenario that is available on the reviews [webpage](#).

The committee attended a workshop on 13 December 2022 at the City of Palmerston to discuss the council's 2 ward scenario and its concerns regarding the proposed 4 ward scenarios. Scenarios with 3 wards were also discussed at the workshop.

Council reiterated that it did not believe a ward structure was necessary or appropriate to support fair representation in the City of Palmerston. The council also stated that if a ward structure were to be implemented, its preference would be its 2 ward scenario which addressed the following:

- each ward should be comprised of at least 2 members
- the suburbs of Driver, Gray, Moulden and Woodroffe should not all be in the same ward
- the number of ordinary members should be increased from 7 to 8.

The committee accepted that the council had raised some valid concerns but did not support the 2 ward scenario as it did not align with the committee's methodology that there should be a minimum of 3 wards. The committee also acknowledged that neither of the 4 ward scenarios in the preliminary report adequately addressed the concerns raised by the council.

Subsequently the committee developed 2 scenarios with 3 wards that addressed council's concerns, noting that council were not supportive of the introduction of wards. These scenarios were provided to council for feedback and are available on the reviews [webpage](#).

Recognising that the number of members in a council are determined by the Minister, the committee has recommended to increase the number of councillors from 7 to 8 based on current enrolment and anticipated population growth. An additional member would enable a more equitable elector to member ratio.

Following careful consideration of the concerns raised by the council, 2 scenarios were developed that each comprised of 3 wards, the suburbs of Driver, Gray, Moulden and Woodroffe are represented by 2 different wards; and there are at least 2 members in each ward.

In addition to the council's feedback and the legislated assessment criteria, the committee again considered the following factors when formulating the new ward boundaries:

- using major roads as boundaries
- keeping individual suburbs wholly within one ward
- maintaining (where practicable) an equitable elector to member ratio
- maintaining (where practicable) an equitable distribution of members between wards.

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City of Palmerston scenario A

Scenario A allows for 8 councillors and a proportionate distribution of electors with the exception of Ward 1 which has a higher ratio of electors to members. This scenario is based on the assumption that the Minister increases the number of councillors from 7 to 8.

Table 20: City of Palmerston scenario A, electors per ward

Ward	Members	Suburbs	Enrolment as at 31 May 2022	Electors per councillor
Ward 1	2	Berrimah Driver Durack East Arm Elrundie Marlow Lagoon Moulden Pinelands Tivendale Wishart	7,082	3,541
Ward 2	3	Bakewell Farrar Gray Gunn Johnston Palmerston City Palmerston Indigenous Village Yarrowonga	8,504	2,835
Ward 3	3	Archer Bellamack Mitchell Rosebery Woodroffe Zuccoli	8,559	2,853
Total	8		24,145	3,018

A map of this scenario is available on the reviews [webpage](#).

City of Palmerston scenario B

Scenario B is similar to A with the following differences:

- the suburb of Bakewell is in Ward 3 instead of Ward 2
- Ward 2 has 2 council members, instead of 3
- facilitates a more equal distribution of electors if the number of councillors remain at 7.

If the Minister determines that the number of councillors remain at 7, scenario B is to be implemented. There is a larger number of enrolments in Ward 3 to accommodate one more member. The electors to member ratios are similar across all 3 wards.

Table 21: City of Palmerston scenario B, electors per ward

Ward	Members	Suburbs	Enrolment as at 31 May 2022	Electors per councillor
Ward 1	2	Berrimah Driver Durack East Arm Elrundie Marlow Lagoon Moulden Pinelands Tivendale Wishart	7,082	3,541
Ward 2	2	Farrar	6,351	3,176

Ward	Members	Suburbs	Enrolment as at 31 May 2022	Electors per councillor
		Gray Gunn Johnston Palmerston City Palmerston Indigenous Village Yarrowonga		
Ward 3	3	Archer Bakewell Bellamack Mitchell Rosebery Woodroffe Zuccoli	10,712	3,571
Total	7		24,145	3,449

A map of this scenario is available on the reviews [webpage](#).

Determinations and recommendations

The committee has determined to implement a 3 ward structure for the City of Palmerston and recommends that the Minister increase the number of councillors from 7 to 8. If this recommendation is accepted by the Minister the boundaries defined in scenario A ([see map](#)) be implemented.

If the Minister determines that the number of councillors remains at 7, then the boundaries defined in scenario B ([see map](#)) be implemented.

5.4 Recommended ward names for the City of Palmerston

Naming conventions

In addition to proposing ward boundaries, the committee may make recommendations regarding ward names (s28(4)(a)).

As the Act does not establish conventions, requirements or guidelines in regard to ward names, the committee adopted similar conventions used in Legislative Assembly redistributions shown in the table below.

Table 22: Appropriate and inappropriate ward name criteria

Appropriate criteria	Inappropriate criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deceased persons who have rendered outstanding service to the community (commemorative names). Aboriginal names or words relevant to the area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Living persons. Geographical landmarks. Names of existing suburbs and places.

Before and after publishing the preliminary report, the committee encouraged councils and the public to nominate ward names. No suggestions were received.

The purpose of local government is to represent people and their communities. Ward names offer an opportunity to honour and recognise people that have made significant contribution and positively impacted local communities. As such, the committee formed a preference for commemorative names.

After consulting with the Place Names Committee Chair and the Place Names work unit, a list of commemorative ward names has been compiled below in table 23.

Table 23: Suggested ward names

Suggested commemorative ward name	Notes and reasoning
ALNGINDABU, alternatively MCGINNESS	Alngindabu (later Lucy McGinness) was an Aboriginal elder born in Chapana, near the Finnis River. Alngindabu belonged to the Kungarakany language group. Her husband, Stephen McGinness, was a worker on the North Australia Railway stationed at the 34 Mile. The couple later established a tin ore mine in Litchfield, the Lucy Mine, and the McGinness home.
BARACCHI	Pietro Paolo Giovanni Ernesto Baracchi born 1851, Italy, was an astronomer and engineer. On a scientific expedition to Darwin from 1882 to 1883, Pietro helped establish the true longitude of Port Darwin. A monument marking this survey point stands in Liberty Square next to Parliament House. The mark is integral to the history of surveying in Darwin and serves as an important reference point to this day.
BARNESON	Captain James Barneson was in command of the ship Moonta which was chartered to take the Surveyor-General George Goyder and party to Port Darwin. The Moonta arrived at Port Darwin on 5 February 1869 and remained while the Town of Palmerston (now Darwin) was surveyed.
BOUBARIS	Matthew Boubaris was 11 years old when he emigrated from Chios, Greece to Australia with his family in 1956. Shortly after arriving in Darwin in 1958 Matthew formed a lifelong affiliation with the Hellenic Athletic Club and the wider soccer, football and Greek communities. Matthew is credited with helping to found the Alawa Soccer Club and in 2005 was honored with the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Recognition Award.
CALDWELL	Clive Robertson Caldwell DSO, DFC & Bar (1911 – 1994) was a pilot of outstanding skill and service who participated in multiple missions during WWII. Clive has been recognised as a leading Australian air ace of WWII. He is officially credited with shooting down more than 27 enemy aircraft in over 300 operational sorties, including an ‘ace in a day’. Clive was posted in Darwin for a time, defending the NT from enemy Japanese planes. His last aerial victory took place over the Arafura Sea in 1943.
CLAPÉ	Richard James (Jim) Clapé was born in Perth, WA in 1909. Jim, his wife Maria and their two children lived on Woods Street for a time during WWII. The family returned to Darwin in 1946 and took up residence in Smith Street, then later in Nightcliff. Jim worked as a resident inspector for the Commercial Union and later as a claims superintendent for the War Damage Commission before becoming a charter member of the Rotary Club of Darwin.
DUNHAM	Richard Dunham emigrated from England to Australia in 1961 at the age of 19 to study engineering and surveying at Sydney Technical College. In 1984 he and his family settled in Darwin. Richard served the Litchfield Council as a works manager from 1984 to 2008. On retiring he was presented with a plaque from the Shire President, councillors and shire staff in appreciation of his valued contribution to the council.
KARAOLIAS	Andreas (Andrew) Karaolias emigrated from Kythrea, Cyprus to Darwin in 1961. Like many others Andrew was tempted by the promise of opportunity Australia offered. Over the course of his career Andrew helped to construct homes, businesses and government institutions across the Darwin area including housing commissions in Rapid Creek and Millner, the Nightcliff shopping centre and the old Supreme Court building. Andrew was also an active member of the Greek Cypriot community, even after retirement.
MADEN	Brian Maden emigrated from England to Australia in 1960 before arriving in Darwin in 1967 on a 2 year posting with the Postmaster General. Brian helped build Radio Australia on Cox Peninsula. His work took him to islands and communities across the NT. At the end of his posting Brian decided to settle in Darwin permanently. He and the family lived in Rapid Creek initially, then in Humpty Doo after Cyclone Tracy. In 1980 he transferred to the Department of Defence as a lines supervisor for the Navy at Middle Point Transmitting Station where he remained until his retirement in 1996. Brian served as a volunteer in his community and petitioned for a high school and ambulance service in the rural area.

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Suggested commemorative ward name	Notes and reasoning
MCLEOD	Cissy McLeod born in Borroloola in 1896. Her father Arthur was a store owner and Justice of the Peace. Many details about her mother, known only as 'Polly', have been lost. At the age of 6, Cissy was adopted by Captain Fredrick Mugg and Sarah Mugg and moved to Darwin in 1902. At 16 years of age, Cissy saved Sarah from drowning after she fell from the jetty one night. Cissy later became the first Aboriginal woman to receive the Bronze Medal of the Royal Humane Society of Australasia for her selfless act of courage.
MCPHEE	Hunter Wallace McPhee was born in NSW in 1924. Hunter served in the First Light Horse Brigade during WWI then in the RAAF during WWII before joining the guard's unit in Darwin in 1943. After the war was over, he returned to Darwin to marry his wife Mary and settled in Fannie Bay where they raised 4 children. Hunter found employment with his friend and comrade Pat Delaney in a corrugated iron hut in what is now Winnellie. The business was originally a taxi service before becoming a delicatessen and newsagency. Hunter remained a fixture of the business for over 40 years. He was also heavily involved in the Darwin sporting community.
MOCATTA	Lawrence Mocatta was born in Queensland in 1923. Lawrence enlisted for service in the Australian Imperial Army in 1941 at the age of 17 and served on many vessels based in London with active service in the Middle East. In 1946 after being discharged, Lawrence undertook and completed a Bachelor of Medicine and a Bachelor of Surgery at the University of Sydney. After graduating in 1953, Dr Mocatta moved to Katherine to work locally as well as with the Royal Flying Doctor Service. He later worked at the Darwin Hospital before establishing his own private practice on Cavenagh Street. Dr Mocatta worked as the Territory Health Officer, administering to the nuns and patients at the East Arm Leprosarium and the local Indigenous missions. In April 1967, while sailing his boat, "The Beagle" from Brisbane to Darwin, Dr Mocatta and 5 crew members were caught in a cyclone and perished.
MOORADOOP	Mooradoop, otherwise known as Kathy Mills, was an Aboriginal leader and activist born in the NT who lived in Palmerston for a substantial part of her life. She and her family have been strong advocates for the rights and welfare of Aboriginal people. Among her many achievements and awards, Ms. Mills is credited with co-founding the Danila Dilba Health Service, being the first woman elected to the Northern Land Council and was named NAIDOC person of the year in 1986.
MOTLOP	Edward (Chico) Motlop was born on Thursday Island in the Torres Strait in 1933. After spending his early years in the Torres Strait and later Queensland, Chico arrived in Darwin in 1955. It was here he met and married his wife, Larrakia woman Lorna Raye Johns. Chico was a keen and accomplished footballer. Among his achievements are two premierships (1963 and 1964) and the Drysdale Medal for player of the year. After retiring from the field, Chico took up a career coaching junior and first grade teams. His children and grandchildren carried on his legacy, becoming noted sportspeople in their own right. The NT Rugby League pay annual tribute to Chico with the 'Chico Motlop Shield'.
PARER	Lieutenant Raymond John Paul (Ray) Parer was born in Melbourne in 1894. After completing his training as a pilot in 1918 Ray was twice recommended for the Air Force Cross. In 1920 Ray and fellow pilot Lieutenant John Cowe McIntosh undertook to complete the 1919 Great Air Race flight from England to Australia. By the time the pair commenced the flight the £10,000 prize money had been claimed by brothers (Sir) Ross and (Sir) Keith Macpherson Smith who had arrived in just 28 days. On 2 August 1920, after a protracted 206 day journey filled with tales of misadventure and near disaster, Parer and McIntosh finally arrived in Darwin. Ray's story occupies an incredible chapter in aviation history in Australia and abroad.

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Suggested commemorative ward name	Notes and reasoning
PASPALIS	Michael Theodosios Paspalis was born on the Greek island of Kastellorizo in 1911. To escape the hardships of WWI his family immigrated to Australia in 1917. Shortly after his father's death and at 15 years old Michael left school and his family in Port Hedland to find employment in Darwin in order to support his mother and siblings. Michael found employment as a butcher, delivery driver and taxi driver. After marrying his wife Chryssanthi (Chrissie) Kailis in 1935, the couple established multiple hospitality and food business ventures, including numerous retail buildings in Smith Street, the Star Theatre, the RSL premises, the Fannie Bay Hotel, the Parap Theatre and the Coconut Grove drive-in theatre. Michael and Chrissie were also generous philanthropists, donating to multiple organisations in the Darwin area.
PITCHENEDER	Originally born in WA in 1916, Norma Catherine (Billie) Pitcheneder settled in Darwin in 1948 where she established her own catering business servicing tuckshops in schools around Darwin. Better known as Aunty Billie, she contributed to her community through fundraising and charity activities for almost 30 years. Among the organisations Aunty Billie supported was the Country Women's Association, Red Cross, Lions Club, RSL, Salvation Army and Girl Guides, to name just a few. In addition to being named Citizen of the Year in 1980, Aunty Billie has received multiple honours from many charitable institutions.
RIOLI	Maurice Rioli (Snr) and Willie Rioli (Snr) were respected and much-loved leaders in the Tiwi Islands and Australian Football. Both boasted an impressive sporting career and contributions to Australian rules football in the NT and Australia.
SAVVAS	Kyriaco Savvas first arrived in Darwin in 1949. Not long afterwards Kyriaco opened his own footwear business in Smith Street and then another in the Nightcliff Shopping Village in 1964. Savvas K Footwear still trades today and is run by his sons. Kyriaco was one of the founding members of the Cypriot Community of the NT, helping to establish the first food and wine festival in 1974, a popular event that is held annually to this day.
THOMAS	Ronald Arthur Thomas was born in WA in 1927. After accepting the role of the NT's Deputy Commissioner for Taxation in 1969, he and his family relocated to Darwin. Ronald and his family survived the devastation of Cyclone Tracy in 1974. The family lived in a caravan in the back yard of their Rapid Creek home while it was rebuilt. In 1978 he was appointed the Territory's first Commissioner of Taxes, a position he held until his retirement in 1986. Ronald was credited with the first million dollars earned by the NT Tax Office. He was a keen fisherman, a member of Darwin's Trailer Boat Club, Darwin Aviation Club and PINTS Club. Ronald was recognised for his personal and professional contributions to the community and Northern Territory.
WARREN	David Ronald de Mey Warren was a scientist and inventor born on Groote Eylandt in 1925. Notable among his achievements was the invention of the in-flight data and cockpit voice recording device widely known as the 'black box'. This was revolutionary in the investigation of aeronautical deaths and accidents.
WILLIAMS	Born Ampulatumirri on Melville Island in approximately 1934, Freda Williams is a member of the Stolen Generation. Freda was removed from her family at the estimated aged of 4. In 1942 while playing outside she and the other habitants of Garden Point Mission on Melville Island came under attack from enemy Japanese planes. The mission was evacuated to Alice Springs, before boarding a train to Melbourne. The nuns and children were then relocated to Port Augusta SA where they remained until the end of the war. After returning to the NT, Freda met and married her husband, Ralton Williams, and settled in Darwin. In 2011 Freda was invited to meet the President of the United States, Barack Obama, as one of 3 civilian survivors of the Japanese Bombing of Darwin.

The committee encouraged the City of Palmerston and the general public to suggest appropriate ward names, but no submissions were received. Council did comment however, that the suggested names provided in the preliminary report were not appropriate as they were not people from Palmerston.

The committee further consulted the Place Names Committee Chair and Place Names work unit to develop the following short list of names from table 23. These names represent a cross-section of genders and cultural identities.

- ALNGINDABU, alternatively MCGINNESS
- BOUBARIS
- CALDWELL
- MCLEOD
- PITCHENEDER
- WARREN

The committee recommends that the Minister consults with the City of Palmerston on the names listed in this report and any other appropriate names before making a determination. If a commemorative name were considered, surviving family members would be consulted.

5.5 Recommendations on existing ward names

In accordance with Section 28(4) of the Act the committee may make recommendations to the Minister regarding ward names. The committee recommends that existing ward names be retained.

6. PUBLICATION OF FIRST PROPOSED REVIEWS

6.1 Publication

The preliminary report detailing proposed changes to representation was released on 31 August 2022 on the reviews webpage and via a newsletter emailed to stakeholders on the mailing list.

This final report detailing the committee's final determinations and recommendations was released on 9 February 2023 via a newsletter delivered to persons and organisations on the mailing list.

Maps of the final ward boundaries were published on the reviews [webpage](#).

APPENDIX A

Timetable

Please note these timeframes are approximate and subject to change.

Event	Date	Electoral Act
First consultation period		
Invite initial submissions from councils and the public	Monday 28 March 2022	s30(1)(a)
Last day to receive initial submissions	Tuesday 31 May 2022	s30(1)(b)
Committee determination period		
Submissions received are considered by the committee	Mid-June 2022	s30(1)(c)(i)
Publish the preliminary report detailing proposed changes to representation	Wednesday 31 August 2022	s30(1)(c)(ii)
Second consultation period		
Invite submissions from councils and the public regarding the proposals put forward in the preliminary report	Wednesday 31 August 2022	s30(1)(c)(iii)
Last day to receive submissions	Friday 4 November 2022	s30(1)(d)
Committee determination period		
Submissions received are considered by the committee	September to November 2022	s30(1)(e)(i)
Committee may meet with councils or hold public hearings to gather more information about the submissions received	September to December 2022	s30(2)
Final report published and provided to the Minister for Local Government	9 February 2023	s30(1)(e)(ii)
Determinations take effect		
The Minister to notify any changes by <i>Gazette</i> notice	2023	s30(4)
Determinations to take effect at the next periodic general elections	2025	s30(5)(b)

APPENDIX B

Mailing list

The following is a summary of the committee's mailing list as at 1 July 2022, and does not include persons and organisations who unsubscribed during the reviews.

Recipients	Grouping/category	No. of recipients
Alice Springs Town Council Barkly Regional Council Belyuen Community Government Council Central Desert Regional Council Coomalie Community Government Council City of Darwin East Arnhem Regional Council Katherine Town Council Litchfield Council MacDonnell Regional Council City of Palmerston Roper Gulf Regional Council Tiwi Islands Regional Council Victoria Daly Regional Council Wagait Shire Council West Arnhem Regional Council West Daly Regional Council	Local government council member or CEO	107
Arafura Araluen Arnhem Barkly Blain Braitling Brennan Casuarina Daly Drysdale Fannie Bay Fong Lim Goyder Gwoja Johnston Karama Katherine Mulka Namatjira Nelson Nightcliff Port Darwin Sanderson Spillet Wanguri	Legislative Assembly members and electorate offices	50
ABC Darwin Alice Springs community radio 8HA Alice Advocate Australian Associated Press Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association Fairfax Media First Nations Radio Free TV Gove FM Hot 100 fm	Media	85

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Recipients	Grouping/category	No. of recipients
Imparja Larrakia TV Mix 1049 Music NT National Indigenous Times News.com.au Nine News NT Independent NT News Off the Leash SBS Sky News Tennant and District Times Territory FM The Australian The Saturday Paper The Sun, Darwin, Palmerston, Litchfield Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting Association		
Anindilyakwa Land Council Arnhem Land Progress Association – ALPA Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation Central Land Council Gumatj Corporation The Gundjeimhi Aboriginal Corporation Ironbark Aboriginal Corporation Jawoyn Association Julalikari Council Larrakia Nation Laynhapuy Homelands Association Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Association Marthakal Homeland Resource Centre Nhulunbuy Corporation Northern Land Council Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation Tangentyere Council Tiwi Land Council Yugul Mangi Development Aboriginal Corporation	Aboriginal organisations	21
Australian Electoral Commission Animal Justice Party Chamber of Commerce Country Liberal Party of the NT Department of Chief Minister & Cabinet Department of Health DIPL ICT Industry Association of the NT Industry Capability Network NT LGANT Minister for Local Government Northern Territory Seafood Council NT Cattlemen's Association NT Farmers NTEC OCPE Southport Progress Association	Other organisations or agencies	32
Individuals who requested to be added to the mailing list	Other individuals	8

APPENDIX C

Current representation and committee determinations

The following table documents current representation across all local government councils in the NT, as well as enrolment figures as at 4 November 2022 and determinations by the committee.

Council	Ward	Members	Enrolment as at 04/11/2022	Electors per councillor	Committee's determinations and recommendations
Alice Springs	Mayor	1	16,145		No changes will be made to representation in Alice Springs at this time. The committee created a prospective scenario of 3 wards that could be considered in future reviews if / when enrolment in Alice Springs approaches 18,000.
	Councillor	8	16,145	2,018	
Barkly	Mayor	1	4,253		No changes necessary at this time.
	Alpurrurulam Ward	1	213	213	
	Alyawarr Ward	4	1,604	401	
	Kuwarrangu Ward	2	508	254	
	Patta Ward	5	1,928	386	
	<i>Total / Average (not including mayor)</i>	12	4,253	354	
Belyuen	Councillor	5	162	32	No changes necessary at this time.
Central Desert	Akityarre Ward	2	272	136	No changes necessary at this time.
	Anmatjere Ward	4	988	247	
	Northern Tanami Ward	2	382	191	
	Southern Tanami Ward	4	891	223	
	<i>Total / Average</i>	12	2,533	211	

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Council	Ward	Members	Enrolment as at 04/11/2022	Electors per councillor	Committee's determination
Coomalie	Adelaide River Ward	2	228	114	No changes necessary at this time.
	Batchelor Township Ward	2	185	93	
	Coomalie Rural Ward	2	243	125	
	<i>Total / Average</i>	6	662	110	
Darwin	Lord mayor	1	52,092		No changes necessary at this time.
	Chan Ward	3	12,719	4,240	
	Lyons Ward	3	13,362	4,454	
	Richardson Ward	3	12,907	4,302	
	Waters Ward	3	13,104	4,368	
	<i>Total / Average (not including mayor)</i>	12	52,092	4,341	
East Arnhem	Anindilyakwa Ward	2	900	450	No changes necessary at this time.
	Birr Rawarrang Ward	2	720	360	
	Gumurr Gattjirrk Ward	2	823	412	
	Gumurr Marthakal Ward	3	1,680	560	
	Gumurr Miwatj Ward	3	1,534	511	
	Gumurr Miyarrka Ward	2	878	439	
	<i>Total / Average</i>	14	6,256	467	
Katherine	Mayor	1	6,661		No changes necessary at this time.
	<i>Councillor</i>	6	6,661	1,110	

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Council	Ward	Members	Enrolment as at 04/11/2022	Electors per councillor	Committee's determination
Litchfield	Mayor	1	13,239		No changes necessary at this time.
	Central Ward	2	4,542	2,271	
	North Ward	2	4,261	2,131	
	South Ward	2	4,436	2,218	
	<i>Total / Average (not including mayor)</i>	6	13,239	2,207	
MacDonnell	Iyarrka Ward	2	814	407	No changes necessary at this time.
	Ljirapinta Ward	3	685	228	
	Luritja Pintubi Ward	3	1,084	361	
	Rodinga ward	4	1,131	283	
	<i>Total / Average</i>	12	3,714	310	
Palmerston	Mayor	1	24,611		A 3 ward structure will be implemented in Palmerston. The number of members may be increased from 7 to 8 (pending the Minister's decision).
	<i>Councillor</i>	7	24,611	3,516	
Roper Gulf	Never Never Ward	3	884	295	No changes necessary at this time.
	Numbulwar Numburindi Ward	2	528	264	
	Nyirranggulung Ward	3	970	323	
	South West Gulf Ward	3	1,002	334	
	Yugul Mangi Ward	2	824	412	
	<i>Total / Average</i>	13	4,208	324	

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Council	Ward	Members	Enrolment as at 04/11/2022	Electors per councillor	Committee's determination
Tiwi Islands	Bathurst Island Ward	6	1,135	189	No changes necessary at this time.
	Milikapiti Ward	3	325	108	
	Pirlangimpi Ward	3	264	88	
	<i>Total / Average</i>	12	1,724	144	
Victoria Daly	Daguragu Ward	1	444	444	No changes necessary at this time.
	Milingin Ward	1	388	388	
	Pine Creek Ward	1	225	225	
	Timber Creek Ward	1	434	434	
	Walangeri Ward	1	323	323	
	<i>Total / Average</i>	5	1,814	63	
Wagait	Councillor	5	315	63	No changes necessary at this time.
West Arnhem	Gunbalanya Ward	3	915	305	No changes necessary at this time.
	Kakadu Ward	3	551	184	
	Maningrida Ward	4	1,881	470	
	Minjilang Ward	1	167	167	
	Warruwi Ward	1	311	311	
	<i>Total / Average</i>	12	3,825	319	
West Daly	Nganmariyanga Ward	1	236	236	No changes necessary at this time.
	Thamarrurr / Pindi Pindi Ward	4	1,746	437	
	Tyemirri Ward	1	107	107	
	<i>Total / Average</i>	6	2,089	348	
Total / Average across all council areas		153	142,768	927	

