



Shire of
Katanning
Heart of the Great Southern

Review of Wards and Representation
Discussion Paper 2020



Heart of the Great Southern

REVIEW OF WARDS AND REPRESENTATION DISCUSSION PAPER 2020

Background

The Shire of Katanning is undertaking a review of its system of representation. The purpose of the review is to assess whether nine (9) councillors and a no wards structure is still appropriate for the Shire.

The last review of representation in the Shire of Katanning was undertaken in 2010 and it is now appropriate to carry out another review.

Current situation

Currently the Shire of Katanning has nine (9) councillors and 2,463 electors with a councillor/elector ratio of 1 councillor to each 273.67 electors and no wards.

Review process

The review process involves a number of steps:

- The Council resolves to undertake the review;
- Public submission period opens;
- Information provided to the community for discussion;
- Public submission period closes;
- The Council considers all submissions and relevant factors and makes a decision;
- The Council submits a report to the Local Government Advisory Board (the Board) for its consideration; and (If a change is proposed) The Board submits a recommendation to the Minister for Local Government and Regional Development (the Minister).
- Any changes approved by the Minister where possible will be in place for the next ordinary election.

Factors to be considered

When considering changes to wards and representation, Schedule 2.2 of the Act specifies factors that must be taken into account by a Local Government as part of the review process:

In addition to the ratio of electors to Councillors the other factors to be considered in a Ward Review are:

- Community of interest
- Physical and topographic features
- Demographic trends
- Economic factors

The Board offers the following interpretation of these factors:

1. Community of Interest

The term “Community of Interest” has a number of elements. These include a sense of community identity and belonging, similarities in the characteristics of the residents of a community and similarities in the economic activities. It can also include dependence on the shared facilities in an area as reflected in catchment areas of local schools and sporting teams, or the circulation areas of local newspapers.

2. Physical and topographic features

These may be natural or man-made features that will vary from area to area. Water features such as rivers and catchment boundaries may be relevant considerations. Coastal plain and foothills regions, parks and reserves may be relevant as may other man-made features such as railway lines and highways.

3. Demographic trends

Several measurements of the characteristics of human populations, such as population size, and its distribution by age, sex, occupation and location provide important demographic information. Current and projected population characteristics will be relevant as well as similarities and difference between areas within the Local Government.

4. Economic factors

Economic factors can be broadly interpreted to include any factor that reflects the character of economic activities and resources in the area. This may include the industries that occur in a Local Government area (or the release of land for these) and the distribution of community assets and infrastructure such as road networks.

5. Ratio of Councillors to Electors in the various wards

It is expected that each Local Government will have similar ratios of electors to councillors across the wards of its district.

Options to consider

The Council will consider the following options and members of the community may suggest others:

- Option 1** Maintain the current system of representation with 9 councillors and no wards.
- Option 2** Reduce the number of councillors to 8 and no wards.
- Option 3** Reduce the number of councillors to 7 and no wards.
- Option 4** Reduce the number of councillors to 6 and no wards.

Consideration of factors

Community of interest

The Shire of Katanning has a total population of 4,151 with the majority of people residing in the Katanning townsite (3,687) with the remainder of the population in rural areas (464) mostly spread across farming properties.

Physical and topographic features

The Shire of Katanning is situated in the Great Southern Region of Western Australia with its population centered in the Katanning townsite. The Great Southern Highway and Great Southern Rail Line pass through the Katanning townsite and district from north to south.

Demographic trends

Population has remained relatively stable over the past ten years with a slight reduction in population and population density. The number of persons born overseas has remained at about 20% of the Shire population and there has been a reduction in the number of aboriginal people living in the Shire from 9.2% to 7.5% in the same period. (ABS 2020)

Economic factors

Agricultural and farming industries are the major economic activities in the Shire of Katanning. Construction, retail and transport are also major contributors to economic activity in the district. Major service industries are located in the Katanning townsite servicing the Katanning district and surrounding local government areas.

Ratio of Councillors to Electors in the various wards

Option	Councillors	Ratio of Councillors to Electors
Option 1 no wards	9	273.67
Option 2 no wards	8	307.87
Option 3 no wards	7	351.86
Option 4 no wards	6	410.50

Given the population distribution in the Shire of Katanning (with the population centred in the Katanning townsite) a similarity in the ratio of councillors to electors through the reintroduction of wards is not considered to be reasonably achievable.

Public submissions

Members of the community are invited to make a written submission about any aspect of this review and can lodge it at:

Shire of Katanning
52 Austral Terrace
(PO Box 130)
KATANNING WA 6317

Submissions will also be accepted by email: admin@katanning.wa.gov.au

All submissions must be received by 4.00pm on 30 September 2020

Thank you for your interest and involvement in this review. Council welcomes your comments on any matters that may assist it to make informed and responsible decisions for the benefit of the people of the Shire of Katanning.

Cr Liz Guidera
President

Mr Julian Murphy
Chief Executive Officer