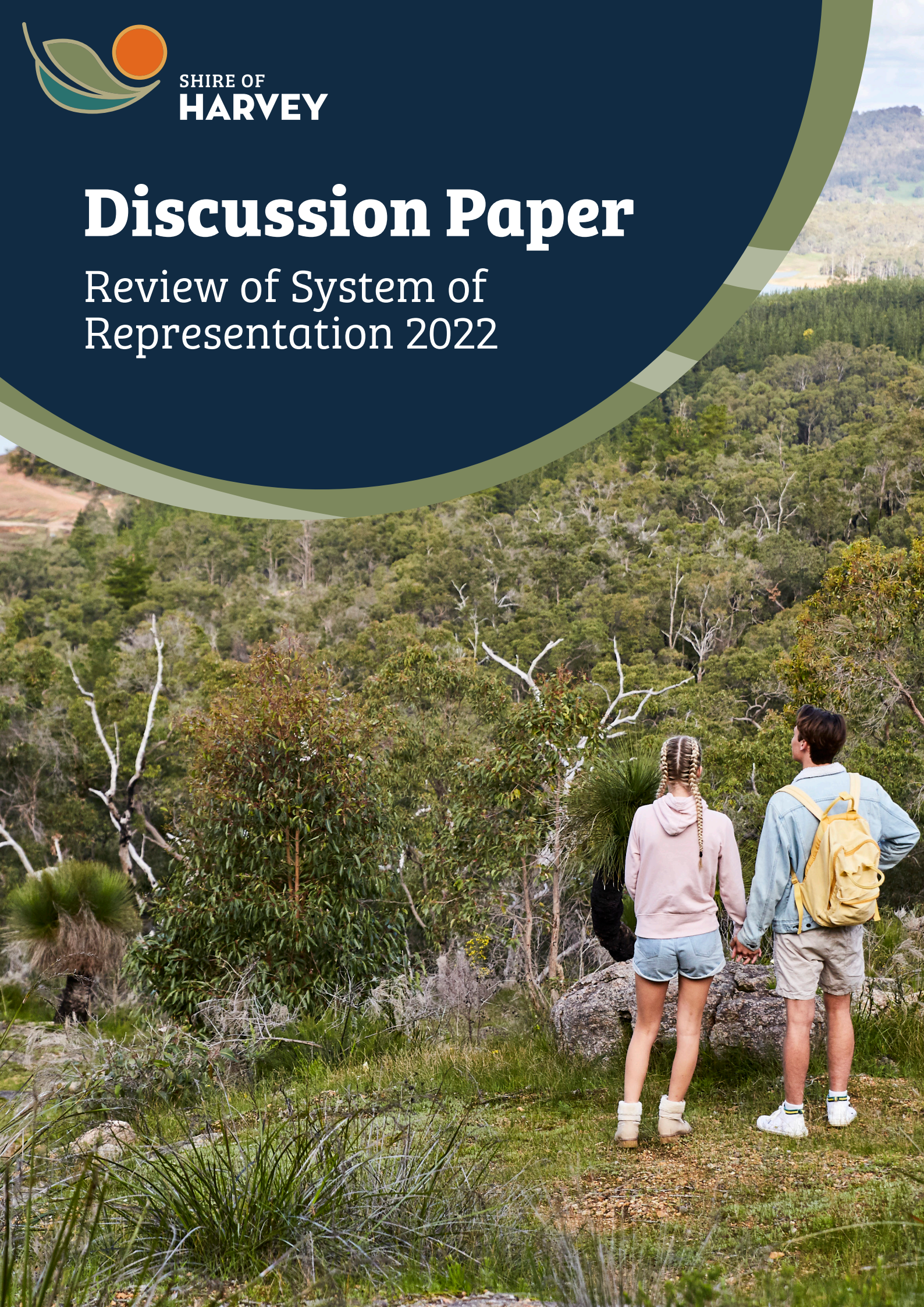




SHIRE OF  
**HARVEY**

# Discussion Paper

Review of System of  
Representation 2022





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Local Noongar boys dancing during NAIDOC Week at Harvey Primary School  
Photo Credit: Ninette Comito

## Acknowledgement of Country

The Shire of Harvey acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all members of the Aboriginal communities and their cultures; and to Elders both past and present.





## OUR VISION

Together, towards an even better lifestyle.

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### We value

Effective stewardship of our environment and heritage;

A safe community that has a strong community spirit and sense of belonging;

Effective communication and cooperation;

Strong leaders and fair decisions; and

Our heritage – acknowledging our history in creating our future.

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### We are committed to being an inclusive, enterprising and engaging community that:

Actively works together and respects each other;

Acts with honesty, integrity and fairness; and

Is open-minded, approachable, tolerant and responsive.



# Executive Summary

In July 2022 the Department Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) announced the final package of proposed local government reforms. Included in the reform package was the requirement for local governments to consider the size of Council representation. The reform, which will come into effect in early 2023, will have an effect on the number of Councillors that the Shire of Harvey is required to have. For Councils of our population size, the number of Councillors must be reduced to between five and nine Councillors including the Shire President.

In accordance with Schedule 2.2 of the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act), local governments can undertake a review of its Council size through a Review of System of Representation. This discussion paper aims to consult with the community to find a system of representation that best suits the characteristics of the District and its people. The options examined within this discussion paper meet the requirements of the reform and will be used to form a decision for consideration by the Local Government Advisory Board and the Minister for Housing; Lands; Homelessness; Local Government.

Local governments are the grass root level of government in Australia. Councillors are ideally placed to monitor the changing needs of local communities, plan and implement strategies, as well as address the concerns of its community with appropriate advocacy and decision making.

The role of Councillor is to:

- Represent the interests of electors, ratepayers and residents of the District,
- Provide leadership and guidance to the community and District,
- Facilitate communication and guidance to the community and Council,
- Participate in the Shire's decision making processes such as Council and Committee Meetings, and
- Perform other functions such as given to them by the Act or any other written law.

It is important to the Shire that the community feels that Councillors are fulfilling their roles, and that the community is represented by Council in decision making. The system of representation and the number of Councillors that the Shire has should be supported by the community.

Please have your say on our Council's representation by reviewing this discussion paper and making a submission to the Shire of Harvey on your preferred option no later than 4.00pm on Friday, 16 December 2022.

Submissions can be lodged at:

Shire of Harvey  
PO Box 500  
HARVEY WA 6220

Or via email: [shire@harvey.wa.gov.au](mailto:shire@harvey.wa.gov.au)

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 Harvey.



Cr Paul Gillett  
**SHIRE  
PRESIDENT**



Annie Riordan  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OFFICER**



# Review Process

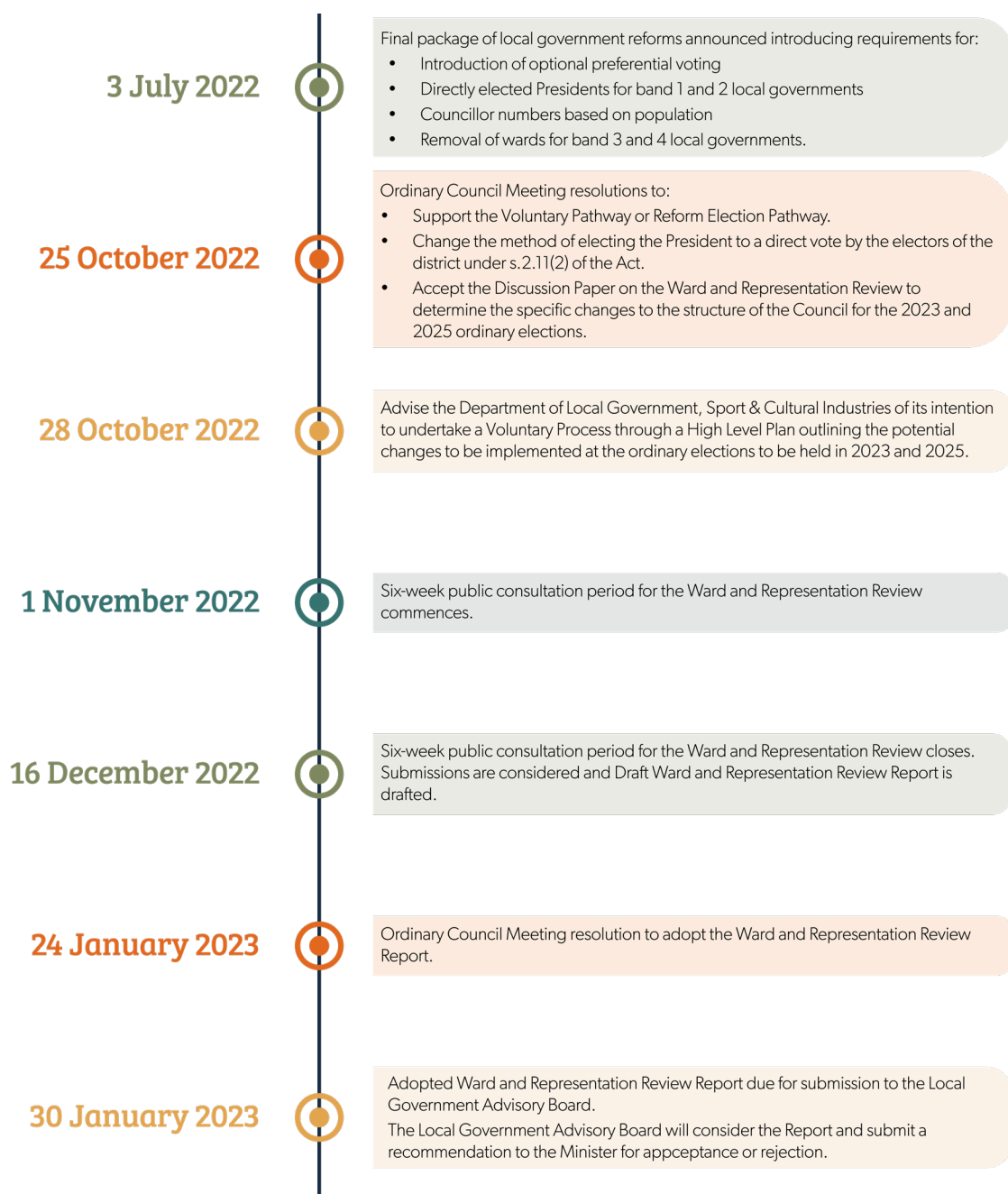
The review process involves a number of steps:

1. Council resolves to undertake the review,
2. Public submission period opens,
3. Information provided to the community for discussion,
4. Public submission period closes,
5. Council considers all submissions and relevant factors and makes a decision,

6. Council submits a report to the Local Government Advisory Board for its consideration.

If a change is proposed, the Local Government Advisory Board submits a recommendation to the Minister for Local Government.

Any changes approved by the Minister of Local Government will be in place for the next Ordinary Election where possible





# Factors to be Considered

When considering changes to the no ward system and representation, Schedule 2.2 of the Act specifies five factors that must be taken into account by a local government as part of the review process.

The Local Government Advisory 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.

Neighbourhoods, suburbs and towns are important units in the physical, historical and social infrastructure and often generate a feeling of community and belonging.

## 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 freeways.

## 3. Demographic trends

Several measurements of the characteristics of human populations, such as population size, and its distribution by age, gender, occupation and location provide important demographic information. Current and projected population characteristics will be relevant as well as similarities and differences 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

This matter has two distinct components. The first is the ratio of Councillors to electors. The second is the overall number of Councillors.

On the first component, it is expected that each local government will have similar ratios of electors to Councillors across the wards of its district (if relevant). Intuitively it is easy to see that under a ward system it is only fair that electors receive equal representation by ward Councillors. The only other matter that arises here is whether to abolish wards. Without wards all Councillors represent all electors equally, in principle. A review of Councillor numbers should consider the effectiveness and efficiency of the Councillor in both their individual and collective Council roles as defined by the Act.

Other factors that will be taken into account as part of the review process include:

- The advantages and disadvantages of no wards,
- The advantages and disadvantages of reducing the number of Councillors,
- The implications of any change to the Councillor/elector ratio,
- The cost of Councillors,
- The effectiveness and efficiency of Council meetings, and
- The advantages and disadvantages of a ward structure.



# Current Situation

Located about 140 kilometres south of Perth, the Shire of Harvey covers a land mass of 1,766km<sup>2</sup> and consists of 42 kilometres of pristine Indian Ocean coastline. The Shire is one of 12 local government authorities which comprise the South West Region. It is bordered by the Shire of Waroona and Shire of Boddington to the north, Shire of Collie to the east and Shire of Dardanup and City of Bunbury to the south.

The Bindjareb and Wardandi Aboriginal people are the original inhabitants of the area, with European settlement dating back to the 1840s

The 2021 Census indicates that the Shire has a total population of 28,567, a 7% increase on the 2016 Census.

The Shire has a number of major industries including tourism, orange juice and milk production, beef production, abattoirs, silicon smelting operations, titanium dioxide production, chlorine production and other industries at the Kemerton Industrial Park.

The three major dams are a key feature and the Binningup desalination plant produces 35% of Perth's drinking water. The Shire's variety of natural attributes means it is a popular location for a range of recreational activities including crabbing, fishing and boating in the Leschenault Estuary, water skiing, fishing, canoeing and camping at Logue Brook Dam, off road cycling along the Munda Biddi trail, fishing and four wheel driving on designated areas of the coast line, swimming at the sheltered beaches of Binningup and Myalup or generally exploring the area during a day trip.

The area has a sense of freshness with fresh produce, fresh water, a clean and green landscape abounding with nature's goodness. A place to breathe deeply and relax, surrounded by the best that nature has to offer. It truly is "A breath of fresh air".

Currently the Shire of Harvey functions under the no wards system with 13 councillors including the Shire President and 19,644 electors with a councillor/elector ratio of one councillor to each 1,511 electors<sup>1</sup>.

The Shire of Harvey recognises that a 'one size fits all' approach does not effectively meet the challenges of providing services to geographically and socially distant communities. To address this, the Shire introduced Local Area Planning as a strategy to help it plan for future growth and community service provision at the local level. This approach ensures that the infrastructure and services provided are able to be tailored to meet the differing requirements of the community.

Local Area Planning involves local community members working together with Council to identify goals and issues specific to their community. Place Advisory Groups have been established for each district that are made up of local community members, Shire staff and Councillors. Meetings are held quarterly and provide the forum for an exchange of information and decision-making on local issues by community representatives and the Shire.

Place Advisory Groups have enhanced engagement with each community without the need for a ward system which was previously abolished. Reasons against the ward system include:

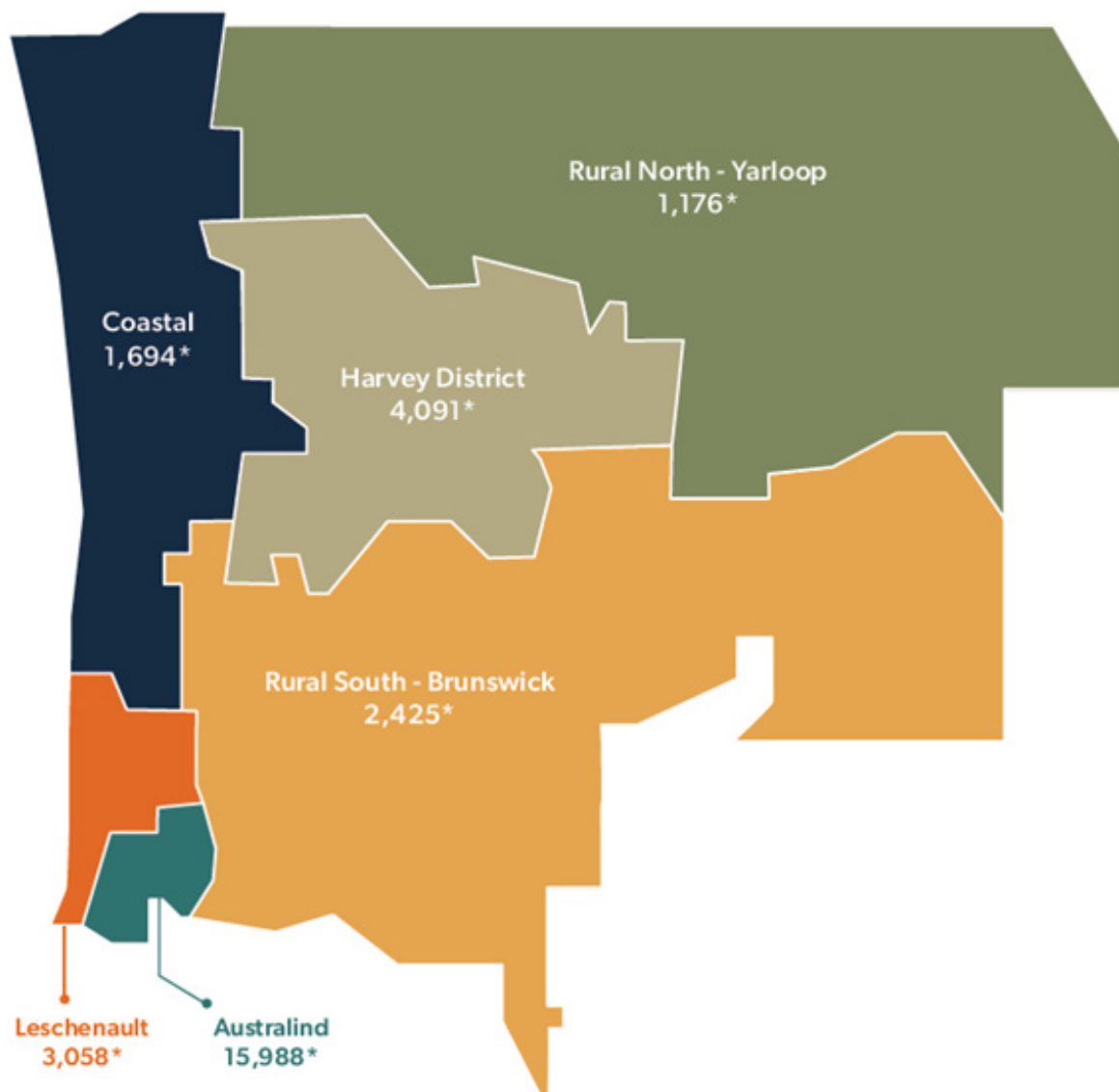
- Councillors can become too focused on their wards and less focused on the affairs of other wards and the whole local government,
- An unhealthy competition for resources can develop where electors in each ward come to expect the services and facilities provided in other wards, whether they are appropriate or not,
- Ward boundaries may appear to be placed arbitrarily and not reflect the social interaction and communities of interest of the community,
- Balanced representation across the local government may be difficult to achieve if a local government has highly populated urban areas and sparsely populated rural areas,
- The election process is more complex for the community to understand and for Council to administer.

Through Local Area Planning, six broader districts have been identified – Australind, Coastal, Harvey, Leschenault, Rural North and Rural South.

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<sup>1</sup> Number of electors at close of roll on 27 August 2021





#### Coastal

Binningup and Myalup townsites and Parkfield

#### Rural North

Yarloop, Cookernup and Hoffman

#### Rural South

Brunswick Junction, Roelands, Benger, Beela, Wellesley and Mornington

#### Harvey District

Harvey, Uduc, Wokalup, Warawarrup

#### Australind

#### Leschenault

\* Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 Census



# Review

## Community of interest

Australind and Harvey share a role as the primary service centre for the Shire. Both comprise of a town centre with a range of commercial, civic and community facilities and services, including a Shire Administration office.

Major services provided throughout the Shire include hospitals, medical centres, a regional TAFE, high schools, primary schools, sporting precincts and community precincts. Commercially, the Shire has shopping centres, cafes, restaurants, fast food outlets, offices and showrooms. It also hosts industries including tourism, retail, dairy farming, beef farming, horticulture, commerce, vineyards, citrus, export beef abattoir, orange juice and milk factory, boutique cheese factory and light engineering; as well as numerous State Government departmental agencies and regional offices.

Although the Shire is expansive comprising of 18 communities, the six District Local Area Planning and Place Advisory Groups provide an effective and adequate mechanism to engage with each community, understand each community's needs and adequately represent all ratepayers.

Feedback from the community through the Place Advisory Groups and other consultation indicates the following five key interests of the general community, all of which support the current no ward system:

### 1. Increased engagement and communication

The level of commitment and availability from Councillors engaged in consultation and events.

### 2. Responsiveness and availability

How Councillors respond to community requests and assist in positive outcomes.

### 3. Increased understanding

Community members have a greater knowledge of the role of local government, and the responsibilities of Councillors and Administration.

### 4. Investment

Councillors have open communication with

Administration regarding ideas and suggestions on how to improve consultation and engagement for the community.

## 5. Feedback

Councillors often play a role in the feedback loop regarding outcomes of consultation or Council decisions for community members.

Generally, the community feels there is a high standard of commitment from Councillors at a place-based level which has resulted in improved communication with the Shire, formation of positive relationships with community and stakeholders, and the building of trust and confidence towards Council. The community feels more involved in Council decisions and have faith in their ability to create positive and proactive change by feeling comfortable to approach Councillors that represent their community.

## Physical and topographic features<sup>2</sup>

The Shire is located about 140 kilometres south of Perth, covering a land mass of 1,766km<sup>2</sup> and consisting of 42 kilometres of pristine Indian Ocean coastline. The Shire is one of twelve local government authorities which comprise the South West Region and is bordered by the Shire of Waroona and Shire of Boddington to the north, Shire of Collie to the east and Shire of Dardanup and City of Bunbury to the south.

There are three main landform units within the Shire:

### 1. The Coastal Plains

The Coastal Plains occupy the western portion of the Shire, stretching from the Darling Scarp to the Indian Ocean. They are low and flat with a contour of Quindalup dunes parallel to the foreshore, and further inland older, more rounded and vegetated dunes. Approximately, six to seven kilometres inland, a north-south limestone ridge peaks at about 40 metres Australian Height Datum (AHD). East of the ridge, at approximately 10 metres AHD, there are a series of north-south orientated wetlands. The land then gradually rises to about 40 metres AHD to the Ridge Hill Shelf. The Shelf is no more than three kilometres wide, is highly discontinuous, and largely vegetated by *Eucalyptus marginata* (Jarrah) and

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<sup>2</sup> Source: Shire of Harvey Local Planning Strategy 2020



Corymbia calophylla (Marri), with an understorey of Banksia, Casuarina fraseriana and Xylomelum occidentale (Woody Pear).

## 2. The Darling Scarp

On the eastern edge of the Ridge Hill Shelf, the Darling escarpment runs north-south and rises steeply from approximately 100 metres to 200 metres. It is easily identified by massive granite outcrops and numerous steep sided valleys, of which the most significant contain the Collie, Brunswick and Harvey Rivers.

### The Darling Plateau

Inland from the Scarp, the Plateau rises to approximately 300 metres and has a rolling topography of hills and valleys, where the hills are can be capped with gravels of precipitated ironstone.

## Demographic trends<sup>3</sup>

### Population

Resident numbers are increasing with a total population 28,567, comprising of 48.9% male and 51.1% female. There are 8,001 families with an average of 1.9 children per families with children and 0.8 children per household.

### Age

The Shire is characterised as having a young population with the following composition:

0-19 years:	27.4%
20-39 years:	22.7%
40-59 years:	26.3%
60-79 years:	20.4%
80 years +:	3.4%

The median age is 40.

### Nationality

The top five ancestries are English (45.3%), Australian (40.1%), Scottish (9.4%), Irish (9.0%) and Italian (7.7%).

There are 815 people who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, making up 2.9% of the population, slightly less than State and National

figures.

The top five countries of birth are Australia (75.7%), England (5.6%), New Zealand (3.3%), Philippines (1.9%) and South Africa (1.5%).

### Qualifications

Tertiary qualifications are below State and National figures with 46.5% of residents reporting a qualification beyond year 12 (12.7% have a bachelor and above).

### Employment

Employment rates are 57.6% full time, 31.4% part time, 6.8% away from work and 4.3% unemployed. The unemployment rate is below State and National figures.

The top five occupations are technicians and trades workers (19.8%), labourers (14.3%), professionals (13.3%), machinery operators and drivers (11.5%) and clerical and administrative workers (11.0%).

The top five industries of employment are alumina production (4.1%), primary education (3.6%), meat processing (3.4%), iron ore mining (2.7%) and secondary education (2.7%).

### Accommodation

94.3% of dwellings are separate houses. Of all dwellings, 60.6% have four or more bedrooms and 90.7% have three or more bedrooms.

### Income

The median weekly personal income is \$743 per week, family income is \$2,067 per week and household income is \$1,788 per week, all below State and National figures.

### Health

The top five long-term health conditions are arthritis (9.4%), mental health conditions including depression or anxiety (8.9%), asthma (8.3%), diabetes (4.8%) and heart disease including heart attack or angina (3.6%).

## Economic factors<sup>4</sup>

The Shire's Gross Regional Product is estimated at \$1.94 billion which represents 0.6% of the State's Gross State Product. There are 8,274 local

<sup>3</sup> Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 Census

<sup>4</sup> Source: Profile ID

jobs, 1,546 local businesses and 13,914 residents employed.

### Output by industry

An analysis of the output by industry sectors in the Shire of Harvey in 2020-2021 shows the three largest industries were:

- Manufacturing (\$1,356 million or 37.8%),
- Mining (\$874 million or 24.4%), and
- Construction (\$326 million or 9.1%).

In combination, these three industries accounted for \$2,556 million in total or 71.2% of the total output by total industry in the the Shire of Harvey.

In comparison, the same three industries in Western Australia accounted for 12.5% in Manufacturing; 30.3% in Mining and 11.0% in Construction.

The major differences between output by industries of the Shire of Harvey and Western Australia were:

- A larger percentage of output by Manufacturing (37.8% compared to 12.5%),
- A smaller percentage of output by Mining (24.4% compared to 30.3%),
- A smaller percentage of output by Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (0.8% compared to 4.9%), and
- A smaller percentage of output by Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services (1.1% compared to 5.1%).

### Employment by industry

An analysis of the jobs held by the local workers in the Shire of Harvey in 2020-2021 shows the three largest industries were:

- Manufacturing (1,782 people or 21.5%),
- Health Care and Social Assistance (993 people or 12.0%), and
- Education and Training (960 people or 11.6%).

In combination these three fields accounted for 3,735 people in total or 45.1% of the local workers.

In comparison, Western Australia employed 6.6% in Manufacturing; 12.9% in Health Care and Social Assistance and 9.2% in Education and Training.

The major differences between the jobs held by local workers of the Shire of Harvey and Western Australia were:

- A larger percentage of local workers employed in the field of Manufacturing (21.5% compared to 6.6%),
- A smaller percentage of local workers employed in the field of Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (1.7% compared to 7.2%),
- A larger percentage of local workers employed in the field of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (6.8% compared to 2.4%), and
- A smaller percentage of local workers employed in the field of Public Administration and Safety (2.6% compared to 6.6%).

### Business by industry

The Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing industry had the largest number of total registered businesses in Shire, comprising 21.4% of all total registered businesses, compared to 7.1% in Western Australia.

### Ratio of Councillors to electors

Currently the Shire functions under the no wards system with 13 Councillors including the Shire President and 19,644 electors resulting in a Councillor/elector ratio of one Councillor to each 1,511 electors .

Based on a review of the Councillor/elector ratio for all band two local governments, the Shire is situated slightly above the mean average Councillor/elector ratio of one Councillor to each 1,446 electors and significantly above the median Councillor/elector ratio of one Councillor to each 1,029 electors.

Comparing with the State, the Shire is situated below the mean average Councillor/elector ratio of one Councillor to each 1,675 electors, however this comprises all local governments with the highest Councillor/elector ratio in City of Stirling being one Councillor to each 15,713 electors and the lowest Councillor/elector ratio in Shire of Sandstone being one Councillor to each 15 electors.

A complete table of all band two local governments' Councillors, electors and Councillor/elector ratio is included as **Appendix 1**.







# Options

The preferred number of Councillors for a local government is a matter for the local government and should occur through consultation with its constituents.

Through the local government reform process, the minimum and maximum thresholds for Council membership will however change, with the maximum number of Councillors allowed for the Shire of Harvey reducing from 13 to nine including the Shire President:

- For a population of up to 5,000 – five Councillors (including the President),
- For a population of between 5,000 and 75,000 – five to nine Councillors (including the Mayor/President), and
- For a population of above 75,000 – nine to 15 Councillors (including Mayor).

There are many arguments for and against increasing or decreasing Council representation, and the public consultation process aims to assist local governments in determining the best size of Council to meet the needs of the District.

There is a diverse range of Councillor/elector ratios across Western Australia reflecting sparsely populated remote areas and the highly populated urban areas. The size and structure of a local government will impact on the deliberations involved in determining the number of Councillors needed to service the local government.

Generally, the advantages and disadvantages of reducing the number of Councillors are as follows.

The advantages of a reduction in the number of Councillors include the following:

- The decision making process may be more effective and efficient as it is more timely to ascertain the views of a fewer number of people and decision making may be easier. There is also more scope for team spirit and cooperation amongst a smaller number of people,
- The cost of maintaining Councillors is likely to be reduced,
- Consultation with the community can be achieved through a variety of means in addition

to individuals and groups contacting their local Councillor,

- Increased commitment, interest and participation in Council's affairs by Councillors generally,
- Fewer Councillors are more readily identifiable to the community,
- Greater interest in elections with contested elections and those elected obtaining a greater level of support from the community, and
- Previously there was a state wide trend in reductions in the number of Councillors and many local governments have found that fewer Councillors has improved their decision making process.

The disadvantages of a reduction in the number of Councillors include the following:

- Increased workload for incumbent members resulting in reduced efficiency and effectiveness
- Increased potential for dominance in the Council by a particular interest group.
- Limitation to the diversity of interests around the Council table.
- Reduced opportunities for community participation in Council's affairs if there are fewer Councillors for the community to contact.

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

**Option 1: Reduce the number of Councillors to eight plus the Shire President.**

**Option 2: Reduce the number of Councillors to six plus the Shire President.**



## Option 1: Reduce the number of Councillors to eight plus the Shire President

Councillor/elector ratio = one Councillor to each 2,183 electors.

The advantages of eight Councillors plus the Shire President when compared to Option 2 include:

- Compliance with the reform mandated by the Minister for Local Government,
- Shared workload for incumbent members resulting in increased efficiency and effectiveness,
- Reduced potential for dominance in the Council by a particular interest group,
- Increased diversity of interests around the Council table, and
- Increased opportunities for community participation in Council's affairs as there are more elected members for the community to contact.

The disadvantages of eight Councillors plus the Shire President when compared to Option 2 include:

- The cost of attendance fees for Councillors will be higher (\$181,156, not including Councillor conference, training and travel allowance fees),
- The decision making process will be less effective and efficient as it is more timely to ascertain the views of a higher number of people and decision making may be more difficult. There is also less scope for team spirit and cooperation amongst a larger number of people,
- A larger number of Councillors are less readily identifiable to the community, and
- Decreased interest in elections with contested elections and those elected obtaining a reduced level of support from the community.

## Option 2: Reduce the number of Councillors to six plus the Shire President

Councillor/elector ratio = 1 Councillor to each 2,806 electors.

The advantages of six Councillors plus the Shire President when compared to Option 1 include:

- Compliance with the reform mandated by the Minister for Local Government,
- The decision making process will be more effective and efficient as it is more timely to ascertain the views of a fewer number of people and decision making may be easier. There is also more scope for team spirit and cooperation amongst a smaller number of people,
- The cost of attendance fees for Councillors will be less (\$144,204, not including Councillor conference, training and travel allowance fees),
- Increased commitment, interest and participation in Council's affairs by Councillors generally,
- Fewer Councillors are more readily identifiable to the community, and
- Greater interest in elections with contested elections and those elected obtaining a greater level of support from the community.

The disadvantages of six Councillors plus the Shire President when compared to Option 1 include:

- Increased workload for incumbent members and may reduce efficiency and effectiveness,
- There is the potential for dominance in the Council by a particular interest group,
- Limitation of the diversity of interests around the Council table, and
- Reduced opportunities for community participation in Council's affairs as there are fewer Councillors for the community to contact.

# Concluding Comments

The Shire of Harvey is a large and complex Band 2 local government with significant population, assets, expenditure and revenue. The complexity of the Shire of Harvey requires significant input and representation from Council and reducing numbers significantly could potentially undermine the diversity and strength of Council to represent community interests. That considered, this Paper proposes Option 1 (nine Councillors including the Shire President) is the most appropriate democratic representation for a Shire of our size, diversity and complexity.

The Shire considered the below transition arrangements on the premise it would have the least financial and administrative resources required over the two election cycles with a similar number of vacant positions at each Ordinary Election (five positions total in 2023 and four positions total in 2025). Also of consideration was the degree of Council continuity, minimising training requirements of new Council members and as well as reducing the risks associated with the loss of corporate knowledge should a majority of new Councillors be elected.

The Shire understands that this Paper could vary after consultation through the Review of Systems of Representation, and review by the Minister and so considers the below Plan preliminary in nature:

## **1. 2023 Ordinary Election:**

In the 2023 Election the Shire will have seven Councillors whose terms expire and it is recommended that Council numbers are reduced from 13 to 11 with four positions plus the Shire President vacant at the Ordinary Election. This would mean that for the 2023-2025 period there would be 10 Councillors plus the Shire President.

## **2. 2023 Extraordinary Election:**

Should the Shire President vacancy be filled by an existing member of the Council cohort (with terms expiring 2025), the Act requires an extraordinary election be held for the vacant Councillor position which was declared vacant upon the Council member taking the Shire President Office.

Given the recommendation as contained within the High Level Plan for the Shire to reduce Council

representation to a maximum of eight Councillors plus the Shire President, it may be a consideration of the Department to not require Council hold an extraordinary election should it be required in 2023. This however cannot not be considered in the Plan as it relies on a future decision, following the Election.

The existing Councillor member who filled the Office of the Shire President's term would now be four years, with the Extraordinary position filling the existing term period which is two years.

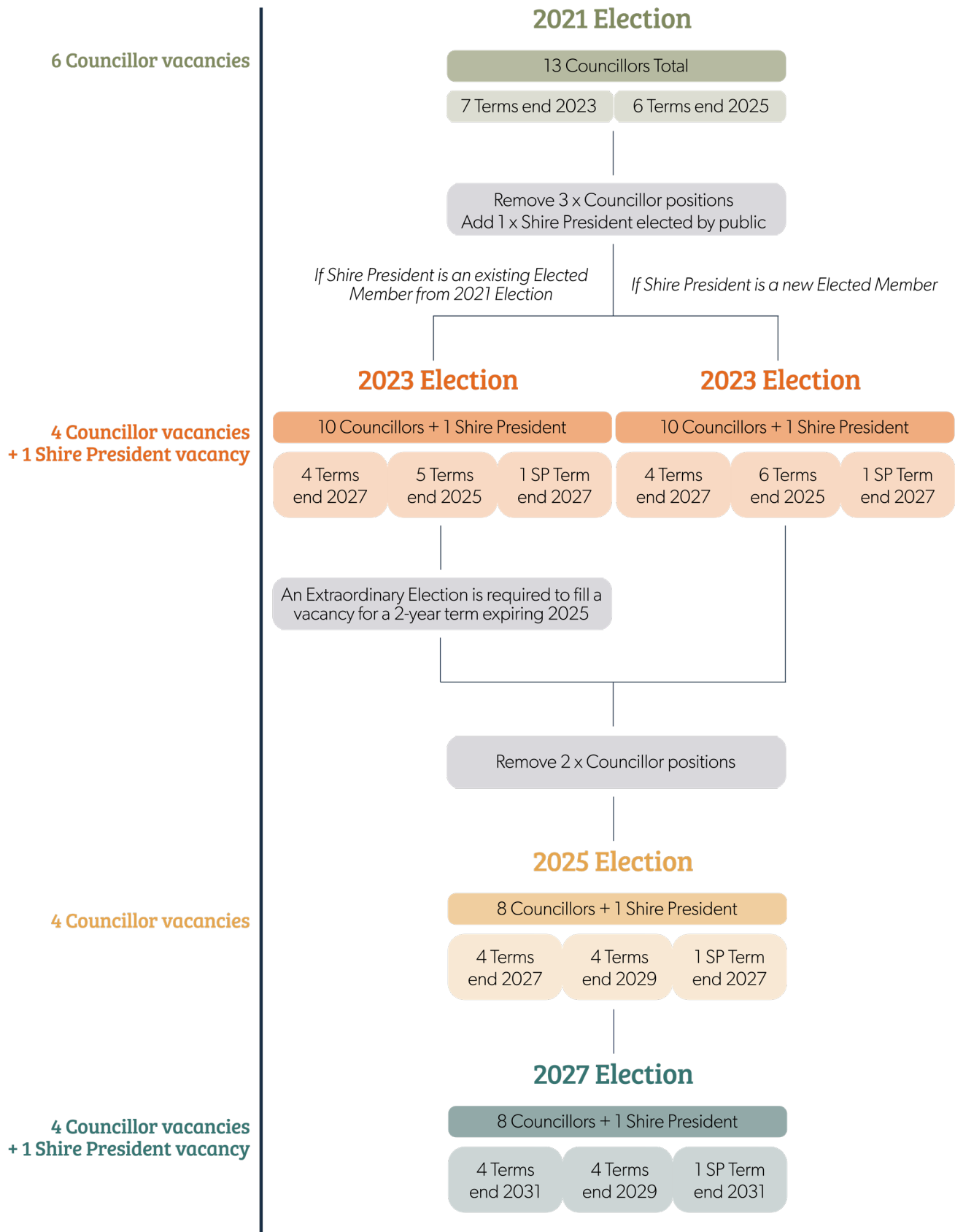
## **3. 2025 Ordinary Election:**

In the 2025 Election the Shire will have six Councillors whose terms expire (having filled the extraordinary position) however it is recommended that only four Councillor positions will be declared vacant order to facilitate even vacancies at the next Ordinary Election in 2027.

## **4. 2027 Ordinary Election:**

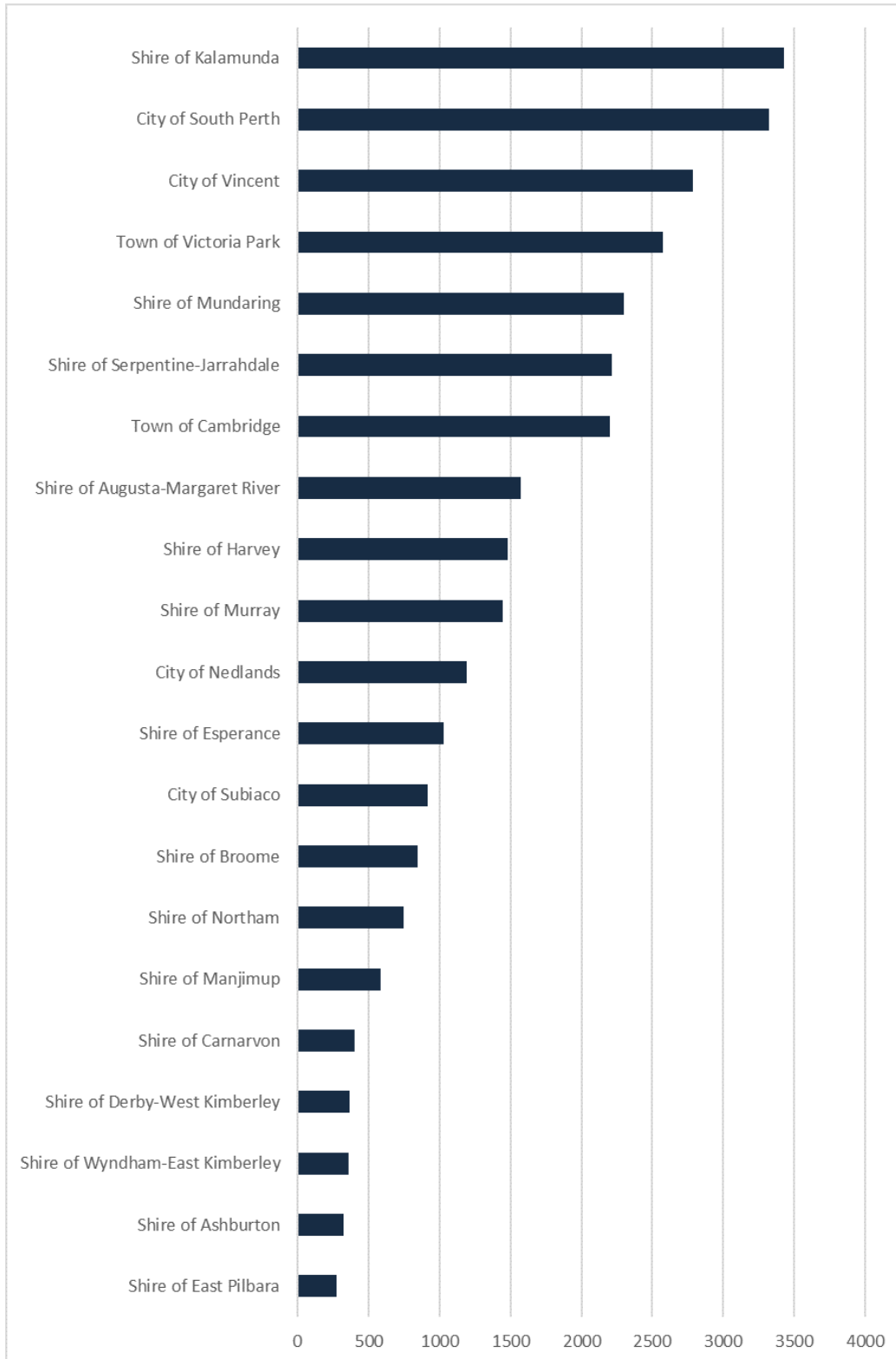
In 2027, four positions plus the Shire President would become vacant giving an even election cycle.





# Appendix 1

## Electors per Councillor for band 2 local governments<sup>5</sup>



<sup>5</sup> Source: My Council



Local Government	Councillors	Electors	Electors per Councillor
Shire of Kalamunda	12	41,133	3,428
City of South Perth	9	29,911	3,323
City of Vincent	9	25,105	2,789
Town of Victoria Park	9	23,195	2,577
Shire of Mundaring	12	27,607	2,301
Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale	9	19,940	2,216
Town of Cambridge	9	19,785	2,198
Shire of Augusta-Margaret River	7	11,034	1,576
Shire of Harvey	13	19,258	1,481
Shire of Murray	9	12,999	1,444
City of Nedlands	13	15,522	1,194
Shire of Esperance	9	9,262	1,029
City of Subiaco	13	11,876	914
Shire of Broome	9	7,614	846
Shire of Northam	10	7,473	747
Shire of Manjimup	11	6,468	588
Shire of Carnarvon	8	3,216	402
Shire of Derby-West Kimberley	9	3,282	365
Shire of Ashburton	9	2,923	325
Shire of East Pilbara	11	3,050	277
<b>Average</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14,317</b>	<b>1,446</b>
<b>Median</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12,999</b>	<b>1,029</b>

# Appendix 2

## The impact of ward and representation changes on councillor terms and representation<sup>6</sup>

The following information details the Local Government Advisory Board's policy regarding the implementation of ward and representation changes.

### 1. All wards are abolished

It is not necessary for all offices of councillor to be declared vacant to implement a change from a ward system to no wards.

If a local government proposes that councillors whose terms do not expire at the next ordinary elections continue to serve in the district ward, and the request is supported by the Board, at the next ordinary elections councillors complete their terms as normal and nominations are called to fill these vacancies. The remaining councillors who still have two years in office represent the electors of the whole district.

#### Example 1

A local government with four wards and nine councillors decides to abolish its wards. It is not necessary to declare all offices of councillor vacant. At the next ordinary elections, five councillors complete their terms leaving four councillors who still have two years in office. Elections are held for the five vacant positions and the four remaining councillors represent the whole district.

### 2. New wards are created

It is not necessary for all offices of councillor to be declared vacant to implement the creation of a ward system where there are no wards.

A local government can recommend the allocation of councillors who still have two years in office to the new wards.

If the request is supported, at the next ordinary elections councillors complete their terms as normal. Continuing councillors would be allocated to the new wards and elections are held for all vacant positions.

#### Example 2

A local government with no wards and nine

councillors decides to create a three ward system (Patterson Ward, Brown Ward and McDowell Ward) with three councillors in each ward.

At the next ordinary elections four councillors are due to complete their terms leaving five who still have two years in office. The local government advertises that it intends to make a submission to the Board recommending the allocation of the remaining five councillors to the three wards with one in Patterson Ward, two in the Brown Ward and two in the McDowell Ward based on where the councillors currently reside. Public submissions are invited.

After consideration of submissions the allocations are recommended to the Board. This is supported, councillors are allocated to the new wards and elections are held for two vacancies in the Patterson Ward, one vacancy in the Brown Ward and one vacancy in the McDowell Ward.

### 3. All wards are abolished and new wards created

It is not necessary for all offices of councillor to be declared vacant where all wards are abolished and a new ward system created.

A local government can recommend the allocation of councillors who still have two years in office to the new wards.

If the local government request is supported, at the next ordinary elections councillors complete their terms as normal. Continuing councillors would be allocated to the new wards and elections are held for all vacant positions.

#### Example 3

A local government with five wards and ten councillors decides to create a new ward structure with two wards (Patterson Ward and McDowell Ward) and four councillors in each ward.

At the next ordinary elections five councillors are due to retire leaving five who still have two years in office. The local government advertises that it intends to make a submission to the Board

<sup>6</sup> Source: Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries 'A Guide for Local Governments - How to conduct a review of wards and representation for local governments with and without a ward system (2017)



recommending the allocation of the remaining five councillors to the new wards with three in the Patterson Ward and two in the McDowell Ward based on where the councillors currently reside. Public submissions are invited.

After consideration of submissions the allocations are recommended to the Board. This is supported, councillors are allocated to the new wards and elections are held for one vacancy in the Patterson Ward and two vacancies in the Brown Ward.

#### **4. Ward boundaries are amended**

It is not necessary for offices of councillor to be declared vacant to implement amendments to ward boundaries.

The local government can recommend the allocation of councillors who still have two years in office to the new wards if necessary.

If the local government request is supported, at the next ordinary elections councillors complete their terms as normal. Continuing councillors may be allocated to the new wards and elections are held for all vacant positions.

#### **Example 4**

A local government with four wards and two councillors in each ward abolishes one ward (Ritchie Ward) and amends the boundaries of the other three wards (Patterson Ward with three councillors; Brown Ward with three councillors and McDowell Ward with two councillors).

At the next ordinary elections four councillors complete their terms leaving four who still have two years in office. Three of these councillors continue to reside in the wards from which they were elected however one councillor, Cr Keen, was elected from the Ritchie Ward that no longer exists. Cr Keen can be reallocated to any of the new wards, however the local government must give consideration to clauses 1 and 2 of Schedule 4.2 of the Act, where near as practical to half of the total number of councillors are to retire every two years and as near as practical to half of the councillors representing each ward are to retire every two years.

Although Cr Keen now resides in the Patterson Ward most of her former constituents live in the

Brown Ward. The local government advertises that it intends to make a submission to the Board recommending the allocation of Cr Keen to the Brown Ward. Public submissions are invited.

After consideration of submissions the allocation of Cr Keen to the Brown Ward is recommended to the Board. This is supported, Cr Keen is allocated to the Brown Ward and elections are held for two vacancies in the Patterson Ward, one vacancy in the Brown Ward and one vacancy in the McDowell Ward.

#### **5. Number of councillors reduced**

In most instances, a reduction to the number of councillors can be implemented by reducing the number of vacancies at the next ordinary election.

There are some exceptions to this and the Board may declare offices of councillor vacant in the following circumstances:

- Where the number of councillors in a ward or district is reduced and the number of councillors remaining after the next ordinary election would be greater than the number of positions available.

#### **Example 5**

A local government decides to reduce the number of councillors in a ward from three to one. At the next ordinary election only one councillor in that ward is due to complete his term leaving two councillors but only one position. One or more of the continuing councillors are therefore required to conclude their terms and an election is held for the one vacancy.

#### **6. Declaring offices vacant**

Section 2.35 of the Act deals with vacancies on the restructure of districts, wards and representation. This section provides that offices of council can be declared vacant where it is necessary to effect changes in boundaries or wards. It is very rare that a change to a local government's ward structure or boundaries and or representation will require any offices of councillor to become vacant, as councillors with terms continuing beyond the next ordinary election have a right to complete their terms in office.

A 'complete spill' of positions, could be effected if all of the continuing councillors agree to resign prior to the next ordinary election.

If a local government is considering declaring all offices vacant it is recommended that the local government seeks advice from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries prior to submitting a recommendation to the Board.











SHIRE OF  
**HARVEY**

*A Breath of Fresh Air*

# Where to find us



## *Customer Service Centres*

### **Harvey Administration Centre**

102 Uduc Road,  
Harvey WA 6220

**P:** 9729 0300

**F:** 9729 2053

**E:** [shire@harvey.wa.gov.au](mailto:shire@harvey.wa.gov.au)

### **Australind Administration Centre**

7 Mulgara Street,  
Australind WA 6233

**P:** 9729 0300



## *Leisure Centres*

### **Harvey Recreation and Cultural Centre**

Tom Latch Drive,  
Harvey WA 6220

**P:** 9729 3311

**E:** [hrcc.reception@harvey.wa.gov.au](mailto:hrcc.reception@harvey.wa.gov.au)

[www.harveyrec.com](http://www.harveyrec.com)

### **Leschenault Leisure Centre**

Leisure Drive,  
Australind WA 6233

**P:** 9797 4006

**E:** [llc.admin@harvey.wa.gov.au](mailto:llc.admin@harvey.wa.gov.au)

[www.llc.com.au](http://www.llc.com.au)



## *Swimming Pool*

### **Dr Peter Topham Memorial Swimming Pool**

36 Hainge Road,  
Harvey WA 6220

**P:** 9729 1711

**E:** [harvey.pool@outlook.com](mailto:harvey.pool@outlook.com)

[www.harveyrec.com](http://www.harveyrec.com)



## *Libraries*

### **Harvey Library**

Young Street,  
Harvey WA 6220

**P:** 9729 0390

**F:** 9729 1138

**E:** [hstaff@harvey.wa.gov.au](mailto:hstaff@harvey.wa.gov.au)

### **Australind Library**

Community Centre,  
Mulgara Street,  
Australind WA 6233

**P:** 9797 4590

**F:** 9797 2483

**E:** [astaff@harvey.wa.gov.au](mailto:astaff@harvey.wa.gov.au)

### **Binningup Library**

Driftwood Way,  
Binningup 6223

**P:** 9720 2930

### **Yarloop Library**

School Road,  
Yarloop 6218

**P:** 9733 5240

**E:** [ystaff@harvey.wa.gov.au](mailto:ystaff@harvey.wa.gov.au)

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**[www.harvey.wa.gov.au](http://www.harvey.wa.gov.au)**



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