

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

Council Agenda Item & Minutes
26 April, 2016

**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday 26 April 2016
AGENDA BUSINESS ITEM**

Item: 14.9

Originating Officer: Andrea Sargent, Manager Governance and Risk

Responsible Director: Terry Crackett, Director Corporate Services

Subject: Initiation of Elector Representation Review

For: Decision

SUMMARY

An Elector Representation Review is held to examine fundamental aspects of a Council's composition and ward structure. It is a formal process that is closely regulated under the Local Government Act 1999 and is required to be conducted at least every eight years. There are a number of steps that form part of the statutory process which include (but are not limited to) the preparations of an options paper, two public consultation periods, public notices in local papers and the Gazette, opportunity for interested persons to make written submissions and to formally address Council, as well as a progress report and a final report.

The Electoral Commission of SA has sought confirmation that Adelaide Hills Council is planning to undertake an Elector Representation Review between April 2016 and April 2017.

The purpose of this report is to obtain endorsement from Council to formally initiate the Adelaide Hills Council Elector Representation Review in accordance with section 12 of the Local Government Act 1999.

RECOMMENDATION

Council resolves:

- 1. That the report be received and noted**
 - 2. The Elector Representation Review process be commenced in accordance with section 12 of the Local Government Act 1999**
 - 3. The *Elector Representation Review: Draft Key Milestones* document (Item No. 14.9, Council 26/04/2016, Appendix 2) be noted, recognising that the document is subject to change.**
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1. GOVERNANCE

➤ Strategic Management Plan/Council Policy

Goal 4 A Recognised Leading Performer

Key Issue 4.1 Leadership

Key Action 4.1.3 Review the overall governance structure and explore opportunities to enhance the decision making processes at all levels of the organisation

The review of the governance structure incorporates (though not limited to) a review of elector representation.

➤ Legal Implications

Legislative requirements regarding an Elector Representation Review is laid out in Division 2 *Powers of councils and representation reviews*, section 12 of the Local Government Act 1999 (see Appendix 2) and the Local Government (General) Regulations 1999.

➤ Risk Management Implications

Undertaking the Elector Representation Review with the support of an experienced consultant and the development of sound project and consultation plans will assist in mitigating the risk of:

Poor governance practices occur which lead to a loss of stakeholder (i.e. customer and regulator) confidence and/or legislative breaches.

Inherent Risk	Residual Risk	Target Risk
Extreme (5C)	Medium (3D)	Medium (3D)

➤ Financial and Resource Implications

Funding for the engagement of the consultant and other review costs will be covered by the Chief Executive provision formed during previous budget reviews.

➤ Customer Service and Community/Cultural Implications

Through the Elector Representation Review process Council will consider whether the Adelaide Hills community may benefit from an alteration to its composition and or ward structure.

➤ Environmental Implications

There are no direct environmental implications considered as part of the Elector Representation Review.

➤ **Engagement/Consultation with Committee, Regional Subsidiary, Advisory Group and Community**

The provision of information to the community and community consultation are key components of an Elector Representation Review. Two distinct public consultation phases are legislated, with a minimum of a six week period to allow interested persons to make written submissions to Council on the subject of the review (as described in the initial Representation Options Paper) and later, a three week consultation period enabling interested persons to make written submissions on the second report that presents a proposal of the future structure.

Taking on board community feedback from Council's 2013 review that indicated difficulties were experienced in hearing about and understanding the impacts of the review, development of activities to engage the community in addition to the mandatory public consultation will be examined to address these concerns. Consideration will be given to engagement methods that meet people at their normal gathering points, for example Listening Posts.

2. BACKGROUND

Section 12(4) of the Local Government Act 1999 (the Act) requires each Council to undertake a review of all aspects of its composition and the division (or potential division) of the Council area into wards, as prescribed by the Minister from time to time by a notice published in the Government Gazette.

Adelaide Hills Council (AHC) undertook an Elector Representation Review (ER Review) in 2009 in accordance with the gazetted cycle. An "out of cycle" review was undertaken in 2013 and was abandoned prior to the completion of the process.

Amendments to the Local Government (General) Regulations 1999 occurred in 2012 that introduced a schedule which specifies when the various councils in South Australia must undertake an ER Review. This schedule, published in the Government Gazette on 31 May 2012, states that AHC is scheduled to undertake a review during the period April 2016 – April 2017.

An ER Review must examine all aspects of the composition of the Council, including:

- The number of Council Members;
- The division of the area into wards and/or whether the division of the area into wards should be abolished; and
- Ward quotas, including consideration of projections into the future.

Council has received correspondence from the Electoral Commission of SA (Attachment 1), seeking Council's confirmation that it will carry out the required ER Review. The Electoral Commission of SA has been informed that Council is planning to conduct its ER Review from April 2016 – April 2017 as required by the 31 May 2012 Gazettal Notice.

3. ANALYSIS

The Act stipulates a range of requirements to be met during the ER Review (Appendix 2). Key issues that need to be addressed during the review include:

- a) The principal member of Council, that is, whether the role should be an elected mayor or a chairperson selected by the elected members;
- b) The need for area councillors in addition to ward councillors;
- c) The division of the Council area into wards, or alternatively, the abolition of wards;
- d) The number of council members required to provide fair and adequate representation to the community;
- e) The level of ward representation, that is, single and/or multi councillor wards, or combinations thereof; and
- f) The name of the council area and/or any proposed future wards.

The Act prescribes that the Representation Options Paper is prepared by a person who, in the opinion of the Council is qualified to:

- a) Write a paper on the alternatives that could be considered for the Council composition and structure; and
- b) Address any representation and governance issues that may arise from the review.

Research has affirmed that the number of qualified independent consultants specifically undertaking this work is limited. A project brief has been prepared and a consultant will be engaged in accordance with AHC purchasing and procurement processes. The scope of the project brief seeks a consultant to support the whole review process, recognising that their extensive experience will assist in ensuring legislative compliance and efficient and effective process.

A presentation on “What is a Representation Review?” is to be presented at an informal gathering - workshop so that Council Members are aware of the legislative steps of and requirements for an ER Review and are able to discuss issues.

Council endorsement will be required at several steps within the ER Review, including the following:

- a) The endorsement of the Representation Options Paper to release for public consultation #1.
- b) The endorsement of the Draft Representation Report for public consultation #2 which reports on:
 - i. All options, issues and proposals Council has discussed and considered along the way;
 - ii. Consultation outcomes and Council’s response to these;

- iii. Council analysis and rationale for not adopting a proposal arising out of the Representation Options Paper or public consultation process; and
- iv. Any proposal the Council considers should be implemented.

c) Endorsement of the Final Representation Review Report

A Draft Key Milestones document has been formulated setting out the key steps of an ER Review and is attached for information (Appendix 3). Once the consultant has been appointed timeframes will be incorporated. It should be noted that this document lays out the statutory requirements which must be completed. If further activities are added, the timeframe and resource requirements would need to be considered.

4. OPTIONS

AHC is required to conduct an ER Review during the period April 2016 – April 2017. The process must commence now to enable preliminary tasks, including the engagement of a suitably qualified person. A presentation to Council Members is planned at an informal gathering - workshop to discuss the ER Review and explain requirements and processes, enabling Council to be fully informed and provide comment on the process.

1. Council's endorsement is sought to formally initiate the Elector Representation Review to ensure compliance with legislative requirements and enable the timeline to be maximized in undertaking the review.
2. If Council defers resolution on this matter, the timeframe for the ER Review will be reduced making the timeline and processes more difficult.

5. APPENDICES

- (1) SA Electoral Commission - Request for confirmation of dates of Council's Representation Review
- (2) Division 2 of Local Government Act 1999
- (3) Elector Representation Review: Draft Key Milestones

14.4. Community Consultation on the draft Local Area Strategic Bike Plan

To proceed with making minor changes to the Local Area Strategic Bike Plan based on feedback received through consultation with the community.

14.5. Long Term Financial Plan – Adoption

Adopts the Draft Long Term Financial Plan, as contained in Appendix 1 to this report, in accordance with Section 122 of the Local Government Act 1999.

14.6. Draft Annual Business Plan for consultation

The Draft 2016/17 Annual Business Plan included as Attachment 1 to this report be endorsed for community consultation.

The period of consultation for the Draft 2016/2017 Annual Business Plan be from 29 April 2016 to 27 May 2016.

14.7. Annual Review of Audit Committee Terms of Reference

That the Audit Committee Terms of Reference be revised in accordance with Appendix A of this Council agenda report.

14.8. Extinguish Easement 153 Yarrabee Road Greenhill

Grant approval for the Council's interest in the easement be extinguished.

14.9. Initiation of Elector Representation Review

The Elector Representation Review process be commenced in accordance with section 12 of the Local Government Act 1999

The Elector Representation Review: Draft Key Milestones document (Item No. 14.9, Council 26/04/2016, Appendix 2) be noted, recognising that the document is subject to change.

14.10. Attendance at NGA Conference Canberra

That Council approves Cr Linda Green's attendance at the National General Assembly of Local Government in Canberra in June 2016 and coverage of related costs in accordance with the Council Member Training and Development policy

15. OFFICER REPORTS – INFORMATION ITEMS

15.1. Croft & Harris Road Lenswood

That a further report be presented on potential road treatments for Croft Road Lenswood and the surrounding road network once additional data has been collected on peak traffic numbers generated through a major event and staff continue negotiations with ForestrySA regarding infrastructure improvements for Cudlee Creek Forest Reserve.

**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY 26 APRIL 2016
63 MT BARKER ROAD STIRLING**

[Please Note: These minutes are unconfirmed until 24 May 2016]

14.8. Extinguish Easement 153 Yarrabee Road Greenhill

Moved Cr Jan Loveday 80
S/- Cr Linda Green

Council resolves to:

1. Receive and note the report
2. Grant approval for the Council's interest in the easement at 153 Yarrabee Road Greenhill to be extinguished.

Carried Unanimously

14.9. Initiation of Elector Representation Review

Moved Cr John Kemp 81
S/- Cr Linda Green

Council resolves:

1. That the report be received and noted
2. The Elector Representation Review process be commenced in accordance with section 12 of the *Local Government Act 1999*
3. The Elector Representation Review: Draft Key Milestones document (Item No. 14.9, Council 26/04/2016, Appendix 2) be noted, recognising that the document is subject to change.

Carried Unanimously

APPENDIX B

Information Paper
6 July, 2016

Electoral Representation Review Information Paper

1. Legislative Requirements

- a) Section 12(4) of the Local Government Act 1999 (the Act) requires a review to be undertaken as prescribed by the Minister from time to time (approximately every 8 years).
- b) The schedule, which was published in the Government Gazette (31st May 2012), indicates that Council is scheduled to undertake a review during the period April 2016 – April 2017.
- c) The review should address the issues of the principal member of Council (i.e. Mayor or Chairperson); the composition of Council; the number of elected members required to adequately represent the community and perform the roles and responsibilities of Council; the division (or not) of the Council area into wards; the number of wards; the level of representation and elector ratio within each ward; ward names; and the Council name (if required).
- d) Council last undertook a review of its electoral representation in 2009, at which time it resolved to retain the office of Mayor (elected by the community); a five ward structure (albeit with minor boundary adjustments; and twelve ward councillors).

2. Review Process

- a) Section 12(5) of the Act requires a "Representation Options Paper" to be prepared by a person qualified to address the representation and governance issues; and this document must examine the advantages and disadvantages of the options available in respect to the aforementioned range of issues.
- b) The first public consultation stage (minimum of six weeks) involves the publishing of notices in the local papers and Government Gazette informing the community of the review; advising of the existence of the "Representation Options Paper"; and calling for submissions. The "Representation Options Paper" will simply provide relevant information to the community, not lead them to any particular conclusion.
- c) Council must consider all options available (including the information provided in the "Representation Options Paper"), as well as the submissions received, and make "in principle" decisions regarding the structure it believes should be effected.
- d) Council must then undertake a second consultation with the community (minimum of three weeks), including the preparation and exhibition of a "Representation Review Report" which outlines Council's proposal and the reasons for such, and provides details of the submissions which were received (first consultation) and the responses thereto.
- e) Council must then consider all of the submissions received; hear submissions (if deemed appropriate); make final decisions and prepare a report to the Electoral Commissioner.
- f) The final stage involves certification by the Electoral Commissioner and gazettal of any amendments.

g) An indicative project schedule is as follows.

<p>8 weeks June - July 2016</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial workshop with elected members to generally discuss key issues and ascertain member's thoughts and issues. Collect and analyse elector data. Prepare a "Representation Options Paper" relating to the composition of Council and presenting ward structure options. Present the draft "Representation Options Paper" to Council; discuss contents; and make final amendments.
<p>8 - 10 weeks August - October 2016</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake the initial prescribed public consultation (6 weeks), including the preparation of the public notice, provision of a public questionnaire document; and the conduct of a public meeting (if required). Examine public submissions received and prepare a "Submissions Report" for consideration by Council.
<p>6 - 8 weeks October - November 2016</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council to consider submissions and to make "in principle" decisions regarding its future composition and structure. Prepare the "Representation Review Report" pursuant to Sections 12(7) & (8) of the Local Government Act and undertake the second prescribed public consultation (3 weeks), including a public meeting (if required).
<p>4 - 6 weeks December 2016 - January 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examine public submissions and prepare a second "Submissions Report" for consideration by Council. Council to hear submissions (if required). Council to make final decisions.
<p>4 weeks February 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare and present the final report to the Electoral Commissioner. Consult with Electoral Commission SA during the certification process.

3. Primary Issues

3.1 Composition

3.1.1 Mayor/Chairperson

a) The roles are identical in all respects, the differences occur in the election/selection and the voting rights in chamber.

- b) The Mayor is elected by the community as a representative of the Council area as a whole, whereas the Chairperson is chosen by the elected members of Council to serve for a determined period (maximum of 4 years).
- c) Any candidate for the office of Mayor cannot stand for election as a councillor and, as such, the experience and expertise of unsuccessful candidates will be lost to Council.
- d) The Mayor does not have a deliberative vote on a matter before Council, but has, in the event of a tied vote, a casting vote. A Chairperson has a deliberative vote at a Council meeting, but does not, in the event of a tied vote, have a casting vote.
- e) The election for Mayor (including any supplementary election) must be conducted across the whole of the Council area (despite whether the Council area is divided into wards or not), whereas the selection of a Chairperson is not necessarily reliant upon an election. Under circumstances whereby a Chairperson cannot serve a full term (i.e. leaves Council), Council could opt to choose another principal member from the remaining councillors. This would result in Council comprising one less councillor. If Council then chooses to fill the vacancy and a supplementary election is required, such an election would only have to be conducted in one ward (if the Council area was divided into wards). Obviously, under a "no wards" structure the filling of a vacancy would need to be done by way of a council-wide election (as per the situation with the elected Mayor).
- f) Only 16 regional councils have a selected Chairperson (fourteen of these bear the title of Mayor, as allowed under Section 51(1)(b) of the Act).
- g) There is a general perception that the position of Chairperson lacks the status of the Mayor, and this in turn reflects detrimentally on the status of a Council.
- h) Any change from a Mayor to a Chairperson (or vice versa) will require a poll (as required under Section 12(11a) of the Local Government Act 1999) prior to finalising the report to the Electoral Commissioner.

3.1.2 Councillors

- a) Section 52(1) of the Act specifies that all members of Council, other than the principal member, shall have the title of councillor.
- b) Section 52 of the Act indicates a councillor can be elected to represent the whole of the council area (i.e. an area councillor) or, if the council area is divided into wards, will be elected by the electors of a particular ward, as a representative of that ward (i.e. a ward councillor).
- c) As a person elected to the council, a ward councillor is required to represent the interests of residents and ratepayers, to provide community leadership and guidance, and to facilitate communication between the community and the council.

3.1.3 Area Councillors (in addition to ward councillors)

- a) Section 52(2)(a) of the Act enables councillors to be elected as representatives of the whole of the council area, whether or not the area is divided into wards.
- b) "Area councillors" are similar to the former office of Alderman.

- c) Arguments in favour of "area councillors" (in addition to ward councillors) include:
- the councillor should be free of parochial ward attitudes and responsibilities;
 - the councillor is generally an experienced elected member who can share his/her knowledge and experience with the ward councillors;
 - the councillor is free to assist the principal member and ward councillors, if required; and
 - the lines of communication between Council and the community are enhanced through the greater number of elected members.
- d) Arguments against "area councillors" (in addition to ward councillors) include:
- the office holds no greater status and/or responsibilities than a ward councillor;
 - a candidate need not comply with any extraordinary or additional eligibility requirements;
 - additional elected members ("area councillors") will create additional expense (e.g. elected member's allowances and administration costs);
 - any contested election must be conducted across the whole of the Council area at considerable cost;
 - "area councillors" are considered to be an unnecessary tier of representation and therefore are not a popular option amongst Councils (i.e. only the City of Adelaide has "area councillors" in addition to councillors);
 - ward councillors do not have to reside in the ward which they represent and, as such, the traditional role and/or basis for the ward councillor has changed to a more council-wide perspective;
 - ward councillors generally consider themselves to represent not only their ward, but the Council area as a whole (like an "area councillor"); and
 - the task and expense of contesting council-wide elections for an "area councillor" can be prohibitive, and may deter appropriate/quality candidates.

3.2 Ward Structure

3.2.1 Wards/No Wards

- a) The Council area is currently divided into five wards.
- b) Arguments supporting the retention of a ward structure include:
- wards guarantee some form and level of direct representation to all existing communities of interest;
 - ward councillors can focus on local issues;
 - the concern that a single interest group could gain considerable representation on Council under a "no wards" structure;
 - concern council-wide elections will not guarantee that elected members have any empathy for, or affiliation with, communities across the whole Council area;
 - the task and expense of contesting council-wide elections could be prohibitive, and therefore may deter appropriate/quality candidates;
 - without wards Council has to conduct elections and supplementary elections across the whole of the Council area (at a significant expense); and
 - under the "no ward" structure the more popular or known councillors may receive more enquiries from the public (i.e. inequitable workloads).

c) Arguments in favour of the abolition of wards include:-

- “no wards” is the optimum form of democracy as the electors vote for all of the vacant positions on Council;
- the most supported candidates from across the Council area will likely be elected, rather than candidates who may be favoured by the peculiarities of the ward based electoral system (e.g. candidates elected unopposed or having attracted less votes than defeated candidates in other wards);
- the elected members should be free of parochial ward attitudes;
- the lines of communication between Council and the community should be enhanced, given that members of the community should be able to consult with any and/or all members of Council, rather than feel obliged to consult with their specific ward councillors;
- as ward councillors do not have to reside within the ward that they represent, a ward structure does not guarantee that a ward councillor will have empathy for, or an affiliation with, the ward;
- the structure still affords opportunities for the small communities within the Council area to be directly represented on Council, if they are able to muster sufficient support for a candidate;
- the structure automatically absorbs fluctuations and there is no requirement for compliance with specified quota tolerance;
- ward councillors generally consider themselves to represent not only their ward but the Council area as a whole;
- the introduction of postal voting has facilitated the dissemination of campaign literature throughout the Council area, thereby reducing the difficulty and cost of contesting a council-wide election campaign;
- successful candidates generally have to attract no more votes than what they would have received/required under a ward election; and
- candidates for election to Council will require the genuine desire, ability and means to succeed and serve on Council, given the perceived difficulties and expense associated with contesting “at large” elections.

d) Section 33(1) of the Act outlines the matters that must be taken into account when determining wards (i.e. communities of interest, population, topography, communication between councillors and electors, demographic change and elector representation).

3.2.2 Potential Ward Structures

- a) Section 12(1)(b) of the Act indicates that Council can “*divide, or redivide, the area of the council into wards, alter the division of the area of the council into wards, or abolish the division of the area of a council into wards*”.
- b) Council cannot retain its current ward structure because the elector ratio in the existing Mount Lofty Ward breaches the specified quota tolerance limit. This being the case, Council will have to consider an adjustment to its current ward structure, as well as other alternative ward structure options. Any ward structure option to be considered must comply with the provision of Section 33(2) of the Act which specifies that the number of electors represented by a councillor must not vary from the ward quota by more than 10 per cent.
- c) Ward structures options based on a varying number of elected members (to be determined) will be presented to Council, and a number of alternatives should be presented to the community for consideration and comment.

- d) The review should also address the title/name of any proposed wards.
- e) The means of ward identification are limited. The conventional means of identification include the allocation of direction points (i.e. north, south, east, west and central), letters or numbers to each ward, but it is suggested that these methods lack imagination and fail to reflect the character and/or history of the ward or Council area. The same cannot be said for the allocation of place names or names of local heritage significance (as per the current ward structure), but experience suggests that reaching consensus over the selection of appropriate names may likely prove to be a difficult exercise.

3.2.3 Ward Representation

- a) Wards represented by a single councillor are generally small in area and therefore afford the ward councillors the opportunity to be more accessible to their constituents and able to concentrate on issues of local importance. Due to the small size of the wards it is generally difficult to identify suitable ward boundaries; maintain entire communities of interest; sustain significant fluctuations in elector numbers and therefore comply with the specified quota tolerance limits (+ or - 10% of average ward quota). The work load of the ward councillor can also be demanding, and absenteeism by the elected member (for whatever purpose and/or period) will leave the ward without representation.
- b) Two councillors representing a ward is traditional and/or common; allows for the sharing of duties and responsibilities between the ward councillors; lessens the likelihood of ward parochialism; and affords continuous ward representation should one ward councillor be absent.
- c) Multi-councillor wards are generally larger in area and therefore the overall ward structure can be relatively simple. Councillor absenteeism can be easily covered; the work load of the ward councillors can be reduced; there are greater perceived lines of communication between ward councillors and their constituents; and there is more flexibility in regards to ward quota, allowances for fluctuations in elector numbers, and the preservation of communities of interest.
- d) There are no inherent disadvantages associated with varying levels of representation between wards, however, such structures can be seen to lack balance and/or equity, with the larger wards (in elector and ward councillor numbers) being perceived as having a greater, more influential voice on Council, even if the elector ratios within the wards are consistent.

3.3 Elector Representation (i.e. number of elected members)

- a) Council should adhere to the democratic principle of "one person, one vote, one value".
- b) Section 33(1)(f) of the Act indicates *"the need to ensure adequate and fair representation while at the same time avoiding over-representation in comparison to other councils of a similar size and type (at least in the longer term)."*
- c) Section 26(1)(xi) of the Act also states *"residents should receive adequate and fair representation within the local government system, while over-representation in comparison with councils of a similar size and type should be avoided (at least in the longer term)".*

- d) Section 12(6) of the Act requires that where a Council comprises more than twelve members, the question of whether the number of members should be reduced must be examined.
- e) Table 1 provides (for comparison purposes) the elector data, elector ratios and areas of the councils in South Australia which exhibit similar elector numbers to the Adelaide Hills Council. The data indicates that the composition and elector ratio of Council is generally consistent with the elector representation arrangements of the other cited councils.

Table 1: Elector data, representation and areas (Councils with similar elector numbers)

Council	Councillors	Electors	Ratio
Norwood Payneham St Peters (15.1 km ²)	13	25,096	1:1,930
Holdfast (13.7 km ²)	12	27,206	1:2,267
Unley (14.3 km ²)	12	27,290	1:2,274
Adelaide Hills (795.1km²)	12	28,745	1:2,395
Burnside (27.5 km ²)	12	31,741	1:2,645

Source: Electoral Commission SA , House of Assembly Roll (December,2015 & May 2016)
Council Voters Roll (20th May 2016)

- e) The differences in the composition and elector ratios between councils becomes more evident when the Adelaide Hills Council is compared to the larger of the metropolitan councils. These councils comprise 12 - 20 elected members; have elector numbers ranging from 62,486 - 117,715; and exhibit elector ratios of 1:4,653 - 1:6,017.
- f) Table 2 compares the levels of representation and elector ratio of Council with the elector representation arrangements of various interstate councils of a similar size (elector numbers). It indicates that the Adelaide Hills Council is small in area; has the highest number of elected members; and exhibits the lowest elector ratio.

Table 2: Elector data and representation (Various interstate councils with similar elector numbers)

Council	Councillors	Electors	Ratio
Adelaide Hills (795.1km²)	12	28,745	1:2,395
Dubbo (NSW - 3,425 km ²)	11	27,159	1:2,469
Great Lakes (NSW - 3,376 km ²)	9	27,492	1:3,055
Campaspe (Vic - 4,519 km ²)	9	28,820	1:3,202
Ballina (NSW - 484 km ²)	9	29,716	1:3,302
Eurobodalla (NSW - 3,428 km ²)	8	27,778	1:3,472
Surf Coast (Vic - 1,560 km ²)	8	29,947	1:3,743
Wodonga (Vic - 433 km ²)	7	27,076	1:3,868
Southern Grampians (Vic - 6,652 km ²)	7	27,812	1:3,973
Tablelands (Qld - 64,999 km ²)	7	28,040	1:4,007

Source: Various State Electoral Commissions, 2011 and 2012 data

- g) Whilst the elector ratio of Council compares well with the cited councils of a similar size within South Australia, it is low when compared to the elector ratios of the larger metropolitan Adelaide Councils and all of the cited interstate councils which exhibit a similar number of electors. The review affords the opportunity for Council to consider an alternative number of elected members.
- h) If considering a reduction in the number of councillors, care must be taken to ensure that sufficient elected members are available to manage the affairs of Council; elected member's workloads do not become excessive; there is an appropriate level of elector representation; the potential for a diversity of member's skill sets, experience and backgrounds is maintained; and adequate lines of communication will exist between the community and Council.
- i) There are no inherent disadvantages in having an even or odd number of councillors. An odd number may decrease the potential for a tied vote but may also require the development/implementation of a ward structure (if required) which exhibits a varying level of representation between wards. The latter can be perceived as an imbalance.

4. Key Considerations

4.1 Quota (Elector Ratio)

- a) Section 33(2) of the Act requires that the number of electors represented by a councillor within a ward must not vary from the quota for the Council (i.e. the average number of electors represented by a single councillor) by more than 10 per cent.
- b) According to Section 33(2a)(b) of the Act, ward quota is determined to be: *"the number of electors for the area (as at the relevant date) divided by the number of councillors for the area who represent wards (assuming that the proposal were in operation and ignoring any fractions resulting from the division)."*
- c) The data provided in Table 3 indicates that the elector ratio within existing Mount Lofty Ward breaches the specified quota tolerance limits and, as such, the existing ward structure cannot be retained in its current configuration. In addition, the elector ratios in the existing Marble Hill and Onkaparinga Valley Wards also need to be addressed.

Table 3: Elector data per ward and variance to quota

Ward	Crs	H of A Roll	Council Roll	Electors	Ratio	% Variance
Manoah	2	4,878	4	4,882	1:2,441	+1.9
Mount Lofty	3	8,025	23	8,048	1:2,683	+12.0
Marble Hill	2	4,367	13	4,380	1:2,190	- 8.6
Torrens Valley	2	4,881	5	4,886	1:2,443	+ 2.0
Onkaparinga Valley	3	6,524	25	6,549	1:2,183	- 8.9
Total	12	28,675	70	28,745		
Average					1:2,395	

Source: Electoral Commission SA - February 2016

- d) The "no wards" structure automatically absorbs fluctuations in elector numbers and adjusts the elector ratio accordingly (i.e. specified quota tolerance limits do not apply).

4.2 Communities of Interest

- a) Section 33(1)(a) of the Act requires Council, when developing wards, to take into account (as far as practical) *"the desirability of reflecting communities of interest of an economic, social, regional or other kind"*.
- b) Factors that can be considered include the physical, economic and social environments; neighbourhood communities; history and heritage communities; sporting facilities; community support services; recreation and leisure communities; retail and shopping centres; work communities; industrial and economic development clusters; and environmental and geographic interests.
- c) The issue of "communities of interest" can be very complex. As such, the member's local knowledge is particularly valuable and the retention of entire communities (i.e. districts, precincts and/or towns) within proposed wards will always serve to maintain and protect perceived existing communities of interest.

4.3 Ward Boundaries

- a) The community generally has an apathetic attitude towards Local Government elections and, as such, care must be taken to ensure that the situation is not exacerbated as a result of any confusion or uncertainty that may arise due to any proposed new elector representation arrangements.
- b) Experience suggests communities prefer no change to an existing structure, but are more likely to accept an alternative structure which has some logical basis and exhibits ward boundaries that are easily identifiable.
- c) Any potential future ward boundaries should be aligned with existing, long established district and/or township boundaries, main roads, property boundaries, and/or prominent geographical or man-made features.

4.4 Demographic Trends

- a) Allowances must be incorporated within any proposed ward structures so as to accommodate identified or likely fluctuations in elector numbers.
- b) Population projections provided by the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI), as at February 2016, are based on the 2011 Census population data. They indicate that the population of the Adelaide Hills Council is expected to:
- increase by 748 (i.e. 40,436 to 41,184) or 1.85% during the period 2016 - 2021; and
 - increase by a further 817 (i.e. 41,184 to 42,001) or 1.98% during the period 2021 - 2026.
- c) According to data provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (2001, 2006 and 2011 Census Community Profiles – Adelaide Hills (DC) Local Government Area), the estimated total population of the Council area increased by 1,229 (3.35%) over the period 2001 – 2006, and then increased by a further 770 (or 2.03%) during the period 2006 – 2011.

- d) Data sourced from Electoral Commission SA indicates that the number of electors within the Council area who are enrolled on the House of Assembly Roll increased by 1,533 (5.78%) during the period February 2001 to February 2008, but only increased by a further 47 (0.16%) during the period August 2010 to February 2016.
- e) There will also be a need to identify development opportunities (e.g. new residential zonings, residential redevelopment and/or land division proposals) which have the potential to create a significant increase (or decrease) in elector numbers. Such information will be sourced from Council's planning department.

APPENDIX C

Options Paper
22 August, 2016



Adelaide Hills
COUNCIL

Representation Options Paper

ELECTOR REPRESENTATION REVIEW

August 2016

Prepared for the Adelaide Hills Council by C L Rowe and Associates Pty Ltd, August 2016 (Version 2)

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Contents

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Review Process	4
2.1	Representation Options Paper	
2.2	First Public Consultation	
2.3	Representation Review Report	
2.4	Second Public Consultation	
2.5	Final Decision	
2.6	Certification	
3.	Current Structure	6
4.	Composition of Council	8
4.1	Mayor / Chairperson	
4.2	Councillors	
5.	Elector Representation (number of councillors)	10
6.	Ward Structure	13
6.1	Wards/No Wards	
6.1.1	Wards	
6.1.2	No Wards	
6.2	Ward Representation	
6.2.1	Single Councillors Ward	
6.2.2	Two Councillors per Ward	
6.2.3	Multi-Councillor Ward	
6.2.4	Varying Ward Representation	
6.3	Ward Boundaries	
6.4	Ward Identification	
7.	Ward Structure Assessment Criteria	16
7.1	Communities of Interest	
7.2	Population and Demographic Trends	
7.2.1	Elector Numbers	
7.2.2	Residential Development	
7.2.3	Population Projections	
7.2.4	Census Data	
7.2.5	Greater Adelaide Plan	
7.3	Quota	
8.	Ward Structure Options	19
8.1	Option 1 – Twelve councillors/five wards	
8.2	Option 2 – Twelve councillors/four wards	
8.3	Option 3 – Eleven councillors/three wards	
8.4	Option 4 – Ten councillors/two wards	
8.5	Option 5 – Ten councillors/three wards	
8.6	Option 6 - Nine or twelve councillors/three wards	
8.7	Option 7 - Nine or twelve councillors/three wards	
8.8	Option 8 - No wards	
9.	Summary	37

1. Introduction

Section 12(4) of the Local Government Act 1999 (the Act) states:

"A review may relate to a specific aspect of the composition of the council, or of the wards of the council, or may relate to those matters generally – but a council must ensure that all aspects of the composition of the council, and the issue of the division, or potential division, of the area of the council into wards, are comprehensively reviewed under this section at least once in each relevant period that is prescribed by the regulations".

The Adelaide Hills Council last completed an "elector representation review" in November 2009. A subsequent review was commenced in April 2013 because the elector ratios exhibited in two wards (i.e. Onkaparinga Valley and Mount Lofty Wards) varied from the specified ward quota by more than 10%. This anomaly was unlikely to be corrected in the short term by predicted population changes and, as such, Council decided that it would be good governance practice to initiate an elector representation review to address the situation. In October 2013 Council accepted that, due to the complexities of the prescribed review process, the review could not be completed by the scheduled date of the 31st December 2013 and, as such, formally resolved the review be discontinued.

In accordance with a schedule prescribed by the Minister for Local Government, Council is now required to undertake another review during the period April 2016 – April 2017.

This paper has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 12(5) and (6) of the Act and examines the advantages and disadvantages of the various options that are available to Council in respect to its future composition and structure. It contains information pertaining to the review process; elector distribution and ratios; comparisons with other councils; demographic trends; population projections; residential development opportunities which may impact upon future elector numbers; and alternative ward structure options.

The key issues that need to be addressed during the review include:

- the principal member of Council, more specifically whether it should be a mayor elected by the community or a chairperson selected by (and from amongst) the elected members;
- the composition of Council, including the number of elected members required to provide fair and adequate representation to the community and the need for area councillors in addition to ward councillors (where the council area is to be divided into wards);
- the division of the council area into wards or the abolition of wards; and
- the level of ward representation within, and the name of, any future proposed wards.

At the end of the review process, any proposed changes to Council's composition and/or the ward structure (and/or the abolition thereof) must serve to uphold the democratic principle of "one person, one vote, one value". Bearing this in mind, it is highly likely that any potential ward structure of Council will, in the main, be determined by the requirement for an equitable distribution of elector numbers between wards, rather than be based specifically on any socio-economic, regional or topographic factors.

2. Review Process

Sections 12(5) - 12(12a) of the Act outline the process that Council must adhere to when undertaking its review. A brief summary of this process is as follows.

2.1 Representation Options Paper

The review is commenced with the preparation of a "Representation Options Paper" by a person who, in the opinion of Council, is qualified to address the representation and governance issues that may arise during the course of the review.

The "Representation Options Paper" must examine the advantages and disadvantages of the options available in respect to a range of issues relating to the composition and structure of Council. The provisions of the Act specifically require Council to examine issues such as the need for more than twelve elected members and whether the division of the council area into wards should be retained or abolished.

2.2 First Public Consultation

Council is currently advising the community that the review is being undertaken and that the "Representation Options Paper" is available for consideration. An invitation is being extended to any interested member of the community to make a submission to Council by close of business on Friday 14th October 2016.

Section 12(7)(a)(ii) of the Act specifies that the consultation period shall be at least six (6) weeks in duration.

2.3 Representation Review Report

At the completion of the first of the prescribed public consultation stages Council will consider the available options in respect to its future composition and structure, as well as the submissions received from the community, and will make "in principle" decisions regarding the elector representation arrangements it favours and desires to be effected at the next Local Government elections. Council will then prepare a "Representation Review Report" which will outline its proposal and the reasons for such, as well as provide details of the submissions that were received during the first public consultation period and its responses thereto.

2.4 Second Public Consultation

Council will initiate a second public consultation (by means of public notices) seeking written comments on the "Representation Review Report" and the preferred proposal.

Section 12(9)(b)(ii) of the Act specifies that the second consultation period shall be at least three (3) weeks in duration.

2.5 Final Decision

Council will consider the submissions received in response to the second public consultation; hear from the individual community members who may wish to address Council in support of their submission; finalise its decision; and prepare a report for presentation to the Electoral Commissioner.

2.6 Certification

The final stage of the review involves certification of the Council proposal by the Electoral Commissioner and gazettal of any amendments to Council's composition and/or ward structure.

Any changes to Council's composition and/or ward structure as a consequence of the review will come into effect at the next Local Government election (scheduled for November 2018).

3. Current Structure

Council currently comprises an elected mayor and twelve ward councillors; and the council area is divided into five wards (refer Map 1), with two wards each being represented by three councillors and the remaining three wards each being represented by two councillors. This structure, which was adopted by Council during the elector representation review that was undertaken in 2008/2009, came into effect at the 2010 Local Government elections.

Table 1 provides data pertaining to the number of electors within each of the current wards and demonstrates the variance between the ward elector ratios and the elector ratio for the city.

Table 1: Elector data per ward and variance to quota

Ward	Crs	H of A Roll	Council Roll	Electors	Ratio	% Variance
Manoah	2	4,818	4	4,822	1:2,411	+1.7
Mount Lofty	3	7,921	25	7,946	1:2,649	+ 11.8
Marble Hill	2	4,306	13	4,319	1:2,160	- 8.9
Torrens Valley	2	4,824	5	4,829	1:2,415	+ 1.9
Onkaparinga Valley	3	6,493	26	6,519	1:2,173	- 8.3
Total	12	28,362	73	28,435		
Average					1:2,370	

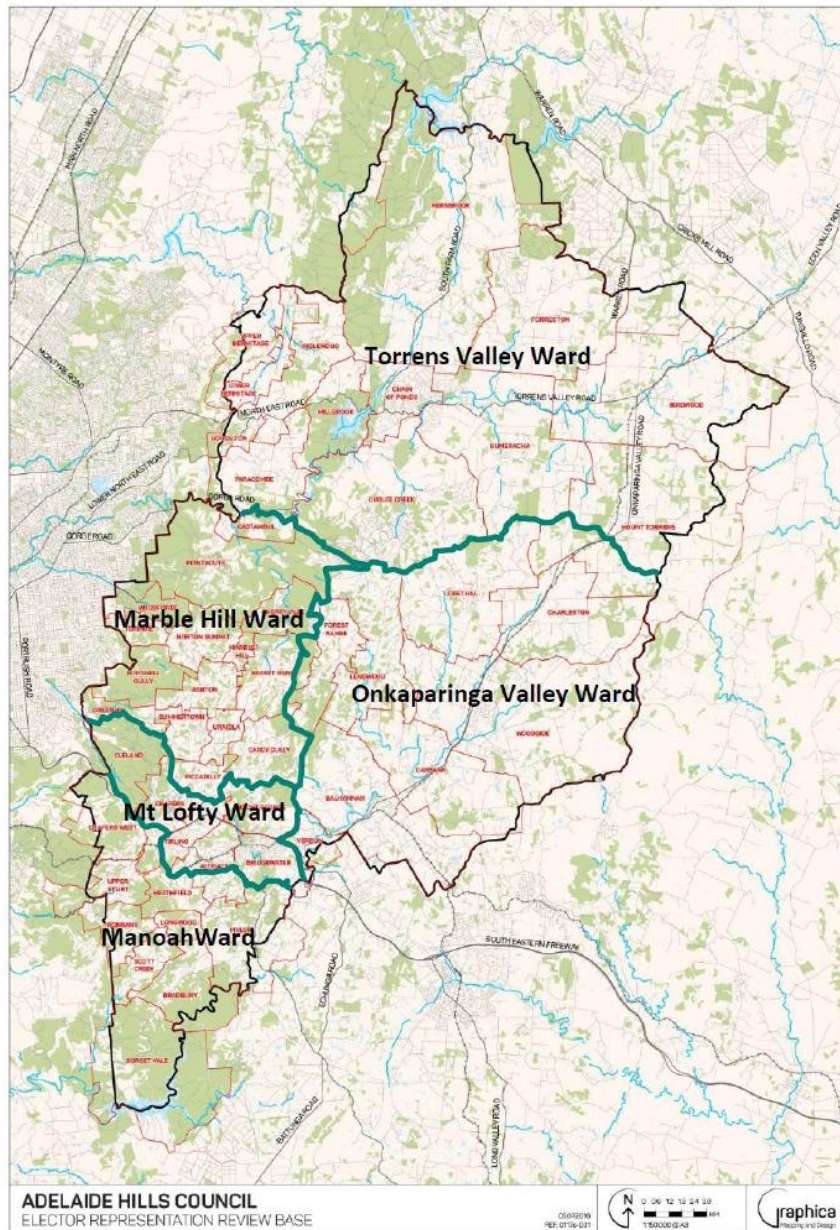
Source: Electoral Commission SA , House of Assembly Roll (31st May 2016)
Council Voters Roll (22nd June 2016)

The current ward boundaries cannot be retained because the elector ratio (i.e. the average number of electors represented by a councillor) in the existing Mount Lofty Ward exceeds the specified 10% quota tolerance limit prescribed under Section 33(2) of the Act (refer 7.3 Quota). Accordingly, a variation of the existing ward structure and/or alternative ward structure options must be considered with the view to identifying a structure that:

- provides a more equitable balance of electors (which can be maintained, within tolerance, over the extended period between reviews);
- allows for likely fluctuations in elector numbers, primarily as a consequence of future population growth and residential development; and
- exhibits an elector ratio which is similar, by comparison, to that exhibited by other councils of a similar size and type (i.e. avoids over-representation).

Alternative ward structure options have been presented later in this paper (refer 8. Ward Structure Options, page 19).

Map 1: Current Ward Structure



4. Composition of Council

Section 51 of the Act indicates that a council may constitute a mayor or chairperson, with all other elected members being known as councillors, whether they represent the council area as a whole or a ward. The key issues relating to the future composition of Council are as follows.

4.1 Mayor/Chairperson

The principal member of Council has always been a mayor who is elected by the community.

The roles and responsibilities of a mayor and a chairperson are identical in all respects, however, there are differences in their election/selection and their voting rights in chamber.

A mayor is elected by all of the electors for a period of four years and, as such, provides stable community leadership. By contrast, a chairperson is chosen by (and from amongst) the elected members of council for a term of one to four years (as determined by Council). The latter provides flexibility and the opportunity for a number of elected members to gain experience as the principal member over the term of a council.

In addition, an elected mayor does not have a deliberative vote on a matter before council but has a casting vote, whereas a chairperson has a deliberative vote at a council meeting but, in the event of a tied vote, does not have a casting vote.

Further, as an election (or supplementary election) for an elected mayor must be conducted across the whole of the council area, a significant cost can be incurred by council on every occasion the position is contested. The selection of a chairperson is not reliant upon an election and, as such, costs will only be incurred by council where the incumbent's position as a councillor is contested.

It should also be noted that:-

- at present all of the metropolitan councils have an elected mayor and only sixteen regional councils have a chairperson;
- candidates for the office of mayor cannot also stand for election as a councillor and as such, the experience and expertise of unsuccessful candidates will be lost to council;
- there is a perception that the position of chairperson lacks the status of an elected mayor, and this in turn may reflect detrimentally on the status of a council;
- where the principal member of council is chosen by the elected members rather than elected by the community (i.e. a chairperson), council can decide on the title of the office (e.g. mayor) pursuant to Section 51(1)(b) of the Act; and
- any proposal to change the principal member from an elected mayor to a selected chairperson (or vice versa) cannot proceed unless a poll of the community has been conducted in accordance with the requirements of Section 12 (11a-d) of the Act and the result of the poll favours the proposed change.

4.2 Councillors

Section 52(1) of the Act specifies that all members of Council, other than the principal member, shall have the title of councillor.

Section 52 of the Act indicates a councillor can be elected to represent the whole of the council area (i.e. an area councillor) or, if the council area is divided into wards, will be elected by the electors of a particular ward, as a representative of that ward (i.e. a ward councillor).

As a person elected to the council, a councillor is required to represent the interests of residents and ratepayers, to provide community leadership and guidance, and to facilitate communication between the community and the council.

5. Elector Representation (number of councillors)

Council must provide adequate and fair representation and generally adhere to the democratic principle of "one person, one vote, one value".

Section 33(1)(f) of the Act indicates "*the need to ensure adequate and fair representation while at the same time avoiding over-representation in comparison to other councils of a similar size and type (at least in the longer term).*" Similarly, Section 26(1)(xi) of the Act states "*residents should receive adequate and fair representation within the local government system, while over-representation in comparison with councils of a similar size and type should be avoided (at least in the longer term).*"

The comparison of councils is not a straightforward exercise, given that no two councils are identical in terms of their size (elector numbers and/or area), population, topography, communities of interest and/or predominant land uses. However, it can provide some guidance in regards to an appropriate elector ratio or level of representation (number of councillors).

Table 2 provides (for comparison purposes) the elector data, elector ratios and areas of the councils in South Australia which exhibit similar elector numbers to the Adelaide Hills Council. The data indicates that the composition and elector ratio of Council is generally consistent with the elector representation arrangements of the other cited councils.

Table 2: Elector data, representation and areas (Councils with similar elector numbers)

Council	Councillors	Electors	Ratio
Norwood Payneham St Peters (15.1 km ²)	13	25,096	1:1,930
Holdfast (13.7 km ²)	12	27,206	1:2,267
Unley (14.3 km ²)	12	27,290	1:2,274
Adelaide Hills (795.1km²)	12	28,435	1:2,370
Burnside (27.5 km ²)	12	31,741	1:2,645

Source: Electoral Commission SA, House of Assembly Roll (December 2015 & May 2016)
Council Voters Roll (20th May 2016)

The difference in the composition and elector ratios of councils becomes more evident when the Adelaide Hills Council is compared to the larger of the metropolitan councils. These councils currently comprise 12 - 20 elected members; have elector numbers ranging from 62,486 - 117,715; and exhibit elector ratios of 1:4,653 - 1:6,017.

Whilst the elector ratio of Council compares reasonably well with the cited councils of a similar size within South Australia, it is relatively low when compared to the elector ratios of the larger metropolitan Adelaide councils. In addition to examining the elector representation arrangements of other councils, Section 12(6)(a) of the Act requires that where a council is constituted of more than twelve (12) members, the question of whether the number of members should be reduced must be examined. The review affords the opportunity to at least consider an alternative number of elected members and/or elector ratio.

When determining the appropriate composition of Council some consideration needs to be given to the role of the elected members, as the commitment and workloads of the elected members need to be taken into account. Section 59 of the Act specifies that the role of a member of Council is:

- to participate in the deliberation and activities of Council;
- to keep Council's objectives and policies under review to ensure that they are appropriate and effective; and
- to keep Council's resource allocation, expenditure and activities, and the efficiency and effectiveness of its service delivery, under review.

Section 59 also requires a person elected to the Council to represent the interests of residents and ratepayers, to provide community leadership and guidance, and to facilitate communication between the community and the Council.

Essentially, the elected members of Council assume the role of a Board, the roles of which typically include:

- developing/approving the vision, purpose and values of the organisation;
- approving/developing strategic, service and risk management plans;
- approving organisational policies;
- approving budgets and monitoring expenditure;
- ensuring legal requirements are met;
- ensuring quality of service;
- ensuring there are adequate funds and resources for the organisation; and
- ensuring the Board is functioning well.

The function of a Council (and/or Board) can be affected by:

- a temptation to micro-manage;
- the lack of a functioning committee structure;
- a lack of elected members, given the need to lead and form the core of the committees and share in the other works of the Council;
- the need for sufficient members to reflect the desired diversity in Council as well as assure the range of viewpoints that spurs innovation and creativity in Council planning and decision making; and
- the lack of a strategic plan and/or vision to provide clear direction.

If considering a reduction in the number of councillors, care must be taken to ensure that:

- sufficient elected members are available to manage the affairs of Council;
- the elected member's workloads do not become excessive;
- there is an appropriate level of elector representation;
- a diversity in member's skill sets, experience and backgrounds is maintained; and
- adequate lines of communication will exist between a growing community and Council.

A reduction in the number of elected members will serve to increase the elector ratio from the current 1:2,370 to the following.

Eleven councillors: 1:2,585

Ten councillors: 1:2,844

Nine councillors: 1:3,159

The aforementioned elector ratios are still considerably lower than those of the larger metropolitan Adelaide councils.

On the other hand, any move to increase the number of councillors will have to be justified in terms of benefits to the community and electors. Arguments in favour of an increase in elected members include:

- enhancing the lines of communication between Council and the community;
- the greater the number of elected members, the greater the likelihood that the elected members will be more familiar with the experiences of, and issues confronting, the local community;
- the greater the number of elected members, the more diverse the skill sets, expertise, experience and opinions; and
- an increase in the number of elected members may provide greater opportunity for community scrutiny and can make the elected members more accountable to their immediate constituents.

Given the requirements of the Act in respect to over-representation and the need to examine and/or justify twelve or more elected members, it may be difficult to mount a sustainable argument to increase the number of elector members, despite the likelihood of significant population growth in the foreseeable future.

Finally, there are no inherent disadvantages in having an even or odd number of councillors. An odd number of councillors may serve to reduce the incidence of a tied vote, however, it may also require the development/implementation of a ward structure which exhibits a varying level of representation between wards. The latter can be perceived as an imbalance by the community.

6. Ward Structure

Section 12(1)(b) of the Act indicates that Council can *"divide, or redivide, the area of the council into wards, alter the division of the area of the council into wards, or abolish the division of the area of a council into wards"*.

6.1 Wards/No Wards

6.1.1 Wards

The advantages of a ward structure include:

- wards guarantee some form and level of direct representation to all parts of the Council area and existing communities of interest;
- ward councillors can focus on local issues as well as council-wide issues;
- ward councillors may be known to their ward constituents (and vice versa);
- ward councillors can have an affiliation with the local community and an understanding of the local issues and/or concerns;
- the task and expense of contesting a ward election may be less daunting to prospective candidates;
- Council only has to conduct elections and supplementary elections within the contested wards (potential cost saving); and
- ward based elections have the potential to deliver councillors from different parts of the Council area, potentially resulting in a greater diversity of skill sets, experience, expertise and opinions amongst the elected members.

The disadvantages of a ward structure include:

- ward councillors do not have to reside within the ward that they represent and, as such, may have no affiliation with the local community and/or empathy for the local issues and/or concerns;
- electors can only vote for councillors/candidates within their ward;
- candidates can be favoured by the peculiarities of the ward based electoral system (e.g. candidates elected unopposed or having attracted less votes than defeated candidates in other wards);
- ward councillors may develop parochial ward attitudes and be less focussed on the bigger council-wide issues;
- ward boundaries are lines which are based solely on elector distribution and may serve to divide the community rather than foster civic unity;
- despite comparable ward elector ratios, uneven levels of representation between wards and/or the physical sizes of wards can create a perception of imbalance in voting power within Council; and
- ward councillors generally consider themselves to represent not only their ward but the council area as a whole and, as such, the need for wards is questionable;

6.1.2 No Wards

The advantages of a "no wards" structure (i.e. the abolition of wards) include:-

- "no wards" is the optimum form of democracy as the electors vote for all of the vacant positions on Council;
- the most supported candidates from across the Council area will likely be elected;
- the elected members should be free of parochial ward attitudes;

- the lines of communication between Council and the community should be enhanced, given that members of the community will be able to consult with any and/or all members of Council, rather than feel obliged to consult with their specific ward councillors;
- the structure still affords opportunities for the small communities within the Council area to be directly represented on Council, if they are able to muster sufficient support for a candidate;
- the structure automatically absorbs fluctuations and there is no requirement for compliance with specified quota tolerance;
- the introduction of postal voting has facilitated the dissemination of campaign literature throughout the council area, thereby reducing the difficulty and cost of contesting a council-wide election campaign; and
- successful candidates generally have to attract no more votes than they would have received/required under a ward based election.

The disadvantages of a "no wards" structure include:-

- the elected members could come from the more heavily populated parts of the Council area rather than from across the whole of the Council area;
- a single interest group could gain considerable representation on Council;
- concern council-wide elections will not guarantee that elected members will have any empathy for, or affiliation with, all communities across the whole council area;
- Council has to conduct elections and supplementary elections across the whole of the council area (at a significant expense);
- under the "no wards" structure the more popular or known councillors may receive more enquiries from the public (i.e. inequitable workloads); and
- potential candidates for election to Council may be deterred by the perceived difficulties and expense associated with contesting council-wide elections.

6.2 Ward Representation

6.2.1 Single Councillor Ward

Wards represented by a single councillor are generally small in area and therefore afford the ward councillors the opportunity to be more accessible to their constituents and able to concentrate on issues of local importance. Due to the small size of the wards it is generally difficult to identify suitable ward boundaries; maintain entire communities of interest within a ward; and sustain significant fluctuations in elector numbers (and therefore comply with the specified quota tolerance limits for any length of time). The work load of the ward councillor can also be demanding, and absenteeism by the elected member (for whatever reason and/or period) will leave the ward without representation.

6.2.2 Two Councillors per Ward

Two councillors representing a ward is traditional and/or common; allows for the sharing of duties and responsibilities between the ward councillors; lessens the likelihood of ward parochialism; and affords continuous ward representation should one ward councillor be absent.

6.2.3 Multi-Councillor Ward

Multi-councillor wards are generally larger in area and therefore the overall ward structure can be relatively simple. Councillor absenteeism can be easily covered; the work load of the ward councillors can be reduced; there are greater perceived lines of communication between ward councillors and their constituents; and there is more flexibility in regards to ward quota, allowances for fluctuations in elector numbers, and the preservation of communities of interest.

6.2.4 Varying Ward Representation

There are no inherent disadvantages associated with varying levels of representation between wards, however, such structures can be seen to lack balance and/or equity, with the larger wards (in elector and ward councillor numbers) being perceived as having a greater, more influential voice on Council, even if the elector ratios within the wards are consistent.

6.3 Ward Boundaries

The community is more likely to accept a ward structure which has some logical basis and exhibits ward boundaries which are easily identifiable. Accordingly, it is suggested that every effort be made to align proposed possible future ward boundaries with existing, long established suburb/district boundaries; main roads; or prominent geographical and/or man-made features.

6.4 Ward Identification

The means of ward identification are limited.

The allocation of letters, numbers and/or compass points (e.g. north, south, central etc) are all considered to be acceptable, but lack imagination and fail to reflect the character and/or history of the council area. The same cannot be said for the allocation of place names or names of European and/or Aboriginal heritage/cultural significance (as per Council's current arrangement), however, reaching consensus over the selection of appropriate names generally proves to be a difficult exercise.

7. Ward Structure Assessment Criteria

Section 33(1) of the Act requires that the following matters be taken into account, as far as practicable, in the formulation of a proposal that relates to the boundaries of a ward or wards:

- (a) the desirability of reflecting communities of interest of an economic, social, regional or other kind;
- (b) the population of the area, and of each ward affected or envisaged by the proposal;
- (c) the topography of the area, and of each ward affected or envisaged by the proposal;
- (d) the feasibility of communication between electors affected by the proposal and their elected representatives;
- (e) the nature of substantial demographic changes that may occur in the foreseeable future; and
- (f) the need to ensure adequate and fair representation while at the same time avoiding over-representation in comparison to other councils of a similar size and type (at least in the longer term).

Relevant information pertaining to the above matters is as follows.

7.1 Communities of Interest

The issue of "communities of interest" can be very complex and, as such, local knowledge will be particularly valuable.

In the past the then Local Government Boundary Reform Board indicated that:

- "communities of interest", for the purpose of structural reform proposals, are defined as aspects of the physical, economic and social systems which are central to the interactions of communities in their living environment;
- "communities of interest" are identified by considering factors relevant to the physical, economic and social environment, including neighbourhood communities; history and heritage communities; sporting facilities; community support services; recreation and leisure communities; retail and shopping centres; work communities; industrial and economic development clusters; and environmental and geographic interests; and
- the analysis of the demographic data and profile will provide socio-economic indicators relevant to "communities of interest".

In addition, Sections 26 and 33 of the Act make reference to "communities of interest" of an economic, social, regional or other kind.

Regardless, the retention of entire suburbs within a proposed ward will serve (in part) to maintain and protect a perceived existing "community of interest".

7.2 Population and Demographic Trends

When developing potential future ward structures for the Adelaide Hills Council, consideration will need to be given to demographic trends, as allowances will have to be made to accommodate any identified or likely future fluctuations in elector numbers.

The following information should be of assistance in respect to this matter.

7.2.1 Elector Numbers

According to data provided by Electoral Commission SA, the number of electors enrolled on the House of Assembly Roll within the Adelaide Hills Council:

- increased by 1,533 (5.78%) during the period February 2001 to February 2008;
- increased by a further 600 (2.14%) during the period February 2008 to February 2011; but then
- increased by only one elector during the February 2011 to February 2016.

During the five year period February 2011 to February 2016 the fluctuations in elector numbers varied between the wards (i.e. Manoah Ward: -71 @ -1.4%; Mount Lofty Ward: +93 @ +1.2%; Marble Hill Ward: -94 @ -2.1%; Torrens Valley Ward: -99 @ -2.0%; and Onkaparinga Valley Ward: +172 @ 2.7%).

7.2.2 Residential Development

Council is aware that:

- the future redevelopment of the Magill reform school/training centre site at Woodforde for residential purposes could realise an additional 280 - 300 dwellings;
- an approved land division at Mount Torrens will create an additional 40 residential allotments; and
- an approved land division at Birdwood will also create up to 40 additional residential allotments.

In addition, Council's Township and Urban Areas Development Plan Amendment will afford more residential development opportunities (through the introduction of smaller allotments) within the major townships of Lobethal, Oakbank, Woodside, Birdwood and Balhannah; as well as allow land division opportunities for smaller sized allotments (under specific circumstances) within the Country Living Zones (Stirling, Aldgate and Bridgewater).

7.2.3 Population Projections

Population projections provided by the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI), as at February 2016, are based on the 2011 Census population data. They indicate that the population of the Adelaide Hills Council is expected to:

- increase by 748 (i.e. 40,436 to 41,184) or 1.85% during the period 2016 - 2021; and
- increase by a further 817 (i.e. 41,184 to 42,001) or 1.98% during the period 2021 - 2026.

Whilst these projections are useful in that they provide an indication of the magnitude of the estimated future population increase within the council area, DPTI warns that the projections represent a possible future population outcome based on assumption of continued population growth and a spatial distribution that is a reflection of current and likely government policies. Further, the population projections are not forecasts for the future but are estimates of future population based on particular assumptions about future fertility, mortality and migration.

7.2.4 Census Data

According to data provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (2001, 2006 and 2011 Census Community Profiles – Adelaide Hills (DC) Local Government Area), the estimated total population of the council area increased by 1,229 (3.36%) over the period 2001 – 2006, and then increased by a further 770 (2.03%) during the period 2006 – 2011.

Overall, the population in the council area increased by 1,999 (5.46%) over the period 2001 – 2011 period. In addition, over the same period the total number of dwellings (all forms) within the council area increased by 934 or 6.52%. By comparison, during the period 2001 - 2011 the population of South Australia increased by 9.44%, whilst dwelling numbers increased by 12.65%.

7.2.5 Greater Adelaide Plan

The 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide provides targets and key growth directions for regions. Adelaide Hills Council is located within the Adelaide Hills and Murray Bridge Region wherein the overall targets to 2038 are 29,000 additional people; 13,000 net additional dwellings; and 13,000 additional jobs.

The "planned urban lands to 2038" identified within the Adelaide Hills and Murray Bridge Region (refer Map E7) include the established townships of Stirling, Crafers, Aldgate, Bridgewater, Balhannah, Gumeracha, Birdwood, Lobethal and Woodside.

7.3 Quota

Section 33(2) of the Act indicates that a proposal which relates to the formation or alteration of wards of a council must also observe the principle that the number of electors represented by a councillor must not, as at the relevant date (assuming that the proposal were in operation), vary from the ward quota by more than 10 per cent.

According to Section 33(2a)(b) of the Act, ward quota is determined to be: *"the number of electors for the area (as at the relevant date) divided by the number of councillors for the area who represent wards (assuming that the proposal were in operation and ignoring any fractions resulting from the division)."*

Given the above, any proposed future ward structure must incorporate wards wherein the distribution of electors is equitable, either in terms of numbers (if the wards have equal representation) or elector ratio. Under the latter circumstance, the elector ratio within each ward must be within 10% of the average elector ratio for the council area.

Notwithstanding the above, Section 33(3) of the Act allows for the 10% quota tolerance limit to be exceeded (at the time of the review) if demographic changes predicted by a Federal or State government agency indicate that the ward quota will not be exceeded at the time of the next periodic election.

8. Ward Structure Options

Seven ward structure options have been provided to demonstrate how the Adelaide Hills Council can be divided into wards, should the retention of wards be preferred over the alternative “no wards” arrangement. These options are only examples of how the council area could be divided into wards under various composition scenarios, ranging from nine to twelve ward councillors. The presented ward structures have been developed to reflect some logical basis and an equitable distribution of elector numbers; to accommodate anticipated future fluctuations in elector numbers; and to maintain existing communities of interest, where possible.

In addition, all of the presented ward structures incorporate proposed ward boundaries which align with existing district/suburb boundaries and/or major roads.

The abolition of wards (i.e. “no wards”) has also been presented as an option, given the aforementioned provisions of Section 12(1)(b) of the Act.

8.1 OPTION 1

8.1.1 Description

The division of the Council area into five wards, with two of the proposed wards each being represented by three councillors and the remaining three proposed wards each being represented by two councillors each (i.e. a total of twelve ward councillors).

Ward 1: The existing Manoah Ward.

Ward 2: The existing Mount Lofty Ward minus the suburbs/districts of Mount George and Cleland, and portion of the suburb/district of Crafers.

Ward 3: The existing Marble Hill Ward plus the suburbs/districts of Mount George and Cleland, and portion of the suburb/district of Crafers.

Ward 4: The existing Torrens Valley Ward minus the suburb/district of Mount Torrens.

Ward 5: The existing Onkaparinga Valley Ward plus the remainder of the suburb/district of Mount Torrens.

8.1.2 Ward Representation

Ward	Councillors	Electors	Ratio	% Variance
Ward 1 (Manoah)	2	4,822	1:2,411	+ 1.8
Ward 2 (Mt Lofty)	3	7,525	1:2,508	+ 5.9
Ward 3 (Marble Hill)	2	4,740	1:2,370	+ 0.0
Ward 4 (Torrens Valley)	2	4,449	1:2,225	- 6.1
Ward 5 (Onkaparinga Valley)	3	6,899	1:2,300	- 2.9
Total	12	28,435		
Average			1:2,370	

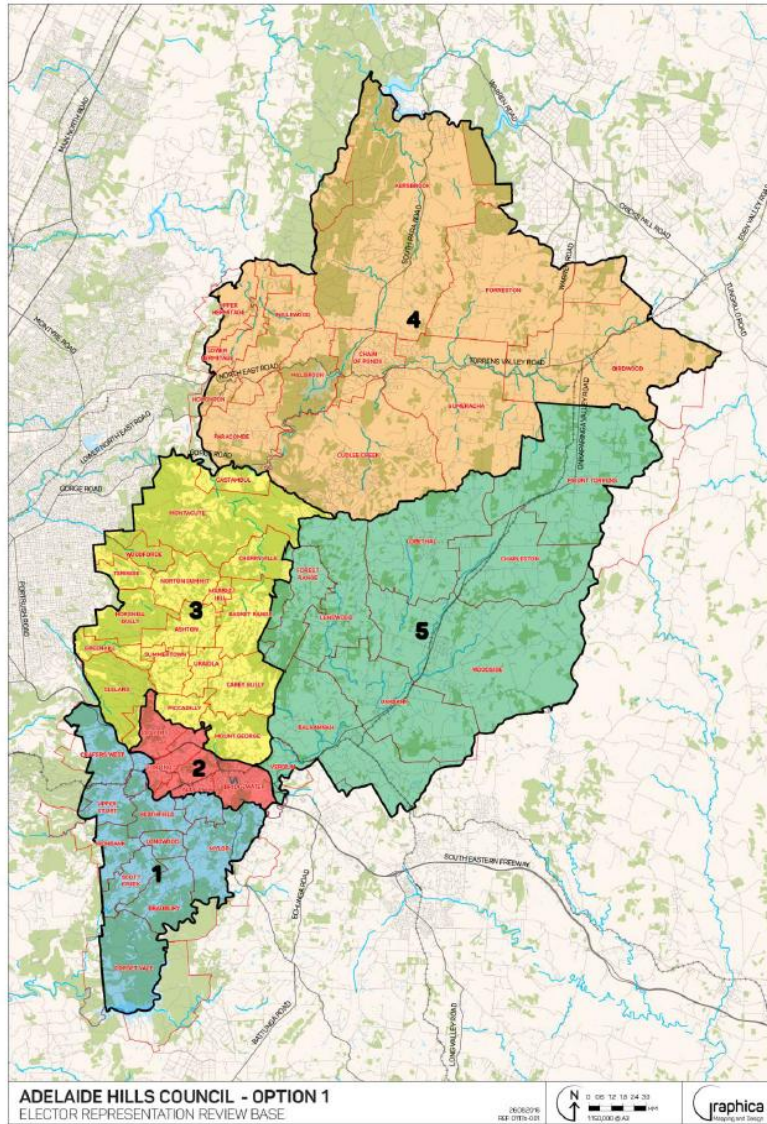
8.1.3 Comments

A variation of the existing ward structure which incorporates amendments to the existing ward boundaries so as to achieve a more equitable and acceptable distribution of elector numbers and to establish ward elector ratios which comply with the quota tolerance limits.

Given that this ward structure proposes only several variations to the existing ward structure, it is likely that the majority of the community will be comfortable with, and accepting of, the structure. In addition, the retention of the existing number of councillors will serve to maintain perceived existing lines of communication with the community and the existing workloads of the elected members. Notwithstanding this, the ward structure exhibits varying levels of ward representation which could be perceived as an imbalance which affords the wards with the higher number of elected members with a greater say and influence on Council, even though the elector ratios of the proposed wards are not dissimilar.

All of the proposed wards exhibit elector ratios which lay within the specified quota tolerance limits and, as such, the wards are capable of sustaining reasonable fluctuations in elector numbers. For example, under the worst case scenario (i.e. where all elector growth occurs in the proposed ward), proposed ward 2 (+5.9% quota variance) is capable of sustaining a minimum of approximately 600 additional electors, whilst under the same circumstances proposed ward 4 (-6.1 quota variance) can sustain approximately 900 additional electors.

Notwithstanding the above, under more normal circumstances where fluctuations in elector numbers generally occur across the Council area, the elector ratios within all of the proposed wards will adjust accordingly and, as a consequence, the proposed wards will likely be capable of sustaining greater growth.



8.2 OPTION 2

8.2.1 Description

The division of the Council area into four wards, with each of the proposed wards being represented by three councillors (i.e. a total of twelve ward councillors).

Ward 1: Comprising the districts/suburbs of Humbug Scrub, Sampson Flat, Kersbrook, Forreston, Cromer, Birdwood, Upper Hermitage, Lower Hermitage, Houghton, Inglewood, Millbrook, Chain of Ponds, Gumeracha, Paracombe, Cudlee Creek, Kenton Valley, Mount Torrens, Castambul, Montacute, Lobethal and Charleston.

Ward 2: Comprising the districts/suburbs of Rostrevor, Woodforde, Teringie, Norton Summit, Cherryville, Marble Hill, Forest Range, Basket Range, Horsnell Gully, Ashton, Greenhill, Summertown, Uraidla, Cleland, Piccadilly, Crafers and Crafers West.

Ward 3: Comprising the districts/suburbs of Lenswood, Woodside, Carey Gully, Mount George, Balhannah, Oakbank, Bridgewater, Verdun, Hahndorf and Hay Valley.

Ward 4: Comprising the districts/suburbs of Stirling, Upper Sturt, Heathfield, Aldgate, Ironbank, Longwood, Mylor, Scott Creek, Bradbury, Belair and Dorset Vale.

8.2.2 Ward Representation

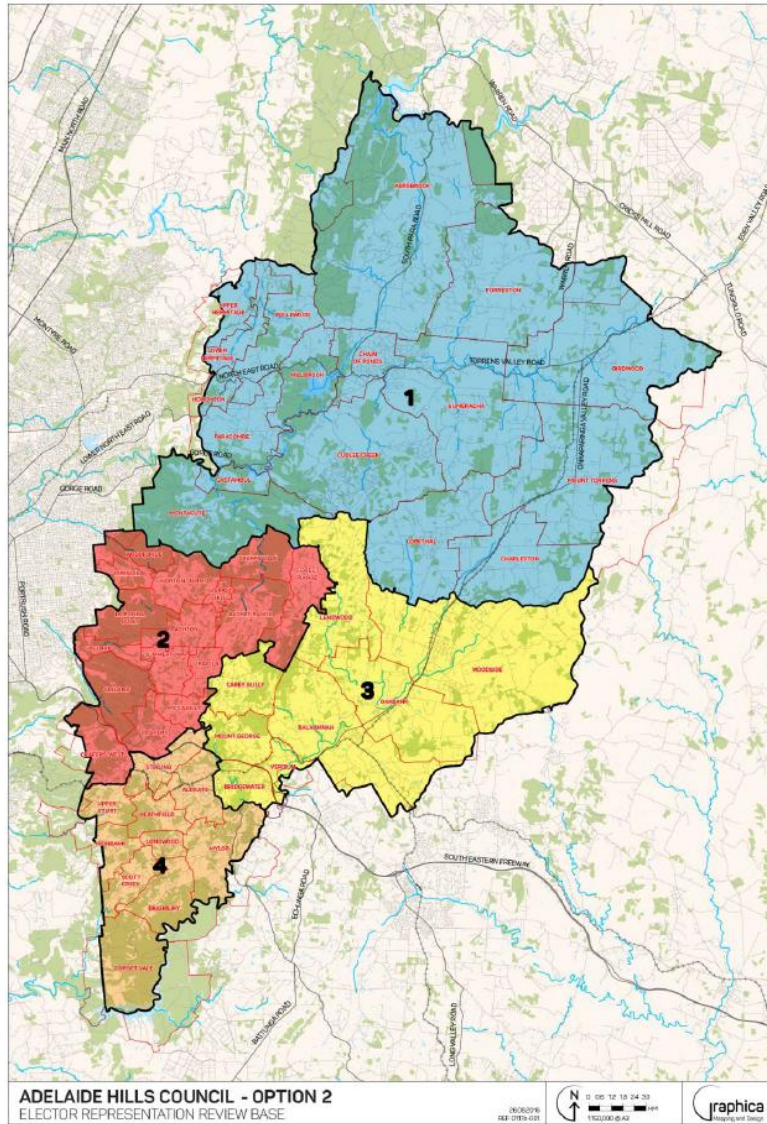
Ward	Councillors	Electors	Ratio	% Variance
Ward 1	3	7,240	1:2,413	+ 1.9
Ward 2	3	7,008	1:2,336	- 1.4
Ward 3	3	7,269	1:2,423	+ 2.3
Ward 4	3	6,918	1:2,306	- 2.7
Total	12	28,435		
Average			1:2,370	

8.2.3 Comments

A four ward structure based on twelve councillors with a consistent level of representation of three councillors per ward.

All of the proposed wards exhibit elector ratios which lie well within the specified quota tolerance limits and therefore allow for reasonable growth. For example, proposed ward 3 can accommodate a minimum of approximately 750 additional electors whilst proposed ward 4 can, at worst, accommodate a further 1,225 electors.

As all of the proposed ward boundaries align with long established district/suburb boundaries, all existing communities of interest should be maintained (in their entirety) within a proposed ward.



8.3 OPTION 3

8.3.1 Description

The division of the Council area into three wards, with two of the proposed wards each being represented by four councillors and the remaining proposed ward being represented by three councillors (i.e. a total of eleven ward councillors).

Ward 1: Comprising the districts/suburbs of Humbug Scrub, Sampson Flat, Kersbrook, Cromer, Birdwood, Upper Hermitage, Lower Hermitage, Forreston, Houghton, Inglewood, Millbrook, Chain of Ponds, Gumeracha, Mount Torrens, Cudlee Creek, Lobethal, Charleston, Lenswood, Woodside, Oakbank, Balhannah and Hay Valley.

Ward 2: Comprising the districts/suburbs of Paracombe, Castambul, Montacute, Cherryville, Forest Range, Basket Range, Marble Hill, Norton Summit, Woodforde, Teringie, Rostrevor, Horsnell Gully, Greenhill, Ashton, Summertown, Uraidla, Carey Gully, Mount George, Verdun, Hahndorf, Piccadilly, Crafers, Cleland and Crafers West.

Ward 3: Comprising the districts/suburbs of Upper Sturt, Heathfield, Aldgate, Bridgewater, Mylor, Longwood, Ironbank, Belair, Scott Creek, Bradbury, Dorset Vale and Stirling.

8.3.2 Ward Representation

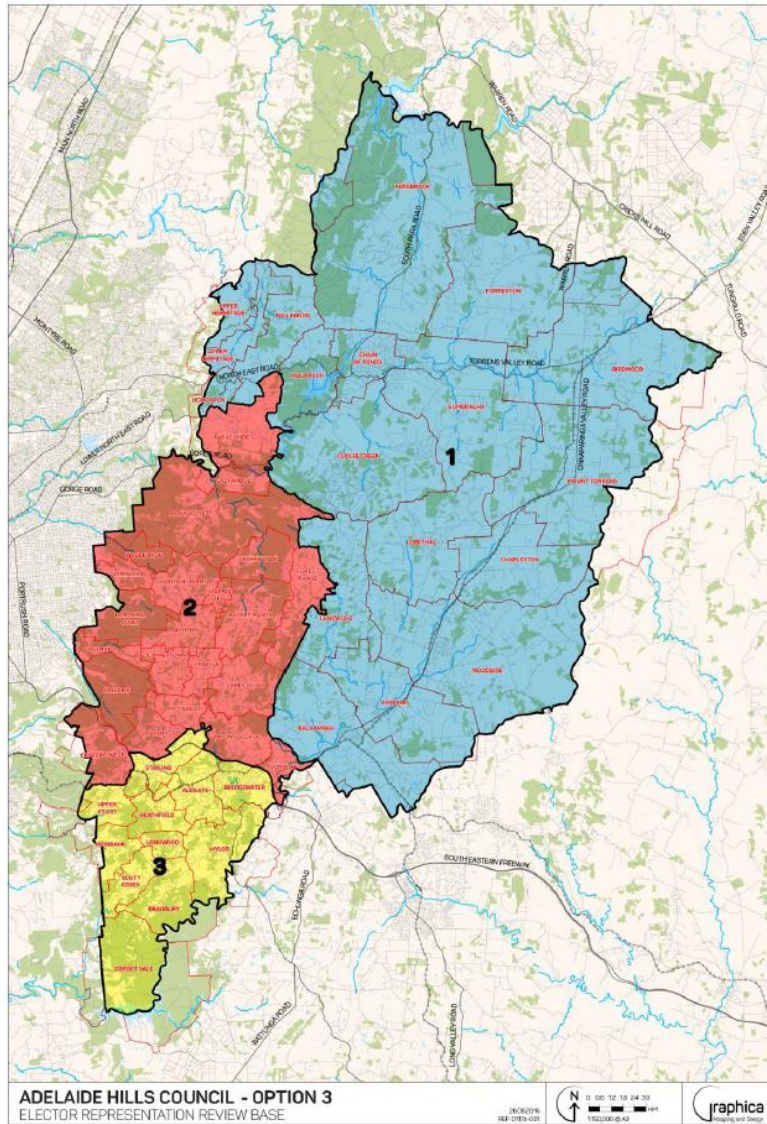
Ward	Councillors	Electors	Ratio	% Variance
Ward 1	4	10,671	1:2,668	+ 3.2
Ward 2	3	7,622	1:2,541	- 1.7
Ward 3	4	10,142	1:2,536	- 1.9
Total	11	28,435		
Average			1:2,585	

8.3.3 Comments

A three ward structure which is a little awkward in configuration but exhibits ward elector ratios which comfortably lay within the specified quota tolerance limits.

This ward structure exhibits varying levels of ward representation which could be perceived as an imbalance which affords the wards with the higher number of elected members with a greater say and influence on Council, even though the elector ratios within the proposed wards are similar.

The larger the wards (in area) and the greater the number of councillors representing each ward, the greater the ability of each ward to accommodate significant fluctuations in elector numbers over a considerable period of time. For example, under the unlikely scenario whereby all elector growth occurs within proposed ward 1, the ward can sustain minimum elector growth of approximately 1,250. By contrast, proposed ward 3 could, under similar circumstances, can accommodate (at minimum) another 2,000 additional electors.



8.4 OPTION 4

8.4.1 Description

The division of the Council area into two wards, with each of the proposed wards each being represented by five councillors i.e. a total of ten ward councillors).

Ward 1: Comprising the districts/suburbs of Humbug Scrub, Sampson Flat, Cromer, Kersbrook, Forreston, Millbrook, Chain of Ponds, Birdwood, Gumeracha, Cudlee Creek, Mount Torrens, Forest Range, Lobethal, Charleston, Basket Range, Lenswood, Woodside, Carey Gully, Oakbank, Balhannah, Hay Valley, Hahndorf, Mount George, Verdun, Bridgewater and Mylor.

Ward 2: Comprising the districts/suburbs of Upper Hermitage, Lower Hermitage, Inglewood, Houghton, Paracombe, Castambul, Montacute, Cherryville, Woodforde, Norton Summit, Marble Hill, Teringie, Horsnell Gully, Ashton, Marble Hill, Ashton, Greenhill, Summertown, Uraidla, Cleland, Piccadilly, Crafers, Crafers West, Stirling, Aldgate, Upper Sturt, Belair, Heathfield, Longwood, Ironbank, Scott Creek, Belair, Scott Creek, Bradbury and Dorset Vale.

8.4.2 Ward Representation

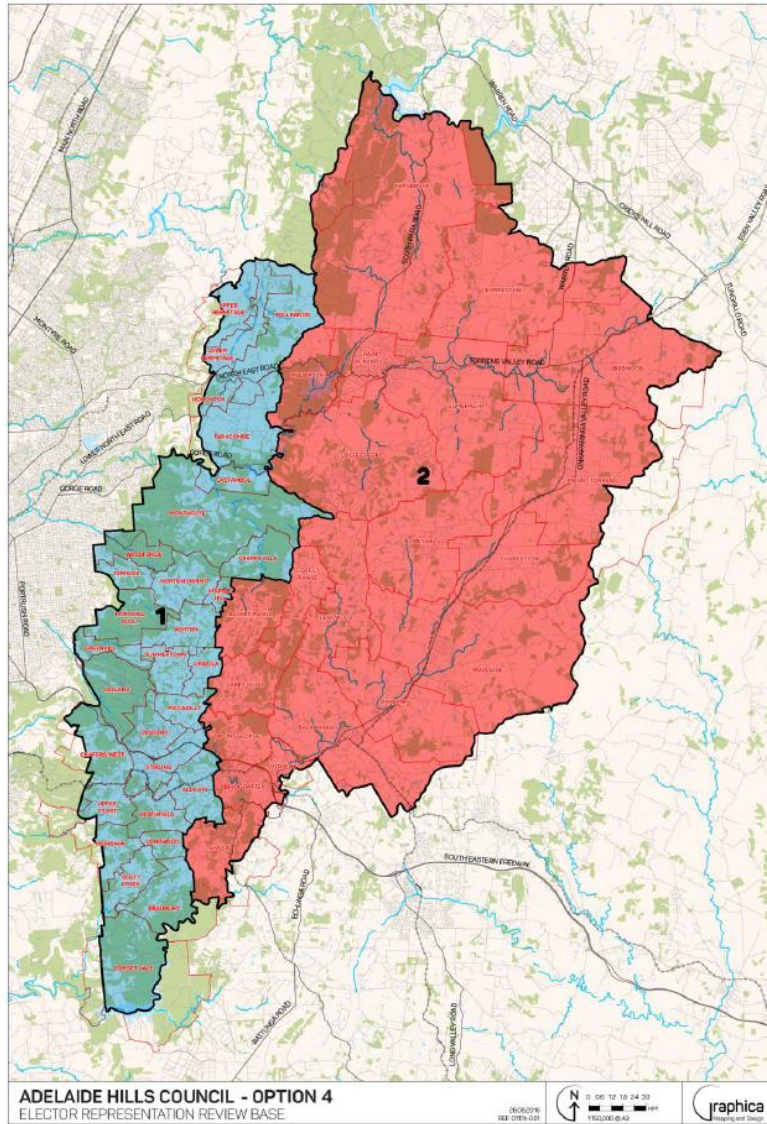
Ward	Councillors	Electors	Ratio	% Variance
Ward 1	5	14,300	2,860	+ 0.6
Ward 2	5	14,135	2,827	- 0.6
Total	10	28,435		
Average			1:2,844	

8.4.3 Comments

A simple two ward structure establishing a ward which incorporates the suburbs/districts of similar characteristics to the neighbouring metropolitan suburbs to the west.

The distribution of electors between the proposed wards is equitable and, as a consequence, the elector ratios in each of the proposed wards lay comfortably within the specified quota tolerance limits.

This structure is capable of sustaining reasonable fluctuations in elector numbers, with both proposed wards being able to accommodate between 3,000 and 3,500 additional electors (minimum).



8.5 OPTION 5

8.5.1 Description

The division of the Council area into three wards, with two of the proposed wards each being represented by three councillors and the remaining proposed ward being represented by four councillors (i.e. a total of ten ward councillors).

Ward 1: Comprising the districts/suburbs of Humbug Scrub, Sampson Flat, Kersbrook, Cromer, Birdwood, Upper Hermitage, Lower Hermitage, Forreston, Houghton, Inglewood, Millbrook, Chain of Ponds, Gumeracha, Paracombe, Mount Torrens, Cudlee Creek, Lobethal, Charleston, Woodside.

Ward 2: Comprising the districts/suburbs of Castambul, Montacute, Cherryville, Oakbank, Lenswood, Balhannah, Hay Valley, Forest Range, Basket Range, Marble Hill, Norton Summit, Woodforde, Teringie, Rostrevor, Horsnell Gully, Greenhill, Ashton, Summertown, Uraidla, Carey Gully, Mount George, Piccadilly, Crafers, Cleland

Ward 3: Comprising the districts/suburbs of Crafers West, Stirling, Upper Sturt, Heathfield, Aldgate, Verdun, Hahndorf, Bridgewater, Mylor, Longwood, Ironbank, Belair, Scott Creek, Bradbury and Dorset Vale.

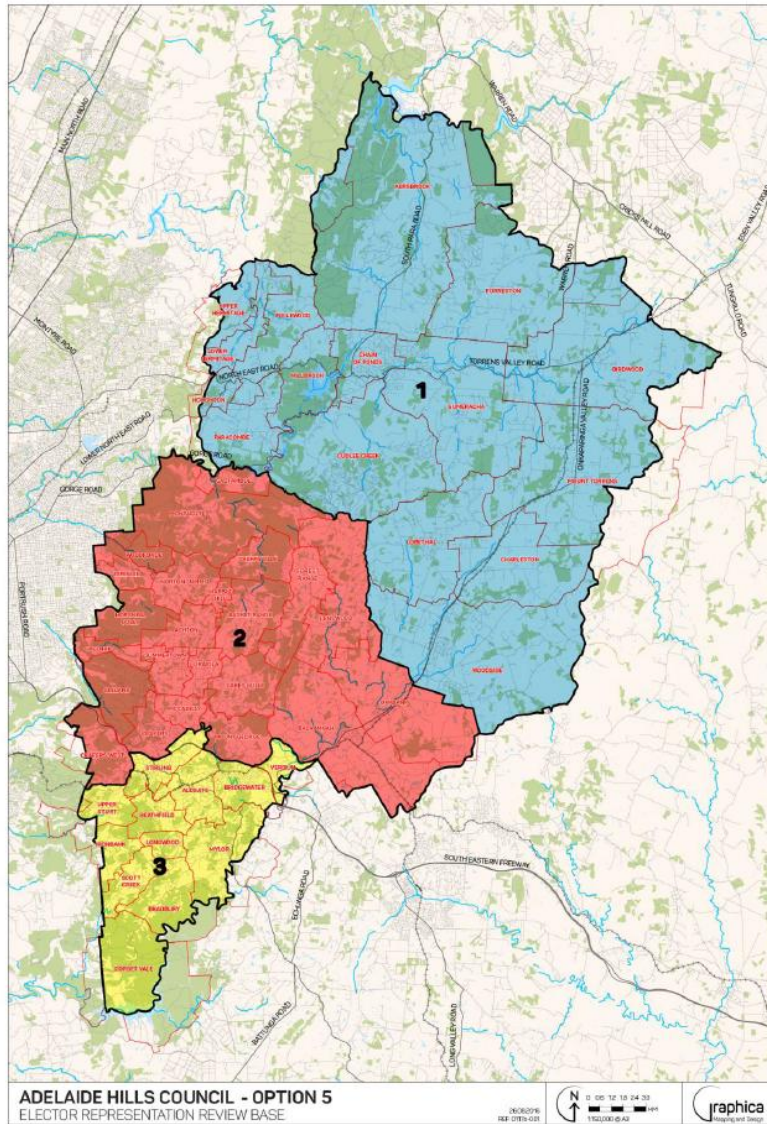
8.5.2 Ward Representation

Ward	Councillors	Electors	Ratio	% Variance
Ward 1	3	8,766	2,922	+ 2.8
Ward 2	3	8,516	2,839	- 0.2
Ward 3	4	11,153	2,788	- 1.9
Total	10	28,435		
Average			1:2,844	

8.5.3 Comments

A relatively simple three ward structure which has a good distribution of electors between the proposed wards and, as a consequence, the elector ratios in each of the proposed wards lay comfortably within the specified quota tolerance limits.

This structure is capable of sustaining reasonable fluctuations in elector numbers. For example, proposed ward 1 (+2.8% quota variance) can accommodate a minimum of another 900 electors, whereas proposed ward 3 can sustain growth in the order of 2,400 (minimum) electors.



8.6 OPTION 6

8.6.1 Description

The division of the Council area into three wards, with each of the proposed wards being represented by three councillors (i.e. a total of nine ward councillors). It should be noted this ward structure can also accommodate a total of twelve ward councillors (i.e. four councillors per ward).

Ward 1: Comprising the districts/suburbs of Humbug Scrub, Sampson Flat, Kersbrook, Forreton, Cromer, Birdwood, Upper Hermitage, Lower Hermitage, Houghton, Inglewood, Millbrook, Chain of Ponds, Gumeracha, Paracombe, Cudlee Creek, Kenton Valley, Mount Torrens, Rostrevor, Castambul, Montacute, Lobethal, Charleston, Cherryville, Forest Range, Lenswood and Woodside.

Ward 2: Comprising the districts/suburbs of Woodforde, Teringie, Norton Summit, Marble Hill, Basket Range, Horsnell Gully, Ashton, Summertown, Uraidla, Greenhill, Piccadilly, Carey Gully, Mount George, Bridgewater, Verdun, Hahndorf, Balhannah, Oakbank and Hay Valley.

Ward 3: Comprising the districts/suburbs of Cleland, Crafers, Crafers West, Stirling, Aldgate, Belair, Upper Sturt, Heathfield, Ironbank, Longwood, Mylor, Scott Creek, Bradbury and Dorset Vale.

8.6.2 Ward Representation

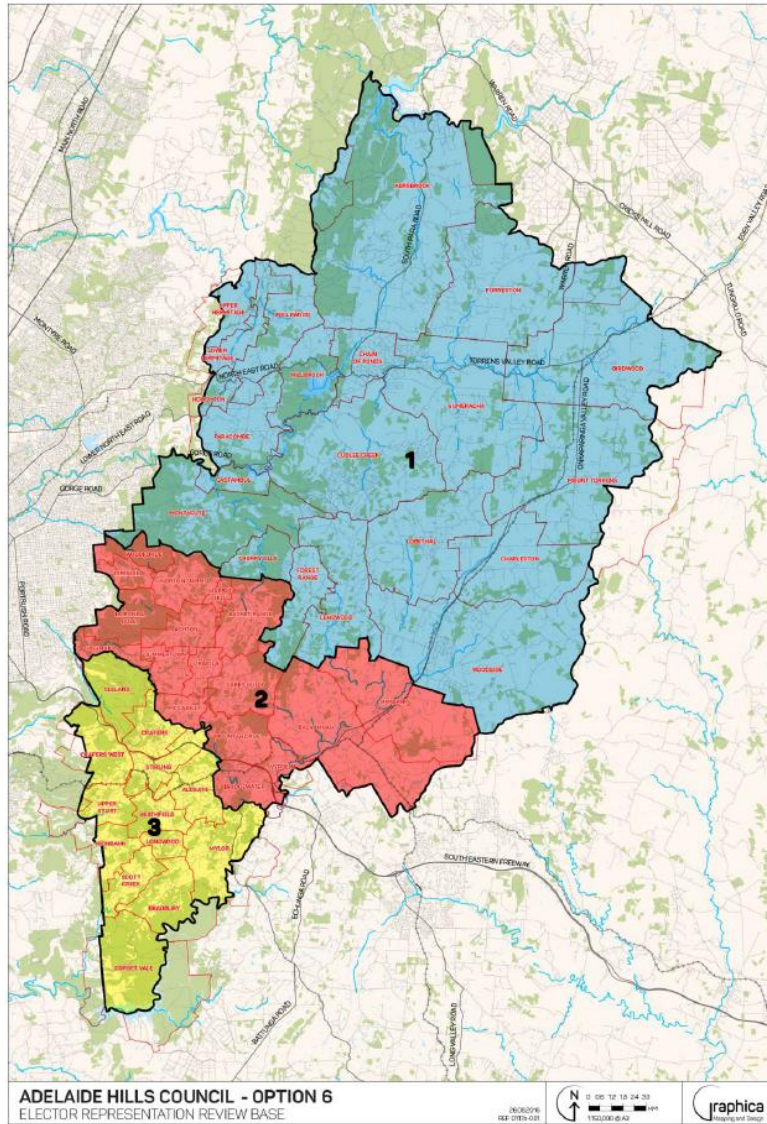
Ward	Councillors	Electors	Ratio	% Variance
Ward 1	3	9,581	1:3,194	+ 1.1
Ward 2	3	9,820	1:3,273	+ 3.6
Ward 3	3	9,034	1:3,011	- 4.7
Total	9	28,435		
Average			1:3,159	

8.6.3 Comments

A three ward structure which exhibits a consistent level of representation within the proposed wards and, as such, can accommodate nine ward councillors (i.e. three councillors per ward) or twelve ward councillors (i.e. four councillors per ward).

All of the proposed boundaries align with existing district/suburb boundaries which should serve to maintain existing communities of interest.

The elector ratios exhibited in each of the proposed wards lay comfortably within the specified quota tolerance limits; and each ward can sustain considerable growth in elector numbers. For example, proposed ward 2 (+3.6% quota variance) can accommodate a minimum of another 1,000 electors, and proposed ward 3 can sustain growth in the order of an additional 2,200 electors (minimum).



8.7 OPTION 7

8.7.1 Description

The division of the Council area into three wards, with each of the proposed wards being represented by three councillors (i.e. a total of nine ward councillors). It should be noted this ward structure can also accommodate a total of twelve ward councillors (i.e. four councillors per ward).

Ward 1: Comprising the districts/suburbs of Humbug Scrub, Sampson Flat, Kersbrook, Cromer, Birdwood, Upper Hermitage, Lower Hermitage, Forreton, Inglewood, Millbrook, Chain of Ponds, Gumeracha, Mount Torrens, Lobethal, Charleston, Forest Range, Lenswood, Woodside, Oakbank, Balhannah and Hay Valley.

Ward 2: Comprising the districts/suburbs of Houghton, Paracombe, Cudlee Creek, Castambul, Montacute, Cherryville, Basket Range, Marble Hill, Norton Summit, Woodforde, Teringie, Horsnell Gully, Greenhill, Ashton, Summertown, Uraidla, Carey Gully, Mount George, Piccadilly, Crafers, Cleland and part of Stirling.

Ward 3: Comprising the districts/suburbs of Crafers West, Upper Sturt, Heathfield, Aldgate, Bridgewater, Verdun, Hahndorf, Mylor, Longwood, Ironbank, Belair, Scott Creek, Bradbury, Dorset Vale and part of Stirling.

8.7.2 Ward Representation

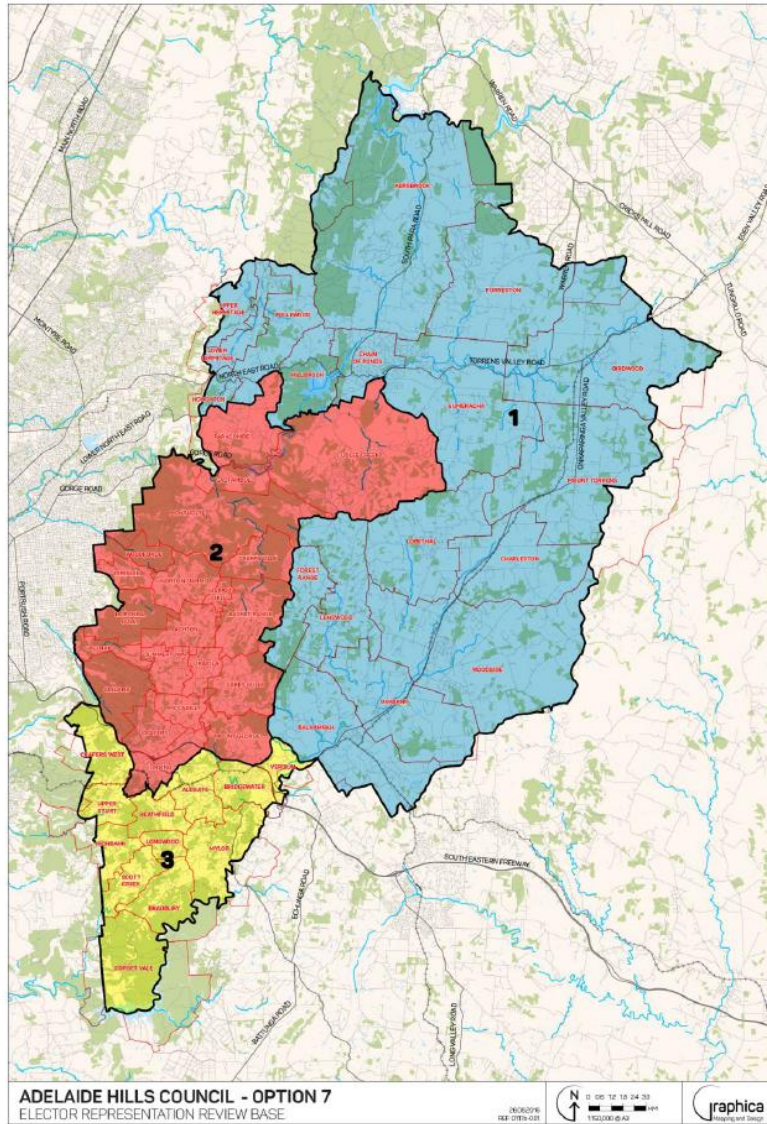
Ward	Councillors	Electors	Ratio	% Variance
Ward 1	3	10,199	1:3,400	+ 7.6
Ward 2	3	9,362	1:3,121	- 1.2
Ward 3	3	8,874	1:2,958	- 6.4
Total	9	28,435		
Average			1:3,159	

8.7.3 Comments

Another three ward structure which exhibits a consistent level of representation within the proposed wards and, as such, can accommodate either nine ward councillors (i.e. three councillors per ward) or twelve ward councillors (i.e. four councillors per ward).

The proposed ward boundaries align with existing district/suburb boundaries and, as a result, all perceived communities of interest should be maintained in their entirety within a ward.

Whilst the elector ratios exhibited within all three proposed wards lay within the specified quota tolerance limits, the elector ratio within proposed ward 1 is a little high and conversely the elector ratio in proposed ward 3 is a little low. Notwithstanding this, both of these proposed wards can accommodate reasonable growth in elector numbers (i.e. minimum of approximately an additional 370 electors in proposed ward 1, and an additional 2,400+ electors (minimum) in proposed ward 3).



8.8 OPTION 8

8.8.1 Description

No wards (i.e. the abolition of wards resulting in council-wide or "at large" elections).

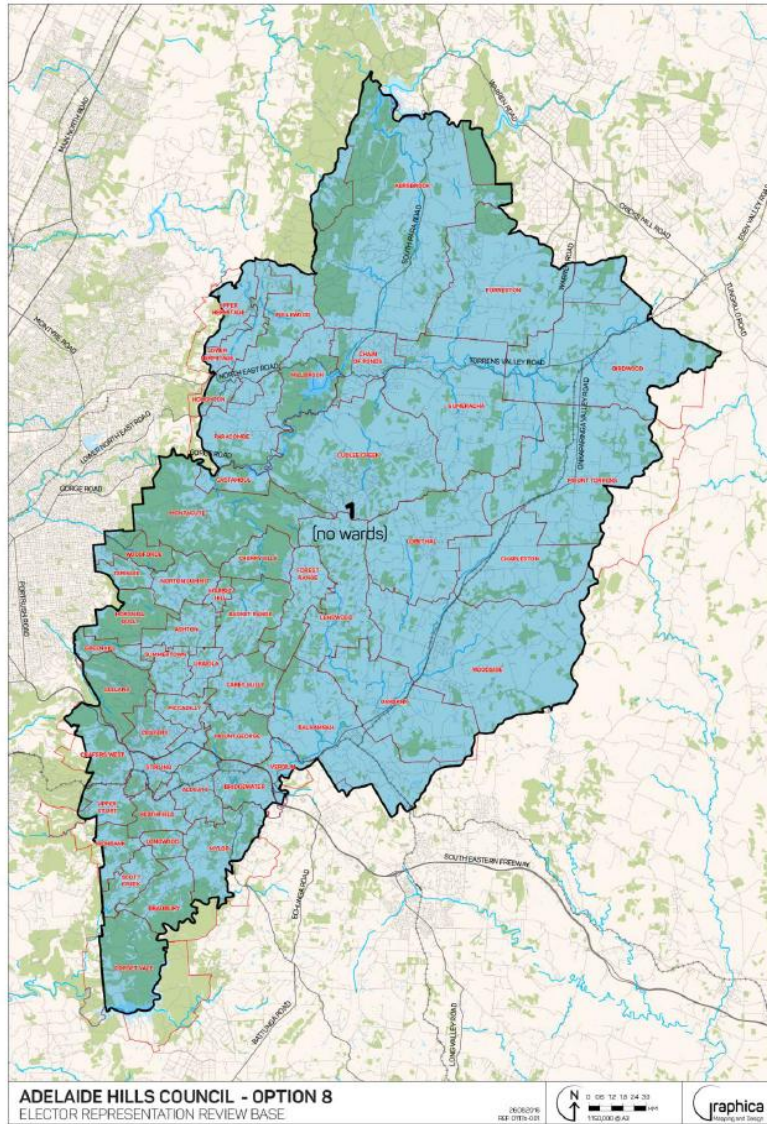
8.8.2 Comments

The "no wards" structure can accommodate any number of "area" councillors (i.e. councillors elected to represent the whole council area), as determined appropriate by Council. Further, the "no wards" structure automatically absorbs any elector fluctuations and there is no requirement for compliance with the specified quota tolerance limits which are applicable to wards.

The arguments for and against the "no ward" option have been previously presented (refer 6.1 Wards/No Wards).

Primarily, the abolition of wards will:

- overcome the division of the local community into wards based solely on the distribution of elector numbers;
- prevent parochial ward attitudes; and
- enable the electors within the community to vote for all members of Council, with the most favoured candidates being elected to represent (and act in the best interests of) the whole of the council area, despite the geographical location of their place of residence.



9. Summary

The representation review being undertaken by the Adelaide Hills Council must be comprehensive; open to scrutiny by, and input from, the local community; and, where possible, seek to improve elector representation. Further, Council must examine and, where necessary, identify amendments to its present composition and ward structure, with the view to achieving fair and adequate representation of all of the electors across the council area.

This early stage of the review process entails the dissemination of relevant information pertaining to the review process and the key issues; and affords the community the opportunity to participate over a six week public consultation period. At the next stage of the review process Council will have to make some "in principle" decisions in respect to its future composition, and the future division of the council area into wards (if required), taking into account the practical knowledge and experience of the individual elected members and the submissions made by the community.

The principal member of Council has always been a **mayor** who is elected by the community to lead the Council for a term of four years. The only alternative is a chairperson who is selected by and from amongst the councillors. The term of office and title of the chairperson are determined by Council. Fundamentally the roles and responsibilities of the mayor and chairperson are the same, with the only difference being in respect to the voting rights in chamber. At present only sixteen regional councils have a chairperson as the principal member, and of these fourteen bear the title of mayor.

All elected members other than the principal member bear the title of councillor.

Area councillors represent the whole of the council area and are generally associated with those Councils which have abolished wards. The alternative is a **ward councillor** who is specifically elected to represent a particular ward area.

Whilst there is no formula that can be utilised to determine the appropriate **number of elected members**, the provisions of the Local Government Act 1999 give some guidance as they specifically require Council avoid over-representation in comparison to other councils of a similar size and type (at least in the longer term).

The Adelaide Hills Council currently comprises twelve ward councillors and has an elector ratio of 1:2,370. This level of elector representation compares favourably with other metropolitan Adelaide councils which have a similar number of electors, however, the elector ratio is low when compared to the larger of the metropolitan Adelaide Councils and interstate councils of a similar size (i.e. elector numbers). This being the case, a reduction in the number of elected members warrants some consideration.

When considering a reduction in the number of elected members, care must also be taken to ensure that any future Council will comprise sufficient elected members to adequately represent the community; meet its obligations in respect to its roles and responsibilities; afford sufficient lines of communication with the community; provide for a diverse range of skill sets, expertise, experience and opinions; and manage the workloads of the elected members.

The council area is currently divided into five wards.

The **division of the council area into wards** guarantees the direct representation of all parts of the council area; enables ward councillors to focus on local as well as council-wide issues; prevents a single interest group from gaining considerable representation on Council; enables and attracts candidates to contest ward elections; reduces the cost and effort required to campaign at an election; and potentially provides cost savings to Council in regards the conduct of elections and supplementary elections.

On the other hand the abolition of wards enables an elector to vote for all of the vacant positions on Council; ensures that the most supported candidates from across the council area will be elected; and overcomes parochial ward attitudes. Wards can also be seen as an unnecessary division of the community, an assertion that has some basis given that ward councillors do not have to reside within the ward that they represent.

Should it be determined that the council area continue to be divided into wards, the **current ward boundaries cannot be retained** because the elector ratio within the existing Mount Lofty Ward exceeds the specified quota tolerance limits. Accordingly, a number of ward structure options have been presented to demonstrate how the council area can be divided into wards under circumstances whereby the Council comprises nine to twelve councillors. These ward structures are all relatively well balanced (in regards to elector numbers); comply with the quota tolerance limits; and exhibit proposed boundaries which, in the main, align with suburb boundaries and/or prominent roads.

As for the issue of **ward identification**, further consideration will have to be given to this matter later in the review process. The allocation of local geographical names (as per the current ward structure) and/or names of local heritage or cultural significance may be the most appropriate means of ward identification.

Interested members of the community are invited to make a **written submission** expressing their views on the future composition and structure of Council. Submissions will be accepted until 5.00pm on Friday 14th October 2016 and should be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, PO Box 44, Woodside 5244 or emailed to mail@ahc.sa.gov.au.

Further information regarding the elector representation review can be obtained by contacting Andrea Sargent, Manager Governance and Risk, on telephone 8408 0400 or email mail@ahc.sa.gov.au.

APPENDIX D

Agenda & Minutes
22 August, 2016

**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday 23 August 2016
AGENDA BUSINESS ITEM**

Item: 14.10

Originating Officer: Andrea Sargent, Manager Governance and Risk

Responsible Director: Lachlan Miller, Acting Director Corporate Services

Subject: Elector Representation Review Options Paper for Consultation

For: Decision

SUMMARY

An Elector Representation Review is held to examine fundamental aspects of a Council's composition and ward structure. It is a formal process that is closely regulated under the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Act) and is required to be conducted at least every eight years. There are a number of steps that form part of the statutory process which include (but are not limited to) the preparation of an options paper, two public consultation periods, public notices in local papers and the South Australian Government Gazette, opportunity for interested persons to make written submissions and to formally address Council, as well as submissions reports, a Representation Review Report and a final report.

A draft Representation Options Paper has been prepared in readiness for the first consultation period of the Adelaide Hills Council's Elector Representation Review 2016-17. The Options Paper has been drafted in accordance with the requirements of Section 12(5) and (6) of the Act and examines the advantages and disadvantages of various options that are available to Council in respect to its future composition and structure.

The purpose of this report is to obtain approval for the attached Representation Options Paper to be used within Consultation Phase 1. Endorsement is also sought for the proposed consultation activities for this phase of consultation.

RECOMMENDATION

Council resolves:

- 1. That the report be received and noted**
 - 2. That the Representation Options Paper as attached to this report in Appendix 1 be approved for use in the first consultation phase commencing 1 September 2016 until 14 October 2016.**
 - 3. That the consultation activities described in Appendix 3 of this report be endorsed.**
-

1. GOVERNANCE

➤ Strategic Management Plan/Council Policy

Goal 4 A Recognised Leading Performer

Key Issue 4.1 Leadership

Key Action 4.1.3 Review the overall governance structure and explore opportunities to enhance the decision making processes at all levels of the organisation

The review of the governance structure incorporates (though not limited to) a review of elector representation.

➤ Legal Implications

Legislative requirements regarding an Elector Representation Review are laid out in Division 2 *Powers of councils and representation reviews*, section 12 of the Act and the *Local Government (General) Regulations 1999* (the Regulations).

➤ Risk Management Implications

Undertaking the Elector Representation Review with the support of an experienced consultant and the development of sound project and consultation plans will assist in mitigating the risk of:

Poor governance practices occur which lead to a loss of stakeholder (i.e. customer and regulator) confidence and/or legislative breaches.

Inherent Risk	Residual Risk	Target Risk
Extreme (5C)	Medium (3D)	Medium (3D)

➤ Financial and Resource Implications

Funding for the engagement of the consultant and other review costs will be covered by the Chief Executive provision formed during previous budget reviews.

➤ Customer Service and Community/Cultural Implications

Through the Elector Representation Review process Council will consider whether the Adelaide Hills community may benefit from an alteration to its composition and or ward structure.

➤ Environmental Implications

There are no direct environmental implications considered as part of the Elector Representation Review.

➤ **Engagement/Consultation with Committee, Regional Subsidiary, Advisory Group and Community**

The provision of information to the community and community consultation are key components of an Elector Representation Review. Two distinct public consultation phases are legislated, with a minimum of one six (6) week period to allow interested persons to make written submissions to Council on the subject of the review (as described in the Representation Options Paper) and later, a three (3) week consultation period enabling interested persons to make written submissions on the second report that presents a proposal for the future structure.

2. BACKGROUND

Section 12(4) of the Act requires each council to undertake a review of all aspects of its composition and the division of the council area into wards or the abolition of wards, as prescribed by the Minister from time to time by a notice published in the Government Gazette.

Adelaide Hills Council (AHC) undertook an Elector Representation Review (ER Review) in 2009 in accordance with the gazetted cycle. An “out of cycle” review was undertaken in 2013 and was abandoned prior to the completion of the process.

Amendments to the Regulations occurred in 2012 that introduced a schedule which specifies when the various councils in South Australia must undertake an ER Review. This schedule, published in the Government Gazette on 31 May 2012, states that AHC is scheduled to undertake a review during the period April 2016 – April 2017. At its ordinary meeting on 26 April 2016, Council formally resolved to commence an Elector Representation review:

Initiation of Elector Representation Review

Moved Cr John Kemp 81
S/- Cr Linda Green

Council resolves:

1. That the report be received and noted
2. The Elector Representation Review process be commenced in accordance with section 12 of the *Local Government Act 1999*
3. The Elector Representation Review: Draft Key Milestones document (Item No. 14.9, Council 26/04/2016, Appendix 2) be noted, recognising that the document is subject to change.

Carried Unanimously

The Act stipulates that a range of requirements be met during the ER Review. Key issues that need to be addressed during the review include:

- a) The principal member of Council, that is, whether the role should be an elected mayor or a chairperson selected by the elected members;
- b) The need for area councillors in addition to ward councillors;
- c) The division of the Council area into wards, or alternatively, the abolition of wards;

- d) The number of council members required to provide fair and adequate representation to the community;
- e) The level of ward representation, that is, single and/or multi councillor wards, or combinations thereof; and
- f) The name of the council area and/or any proposed future wards.

The Elector Representation Review Project Schedule (attached at **Appendix 2**) sets out the key steps of the ER Review.

3. ANALYSIS

3.1 Representation Options Paper

The Act prescribes that the Representation Options Paper is prepared by a person who, in the opinion of the Council is qualified to:

- a) Write a paper on the alternatives that could be considered for the Council composition and structure; and
- b) Address any representation and governance issues that may arise from the review.

The Representation Option Paper (**Appendix 1**) has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 12(5) and (6) of the Act and examines the advantages and disadvantages of the various options that are available to Council in respect to its future composition and structure. It contains information pertaining to the review process; elector distribution and ratios; comparisons with other councils; demographic trends; population projections; residential development opportunities which may impact upon future elector numbers; and alternative ward structure options.

The Representation Options Paper is to simply provide relevant information to the community and not lead them to any particular conclusion. The attached document presents the current structure and a range of alternative structures ranging from 9 through to 12 Council Members and varying ward structures from no wards through, 3, 4 or 5 wards. Specifically:

- sections 1 – 3 introduces AHC's Elector Representation Review and discussed the review process and the current structure
- section 4 examines the composition of Council
- section 5 examines elector representation and the number of councillors
- sections 6 and 7 examines ward structures and the criteria for assessing the most appropriate structure for the Council area
- section 8 examines a range of options for ward structures and councillor numbers.

3.2 Consultation Phase 1

Section 12(7)(a)(ii) of the Act specifies that the first consultation period shall be at least six (6) weeks in duration. The consultation period is scheduled for 1 September – 14 October 2016 during which time a range of activities will occur to inform the Adelaide Hills community of the review, the various matters for consideration and to invite interested members of the community to make written submissions by close of business Friday 14

October 2016. People who make written submissions also are to be offered the opportunity to be heard in person at a public meeting.

The proposed activities during the Consultation Phase 1 are:

- Public notice in the South Australian Government Gazette (mandatory)
- Public notice in the local Courier and Weekender Herald (mandatory)
- Notices and distribution of Representation Options Paper at each Council office, Library and Community Centre
- Online engagement via AHC website, including on-line survey
- Email distribution to interested community members on Council's Email Database
- Email distribution to Residents' Groups within the Council area
- Use of Council's social media sites (Facebook and Twitter)
- Discussion at the Mylor Community Forum
- Listening Posts in each Ward at active venues where members of the community can be engaged
- Council Public meeting to hear from people who wrote submissions
- 2 x Public meetings (potentially at Stirling and Gumeracha to spread the meetings across the Council area)

The outcomes of this consultation phase will be reviewed and learnings will be applied to the design of Consultation Phase 2.

3.3 Next Steps

All written submissions, including presentations at the public meeting and survey responses will be collated into a "Submissions Report" for consideration by Council. Council Members will review the Submissions Report and the appropriate future composition and structure and a "Representation Review Report" will be prepared (pursuant to Sections 12(7) & (8) of the Act).

The Representation Review Report will be presented to Council for "in principle" endorsement of the future composition and structure and approval of the draft Representation Report for use during public consultation phase 2. The Representation Review report will include:

- i. All options, issues and proposals Council has discussed and considered along the way;
- ii. Consultation outcomes and Council's response to these;
- iii. Council analysis and rationale for not adopting a proposal arising out of the Representation Options Paper or public consultation process; and
- iv. Any proposal the Council considers should be implemented.

The second consultation phase will build on the mandatory requirements to provide solid opportunity for the Adelaide Hills community to engage with the review and provide feedback by way of written submission. As in the first consultation phase people who make submissions will be provided the opportunity to be heard at a public meeting. The Consultation Strategy (Appendix 3) lists the indicative consultation activities. As mentioned this will be reviewed after Consultation Phase 1 when an assessment of consultation outcomes is considered. Following the conclusion of Public Consultation Phase 2 (three weeks), submissions will be collated and a second Submissions Report will be prepared for consideration by Council. The Final Representation Review Report will be prepared and

presented to Council for approval for submission to the South Australian Electoral Commissioner for certification.

4. OPTIONS

AHC is required to prepare a Representation Options Paper which is to be used as the basis for consultation phase 1. The six-week period is scheduled to commence 1 September 2016 until 14 October 2016. Council endorsement of the Representation Options Paper is required to enable release of the document for public consultation.

1. Council's approval is sought on the Representation Options Paper to ensure compliance with legislative requirements and enable the timeline to be maximized in undertaking the review.
2. Council could defer approval of the Representation Options Paper and request changes. If significant changes to the document are sought by Council, the document would require re-submission to the next Council meeting to ensure document content met legislative requirements. This would tighten the timeframe for completion of the project within the statutory timeframe. It is recommended that if Council determines to detail amendments to the Options Paper that a short term suspension of the meeting occurs to enable general discussion of potential amendments.

5. APPENDICES

- (1) Draft Elector Representation Options Paper
- (2) Elector Representation Review: Project Schedule
- (3) Elector Representation Review: Consultation Strategy

14.10. Elector Representation Review

That the Representation Options Paper as attached to this report in Appendix 1 be approved for use in the first consultation phase commencing 1 September 2016 until 14 October 2016.

That the consultation activities described in Appendix 3 of this report be endorsed.

14.11. CDAP Complaint Report

To note that the Final Determination of CDAP Complaint 2/2016 has found that the Deputy Presiding Member, Mr Alistair McHenry, at the 7 June 2016 CDAP meeting, on two counts, failed to conduct the meeting in accord with the Adelaide Hills Council Development Assessment Panel Operating and Meeting Procedures and that, on the remaining two allegations, the Respondent did not breach the Code of Conduct established under s21A of the Development Act 1993.

That CDAP Deputy Presiding Member, Alistair McHenry, receive further training on the correct application of the Adelaide Hills Council Development Assessment Panel Operating and Meeting Procedures prior to assuming the role of Acting Presiding Member.

15. OFFICER REPORTS – INFORMATION ITEMS

Nil

16. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

- 16.1. Documents for signing & sealing
- 16.2. Status Report – Council Resolutions Update

17. QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

18. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

19. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

- 19.1. Bituminous Surface Supply Contract

20. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 27 September 2016, 6.30pm, 63 Mt Barker Road, Stirling

21. CLOSE MEETING

**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY 23 AUGUST 2016
63 MT BARKER ROAD STIRLING**

[Please Note: These minutes are unconfirmed until 27 September 2016]

14.10 Elector Representation Review

Moved Cr Nathan Daniell **167**

S/- Cr Kirrilee Boyd

Council resolves:

1. That the report be received and noted
2. That the Representation Options Paper as attached to this report in Appendix 1 be approved for use in the first consultation phase commencing 1 September 2016 until 14 October 2016, subject to required editorial changes
3. That editorial changes to the document in Appendix 3 of this report can be approved by the CEO
4. That the consultation activities described in Appendix 3 of this report be endorsed.

Carried Unanimously

14.11 CDAP Complaint Report

Moved Cr Jan Loveday **168**

S/- Cr Malcolm Herrmann

Council resolves:

1. That the report be received and noted.
2. To note that the Final Determination of CDAP Complaint 2/2016 has found that the Deputy Presiding Member, Mr Alistair McHenry, at the 7 June 2016 CDAP meeting, on two counts, failed to conduct the meeting in accord with the Adelaide Hills Council Development Assessment Panel Operating and Meeting Procedures and that, on the remaining two allegations, the Respondent did not breach the Code of Conduct established under s21A of the Development Act 1993.
3. That CDAP Deputy Presiding Member, Alistair McHenry, receive further training on the correct application of the Adelaide Hills Council Development Assessment Panel Operating and Meeting Procedures prior to assuming the role of Acting Presiding Member.

Carried Unanimously

APPENDIX E

Copy of Public Notice
"The Courier"
31 August, 2016

ENGAGEMENTS

ENGAGEMENT

WEBBER - SIMSON
Andy and Gayle and family together with Werner Simson and Gina Cimaretti and family are delighted to announce the engagement of Jordan and Claudia.

ANNIVERSARY

65th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Bill and Emma POLE
Are announcing with great joy their 65th Wedding Anniversary on September 8, 2016.

CHURCH SERVICES

LOBETHAL UNITING CHURCH

Are celebrating their 125 Year Anniversary on September 25 with a service at 10 a.m. Have any memorabilia or history of the church? Please contact Rob on 8398-9801 All welcome.

CHURCH SERVICES

Lutheran Church
SUNDAY, September 4
Mt Barker - 8.30am H.C., 10.30am
Hahndorf - (Main Rd) - 10.15am H.C.

AUCTIONS

Preliminary Notice
CLEARING SALE
A/C RR and CI McDonald
ANGAS PLAINS VIA STRATHALBYN
Full farming plant and sundries.
Sale to be held on property
Friday October 14, 2016
Full details in later editions.
Landmark Strathalbyn 8536-2555
Richard Snoswell 0429 481 947
LANDMARK

Courier
The Newspaper of the Adelaide Hills
Phone: 8391-1388
Fax: 8391-2312
Email: ads@courier.net.au

DEATHS

DEATH

BICKERSTAFF, Rosemary Eva
Passed away on August 20, 2016, Aged 89 years.
Much loved wife of Edwin (dec.).
Loved mother and mother-in-law of James (dec.) and Nomi, Michael and Ben, Valerie and Nick, Adrian and Mandy.

DEATH

HAMILTON, Joyce
13/2/1928 - 24/8/2016
Passed away peacefully at home. Sadly missed.

DEATH

JOHNS, Mark (Ned)
Passed away peacefully at home. Rely on family.

DEATHS

DEATH

GALLASCH, Dora Melva (nee Handke)
Born in Mount Barker on 27/12/1927.
Passed away peacefully at Calvary Wakefield on 29/8/2016 after a short illness. Aged 89 years.

DEATH

KERBER, Glenda Caroline (nee Barker)
Of Oakbank.
Passed away peacefully at South Ferguson Aged Care Mount Barker on August 28, 2016. Aged 81 years.

DEATH

PITZNER, Thelma Ottilia (nee Rathjen)
Passed away peacefully at the Restvale Aged Care Lobethal on August 28, 2016. Aged 80 years.

DEATHS

DEATH

KERBER, Glenda Caroline (nee Barker)
Of Oakbank.
Passed away peacefully at South Ferguson Aged Care Mount Barker on August 28, 2016. Aged 81 years.

DEATH

PITZNER, Thelma Ottilia (nee Rathjen)
Passed away peacefully at the Restvale Aged Care Lobethal on August 28, 2016. Aged 80 years.

DEATH

JOHNS, Mark (Ned)
Passed away peacefully at home. Rely on family.

PUBLIC NOTICES

LOBETHAL NETBALL CLUB

SENIOR PRESENTATION
Friday September 16 7 p.m.
Annual General Meeting and Junior Presentation
Sunday September 18 12 midday
For more information phone Julia 0439 007 153

Littlehampton Peace Memorial Hall Inc.

Annual General Meeting
Thursday September 22, 2016 7.30 p.m. at the Hall
All interested parties welcome

Balhnaham Soldiers Memorial Hall

Annual General Meeting
To be held on Tuesday September 13 at the Balhnaham Hall 7.30 p.m.
For further information Phone Karin 8388-4345 a.h.

STIRLING COMETS NETBALL CLUB

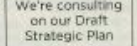
Notice of the Annual General Meeting
To be held Sunday, September 11 at 12.50 p.m. at the Mt Lofty Football Clubrooms

FUNERAL NOTICES

FUNERAL NOTICE
CUSTANCE, Jean Christine
13/7/20 - 21/8/16
Aged 96 years.

Have Your Say

We're consulting on our Draft Strategic Plan See page 5
ahc.sa.gov.au



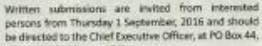
PUBLIC NOTICES

Adelaide Hills Council

Review of Elector Representation
Notice is hereby given that the Adelaide Hills Council is undertaking a review to determine whether a change of arrangements is required in respect to elector representation so as to ensure that the elections of the area are adequately and fairly represented.

A copy of the Representation Options Paper is available on Council's website, ahc.sa.gov.au, or a copy can be inspected and obtained at the Council offices at 26 Onkaparinga Valley Road, Woodside, 63 Mt Barker Road, Spring, and 45 Albert Street, Gumeracha, or at the Summit Community Centre, 3 The Crescent Drive, Norton Summit or the Mobile Library (schedule on ahc.sa.gov.au).

Information regarding the elector representation review can be obtained by contacting Andrea Sargent, Manager Governance and Risk 8608-0400 or mail@ahc.sa.gov.au



ElectraNet
AERIAL LINE INSPECTIONS
7AM TO 5PM MOUNT LOFTY RANGES

ElectraNet, the owner and manager of South Australia's electricity transmission network, will undertake the annual inspection of its overhead transmission lines, by helicopter, over the coming months to identify any potential issues.

Flights are scheduled from 7am to 5pm, during September, along all major transmission lines across the Mount Lofty Ranges.

If you have any queries about the inspections, please contact: DAVID MANLEY 1600 245 985

electranet.com.au

Haines Road Mount Barker

Roads (Opening & Closing) Act 1991
Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to Section 20 of the Roads (Opening & Closing) Act 1991, the Mount Barker District Council proposes to make a Road Process Order to:

- a) Close and retain the portions of road marked 'A', 'C' and 'D' in Preliminary Plan J6/0225, and
b) Close the portion of road marked 'B' in Preliminary Plan J6/0225 to be subsequently sold and merged with the adjoining allotment 5 in F165267 contained within Certificate of Title Volume 6172 Folio 75.

A copy of the plan and statement of persons affected are available for public inspection at the Local Government Centre, 6 Dutton Road, Mount Barker; Council's website www.mountbarker.sa.gov.au; and at the office of the Surveyor-General at 101 Grenfell Street, Adelaide during normal office hours.

Any application for easement or objections must be made in writing within 28 days from the date of publication of this notice to Council at PO Box 54, Mount Barker SA 5251 and the Surveyor-General at GPO Box 1254, Adelaide SA 5001, setting out full details. Where a submission is made, Council will give notification of a meeting to deal with the matter.

Andrew Stuart, Chief Executive Officer
31 August 2016

Local Government Centre: 6 Dutton Road, Mount Barker SA 5251
Surveyor-General: 101 Grenfell Street, Adelaide SA 5001
Telephone: 0800 000 000
www.mountbarker.sa.gov.au

FOR ALL ADVERTISING PHONE 8391-1388

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

The EPA has received notification of actual or potential groundwater contamination under section 23A of the Environment Protection Act 1993 at the following location:
Notification No: 41426-01
Address: 18 Mount Street, MOUNT BARKER
Potentially Contaminating Activity: Service Stations
A copy of the notification relating to this site can be obtained from the EPA. You can make an appointment to view or request a copy of this information by contacting the EPA. Public Register address: 1800 623 445. Please quote the EPA notification number when making your request. Please note that a prescription fee applies for accessing public register information.
For more information contact:
Environment Protection Authority
Ph: (08) 82040004 or
Freecall for non metro: 1800 623 445
Email: epa@epa.gov.au
www.epa.gov.au



APPENDIX X

Copy of Public Notice
"The Weekender Herald" and SA Government Gazette
1 September, 2016

CITY OF CHARLES STURT

ROADS (OPENING AND CLOSING) ACT 1991

Road Closure—North Parade, Royal Park

NOTICE is hereby given, pursuant to Section 10 of the Roads (Opening and Closing) Act 1991, that City of Charles Sturt proposes to make a Road Process Order to close and merge with the adjoining Allotment 18 in D111735 portion of the public road (North Parade) more particularly delineated and lettered 'A' in Preliminary Plan No. 16/0027.

A copy of the plan and a statement of persons affected are available for public inspection at the offices of the Council at 72 Woodville Road, Woodville and at the Adelaide office of the Surveyor-General during normal working hours.

Any application for easement or objection must set out the full name, address and details of the submission and must be fully supported by reasons. The application for easement or objection must be made in writing to the Council at P.O. Box 1, Woodville, S.A. 5011, within 28 days of this notice and a copy must be forwarded to the Surveyor-General at G.P.O. Box 1354, Adelaide, S.A. 5001. Where a submission is made, the Council will give notification of a meeting at which time the matter will be considered.

Dated 25 August 2016.

P. SUTTON, Chief Executive Officer

CITY OF PORT ADELAIDE ENFIELD

ROADS (OPENING AND CLOSING) ACT 1991

Road Closure—Allan Rice Court, Largs North

NOTICE is hereby given, pursuant to Section 10 of the Roads (Opening and Closing) Act 1991, that the City of Port Adelaide Enfield Council proposes to make a Road Process Order to close a corner portion of Allan Rice Court, Largs North as delineated and lettered 'A' on Preliminary Plan No. 16/0021.

Closed road 'A' is to merge with the adjoining Allotment 201 in Deposited Plan 80916.

A copy of the plan and a statement of persons affected are available for public inspection at the Council Office, 163 St Vincent Street, Port Adelaide and the Adelaide Office of the Surveyor-General during normal office hours.

Any application for easement or objection must set out the full name, address and details of the submission and must be fully supported by reasons.

The application for easement or objection must be made in writing to the Council, P.O. Box 110, Port Adelaide, S.A. 5015 within 28 days of this notice and a copy must be forwarded to the Surveyor-General, G.P.O. Box 1354, Adelaide, S.A. 5001. Where a submission is made, the Council will give notification of a meeting at which the matter will be considered.

M. WITHERS, Chief Executive Officer

ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL

Review of Elector Representation

NOTICE is hereby given that the Adelaide Hills Council is undertaking a review to determine whether a change of arrangements is required in respect to elector representation so as to ensure that the electors of the area being adequately and fairly represented.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 12 (7) of the Local Government Act 1999, notice is hereby given that Council has prepared a Representation Options Paper which examines the advantages and disadvantages of the various options available in regards to the composition and structure of Council, and the division of the Council area into wards.

A copy of the Representation Options Paper is available on Council's website, ahc.sa.gov.au, or a copy can be inspected and obtained at the Council offices, 26 Onkaparinga Valley Road, Woodside, 63 Mount Barker Road, Stirling and 45 Albert Street, Gumeracha or at The Summit Community Centre, 1 The Crescent Drive, Norton Summit or the Mobile Library (schedule on ahc.sa.gov.au).

Written submissions are invited from interested persons from Thursday, 1 September 2016 and should be directed to the Chief Executive Officer, P.O. Box 44, Woodside, S.A. 5244, or [mail@ahc.sa.gov.au](mailto:ahc.sa.gov.au) by close of business on Friday, 14 October 2016.

A. AITKEN, Chief Executive Officer

ALEXANDRINA COUNCIL

ROADS (OPENING AND CLOSING) ACT 1991

Road Closure—Currency Creek

NOTICE is hereby given, pursuant to Section 10 of the Roads (Opening and Closing) Act 1991, that the Alexandrina Council proposes to make a Road Process Order to close portions of Friend Street, Sturt Street and unnamed public roads generally situated east of Alexandrina Road and south of O'Halloran Street, adjoining Allotments 679, 680, 681, 701, 724 to 727, 700 and 699, Town of Currency Creek, more particularly delineated and lettered 'A', 'B' and 'C' on Preliminary Plan No. 13/0031.

Closed Roads 'A', 'B' and 'C' to be merged with the adjoining Allotments.

A copy of the plan and a statement of persons affected are available for public inspection at the Council Office, 11 Cadell Street, Goolwa, and the Adelaide Office of the Surveyor-General during normal office hours.

Any application for easement or objection must set out the full name, address and details of the submission and must be fully supported by reasons.

The application for easement or objection must be made in writing to the Council, P.O. Box 21, Goolwa, S.A. 5214, within 28 days of this notice and a copy must be forwarded to the Surveyor-General, G.P.O. Box 1354, Adelaide, S.A. 5001. Where a submission is made, the Council will give notification of a meeting at which the matter will be considered.

Dated 24 August 2016.

P. DINNING, Chief Executive Officer

DISTRICT COUNCIL OF KAROONDA EAST MURRAY

Adoption of Valuations and Declaration of Rates 2016-2017

NOTICE is hereby given that the District Council of Karoonda East Murray at its meeting held on Tuesday 30 August 2016, resolved the following:

Adoption of 2016-2017 Annual Business Plan

That in accordance with Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1999, Council adopt the 2016-2017 Annual Business Plan.

Adoption of 2016-2017 Council Budget

That pursuant to Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1999 and Regulation 7 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011, Council adopt the Budget for the 2016-2017 financial year.

The Budget operating expenses including full cost attribution and depreciation for the 2016-2017 financial year total \$3 602 535 with income being \$3 850 007, net \$247 472. Total Net Capital Expenditure for 2016-2017 is \$2 347 800.

Adoption of Valuations

That in accordance with provision of Section 167 (1) and (2) (a) of the Local Government Act 1999, Council adopt the most recent valuation of the Valuer-General capital values that is to apply for rating purposes for the year ending 30 June 2017, being capital valuation totalling \$266 202 220 of which \$255 011 220 represents rateable land.

Declaration of General Rates

Pursuant to Section 153 (1) (a) of the Local Government Act 1999, Council declare a general rate of 0.4602 cents in the dollar on the capital value of all rateable land within the area for the 2016-2017 financial year.

APPENDIX G

Copy of Public Notice
"The Courier"
7 September, 2016



Corporal Shane Ferguson, on the highland drums, travelled to Northern France and Belgium in July to help lay to rest the bodies of four unknown Australian soldiers killed in WW1 battles. One of the battles was Pozieres in 1916.

Drummer helps lay unknown Australian soldiers to rest

By Melissa Keogh

Former Mt Barker man Corporal Shane Ferguson has played a part in closing the final chapter for three men who lost their lives to one of Australia's bloodiest battles.

Cpl Ferguson, a highland drummer in the band of the 10th/27th Battalion, the Royal SA Regiment, travelled to northern France in July with the Australian Army to help rebury bodies of three unknown WW1 soldiers who fought in the Battle of Pozieres in 1916.

The father of three, who now lives in Myrtle Bank, drummed in the soldiers who were given full military honours before their caskets were lowered into the ground.

The men's remains were found in farmland five years ago and were identified as Australians by their uniforms, however, their full identities are unknown.

The Battle of Pozieres took place in small French village in the Somme valley, where Australian troops arrived on the Western Front to help Britain attack German positions.

Over the two week battle 6700 Australian men lost their lives and 4000 have never been recovered.

Cpl Ferguson, son of Mt Barker Mayor Ann Ferguson, also took part in the burial of another unknown WW1 Australian soldier at Batten New British Cemetery, Polygon Wood in Belgium in July.

Cpl Ferguson described both services as a sombre and unique emotional experience.

"Other than the birds there was no noise," he said.

"It wasn't a sad funeral as such because we buried people who died 100 years ago."

"But it was a very sombre occasion and something I felt very privileged to be a part of."



Corporal Shane Ferguson is a highland drummer in the Australian Defence Force.

Once arriving at the Pozieres memorial, the Australian servicemen had to walk about 1km to the British Cemetery.

"We saw these red poppies growing in the field, it was quite surreal," Cpl Ferguson said.

"What the Australians contributed 100 years ago was amazing and the French and Belgians haven't forgotten this."

"They look upon us in respect."

Cpl Ferguson has been a highland drummer of the 10th/27th Battalion since 2008.

He has played the highland drums for the Mt Barker Caledonian Society and in the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

"Highland drumming is a lot more technical and a lot faster (than typical drumming)," he said.

"The nature of the drum corp is to play as one, and the sound is more like a gun shot, it's extremely loud."

Troubled mine raises \$5m

By Genevieve Cooper

The company running the Kammatoo copper mine emerged from a trading halt on Monday after raising another \$5m in funding.

Hillgrove Resources suspended trading on the Australian Stock Exchange last week to raise capital after posting a \$102m half-year loss.

The company's underlying loss came in at \$16.4m.

To continue as a going concern, Hillgrove has to raise \$15m.

The extra \$5m in capital was realised before a mid-October deadline.

In a statement Hillgrove blamed the operating loss on lower copper prices and lower production in the first half of the year.

However, company managing

director Steve McClure said the half year results didn't take into account that the mine was out-performing production predictions by 17% in the past few months and that the company was buoyed by recent drilling results.

"We are quite comfortable in terms of going forward," he said.

In a statement Hillgrove said the company had made significant progress in ensuring adequate liquidity to sustain operations at Kammatoo until 2020.

"With the balance sheet now lightly geared, restrictions on access to cash now removed, and significant progress having been made in reducing the creditor position since the start of 2016, the company is now in a sound position to raise any capital required to fund operations for the remaining mine life," the statement said.

Smart houses go on show

The national environmental event Sustainable House Day is being held this Sunday (September 11).

More than 150 home owners are opening up their properties to show the public how they made their houses more comfortable to live in, cheaper to run and better for the environment.

The first Earthship to be built with council approval in SA is open at Ironbank along with homes at Piccadilly and Stirling.

For the full list register on the Sustainable House Day website.



Have your say on the Draft Strategic Plan

Our strategic plan will help us focus on areas which need new or renewed attention to achieve great outcomes for our communities.

Your ideas have been heard, discussed and incorporated into the Draft Strategic Plan. We now want to hear if we got it right. This is your final opportunity to provide feedback on the strategic direction of Adelaide Hills Council. Remember, it's ByourAdelaideHills!

Consultation on the Draft Strategic Plan closes 22 September 2016

Visit ahc.sa.gov.au to participate in the online consultation

Elector Representation Review: have your say

Your opportunity to shape your representation by the Adelaide Hills Council.

Your feedback will help us determine whether our community will benefit from any alterations to the composition and ward structure of Adelaide Hills Council, and to ensure fair and equitable representation for all voters. Various options are explored in a Representation Options Paper.

Stage one of the Elector Representation Review consultation closes 14 October 2016

Attend an Elector Representation Review Forum

Tuesday 20 September 6:30 - 8pm
Stirling Council Chambers, 63 Mt Barker Road

Wednesday 28 September 6:30 - 8pm
Torrens Valley Community Centre, 45 Albert Street, Gumeracha

Funding for community projects now available

Apply now for a Community Development Grant

Community Development Grants of up to \$2,000 can support organisations and groups to deliver local initiatives that make a positive contribution to building community capacity and improving wellbeing.

Find further information and apply online at ahc.sa.gov.au

Free green organics drop off days

Extended service - now more days!

The EPA's Environment Protection (Air Quality) Policy 2016 has created new restrictions on on backyard burning in the Hills. To help residents manage green waste, we're providing more free drop off days in October and November.

Find out more about new burning restrictions and green waste drop off days at ahc.sa.gov.au

Find Adelaide Hills Council's Hills Voice: headlines here on the first edition of the month.

PO Box 44 Woodville SA 5244

(08) 8408 0400

ahc.sa.gov.au

APPENDIX H

Copy of Submissions
First Round of Public Consultation
(Refer electronic file provided)

APPENDIX I

Submissions Report
22nd November, 2016

ELECTOR REPRESENTATION REVIEW

First Public Consultation

A Report to the
Adelaide Hills Council

October 2016



C L Rowe & Associates Pty Ltd

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Contents

1.	Introduction	1
2.	Public Consultation	2
3.	Future Composition and Structure	12
3.1	Mayor/Chairperson	12
	3.1.1 Mayor	
	3.1.2 Chairperson	
3.2	Structure	13
	3.2.1 Wards/No Wards	
	3.2.2 Ward Structures	
	3.2.3 Area Councillors (In addition to ward councillors)	
	3.2.4 Ward Identification	
3.3	Composition	16
4.	Review Process	19
5.	Conclusion	20

1. Introduction

Section 12(4) of the Local Government Act 1999 (the Act) requires Council to undertake a review of all aspects of its composition and the division (or potential division) of the Council area into wards, at least once in every period prescribed by the Minister for Local Government (generally eight years). The review must be conducted and completed during the period April 2016 - April 2017.

The current review commenced in June 2016 and has progressed to the point where the first of two prescribed public consultation stages has been completed. Council must now give consideration to the submissions which have been received and determine ("in principle") what changes, if any, it proposes to bring into effect in respect to its future size, composition and structure.

2. Public Consultation

Public consultation commenced on Wednesday 31st August 2016 with the publishing of a public notice in the "The Courier" newspaper, and this was followed by the publishing of notices in the Government Gazette and "The Adelaide Hills Weekender Herald" newspaper on Thursday 1st September, 2016. A second notice was published in "The Courier" newspaper on Wednesday 7th September 2016. In addition, the public consultation process included promotion of the review on the Council website; the display of roadside banners; a presentation to the Mylor Community Forum; the conduct of "listening posts" at local shopping centres in Birdwood (6th September 2016), Stirling (8th September 2016), Lobethal (13th September 2016), Balhannah (16th September 2016) and Uraidla (27th September 2016); the conduct of public meetings at Stirling (20th September 2016) and Gumeracha (28th September 2016); and the provision of the Representation Options Paper and associated documents at the council offices.

At the expiration of the public consultation period (i.e. close of business on Friday 14th October 2016) Council had received sixty-one (61) submissions, a summary of which is as follows.

Name	Comments
Respondent 1 Birdwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain a mayor Retain five wards Retain twelve councillors Favours current ward names
Respondent 2 Kenton Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain a wards structure
Respondent 3 Upper Sturt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain a mayor Retain five wards Reduce to ten councillors Retain the name Manoah
Respondent 4 Birdwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain a wards structure
Respondent 5 Bridgewater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain a mayor Retain wards Reduce to four wards Retain twelve councillors Suggested ward names: Torrens Valley, Marble Hill, Onkaparinga Valley, Mt Lofty
Respondent 6 Uraidla	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Favours a chairperson Retain wards Reduce to three wards Reduce to nine councillors Suggested ward names: Gumeracha, Uraidla, Stirling

Name	Comments
Respondent 7 Rostrevor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Favours current composition and structure
Respondent 8 Rostrevor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Favours current ward names • Adjust ward boundaries periodically to reflect population changes
Respondent 9 Rostrevor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain wards • Reduce to three wards • Retain twelve councillors • Suggests Morialta as a name for one of the wards
Respondent 10 Rostrevor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Favours current ward names • Re-align ward boundaries as necessary to maintain balance in elector ratios
Respondent 11 Rostrevor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Suggests Morialta as a name for one of the wards
Respondent 12 Rostrevor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Favours current ward names
Respondent 13 Rostrevor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Favours a chairperson • Retain wards

Name	Comments
Respondent 14 Uraidla	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Sensible ward names that feature well known road or landmark within the ward
Respondent 15 Upper Sturt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Reduce to ten councillors • Favours current ward names • Adjust ward boundaries as necessary
Respondent 16 Rostrevor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Favours a chairperson • Retain five wards • Reduce to ten councillors
Respondent 17 Gumeracha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Favours current ward names
Respondent 18 Birdwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain wards • Reduce to three wards • Reduce to nine councillors • Suggested ward names: Heysen, Onkaparinga, Torrens, Playford
Respondent 19 Stirling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Favours current ward names

Name	Comments
Respondent 20 Mount Torrens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Favours a chairperson • Retain wards • Reduce to four wards • Reduce to ten councillors • Suggested ward names: Manoah, Mount Lofty, Marble Hill and Valley • Rural areas must be adequately represented
Respondent 21 Birdwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Favours current ward names
Respondent 22 Birdwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Favours current composition and structure • Suggests using numbers for ward names
Respondent 23 Birdwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Retain current ward names
Respondent 24 Birdwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Retain current ward names • Representation for rural area important
Respondent 25 Uraidla	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Retain current ward names • Endeavour to have approx even numbers of electors in each ward

Name	Comments
Respondent 26 Gumeracha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Reduce to ten councillors • Favours current ward names
Respondent 27 Gumeracha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Favours a chairperson • Retain five wards • Reduce to ten councillors • Favours current ward names
Respondent 28 Mount Torrens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Favours a chairperson • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Favours current ward names
Respondent 29 Montacute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abolish wards • Retain twelve councillors
Respondent 30 Forreston	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Favours Torrens Valley as a ward name
Respondent 31 Mount Torrens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Favours current ward names
Respondent 32 Mount Torrens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Favours current ward names
Respondent 33 Kersbrook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Reduce to four wards • Retain twelve councillors • Suggests Torrens Valley, Greenhill, Onkaparinga, Longwood • Keep rural areas separate from metropolitan areas

Name	Comments
Respondent 34 Lenswood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain wards • Reduce to three wards • Reduce to nine councillors
Respondent 35 Gumeracha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors
Respondent 36 Gumeracha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors
Respondent 37 Kersbrook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Favours current ward names
Respondent 38 Mount Torrens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Favours current ward names
Respondent 39 Lobethal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Favours current ward names
Respondent 40 Lobethal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Favours current ward names
Respondent 41 Kersbrook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Reduce to three wards • Reduce to ten councillors • Suggests Torrens Valley/Onkaparinga, Metro Hills, Southern Hills as ward names

Name	Comments
Respondent 42 Gumeracha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Three or five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Geographic region names
Respondent 43 Kersbrook (via Survey Monkey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Retain current ward names
Respondent 44 Kersbrook (via Survey Monkey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Reduce to four wards • Reduce to eight councillors • Use locality names
Respondent 45 Mylor (via Survey Monkey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Favours a chairperson • Reduce to four wards • Favours Option 2 • Retain twelve councillors • Favours current ward names but suggests Mt Lofty/Manoah or either of those two names
Respondent 46 Kersbrook (via Survey Monkey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Retain current ward names
Respondent 47 Birdwood (via Survey Monkey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Use Torrens Valley as a ward name
Respondent 48 Gumeracha (via Survey Monkey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Retain current ward names

Name	Comments
Respondent 49 Gumeracha (via Survey Monkey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors
Respondent 50 Cudlee Creek (via Survey Monkey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Reduce to ten councillors • Retain current ward names
Respondent 51 Gumeracha (via Survey Monkey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Use Peramangk words for ward names e.g. Karra-Watta
Respondent 52 Kersbrook (via Survey Monkey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Favours a chairperson • Retain wards • Reduce to three wards • Reduce to ten councillors • Use locality names
Respondent 53 Gumeracha (via Survey Monkey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Favours a chairperson • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Retain current ward names
Respondent 54 Stirling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Favours a chairperson • Abolish Wards • Reduce to seven councillors
Respondent 55 Heathfield (via Survey Monkey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Favours a chairperson • Retain two wards • Retain twelve councillors • Suggests North and South as ward names

Name	Comments
Respondent 56 Birdwood (via Survey Monkey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Retain current ward names
Respondent 57 Birdwood (via Survey Monkey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Retain current ward names
Respondent 58 Kersbrook (via Survey Monkey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Favours a chairperson • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Retain current ward names
Respondent 59 Kenton Valley (via Survey Monkey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Reduce to ten councillors • Retain current ward names
Respondent 60 Birdwood (via Survey Monkey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Retain current ward names
Respondent 61 Mount Torrens (via Survey Monkey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Favours current ward names

Please note that for privacy reasons the names of the respondents have been withheld; and copies of each submission can be obtained from the Executive Manager Governance and Risk.

It is recommended that members review the individual submissions for further information.

In brief, it is noted that:

- forty-six or 79.3% of the submissions favoured the retention of a mayor (elected by the community) and wards;

- there was overwhelming support (i.e. fifty-nine submissions or 96.7%) for the retention of wards, with only two submissions supporting a change to “no wards”;
- a clear majority of submissions (i.e. forty-two submissions or 73.7%) favoured the retention of twelve councillors, whilst ten submissions (17.5%) supported a reduction to ten councillors, three submissions (5.3%) preferred a reduction to nine councillors, one submission (1.8%) favoured a reduction to eight councillors and one submission (1.8%) supported a reduction to seven councillors; and
- a clear majority of submissions (i.e. forty-three submissions or 76.8%) favoured the retention of five wards, whilst six submissions (10.7%) supported three wards, five submissions (8.9%) favoured four wards, one submission (1.8%) favoured three or five wards and one (1.8%) favoured two wards.

In respect to the issue of ward names, it is noted that there was strong support for the retention of the current names, followed by geographical or locality names. A list of potential ward names suggested by the respondents has been provided hereinafter (refer 3.2.4 Ward Identification, page 15).

It should be noted that the provisions of Section 12 of the Act do not require Council to provide the individuals who made written submissions with the opportunity to address Council at this stage of the review process.

3. Future Composition and Structure

Council has now reached the stage of the prescribed review process where it must identify what changes (if any) it proposes to make to its current composition and/or ward structure. More specifically, Council is required to make "in principle" decisions in respect to all of the following issues and present details of its preferred future structure and composition to the community for consideration and comment by the community during the second of the prescribed consultation periods.

3.1 Mayor/Chairperson

The principal member of Council has always been an elected mayor.

Of the fifty-eight submissions which specifically addressed the issue of the principal member, forty six (79.3%) favoured the retention of an elected mayor.

The following information relating to the two alternatives is provided to assist members in their deliberations.

3.1.1 Mayor

- A mayor is elected by the community.
- The election of the mayor affords all eligible members of the community the opportunity to express faith in a candidate and the result of the vote provides the elected Council with an identifiable principal member who is accountable to the community.
- A mayor is elected for a four year term and therefore provides stability and continuity to Council.
- An elected mayor cannot be removed from office unless where legislative breaches are proven.
- An elected mayor does not have a deliberative vote on a matter before council, but has, in the event of a tied vote, a casting vote.
- The office of mayor (elected) is additional to the number of councillors and, as such, comes at an additional cost to Council (i.e. members allowances, administrative costs and alike).
- As an election (or supplementary election) for the office of mayor must be conducted across the whole of the Council area, a significant cost can be incurred by Council on every occasion the office is contested.
- At present all of the metropolitan councils have an elected mayor, as do all bar sixteen regional Councils.
- Candidates for the office of mayor cannot also stand for election as a councillor and, as such, the experience and expertise of unsuccessful mayoral candidates will be lost to council.

3.1.2 Chairperson

- A chairperson is selected by and from amongst the elected members.
- The office of chairperson provides flexibility and opportunity for a number of elected members to gain experience as the principal member during the four year term of the Council; and to bring their particular skill set and opinions to the position, albeit for what could be a limited period of time.
- The term of a chairperson is decided by Council (1 - 4 years).
- Council decides the title of a chairperson (e.g. mayor), pursuant to Section 51(1)(b) of the Act.
- Sixteen regional councils currently have a chairperson, fourteen of which bear the title of mayor.
- A chairperson has a deliberative vote at a council meeting, but does not have a casting vote.

- The selection of a chairperson is not reliant upon an election. Should a chairperson not be able to complete a full term of office a replacement can be selected from the existing elected members and costs will only be incurred by Council when it seeks to fill the vacant position of councillor (which is limited to the specific ward if a ward structure is in place).

It should be noted that any proposal to have a selected chairperson rather than an elected mayor cannot proceed unless or until a poll has been conducted in accordance with the requirements of Section 12 (11a-d) of the Local Government Act.

3.2 Structure

3.2.1 Wards/No Wards

The Adelaide Hills Council has always been divided into wards and, of the sixty-one submissions which addressed this issue, fifty-nine (96.7%) favoured the retention of a ward structure.

The main arguments supporting a ward structure include:

- wards guarantee some form and level of direct representation to existing communities of interest and/or parts of the Council area;
- ward councillors can focus on local issues;
- under the "no wards" structure Council has to conduct elections and supplementary elections across the whole of the Council area (at a significant expense); and
- under the "no wards" structure the more popular or known councillors may receive more enquiries from the public (i.e. inequitable workloads).

The key arguments supporting the abolition of wards include:

- the electors have the opportunity to vote for all of the vacant positions on Council;
- the most supported candidates from across the Council area will likely be elected;
- the elected members should be free of parochial local/ward attitudes;
- the lines of communication between Council and the community should be enhanced, given that members of the community will be able to consult with any and/or all members of Council, rather than be obliged to consult with their specific ward councillors;
- under the current proportional representation method of voting the "no ward" structure still affords opportunities for the smaller "communities of interest" within the Council area to be directly represented on Council (subject to voter turnout); and
- the "no ward" structure automatically absorbs fluctuations in elector numbers (i.e. the quota tolerance limits do not apply).

At present thirty-two regional councils and two metropolitan councils (i.e. the Towns of Walkerville and Gawler) have no wards.

Should it be the preference of the elected members to retain a ward structure, Council will not only have to identify an appropriate ward structure but will also have to determine the need for area councillors in addition to ward councillors; the level of representation within the wards; and appropriate ward names.

3.2.2 Ward Structures

Earlier in the review process Council was advised that the current structure could not be retained because the elector ratio (i.e. the average number of electors represented by a councillor) in the existing Mount Lofty Ward exceeded the specified 10% quota tolerance limit prescribed under Section 33(2) of the Act and, to compound issues, the elector ratios in the existing Marble Hill and Onkaparinga Valley Wards were also nearing the specified quota tolerance limit of -10%.

Based on updated elector data provided by Electoral Commission SA (dated 26th October 2016), the current ward structure can now be retained because the elector ratios in all of the existing wards are within the specified quota tolerance limits, albeit only just in respect to the Mount Lofty, Marble Hill and Onkaparinga Wards (refer Table 1). The fluctuations in elector numbers have occurred since May/June of this year and demonstrate the ever changing circumstances of voter's rolls. Elector numbers increased overall by 1,011, with increases in elector numbers being recorded in all five wards (i.e. Manoah Ward: +152; Mount Lofty Ward: +122; Marble Hill Ward: +175; Torrens Valley Ward: +284; and Onkaparinga Valley Ward: +278). Consultation with Electoral Commission SA has revealed that the increases in elector numbers were predominantly a result of the updating of the electoral roll for the recent Federal election.

Table 1: Existing ward structure - Elector data per ward and variance to quota.

Ward	Crs	H of A Roll	Council Roll	Electors	Ratio	% Variance
Manoah	2	4,970	4	4,974	1:2,487	+1.35
Mount Lofty	3	8,046	22	8,068	1:2,689	+9.58
Marble Hill	2	4,481	13	4,494	1:2,247	- 8.43
Torrens Valley	2	5,108	5	5,113	1:2,557	+4.18
Onkaparinga Valley	3	6,772	25	6,797	1:2,266	-7.67
Total Average	12	29,377	69	29,446	1:2,454	

Source: Electoral Commission SA (26th October 2016)

Whilst the current ward structure can be retained, it is doubtful that it could stay within "tolerance" for any significant period of time given that the elector ratios in the Mount Lofty, Marble Hill and/or Onkaparinga Wards are already nearing the specified quota tolerance limits. Indeed, relatively modest movements in elector numbers could result any of the aforementioned three wards breaching the quota tolerance limits in the foreseeable future. For example, an additional fifty electors in the existing Mount Lofty Ward would result in the elector ratio for that ward breaching the +10% quota tolerance limit.

Of the submissions received, clearly most favoured number of wards was five (43 of 56 submissions or 76.8%) followed by three wards (6 of 56 or 10.7%) and four wards (5 of 56 or 8.9%).

Council has previously considered a number of potential future ward structure options, and the Representation Options Paper contained seven ward structures (including a slightly modified version of the current ward structure) to demonstrate how the Council area could be divided under circumstances whereby Council comprised nine to twelve councillors.

Council now has to decide whether it wants to retain wards, and if it does, identify its preferred ward structure. This could be current ward structure (or an amended version thereof); one of the ward structure options previously presented to Council; or a newly developed structure based on the specific needs of Council in respect to councillor numbers and/or levels of ward representation.

Any ward structure option under consideration should:

- provide an equitable balance of electors (which can be maintained, within tolerance, over the extended period between reviews);
- allow for likely fluctuations in elector numbers, primarily as a consequence of future population growth/decline and/or residential development; and
- exhibit an elector ratio which is similar to those exhibited by other councils of a comparable size and type (i.e. avoids over-representation).

In addition, Council should take into account:

- the fact that the majority of submissions received supported the retention of twelve councillors;
- the character and topography of the area;
- the likely impacts upon existing "communities of interest";
- the preferred level of ward representation and the total number of elected members;
- future anticipated population/elector growth;
- the need for an equitable distribution of electors between wards; and
- the requirement that the elector ratios within all of the proposed wards will have to lay with the specified quota tolerance limits.

3.2.3 Area Councillors (in addition to ward councillors)

Section 52 of the Act indicates that councillors can be elected as a representative of a ward, or alternatively, to represent the Council area as a whole (whether or not the council area is divided into wards).

As indicated in the Representation Options Paper, ward councillors generally consider themselves to represent not only their ward, but the Council area as a whole. This being the case, the need for area councillors in addition to ward councillors is questionable, an assertion which is seemingly supported by the fact that only the City of Adelaide has a ward structure which incorporates two levels of representation. Further, it is noted that under such an arrangement area councillors hold no greater status than a ward councillor; have no greater responsibilities than a ward councillor; and need not comply with any extraordinary or additional eligibility requirements.

In addition, any contested election (and/or supplementary election) for area councillors must be conducted across the whole of the Council area, at a significant cost to Council.

For these and the other reasons previously presented to Council, it is considered that area councillors (in addition to ward councillors) are an unwarranted, unnecessary and potentially costly additional tier of representation.

3.2.4 Ward Identification

As indicated in the Representation Options Paper, wards can be identified using numbers, alphabetical letters, direction or geographical references (e.g. north, south, east, west, central); place names; and/or names of European and/or Aboriginal heritage/cultural significance.

Of the submissions received, there was considerable support for the retention of the current names and/or geographical or locality names of relevance to the proposed future wards. In addition to the current ward names, suggestions provided by the respondents included the following.

Gumeracha	Uraidla	Stirling
Landmarks	Known roads	Morialta
Heysen	Onkaparinga	Torrens
Greenhill	Valley	Playford
Longwood	Metro Hills	Southern Hill
Karra – Watta	North	South

Further, an alternative means of ward identification promoted was the allocation of numbers to each ward.

It is suggested that the retention of the existing ward names or the allocation of geographical/place names may be the most appropriate and acceptable means of ward identification at this time. The current ward names should be known to the community and, as such, the retention of some or all of these names may be acceptable to the local community.

The elected members are encouraged to peruse the submissions to identify the level of support for the various suggested names.

3.3 Composition

As previously indicated, of the fifty-six submissions which addressed the issue of the composition of Council, forty-two submissions (73.7%) favoured the retention of twelve councillors, whilst ten submissions (17.5%) supported a reduction to ten councillors, three submissions (5.3%) preferred a reduction to nine councillors, one submission (1.8%) favoured a reduction to eight councillors and one submission (1.8%) supported a reduction to seven councillors.

Sections 26 and 33 of the Local Government Act 1999 espouse the need to ensure adequate and fair representation while at the same time avoiding over-representation in comparison to other councils of a similar size and type (at least in the longer term). In addition, Section 12(6)(a) of the Act requires that where a council is constituted of more than twelve (12) members, the question of whether the number of members should be reduced must be examined.

Table 2 provides the elector representation arrangement and elector data of a number of metropolitan councils which exhibit similar elector numbers to the Adelaide Hills Council. The data indicates that the composition and elector ratio of Council is generally consistent with the elector representation arrangements of the other cited councils.

Table 2: Elector data, representation and areas (Councils with similar elector numbers)

Council	Councillors	Electors	Ratio
Norwood Payneham St Peters (15.1 km ²)	13	25,380	1:1,952
Holdfast Bay (13.7 km ²)	12	27,680	1:2,307
Unley (14.3 km ²)	12	27,857	1:2,321
Adelaide Hills (795.1km²)	12	29,446	1:2,454
Burnside (27.5 km ²)	12	31,945	1:2,662
Campbelltown (24.35 km ²)	10	34,977	1:3,498

Source: Electoral Commission SA (26th October 2016)

The significant difference in the composition and elector ratios of councils becomes evident when the elector representation arrangements of the Adelaide Hills Council are compared to those of the larger of the metropolitan councils (refer Table 3).

Table 3: Elector data, representation and areas (Largest metropolitan councils)

Council	Councillors	Electors	Ratio
Adelaide Hills (795.1km²)	12	29,446	1:2,454
Mitcham (75.55 km ²)	13	48,129	1:3,702
Playford (344.9 km ²)	15	57,890	1:3,859
Port Adelaide/Enfield (97.0 km ²)	17	81,654	1:4,803
Charles Sturt (52.14 km ²)	16	82,239	1:5,140
Marion (55.5km ²)	12	63,622	1:5,302
Salisbury (158.1 km ²)	16	92,386	1:5,774
Onkaparinga (518.4 km ²)	20	121,040	1:6,052
Tea Tree Gully (95.2 km ²)	12	72,850	1:6,071

Source: Electoral Commission SA (26th October 2016)

Whilst the elector ratio of Council compares reasonably well with the similar sized councils (refer Table 2), it is clearly very low when compared to the elector ratios of the larger metropolitan councils. In addition to examining the elector representation arrangements of other councils, Section 12(6)(a) of the Act requires that where a council is constituted of more than twelve (12) members, the question of whether the number of members should be reduced must be examined. The review affords the opportunity to at least consider an alternative number of elected members and/or elector ratio.

The conundrum facing Council is that there is clear support from the community for the retention of twelve councillors, but the intent of the Act appears to be in favour of a reduction in the number of elected members to twelve or below.

To complicate matters two of the largest metropolitan Councils are currently considering significant changes to their elector representation arrangements which will likely serve to set new benchmarks in regards to elector representation arrangements and elector ratios, and will undoubtedly broaden the gap (in regards to elector representation) between the larger and smaller metropolitan councils.

For example, the City of Onkaparinga is assessing a proposal to reduce its composition from twenty to twelve elected members (potential elector ratio of approximately 1:10,100) and the City of Salisbury is considering a reduction from sixteen to twelve elected members (potential elector ratio of approximately 1:7,700). Proposals for the reduction in elector member numbers are also currently being considered at the City of Port Lincoln, the City of Mount Gambier and the Southern Mallee District Council.

If considering a reduction in the number of councillors, care must be taken to ensure that:

- sufficient elected members are available to manage the affairs of Council;
- the elected member's workloads do not become excessive;
- there is an appropriate level of elector representation;
- a diversity in member's skill sets, experience and backgrounds is maintained; and
- adequate lines of communication will exist between a growing community and Council.

In addition, members should take into account the fact that:

- all indicators suggest that the population (and therefore elector numbers) within the Council area will likely continue to increase in the foreseeable future;
- a reduction in the number of elected members will result in some cost savings to Council (e.g. elected member's allowances alone are \$15,900 per annum per councillor) which could be available for redirection to community projects and/or programs;
- fewer members may expedite debate and the decision making process in Council; and
- enhanced communication and information technology should have served to reduce any difficulties previously experienced by elected members in respect to their day to day tasks and communication with both Council and the community.

A reduction in the number of elected members will serve to increase the elector ratio from the current 1:2,454 to the following.

Eleven councillors: 1:2,677 Ten councillors: 1:2,945 Nine councillors: 1:3,272

The aforementioned elector ratios are still considerably lower than those of say, the Campbelltown City Council which has 34,977 electors and comprises ten councillors (elector ratio of 1:3,498), and definitely the larger metropolitan councils (refer table 3).

On the other hand, any thought of increasing the number of elected members will be difficult to justify, both from a cost point of view and compliance with the requirements of Sections 12, 26 and 33 of the Act. (in terms of avoiding over-representation in comparison with other councils of a similar size and type and reviewing elected member numbers over twelve).

4. Review Process

The next stage of the review process, as specified under Section 12(8a) of the Act, involves Council preparing a "Representation Review Report" which will:

- provide information regarding the initial public consultation undertaken and Council's response to the issues arising from the submissions received;
- set out the proposal that Council considers should be carried into effect; and
- present evidence of how the proposal relates to the provisions of Sections 26 and 33 of the Act.

Once completed, the report has to be presented to the community for consideration and comment, in accordance with the provisions of Section 12(9) and (10) of the Act. This second public consultation stage must:

- extend for a minimum period of three (3) weeks;
- provide copies of the report for public inspection; and
- afford all interested persons the opportunity to make a written submission to Council.

Any person who makes a written submission must be given the opportunity to address Council, either in person or by way of a representative, in support of his/her submission.

Upon completion of the second public consultation, and after due consideration of all submissions received in response thereto, Council will be in a position to make final decisions regarding its future composition and structure. The final stage of the review process is the presentation of a formal report to the Electoral Commissioner, for consideration and certification.

5. Conclusion

The Adelaide Hills Council has completed the first public consultation stage of the elector representation review process, attracting sixty-one submissions. In the main these submissions supported the retention of an elected mayor; a five ward structure; and twelve ward councillors.

Having completed the initial public consultation stage of the elector representation review, Council now needs to make some "in principle" decisions regarding its future composition and structure, taking into account the information previously provided and the submissions made by the community.

The **principal member** of Council has always been a mayor, elected by the community so as to provide Council with an identifiable leader who is accountable to the community. It is considered that a change to the alternative (i.e. a chairperson chosen by the elected members of Council), offers few tangible benefits and would be at odds with all of the other metropolitan Councils. Further, given that 79.3% of the respondents favoured the retention of an elected mayor, it is considered unlikely that a proposal for change would receive strong support from the community through the conduct of a poll (as required under Section 12(11) of the Act).

As for the issue of **wards or "no wards"**, the Council area has always been divided into wards and, as such, the retention thereof would likely be perceived as a sign of stability by the community. In addition, it is noted that 96.7% of the submissions received supported to retention of wards.

Whilst the "no wards" option has benefits, a ward structure guarantees direct representation of areas and/or communities within the Council area; affords the ward councillors the opportunity to be more familiar with their constituents and the issues affecting the local community; ensures local interests and/or issues are not overlooked in favour of the bigger "area-wide" picture; and provides recognisable lines of communication with Council through the ward councillors.

The majority of respondents (76.8%) favoured a five ward structure. The existing ward structure can be retained because the elector ratios within all of the wards currently lay within the specified quota tolerance limits, albeit only marginally in respect to three of the five existing wards. Given the latter, it would be prudent for Council to consider alternative options, such as a variation of the current ward structure which achieves a more equitable distribution of elector numbers between the wards, or alternatively a five ward structure to specifically suit any amended composition (as determined by Council).

In respect to the composition of Council, there are two issues which need to be addressed, these being the number of elected members required to provide fair and adequate representation; and whether there is a need for area councillors in addition to ward councillors (should Council retain a ward structure).

As for the issue of the **number of councillors**, there is no formula to calculate an appropriate level of representation, however some guidance can be taken from the provisions of Sections 26 and 33 of the Act which speak against over-representation when compared to Councils of a similar size and type.

The comparison undertaken between Adelaide Hills Council and councils of a similar size revealed that the elector representation arrangements are not dissimilar, although the elector ratio applicable to Council is considered to be a little low, especially when compared to the elector arrangement of the "mid-sized" metropolitan councils (e.g. City of Burnside and Campbelltown City Council).

Whilst 73.7% of the submissions received favoured the retention of twelve councillors, 17.5% of the submissions supported a reduction to ten councillors. Further, it is evident that a number of councils which are currently undertaking elector representation reviews are considering significant reductions in elected member numbers. Council should be mindful of these circumstances, as the current actions of the larger Councils (i.e. City of Onkaparinga and City of Salisbury) may have lasting impacts upon the compositions of local government authorities from this point onwards.

Any reduction in the number of elected members will result in some cost savings to Council. However, care must be taken to ensure that there are sufficient elected members to manage the affairs of Council; the workloads of the elected members do not become excessive; a diversity in skill sets, opinions and experience is maintained amongst the elected members; an appropriate level of elector representation is provided; and adequate lines of communication between the community and Council will exist, taking into account the anticipated future growth in the population (and therefore elector numbers).

On the other hand, it is considered that any proposal to increase the number of elected members at this time will be extremely difficult to justify and, as such, will likely not receive favourable consideration by the Electoral Commissioner.

For reasons previously provided, area councillors (in addition to ward councillors) are considered to be unwarranted and an expensive form of additional representation.

Finally, the issue of **ward names** will need to be further addressed once a decision has been made regarding the issue of wards/no wards. The existing ward names are acceptable and could be retained, if required.

APPENDIX J

Agenda Item & Minutes
22 November, 2016

13. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- 13.1. Special Development Assessment Panel – 26 October 2016
That the minutes of the Special CDAP meeting held on 26 October 2016 as supplied, be received and noted.
- 13.2. Development Assessment Panel – 1 November 2016
That the minutes of the CDAP meeting held on 1 November 2016 as supplied, be received and noted.
- 13.3. Strategic Planning & Development Policy Committee – 8 November 2016
That the minutes of the SPDPC meeting held on 8 November 2016 as supplied, be received and noted.
- 13.4. Audit Committee - 31 October 2016
That the minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on 31 October 2016 as supplied, be received and noted
- 13.5. Special CEO Performance Review Panel – 19 October 2016
That the minutes of the Special CEO Performance Review Panel meeting held on 19 October 2016 as supplied, be received and noted.

14. OFFICER REPORTS – DECISION ITEMS

- 14.1. 2016/17 Review of Capital Works Program
The revised Capital Works program be endorsed for inclusion in Budget Review 1 (BR1).
- 14.2. 2015/16 Annual Report
That the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to make formatting or design changes necessary for publication purposes.
Copies of the Annual Report be provided to:
a. each member of the Council
b. the Presiding Members of both Houses of Parliament
c. the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission
- 14.3. Elector Representation Review – Submissions Report and Proposal Development
That a Representation Review Report be drafted for the Council's consideration at the 13 December 2016 Ordinary Council meeting with the following representation arrangements, presiding member (Elected Mayor or Chairperson), council area (divided/not divided) into (if divided into how many wards) X wards, (if Area Councillors are going to be created) X Area Councillors with a total number of X Council Members.

**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2016
63 MT BARKER ROAD STIRLING**

[Please Note: These minutes are unconfirmed until 13 December 2016]

4. Copies of the Annual Report be provided to:

- a. each member of the Council
- b. the Presiding Members of both Houses of Parliament
- c. the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission

Carried Unanimously

14.3 Elector Representation Review – Submissions Report & Proposal Development

Moved Cr Linda Green

235

S/- Cr John Kemp

Council resolves to have a short term suspension of proceedings for the purpose of discussing its representation options.

Carried Unanimously

7.55pm Cr Hall left the chamber.

7.59pm Cr Hall returned to the chamber.

The Mayor declared that the short term suspension of proceedings had concluded.

14.3.1 Elector Representation Review – Voting for an Elected Mayor or Chairperson

Moved Cr Malcolm Herrmann

236

S/- Cr John Kemp

Council resolves:

1. That the report be received and noted.
2. That a Representation Review Report be drafted for the Council's consideration at the 13 December 2016 Ordinary Council meeting with the following representation arrangement:

Presiding Member (*Elected Mayor*)

Carried Unanimously

APPENDIX K

Council Agenda Item & Minutes
13 December, 2016

**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday 13 December 2016
AGENDA BUSINESS ITEM**

Item:	14.2
Originating Officer:	Lachlan Miller, Executive Manager Governance & Risk
Responsible Director:	Terry Crackett, Director Corporate Services
Subject:	Elector Representation Review – Representation Review Report
For:	Decision

SUMMARY

An Elector Representation Review is held to examine fundamental aspects of a Council's composition and ward structure. It is a formal process that is closely regulated under the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Act) and is required to be conducted at least every eight years.

Council has completed the first public consultation on the options available with respect to its representation arrangements. A total of 61 submissions were received with a strong bias towards retaining the current arrangements.

At its 22 November 2016 meeting, Council determined its 'proposal' on the representation arrangements that it favours and desires to be put in place at the next Local Government election in November 2018, this being an elected Mayor, 12 councillors and no wards.

To progress the Review process, the results of the first public consultation and the 'proposal' have been incorporated into a draft Representation Review Report which will be considered by Council with a view to it being approved for public consultation.

RECOMMENDATION

Council resolves:

- 1. That the report be received and noted.**
- 2. To approve the Representation Review Report at Appendix 2 for public consultation for the period 21 December 2016 – 3 February 2017 inclusive, in compliance with the provisions of Section 12(9) of the *Local Government Act 1999*.**
- 3. To delegate to the Chief Executive Officer the discretion to make any non-significant grammatical and/or content changes to the Representation Review Report for consultation purposes.**

4. To determine the February 2017 Strategic Planning & Development Policy Committee meeting to be the opportunity for persons who have made written submissions, or their representatives, to be heard in relation to the submissions in accordance with Section 12(10) of the Local Government Act 1999.

1. GOVERNANCE

➤ **Strategic Management Plan/Council Policy**

Goal Organisational Sustainability
Strategy Governance

The representation arrangements for the elected Council are an important element of Council's commitment to open and transparent decision making which facilitates public accountability.

➤ **Legal Implications**

Legislative requirements regarding an Elector Representation Review are laid out in Division 2 *Powers of councils and representation reviews*, section 12 of the Act and the *Local Government (General) Regulations 1999* (the Regulations).

Section 73 of the Act sets out the provisions regarding Material Conflicts of Interest and Regulation 8AAA set out the definitions of Ordinary Business Matters as they relate to s73.

Section 63 of the Act sets out the provisions regarding the Code of Conduct for Council Members, these provisions and the Adelaide Hills Council Behavioural Standards are contained in the Council Member Conduct Policy.

➤ **Risk Management Implications**

Undertaking the Elector Representation Review in accordance with the requirements of legislation and engaging in genuine consultation will assist in mitigating the risk of:

Poor governance practices occur which lead to a loss of stakeholder (i.e. customer and regulator) confidence and/or legislative breaches.

Inherent Risk	Residual Risk	Target Risk
Extreme (5C)	Medium (3D)	Medium (3D)

Note that there are many other controls that assist in mitigating this risk.

➤ **Financial and Resource Implications**

Funding for the engagement of the consultant and other review costs are included in the current budget.

➤ **Customer Service and Community/Cultural Implications**

Through the Elector Representation Review process Council will consider whether the Adelaide Hills community may benefit from an alteration to its composition and or ward structure.

➤ **Environmental Implications**

There are no direct environmental implications considered as part of the Elector Representation Review.

➤ **Engagement/Consultation with Committee, Regional Subsidiary, Advisory Group and Community**

The provision of information to the community and community consultation are key components of an Elector Representation Review. Two distinct public consultation phases are legislated, with a minimum of one six (6) week period which allowed interested persons to make written submissions to Council on the Representation Options Paper and, the current matter, a minimum three (3) week consultation period enabling interested persons to make written submissions on the Representation Review Report

The Representation Options Paper consultation occurred from 1 September to 14 October 2016 inclusive.

2. BACKGROUND

Representation Review Commencement

Section 12(4) of the Act requires each council to undertake a review of all aspects of its composition and the division of the council area into wards or the abolition of wards, as prescribed by the Minister from time to time by a notice published in the Government Gazette.

At its Ordinary meeting on 26 April 2016, Council formally resolved to commence an Elector Representation review:

Initiation of Elector Representation Review

Moved Cr John Kemp 81
S/- Cr Linda Green

Council resolves:

1. That the report be received and noted
2. The Elector Representation Review process be commenced in accordance with section 12 of the *Local Government Act 1999*
3. The Elector Representation Review: Draft Key Milestones document (Item No. 14.9, Council 26/04/2016, Appendix 2) be noted, recognising that the document is subject to change.

Carried Unanimously

Representation Options Paper

The first key stage of the Representation Review process was the development of an Options Paper which examined the advantages and disadvantages of the various options that are available to Council in respect to its future composition and structure. It contained information pertaining to the review process; elector distribution and ratios; comparisons with other councils; demographic trends; population projections; residential development opportunities which may impact upon future elector numbers; and alternative ward structure options.

In May 2016, in the course of preparing the Options Paper, the then current House of Assembly Roll and Council Roll figures were used to analyse the number of electors per ward, the resultant ratio and therefore variance from the average. This analysis confirmed that the elector ratios for three wards were either out of (Mount Lofty +11.8%), or close to being out of (Marble Hill -8.9%, Onkaparinga Valley -8.3%), the permitted tolerances (+/- 10%) prescribed under Section 33(2) of the Act. The implication of this situation is that the current representation arrangements could not be retained and that a change was required.

Council received a draft Options Paper at its 23 August 2016 Ordinary Council meeting and resolved as follows:

14.10 Elector Representation Review

Moved Cr Nathan Daniell
S/- Cr Kirrilee Boyd

167

Council resolves:

- 1. That the report be received and noted**
- 2. That the Representation Options Paper as attached to this report in Appendix 1 be approved for use in the first consultation phase commencing 1 September 2016 until 14 October 2016, subject to required editorial changes**
- 3. That editorial changes to the document in Appendix 3 of this report can be approved by the CEO**
- 4. That the consultation activities described in Appendix 3 of this report be endorsed.**

Carried Unanimously

Representation Options Paper Consultation Results

At the expiration of the public consultation period, Council had received 61 submissions (out of approximately 29,500 electors). The key themes from the consultation are:

- forty-six or 79.3% of the submissions favoured the retention of a mayor (elected by the community) and wards;
- there was overwhelming support (i.e. fifty-nine submissions or 96.7%) for the retention of wards, with only two submissions supporting a change to “no wards”;
- a clear majority of submissions (i.e. forty-two submissions or 73.7%) favoured the retention of twelve councillors, whilst ten submissions (17.5%) supported a reduction to ten councillors, three submissions (5.3%) preferred a reduction to nine councillors, one submission (1.8%) favoured a reduction to eight councillors and one submission (1.8%) supported a reduction to seven councillors; and

- a clear majority of submissions (i.e. forty-three submissions or 76.8%) favoured the retention of five wards, whilst six submissions (10.7%) supported three wards, five submissions (8.9%) favoured four wards, one submission (1.8%) favoured three or five wards and one (1.8%) favoured two wards. In respect to the issue of ward names, it is noted that there was strong support for the retention of the current names, followed by geographical or locality names.

A full report of the first public consultation (the Submissions Report) was provided to Council at its 22 November 2016 meeting.

Elector Ratios

Following the Options Paper Consultation, the House of Assembly and Council Roll numbers were updated with the latest enrolment data from the Electoral Commission SA.

Interestingly, the electors number per ward had changed, anecdotally attributed to roll clean-up from the Federal Election and as of September 2016 the wards (Mount Lofty +9.4%, Marble Hill -8.5%, Onkaparinga Valley -7.3%) were no longer out of tolerance but remained close to the tolerance limits. The implication of this adjustment is that Council is not required to make changes to its representation arrangements although, given the slim margins, it is prudent to consider changes to 'future-proof' the ratios for the medium term.

Representation Review Proposal

At its 22 November 2016 meeting, Council determined its 'in-principle' proposal for its future representation arrangements as follows:

14.3.1 Elector Representation Review – Voting for an Elected Mayor or Chairperson

Moved Cr Malcolm Herrmann 236
S/- Cr John Kemp

Council resolves:

1. That the report be received and noted.
2. That a Representation Review Report be drafted for the Council's consideration at the 13 December 2016 Ordinary Council meeting with the following representation arrangement:

Presiding Member (*Elected Mayor*)

Carried Unanimously

14.3.2 Elector Representation Review – Voting for the number of Council Members

Moved Cr Kirrilee Boyd 237
S/- Cr Ron Nelson

Council resolves that a Representation Review Report be drafted for the Council's consideration at the 13 December 2016 Ordinary Council meeting with the following representation arrangement:

A total number of 12 Council Members.

Carried

14.3.3 Elector Representation Review – Voting for Wards or No Wards

Moved Cr John Kemp 238
S/- Cr Jan Loveday

Council resolves that a Representation Review Report be drafted for the Council's consideration at the 13 December 2016 Ordinary Council meeting with the following representation arrangement:

Council area not divided into wards.

Carried on the casting vote of the Mayor

DIVISION

A Division was requested by Cr Bailey

The Mayor declared the vote set aside.

In the affirmative (7)

Councillors Boyd, Vonow, Wisdom, Kemp, Daniell, Loveday, Mayor Spragg

In the negative (6)

Councillors Nelson, Bailey, Hall, Stratford, Green, Herrmann

On the basis of the results of the division, the Mayor declared the motion **CARRIED. 239**

3. ANALYSIS

Representation Review Report

The next stage in the legislated process is the preparation and adoption of a Representation Review Report. The Report is required, under s12(8a) of the Act, to include:

- a) information on the (Representation Options) public consultation and the council's response to the issues arising from the submissions made; and
- b) any proposal that the council considers should be carried into effect including an analysis of how the proposal relates to the principles under s26(1)(c) and the matters referred to in s33 (see **Appendix 1**).

The draft Representation Review Report, which incorporates Council's 22 November 2016 resolution regarding the "in-principle" proposal is at **Appendix 2**.

Subject to Council's adoption of the report for public consultation purposes, a minimum consultation period of 3 weeks is required under s12(9)9b(ii) during which interested persons will be invited to make submissions to the Council in relation to the Report.

Proposed Public Consultation Campaign

The following campaign is proposed in relation to the Representation Review Report:

Duration (mandatory minimum 3 weeks):

21 December 2016 – 3 February 2017 inclusive (>6 weeks)

Media:

- Government Gazette
- Courier and Weekender Herald (advertisements at the commencement and midpoint of the consultation period)
- Council website
- Council social media (Facebook, Twitter, Hills Voice, email lists)
- Roadside banners
- Material at libraries and service centres
- Public meetings (Gumeracha and Stirling)
- On-line digital engagement (including enabling electronic submissions)
- Council Members speaking with their constituents

It is acknowledged that public consultation over the Christmas/New Year period is problematic in terms of competing for the community member's attention against festive events and holidays, it does also provide a time where busy people can relax and spend some time in their community and engaging more in print and social media. Additionally the proposed duration of the campaign and the midpoint reminders in print media should assist in capturing those who missed the launch while reminding others of the consultation period.

As with the Representation Options Paper consultation, submissions will need to be in written form from electors within the Council area. Submissions can be either free form or a quick response sheet will be available to assist with ease of making a submission.

Literature associated with the request for submissions will strongly encourage the provision of the reasons **why** they support or not support the proposal. This will assist Council in its analysis of the submissions. Consideration is being given to the development of a 'FAQ' document to accompany the Review Report.

Council Member Conduct

A Representation Review is an important governance process in which Council Members have a Material Conflict of Interest in that they are deciding on representation arrangements that have the potential to result in direct benefits or detriment for Council Members. Notwithstanding this conflict, Representation Reviews are prescribed as ordinary business under the General Regulations and therefore the requirements of s74 (i.e. declaration of the interest and leaving the Chamber) do not apply. In short, all Council Members have a Material Conflict of Interest but they are not required to make a declaration and leave the Chamber.

Representation Reviews have proven to be contentious across the sector and, anecdotally, have resulted in some Council Members acting in a manner which breaches the requirements of the Act and Code of Conduct. The following provisions are provided as a reminder of the conduct required in relation to these Reviews:

- Council Members must at all times act honestly in the performance and discharge of official functions and duties (s62(1))
- Council Members must act in a way that generates community trust and confidence in the Council (Council Member Conduct Policy 2.2)
- Council Members must ensure that personal comments to the media or other public comments, on Council decisions and other matters, clearly indicate that it is a private view, and not that of the Council (Council Member Conduct Policy 2.5)

- Council Members must accept the responsibility associated with Council decisions and the collective decision making process (Council Member Conduct Policy AH3)
- Council Members must endeavour to provide accurate information to the Council and to the public at all times (Council Member Conduct Policy 2.8)

Next Steps

Following the public consultation period, Council must provide the opportunity for any person who made a written submissions in response, during the consultation period, an opportunity to appear personally or by representative before the council or a council committee and to be heard on those submissions (s12(10)).

It is proposed that the February 2017 SPDPC meeting be designated as that opportunity. To this end, the meeting date and the representation opportunity will be included in the public consultation pack to the community.

Upon considering both the submissions received and representations made, Council will need to determine their next step with the key options being:

- a) To proceed with the finalisation of a report to the Electoral Commissioner. This report set out the details of the process including copies of submissions received and evidence of process compliance, or
- b) To determine whether an alternative 'proposal' is to be approved for public consultation. If so, the process will be similar to the current stage of the process with a Representation Review Report. Following this, the finalisation process as per (a) would be undertaken.

Note: Council's timeframe for the completion of the Review is April 2017 and therefore engaging in a second consultation on the proposal arrangements will exceed this deadline. Should this be Council's will, an extension will need to be sought from the Minister.

On receipt of a report, the Electoral Commissioner must determine whether the requirements of this section have been satisfied and then (s12(13)):

- a) if of the opinion that the requirements have been satisfied—give an appropriate certificate, or
- b) if of the opinion that the requirements have not been satisfied—refer the matter back to the council together with a written explanation of the reasons for not giving a certificate under this subsection.

4. OPTIONS

The Council has the following options in relation the Elector Representation Review Report:

1. To resolve to approve the draft Representation Review Report in Appendix 2 for public consultation (**Recommended**). Doing so would enable the Review process to continue in a timely manner. If minor changes to the report content are required, it is proposed that the Chief Executive Officer be delegated to make these changes in the finalisation of the document for consultation purposes; or

2. To determine not to approve the draft Representation Review Report in Appendix 2 for public consultation at this time. Doing so would not enable the Review process to progress as the release of the Report for public consultation is the next critical step. Such a delay would impact on the timelines of the Review.

5. APPENDICES

- (1) Local Government Act 1999 excerpts
- (2) Draft Representation Review Report

**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY 13 DECEMBER 2016
63 MT BARKER ROAD STIRLING**

[Please Note: These minutes are unconfirmed until 24 January 2017]

14.2. Elector Representation Review – Report

Moved Cr John Kemp 282
S/- Cr Lynton Vonow

Council resolves:

1. That the report be received and noted.
2. To approve the Representation Review Report at Appendix 2 for public consultation for the period 21 December 2016 – 10 February 2017 inclusive, in compliance with the provisions of Section 12(9) of the Local Government Act 1999.
3. To delegate to the Chief Executive Officer the discretion to make any non-significant grammatical and/or content changes to the Representation Review Report for consultation purposes.
4. To determine to conduct a Special Council meeting on Tuesday 21 February 2017 as the opportunity for persons who have made written submissions, or their representatives, to be heard in relation to the submissions in accordance with Section 12(10) of the Local Government Act 1999.

AMENDMENT

Moved Cr Malcolm Herrmann
S/- Cr Linda Green

That the motion be amended to include:

5. That the community is notified by letter of Council's Representation Review Report public consultation in the manner used to distribute the Hills Voice.

LOST

The Motion was put.

Carried

Leave of the meeting was granted to allow Cr Green to speak for a second time.

8.30pm Cr Val Hall left the Chamber
8.34pm Cr Val Hall returned to the Chamber

APPENDIX L

Representation Review Report
13 December, 2016



Adelaide Hills
COUNCIL

Representation Review Report

Prepared in accordance with
Section 12(8a) of the Local Government Act 1999

December 2016

Prepared for the Adelaide Hills Council by C L Rowe and Associates Pty Ltd, December 2016 (Version 2)

Disclaimer

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Contents

1.	Introduction	1
2.	Background	2
3.	Initial Public Consultation	3
4.	Proposal	16
5.	Proposal Rationale	17
	5.1 Principal Member	
	5.2 Wards/No Wards	
	5.3 Area Councillors (in addition to ward councillors)	
	5.4 Ward Names	
	5.5 Number of Councillors	
6.	Legislative Requirements	24
	6.1 Quota	
	6.2 Communities of Interest and Population	
	6.3 Topography	
	6.4 Feasibility of Communication	
	6.5 Demographic Trends	
	6.6 Adequate and Fair Representation	
	6.7 Section 26, Local Government Act 1999	
7.	Current Public Consultation	27

1. Introduction

Section 12(4) of the Local Government Act 1999 (the Act) requires each Council to undertake a review of all aspects of its composition and the division (or potential division) of the Council area into wards, as prescribed by the Minister from time to time by a notice published in the Government Gazette.

The Adelaide Hills Council last completed an "elector representation review" in November 2009 and is now required to undertake and complete another review by April 2017, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2013, so as to ensure fair and equitable representation of all electors prior to the 2018 Local Government elections.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 12 (8a) of the Act. It:

- provides information on the initial public consultation undertaken by Council and Council's response to the issues raised within the submissions received;
- sets out the proposal that Council considers should be carried into effect; and
- presents an analysis of how Council's proposal relates to the relevant provisions and principles of the Act.

The key issues that need to be addressed during the review include:

- the principal member of Council, more specifically whether it should be a mayor elected by the community or a chairperson selected by (and from amongst) the elected members;
- the composition of Council, including the number of elected members required to provide fair and adequate representation to the community and the need for area councillors in addition to ward councillors (where the Council area is to be divided into wards);
- the division of the Council area into wards or the abolition of wards; and
- if wards are to be retained, the level of ward representation within, and the names of, any future proposed wards.

2. Background

Council currently comprises an elected mayor and twelve ward councillors; and the Council area is divided into five wards (refer Map 1), with two wards each being represented by three councillors and the remaining three wards each being represented by two councillors. This structure, which was adopted by Council during the elector representation review that was undertaken in 2008/2009, came into effect at the 2010 Local Government elections.

Table 1 provides data pertaining to the number of electors within each of the current wards and demonstrates the variance between the ward elector ratios and the elector ratio for the Council area.

Table 1: Elector data per ward and variance to quota

Ward	Crs	H of A Roll	Council Roll	Electors	Ratio	% Variance
Manoah	2	4,970	4	4,974	1:2,487	+ 1.4
Mount Lofty	3	8,046	22	8,068	1:2,689	+ 9.6
Marble Hill	2	4,481	13	4,494	1:2,247	- 8.4
Torrens Valley	2	5,108	5	5,113	1:2,557	+ 4.2
Onkaparinga Valley	3	6,772	25	6,797	1:2,266	- 7.7
Total	12	29,377	69	29,446		
Average					1:2,454	

Source: Electoral Commission SA , House of Assembly Roll (26 October 2016)

Whilst the current ward structure can be retained because the elector ratio (i.e. the average number of electors represented by a councillor) in all existing wards currently lay within the specified 10% quota tolerance limit prescribed under Section 33(2) of the Act (refer 6.1 Quota), there is doubt that this situation can be maintained over an extended period of time given that the elector ratios within the existing Mount Lofty and Marble Hill Wards are currently very close to breaching the specified quota variance limits.

Council commenced its elector representation review in June 2016 and completed the initial prescribed six (6) week public consultation period on Friday 14th October 2016. Sixty-one (61) submissions were received.

At its meeting on 22nd November 2016, and following considerable deliberation of all matters relevant to the review, including the public submissions received, Council resolved as follows.

- Unanimously to agree, in principle, to retain an elected mayor as the principal member of Council;
- By majority to agree, in principle, to retain the current number of councillors (i.e. 12 councillors).
- By majority on the casting vote of the Mayor to agree, in principle, to abolish wards.

3. Initial Public Consultation

The initial prescribed public consultation commenced on Wednesday 31st August 2016 with the publishing of a public notice in the "The Courier" newspaper, and this was followed by the publishing of notices in the Government Gazette and "The Adelaide Hills Weekender Herald" newspaper on Thursday 1st September, 2016. A second notice was published in "The Courier" newspaper on Wednesday 7th September 2016. In addition, the public consultation process included promotion of the review on the Council website; the display of roadside banners; a presentation to the Mylor Community Forum; the conduct of "listening posts" at local shopping centres in Birdwood (6th September 2016), Stirling 8th September 2016), Lobethal (13th September 2016), Balhannah (16th September 2016) and Uraidla (27th September 2016); the conduct of public meetings at Stirling (20th September 2016) and Gumeracha (28th September 2016); and the provision of the Representation Options Paper and associated documents at the council offices.

At the expiration of the public consultation period (i.e. close of business on Friday 14th October 2016) Council had received sixty-one (61) submissions, a summary of which is as follows.

Name	Comments	Additional Comments
Respondent 1 Birdwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Favours current ward names 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current arrangement works well.
Respondent 2 Kenton Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a ward structure 	Nil
Respondent 3 Upper Sturt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Reduce to ten councillors • Retain the name Manoah 	Nil
Respondent 4 Birdwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a ward structure 	Nil
Respondent 5 Bridgewater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain wards • Reduce to four wards • Retain twelve councillors • Suggested ward names: Torrens Valley, Marble Hill, Onkaparinga Valley, Mt Lofty 	Nil

Name	Comments	Additional Comments
Respondent 6 Uraidla	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Favours a chairperson Retain wards Reduce to three wards Reduce to nine councillors Suggested ward names: Gumeracha, Uraidla, Stirling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gumeracha is a former Local Government area and is of Aboriginal derivation. Uraidla is an old historic and is an Aboriginal derived name. Stirling is a major hub and former Local Government name.
Respondent 7 Rostrevor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain a mayor Retain five wards Retain twelve councillors Favours current composition and structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current system is adequately democratic.
Respondent 8 Rostrevor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain a mayor Retain five wards Retain twelve councillors Favours current ward names Adjust ward boundaries periodically to reflect population changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local representation is crucial in retaining the 'local' in local government.
Respondent 9 Rostrevor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain a mayor Retain wards Reduce to three wards Retain twelve councillors Suggests Morialta as a name for one of the wards 	Nil
Respondent 10 Rostrevor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain a mayor Retain five wards Retain twelve councillors Favours current ward names Re-align ward boundaries as necessary to maintain balance in elector ratios 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Realigning ward boundaries to maintain elector ratios is to be expected and welcomed. To abolish wards or the right of ratepayers themselves to elect their mayor would erode democracy and remove the 'local' from local government. Ward councillors effectively reflect local concerns and help guard against the potential indifference of single-issue groups.

Name	Comments	Additional Comments
Respondent 11 Rostrevor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Suggests Morialta as a name for one of the wards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep Local government focussed on local issues, with local ward representatives
Respondent 12 Rostrevor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Favours current ward names 	Nil
Respondent 13 Rostrevor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Favours a chairperson • Retain wards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A chairperson elected by the elected councillors is more likely to result in cooperative behaviour of the councillors and is more democratic. • The title 'Mayor' could be retained for historical reasons.
Respondent 14 Uraidla	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Sensible ward names that feature well known road or landmark within the ward 	Nil
Respondent 15 Upper Sturt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Reduce to ten councillors • Favours current ward names • Adjust ward boundaries as necessary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The necessary councillor/voter ratio can be secured by minimal changes without too much destruction of communities of interest and varying infrastructure needs.
Respondent 16 Rostrevor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Favours a chairperson • Retain five wards • Reduce to ten councillors 	Nil

Name	Comments	Additional Comments
Respondent 17 Gumeracha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Favours current ward names 	Nil
Respondent 18 Birdwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain wards • Reduce to three wards • Reduce to nine councillors • Suggested ward names: Heysen, Onkaparinga, Torrens, Playford 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More staff to clean drains, pipes, roadside debris, overhanging tree branches, pot holes, garden rubbish, etc.
Respondent 19 Stirling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Favours current ward names 	Nil
Respondent 20 Mount Torrens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Favours a chairperson • Retain wards • Reduce to four wards • Reduce to ten councillors • Suggested ward names: Manoah, Mount Lofty, Marble Hill and Valley • Rural areas must be adequately represented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural areas must be adequately represented.
Respondent 21 Birdwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Favours current ward names 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hope this is 'consult and decide' not 'announce and defend'.

Name	Comments	Additional Comments
Respondent 22 Birdwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Favours current composition and structure • Suggests using numbers for ward names 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current systems works well, why change it? The word 'parochial' means petty or narrow. Is this how a sense of community is being viewed, is it? What a disgrace! Long live small communities that help each other in the time of need, unlike 'suburbia'!
Respondent 23 Birdwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Retain current ward names 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cut out Crown Land. • Change boundaries to make it ratepayers only. No rates money to Govt owned land. Sampson Flat reveg the like (no road repairs in Crown Land). • Elect councillors that know something and reduce the number of consultants employed. • 'Useless' voted out. • Councillors not allowed to nominate in wards to gain a seat on council - they must live in the ward. • Important to land owners to have a representative that knows people and can give a voice. We can't have a mob of greenies running the Hills Council and bringing ways to push out the farmers - as is the case now.
Respondent 24 Birdwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Retain current ward names • Representation for rural area important 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important to have representation for our rural areas at the northern end of AHC who live in the area and know the needs and 'give us a voice'.
Respondent 25 Uraidla	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Retain current ward names • Endeavour to have approx even numbers of electors in each ward 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If practical, endeavour to have approximately the same number of electors in each ward.

Name	Comments	Additional Comments
Respondent 26 Gumeracha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Reduce to ten councillors • Favours current ward names 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave system as it is.
Respondent 27 Gumeracha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Favours a chairperson • Retain five wards • Reduce to ten councillors • Favours current ward names 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change not considered necessary.
Respondent 28 Mount Torrens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Favours a chairperson • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Favours current ward names 	Nil
Respondent 29 Montacute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abolish wards • Retain twelve councillors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wards foster an adversarial approach to decision making where councillors believe they have to fight for the benefit of the constituents of the ward in which they were elected. • The absence of wards removes the incentive to be parochial to ensure success at future elections. • No wards is the only way to ensure that all communities of interest, including local geographic communities, have an opportunity to elect a candidate who best represents their interests • Candidates for wards only have to live or own land in a council area to nominate and do not have to live in the ward in which they nominate and Adelaide Hills Council currently has 4 councillors who do not living in the wards in which they were elected. • Wards reduce the choice of candidates available to electors whereas no wards maximizes the choices available to electors. • Area councillors focus on interests and issues of importance to both local and broader communities across the Adelaide Hills Council

Name	Comments	Additional Comments
Respondent 30 Forreston	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Favours Torrens Valley as a ward name 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is important to keep 2 councillors in Torrens Valley Ward, The councillors we have both work hard for us and give us lots of support at various events and activities and are always there to help with any issues we have. If the wards are reduced (and councillors) that I feel we could be left "out in the cold" due to the geographic location of your ward. We deserve to have our own representation! • Prefer to have an elected Mayor as this way we get some idea of who the person is as opposed to being elected "in house".
Respondent 31 Mount Torrens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Favours current ward names 	Nil
Respondent 32 Mount Torrens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Favours current ward names 	Nil
Respondent 33 Kersbrook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Reduce to four wards • Retain twelve councillors • Suggests Torrens Valley, Greenhill, Onkaparinga, Longwood • Keep rural areas separate from metropolitan areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try and keep the rural wards separate from the more metropolitan type areas if possible to ensure representation does not become skewed towards more densely populated areas.
Respondent 34 Lenswood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain wards • Reduce to three wards • Reduce to nine councillors 	Nil

Name	Comments	Additional Comments
Respondent 35 Gumeracha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors 	Nil
Respondent 36 Gumeracha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors 	Nil
Respondent 37 Kersbrook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Favours current ward names 	Nil
Respondent 38 Mount Torrens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Favours current ward names 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is important to me that I have reason to feel that I am effectively represented by a local councillor. • Five wards is the minimum that I consider would achieve that. I have faith in councillors' ability to stand above "parish politics" in discharging their responsibilities. • It is really important to me that my local council does everything possible to prevent the entry of party politics or the mounting of a single issue takeover based on high population density favour. Multiple wards make it difficult for such manoeuvres to succeed.
Respondent 39 Lobethal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Favours current ward names 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I was given by Adelaide Hills Council at a meeting on the 6th October 2016 a map of the AHC area with registered voter numbers. I have enclosed adjusted ward boundaries 1-5. The map numbers of the electors are 28,766 but the AHC elector representation review figures are 28,435.
Respondent 40 Lobethal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Favours current ward names 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All ratepayers and residents that respond to the Elector Representation Review in each ward decide the outcome of the review. • Torrens Valley ward is one part of the AHC and the people decide its outcome in the Adelaide Hills.

Name	Comments	Additional Comments
Respondent 41 Kersbrook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Reduce to three wards • Reduce to ten councillors • Suggests Torrens Valley/Onkaparinga, Metro Hills, Southern Hills as ward names 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated councillors to wards are important to all residents so as to ascertain local commitment and local structures. Dedicated contacts.
Respondent 42 Gumeracha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Three or five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Geographic region names 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Government is best represented and respected by local connections. Unknown councillors too centralised become "them" against the local "us". Councillors should relish their "local" links and knowledge etc. and especially so in rural council shires. • The Mayoral role is the unifying factor and should be retained and actively promote the "federation" style of the "regional" council. Best wishes for the future.
Respondent 43 Kersbrook (via Survey Monkey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Retain current ward names 	Nil
Respondent 44 Kersbrook (via Survey Monkey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Reduce to four wards • Reduce to eight councillors • Use locality names 	Nil
Respondent 45 Mylor (via Survey Monkey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Favours a chairperson • Reduce to four wards • Favours Option 2 • Retain twelve councillors • Favours current ward names but suggests Mt Lofty/Manoah or either of those two names 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option 2 would be improved if Bridgewater was in Ward 4 and Upper Sturt in Ward 2.

Name	Comments	Additional Comments
Respondent 46 Kersbrook (via Survey Monkey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor; • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Retain current ward names 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserving wards allows for novice candidates to run for election. Easier to persuade and gain support from a smaller section of the community in the first instance. Ward councillors 'get' local issues.
Respondent 47 Birdwood (via Survey Monkey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Use Torrens Valley as a ward name 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wards should only have two votes and the two bigger wards have three councillors but only two votes.
Respondent 48 Gumeracha (via Survey Monkey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Retain current ward names 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imperative for wards to remain in a Council as geographically, socially and culturally as diverse as the Adelaide Hills Council area. • Option 1 of the "Representation Options Paper" is the option that I support and appears to provide the best and most equal voice to all residents of the Council. Importantly, it maintains wards around specific communities of geographic interest, and essentially a "fail-safe" mechanism that there will always be elected members from 5 very distinct parts of the Council area (i.e. each of the wards).
Respondent 49 Gumeracha (via Survey Monkey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors 	Nil
Respondent 50 Cudlee Creek (via Survey Monkey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Reduce to ten councillors • Retain current ward names 	Nil
Respondent 51 Gumeracha (via Survey Monkey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a mayor • Retain five wards • Retain twelve councillors • Use Peramangk words for ward names e.g. Karra- Watta 	Nil

Name	Comments	Additional Comments
Respondent 52 Kersbrook (via Survey Monkey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Favours a chairperson Retain wards Reduce to three wards Reduce to ten councillors Use locality names 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is important that the ward structure be retained as the less densely populated areas would struggle to have local people elected that understand the local issues.
Respondent 53 Gumeracha (via Survey Monkey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Favours a chairperson Retain five wards Retain twelve councillors Retain current ward names 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feel very strongly that the Torrens Valley Ward should be retained and have two representatives, as at present. Our ward is the furthest north in the Council Region and needs strong representation, which we have at present.
Respondent 54 Stirling (via Survey Monkey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Favours a chairperson Abolish Wards Reduce to seven councillors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The AHC area has been constantly mired in litigation on many significant developments. Developments that the state government had to step in and rectify by over ruling councillor decisions. The cause of this is uneducated unqualified councillors. A classic case if you can't do - then teach. Councillors need to have a minimum education and business qualification standard. The area (as is the entire world) is changing rapidly. Dotty old councillors aren't stuck firmly in 1950.
Respondent 55 Heathfield (via Survey Monkey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Favours a chairperson Retain two wards Retain twelve councillors Suggests North and South as ward names 	Nil
Respondent 56 Birdwood (via Survey Monkey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain a mayor Retain five wards Retain twelve councillors Retain current ward names 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the Council does go down the track of abolishing Wards then members of a ward have the right to secede from the Adelaide Hills Council and join another Council.
Respondent 57 Birdwood (via Survey Monkey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain a mayor Retain five wards Retain twelve councillors Retain current ward names 	Nil

Name	Comments	Additional Comments
Respondent 58 Kersbrook (via Survey Monkey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Favours a chairperson Retain five wards Retain twelve councillors Retain current ward names 	Nil
Respondent 59 Kenton Valley (via Survey Monkey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain a mayor Retain five wards Reduce to ten councillors Retain current ward names 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain Mount Torrens in the Torrens Ward. Move Crafers into the Manoah Ward Move Verdun and Bridgewater into the Onkaparinga Ward Move Mount George and Cleland into the Marble Hill Ward Mount Lofty Ward should be just Stirling and Aldgate with 2 Councillors Each ward should have a maximum of 2 Councillors. This represents a logical redistribution of electors within the wards to meet LGA rules.
Respondent 60 Birdwood (via Survey Monkey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain a mayor Retain five wards Retain twelve councillors Retain current ward names 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current system works well. Leave it alone.
Respondent 61 Mount Torrens (via Survey Monkey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain a mayor Retain five wards Retain twelve councillors Favours current ward names 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is important that all ratepayers believe that they and their immediate areas are actually represented by one or more councillors. A no wards system runs the risk of politicisation of local government and a diminution of attention to genuine local issues. Knowing one's local councillors and feeling confident in them is a very important thing. I have gone for 5 wards and 12 councillors to maximise the level of grass roots representation and to provide sufficient elected members to effectively fill the needs of governance.

In respect to the submissions received:

- of the fifty-eight respondents who provided feedback regarding the issue of the principal member, forty-six or 79.3% favoured the retention of a mayor (elected by the community);
- there was overwhelming support (i.e. fifty-nine submissions or 96.7%) for the retention of wards, with only two submissions supporting a change to “no wards”;
- of the fifty-eight respondents who provided feedback regarding the issue of the preferred number of councillors, a clear majority (i.e. forty-three submissions or 74.1%) favoured the retention of twelve councillors, whilst ten submissions (17.2%) supported a reduction to ten councillors, three submissions (5.2%) preferred a reduction to nine councillors, one submission (1.7%) favoured a reduction to eight councillors and one submission (1.7%) supported a reduction to seven councillors; and
- of the fifty-nine respondents who favoured wards, a clear majority of submissions (i.e. forty-three submissions or 72.9%) favoured the retention of five wards, whilst six submissions (10.2%) supported three wards, five submissions (8.5%) favoured four wards, one submission (1.7%) favoured three or five wards, one (1.7%) favoured two wards and three (5.1%) did not indicate a preference for any specific number of wards.

Council values and has taken into account the submissions received. It recognises that sixty-one (61) submissions is not a significant response from a community which comprises over 29,000 electors (and a total population of in excess of 40,000), however, the submissions did enable Council to gain some insight into the views of the community in regards to the key issues of the principal member; wards/no wards; and elected member numbers.

Council's comments regarding the key issues of the review and the submission received are provided hereinafter (refer 5. Proposal Rationale).

4. Proposal

Having duly considered all relevant provisions of the Local Government Act 1999, the information and alternatives contained within the Representation Options Paper and the matters raised in the written submissions provided by interested members of the community, Council proposes the following in respect to its future composition and structure.

- The principal member of Council continue to be a Mayor, elected by the community.
- The Council area not be divided into wards (i.e. wards be abolished).
- The future elected body of Council comprise twelve (12) area councillors who will be elected by the community at council-wide elections to represent the whole of the Council area.

Reasons for Council's "in principle" decisions, together with an analysis of compliance with the relevant provisions and requirements of the Local Government Act 1999, are provided hereinafter under key issue headings.

5. Proposal Rationale

5.1 Principal Member

The principal member of Council has always been an elected Mayor.

Of the fifty-eight submissions which specifically addressed the issue of the principal member, forty six (79.3%) favoured the retention of an elected mayor.

Council believes that:

- a mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy – choice;
- the election of a mayor affords all eligible members of the community the opportunity to express faith in a candidate, should they choose to do so, and provides Council with an identifiable principal member who is directly accountable to the community;
- the office of mayor has served the Adelaide Hills Council well over the years;
- little practical benefit will likely be achieved by changing to a chairperson at this time;
- the retention of an elected mayor as the principal member is consistent with the structure of all metropolitan Adelaide councils and all but sixteen regional councils;
- an elected mayor brings stability and continuity to the Council, given the four year term of office; and
- the retention of an elected mayor is consistent with the position supported by the majority of respondents during the initial public consultation.

Despite the fact that there has been some sentiment expressed by the community for change, it is considered that, on balance, the introduction of a chairperson will provide only a few benefits, including a likely reduction in the number of elected members (with associated cost savings); flexibility in the tenure of the principal member; the opportunity for a number of elected members to gain experience as the principal member during the four year term of the Council (and to bring their particular skill set and opinions to the position); and avoidance of the potential loss of high calibre candidates through the mayoral election process. On the downside, a chairperson is chosen by the elected members, thereby depriving all of the electors the opportunity to vote for the principal member of Council.

Finally, Council is aware that any proposal to have a chairperson rather than an elected mayor cannot proceed unless or until a poll of the community has been conducted in accordance with the requirements of Section 12 (11a-d) of the Local Government Act 1999 and the result of the poll clearly supports the proposed change.

Given that the Adelaide Hills Council has traditionally had an elected mayor as its principal member; nothing extraordinary has occurred within Council or the Council area to warrant a change to the way that the principal member is determined; and a mayor is democratically elected by the community as its principal representative (and is therefore accountable to the community), it is considered that there is no need for change at this time.

5.2 Wards/No Wards

The Adelaide Hills Council has always been divided into wards, and Council acknowledges that there is a perception that a ward structure provides direct representation of all areas and communities within the Council area; ensures local interests and/or issues are not overlooked in favour of the bigger "council-wide" picture; and provides recognizable lines of communication with Council through the ward councillors. Further, it is also considered that ward councillors should have some empathy for, and an affiliation with, all of the communities within their ward.

Notwithstanding the above, the argument in favour of wards is seemingly weakened by the fact that ward councillors are not required to reside in the ward that they represent. As such, ward councillors may (potentially) have little or no relationship with the ward or constituents that they represent. In addition, ward councillors are obliged under the provisions of the Local Government Act to represent the interests of all residents and ratepayers and, as such, effectively act as a representative of the whole council area.

Council accepts that its "in principle" decision to support the abolition of wards may be considered to be contentious and at odds with the feedback received from the community during the first of the prescribed public consultation (i.e. fifty-nine (59) or 96.7% of the responses received favoured the retention of a ward structure, albeit in a number of varying configurations). Regardless, Council believes that the "no wards" structure (i.e. the abolition of wards) exhibits considerable merit in terms of elector representation and is particularly well suited to the circumstances of the Adelaide Hills Council. This being the case, Council has opted to promote this potential change at this time, in order to gauge the support or otherwise of the community.

The Adelaide Hills Council is rural – residential in character; covers approximately 795km²; and comprises fifty-five or more identifiable township and/or settlements of various sizes. The distribution of the eligible electors across the Council area at varying densities and concentrations makes representation thereof a difficult task for the elected members, and the development of a ward structure (with an equitable distribution of electors and a rational basis) a challenging exercise.

Council believes that the abolition of wards and the resultant introduction of area councillors responsible for the whole Council area will be beneficial for the following reasons.

- Every eligible elector will be afforded the opportunity to vote for all thirteen members of Council (i.e. the mayor and all twelve area councillors).
- The most favoured candidates from across the Council area will likely be elected, rather than candidates who may be favoured by the peculiarities of a ward based system (e.g. elected unopposed candidates or having attracted fewer votes than defeated candidates in another ward).
- The elected members should be free of parochial local (ward) attitudes.

- The “no wards” structure is not affected by fluctuations in elector numbers and, as such, there is no need for an on-going review of elector distribution and/or fluctuations in elector numbers and the potential impacts thereof upon a ward structures in terms of the quota tolerance limits.
- A Council area which is not divided into wards can be perceived as a strong and united entity with a focus on the community as a whole.
- Council was established in 1997 by the amalgamation of the District Council of East Torrens, the District Council of Gumeracha, the District Council of Onkaparinga and the District Council of Stirling. Whilst the amalgamation of the councils has been successful, there are signs that the unification of the communities has not yet been fully achieved. The retention of a ward structure, which will maintain the division of the community, has the potential (in some cases) to foster allegiances to the previous councils.
- Existing “communities of interest” are not affected or divided by arbitrary ward boundaries.
- Under the “no wards” structure, a casual vacancy of an area councillor can be carried by Council, thereby avoiding the need for, and cost of, a supplementary election.
- The lines of communication between Council and its community may be enhanced, given that members of the community will be able to freely consult with any and/or all members of Council, rather than feel obliged to consult with specific ward councillors.
- The introduction of postal voting has facilitated the dissemination of candidate’s campaign literature throughout the Council area, thereby reducing the difficulty and cost of contesting a council-wide election.
- The “no wards” structure affords opportunities for smaller communities to be directly represented on Council, provided they are able to muster sufficient support for a preferred candidate. Under the current voting system the “quota” required to be elected (based on 29,000 electors) is 2,232 votes. There is potential for a small “community of interest” within the Council area (e.g. the “primary producers”) to attract sufficient votes from across the whole Council area to enable the election of an area councillor (or more) to provide them with direct representation on Council. It is unlikely that this could be achieved in a ward based election, given the combination of circumstances such as the relatively small number of electors within a ward; the likely small proportion of ward electors within the particular “community of interest”; and the small number of ward councillor vacancies being contested.
- Successful candidates may have to attract no more votes than they would have received/required under a ward based election.

In addition, Council is also mindful that thirty-five of sixty-seven councils in the state, (including the Corporation of the Town of Walkerville, the Town of Gawler, the Rural City of Murray Bridge, The Barossa Council, and the Cities of Mount Gambier, Port Lincoln, Whyalla, Port Augusta, Port Pirie and Victor Harbor) are presently not divided into wards, and another council (i.e. the Southern Mallee District Council) has recently resolved to abolish wards.

Of further interest and relevance is the fact that, at the 2014 Local Government election:

- forty-five (45) ward councillors (representing 23 wards in fifteen councils) were elected unopposed, whilst only seven (7) area councillors (within the District Council of Wudinna) were elected unopposed; and
- only approximately 67.0% of the candidates in a ward election who received first preference votes were ultimately elected, as opposed to approximately 82.0% of area councillors who contested elections within councils which were not divided into wards.

Council believes that the latter two points are particularly important given the democratic principle of *"one person, one vote, one value"*.

In recent times Local Government elections within the Adelaide Hills Council have only attracted voter turnouts of 35.0% (2014) and 36.2% (2010). Whilst this lack of interest in voting is concerning, the situation could be exacerbated (under a ward structure) should electors become disenchanted as a consequence of not being afforded the opportunity to vote (under circumstances whereby ward councillors are elected unopposed) and/or the effectiveness of their vote is diminished due to the peculiarities of the proportional representation voting system and/or the number of candidates contesting the generally small number of ward councillor vacancies.

Finally, ward based elections have the potential to provide peculiar results. For example, at the 2014 Local Government election in the Adelaide Hills Council, an unsuccessful candidate in the Marble Hill Ward polled more first preference votes than several successful candidates in the Torrens Valley and Onkaparinga Valley Wards. Whilst this may not be a regular occurrence under a ward based election, it cannot occur under a council-wide election (i.e. no wards).

In reaching its decision to support the "no ward" structure at this stage of the review process, Council was mindful that the disadvantages of the structure included:-

- the potential that, subject to voter turnout, elected members could come from the more heavily populated parts of the Council area rather than from across the whole of the Council area;
- an organised single interest group could gain considerable representation on Council;
- elected members may not have any empathy for, or affiliation with, all communities across the whole Council area;
- Council has to conduct elections and supplementary elections across the whole of the Council area (at a significant expense);
- the more popular or known councillors may receive more enquiries from the public (i.e. inequitable workloads); and
- potential candidates for election to Council may be deterred by the perceived difficulties and expense associated with contesting council-wide elections.

In summary, having considered the advantages and disadvantages, Council is of the opinion that the aforementioned collectively present sound arguments to warrant consideration of the abolition of wards. The level and quality of elector representation can be maintained under the “no ward” structure; the community gets to vote for all members of Council; and the community will no longer be divided by arbitrary ward boundaries which effectively are only based on the distribution of electors and the geography of the area.

5.3 Area Councillors (in addition to ward councillors)

Given that Council proposes to abolish wards, the issue of area councillors (in addition to ward councillors) is not applicable.

5.4 Ward Names

As Council is proposing to abolish wards, the issue of ward names is no longer applicable.

5.5 Number of Councillors

Of the fifty-eight submissions which addressed the issue of the composition of Council, forty-three (74.1%) favoured the retention of twelve councillors.

Council is aware that:

- the provisions of Sections 26 and 33 of the Local Government Act stipulate the need to ensure adequate and fair representation while at the same time avoiding over-representation in comparison to other councils of a similar size and type (at least in the longer term); and
- the provisions of Section 12(6) of the Local Government Act require a Council that is constituted of more than twelve members to examine the question of whether the number of elected members should be reduced; and

Table 2 provides the elector representation arrangement and elector data of a number of metropolitan councils which exhibit similar elector numbers to the Adelaide Hills Council. The data indicates that the composition and elector ratio of Council is generally consistent with the elector representation arrangements of the other cited councils; however, the Adelaide Hills Council covers a significantly greater area than the other councils.

Table 2: Elector data, representation and areas (Councils with similar elector numbers)

Council	Councillors	Electors	Ratio
Norwood Payneham St Peters (15.1 km ²)	13	25,380	1:1,952
Holdfast Bay (13.7 km ²)	12	27,680	1:2,307
Unley (14.3 km ²)	12	27,857	1:2,321
Adelaide Hills (795.1 km²)	12	29,446	1:2,454
Burnside (27.5 km ²)	12	31,945	1:2,662
Campbelltown (24.35 km ²)	10	34,977	1:3,498

Source: Electoral Commission SA (26th October 2016)

The significant difference in the composition and elector ratios of councils becomes evident when the elector representation arrangements of the Adelaide Hills Council are compared to those of the larger of the metropolitan councils (refer Table 3).

Table 3: Elector data, representation and areas (Largest metropolitan councils)

Council	Councillors	Electors	Ratio
Adelaide Hills (795.1 km²)	12	29,446	1:2,454
Mitcham (75.55 km ²)	13	48,129	1:3,702
Playford (344.9 km ²)	15	57,890	1:3,859
Port Adelaide/Enfield (97.0 km ²)	17	81,654	1:4,803
Charles Sturt (52.14 km ²)	16	82,239	1:5,140
Marion (55.5km ²)	12	63,622	1:5,302
Salisbury (158.1 km ²)	16	92,386	1:5,774
Onkaparinga (518.4 km ²)	20	121,040	1:6,052
Tea Tree Gully (95.2 km ²)	12	72,850	1:6,071

Source: Electoral Commission SA (26th October 2016)

When determining the appropriate number of councillors to provide fair and adequate representation, Council was mindful that:

- sufficient elected members must be available to manage the affairs of Council;
- the elected member's workloads should not become excessive;
- there is an appropriate level of elector representation;
- a diversity in member's skill sets, experience, expertise, opinions and backgrounds is maintained to ensure robust discussion amongst the elected members; and
- adequate lines of communication must exist between a growing community and Council.

Council is aware that a reduction in the number of elected members will result in some cost savings to Council (e.g. elected member's allowances alone are \$15,900 per annum per councillor) with any resulting savings being available for redirection to community projects and/or programs; and may serve to expedite the decision making process in Council. Further, it is acknowledged that enhanced communication and information technology also serves to reduce many difficulties previously experienced by elected members in respect to their day to day tasks and communication with both Council and the community. On the downside, whilst email communications can make the elected members more accessible to the community, they can increase the workloads of the elected members.

On the other hand, Council is mindful that:

- the Adelaide Hills Council covers a larger (approximately 795.1 km²), more diverse area than any of the metropolitan councils;

- there are expectations of continuing population growth in the foreseeable future across the Council area, primarily as a result of the future redevelopment of the Magill reform school/training centre site at Woodforde for residential purposes, approved land divisions at Mount Torrens and Birdwood, enhanced residential development/redevelopment opportunities within the major townships of Lobethal, Oakbank, Woodside, Birdwood and Balhannah, and land division opportunities for smaller sized allotments (under specific circumstances) within the Country Living Zones in Stirling, Aldgate and Bridgewater;
- the variety in the economy, land use and social demographics requires more attention from elected members and a broader skill set than other less diverse councils;
- the extent and timing of any of this future residential development (and resultant increase in elector numbers) is difficult to determine at this time; and
- the anticipated increase in the future population will likely result in greater elector numbers, higher elector ratios and potentially greater workloads for the elected members.

Council believes that it is important to maintain the quality and level of representation that has long been experienced and expected by the local community. As such, a reduction in the number of councillors at this time would be untenable, given that it will likely result in excessive workloads for the councillors which, in turn, may impact upon the quality of representation provided.

Given the aforementioned, Council has formed the opinion that a change in the number of councillors is not warranted at this time.

6. Legislative Requirements

The provisions of Sections 26(1)(c) and 33(1) of the Local Government Act 1999 require Council take into account, as far as practicable, the following when developing a proposal that relates to its composition and structure.

6.1 Quota

Given that Council proposes to abolish wards, the provisions of Section 33(2) of the Local Government Act 1999 which relate to ward quota tolerance limits do not apply.

6.2 Communities of Interest and Population

The Act speaks of the desirability of reflecting communities of interest of an economic, social, regional or other kind.

"Communities of interest" have previously been defined as "aspects of the physical, economic and social systems which are central to the interactions of communities in their living environment", and are generally identified by considering factors relevant thereto, including neighbourhood communities; history and heritage communities; sporting facilities; community support services; recreation and leisure communities; retail and shopping centres; work communities; industrial and economic development clusters; and environmental and geographic interests.

Council considers that there are numerous communities of interest within the Council area, including but not limited to the fifty-five long-established township, settlement and district communities. The current distribution pattern of electors throughout the Council area, and in particular the concentration of elector numbers within the major townships, makes it particularly difficult to divide the Council area into wards on a rational and equitable basis without dissecting some of these existing communities.

The adoption of the "no wards" structure avoids the need for the lines of division within the Council area, thereby avoiding potential impact upon, and the division of, existing communities of interest, and reinforcing the community spirit, aspects and focus of the Council area.

6.3 Topography

The Council area is 795.1 km² in area; extends from Mount Bold Reservoir in the south to the South Para Reservoir in the north and from the Hills Face escarpment in the west to the eastern escarpment of the Mount Lofty Ranges; and primarily comprises rural landscape, undulating hills' farming land uses and fifty-five township, settlement and/or district communities. Council acknowledges that the topography and travel distances can at times have some effect upon the elected member's ability to attend to the requirements and/or demands of the community, and has consequently given due consideration to the impacts of the topography during the review process.

Council's proposal to abolish wards avoids the need to identify appropriate ward boundaries which not only should serve to delineate an equitable distribution of elector numbers but also take into account the general topography and the physical features within the Council area. In addition, all of area councillors will be responsible for issues and matters on a council-wide basis and, as such, the community will have a choice of thirteen elected members (including the mayor) rather than feel obliged to contact relevant ward councillors (under a ward structure).

6.4 Feasibility of Communication

Council believes that the retention of the existing level of representation will continue to provide adequate and proven lines of communication between the elected members of Council and the community, taking into account the anticipated future growth in elector numbers.

6.5 Demographic Trends

Council is aware that there is the potential for an increase in elector numbers throughout the Council area in the foreseeable future, primarily as a consequence of new and/or on-going residential development. However, the extent and timing of such is difficult to determine with any certainty.

During the process of identifying its preferred future composition and structure, Council took into account the following information.

- The future redevelopment of the Magill reform school/training centre site at Woodforde for residential purposes could realise an additional 280 - 300 dwellings.
- An approved land division at Mount Torrens will create an additional 40 residential allotments.
- An approved land division at Birdwood will also create up to 40 additional residential allotments.
- Council's Township and Urban Areas Development Plan Amendment will afford more residential development opportunities (through the introduction of smaller allotments) within the major townships of Lobethal, Oakbank, Woodside, Birdwood and Balhannah; as well as allow land division opportunities for smaller sized allotments (under specific circumstances) within the Country Living Zones (Stirling, Aldgate and Bridgewater).
- Population projections provided by the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI), as at February 2016, indicate that the population of the Adelaide Hills Council is expected to increase by 748 (i.e. 40,436 to 41,184) or 1.85% during the period 2016 - 2021; and increase by a further 817 (i.e. 41,184 to 42,001) or 1.98% during the period 2021 - 2026.
- Enrolments on the House of Assembly Roll within the Adelaide Hills Council increased by 1,533 (5.78%) during the period February 2001 to February 2008; increased by a further 600 (2.14%) during the period February 2008 to February 2011; and increased by one elector during the February 2011 to February 2016.
- Australian Bureau of Statistics (Adelaide Hills (DC) Local Government Area), indicated that the estimated total population of the Council area increased by 1,229 (3.36%) over the period 2001 - 2006, and then increased by a further 770 (2.03%) during the period 2006 - 2011.

6.6 Adequate and Fair Representation

For the reasons espoused earlier, Council is confident that its proposed future composition will continue to provide an adequate number of elected members to manage the affairs of Council; provide an appropriate level of elector representation; maintain an appropriate diversity in the skill set, experience and expertise of the elected members; and present adequate lines of communication between the community and Council.

6.7 Section 26, Local Government Act 1999

Section 26(1) of the Act requires that a number of broader Principles also be taken into account during the review process. These are similar in nature to those presented under Section 33, and include:

- the desirability of avoiding significant divisions within the community;
- proposed changes should, wherever practicable, benefit ratepayers;
- a Council having a sufficient resource base to fulfil its functions fairly, effectively and efficiently;
- a Council should reflect communities of interest of an economic, recreational, social, regional or other kind, and be consistent with community structures, values, expectations and aspirations; and
- residents should receive adequate and fair representation within the local government system, while over-representation in comparison with Councils of a similar size and type should be avoided (at least in the longer term).

The structure being proposed by Council is considered to comply with the cited legislative provisions, in that it will:

- incorporate sufficient elected members to undertake the various roles and responsibilities of Council;
- avoids divisions within the community through the abolition of wards;
- have little if any detrimental impact upon the ratepayers and/or existing communities of interest;
- continue to provide adequate and fair representation to all electors; and
- compare favourably with the composition and elector ratios of other Councils (both within South Australia and interstate) which are of a similar size (in terms of elector numbers) and type.

7. Current Public Consultation

In accordance with Section 12(9) of the Local Government Act 1999, interested persons are invited to make a written submission to Council in respect to this report, and more specifically the composition and structure that Council proposes to introduce on the day of the Local Government elections in 2018. Any person who makes a written submission at this time will be afforded the opportunity to address Council or a committee thereof, either in person or by a representative, in support of their submission.

Interested members of the community are invited to make a written submission expressing their views on the proposed future Council composition and structure. Council's website (ahc.sa.gov.au) contains additional information and options for making submissions. Submissions will be accepted until 5.00pm on the 10th February 2017 and should be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, PO Box 44, Woodside 5244 or emailed to mail@ahc.sa.gov.au.

Further information regarding the elector representation review can be obtained by contacting Lachlan Miller, Executive Manager Governance and Risk, on telephone 8408 0400 or email mail@ahc.sa.gov.au.

APPENDIX M

Copy of Public Notice
"The Courier"
21st December, 2016

IN MEMORIAM

JONES, Vic
Victory



5/4/1954 - 27/12/2015
(Dad, Grandpa)

A year has gone by since you left us. We think of you and miss you every day.

I've loved, I've laughed and cried I faced it all and I stood tall; and I did it my way.

JONES, Peggy
25/1/1931 - 11/1/2015
(Nanna, Mum)

JONES, Basil
6/7/1928 - 22/6/2006
(Pappa, Dad)



You both will live on forever in our hearts.

JONES, Daryl



8/4/1960 - 13/12/1986
(Uncle, Brother)

30 years since you left us. Time passes by but the love we have for you is just as strong.

Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near. Still loved, still missed and very dear.

Love always and forever.
Carmen, Teresa, Renata, Chris, Steve, Garry, Ross, Heidi, Rosemary, Matthew, Rick, Asher, Hope and families.



The Stirling Players Inc.

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday January 25
7.15 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.

The Stirling Community Theatre,
Avenue Road, Stirling
stirlingplayerssecretary@gmail.com

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**Form 1
LIQUOR LICENSING ACT 1997
GAMING MACHINES ACT 1992
NOTICE OF APPLICATION**

The Electric Pencil Sharpener Company Pty Ltd has applied to the Licensing Authority for a Transfer of the Hotel and Gaming Licence in respect of the premises situated at 95 Main Street, Lobethal SA 5241 and known as the Rising Sun Hotel.

The application has been set down for hearing on 25/01/2017. Any person may object to the application by lodging a Notice of Objection in the prescribed form with the Liquor and Gambling Commissioner, (and serving a copy of the notice on the applicant) at least 7 days before the hearing date (viz 18/01/2017).

The applicant's address for service is:
C/- Foreman Legal, 69 Mount Barker Road, Stirling SA 5152.

The application and certain documents and material (including plans) relevant to the application may be inspected without fee at the Customer Service Centre, 91 Greenfell Street, Adelaide SA 5000 during a period specified by the Liquor and Gambling Commissioner. Phone: 8226-8655, Fax: 8226-8512. Email: applications@agd.sa.gov.au

Dated: 10/12/2017

Applicant: The Electric Pencil Sharpener Company Pty Ltd

BIRNIE SANDERS HOTEL BROKERS

3 Wood Grove, Hazlewood Park SA 5066
Phone: 8338-7381
Attention: Mary Birnie

This Notice is advertised by:

FOREMAN LEGAL

69 Mount Barker Road, Stirling SA 5152
Solicitors for the Applicant
Phone: 8370-8500
Attention: Philip Foreman

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Monday, January 30, 6.30 - 7.30pm
Sessions run by a personal trainer

JUNIOR SKILLS CLINIC COMMENCES

Under 9's, Under 11's and Under 13's
Monday, January 30, 4.45pm - 5.45pm
At the courts between the Great Eastern Hotel and On The Run - All Welcome

PLAYER REGISTRATIONS

For all grades to be held on
Sunday, February 5, 11am - 1pm
At Sportspower, Mt Barker
\$50 deposit payable upon registration

Net - Set - Go

Ages 6 - 7 and 8 - 10 years
Commencing Monday, February 6
Contact Nancy 0438 554 122

**Form 1
LIQUOR LICENSING ACT 1997
NOTICE OF APPLICATION**

Lola Maria Molina-Heredia has applied to the Licensing Authority for a Restaurant Licence in respect of the premises situated at 37 Gawler Street Mount Barker 5251 and to be known as Toro Espanol.

The application has been set down for hearing on 18/01/2017. Any person may object to the application by lodging a Notice of Objection in the prescribed form with the Liquor and Gambling Commissioner, (and serving a copy of the notice on the applicant) at least 7 days before the hearing date (viz 11/01/2017).

The applicant's address for service is:
C/- Lola Maria Molina-Heredia, PO Box 252, Macclesfield 5153

The application, certain documents and material (including Plans) relevant to the application may be inspected without fee during a period specified by the Liquor and Gambling Commissioner, Customer Service Centre, 91 Greenfell Street, Adelaide SA 5000. Phone: 8226-8655, Fax: 8226-8512. Email: applications@agd.sa.gov.au

Dated: 5/12/2016

Applicant: Lola Maria Molina-Heredia

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Review of Elector Representation

NOTICE is hereby given that the Adelaide Hills Council has undertaken a review to determine whether alterations are required in respect to elector representation, including ward boundaries and the composition of Council.

As an outcome of this review Council proposes that:

1. The principal member of Council continues to be a mayor, elected by the community.
2. The Council area not be divided into wards (i.e. wards be abolished).
3. The future elected body of Council comprise twelve (12) area Councillors who will be elected by the community at council-wide elections to represent the whole of the Council area.

A copy of the Representation Review Report, which details the review process, the public consultation undertaken, and the proposal Council considers is available on ahc.sa.gov.au, at the Council offices at 26 Onkaparinga Valley Road, Woodside, 63 Mount Barker Road, Stirling and 45 Albert Street, Gumeracha, at the Summit Community Centre, 1 The Crescent Drive, Norton Summit, and at the Mobile Library.

Written submissions are invited from interested persons and should be directed to the Chief Executive Officer at PO Box 44, Woodside 5244, or mail@ahc.sa.gov.au, by close of business on Friday 10 February 2017.

Any person(s) making a written submission will be given the opportunity to appear before a Special Council meeting on 21 February 2017 to be heard in support of their submission.

A. Aitken
Chief Executive Officer

2017 COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

Monthly Council and Committee meetings typically commence at 6.30pm. For meeting agendas and minutes see ahc.sa.gov.au.

Council's Development Assessment Panel: First Tuesday (Woodside or Stirling)

Strategic Planning and Development Policy Committee: Second Tuesday (Woodside)

Council: Fourth Tuesday (Stirling)

Designated Informal Gathering (workshop): First Wednesday (Stirling)

Audit Committee meetings typically commence at 6:00pm on Mondays in Stirling.

- 6 February
- 8 May
- 14 August
- 9 October
- 6 November (Woodside)

All Council and Committee meetings, as well as Designated Informal Gatherings, are open to the public.

Venues:
63 Mt Barker Road, Stirling
36 Naime Road, Woodside

For more information contact Lachlan Miller,
Executive Manager Governance and Risk
8408-0400 or mail@ahc.sa.gov.au
ahc.sa.gov.au



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APPENDIX N

Copy of Public Notice
"The Adelaide Hills Weekender Herald"
and SA Government Gazette
22nd December, 2016

Stirling 'eyesore' flattened



The first stage of the redevelopment of Stirling's old Shell petrol station is underway, with the structure now entirely demolished. Developer Frank Agostino plans to build an Agostino Always AM/PM service station at the site on Merrion Terrace. However final plans for its redevelopment are still pending full approval from the Adelaide Hills Council. The council said they had received a number of enquiries about the redevelopment of the site and complaints about its appearance while undeveloped.

by Lucy Robinson
Environmental remediation works are underway at Nairne's Emerald Quarry as the Mount Barker District Council uses a \$60,000 funding agreement with the state government to revegetate the site.
Earlier this year the council scrapped its plans to develop the 12 hectare site into a tourist attraction with walking trails and lookouts, stating that the site's unstable rock faces made it too dangerous to open to the public.
Instead the council will

undertake a three-year seeding and weed control program on about three hectares of degraded land within the site.
Seed collection and plant propagation is currently underway, with weed control set to commence in mid-autumn 2017 and revegetation in early winter.
The quarry is located on Summit Road, Nairne adjacent to the freeway and was used to produce materials used in the construction of the freeway in 1973.
While it is owned by council, it has been under the care of

the Department for Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) since the 1970s.
The remediation project will be fully funded by the state government's Extractive Areas Rehabilitation Fund but total costs will be unknown until a successful tenderer is selected for the revegetation works.
Council said opening part of the site to the public could eventually be a "possibility" if the DPTI can address safety issues associated with the quarry's exposed rock faces.

\$60,000 to beautify quarry

Five storeys available but no rush of applications

by Lucy Robinson
The maximum building height in Mount Barker's town centre will move from four storeys to five now the council's zoning overhaul has been approved by the state government.
The Regional Towns Centre Development Planning Amendment (DPA), which was endorsed by the Mount Barker District Council in March, will create a mixed use zone that allows five-storey buildings to be built in parts of the town centre, including on the site of the current bus terminal by the railway line.
The council's General Manager of Planning and Development Greg Walker said the increase reflected a growing need for additional "foot space" and housing options within Mount Barker.
"Given the constraints that exist, the centre must grow up, not out," he said.
"The policy changes are less about meeting a short-term demand but are more about establishing policy that supports the growth of the city centre over the next 20 plus years."
Three-storey residential buildings have also been approved for Cameron Road

near Mountain Pool but must appear two-storeys when viewed from the road by using the sloping land to conceal the third storey.
Gawler Street will retain a two-storey limit, which Greg said was to protect its heritage.
He said it would be important for the council to work with developers to ensure their designs balanced new developments with Mount Barker's old country-town character.
"Mount Barker will become a city that blends the old with new," Greg said.
"The character of the city centre will evolve as new developments and architects blend with the existing."
The final step of the process to pass the DPA is gaining approval from the Environment, Resources and Development (ERD) Committee.
While Greg said the committee could still "technically" make changes to the plans, he said the council's experience had found it was rarely, if ever, done.
Applications for five-storey developments have been able to be considered from December 8.

Applications for five-storey developments have been able to be considered since December 8

Glebe added to Community Land Register

by Lucy Robinson
The Mount Barker District Council says residents can expect to see "very basic" facilities at the land between Nairne and Littlehampton known as 'The Glebe' in the next year.
Elected members voted earlier this month to add the land to the Community Land Register, meaning it cannot be sold and

will be retained for community use. The council had previously been considering selling a portion of the land to be developed as a school or aged care facility but encountered significant opposition from the community.
It will now be kept as an open space for community use.
General Manager Infrastructure & Projects for the council Brian Clancy said the council would reallocate \$50,000 from their 2016-17 capital budget to install facilities such as benches and improve site access.
"A management plan for use as open space will be developed and community consultation on a draft of that plan will occur," Brian said.

Correction
The Mount Barker District Council did not approve the application to demolish the local heritage listed cottage on Hock Street, Mount Barker as stated in last week's paper (Weekender Herald, December 15).

DORIN'S VIEW



The Adelaide Hills Weekender Herald
Managing Editor/Publisher: Peera Straker
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PUBLIC CONSULTATION Review of Elector Representation

NOTICE is hereby given that the Adelaide Hills Council has undertaken a review to determine whether alterations are required in respect to elector representation, including ward boundaries and the composition of Council.
As an outcome of this review Council proposes that:
1. The principal member of Council continues to be a mayor, elected by the community.
2. The Council area not be divided into wards (i.e. wards be abolished).
3. The future elected body of Council comprise twelve (12) area Councillors who will be elected by the community at council-wide elections to represent the whole of the Council area.
A copy of the Representation Review Report, which details the review process, the public consultation undertaken, and the proposal Council considers is available on ahc.sa.gov.au, at the Council offices at 26 Disaparinga Valley Road, Woodside, 63 Mount Barker Road, Stirling and 45 Albert Street, Gumeracha, at the Summit Community Centre, 1 The Crescent Drive, Norton Summit, and at the Mobile Library.
Written submissions are invited from interested persons and should be directed to the Chief Executive Officer at PO Box 44, Woodside 5244, or mail@ahc.sa.gov.au, by close of business on Friday 10 February 2017.
Any person(s) making a written submission will be given the opportunity to appear before a Special Council meeting on 21 February 2017 to be heard in support of their submission.
A. Aitken
Chief Executive Officer

For more information contact Lachlan Miller, Executive Manager Governance and Risk (08) 8408 0400 or mail@ahc.sa.gov.au
ahc.sa.gov.au
Adelaide Hills Council logo

	\$
Permits and Penalties By-law	187.00
Moveable Signs By-law	187.00
Roads By-law	187.00
Local Government Land By-law— (excluding Clause 9.10.2)	187.00
(Clause 9.10.2 only)	50.00
Dogs By-law	187.00
Cats By-law	187.00
Foreshore By-law— (excluding Clause 7.5.1)	187.00
(Clause 7.5.1 a and b)	50.00

That Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer (or delegate), under Part 2 of By-law 1—Permits and Penalties, to grant permission to a person who seeks permission to undertake an activity under Council by-laws that is otherwise prohibited under a Council by-law, and that the authorisations be recorded in Council's Delegations Register.

That Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer (or delegate), under Part 2 of By-law 1—Permits and Penalties the authority to attach such conditions as may be necessary to a grant of permission, to vary or revoke such conditions or impose new conditions by notice in writing to the person granted permission, or to suspend or revoke a grant of permission at any time by notice in writing to the person granted permission.

That the authorization to implement Council by-laws, as resolved, shall take effect on the commencement of the by-laws on 1 January 2017.

G. MAXWELL, Chief Executive Officer

ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Review of Elector Representation

NOTICE is hereby given that the Council has undertaken a review to determine whether alterations are required in respect to elector representation, including ward boundaries and the composition of Council.

As an outcome of this review Council proposes the following:

- (1) The principal member of Council continues to be a Mayor, elected by the community.
- (2) The Council area not be divided into wards (i.e. wards be abolished).
- (3) The future elected body of Council comprise 12 area Councillors who will be elected by the community at council-wide elections to represent the whole of the Council area.

A copy of the Representation Review Report, which details the review process, the public consultation undertaken, and the proposal Council considers is available on www.ahc.sa.gov.au at the Council offices, 26 Onkaparinga Valley Road, Woodside, 63 Mount Barker Road, Stirling and 45 Albert Street, Guneracha, at the Summit Community Centre, 1 The Crescent Drive, Norton Summit, and at the Mobile Library.

Written submissions are invited from interested persons and should be directed to the Chief Executive Officer, P.O. Box 44, Woodside, S.A. 5244, or mail@ahc.sa.gov.au by close of business on Friday, 10 February 2017.

Any person(s) making a written submission will be given the opportunity to appear before a Special Council meeting on 21 February 2017, to be heard in support of their submission.

Information regarding the elector representation review can be obtained by contacting Lachlan Miller, Executive Manager Governance and Risk, on (08) 8408 0400 or mail@ahc.sa.gov.au.

A. AITKEN, Chief Executive Officer

DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CEDUNA

Review of Elector Representation

PURSUANT to the provisions of Section 12 (7) of the Local Government Act 1999, the District Council of Ceduna is undertaking a review to determine whether alterations are required in respect to its elector representation, including the composition of the Council and ward boundaries.

The Council currently comprises a Mayor and eight Elected Members, with wards within the District. The Representation Review will explore whether the Council should retain this structure and the current number of Elected Members, have a lesser number of Elected Members, or re-implement a ward structure.

Representation Options Paper

The Council has prepared a Representation Options Paper that examines the various options available in regards to the composition and structure of the Council and the division of the Council area into wards.

Copies of the Representation Options Paper can be obtained from:

District Council of Ceduna Administration Office
44 O'Loughlin Terrace, Ceduna.

Council website at www.ceduna.sa.gov.au.

Written Submissions

Written submissions are invited from interested persons and must be addressed to:

Elector Representation Review,
District Council of Ceduna.

Via mail to: P.O. Box 175, Ceduna, S.A. 5690.

Via email to: council@ceduna.sa.gov.au.

In person at:

District Council of Ceduna Administration Office,
44 O'Loughlin Terrace, Ceduna.

All submissions must be received by no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, 10 February 2017.

Further Information

Further information regarding the Representation Review can be obtained by contacting Ben Taylor, Manager Administration and Finance, on (08) 8625 3407 or email btaylor@ceduna.sa.gov.au.

G. M. MOFFATT, Chief Executive Officer

DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CEDUNA

Resignation of Councillor

NOTICE is hereby given in accordance with Section 54 (6) of the Local Government Act 1999, that a vacancy has occurred in the office of Area Councillor due to the resignation of Councillor Marlene Shipard, to take effect from 26 December 2016.

G. M. MOFFATT, Chief Executive Officer

DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CLEVE

Change of Meeting Date

NOTICE is hereby given that the normal January Council Meeting will now be held on Tuesday, 17 January 2017, commencing at 2 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Main Street, Cleve in lieu of Tuesday, 10 January 2017.

P. J. ARNOLD, Chief Executive Officer

LIGHT REGIONAL COUNCIL

Declaration of a Separate Rate—Water Re-use Scheme

NOTICE is hereby given that at its 13 December 2016 meeting, Council in exercise of its powers contained within Chapter 10 of the Local Government Act 1999, for the financial year ending 30 June 2017, resolved to declare a separate rate, pursuant to Section 154 of the Act of \$1 050 000 to be levied as a fixed charge against Rateable Assessment Number 6512, Valuer-General's Assessment Number 3120415503.

In declaring the separate rate Council has formed the opinion that the making available of a Water Re-use Scheme will be of particular benefit to the land, the occupiers of the land and visitors to that part of the Council's area and provides an opportunity for a range of improvements to the land and activities on the land currently not available.

B. CARR, Chief Executive Officer

APPENDIX O

Copy of Submissions & Petitions
Second Round of Public Consultation
(Refer electronic file provided)

APPENDIX P

Agenda Item & Minutes
21 February, 2016

**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday 21 February 2017
AGENDA BUSINESS ITEM**

Item: 4.1

Originating Officer: Lachlan Miller, Executive Manager Governance & Risk

Responsible Director: Terry Crackett, Director Corporate Services

Subject: Elector Representation Review – Representation Review Report Consultation

For: Decision

SUMMARY

An Elector Representation Review is held to examine fundamental aspects of a Council's composition and ward structure. It is a formal process that is closely regulated under the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Act) and is required to be conducted at least every eight years.

At its 13 December 2016 meeting, Council resolved to approve the Representation Review Report (an Appendix to that agenda item 14.2) for public consultation for the period 21 December 2016 to 10 February 2017. The Representation Review Report contained Council's 'proposal' on the representation arrangements that it favours and desires to be put in place at the next Local Government election in November 2018, this being an elected Mayor, 12 councillors and no wards.

The consultation period has now concluded and the next stage of the Representation Review process is for Council to provide the opportunity for persons who have made written submissions, or their representatives, to be heard in relation to the submissions in accordance with Section 12(10) of the Act.

As part of the 13 December 2016 resolution, Council determined to conduct a Special Council meeting on Tuesday 21 February 2017 as the aforementioned opportunity.

RECOMMENDATION

Council resolves:

- 1. That the report be received and noted.**
 - 2. To determine the meeting process that will be put in place to hear the submissions from the Representation Review Report consultation.**
-

1. GOVERNANCE

➤ Strategic Management Plan/Council Policy

Goal Organisational Sustainability
Strategy Governance

The representation arrangements for the elected Council are an important element of Council's commitment to open and transparent decision making which facilitates public accountability.

➤ Legal Implications

Legislative requirements regarding an Elector Representation Review are laid out in Division 2 *Powers of councils and representation reviews*, section 12 of the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Act) and the *Local Government (General) Regulations 1999*.

The Act and the *Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013* (the Regulations) set out the procedural requirements of Council meetings and are supplemented, where permitted, by Council's Code of Practice for Council and SPDPC Meeting Procedures.

➤ Risk Management Implications

Undertaking the Elector Representation Review in accordance with the requirements of legislation and engaging in genuine consultation will assist in mitigating the risk of:

Poor governance practices occur which lead to a loss of stakeholder (i.e. customer and regulator) confidence and/or legislative breaches.

Inherent Risk	Residual Risk	Target Risk
Extreme (5C)	Medium (3D)	Medium (3D)

Note that there are many other controls that assist in mitigating this risk.

➤ Financial and Resource Implications

Funding for the engagement of the consultant and other review costs are included in the current budget.

➤ Customer Service and Community/Cultural Implications

Through the Elector Representation Review process Council will consider whether the Adelaide Hills community may benefit from an alteration to its composition and or ward structure.

➤ Environmental Implications

There are no direct environmental implications considered as part of the Elector Representation Review.

➤ **Engagement/Consultation with Committee, Regional Subsidiary, Advisory Group and Community**

The provision of information to the community and community consultation are key components of an Elector Representation Review. Two distinct public consultation phases are legislated, with a minimum of one six (6) week period which allows interested persons to make written submissions to Council on the Representation Options Paper and, the current matter, a minimum three (3) week consultation period enabling interested persons to make written submissions on the Representation Review Report

The Representation Options Paper consultation occurred from 1 September to 14 October 2016 inclusive (i.e. >6 weeks) and the Representation Review Report consultation from 21 December 2016 to 10 February 2017 inclusive (i.e. >7 weeks).

2. **BACKGROUND**

Representation Review Commencement

Section 12(4) of the Act requires each council to undertake a review of all aspects of its composition and the division of the council area into wards or the abolition of wards, as prescribed by the Minister from time to time by a notice published in the Government Gazette.

At its Ordinary meeting on 26 April 2016, Council formally resolved to commence an Elector Representation review:

Initiation of Elector Representation Review

Moved Cr John Kemp
S/- Cr Linda Green

81

Council resolves:

1. That the report be received and noted
2. The Elector Representation Review process be commenced in accordance with section 12 of the *Local Government Act 1999*
3. The Elector Representation Review: Draft Key Milestones document (Item No. 14.9, Council 26/04/2016, Appendix 2) be noted, recognising that the document is subject to change.

Carried Unanimously

Representation Options Paper

The first key stage of the Representation Review process was the development of an Options Paper which examined the advantages and disadvantages of the various options that are available to Council in respect to its future composition and structure. It contained information pertaining to the review process; elector distribution and ratios; comparisons with other councils; demographic trends; population projections; residential development opportunities which may impact upon future elector numbers; and alternative ward structure options.

In May 2016, in the course of preparing the Options Paper, the then current House of Assembly Roll and Council Roll figures were used to analyse the number of electors per ward, the resultant ratio and therefore variance from the average. This analysis confirmed that the elector ratios for three wards were either out of (Mount Lofty +11.8%), or close to being out of (Marble Hill -8.9%, Onkaparinga Valley -8.3%), the permitted tolerances (+/- 10%) prescribed under Section 33(2) of the Act. The implication of this situation is that the current representation arrangements could not be retained and that a change was required.

Council received a draft Options Paper at its 23 August 2016 Ordinary Council meeting and resolved as follows:

14.10 Elector Representation Review

Moved Cr Nathan Daniell 167
S/- Cr Kirilee Boyd

Council resolves:

1. That the report be received and noted
2. That the Representation Options Paper as attached to this report in Appendix 1 be approved for use in the first consultation phase commencing 1 September 2016 until 14 October 2016, subject to required editorial changes
3. That editorial changes to the document in Appendix 3 of this report can be approved by the CEO
4. That the consultation activities described in Appendix 3 of this report be endorsed.

Carried Unanimously

Representation Options Paper Consultation Results

At the expiration of the public consultation period, Council had received 61 submissions (out of approximately 29,500 electors). The key themes from the consultation were:

- forty-six or 79.3% of the submissions favoured the retention of a mayor (elected by the community);
- there was overwhelming support (i.e. fifty-nine submissions or 96.7%) for the retention of wards, with only two submissions supporting a change to “no wards”;
- a clear majority of submissions (i.e. forty-two submissions or 73.7%) favoured the retention of twelve councillors, whilst ten submissions (17.5%) supported a reduction to ten councillors, three submissions (5.3%) preferred a reduction to nine councillors, one submission (1.8%) favoured a reduction to eight councillors and one submission (1.8%) supported a reduction to seven councillors; and
- a clear majority of submissions (i.e. forty-three submissions or 76.8%) favoured the retention of five wards, whilst six submissions (10.7%) supported three wards, five submissions (8.9%) favoured four wards, one submission (1.8%) favoured three or five wards and one (1.8%) favoured two wards. In respect to the issue of ward names, it is noted that there was strong support for the retention of the current names, followed by geographical or locality names.

A full report of the first public consultation (the Submissions Report) was provided to Council at its 22 November 2016 meeting.

Elector Ratios

Following the Options Paper Consultation, the House of Assembly and Council Roll numbers were updated with the latest enrolment data from the Electoral Commission SA.

Interestingly, the electors number per ward had changed, anecdotally attributed to roll clean-up from the Federal Election and as of September 2016 the Mount Lofty (+9.4%) was no longer out of tolerance but like the Marble Hill (-8.5%) and Onkaparinga Valley (-7.3%) wards, it remained close to the tolerance limits. The implication of this adjustment is that Council is not required to make changes to its representation arrangements.

Given the slim margins however, Council's Elector Representation Review Consultant advised that it is prudent to consider changes to 'future-proof' the ratios for the medium term and to lessen the potential for the Electoral Commissioner to refuse to certify the final Review Report and refer the matter back to Council under s12(13)(b) of the Act.

Representation Review Proposal

At its 22 November 2016 meeting, Council determined its 'in-principle' proposal for its future representation arrangements as follows:

14.3.1 Elector Representation Review – Voting for an Elected Mayor or Chairperson

Moved Cr Malcolm Herrmann 236
S/- Cr John Kemp

Council resolves:

1. That the report be received and noted.
2. That a Representation Review Report be drafted for the Council's consideration at the 13 December 2016 Ordinary Council meeting with the following representation arrangement:

Presiding Member (*Elected Mayor*)

Carried Unanimously

14.3.2 Elector Representation Review – Voting for the number of Council Members

Moved Cr Kirrilee Boyd 237
S/- Cr Ron Nelson

Council resolves that a Representation Review Report be drafted for the Council's consideration at the 13 December 2016 Ordinary Council meeting with the following representation arrangement:

A total number of 12 Council Members.

Carried

14.3.3 Elector Representation Review – Voting for Wards or No Wards

Moved Cr John Kemp 238
S/- Cr Jan Loveday

Council resolves that a Representation Review Report be drafted for the Council's consideration at the 13 December 2016 Ordinary Council meeting with the following representation arrangement:

Council area not divided into wards.

Carried on the casting vote of the Mayor

DIVISION

A Division was requested by Cr Bailey

The Mayor declared the vote set aside.

In the affirmative (7)

Councillors Boyd, Vonow, Wisdom, Kemp, Daniell, Loveday, Mayor Spragg

In the negative (6)

Councillors Nelson, Bailey, Hall, Stratford, Green, Herrmann

On the basis of the results of the division, the Mayor declared the motion **CARRIED. 239**

Representation Review Report

At its 13 December 2016 meeting, Council received a draft Representation Review Report for the purposes of public consultation. The Representation Review Report contained Council's 'proposal' on the representation arrangements that it favours and desires to be put in place at the next Local Government election in November 2018, this being an elected Mayor, 12 councillors and no wards.

In consideration of the report and the consultation period, Council resolved as follows:

14.2. Elector Representation Review – Report

Moved Cr John Kemp 282
S/- Cr Lynton Vonow

Council resolves:

1. That the report be received and noted.
2. To approve the Representation Review Report at Appendix 2 for public consultation for the period 21 December 2016 – 10 February 2017 inclusive, in compliance with the provisions of Section 12(9) of the Local Government Act 1999.
3. To delegate to the Chief Executive Officer the discretion to make any non-significant grammatical and/or content changes to the Representation Review Report for consultation purposes.
4. To determine to conduct a Special Council meeting on Tuesday 21 February 2017 as the opportunity for persons who have made written submissions, or their representatives, to be heard in relation to the submissions in accordance with Section 12(10) of the Local Government Act 1999.

Carried

Public Consultation Campaign

The following public consultation campaign was undertaken in relation to the Representation Review Report:

Duration (mandatory minimum 3 weeks):

21 December 2016 – 10 February 2017 inclusive (>7 weeks)

Media:

- Government Gazette (22 December 2016)
- Courier and Weekender Herald (initial advertisements on 21 & 22 December 2016 at the commencement of the campaign and reminder advertisements 18 & 19 January 2017)
- Council website
- Council social media (Facebook, Twitter, Hills Voice, email lists)
- Roadside banners
- Material at libraries and service centres
- Public meetings (Stirling and Gumeracha on 23 & 30 January 2017)
- On-line digital engagement (including enabling electronic submissions)
- Council Members speaking with their constituents

3. ANALYSIS

Consultation Campaign Issues

Both the online and hard copy submission forms were designed with the requirement that only submissions for persons, businesses or groups eligible to vote in Adelaide Hills Council elections would be considered. This requirement was further promulgated in the reminder advertisements on 18 & 19 January 2017 and by the Project Manager at public meetings and in individual communications with interested persons.

The 'elector eligibility' requirement was raised as a concern at the Gumeracha public meeting and an undertaking made to clarify the requirements. Legal advice was obtained which indicated that the 'elector eligibility' requirement was too narrow an interpretation of the 'interested persons' eligibility contained in s7(b)(ii) of the Act.

Upon receiving the aforementioned advice the Electoral Commissioner was notified and clarification sought, both online and hard copy submission forms replaced, website content amended and Council Members advised. It is important to note that no submissions received were rejected or discarded prior to receiving the legal advice.

Commentary was received at the public meetings and in submissions that the proposal questions were confusing or designed to bias or 'trick' people into a certain response. It is acknowledged that they could be difficult to comprehend at first glance (i.e. without a context) however they were structured to elicit a response in terms of whether the person supports/does not support the Council 'proposal'. Notwithstanding that the submission forms and the website content encouraged people to read the Representation Review Report, it would appear that some respondents had not done so and therefore could not understand the context of the proposal questions.

It appears that some submission forms were pre-filled with text or otherwise altered by persons unknown before being copied and provided to other respondents. This led to some criticisms of boxes already being ticked, others not legible, and unwarranted responses. It should be noted that all online and hard copy forms available through the website or Council's libraries and service centres were clearly legible, did not have boxes ticked or have response fields pre-filled.

Attendance at the two public meetings varied considerably with less than 10 attending the Stirling meeting while approximately 60 attended the Gumeracha meeting.

Council's on-line engagement tool (Engagement HQ) was used for the provision and lodging of on-line submissions. Comments were made at the Gumeracha meeting and subsequently in telephone calls that respondents from households utilising the same email address were not able to lodge more than one submission. Where individuals who experienced this problem contacted Council, alternate arrangements were made and submissions lodged. There are some comments in the submissions that users experienced some difficulty with the tool, this feedback will be taken into consideration in the design of future engagement activities.

Representation Review Paper Consultation Results

At the expiration of the public consultation period, Council had received 419 submissions (out of approximately 29,500 electors) which equates to a response rate of approximately 1.4%.

The vast majority of submissions were made utilising the online or hard copy submission form, which although not a requirement, does significantly aid the analysis of the responses in terms of the three elements of Council's 'proposal'.

The submissions have been collated into three appendices, as follows:

- **Appendix 1** contains the submissions received in the structure of each of the three proposal questions along with the reasons for each question response and a further comments section in a table format.
- **Appendix 2** contains a number of submissions which were not in the submission form format and tended to consist of a larger block of text and they did not necessarily answer each of the proposal elements but the support or otherwise for the overall proposal is easily discernible. These responses have also been entered into a table format.
- **Appendix 3** is a submission that, due to its detailed content, has not been copied into a tabular format and is included as received (albeit with identifying information redacted).

For all submissions received, care has been taken to try and de-identify the respondent and refer to them by a Respondent Number.

In relation to the online and hard copy submissions, a number of respondents sent through a subsequent submission following their initial submission to provide additional information on their reasons why they had supported/not supported the elements of Council's 'proposal'. In these circumstances, the subsequent submissions have been incorporated into the initial submission.

Submissions have been included in the above tables as they were lodged, for this reason spelling and grammatical errors have not been corrected. Some text has been relocated from the proposal question responses to the 'Further Comments' section and referenced accordingly for formatting purposes.

Where a submission was received with more than one name on it (e.g. a husband and wife) it has been treated as only one submission.

Four petitions were received during the consultation period. These are being managed utilising Council's Petitions Policy and will be included as agenda items in the 28 February Ordinary Council meeting. For the purposes of the Representation Review Report Consultation, the petitions have been included in Appendix 2 showing the petition content and noting the number of signatories. The petitions are treated as one submission. While there appears to be some duplication of signatories across the petitions and the submissions received, this has not been analysed in detail.

While an analysis of the responses of the separate elements of the Council's proposal has not been undertaken, in terms of Council's overall proposal (being an elected Mayor, no wards and 12 area councillors), the following preliminary result is:

Support Council's 'proposal'	27 submissions (6.4% of respondents)
Do not support Council's 'proposal'	392 submissions (93.6% of respondents)

Hearing of Submissions

Section 12(10) of the Act requires Council to provide for any person who made a written submission in response, during the consultation period, an opportunity to appear personally or by representative before the council or a council committee and to be heard on those submissions.

This Special Council Meeting (and any other meetings if the Council so resolves) is the opportunity required under s12(10).

While the hearing of submissions may appear to be similar to the Deputation and Public Forum elements of an Ordinary Council meeting, it is a different exercise that is not specifically provided for under Regulation or Council's Code of Practice for Council & SPDPC Meeting Procedures. In this type of situation s86(8)(b) of the Act provides that meeting procedure will be as determined by the council.

Once Council has resolved how it will hear the submissions (i.e. format and time allocated to each speaker), Council may wish to consider a suspension of meeting procedures under Regulation 20.

Next Steps

Upon considering both the submissions received and representations made, Council will need to determine (nominally at the 28 February 2017 Ordinary meeting) their next step with the key options being:

- a) To proceed with the finalisation of a report to the Electoral Commissioner. This report sets out the details of the process including copies of submissions received and evidence of process compliance, or

- b) To determine whether an alternative ‘proposal’ is to be approved for public consultation. If so, the process will be similar to the current stage of the process with a Representation Review Report. Following this, the finalisation process as per (a) would be undertaken.

Note: Council’s timeframe for the completion of the Review is April 2017 and therefore engaging in a second consultation on the proposal arrangements will exceed this deadline. Should this be Council’s will, an extension will need to be sought from the Minister.

On receipt of a report, the Electoral Commissioner must determine whether the requirements of this section have been satisfied and then under s12(13):

- a) if of the opinion that the requirements have been satisfied—give an appropriate certificate, or
- b) if of the opinion that the requirements have not been satisfied—refer the matter back to the council together with a written explanation of the reasons for not giving a certificate under this subsection.

4. OPTIONS

The Council has the following options in relation to the report:

1. To resolve how the hearing of submissions will occur (**Recommended**). Doing so will give clarity and certainty to both Council Members and the representors wishing to speak to their submissions; or
2. To determine any additional actions or requirements in relation to next steps of the Elector Representation Review process.

5. APPENDICES

- (1) Tabulated consultation responses (received on submission forms)
- (2) Tabulated consultation responses (not received on submission forms)
- (3) Consultation response (in redacted form)

Appendix 1

*Tabulated consultation responses (received on
submission forms)*

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Ward Structure Support No Wards	Reasons	Number of Councilors Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	Further Comments
4	BROWOOD	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	Community feedback indicates that 86% favour the retention of wards and less populated parts of the council area may lose the potential of having a member elected from these areas	No	I do not think that unless a member is from a community, there will be the same empathy for all communities across the council	An organised single interest group (including a political party) could gain considerable representation on council. There is a potential for the number of invalid votes to increase because many candidates will not be known to electors. Living, as we do, at the northern edge of the council area, there is a real prospect of our interests not being represented, as they are now, if most councilors come from the most heavily populated part of the council area, which is too far away.
5	BROWOOD	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	As an agriculture business in the north of council would our needs to be considered without a councillor from our area ward	No	We need a councillor in our area that we can talk to - not email when gravel roads need attention	Malcolm Herrmann is the best councillor our area has ever had - he represents the people, writes down any information given him. We would hate to lose this connection. Surely for the amount of council rates we pay we can have our area represented.
6	BROWOOD	Yes	Nil	No	Because we want fair and equal consideration of being represented throughout the entire council district	Yes	Nil	Council needs to be more engaging and open to each ward when major decisions need to be made that effect the particular district area
7	GUMERACHA	Yes	I believe the role of Mayor is an important post	No	Absolutely Not. We need local representation especially as we are in Gumeracha and frequently get neglected.	No	No - I feel that we will not get proper representation in our area of Gumeracha	We need to keep local representatives as we are not Stirling and get loads of money and input as they do. We have our town but don't want to have our interests ignored by people not at all interested in our needs. We want to get our power lines put underground one day, what hope would have if we didn't have a local member.
8	KERSBROOK	Yes	Why have a mayor who is not wanted by ratepayers	No	We need local councillor representatives	Blank	A very vague statement as is normal coming from AHC. An illegal survey - an educated person needed to word survey accurately. I want existing system to remain.	It is time we had a return to a democracy where the people get listened to and elected councilors not only listen but act in a way where majority rules. This decision by certain councilors including the mayor to do away with wards and local representatives is unethical, immoral and probably illegal. It will be interesting to see what the media and Fed Polies do. This survey is offensive to AHC ratepayers like me.
9	BROWOOD	Yes	It excludes those who may stand having no interest in electors requirement in their area but interest that may be not necessarily council business	No	Our area will not have representation by an elected member who does not live in the area	No	Nil	Nil
10	BROWOOD	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	So the council can have a fair representation of all areas in the council boundaries based on wards not population density	Yes	To have a fairer and evenly balanced council instead of the haves and the have nots	Nil
11	BROWOOD	Blank	The Mayor is to remain as the elected official of the people of the Adelaide Hills Council wards	Blank	to be fairer to all areas of the AHC not just the affluent towns. There is enough division as there is.	Yes	Nil	The northern areas of the council see fewer services an upgrades to infrastructure than the richer towns such as Stirling and Crefters. If the elected councillor came mainly from these areas then our side of the district would have less and we would pay more.

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Ward Structure Support No Wards	Reasons	Number of Councilors Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	Further Comments
4	BROWOOD	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	Community feedback indicates that 86% favour the retention of wards and less populated parts of the council area may lose the potential of having a member elected from these areas	No	I do not think that unless a member is from a community, there will be the same empathy for all communities across the council	An organised single interest group (including a political party) could gain considerable representation on council. There is a potential for the number of invalid votes to increase because many candidates will not be known to electors. Living, as we do, at the northern edge of the council area, there is a real prospect of our interests not being represented, as they are now, if most councilors come from the most heavily populated part of the council area, which is too far away.
5	BROWOOD	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	As an agriculture business in the north of council would our needs to be considered without a councillor from our area ward	No	We need a councillor in our area that we can talk to - not email when gravel roads need attention	Malcolm Herrmann is the best councillor our area has ever had - he represents the people, writes down any information given him. We would hate to lose this connection. Surely for the amount of council rates we pay we can have our area represented.
6	BROWOOD	Yes	Nil	No	Because we want fair and equal consideration of being represented throughout the entire council district	Yes	Nil	Council needs to be more engaging and open to each ward when major decisions need to be made that effect the particular district area
7	GUMERACHA	Yes	I believe the role of Mayor is an important post	No	Absolutely Not. We need local representation especially as we are in Gumeracha and frequently get neglected.	No	No - I feel that we will not get proper representation in our area of Gumeracha	We need to keep local representatives as we are not Stirling and get loads of money and input as they do. We have our town but don't want to have our interests ignored by people not at all interested in our needs. We want to get our power lines put underground one day, what hope would have if we didn't have a local member.
8	KERSBROOK	Yes	Why have a mayor who is not wanted by ratepayers	No	We need local councillor representatives	Blank	A very vague statement as is normal coming from AHC. An illegal survey - an educated person needed to word survey accurately. I want existing system to remain.	It is time we had a return to a democracy where the people get listened to and elected councilors not only listen but act in a way where majority rules. This decision by certain councilors including the mayor to do away with wards and local representatives is unethical, immoral and probably illegal. It will be interesting to see what the media and Fed Polies do. This survey is offensive to AHC ratepayers like me.
9	BROWOOD	Yes	It excludes those who may stand having no interest in electors requirement in their area but interest that may be not necessarily council business	No	Our area will not have representation by an elected member who does not live in the area	No	Nil	Nil
10	BROWOOD	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	So the council can have a fair representation of all areas in the council boundaries based on wards not population density	Yes	To have a fairer and evenly balanced council instead of the haves and the have nots	Nil
11	BROWOOD	Blank	The Mayor is to remain as the elected official of the people of the Adelaide Hills Council wards	Blank	to be fairer to all areas of the AHC not just the affluent towns. There is enough division as there is.	Yes	Nil	The northern areas of the council see fewer services an upgrades to infrastructure than the richer towns such as Stirling and Crefters. If the elected councillor came mainly from these areas then our side of the district would have less and we would pay more.

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Ward Structure Support No Wards	Reasons	Number of Councillors Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	Further Comments
12	INGLEWOOD	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	It is at odds with the community feedback where 96% favoured the retention of wards.	No	The potential of members being elected from the more heavily populated parts of council areas	leads to the potential of an organised single interest group (including a political party) gaining considerable representation on council. Members may not have any affiliation/empathy for communities across the council especially those on the outer reaches. There is a potential for a number of invalid votes to increase because electors will have to vote for at least 12 candidates for a valid vote (assuming there are more than 12 vacancies) many of those standing will not be known to voters.
13	BIRDWOOD	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	Nil	No	Nil	Nil
14	BIRDWOOD	Yes	The key phrase is elected by the community. All councillors are representative to ratepayers not the perversors of their personal views.	No	Councillors should continue to be representative of an area - to specialise in the problems of the people they directly represent.	No	As above, I require a councillor familiar and responsible for my area needs directly	1. I am firmly opposed to the thinly disguised green politics currently present in our council councillors represent ratepayers - not political parties. 2. The recent decision by the Mayor to cast a vote directly against the majority ratepayer view as a casting vote was, despite the rubbish quoted in the Courier and attributed to him, morally wrong, smacked of both arrogance and self interest and is deplored.
15	LOBETHAL	Yes	The position of Mayor carries the notion of respect and engenders community engagement - to participate in the election (being proud of their selection)	No	The A/R as a country - suburban demographic is very diverse and the needs of the community within is served very well by local knowledge in wards.	Yes	Such a large and diverse area absolutely demands at least 12 councillors. As well as serving the wards the councillors need the skills to see the big picture.	The ability to translate the micro to the macro requires more than an affiliation with a political or philosophical group and party lines. Councillors must research, engage, think thru, encourage discuss all options that affect their immediate local. Then the councillors have to apply the local requirements and work that in to the area at large. This is a skill, unfortunately few councillors possess. Wards - the council is already politicised. No wards - the council becomes even more politicised. We need minimum engagements representation. Retain the wards. No politics.
16	MYLOR	Yes	Nil	No	The potential of members being elected from the more heavily populated part of the council area. An organised single interest group (including a political party) could gain considerable representation on council.	Yes	Nil	Nil
17	MYLOR	Yes	Nil	No	Members may not have any empathy for, or affiliation with, all communities across the council.	Yes	Nil	Nil
18	BIRDWOOD	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	I feel wards give ratepayers a better balanced representation, local elected members understand local area better.	No	Council should note feedback of community for retention of wards.	Nil
19	BIRDWOOD	Yes	Nil	No	Nil	Yes	Nil	We don't get good Council response to local problems now and it would be worse without a local representative.
20	BRIDGEWATER	Yes	I think it's important that the Mayor has support from across the community.	No	I want to be able to contact a specific Councillor. If elected by the community no-one has responsibility for a specific area.	No	No direct responsibility. I have friends who live in a council where there are no wards. Who do you contact?	I would support community wide vote if councillor numbers were halved.

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21	BIRDWOOD	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice. The only way! What are you thinking!	No	The representation from the ward system is generally very good. 5% failure 95% success.	No	The question contradicts the last one. Who wrote these?	The system is not broke. Only the paid officers will say so. I have a suggestion. If you want to improve the system, scrap councils, and let the State Government run districts. Then the paid servants will be public servants and happy. And we will get tony service. That's what politics does. Don't change it.
22	ROSTREVOR	Yes		No	If the Council area were not divided into wards, there would be a loss of local representation, and a possibility of a takeover by political parties or cartels of developers	No	There would be a loss of local representation	To get rid of wards in the council area is a terrible idea.
23	ROSTREVOR	Yes	Nil	No	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
24	BIRDWOOD	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	Councillors representing the Wards they live in understand the needs of that community and are easily approachable by the residents of their wards. A personal relationship with empathy can and should be established.	No	The council could become too party political or taken on by a group who have only one interest or policy. Also more members may be elected from the area/towns with the highest number of residents.	The system as is provides for everyone to be equally represented. Don't tamper with something that is working well.
25	GUMERACHA	Yes	Has more interest in local community events	No	It get to big and out of hand	Yes	They are local know more of the wards they are representing, electors will have to vote for someone they may not know if that were the case would not bother to vote.	Nil
26	KERSBROOK	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice. We have the choice to vote for a representative that we feel will fairly represent the community. A Mayor elected by council members does not necessarily do this - could be elected and represent a faction only.	No	I am completely happy with the current ward representation. We, the electors and residents currently have representatives that we feel represent us and consider our interests. Given that community feedback was 96% to keep wards - who is not listening to us ratepayers	No	Community consultation did not agree with this. As the current wards vary widely in geographic and demographic interests Wards allow these to be represented more equitably and at a more personal level. 12 area councillors has the potential to allow factors to dominate, particular interests and areas to be ignored or underrepresented. Council could be elected in favor of larger urban	When amalgamation took place certain conditions were put in place, largely so that no area of the council would be disadvantaged so why would anyone think it a good thing to now change our representation. The council area is wide and diverse, and is well served by the current system. There is no good and valid reason why I would want to vote for 12 candidates (most of who I would know nothing about) to best represent my interests (when I know they wouldn't). I would not be the only one who thinks this. In fact, I am myself what is the real reason to try to get this change thro? Other councils have wards, eg Tea Tree Gully, Streaty Bay.
27	KERSBROOK	No	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No		No		The proposed changes favour population centres. Retain wards.

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Ward Structure Support No. wards	Reasons	Number of Councillors Support 12 Area Councillors	Reasons	Further Comments
28	MILLBROOK	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	Members may not have empathy with our community plus single interest groups could take over	No	The potential of members being elected from the more populated areas.	Nil
29	ROSTREVOR	Blank	Nil	Blank	Nil	Blank	Nil	Nil
30	ROSTREVOR	Yes	Nil	No	Each ward should be able to elect its own representative since the interests of electors vary from one ward to another. What else does democracy mean?	No	see above	Nil
31	KERSBROOK	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	It is at odds with the community feedback where 96% favoured the retention of wards, the potential of members being elected from the more populated part of the council area, an organised single interest group, political party could gain considerable representation on council, there is the potential for the number of invalid votes to increase because electors will have to vote for at least 12 candidates for a valid vote many of whom will not be known to electors.	No	Nil	Nil
32	KERSBROOK	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	96% of population favor retention of wards.	No	The potential of members being elected from the more heavily populated parts of council areas means some areas will be at a disadvantage.	Lets keep it as it is for a well representation of the Adelaide Hills Council.
33	GUMERACHA	Yes	I feel the system is currently satisfactory.	Yes	Nil	Yes	Nil	Nil
34	BIRDWOOD	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	do not want the wards to be made as one. As I live on the outskirts of Birdwood we get little representation. As one Ward we will have no representation due to our low population. All councillors will come from the more populated areas. Therefore, they will have more interest in their own areas rather than less populated/lowered areas.	No	What is the difference between a ward councillor and a Area Councillor?	Nil

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Ward Structure Support No. wards	Reasons	Number of Councillors Support 12 Area Councillors	Reasons	Further Comments
35	INGLEWOOD	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	Nil	No	We may then not have a representative who lives locally and knows the area and its residents.	Nil
36	INGLEWOOD	Yes	Nil	No	Nil	No	We need a representative who lives locally and knows the area and its residents.	Nil
37	BIRDWOOD	Yes	Nil	No	To provide fair and even representation across the entire council area rather than the very real possibility of councillors being elected from a more heavily populated area	No	The voting community will not be familiar with representatives from other regions of the council area, a brief description in a pamphlet does not suffice.	My primary concern is that most, if not all, councillors may be elected from the heavily populated areas of the council area under a changed representation process. In such a scenario, not only would elected representatives have no familiarity of local knowledge of the vast area covered by Adelaide Hills Council, but residents within the area would, importantly, lose their familiar approachable representative when they may have any concerns.
38	PARACOMBE	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	It is important to retain the current wards to retain relevancy of specific areas	Yes	I wish to vote for a representative who has a true understanding of my region	I am happy with the current system
39	GUMERACHA	Yes	System appears satisfactory	Yes	As above	Yes	As Above	Nil
40	BIRDWOOD	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	So all communities within the whole council area are given more of an equal representation, rather than elected councillors being from the heavier populated areas.	No	The representatives will be not known to the voters if they are not from the local community.	It is important to have councillors who are familiar with the local communities and its people. It shows them to be approachable to us voters when we have concerns or issues to discuss. If the wards are abolished it would mean a higher chance for councillors being elected from the more heavier populated areas of the council and they would not be familiar with local communities leading to the possibility that these communities would not be fairly represented.
41	HUMBURG SCRUB	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice Democratic vote only - not elected by Councillors. Should be in position for a fixed maximum term of 6-8 years not in position of Mayor for life.	No	This differs from community desire. Members would only be from the population centres ignoring the periferies. This would minimise politicising elections - labor vs liberal. Members from Stirling have no line where Humberg Scrub is and would look after their own support base. This is reinforced whenever Council is contacted so even paid staff are not aware of remote parts of council.	No	Invalid voting risk - this option would only suit potential councillors from high population areas.	I believe with the geographical separation between Humberg Scrub and Adelaide Hills Council this area would be better served by Playford Council. This is much closer Council and forms part of continuous development/urban housing from Elizabeth to Humberg Scrub. Stirling is far too remote from this area. As Bazaar Road is totally within Playford Council (from fence Council boundary) it is difficult to get any assistance for road problems.
42	HUMBURG SCRUB	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	Nil	No	Nil	Nil

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Ward Structure Support No Wards	Reasons	Number of Councillors Support 12 Area Councillors	Reasons	Further Comments
43	HUMBUG SCRUB	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	Nil	No	Nil	Nil
44	HUMBUG SCRUB	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	Nil	No	Nil	Nil
45	HUMBUG SCRUB	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	Nil	No	Nil	Nil
46	PARACOMBE	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	Paracombe already gets less than its share of attention compare to the large townships and would get less if we didn't retain wards	No	Nil	Reasons for retaining Wards + It is at odds with the community feedback where 96% favoured the retention of wards. + The potential of members being elected from the more heavily populated part of the council area. + An organised single interest group (including a political party) could gain considerable representation on council. + Members may not have any empathy for, or affiliation with, all communities across the council. + There is the potential for the number of invalid votes to increase because electors will have to vote for at least 12 candidates for a valid vote (assuming there are more than 12 vacancies) many of whom will not be known to electors. CJ Malcolm Herrmann 042890243
47	LOWER HERMITAGE	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	We want to retain a member familiar with our area and interests. We already voiced our desire in the past. Why do we have to do this again?	No	No way. The 12 members could possibly gain representation for a more heavily populated area and have interests that do not represent the less populated leaving them unrepresented.	We want to know who our elected member is, not some one unknown among 12 others.
48	INGLEWOOD	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy choice	No	Nil	No	Nil	Nil
49	BIRDWOOD	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy choice	No	Most people support current wards	No	Nil	Nil
50	GUMERACHA	Yes	It is the peoples choice	No	Small populations & communities don't get a choice	No	Local government must be local to the people, you know who you vote for	live in the Adelaide Hills Council and I know my local Councillors I can ring them up and speak to them - present Councillors know how to look after their local towns and people

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51	GUMERACHA	Yes	Nil	No	Somebody from your locality understands local issues	No	The change will allow political and interest based groups to stand	This paper contains questions designed to steer the unsuspecting to answer in favour of the change. Bold print for certain replies. No box beside the 'no' response to question 2 and a negative question. Biased and wrong
52	KENTON	Yes	Nil	No	Local representation is vital for smaller communities to be representatives accountable to that ward	No	The more politically aware districts will dominate Council and lead to small communities needs being ignored.	Nil
53	GUMERACHA	Yes	Nil	No	I want to be able to vote for people I know	No	Nil	Nil
54	GUMERACHA	Yes	Direct popular election based on personal recognition responsibility expectations and trust. It gives a unity to the zones and districts of Council.	No	A very unfair expression & terminology to the extent of insult bias. Wards provide the LOCAL of LOCAL government. Candidates & Elected reps being known & recognised, and who know the district ward they represent	No	Words to achieve the same result of the of the former question, this is a form of obsequy reprehensible. People of distant area called upon to vote for candidates who are unseen, unknown and do not know the specific areas of council away from their home district.	Local government is most successful when linked to local districts and people, wards the Alternative - 12 people a group of 'they' and 'them' away from local access, and accountability. This also opens the door to political party intrusion & rivalry. The 12 have no local responsibility in terms of local areas - just to votes of group supporters. In terms of population differences it embeds the tyranny of the majority - If Stirling, Bridgewater, Aldgate were in the Mount Barker Council - I'd bet they would want to have wards.
55	WOODSIDE	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy choice	No	The current system mean people in the local area, who live locally represent their area. Adelaide Hills Council areas is diverse, Stirling is very different to Orla Valley	No	Once again, The AHC is very different in areas, the current ward systems works, why change?	It seems strange to change, from a ward system that works! The rural areas have very different issues to a Stirling, Aldgate, which is more like a suburb of Adelaide. Our ward Councillors, do a good job in representing the local region. They have an intimate knowledge of the area, that is ricked with the suggested change.
56	ROSTREVOR	Yes	We have been very pleased with Bill Spragg as our elected Mayor	No	We believe ward representation gives us better access to Council support and voice	No	As Above	Nil
57	ROSTREVOR	Yes	I believe the Mayors presence to be key to Local Council presence	No	Wards give me a face to speak with for our part of the Council region	No	Nil	Nil
58	CROMER	Yes	Elected by the community - ownership at elections	Yes	I believe the current systems of wards provides a more equal distribution of interests	Yes	Nil	Nil
59	BRIDGEWATER	Yes	Nil	No	Nil	No	Nil	Nil
60	PARACOMBE	Yes	It is a model that has worked well in the past. Can't see any reason for a change	No	I believe that individual wards provide local & specific elected representation. Local representatives elected by local people	No	I am concerned that a disproportionate concentration of representation would occur where the density of population exists in the Council large towns in the south	If the Council adopted a no wards form of representation it would not provide an equal proportion of elected members. It would open the opportunity for a body or party to politically stack Council elections where there is a density. Of population eg Stirling, Aldgate & Bridgewater area it has always been a political (non political)

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council		Ward Structure		Number of Councillors		Further Comments
		Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Support No Wards	Reasons	Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	
61	HOUGHTON	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy choice * there is a bias in how this is written	No	Keep Wards. So that localities & small communities can be represented on council	Yes	Nil	A local person in each ward should be better at understanding the needs and issues of each location/community
62	BIRDWOOD	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy choice	No	Nil	No	Don't want the majority (or all) of Councillors to be from 2019 area - they have no interest in Torrens Valley Area	Nil
63	BIRDWOOD	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy choice	No	Want local members who are interested in Torrens Valley area - not people who are elected by more heavily populated areas	No	As Above	Nil
64	INGLEWOOD	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	I support continuing the ward process. It gives the less populated areas of the council representation where it might otherwise not exist	No	They should be repd and advocates of their ward, but also represent the entire Adelaide Hills Council	It concerns me that, living in a less populated area of the hills we will be without representation. If the ward system is removed, you only need to look at the last fed govt election where all the promised of funding etc. Where directed to the areas with the most votes
65	LOBETHAL	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice The community has every right to elect the Chief of the Council	No	NO members elected by a local ward have special interest in their local area, so they know what is required & understand the problems that arise	No	NO elected this way some (rate payers) wards would never get a fair representation for their area	I have lived in Lobethal for just over 16 years and, as a committee member of both Lobethal centennial Hall & Lobethal Lights, it has been a pleasure to have a local Councillor attend most meeting, this has let to a better understanding of both side when there have been problems. Without a local rep the good relations would deteriorate.
66	GUMERACHA	Yes	It is an important role	No	We need local representation = Abolish state government instead, just have federal & local govt	No	Stupid idea	Nil
67	KERSBROOK	Yes	Nil	No	Members may not have an empathy with all communities across the large council area I prefer to have local councillors who know the area	No	Nine	Nil

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council		Ward Structure		Number of Councillors		Further Comments
		Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Support No Wards	Reasons	Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	
68	LOWER HERMITAGE	Yes	Nil		Abolishing wards in undemocratic and does not give a fair and equitable representation for less populated, rural areas. Members may not have understanding, empathy, affiliation or knowledge of all communities across the council. Greater potential for councillors to be elected from the heavily populated areas with more voting electors Community Feedback reveals 96% favoured ward retention. The council MUST follow the will of the people it represents		An organised single interest group (including a political party) could gain considerable representation on council. There is the potential for the number of invalid notes to increase because electors will have to vote for at least 12 candidates for a valid vote (if 12 vacancies) and many will not be known to electors	"Abolishing wards prevents a fair & equitable representation for all areas." Democratic rights are eroded." A rule must be passed that councillors must live in the ward he/she represents "AHC area must remain divided into wards with ward councillors living in and representing hiu/her area wards work well now. There is no need to change this WARDS must NOT be abolished." Ward Councillors understand local needs and issues, especially in the rural areas where local, practical agricultural knowledge (farmers and not greenies or theoretical pen pushers) is of utmost importance." Local government needs local representation NOT a centralised government (where the larger population of urban areas can mount issues based on high population density issues or single issue groups demand works not relevant to rural wards." Our present ward councillors work hard and diligently to support us and our needs." The more rural (distant geographically) areas are often forgotten "overlooking the needs of its rural wards could mean that these communities recede to a more understanding, sympathetic council which is appreciative of its needs
69	LOWER HERMITAGE	Yes	Nil		Abolishing wards in undemocratic and does not give a fair and equitable representation for less populated, rural areas. Members may not have understanding, empathy, affiliation or knowledge of all communities across the council. Greater potential for councillors to be elected from the heavily populated areas with more voting electors Community Feedback reveals 96% favoured ward retention. The council MUST follow the will of the people it represents		An organised single interest group (including a political party) could gain considerable representation on council. There is the potential for the number of invalid notes to increase because electors will have to vote for at least 12 candidates for a valid vote (if 12 vacancies) and many will not be known to electors	"Abolishing wards prevents a fair & equitable representation for all areas." Democratic rights are eroded." A rule must be passed that councillors must live in the ward he/she represents "AHC area must remain divided into wards with ward councillors living in and representing hiu/her area wards work well now. There is no need to change this WARDS must NOT be abolished." Ward Councillors understand local needs and issues, especially in the rural areas where local, practical agricultural knowledge (farmers and not greenies or theoretical pen pushers) is of utmost importance." Local government needs local representation NOT a centralised government (where the larger population of urban areas can mount issues based on high population density issues or single issue groups demand works not relevant to rural wards." Our present ward councillors work hard and diligently to support us and our needs." The more rural (distant geographically) areas are often forgotten "overlooking the needs of its rural wards could mean that these communities recede to a more understanding, sympathetic council which is appreciative of its needs
70	WOODSIDE	Yes	Nil	No	This question is written incorrectly	Yes	Nil	Nil
71	GUMERACHA	Yes	Then I know what I'm getting, how efficient and productive the person is, self interest by Mayor causes a slip in Council	No	Ward System: representation of all areas - No wards: Area becomes too large and unwieldy as individuals don't prioritise areas individual requirements	No	Need individual representation: all areas unique, as Councillor from Maroie Hill states: - No ward there would be probable no representation from that area, as is the same for other smaller wards. Populations will grow areas will be neglected Current susten wards issue pest with people not.....	1) no wards: make people feel they have no representation: Councillors all seem like a Rabble: Popularity vote could mean self interest to one area, doesn't mean that person productive 2) no wards in LH have meant disaster for some regions: areas being neglected: very political: rate money wasted on Councillors as no individual representation in areas (areas with ward system harmonious outcomes for areas: progressive development and pride in regions "what did they say no Taxation with out Representation: Hence no Council Rates without Representation: could be the cry"

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council		Ward Structure		Number of Councillors		Further Comments
		Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Support No Wards	Reasons	Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	
72	PARACOMBE	Yes		No	Council was formulated from the amalgamation of 3 Council Areas. Many residents have not moved on from the old Stirling. Gumeracha Council mentality, the ward system does provide small piece of mind that local interest are being represented by Local Councillors. Abolishing the Ward system would just be another blow to the outer lying areas which feel somewhat forgotten at the best of times.	No	Given our Council Area is geographically so large I do not expect a Councillor living in Scott Creek to be able to understand and adequately represent a Community Groups interest in Birdwood. I have not seen anything coming out of Council that would indicate this issue has been adequately addressed. I do not believe we should take the Local out of "Local Government". The Adelaide Hills is a diverse geographical, physical, rural and residential area. Attempting to lump it all together to manage as a whole does little to honour our diversity.	It is very difficult and time consuming for Councillors to attend events within their Wards, meet with local groups and meet with concerned residents. This is a very necessary part of the role of a Councillor and one we would not like to miss out on in the future. Assuming there was no ward structure and elected members could reside in any part of the Council district who will take responsibility for attending local groups. How would this occur in practice, would there be an unfair split of Councillors efforts and responsibilities? I have not seen any correspondence come out of Council to explain how this would work in practice and quite frankly I don't believe it will do anything other than facilitate Councillors who are not pulling their weight and just turn up to meetings. Apologies if I have missed this information. Similarly it will become increasingly difficult for those willing to become elected members in the outlying areas to actually compete with nominees from the more populated areas. I personally would take a lot of convincing that a resident of Scott Creek could in anyway represent my interests in Paracombe. Therefore I will naturally vote for locals. Sadly we are one of the least populated areas. If everyone in Stirling and Onkaparinga wards think like I do then there will never be fair representation in the future. As this is an elector representation review, only submissions for persons, businesses or groups eligible to vote in Adelaide Hills Council elections will be considered. Submissions must contain the full name and address of the author, these details will not be released to the public however the content of the submissions may be included in review reports.
73	PARACOMBE	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	Councillors from Stirling and other large sub divisions do not have any knowledge of the rural areas on the other boundaries of the Council	No	As Above	Nil
74	KERSBROOK	Yes	No good reason to change status quo. The elected Mayor represents the Adelaide Hills Community. If the Mayor is elected by 12 elected members it opens the door to factions.	Blank	I support retaining the status quo. You tick the box for me! I take exception to how this question is framed! Is someone trying to confuse/difficultise me? Am I getting paranoid!	No	Isn't this the same question as above?	I was one of the 98% who previously indicated a preference to retain the ward system. Why has this question arisen, again? 2. There is a potential for divisiveness a) more representation from urban areas. Less populated rural areas dis/franchised. 3. Opens the for a single interest group or political party to "Democratically" take over! 4. LGC operates at the parish pump level. It is important that my parish pump is represented by an elected member who has an affinity with and understanding of issues in my area.
75	Nil	No	Nil	No	Nil	Yes	Nil	Nil
76	STIRLING	Yes	Nil	No	Current wards support individual areas within the Council area as a whole, this is important with such a large and varied Council area	Yes	Nil	Nil
77	STIRLING	Yes	Nil	No	Council Areas are each different, and need local representation	Yes	Nil	Greatly concerned that council is asking electors for their wishes, and yet intending to ignore them (in the case of wards)

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council		Ward Structure		Number of Councillors		Further Comments
		Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Support No Wards	Reasons	Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	
78	GUMERACHA	Yes	The role is important to transparency of impartiality (not elected within a special interests group) is necessary	No	Whilst I applaud people willing to be involved, my concern is local people to understand local issues and can best convey to the council as a whole	No	Basically question the ability of Councillors to be equally aware of issues outside their immediate locals	I admire the Council for addressing this issue but have deep concerns for their belief non wards will adequately cater for such a diverse community from primary producers through to corporate & bureaucratic areas (suburbs)
79	GUMERACHA	Yes	Nil	No	Area too large to know all candidates and no interest in what your ward needs	No	you know the councillor and candidates in your own ward area but nothing about someone kilometres away	As old saying goes "if its not broke don't fix it"
80	GUMERACHA	Yes	You have decided this anyway but I do support it	Yes	Can't expect distant Councillors to have knowledge of specific requirements of such varying locations. I want to know my Councillor	No	To have local government we need to know our members. Otherwise abolish councils and have our state members	Listen to the replies of those residents who care enough to reply to your consultation
81	GUMERACHA	Yes	Someone to fulfil a "public appearance" function on behalf of council, I would prefer a title with less history of 'implies royalty' but Mayor will do until a less 'charged' title is found	No	This is awkwardly worded, increases potential for 'special interest group'. All centralisation threatens a bottom up structure for democracy - centralisation tends to support top - down and inhibits input from less 'central' areas of population, eg centralizing hospitals in cities reduces rural health access	No	a bit unclear in wording - I want wards to be operational	Nil
82	INGLEWOOD	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	Nil	No	Need people who are knowledgeable of local issues and concerns	Nil
83	INGLEWOOD	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	Nil	No	Need local knowledge and views	Nil
84	ALDGATE	Yes	Nil	No	Divided Wards allow for local representation	Yes	Local Representation of wards to remain	Nil
85	WOODSIDE	Yes	Happy with current process - except current mayor does not appear to recognise all of the council area as equal	No	some areas could be over represented and other under, also allows for influx of political or other groves	No	Same as above - this could give an unfair distribution of support to particular areas and projects	Councillors vote should be as the majority of ratepayers have voted not chasing their own agenda
86	WOODSIDE	No	The Chairman elected by council members not a populist Mayor	No	Over representation at one particular area to town v rural wards equal representation	No	Chance of political party taking control over policy	The stacking of council to favour one area is to much at a risk to support the proposal - The Mayor must be impartial not seen in this instance in a tied vote should maintain the status quo
87	BIRDWOOD	Yes	Nil	No	Nil	Yes	Nil	The alternative proposed militates against democracy

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Ward Structure Support No Wards	Reasons	Number of Councillors Support 12 Area Councillors	Reasons	Further Comments
88	BIRDWOOD	Yes	Mayor to be chosen by the community	No	Everybody belongs to Adelaide Hills Council but most of the votes I have spoken to take the community feel of the ward system - Reason being - not being ---- but the difference of being metropolitan versus primary production. Community of ---- would be 3 wards. Primary Production, Suburban and hills face. It would bring the communities closer. I believe we need change but not a 10 ward system	No	Support 12 Councillors but as the ward system	Nil
89	BIRDWOOD	Yes	These are my directives & my job to keep the ward system you work us not everybody else	No	As Above	No	As Above	Nil
90	BIRDWOOD	Yes	Nil	No	Nil	No	Nil	Nil
91	GUMERACHA	Yes	I want to vote for my Mayor because I want to retain my rights to do so	No	I want to keep wards. No do not support abolition of wards as I want to be able to talk to a local, have a local to represent me, know who is representing me	Blank	This is a double dutch question I want to maintain the current council structure. The current ward structure guarantees my right to have 2 representatives and other system does not	When Gumeracha District was amalgamated we were told and promised there would be no changes to the ward system - this must be honoured at the amalgamation annulled I want to have and be guaranteed my 2 councillors and the ward system is the only way I will get that guarantee
92	LOWER HERMITAGE	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy choice	No	Abolishing wards is undemocratic and does not give a fair and equitable representation for less populated, rural areas. Members may not have understanding, empathy, affiliation or knowledge of all communities across the council. Greater potential for councillors to be elected from the heavily populated areas with more voting electors. Community feedback reveals 86% favoured ward retention. The council MUST follow the will of the people it represents	No	An organised single interest group (including a political party) could gain considerable representation on council. There is the potential for the number of invalid notes to increase because electors will have to vote for at least 12 candidates for a valid vote (if 12 vacancies) and many will not be known to electors	"Abolishing wards prevents a fair & equitable representation for all areas." Democratic rights are eroded." A rule must be passed that councillors must live in the ward he/she represents. "ANC area must remain divided into wards with ward councillors living in and representing his/her area wards work well now. There is no need to change this WARDs must NOT be abolished. "Ward Councillors understand local needs and issues, especially in the rural areas where local, practical agricultural knowledge (farmers and not greenies or theoretical pen pushers) is of utmost importance." Local government needs local representation NOT a centralised government (where the larger population of urban areas can mount issues based on high population density issues or single issue groups demand works not relevant to rural wards." Our present ward councillors work hard and diligently to support us and our needs." The more rural (distant geographically) areas are often forgotten "overlooking the needs of its rural wards could mean that these communities decide to a more understanding, sympathetic council which is appreciative of its needs
93		Blank	Nil	Blank	Nil	Blank	Nil	I'm writing in regards to the Adelaide Hills Council, wanting to remove our Councillors leaving our area without a local Councillor to support us. I wish to make it known that I disapprove of this going ahead. Very disappointing. We need to bring back people who are Mayor for the council district, need to be living the Adelaide Hills Area. Its too easy to make decisions and not be here to see the consequences

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Ward Structure Support No Wards	Reasons	Number of Councillors Support 12 Area Councillors	Reasons	Further Comments
94	BIRDWOOD	Yes	All ratepayers should have a say in who is elected Mayor and not just a select few councillors maybe inclined to select someone who supports the own agenda therefore a Mayor represents the whole community and should assess both side of the issue	No	Wards provide representation from a specific area. A chance to elect local people who understand and local issues. The ANC covers both rural & suburban demographic and therefore it is important to have a part of an area that you belong to community and should assess both side of the issue and thoughts of the people they represent	No	Of course not because I don't support the abolishing of wards. This is a question worded poorly, if one agreed with abolishing the ward system then they may agree with the quiz but then again they may say no because they want less councillors or many other combinations	Birdwood as part of the TV Ward and along with other towns in the ward can be forgotten by the ANC. Remembered on by due to current hard working persistent Councillors and Mr Spragg Historic modeling say the area would have local representation if wards were abolished. Mayor if current councillors stand again BUT if they don't or the area has a change of situation and we have no locals in council will Councillors from outside the area be prepared to travel the distance to attend events, functions, club events and meetings with people they have very little in common. These are important to communities and are what keep towns and communities alive & functioning. I feel an undermining of local communities. We are a large area that needs to be broken down into areas more easily managed. I may think who have not spoken are happy with the way things are, why also should a candidate be worried about friends not being able to vote for them that's not an argument. There is a high risk of aggravating them. As us attitude that the Mayor believes wards bring, if wards are abolished, because we in the TV ward especially feel so strongly about our identity. Why was only 1 job of the council given by the Mayor? The Mayor should represent the whole council not his opinion or worry about those who have not contributed to the review. It is disappointing to think that this is a waste of time due to the one sided debate from the Mayor & the opposed voting to take place due to clear of the meeting get aside for the vote & holiday of 2 Councillors. He and the TV Ward seem to be an add on remembered occasionally when it suits. If not for the hard work and persistence of our 2 councillors I don't think we would even rate a thought. Talking to residents of other councils that have abolished wards and live in the rural fringe areas of the council they are less than impressed with the situation. Will this response be treated the same as a lot of other issues within the ANC (ie the speed limits of roads. The many meetings and submissions that clearly showed one view of residents but the council continues on their own merry way?
95	ROSTREVROR	Yes	Nil	No	Nil	No	Nil	Nil
96	ROSTREVROR	Yes	Nil	No	don't believe this change is in the interest of our small community at Rostrevor and it would actually make it more difficult for any issues specific to us to be addressed	No	Nil	Nil
97	ROSTREVROR	Yes	Nil	No	Nil	No	Nil	Nil
98	BIRDWOOD	Yes	Nil	No	Nil	No	Nil	Nil
99	BIRDWOOD	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy choice	No	Wards are represented by people who live & work in the ward, they know the area and we know them we don't want to be represented by someone who has nothing to do with this area	No	We will have to vote for people from other areas who we won't know and they will not be familiar with our area. There is the potential of members being elected from the more heavily populated part of the council area	Being at the northern extremity of the the ANC area it is of concern that our needs could be overlooked if most councillors reside well to the south of us. None of them being personally knowledgeable and responsible for any issues which arise in what is now our ward
100	BIRDWOOD	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy choice	No	Wards are represented by people who live & work in the ward, they know the area and we know them	No	There is potential of members being forced from the more heavily populated part of the council area. People from other areas won't necessarily be familiar with our area	There is the potential for the elected member to be unfamiliar with the northern extremities of the council area and be overlooked in the preference for the more populated southern area

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Ward Structure Support No Wards	Reasons	Number of Councillors Support 12 Area Councillors	Reasons	Further Comments
101	HUMBUG SCRUB	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	By having wards with a Councillor representing that ward - members would expect that person to know what was needed there.	No	No	No
102	WOODSIDE	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	Wards should not be abolished, its important for the local community to know and feel able to approach a local person they know and feel comfortable with to discuss issues in their local area.	Blank	No	No
103	BIRDWOOD	Yes	The Mayor then becomes a logical focus for the distilling of decisions and actions.	No	I strongly believe the wards should remain. Too much risk of a non-representative casual membership if allocated representation is abolished.	No	Too many people to vote for. Greater risk of invalid votes. With the wards, we know the people we're voting for. With 12 random people, greater chance of not having any affiliation with, or empathy for, our district.	The current system works for us in Torrens Valley Ward. When the Sumner/Council merged to become the Adelaide Hills Council, there was a measurable lessening of focus on the ward. Under a 12 person council, not necessarily affiliated with our part of the Hills, there is a greater chance of this declining further. Strong local, affiliated representation is essential.
104	BIRDWOOD	Yes	No	No	Unfair representation for smaller communities.	Yes	No	No
105	KERSBROOK	Yes	Required for continuity of office and to avoid conflict with other elected members	No	Wards are needed in this council as there is a huge diversity in land use/population to ensure that each area gets a voice in all council matters.	Yes	The current system works well.	The status quo needs to be maintained. Without wards there is no guarantee that elected members will come from all areas of the council - without this it would be better to dissolve the council altogether and incorporate different parts into adjoining appropriate councils (ie metro areas into metro councils etc). This would then get rid of the massive bureaucracy that continues to expand preventing necessary maintenance etc from being undertaken.
106	BIRDWOOD	Yes	No, in using his casting vote as he did, he went against protocol (vote for the status quo). Instead, he seems to be pushing his own agenda	No	Each smaller town needs a method of representation on the Council. It is not obligatory to have most council members elected by the larger populated towns.	Blank	No	Being a retired teacher I wish to state that I have never before seen a Review Form with answers already 'ticked'. By the way, whoever organised the form should have been able to find the 'tick' in the symbols section, rather than use the square root sign.
107	BIRDWOOD	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	Wards need to be represented by a local person so that local community needs are met, not just the bigger ward areas.	No	Because it could lead to a ward not being represented by a local.	No
108	WOODSIDE	Yes	Best the people their choice of candidate	No	Councillors living out of the area are not going to know what is needed and how to achieve an outcome in that area.	Yes	12 minimises the work load.	If there are no wards the most populous areas can have unlimited nominations and because of their density they could be elected leaving the outer areas without representation which is extremely unfair. From correspondence to date the majority of ratepayers want to keep the wards. Start listening to the ratepayer.

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Ward Structure Support No Wards	Reasons	Number of Councillors Support 12 Area Councillors	Reasons	Further Comments
109	KERSBROOK	Yes	This needs to remain to avoid potential conflict of interest from councillors suddenly not liking the in house elected person and changing them over on a regular basis - continuity is a good thing to have	No	Wards provide certainty of representation from each of the diverse regions in their council area - no wards is no guarantee of getting a person willing to assist with particular region concerns.	Yes	The current system works well.	No
110	ROSTREVOR	Yes	the represents the people, hence he/she must be elected by them	No	Retain the existing disciplines for clearer liaison.	No	It is too broad a spectrum to contend with and the powers and authority is too centralised.	I am somewhat surprised that this principle is even thought of. We live in a democracy when the people are represented by an individual of their choice and to whom they can relate directly. The alternative is the centralisation of power.
111	ROSTREVOR	Yes	No	No	Leave situation as is.	No	It is too remote from residents and too much power vested not in our immediacy.	No
112	KERSBROOK	Yes	I believe the Mayor should be elected by the community, not by council.	No	The northern area of the hills council gets far less attention than that of the southern side.	No	I wish a member from my area represents us and not someone who does not understand our wants.	I believe that council does very little for us in Kersbrook. The community here are in need of upkeep of the township, footpaths and reserve maintenance are none existent. I believe we get very little for our high council rates.
113	KERSBROOK	Yes	The community should be the ones to elect the Mayor - not just council members.	No	All council ward should get the same attention - can't possibly compare Stirling with Kersbrook	No	A member with-in our local area should represent us.	Kersbrook needs much more attention such as - footpaths / reserve where children have to walk to school is a complete disgrace - billy goat track. Besides rubbish pick-up and library, we get little else for our high rates.
114	FORRESTON	Yes	This is the democratic way to do it.	No	Wards were introduced by wise men to ensure fair and just representation covering the entire council area. It has achieved that!	Blank	Don't understand this question / support the way it has been.	To alter the method for a possible, very questionable advantage is foolhardy to say the least.
115	GUMERACHA	Yes	I believe the council needs a unifying head	No	Wheres the box? I prefer the ward system as I believe local councillors help local people	No	No I expect if this happens the council will become big town centric to the detriment of the outlying townships	The phrasing in this form is a disgrace. It feels as though this form was designed to reflect the result that the mayor currently supports.
116	GUMERACHA	Yes	Why is the yes box harder to see than the no box	No	Why is this question ambiguous? Where is the box for a 'no' answer.	No	Why is the 'no' box harder to see than the 'yes' box. How is this question different to the last question.	I am very unimpressed with the shameful and blatant formatting and wording on this form which has obviously been doctored to produce and push people into pre-determined answers. Whoever designed this form should be sacked.
117	GUMERACHA	Yes	It is important that the Mayor be directly answerable to the rate payers who elect him.	No	This is misleading and look to be designed to make people vote a certain way. No do not support the council not being divided into wards ??	No	It is disappointing that this question is designed similar to the previous one to get people to vote one way or the other.	It is disappointing that all the facts are not presented to ratepayers for this process and that when details are made public they do not carry the weight of case studies or the actual source of the facts. The councils blatant ignorance to the submission received is evident that although the council likes to preach democracy and fairness it struggles to implement it. The use of historical voter figures (ie voter to councillor ratios) is ... to the ward system however this data is not stress tested against a non-ward projection of realism with 35% of voter turnout being a larger demographic in more populated areas. Whilst the council can say it makes guarantees and assurances that people will get more representation and a greater choice if council area diversities are not taken into account this process will be as much of a broken promise as the amalgamation ward guarantee.

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Support No Wards	Reasons	Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	Further Comments
118	DAKBANK	No	I do not see the need for a separate vote by the community. We vote for councilors so they elect a Mayor from their ranks.	No	See ward representation as very important in maintaining community identity	No	As for ward representation	The recent Australia Day celebrations at Woodside were a disappointing flop! I have attended this function regularly for past 10 years and it has been gratifying to see local achievers acknowledged and to be a witness to the induction of new citizens of this great country. This year local achievers and new citizens of Australia did not receive their awards and certificates at Woodside which is their local ward area. Good enough to ask Woodside to support refugees based at Inverislae then let Woodside keep its own identity albeit as part of AHC.
119	CROMER	Yes	The Mayor should be elected by the people for the people - this is the democratic way	No	Ward System: representation of areas - No wards: Area becomes too large and unwieldy as individuals don't prioritise areas individual requirements	No	Local ward councilors are more likely to have a better grip on local matters	This sort of thing does not improve confidence. Rural areas must be well represented. It would be interesting to know the value of commercial input to the Adelaide Hills Council area vs that of the towns.
120	CROMER	Yes	The Mayor should be elected by the ratepayers and not a small group that could have an agenda	No	It is most important for the local councilor to be at the coalface and accessible to the local ratepayers	No	Local Councilors have a good grip on local community matters - The alternative proposition could lead to special interest groups getting a seat or seats on council - we do not want to lose our local representation	We the ratepayers should be given the best advice and service from our elected members as after all we pay the bill. I find it offensive that certain members of the current council are trying to force a system upon us that we do not want.
121	LOBETHAL	Yes	Mayor elected by council will only get strongest areas having say	No	Too much self interest in mayor considering own area (interest) ahead of general benefit all areas	No	Again when overall areas covered bias exist not individual council have say	Being against overall representation because as in previous years loudest councilor with strongest representation (ie areas) usually has their way with council allocations and regulations
122	LOBETHAL	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	Feel as a local resident of 40 years it is very hard getting basic fundamentals through as it is. I believe a ward would further be frustrating	No	As above plus this would mean its ugly head which we all should be equal.	I can't believe you think it is a good idea to have one area in charge of such diverse area like Mt Pleasant to Dirling, Roddigh to Camphowen areas want and needs are so different and need to reflect this in any decisions. So must be separate.
123	SUMMERTOWN	Yes	The Mayor advised by his ward councilors is a known constant in all regions of the council area. It is fair that the opportunity to vote for any mayoral candidate be the right of all adult residents therefore.	No	The present system works. The ward councilors have good knowledge of and feeling for their areas. They are able to administer to them efficiently and cause correct decisions to be made by council.	No	Council should remain quiet, sane and reasonable. In the future this new council proposed system could be abused. For example a seat of power could develop in Dirling say, to the disadvantage of other areas.	Myself, my family and associates do not like the fact that government can command council to change the way council operates, to threaten council with fines. Why is it all so impersonal and unfriendly. We want to live our area, not be cross. Council get out of street.
124	PICCADILLY	Yes	Nil	No	Electors need to know the people they elect. Councilors need to know local areas. It's undemocratic to have to vote for 12 people most of who you don't know.	Yes	It's a big area with 50+ towns/villages need at least 12 to handle the area.	Having to vote for 12 people or your vote is invalid means electors will either say to hard or give a donkey vote or a political party will handout how to vote cards. We do not want a political council.
125	GUMERACHA	Yes	Mind - am very mindful that the bulk of the votes come from other areas - so have no real say in the outcome - maybe	No	I believe that we need local representation. In our present system we are guaranteed this. We our not (there is no) guarantee with a no ward system.	No	As stated above - this does not guarantee representation and/or informed representation for my area	Nil

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Support No Wards	Reasons	Number of Councilors Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	Further Comments
126	FORREZTON	Yes	I feel it is very important that we continue to elect our Mayor as he/she is there to represent us	No	Why change as the present system is working quite well? If the wards are abolished then I'm sure a lot of the smaller areas would get forgotten about.	No	It sounds quite ridiculous to have elected members trying to work in areas that they have absolutely no connection with and especially as they may live some distance away.	As a ratepayer I feel I should be able to vote for a councillor who either lives in or has a strong connection to my local area and is someone who has our local interests at heart and not get stuck with someone who knows nothing about us. Please leave the system as it is as it is working well and also makes it fair for everybody.
127	KERSBROOK	Yes	Nil	No	I don't want people voting on things in our area. We are a small community and would lose any votes about our area.	No	Nil	Nil
128	BIRDWOOD	Yes	Nil	No	Council members elected may not represent the views of my ward if elected member does not come from the same area	Blank	Nil	Nil
129	BIRDWOOD	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	Nil	No	Nil	Nil
130	KERSBROOK	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice. We need an elected person to be Mayor	No	We need Wards to represent local communities	No	Not if they are not sympathetic to our needs and live nearby to recognise our problems	Please leave the system as is - it is working!
131	KERSBROOK	Yes	Because it would be the wish of the community	No	Because the needs of southern wards is entirely different to those of northern ones	No	For all the above reasons	Kersbrook township is already the backwater of the Adelaide Hills Council since the unnecessary amalgamation years ago, with poor and in places dangerous foot paths and would only become worse if this was possible.
132	KERSBROOK	Yes	Why change	No	We do not get anything done as it is	No	As above	Try walking on the so called footpaths
133	INGLEWOOD	Yes	As a member of the community I would like to voice my choice of who I think will best represent me	No	Members may not have an empathy for or affiliates with all communities across the council. My concerns and worries may not be the same as in other areas.	Blank	How can I answer this question when a decision has not been made on whether ward will remain or be abolished	attended my first review @ Summers last week as I feel passionate about the wards to remain. The meeting was a waste of my time as I feel that council has made up their mind to abolish the wards and if for some miracle council did change their mind we were told there would be a financial burden put upon council... so what can't it all about what the community want !!! The meeting itself was embarrassing to see how some of the community acted and behaved. I was most impressed with Malcolm Herman and Linda and also the 2 councillors who voted to have the wards abolished - I felt they were very apologetic and put their opinions across very well although I did not agree with them they did a good job.
134	BIRDWOOD	Yes	The Mayor need to be on council to do his/her job properly. The community should elect the Mayor.	No	Smaller wards will be left out in decisions if not represented by a local person. Smaller communities still suffer from the amalgamation into Adelaide Hills Council, years ago.	Yes	Every area needs to be represented by local councilors	I'm surprised that the Mayor cast his vote to abolish the wards when the initial consultation was 96% in favour of retaining them. I realise this was a small fraction of the population who responded, but still, surely such a resounding result means that current rules not be changed.

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council		Ward Structure		Number of Councilors		Further Comments	
		Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Support No Wards	Reasons	Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons		
132	PARACOMBE	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy-choice. We the residents need to know who is representing us and be asked to have a say in that.	No		No	I feel that we out in the boonies are not heard. It takes months to have my road graded or fallen trees removed - this I feel is no the case in freeway towns.	I feel that I need someone interested in my local area. Stirling is beautiful - parks, paving, curbing - I don't specifically need those but if some similar attention to our regional backwaters were supplied, then that would be appreciated. It took 2 months to remove a 20 metre fallen tree from my drive. I suspect that would have been different for a resident of the freeway townships. Council only responds to issues - there is no proactive concern.	
136	BIRDWOOD	Yes	A well respected use of the democratic system works.	No		Yes	Having grown up in this area and seeing the amalgamation of councils the non representation which it brings to less populated areas would only continue the decline in democratic representation.	That is provided all areas of the Hills council area are represented irrespective of population (local areas local issues).	As above mentioned I find since the amalgamation of 3 Council areas we as residents of the hills see very little benefits of such a move. Given your suggestion of electing councilors from across the whole area merely based upon numbers of votes is neither democratic or representative of the whole council area (as more than likely it allows a narrow minded view eg. that council would need to know as the Stirling council as that is where majority of populace resides), we from the northern end feel relatively neglected and need to be respected as council rate payers irrespective of location.
137	BIRDWOOD	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy-choice.	No		No	Individual wards equal independent representation - which I believe is important to communities.	I believe that the North Eastern Hills areas will become more neglected than they already are.	No
138	BIRDWOOD	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy-choice.	No		No	believe we need local councilors working for and on behalf of their local area and communities.	if decisions are not being fought for by local to specific area councilors I can't see fair decision being made on behalf of some (especially N.E. hills) areas, who are already neglected in many ways!	No
139	STAGNES	Yes	This give all people who wish to vote, a choice as to who becomes th Mayor. We don't want a job for the boys mentality.	No		No	Stats from past 30 years mean nothing. Don't want to see councilors who know their areas being pushed out by popular/mates system. This applies to all areas not only Torrens Valley.	It works well. It appears to me the best system to show honesty and transparency.	I was at Gumeracha 30/1/17 (Torrens Valley meeting). I feel both sides presented their case well vocally those who were trying to explain their view which clearly was against the view of the audience. I did listen and I came in with an open mind that is why I went to the meeting. I think the ward system works well for the entire council area not just Torrens Valley (Malcolm Herrmann). This doesn't straight forward pros & cons both for and against both sides but a choice has to be made. Voting is easier now and I can see many uninformed votes being cast.
140	KERSBROOK	No	For example, Bill Cooksley took with his failure to be elected mayor lose of into - lost to AHC - he should have been able to stay on AHC. Let the councilors elect their 'their' who then become Mayor.	No		No	Our local ward member (Malcolm Herrmann) has been invaluable to us in the Northern area of AHC re roads, property boundaries, etc.	Frightened that this could lead to political parties in AHC, why would a Stirling 'side-man' have any interest in our local issues (Birdwood, Kerbrook Gumeracha - where we are outnumbered by Redrevar, Aldgate, Stirling, etc.)	Who/What is behind this proposed change? Answer, copying other local governments in having political parties sponsoring those standing for council. What is wrong with the current ward-based situation at AHC? The contrast between 'services' in the North and South is stark - the almost complete absence of paid personnel in the Gum Hall, the poor quality of resources in the Gum Library, the absence of Power beds in contrast to Stirling, etc. I know there are more roads, more upkeep in the North because of non-rate paying forestry areas, but that should not put the blame on those who live in the North. If we had not councilors responsible for our interests, we'd be worst served than ever.
141	BIRDWOOD	Yes	I believe this is an important process in local government to be done that way.	No		No	It is imperative for the benefit of the local community that they elected local member represents them.	The elected Councilors are there to represent their ward not the whole for the Council area.	No

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council		Ward Structure		Number of Councilors		Further Comments	
		Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Support No Wards	Reasons	Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons		
142	FORREZTON	Yes	This should be maintained as the status quo. Public events should be screened and elected by a majority of the community (ie the public)	No		No	Despite the rhetoric of the Mayor last Monday night at Gumeracha each ward needs to have a locally elected representative of a local councilor to advocate for their ward.	This is a confusing question and any response could easily be misinterpreted. I wish the status quo to be maintained that is 12 councilors to represent 3 wards.	the third question has the potential to nullify the whole questionnaire: Who is responsible for preparing this?
143	FORREZTON	Yes	Our voice and the right to vote for our preferred stand head and shoulders over having anybody else making these decisions for us	Yes		No	We, in any given ward choose the councilors to represent us in our ward and not have another ward influence that outcome	I'm sorry, that's a very obtuse way of promoting no wards, this question needs to be written in proper language terms and not used as a trick question.	I feel that the council will null and void this representation because many will have not realised this question's intent. Pending the outcome, you should be forced to rewrite this questionnaire and do the survey again regardless of the timelines. It's a dirty underhanded way of operation and not worthy of any council.
144	KERSBROOK	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice. Community should have say on Mayor and council makeup	No		No	We are in the boundary area of council and feel we would get far less representation under a changed system	We are in a less populated area and therefore would not have numbers of votes to compete with areas of higher population.	Why change a system that works?
145	KERSBROOK	Yes	Normally person has had council experience	Yes		No	Past experience in other areas has shown that town people generally have interest in town affairs and not rural areas	Rural reps generally have more interest in the whole area as they have desires to improve town facilities as well as rural areas.	No
146	KERSBROOK	Yes	As that person will have already served on council the community will be aware of their strengths and weaknesses	No		Yes	With such a large area to cover we need local reps who are familiar with our area	There is a huge diversity of areas in AHC from city, small country towns and rural properties. We need to know that our council rep is able to fight for our needs. It is imperative to keep an open door to the council for ratepayers and this can only be achieved by having councilors familiar with the territory.	No
147	GUMERACHA	Yes	Like how it would now	Yes		Yes	Any change to it adds with community feedback. We need ward reps who understand the nuances of the area	Yes but ward representation vital and district is not homogenous	
148	GUMERACHA	Yes		Yes		Yes	The current system works well		
149	BIRDWOOD	Yes	People should have a say	Yes		Yes	You should have someone represent your area like State & Federal Government	12 is a good number	No

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council		Ward Structure		Number of Councillors		Further Comments
		Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Support No Wards	Reasons	Support 12 Area Councillors	Reasons	
150	BIRDWOOD	Yes	Nil	No	It is at odds with the community feedback where 96% favoured the retention of wards The potential of members being elected from the more heavily populated part of the council area	No	Nil	Nil
151	MT PLEASANT	Yes	Nil	No	1. It is at odds with the community feedback where 96% favoured the retention of wards 2. The potential of members being elected from the more heavily populated part of the council area 3. An organised single interest group (including a political party) could gain considerable representation on council 4. Members may not have any empathy for, or affiliation with, all communities across the council 5. There is the potential for the number of invalid votes to increase because electors will have to vote for at least 12 candidates for a valid vote (assuming there are more than 12 vacancies), many of whom will not be known to electors.	No	Nil	My wife and I dislike the 'no ward' system in the Barossa Council because the majority of councillors live in and around Tanunda area. I work in Birdwood.
152	UPPER STURT	Yes	More clarity at voting decisions	No	The ward system is proven to be a sustainable and satisfactory mode	No	Keep wards - the elector rep review does not have a positive guarantee that 'one whole ward' would be any improvement	The Ward structure is based on actual data which lifts can be used for adjustment. No wards info contains the words 'likely' 'should' 'if they 'could come' 'could gain' 'may receive' 'may be'. I ask - who says so? Half of the councillors and a casting vote certainly the voting community is not united behind this major change. As a long time participant and observer of local govt. I sided with councillors to be really sure before they vote.
153	UPPER STURT	Yes	Nil	Yes	Nil	No	Nil	We now have the ward system. It is working although some councillors do struggle to familiarise themselves with their communities. A whole of Council system will allow for interest groups or career (went this on my CV) or my members to use social media which is urenable to gain a position. Also what about bypassing the promise at the time of amalgamation to <u>not</u> do away with wards.
154	STIRLING	Yes	Nil	No	Nil	Yes	Nil	Local representatives understand the needs and the mood of the community and are best suited to representing the local community. Local representatives focus on the local issues, so are best suited to working with the local community to provide the best support and representation.
155	CRAFERS	Yes	Nil	No	This will ensure voters continue to have familiarity with their 'local' representative where abolition of the wards works against this.	Yes	Nil	Nil
156	CRAFERS	Yes	Nil	No	Nil	Yes	Nil	Nil

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council		Ward Structure		Number of Councillors		Further Comments
		Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Support No Wards	Reasons	Support 12 Area Councillors	Reasons	
157	CRAFERS	Yes	It provides a fair and equitable selection	No	It will reduce fair representation and encourage voting blocks of self interest groups	Yes	Fringe areas with smaller populations may still have adequate representation.	Nil
158	CRAFERS	Yes	Nil	No	Nil	Yes	Nil	We need local representation and the ward system would serve us best.
159	ROSTREVOIR	Yes	Nil	No	Local representation is important to our area	No	Nil	Nil
160	ROSTREVOIR	Yes	Nil	No	Nil	No	We want local representation	Nil
161	ROSTREVOIR	Yes	Nil	No	Nil	No	We want local representation	Nil
162	ROSTREVOIR	Yes	Why change a system that works	No	As above	No	As above	Nil
163	BIRDWOOD	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	Close and intimate contact between administration and clients results in cooperation and understanding from both sides	No	Smaller voices are overpowered and neglected	Nil
164	INGLEWOOD	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice. It is at odds with the community feedback which has to be taken into account where 96% favoured the retention of wards	No	It has the real potential of members being elected from the more heavily populated part of the council	No	This could allow an organised single group such as a political party to gain considerable representation on council.	Elected members may not have any empathy for or affiliation with all communities across the council, and there would be the potential for the number of invalid votes to increase because electors will have to vote for at least 12 candidates for a valid vote, assuming there are more than 12 vacancies given many would not be known to electors.
165	INGLEWOOD	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice. It is at odds with the community feedback where 96% favoured the retention of wards	No	It has the potential of members being elected from the more heavily populated part of the council area	No	An organised single interest group (incl a political party) could gain considerable representation on council	Members may not have any empathy for or affiliation with, all communities across the council. There is the potential for the number of invalid votes to increase because electors will have to vote for at least 12 candidates for a valid vote (assuming there are more than 12 vacancies) many of whom will not be known to electors

	Mayor				Councillors			
166	LOWER HERMITAGE	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice.	No	Members will not have any interest for, or affiliation with all communities across the council.	No	There is the potential for the no. of invalid votes to increase because electors will have to vote for at least 12 candidates for a valid vote (assuming there are more than 12 vacancies), many of whom will not be known to electors.	It is at odds with the community feedback where 96% favoured the retention of wards. The potential of members being elected from the more heavily populated part of the council area. An organised single interest group (including a political party) could gain considerable representation on council.
167	LOWER HERMITAGE	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice.	No	Members will not have any interest for, or affiliation with all communities across the council.	No	There is the potential for the no. of invalid votes to increase because electors will have to vote for at least 12 candidates for a valid vote (assuming there are more than 12 vacancies), many of whom will not be known to electors.	It is at odds with the community feedback where 96% favoured the retention of wards. The potential of members being elected from the more heavily populated part of the council area. An organised single interest group (including a political party) could gain considerable representation on council.
168	BIRDWOOD	Yes	I believe it to be the responsible alternative	No	I believe the ward gives larger landholders a guaranteed voice and representation.	Yes	I believe this is the best way for the whole council area to be represented.	I can't see why councillors who were absent from the meeting couldn't have put in a postal vote. It certainly would have prevented so much angst. I also believe many people find it hard to engage through the written medium to voice their concerns.
169	BIRDWOOD	Yes	If enough electors are coming out to vote for a person they'd like to see as the public leadership face of their council, that's good enough for me	No	I have had dealings with both Torrens region councillors on issues that spent danger for all electors. They gave considerable time, advice and representation. I continue to see them as "being across" all "communities of interest".	Yes	I don't see nor have I heard of major problems which demand another option	Several aspects of the review disturb me. Two ward councillors seem to have let the wards "lean" down by not being able to attend a critical council meeting. Why weren't they represented by a proxy vote? That would have been democratic! Then the vote would have been 7 to 3 in favour of wards and we wouldn't have had the volatile meeting in Gumeracha! The Gumeracha meeting I attended was not well run. The meeting protocols were stated by Lechan and then not adhered to.
170	GUMERACHA	Yes	Nil	No	An organised single interest group (including a political party) could gain considerable representation on council	Blank	Nil	Nil
171	BIRDWOOD	Yes	Nil	No	It is at odds with the community feedback where 96% favoured the retention of wards. The potential of members being elected from the more heavily populated part of the council area.	Blank	Nil	Nil
172	BIRDWOOD	Yes	Nil	No	Nil	Blank	Nil	Nil

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council		Ward Structure		Number of Councillors		Further Comments
		Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Support No Wards	Reasons	Support 12 Area Councillors	Reasons	
173	BIRDWOOD	Yes	Nil	No	Members may not have any empathy for, or affiliation with, all communities across the council. There is potential for the number of invalid votes to increase because electors will have to vote for at least 12 candidates for a valid vote (assuming there are more than 12 vacancies), many of whom will not be known to electors.	Blank	Nil	Nil
174	BIRDWOOD	Yes	A principle member of the council has a greater grasp of what is required to be Mayor	No	I feel it is important for each area to be represented by people from various towns, otherwise there may be frustration or the needs of particular areas being ignored.	Yes	This will allow for a wide range of views and representation which will assist in ensuring all voices are heard.	Nil
175	UPPER STURT	Yes	Nil	No	Wards are important to the running of a council which covers such a large area and has such a diverse range of inhabitants.	No	Nil	Within this council area we have residential, rural living, hobby farmers, horticultural industries plus others. By having wards people elected from the ward are able to or have a connection with those around them. An elected member from a ward would have a understanding of issues (in their area) brought to council rather than trying to research and understand issues from all over the area. By having wards we will avoid 'factions' dominating an election and thus we will have a more balanced representation on council.
176	BASKET RANGE	Yes	It is a more democratic selection process	No	My assessment is that people prefer wards and council has determined the alternative of no wards to deal with the matter of fair and equitable representation because of changes in demographics.	No	The concept of council wide elections of representatives (councillors) goes against people's identification with their local area and forming close links with people from their neighbourhoods. I would support the idea of up to 4 councillors elected on an area basis in addition to the existing ward based elections.	Comments in Appendix 2
177	FORRETTON	Yes	Nil	No	There is a strong need for local Govt to remain local. To have a representative that know and understands their local community.	No	Council is the third tier of Govt and represents local issues. Let the State Govt worry about that area of State. Local people need someone they know, recognise and trust to elect. Councillors are elected local vehicles for their community.	I know the councillors are divided on this issue. Instead of me trying to convince council it's a bad idea to change. I have not heard a valid argument for change. By changing and abolishing the wards, outside interest groups have every change with funding and political backing to gain councillor positions. This is wrong. We do not need nor require interest groups to represent us. We need local people. They are elected sometimes without competition. However it everyone's right to run if they are not happy with their elected official.

No.	Suburb	Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Support No Wards	Reasons	Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	Further Comments
178	INGLEWOOD	Yes	This is in keeping with the principles of democracy and gives electors the opportunity to choose a mayor who can take an overall view of council affairs rather than a parochial view	No	Wards guarantee we have local representation. The ANC area is quite diverse so local representation is crucial to having diverse needs presented to council.	No	12 councillors is OK as is their election by the community. I do not agree with council wide elections as that will deny us the guarantee of local representation.	attended the 'Elector Consultation' at Gumeracha and the majority view was clearly varied (unlike Strling with only 4 attendees. The statistics comparing ANC with Prospect (which is not comparable with ANC and our diverse communities) are not persuasive. Anyway this is ANC where I live and is common with most people distinct from the main population centres we need local councillors to support us empathetically. Having wards is our only guarantee of that.
179	BIRDWOOD	Yes	Nil	No	Nil	Yes	Nil	Nil
180	BIRDWOOD	Yes	Nil	No	Nil	Yes	Nil	Nil
181	INGLEWOOD	Yes	This is in keeping with the principles of democracy and gives electors the opportunity to choose a mayor who can take an overall view of council affairs rather than a parochial view	No	Wards are our only guarantee of local representation. The ANC area is quite diverse so local representation is crucial to having diverse needs considered.	No	I am happy with 12 councillors who are elected by the community but, as stated above, I feel council wide elections will deny us a guarantee of local representation.	attended the Gumeracha community consultation and am not persuaded by the statistics presented. ANC is not Prospect, we are much more diverse. We need people on council who can represent the needs of our diverse communities because they are familiar with them. The only way to achieve that is to guarantee a spread of councillors across the ANC area and wards do that. The questions are not as clear as they could be. A number of people have asked me what they mean. They were clearly designed by the 'No Wards' lobby.
182	INGLEWOOD	Yes	This would give certainty and continuity to the Mayoral position	No	The ward system ensures that less populous areas are not swamped by the more populous areas	No	How can a councillor have sufficient knowledge of the whole area of the Adelaide Hills where as a councillor who lives in the ward would be much more familiar with local needs and issues	I am president of the Top of the Torrens Community Gallery. A local councillor has been very important to us on many issues of local concern. It is impossible for a councillor living at Strling/Aldgate to be aware or appreciate issues at Birdwood.
183	INGLEWOOD	Yes	This would give certainty and continuity to the Mayoral position	No	The ward system ensures that less populous areas are not swamped by the more populous areas	No	How can a councillor have sufficient knowledge of the whole area of the Adelaide Hills where as a councillor who lives in the ward would be much more familiar with local needs and issues	I am vitally interested in the community especially with my involvement in the Catholic Churches in Birdwood and Lobethal, which are a part of the Adelaide Hills Catholic Parish. I think that it is vitally important to maintain the ward system so that the voice of the less populous areas will not be swamped by the larger more populous areas.
184	ROSTREVOR	Yes	Nil	No	We can't see any advantage for change - has always worked well!!	No	Nil	Nil
185	BIRDWOOD	Yes	Nil	No	It is at odds with the community feedback where 96% favoured the retention of wards. The potential of members being elected from the more heavily populated part of the council area. An organised single interest group (including a political party) could gain considerable representation on council.	Blank	Nil	Nil

No.	Suburb	Principle Member of Council Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Support No Wards	Reasons	Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	Further Comments
186	BIRDWOOD	Yes	Nil	No	Members may not have any empathy for, or affiliation with, all communities across the council.	Blank	Nil	Nil
187	KESSEBROOK	Yes	Nil	No	There is potential for the number of invalid votes to increase because electors will have to vote for at least 12 candidates for a valid vote (assuming there are more than 12 vacancies), many of whom will not be known to electors.	Blank	Nil	Nil
188	BIRDWOOD	Yes	Nil	No	Members may not have any empathy for, or affiliation with, all communities across the council.	Blank	Nil	Nil
189	GUMERACHA	Yes	Nil	No	There is potential for the number of invalid votes to increase because electors will have to vote for at least 12 candidates for a valid vote (assuming there are more than 12 vacancies), many of whom will not be known to electors.	Blank	Nil	Nil
190	BIRDWOOD	Yes	Nil	No	Members may not have any empathy for, or affiliation with, all communities across the council.	Blank	Nil	Nil
191	MOUNT TORRENS	Yes	Nil	No	Nil	Yes	More wide spread members	Nil
192	BIRDWOOD	Yes	Nil	No	Nil	Blank	Nil	Nil
193	LOBETHAL	Yes	A leader is needed to run a business. One who knows the ins and outs of the council.	No	It is at odds with the community feedback where 96% favoured the retention of wards	Yes	Each needs a voice to let council know their views.	Each ward needs representation to enable all funding used fairly. Without wards, I can see that certain areas would be given a lot more attention than others. It is happening now.
194	BIRDWOOD	Yes	The mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy choice.	No	Small townships have a representative	No	Nil	Smaller wards may be considered Election of members of larger wards is likely The elected person may not have interests of smaller wards.

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Ward Structure Support No Wards	Reasons	Number of Councilors Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	Further Comments
155	WOODSIDE	Yes	Once elected they are more likely to lead decisions based on the whole community - especially with difficult and politically sensitive decisions otherwise vested interests may prevail	No	No - open to manipulation by vested interests who may influence council decisions. It may lead to certain sections of a diverse community having undue influence.	No	Poorly worked! Local areas within A Hills are diverse - rural to small townships therefore the community in each would be better served by local representation - who are willing to represent very local interests and who have local knowledge and understanding.	Councils and their local ward representatives are a chance for 'local' participation - it tends to make political parties less relevant and have less influence. We have to deal with politics at State and Federal level - lets not have it here too - or its potential! There will be less 'local' roots in any decision made - may disadvantage communities and ward remote from the council offices - services are likely to become more centralised - decision making more remote - chance for domination within the council for those with political backing, money and vested interest.
156	MT TORRENS	Yes	Retain mayor as head of council elected at poll as mayor	No	Ward system to be retained to provide better representation in rural areas and contact with local council rep. Reduce political party involvement.	No	Retain ward system. Change is fueled by political agenda. Why change something that is working.	No
157	MT TORRENS	Yes	Mayor should be elected by the community at a poll	No	Retain ward system as true representative of people as per Westminster system. This was promised at amalgamation.	Blank	Retain ward system. Why change. What is behind this.	No
158	GUMERACHA	Yes	Because they know their council and community	No	Members in current wards now their community	No	Members in current wards now their community	No
159	URADLA	Yes	More democratic than being appointed by council members especially if no wards	No	Council to represent whole community - not just Stirling-Algate etc. Do not believe council members from more urban areas understand the issues facing rural areas.	No	Not democratic. Also just as representatives from urban areas do not understand issues facing rural areas, councillors from rural areas may not understand issues facing urban areas. The council covers a wide area with many different communities all of which need to have a voice.	This seems a waste of time and money as the community has already spoken. Smaller communities will not have much hope of being heard against the vast numbers of people in urban areas. Our interests and conscience are not the same. I have lived in Stirling, Craferns and now Uradla all my life and the need for all voices to be heard is now more necessary than ever!
200	GUMERACHA	Yes	Nil	No	Wards provide the best way of having equal representation of all the people	No	1. I won't know most of those I'm supposed to vote for. 2. Most won't know or support my ward - they are biased.	No
201	PARACOMBE	Yes	The community has an opportunity to know something about the candidates before electing resulting in greater connectivity with their mayor	No	Wards help to keep the council local. Candidates should reside in the ward at time of standing to represent that ward.	No	Impersonal. Single interest groups could become over-represented. More daunting for local candidates with such a large area to canvass - more costly.	We need the review and with 96% of the feedback favouring retaining wards. It is obviously the option to retain (or else why have a community review). In federal politics, member represent their electorate as well as make decision for Australia as a whole. Local government should do the same.

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Ward Structure Support No Wards	Reasons	Number of Councilors Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	Further Comments
202	GUM	Yes	The Mayor represents the council. If the council is not serving the community the Mayor is to blame.	No	They will be spoiled and forgotten. We need representative who are aware of our needs and are in a position to make them known.	No	The above statement is deliberately confusing and I can only conclude it is aimed to cancel 'no' to question 2.	No
203	STIRLING	Yes	Nil	Yes	More flexible and democratic	Yes	Good number - not too few or too many to adequately represent our district.	No
204	MOUNT TORRENS	Yes	Democracy in action at the grass-roots level	No	Power centred in larger population areas. Too much work for councillors to cover the whole area. Local representation for local issues greatly diminished.	No	see above	If a majority of electors in the council district want the current ward system to be retained then this must be what the elected councillors adhere to. Any change to the existing arrangement will open the door for major party politics to get control of council.
205	BIRDWOOD	Yes	Democratic that the mayor is elected by the community and not be a select few.	No	JMC is a huge area. Would a councillor from Stirling be prepared to meet with residents at Humbug Grove, several times a year, as the ward councillors now do - distance 140kms round trip.	No	see above. Differences between urban Stirling community and T Valley country rural area. Local councillors know the area and readily available when problems arise eg blocked drains, trees over roads, unsafe	I was surprised to read that although 96% favoured retaining wards, further money was being used for a 2nd survey. The more populated area could have more members than the less rural populated area. Elected councillors may not have empathy for or connection with all communities across the council. I prefer to vote for people I know, and not a name on a piece of paper that I know nothing about.
206	BIRDWOOD	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	believe we would not get the service we currently receive if the system is changed.	No	We would believe, be better served by the current system.	No
207	BIRDWOOD	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	feel that the community will be better served by retaining wards. The councillor or councillors representing the ward will have a better feel for the needs of the people in that ward and their responsibility.	No	Could result in more attention being given to a particular part of the council area than other parts.	If the area concept was introduced it could result in the majority of councillors coming from a major centre in the council area. They may not have empathy for all communities in the council area. A ward councillor is more likely to know his or her people than an area councillor who would need to know all of the people in the whole council area. The present system of wards seems to work well. Why change what is not broke.
208	BIRDWOOD	Yes	The community must have a voice	No	Birdwood and would have no voice or representation. Community has voiced its opinion to retain wards. Division of city and rural too great.	Yes	if there are no wards it is useless voting because we are a small minority of the rural council area.	if the community wants wards - why dictate by a few councillors their own views? Councillors are voted by the people to represent the people.
209	BIRDWOOD	No	Mainly city views. Anything to get rid of Mayor Spragg. He doesn't have a care for the country farmers. He represents joining only (owl)	No	As a primary producer we must be represented by a councillor that we can approach with our problems. No wards would have a dramatic effect on farmers.	Yes	Councillors must live in wards! Wards give a diverse and wide representative voice to council. The green group in council are a problem.	To make my point - the power supply has been out for some days from trees not being removed from feeder lines - green groups don't allow trees to be cut down that have the potential to fall over main lines. Cutting a few limbs off is not the answer. Bundled cables in towns cut out Council must remove and remove all trees that will fall over lines and roads.

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Ward Structure Support No Wards	Reasons	Number of Councilors Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	Further Comments
210	BIRDWOOD	Yes	the current system works ok	No	The ward system safeguards the contact of ratepayers with a council rep who knows first hand the problems/issues/interests of that specific area	No	See above - eg a person living (say) at Stirling is not personally cognizant of problem/issues of (say) Mt Torrens. The council area is eclectic.	Why change what is working - has worked - ok for years? By the ward system, ratepayers can get to know their ward rep quite easily. Where does the move to abolish wards come from? Not from the Adelaide Hills dwellers, 90% of whom want to keep the wards.
211	CROMER	Yes		No	It seems amazing that the Adelaide Hills Council is going this way or even looking at it. Barossa Council is moving to return wards. As they say it is not broken so why fix it. Again more cost to the community.	No	Let us keep it simple - there will people who have no local knowledge - this opens the council up to being exploited groups who have a political or even anti council viewpoint. No a thousand times no.	I had the view that this issue was defeated sometime ago - when 96% of the area voted to retain wards. The Barossa is a great example - when you see smaller communities ignored and overlooked. Just look at their Holy the Rec Centre will pay but Nuriootpa benefits all other areas miss out. Here again in the Hills Council Birdwood/Mt Torrens would be overlooked.
212	KERSBROOK	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice. All council community members are entitled to an equal opportunity to vote for a mayoral candidate	No	Retention of wards ensures representation of interests and needs of individual ward areas. More heavily populated areas will gain increased vote power if wards are abolished. 96% of community members favoured retention of wards.	No	Council districts have a wide range of population density and a ward system ensures a more equal voting rights and values for all members.	The fundamental principle of democracy is to ensure each community member has one vote, of equal value. Abolishing a ward system will severely disadvantage the needs and services to less populated districts. The less populated council districts cannot expand due to government regulations regarding water catchment restrictions.
213	BIRDWOOD	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	Nil	No	Nil	Nil
214	BIRDWOOD	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	Enables the potential for poor representation of some areas and single interest groups gaining self organized over representation	No	Nil	Nil
215	FORRESTON	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	Provides a broader representation across the whole council area	Yes	Nil	Nil
216	BIRDWOOD	Yes	Nil	No	The council area is divided into wards because wards represent communities. Ward councillors know what their community needs and concerns are because they themselves live there.	No	This is an agenda to break down small communities. A councillor living in Stirling will not know anything about what is required in the Torrens Valley for example. The less populated towns are 'forgotten' now when it comes to services.	We do not understand why it appears you are doing a 'Jay Weatherill - Nuclear Dump' type push to continue this agenda until you get the 'right response' when you know that the vast majority of the residents want to keep the ward system. Is this about costs or what...? Note 2 page attachment re overdevelopment, overpopulation, overhouse attached.

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Ward Structure Support No Wards	Reasons	Number of Councilors Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	Further Comments
217	BIRDWOOD	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice. Democracy is by all the people, not a few	No	Wards give locals a say to someone who lives in there area, to do local things; not forgotten by some or all councillor from another area	No	Every councillor must represent an equal number of electors and that councillor must represent their area.	If you do away with wards, council will be subject to political parties. Ask people in Mt Pleasant how left out they now feel with no wards. Please remember wards can elect from ANC leaving the JMC, having to combine with the Mt Barker Council which will result in the staff and council being made redundant. So strongly remember this angle.
218	BIRDWOOD	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	Nil	No	Nil	Reasons for retaining Wards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is in odds with the community feedback where 96% favoured the retention of wards. The potential of members being elected from the more heavily populated part of the council area. An organised single interest group (including a political party) could gain considerable representation (on council). Members may not have any empathy for, or affiliation with, all communities across the council. There is the potential for the number of invalid votes to increase because electors will have to vote for at least 12 candidates for a valid vote. (assuming there are more than 12 vacancies), many of whom will not be known to electors.
219	BIRDWOOD	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	Nil	No	Nil	Nil
220	BIRDWOOD	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	Nil	No	Nil	Nil
221	BIRDWOOD	Yes	I feel the community should reserve the right to choose. Its the democratic way.	No	My understanding was that the community feedback on this was to retain the wards. This should be adhered to.	No	Nil	Nil
222	BIRDWOOD	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	96% of the community support the wards	No	There can be a large number of invalid votes with 12 area councillors, especially when the voters would not know most of them.	Nil
223	BIRDWOOD	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice	No	Nil	No	Nil	Nil

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Ward Structure Support No Wards	Reasons	Number of Councilors Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	Further Comments
224	KERSBROOK	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice. The electors must be able to exclude from that position a person who has a casting vote and chooses to change the status as existing.	No	The ward system provides local representation. If abolished, the heavily populated areas can elect a person who only supports that area, to the exclusion to country areas.	No	This is a loaded question. What is an 'area councillor'? The question is poorly put and the answer could be yes or no for the same intended result.	The questions appear to have been constructed so that confusion will reign.
225	KERSBROOK	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice. Using my democratic right I wish to choose who represents me and my view	No	I would like to be part of the discussion that would finally be decided on by the community and not councillors or council employees	No	no rural areas must be adequately represented - the elected councillor knows his/her area. Invalid votes will increase as electors will be unfamiliar with the candidates	Council needs to revisit the first survey the outcome clearly indicated a No Change view by the community
226	GUMERACHA	Yes	Why change something that works	No	Wards are better suited to focus on their areas specific needs	No	The council area is too large and varied to generalise everything. More focus required on individual areas.	Nil
227	GUMERACHA	Yes	All Electors need a choice in the election of Mayor	No	Maintaining wards will give all areas representation in council	No	Each area (ward) needs to have a voice in council	Nil
228	MYLOR	Yes	Figurehead / Spokesperson for area.	No	All people need to feel as though they are represented by someone with understanding of where they live, not simply by someone from a larger population town / city who is simply more popular by the numbers.	No	By the numbers that statement sounds fine but less representation for people living outside of the larger population areas such as the bigger towns / cities. For the position of Mayor this could be fine.	How much has this cost? Is the system broken? The people simply need services / value for 'tax payer' dollars.
229	BRADBURY	Yes	People should have say on who is mayor	No	We would lose representation in small wards	Yes	Nil	Nil

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Ward Structure Support No Wards	Reasons	Number of Councilors Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	Further Comments
230	WOODSIDE	Yes	All representatives of Council should be elected by the Community and those council representatives should reside within their nominated electoral ward. Members of the community must be involved in the process of electing the appropriate person to be appointed as Mayor of the Ward in which they reside. This position of leading the council holds the responsibility of not only leading the council but more importantly implementing the needs of the rate payers, as the appointed representative of those residents.	No	No the current division of wards should be maintained and all expenditure equitably divided thus ensuring there is no one ward receiving the lion's share of maintenance and works carried out. As currently appears to be the status quo. As rate payers we expect that all of our wards are maintained/improved across the council area.	No	Surely the council body could efficiently comprise of 12 councillors who must be elected by the community. The elected Councillor should be required to reside within the area, that they represent, thus being more aware of the needs of the people with whom you are familiar and living within in an area that is your local community.	Nil
231	COULÉE CREEK	Yes	The mayor, as with all council members should be elected by the people.	No	This would lead to a possible inequality of resources or interest being given to areas that have a greater population (ie areas with larger towns / townships could control voting).	No	The councillors should represent their own wards as is currently stated	Living in less populated area of the hills, I appreciate the current system as I feel it more fairly represents our wards individual needs at council. I would strongly disagree with AMV changes being made!
232	SCOTT CREEK	Yes	This is the 3rd time I have tried to complete this survey which simply keeps falling over. Who knows if my previous response is already there, but basically direct representation is more democratic and reduces the likelihood of vested interests corrupting council business	No	Again, tired of putting in text that disappears, but basically not convinced by the arguments put forward for abolition. What we have might not be perfect but it does still allow for smaller more widespread communities to have their specific issues and concerns considered, whereas I believe unless voting is compulsory and all residents (not just ratepayers) can vote, the larger townships will get the most representation and could lead to an even more skewed focus of council resources and services. Change boundaries if necessary but retain local representation via Wards.	Yes	As a very diverse and widespread council the number of councillors required per capita is greater than in more metropolitan councils where the interests and needs of the community are more similar.	I have no idea if my previous comments here were successful. The entire page fell over and disappeared when I tried to access technical support. When I came back to this page it was blank. My previous comments were more reasoned but basically pointed out that the 60 odd previous respondents were committed community members, most likely represented the views of their community and as such should be afforded more respect by the 13 members of council unless the councillors can demonstrate that they are actually representing their Ward's views. Removing wards will simply provide a better opportunity for vested interests to push agendas, and probably lead to the further encroachment of political parties into council. Change boundaries if necessary, change rules so councillors should live in their community, but don't abolish local representation.

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Ward Structure Support No Wards	Reasons	Number of Councilors Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	Further Comments
233	OAKSANK	Yes	Easier administration	No	I have never seen a Councilor doing something for my ward. Reduce administration.	No	Too many Councilors. Reduce by 50%.	No
234	INLEWOOD	Yes	I prefer to have a choice in this appointment rather than have a chairperson appointed from the councilors.	No	I want to ensure my representatives come from our local areas.	No	I want to ensure there are councilors from our local area who can be familiar with and focus on our local interests.	No
235	MYLOR	Yes	Provides the opportunity for ratepayers to have a say in the election of the Principal Member of the Council	No	strongly oppose the abolition of the ward system. The current system provides the opportunity for ratepayers to have a strong and effective relationship with a councilor who understands the local issues and can represent their views in Council. There seems to be a view that the community is the Adelaide Hills. The Adelaide Hills is made up of a wide range of very diverse communities, most if not all very strong and made up of people who are prepared to go the extra mile to support their local community. This is a tremendous strength for the Adelaide Hills region and one which the Council should support not fracture.	Yes	The current balance seems about right. As the region grows some tweaking may be necessary to ensure appropriate balance across the wards.	I was disappointed to note that the Council voted to proceed with the proposal to abolish the wards in light of submissions which overwhelmingly were supportive of the current ward system and the support of half of the Councilors for retaining the wards. The current system of wards has served local communities very well and in my view there is no compelling argument in the Representation Review Report to suggest such a radical change is justified. People who live in Mylor will go out of their way to support Mylor initiatives but it is unrealistic to expect those same people to have the same enthusiasm for some broader Adelaide Hills initiative. The Council is there to support the enthusiasm of local communities. Ward based councilors are best placed to do this. If the ward based system is abolished there is a high risk the local support from Councilors will be significantly weakened - particularly for small communities such as Mylor. It is possible the Council may become increasingly Stirling-centric and increasingly influenced by the deep pockets of the larger political parties.
236	CHAIN OF PONDS	Yes	No	No	Representation would then mainly come from the more populated areas and the smaller less populated areas will have no representation. This is not in the spirit of the original amalgamations	Yes	Continue as per the current system	I think that it is disgusting that so many electors object to the changes but council think it knows what is best for us all and wants to press ahead with change anyway. Remember we may also know what is best for council when it comes to election time
237	ROSTREVOR	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
238	HEATHFIELD	Yes	I want to vote for the Mayor	No	Retaining wards is important to have local representation. A local councilor knows the district and the community issues. Residents like to know their councilors.	Yes	I favour 12 councilors plus the mayor. It has worked well and should continue.	I prefer the existing system of 7 wards, 12 councilors plus a mayor. It appears to be the fairest representation over a very diverse area. Ward boundaries could be realigned in the future as population density alters.

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Ward Structure Support No Wards	Reasons	Number of Councilors Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	Further Comments
239	BASKET RANGE	Yes	Elected by the electorate and not the council members. Enables the electorate to choose a Mayor with policies we support.	No	We have a mixed rural - urban council area. The urban population is much larger than the rural population and with no wards the votes of our primary producers would be swamped. We tell our region on its rural aspects and we are not losing this. I cannot see councilors elected by urban voters supporting rural, landscape and cultural initiatives.	No	See previous question. With our population structure, I cannot see many members with rural interests being elected whereas now some represent largely rural wards.	The present system works relatively well. It is up to the community to provide Councilors who have the broad interests of the Council at heart. The urbanisation of the MUA (both urban and peri-urban) is frightening. So little is being done to assist primary production remain in this landscape.
240	ALDGETE	Yes	This is a democratic method of choosing a Mayor and Mayor Democracy	Yes	Since amalgamation 20 years ago, I do not believe the MUA has Full representation of all areas, rather than domination by the more populated areas.	Yes	Yes, 12 feels about right. It provides an opportunity. Are you trying to trick people with these questions and make them as difficult as possible to comprehend?	If we do away with wards, I can vote for good people wherever they live. That appeals to me. And potential councilors will need to be more inclusive.
241	LOBETHAL	Yes		No		No		No
242	BIRDWOOD	Yes	Mayor is the chairperson of the council	No	I fear our things community will not be adequately represented.	No	I don't believe these councilors will adequately represent our local community. If the councilor is local and elected by our community it would be satisfactory but that is what the ward system does now.	I have appreciated what Val Hill and Malcolm Herman do in our community to represent us on council. The suggested changes to the system are likely to result in centralisation of facilities and could even lead to political cronyism.
243	MOUNT GEORGE	Yes	No	No	Having no wards would likely result in a greater number of Elected Members coming from highly populated towns. How could someone from living in Mylor or Stirling truly understand the issues facing residents in Birdwood?	No	Having wards for a council area that covers over 700 square kilometers makes sense so that the local community can easily access their representatives and those representatives have local knowledge. Having no wards is fine for a small metropolitan council, not for Adelaide Hills Council.	No
244	FORRESTON	Yes	It is a system that has some traditional wisdom and I see no good reason to change	No	With abolition of wards representation will be lost for residents of the less densely populated areas and will be more focused on the single interests of the urban areas	No	No	No
245	ROSTREVOR	Yes	The community should have a say in who leads the representative team of councilors	No	We live in an area that is not representative of the rest of the council area and need a member to represent our needs as well as the whole council.	No	See previous answer.	No

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council		Ward Structure		Number of Councilors		Further Comments
		Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Support No Wards	Reasons	Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	
246	ROSTREVOR	Yes	Nil	No	An elected ward councillor can be much more representative of this distinctive small urban area which is removed from the remainder of the Adelaide Hills area.	No	See comments in answer to the previous question. Why change a system that, on the whole, has been working quite well for many years.	Nil
247	CUDLEE CREEK	Yes	A very reasonable way to run an organisation — the elected members elect a chair.	No	The AHC consists of a centralised population centre — Crafters to Bridgewater etc — and a scattered hinterland. I live in the scattered hinterland. I want a local representative, not some political party member in Stirling.	No	No, we want to be able to vote for a LOCAL person, who has a chance of being elected that would NOT be the case with council-wide elections.	We need a ward system — we don't want to be "represented" by some political party person from Stirling. Please do not get rid of wards. If you do, I don't think it would be worth me voting. It would be a waste of time.
248	GUMERACHA	Yes	It has worked well in the past. Election of a chairman can cause internal angst among elected members. If elected by ratepayers, there's no argument. Independently elected Mayor has a role to play among councillors that is sort of like the Speaker in parliament. The Mayor needs to be someone all councillors consult with.	Yes	It bugs me that I only get to vote for SOME of the councillors on council. They all vote on decisions that affect me. I should get to vote for all of them. I do have concerns that outlying areas may not get the attention they need. However, if that happens, there will be a community backlash and the council will have to go back to wards.	Yes	This is a big area to cover geographically.	Nil
249	BRADBURY	Yes	This is the most democratic way of electing the Mayor	Yes	The "Senate" type voting will ensure the most democratic representation with a quota/preference system of vote counting.	Yes	This is a convenient number to manage Council business	Nil
250	BRADBURY	Yes	It is the democratic way of electing a Mayor for the council	Yes	One can still elect a Councillor from their present area, as well as others who may reside in the council at large who may have specific talents. I.e. support for the natural environment. My understanding is that there will still be 12 Councillors and the election will be run like the Senate. It is a pity we do not have compulsory voting in local government.	Yes	I feel I would be better represented by having a larger number of Councillors with a wide spread of expertise to select from. I understand that the smaller councils in cities already work this way. It is just that our wide AHC is so large unlike the City Councils with less land and similar population	I will try to attend the meeting on this subject 21st February where I can hear others with questions that I may not have thought about. Thank you for giving me this opportunity for an input to this very important subject for council to consider.
251	NORTON SUMMIT	Yes	Nil	No	Nil	No	Nil	Nil
252	NORTON SUMMIT	Yes	Nil	No	Nil	No	Nil	Nil

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council		Ward Structure		Number of Councilors		Further Comments
		Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Support No Wards	Reasons	Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	
253	NORTON SUMMIT	Yes	Nil	No	More local representation	No	Local representation for local issues	Nil
254	BALHANNAH	Yes	It is important to have a local Mayor, someone who is aware of local issues.	No	There are differing demographics, needs and concerns which are separated and grouped merely by location. Each location needs a local voice.	Yes	each area within the council should be represented by its own elected representative to represent the concerns of those local residents.	Please retain the Wards system. The AHC area is large and diverse. Each ward has its own needs and concerns which are sometimes completely different to the needs and concerns of those living in other wards within the AHC. It just makes sense to have a representative from each of those areas.
255	ROSTREVOR	Yes	Nil	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> guarantees the direct representation of all parts of the Council area enables Ward Councilors to focus on local as well as Council-wide issues prevents a single interest group from gaining considerable representation on Council enables and attracts candidates to contest Ward elections reduces the cost and effort required to campaign at an election and potentially provides cost savings to Council in regards the conduct of elections and supplementary elections. 	No	Nil	Nil
256	ROSTREVOR	Yes	Nil	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> guarantees the direct representation of all parts of the Council area enables Ward Councilors to focus on local as well as Council-wide issues prevents a single interest group from gaining considerable representation on Council enables and attracts candidates to contest Ward elections reduces the cost and effort required to campaign at an election and potentially provides cost savings to Council in regards the conduct of elections and supplementary elections. 	No	Nil	Nil

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council		Ward Structure		Number of Councilors		Further Comments
		Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Support No Wards	Reasons	Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	
257	ADLTON	Yes	The position of Mayor has served the community well. The most democratic process is for the community to elect the Mayor. I strongly oppose the concept of the Mayor being appointed by Councilors.	No	The ward system offers the most democratic way of electing 'local' council representatives. It ensures all areas of the community have a voice and reduces the risk of Council being dominated by Councilors from the high population areas and disenfranchising other residents in the more rural areas. The current Council need to be reminded Adelaide Hills is the amalgamation of 4 District Councils and does not just serve the needs of the higher population areas.	No	I am opposed to the concept of 12 councilors being elected to serve the entire Council area. The current Ward System and democratic process need to be respected. Ward Councilors have historically represented local issues very well in the Adelaide Hills Council area. The alternative system of abolishing Wards and having 'area' councilors is not democratic and will effectively disenfranchise ratepayers from the lower population areas.	I strongly support the retention of the Ward System within the Adelaide Hills Council. It is probably the single most important issue facing residents as it has the potential to remove their democratic rights as ratepayers. It is very important ratepayers have access to elected Council Representatives from their local area who understand their 'local' issues. Unfortunately, if ratepayers views are not respected then there may be consideration by some community 'group' to secede from the Adelaide Hills Council and join neighbouring Councils. In summary, The Ward System should be retained in the Adelaide Hills Council as the most democratic representative system available.
258	STIRLING	Yes	I believe this better ensures that the Mayor has wide support in the Community they are to represent, and additionally, are known to be capable of fulfilling the demands involved with the role.	Yes	I support the CURRENT WARDS BEING AMALGAMATED not abolished altogether, leaving the Council with just 2 wards in total. A better arrangement would be if Menzies, Marlee Hill and Mt Lufry wards combined to make up 1 larger ward, but still with the 7 Councilors representing them. The other 6 wards would remain.	Yes	Seems a more inclusive system for the Councilors to work within the whole of the District community, rather than the them and us' ward approach and interest we have now.	Get on with it, argue whatever the decision is made by the Councilors's succinctly, and hopefully there will be more unity of purpose as a result.
259	TORRENS PARK	No	Think he/she should be elected by the members.	Yes	Nil	Yes	Nil	Nil
260	ALDGATE	Yes	It is a democratic bulwark against the council becoming dominated by organized political parties - an ever-present risk which will be greatly increased by the proposal to abolish electoral wards. Secondly, because an elected mayor has a casting vote, he/she has the power to break a deadlock where the council is paralysed by an irreconcilable 50/50 split.	No	Having read the Representation Options Paper and having discussed the issue with a number of interested people, I am strongly opposed to the proposal to abolish the existing ward system.	No	I have already given a detailed rejection of the suggestion that there should be council-wide elections. I'm not this question just a sneaky way of refreshing the question: Do you want to abolish wards? 12 councilors elected on a ward system, and a directly elected mayor. In fine, I am still trying to work out what is the real reason behind the push to abolish wards.	Comments in Appendix 2

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council		Ward Structure		Number of Councilors		Further Comments
		Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Support No Wards	Reasons	Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	
261	OAKBANK	Yes	Mayor has a overall responsibility to represent the interests of the whole community	No	The process becomes inherently less democratic as individuals wishing to stand for Council has to make a significantly larger financial and time input to campaign over the whole district than they do for a Ward. Thus, potentially, only those with financial backers are able to stand for election opening the way for take over of the Council by external interests as we have seen with Developers in NDW.	No	No if this means no Wards, yes if we still have Wards.	Councilors elected by the whole district will not physically be able to properly represent their constituents as the distances involved are too great. Councilors usually have an extremely good knowledge of their local area but only limited knowledge of the rest of the District. Potentially some areas will have no effective representation.
262	ROSTREVOR	Yes	Nil	No	No, I believe a local representative is appropriate and most effective.	Yes	Nil	Nil
263	MONTACUTE	Yes	This is Mayor to the whole district and should be elected by all eligible residents.	No	Deterioration of knowledge of and service to smaller communities	No	The Council could be dominated by larger communities and/or special interest groups	Nil
264	PARADISE	Yes	The community should have the most say in who represents us at a council level.	No	Individual wards gives the local electors a chance to engage with councilors who have an empathy for the local area. Ward councilors will have their local communities in mind in the overall picture of the running of council.	No	This system could lead to the stacking of the council and unfair representation in council by higher population areas. The local feel of councilors must remain.	The first vote was taken against the wishes of the community that made representation and I hope that councilors will listen and not ignore the general community. The last submissions being ignored was an affront to the electors and gives a good insight into why the community does not wish to become population driven but rather locally driven.
265	ALDGATE	Yes	Nil	Yes	think this would be a better system and may encourage more people to stand for council. I don't think the council area very big and therefore I don't think it matters where people live in the area.	Yes	Great idea. Give the community a vote on all the councilors for the area	think this is a good move and will create more competition for Councilor positions. This should result in a wider range of people with different skills standing for Council which I think will be good for the Adelaide Hills.

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Ward Structure Support No Wards	Reasons	Number of Councilors Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	Further Comments
266	MONTACUTE	Yes	A chairperson elected by the Councilors from its members should the council decide to go ahead with a non-ward based election, may lead to further dominance of social interest groups. This deficiency of the non-ward based system was identified in the report and I fear that social interest groups will become a feature and a problem.	No	I think there is some hope that ward-based Council provides better regional representation. I strongly feel that candidates should reside in their ward and that his should be made compulsory.	No	I do not support the abolition of wards but I do support the current 12 person council plus popularly elected mayor.	The very poor response rate to the previous consultation indicates that a more intensive consultation is required, particularly when the responses were overwhelmingly against abolition of the ward structure. My reading of the report is that the decision is taken and Council will go ahead anyway and that the expectation is that this stage 2 consultation will yield similar results that can be disregarded as not representative. The questions in the response form are a trifle misleading and poorly worded. (MHO)
267	GUMERACHA	Yes	Each association of people needs a person to preside.	No	Each area in the Adelaide Hills is different, they all have something special and this is what attracts people to the delightfulness of the "hill". The people who represent the wards know their area and can best bring before the whole council the needs, thoughts, complaints, desires, thanks etc. We all have differing thoughts and AHC is a big area and it requires a number of reps to do the job properly.	Yes	Local councils are the nuts and bolts of our communities. If we are to keep our areas in reasonably good shape (which at present we find difficult) just imagine if we had no wards. Stirling would be ok but the rest of us would not.	No
268	STIRLING	Yes	Nil	No	Nil	No	Nil	Nil
269	KERSBROOK	Yes	It appears to be the most convenient and possibly the most subtle way of electing a Mayor.	No	Under the proposed system the most populated areas would elect Councilors from these areas and leave the less populated areas unrepresented. Malcolm Hereman has been an excellent Councilor representing areas other than Stirling and Crafters etc.	No	Each ward needs to be adequately represented to ensure equity in council services.	We both object to any alteration to the current system. This proposal would result in all Council services even further concentrated in areas such as Stirling, Crafters etc. and we fear the services for our area would be severely downgraded.

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Ward Structure Support No Wards	Reasons	Number of Councilors Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	Further Comments
270	KERSBROOK	Yes	Yes this is in my opinion the best option and have some ownership on the outcome	No	If we have no wards, those of us outside the hillsides or Stirling areas would not get appropriate representation for our area, we get little now and we certainly will get less support which would be even worse if all the councilors are from the other side of the council area. I am totally against this, the council's internal vote after not receiving it's preferred option outcome is also more than worrying - un-democratic to say the least.	Yes	Yes but they must come from the whole council area not just the more populated zones, someone from Stirling for instance would have the less or care what was required in Kerbrook or Cudde Creek as it does not affect them. Wards are a necessity to ensure that there is a fair spread of representation throughout the council area, so per the original outcome of the first review that the council is seemingly ignoring	I still don't see why the Council had to vote on the review other than to formally accept it's outcome, why bother to have the review in the first place if the outcomes are ignored by the Council and the opposite is to be put in place against the overwhelming wishes of the local community, your rates payers.
271	STIRLING	Yes	Nil	No	Ward ensure local interests are considered, which is especially important in a council with differing urban and rural components	No	Nil	support a reduction in ward nos. down to 4 and less councilors to be more in keeping with other metro councils.
272	CRAFTERS	Yes	The mayor should be democratically elected by the constituents, not by councilors. This would lead to greater party politics in local councils where it is largely unwanted.	No	Having the council area being a multi-member electorate will allow for a higher possibility of fringe members being elected by a vocal minority with no interest in the wards of a more passive majority	Yes	12 is a sufficient amount	Abolishing wards outright may also largely favor some more populated hills areas over others, there should be varied representation.
273	KERSBROOK	No	I would prefer to have a Chairperson voted in by the elected members of Council at the first Council meeting following the election. I believe this would encourage all candidates to see the bigger picture than just their local patch and consider impacts on the whole Council area when putting out their views on what they stand for and why they are running for Council. I believe there are very worthy people currently on Council who could be very capable as a Chairperson and who would keep the whole Council in mind when making decisions.	No	I believe that the abolition of Wards would make it near impossible to get a local representative voted onto Council from less populated areas. If the Council wishes to breakdown former Council areas then this can be accomplished by redistribution of the boundaries to have each Ward contain at least two parts of the former Council that amalgamated to make the Adelaide Hills Council. I believe the best solution is a three Ward system with each Ward having some rural and more populated areas incorporated. The level of representation would depend on voter numbers in each Ward as it does now.	No	I believe there are some areas in the Council area that are over represented on Council while other areas are under-represented and struggle to have issues of importance raised as they are voted down by other Councilors. I believe there should be a reduction in the amount of Councilors to no more than 10 including a Chairperson.	The initial consultation results seem to have been ignored by the Council with the Mayor's deciding vote going against the public wishes. If the Council truly wants public consultation and input they should listen to what that input is and not go against public wishes. People who took the time to make a submission to the original review have not been provided with any feedback as to why the Council has decided on this path.

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Ward Structure Support No Wards	Reasons	Number of Councilors Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	Further Comments
274	KEESBROOK	Yes	As a ratepayer we have the right to vote on someone who we consider can guide the Council with a vision that we share. It is unfortunate that sometimes what candidates tell us during the election process and what they actually do and believe once elected are quite different.	No	This question is misleading the respondent to provide a yes answer and could be considered manipulative on the part of the writer and approver for justification. I support retaining the Ward structure either in its current form or some other form. It is not enough to make a statement that all elected members are required to make decisions based on what is right for the whole Council, especially when some current elected members can't even locate townships within the Council, so why would they be able to make decisions for areas they don't even know, so they don't understand the issues. We require local representatives who understand our needs and can represent us on Council.	Yes	Comparing Adelaide Hills Council with other similar Councils 12 Councilors seems to be adequate. This would depend on how many Wards there are and the ratio of these Wards to ensure all Elected Members have a similar voter base to represent. The geographical area should also be considered when determining how many Councilors are required for a Ward as some Wards require a lot of travelling to get to all areas within them.	I think the Representation Review Report has been written in such a way as to lead people into believing that having No Wards is the only solution they can agree to and could be challenged as to why this is the case. The previous public consultation was decided to be ignored due to low response rates and yet the Council wants ratepayers to believe it has our interests at heart. Ignoring public response, regardless of numbers, and honing in on a minority response and then holding that out as the only solution is binding arrogant and disrespectful. My wife will be representing me at the Special Council Meeting as I am a nightshift worker. The report talks about "special interest groups" being able to get a representative elected, this would open the door for political parties to use Council as a training ground for future candidates, with no real interest in making decisions for the interests of ratepayers, something that already appears to be happening in the Adelaide Hills Council. The report also states that a candidate does not need to live in the Ward they are running for, surely you would not nominate to be a representative for a Ward you did not have some connection with and interest in representing, unless you are really not there to represent the community but your own interests.
275	MOUNT TORRENG	Yes	The Mayor is the face and generally the main spokesperson for the Council they represent. By being elected by the community they should speak on behalf and act on behalf of the communities wishes and views.	No	Being from the more northern end of the council region, I feel we would be forgotten. There is a way to much focus on Stirling and that region already, and a local person has the knowledge of the region they come from. Somebody from marion Hill ward (as an example) would know little about my road or my concerns in my area or care to much in pushing for things to be done in this region.	Yes	I am fine with 12 councilors. I would think though that if each ward is divided so correctly with similar numbers of rate payers that 2 people from each ward would be ideal. The Mayor should remain separate. An option is that if the Mayor was elected from the elected councilors by the councilors, then the ward that the Mayor came from would be able to have a replacement councilor as the Mayor should be neutral.	For a fair representation of ALL ratepayers the existing ward system should remain. The only way I would change my view is if Council elections were compulsory voting. I feel privileged to know both of my local Torrens Valley Ward councilors, and that I can go to them with local issues and get feedback accordingly. They know the region and the regions issues and needs and can push for action accordingly.
276	MILDA	Yes	It is a more identifiable name than "Chairperson" in a structure so important as a Local Council.	No	Ward based allows a more focused and interested approach to ward matters by the ward councilors. They should also live in or close to their ward to maintain that interest. The diversity in such a huge area under the hills Council could act against that individual approach within a ward if the ward boundaries were abolished.	Yes	The current number of ward councilors, being two or three per ward is probably just enough for the amount of work they have to get through, considering the call on their time within each ward. I would hope that as populations within wards increase, the number of councilors within the affected ward would increase to maintain good ratios.	Nil

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Ward Structure Support No Wards	Reasons	Number of Councilors Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	Further Comments
277	KEESBROOK	Yes	Nil	No	feel it is extremely important that local Councilors are familiar with their respective area and people whom they represent. I see no reason why having Wards divides the community. In my mind it only strengthens the relationship, particularly with the Council. My area is near the boundary of the AHC and without the excellent representation by our local councilors who have lived in this area for many years our voice would not be heard, rather dominated by the concentrated population on the southern side of the AHC. There is no feeling of being "obliged" to contact our local councilors - it is the relationship as we are local.	No	Please refer previous response it is not practical.	Listen to those who care and have their say. Abolishing Wards will take the 'local' out of council - something which we definitely no longer see from the State and Federal Governments. In my opinion it will also increase the workload on elected Councilors having to cover a far greater area and I just the question to Council - who would attend the many local meetings in my area should the local candidates be subvoted by those who may live some 50km away? Urge the Council to listen to those who have responded and care about our Council and not abolish the Ward system.
278	KEESBROOK	Yes	Nil	No	feel it is extremely important that local Councilors are familiar with their respective area and people whom they represent. I urge the Council to listen to those who have responded and care about our Council and not abolish the Ward system.	No	Refer previous response.	Nil
279	FOREST RANGE	Yes	It is important the Mayor is part of the Council itself and as it is the Mayor tends to be drawn from existing Councilors which is good and the system seems to work ok.	Yes	The current system does not work well, and if we started from scratch nobody would argue for a Ward system at all. This is an artefact of the old Council boundaries and nothing more. It promotes tribalism. It fails to draw enough candidates in a Ward on occasion and it encourages run-ins. Councilors who are elected out of parochialism and nothing more. Also, having to change ward boundaries to maintain elector ratio is a nuisance and will be confusing.	Yes	In regards to the being elected by the whole of the Council area (i.e. Ward-less), see my previous answer. And 12 seems like a reasonable number.	Abolishing Wards altogether will give a much richer, representative democracy because of the increased choice available, and allow Council to represent much more of the community and allow some "specialist" interests which will enrich Council knowledge and expertise. It will allow much better talent to be in Council and at the end of the day, good management by Council is important above all else. Representing and appeasing parochial interests is a major distraction from the bigger issues of managing this multi-million dollar corporation. The evidence is plain to see, with many Councilors caught up in the minutia, but with not idea on the bigger issues. The wards have to go, pure and simple. The existing system may have support from inertia, but that should not govern what we do. We elect Councilors to make these decisions for us, so please get on with it!

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council		Ward Structure		Number of Councilors		Further Comments
		Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Support No Wards	Reasons	Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	
280	MOUNT TORRENS	Yes	It allows the Mayor time to establish networks in relevant circles, and therefore represent Council appropriately. The disadvantage of this is that contenders for Mayor are lost to Council for a term.	No	No wards does not guarantee a spread of representation across the Council. Wards contain local communities that are passionate about their area, they are communities of interest. These communities want to know that someone is there to represent them, and that the power is not concentrated in the more populated areas.	No	I support 12 Councilors elected from a Ward structure.	Note that question 2 is worded with two nots, therefore what is being asked could be interpreted incorrectly. The voting numbers that have been discussed in the Drop in sessions have not taken into account in my opinion the fact that people are not compelled to vote, allowing the possibility of significant increase in voting in one area, in response to achieve a particular project, and therefore a greater representation for that area, would result for four years. Wards ensure a spread of representation.
281	MOUNT TORRENS	Yes	Nil	No	Nil	No	Nil	Nil
282	SCOTT CREEK	Yes	Nil	Yes	Council area is far too large & spread out. Local members & wards are more understanding of local situations	No	Must have local representation & local sections	Nil
283	GUMERACHA	Yes	Community voted Mayor allows community members to choose who will lead their Council.	No	The AHC area is a large geographical area, but compared to other areas has a small population. I believe the Ward system provides more local representation as the ward Councilors are able to get to know their electorate and usually have a greater knowledge and understanding of local issues. Some of the smaller areas could feel they are not adequately represented as their non-ward councilor may not have the local knowledge required to represent community interests. The Council could be subject to more political party influence, and therefore have the potential to lose their independence in decision-making.	No	I think the Ward system is more democratic and local Ward Councilors have their communities as their main interest within the overall council area.	Local Councils are for local representation and is the foundation of democracy. There is the potential for individuals to not have the close contact if their Councilors are a long distance away. Individual Councilors could be overruled by issues if they are representing the whole Council area, instead of being able to help and concentrate on specific issues relevant to their ward area.

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council		Ward Structure		Number of Councilors		Further Comments
		Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Support No Wards	Reasons	Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	
284	FORRESTON	Yes	Nil	No	The ward system continues to work. There are financial benefits to change the current ward system. TV ward is isolated from the major population of the area. From info discussed at the meeting it was 3,000 in TVW vs 30,000 in total. You would have to be blind Freddy not to work out that the domination of the Stirling area would have an influence on voting outcomes. Unless there is a benefit to everyone for the change then why make the change? If our local Councilors had not made us aware of the potential change then we would be none the wiser and maybe that is the reason why in other wards you have not had large turn outs, because they just dont know about it?	Yes		I am very disappointed that this major change has not been heavily promoted. It was only thru our local councilors did we find out about this change. The meeting attended at Gumeracha, the Mayor who did the presentation had already decided in support of the removal of wards. It was a waste of time as no respect was shown to the passionate group who attended to express their desire to maintain the wards like we live in such a diverse community and the ward system is working, we dont hear of anyone complaining about it so why change. There is only negatives to come from the change.
285	GUMERACHA	Yes	I believe all council areas should have an elected Mayor who coordinates council activities and promotes and advocates on behalf of all of the Adelaide Hills Council areas.	No	As a resident who owns a property on the very edge of the AHC area I believe it would have an extremely detrimental effect on services in my area. With a huge majority of residents residing in areas around Stirling there is no way our area would receive the appropriate representation of we did not retain the current ward system. There would be no way for Torrens Valley Ward to be heard or considered.	Yes	This question is ambiguous. I support Council being comprised of 12 area Councilors in addition to the Mayor providing that the current 12 wards are maintained.	After attending the Meeting at the Gumeracha Hall on Monday I felt that the council representatives that were there had already decided to support the removal of the wards with little consideration for the input and concerns of our local community. The ward system is working so I can see only negatives by removing it.
286	GUMERACHA	Yes	Nil	No	I don't want to see the small areas like character, Karoonah, Mt. Torrens, Birchwood being left out of representation. The idea to me sounds appealing except that when sections take place I feel that the densely populated areas will be able to monopolize and thereby sway elections.	Yes	Nil	I also have great concern that we are moving towards "Party Politics" where the liberal and conservative factions are attempting to take over. This is already evident in some issues in council.

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council		Ward Structure		Number of Councillors		Further Comments
		Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Support No Wards	Reasons	Support 12 Area Councillors	Reasons	
287	BRIDGEWATER	Yes	It works well now	No	I think the smaller populated areas like Dunbarth would be forgotten. It is good to have representation from your local area. I would like to see the status quo continue	Yes	No	No
288	LOWER HERMITAGE	Yes	No	No	Council needs to have representation from the entire council area, not just the highly populated areas.	No	Current system should remain	Being at the furthest North West point of the council area it is hard enough getting any money spent on dangerous roads in this ward. If the ward system was abolished the council representation would be biased towards 'Stirling' residents. The Ward system should remain and the Ward areas should be determined by approximate land size, not population, thereby affording an equal chance of getting rates expenditure across the entire council area.
289	BIRDWOOD	Yes	Tradition plus the fairest way of doing it.	No	Without the wards the balance of power within the community shifts further towards Stirling Hill Bunker and more away from the fringes of the council area. This imbalance is already noticeable and abolishing the wards will only further exacerbate the situation.	No	Political or economic bodies can take advantage of this voting arrangement to get a "block" of councillors elected which then represent their own interests and not those of the community.	Please stop trying to fix something that isn't broken. Council (both elected and employed) seem to have lost their connection to the electorate and what the voters want. The amount of money wasted on the "consultation process" for what looks like a centralisation of power, spending and services does annoy us, as does the current imbalance in the spending and services provided at things of the council area.
290	BIRDWOOD	Yes	Democracy	No	Due to the diverse nature of the council area in population, geography and property uses, it rural vs metropolitan residential it is important for the more rural areas to have adequate representation. Wards representatives should be residents of the area so that they have a vested interest in the area and the constituents.	Yes	No	The review seems to focus greatly on representation based on population. The ANC is unique in that there are areas of sparser population that still require a greater degree of 'care' as these areas have been neglected in favour of the more populated 'richer' areas of the council. Needs of rural areas (far away from metropolitan residential areas) which are growing). Care should be taken to not overlook the needs of residents and infrastructure in these areas.
291	CRAPERS	Yes	I think the Mayor gives a significant contribution to the community and as such should be elected by the community. By nominating for this position, it is expected that they are aware of the responsibilities and commitment required.	Yes	I would like to vote for my Council as a whole and not just for the Council Members within my Ward.	Yes	Whilst I support this option, I don't believe that 12 Councillors are required. This seems a rather large number.	No

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council		Ward Structure		Number of Councillors		Further Comments
		Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Support No Wards	Reasons	Support 12 Area Councillors	Reasons	
292	WOODFORDS	No	No	No	We live in an area very removed from the main council precinct. I already feel the suburbs of Woodforde and bridge aren't considered "real Adelaide Hills" by the council unless our council rates are due. Removing any chance of a council member living in our ward reduces our representation even further	Yes	No	No
293	INGLEWOOD	Yes	The mayor elected by the community is in accordance with a fundamental principle of democracy choice.	No	It is at odds with the community feedback where 96 favoured the retention of wards.	No	The potential of members being elected from the more heavily populated part of the council area.	An organized single interest group could gain considerable representation on council. Members may not have empathy for or affiliation with all communities across the council.
294	LOBETHAL	Yes	Someone needs to have a casting vote on the Council	No	Currently there appears to be a decided bias by ANC to maintaining and developing the southern areas of the hills Council is Stirling, Jagglee, Bridgewater in the northern areas of the council (ie Woodside and north) we hardly see any resources to manage roads, vegetation clearance, nor any plans for development, both in towns and rural areas. You only have to look at the main streets of the various towns to verify this. The previous round of submissions also allude to this, which have been totally "ignored" by Council (so what is the point in ANC asking for these submissions?)	No	I support the election of 12 councillors, who generally live in the ward they represent and are aware of the issues affecting their local area. I don't believe that a Councillor living in the township of Stirling would have any idea of the issue affecting a rural landowner outside of Birdwood - nor particularly care about them! I suspect they would be only interested in the happenings of the local Stirling district and would fight to ensure Stirling got a larger slice of the pie than elsewhere....	I am still astounded that the Council "took into account" the views of their electorate, but then totally ignored what was being said! And I note that the special Council meeting will be held in Stirling. Why was it not held in Woodside, or Lobethal, or Birdwood - where the majority of concerns were raised and who at least took the time to provide input into this matter? How can the abolition of Wards guarantee that the northern areas of the Council will get a fair share of attention, resources and capital expenditure and not be neglected, as appears to be the current case? Will there be a mechanism for unhappy (read "neglected") townships and wards to exit the ANC and/or go it alone?
295	ALDGATE	Yes	No	No	Feel representation is required from all council areas and not, possibly, dominated by just certain more populous sections of the council region.	Yes	The current democratic system works - I see no need to risk placing the power with fewer people.	I strongly believe the removal of the ward based system will increase the likelihood and success of aggressive minority groups lobbying to deliver changes that are not in the overall best interests of the majority of Adelaide Hills Council area residents.

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Ward Structure Support No Wards	Reasons	Number of Councilors Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	Further Comments
296	GUMERACHA	Yes	No	No	I think Gumeracha's interests will not be looked after unless we have our own councilors. I do not trust special interest groups eg. real estate people who want to develop it at all costs whereas there are people who want to keep the hills as country!	Yes	No	I am old fashioned enough to say "if it isn't broke why fix it". I don't believe that change is necessary. That is all I want to say. Thank you.
297	BRADBURY	Yes	There are usually factions in politics a good mayor should be above this political wrangling of the mayor is selected by the other councilors, even by voting, she favours those who voted for them.	No	All the councilors would find it difficult to canvass the whole Adelaide Hills area. Each of the areas have their own issues and would be good if a local councilor who lives in the district can focus on their district.	No	Not sure if I understand this question. Sounds like the previous question. So an area councilor representing the whole of the council area? Again I think that each councilor should be elected to represent their local area 2 for each area and focus on local issues. Otherwise there will be cut back on the number of councilors and expect the others to cover a bigger area.	No
298	NORTON SUMMIT	Yes	Mayor gives a sponsorship for the elected members.	No	We want local representation otherwise the elected members will only be interested in Stirling.	No	I want representation for my local area.	Please provide services to rural areas, we have no green waste pick up poor parks and it takes a long time to have any road work done.
299	TERINGIE	Yes	Community voting should prevent factional voting within Council. Best democratic system. One group cannot 'control' the Council. Question seemed to imply ward system, had to look at it, and people to decipher wording... Maybe should be worded the principal not a Principal.	No	Each Ward may have different issues and problems eg inner hills wards compared with those closer to the city Teringie, hence direct knowledge for local area. Apportioning wards could prevent equitable representation for various problems as may not seem relevant to a majority of non-ward elected councilors. It will also prevent a factional group from gaining large control of Council, and hence bias.	No	A large area to cover if no wards: cost and time to notify voters and canvass for votes; cheaper for Ward only voting; and more democratic; potential to canvass highly populated areas eg Stirling, to win votes and skew representation for whole council area, harder to remove incompetent or unpopular councilors at subsequent elections.	Retaining Wards and community voting for Mayor is THE democratic way. Else self interest groups and businesses could take control to the detriment of our wonderful hills area.
300	ROSTREVOR	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Ward Structure Support No Wards	Reasons	Number of Councilors Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	Further Comments
301	WOODSIDE	Yes	I think it is very important for people to have a say in who is elected.	No	To have representation in an individual ward I think is crucial. In future voting it could be that no councilor elected may have my towns interests at heart. The current system allows this to happen without any doubt.	Yes	People need to have a say in who will have their best interests at heart.	The initial respondents had a 98% say again 98% said they were not in favor of changing. How can this be dismissed by a mayor who was elected by those people and should have those 98% of people in his mind when voting. It's basically a disgrace.
302	LOBETHAL	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Review Report shows 96.7% of respondents want to retain wards. Yet Council, with a majority from a leading vote, wants to abolish wards. Questions 3 & 4 are worded in a way that promotes the Council preference to abolish wards. No wonder people are so cynical of governments.
303	HERSBROOK	Yes	It is our democratic right to choose an individual who represents "our" views. It is essential for an individual to be required to present their vision to us, as a community for (council), and then subsequently guide the next council to put these views into practice. We can then make judgement upon the success of the outcomes. It is not democracy when the electors are dictated to by the elected councilors, or even in more extreme situations by the employees of the council. This situation I would see equate to a "Council employee Coup" and is being driven by career manipulators with hidden agendas.	No	To follow on from my previous comment provided in relation to the Mayor: The very fact that this question has been written to mislead the true question indicates manipulation by the writer and individuals who have approved its publishing. As an adult educational provider who is required to form questions to extract correct responses from a diverse range of individuals with varying literacy standards or who have not considered the implications of the "trick" statement provided in brackets, will provide a misinterpreted response to this question that suits the "Council" view.	No	I strongly disagree with the above.	Comments in Appendix 2
304	HERSBROOK	Yes	It is our democratic right to choose an individual who represents the views of the community	No	96% of respondents have previously indicated they favoured the retention of wards. Wards should be retained. The "trick" wording community such as Hersbrook are better represented this way, with the current system representing the view of each council region	No	Local Government is best represented and respected by local connections. Unknown councilors too centralised become "them" against the local "us". Councilors should retain their "local" links and knowledge etc. and especially so in rural council such as the Adelaide Hills Council	There are some disadvantages to this proposal: 1. It is at odds with a community survey in which 96% of respondents indicated they favoured the retention of wards. 2. The potential for members being elected from the more populous parts of the council. 3. An organised single interest group (including a political party) could gain considerable representation on council. 4. Members may not have empathy for, or affiliation with, all communities across the council

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Ward Structure Support No Wards	Reasons	Number of Councilors Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	Further Comments
303	MYLOR	Yes	This would seem more democratic than an appointment by councillors and less likely to result in factionalism.	No	It concerns me that one may not get geographic representation, as well as fair and reasonable spread of councillors across urban and rural townships. It would also mean (I assume) voting for 12 councillors from maybe as many as 30. Conducting the necessary research into whom and whom not to vote for would prove onerous, leaving people less inclined to vote and, if they did, they would be likely to give away their last few votes.	Yes	I support the retention of 12 councillors + Mayor being elected by the community. Whilst I am in favour of retaining wards for reasons given above, I strongly believe that each councillor is there to represent the whole of the Council area.	The wards are currently split into lines resembling former council areas. I would be in favour of creating different boundaries, possibly reducing the wards from four to three.
306	WOODSIDE	Yes	Nil	No	Nil	Yes	Nil	Nil
307	MOUNT TORRENS	Yes	I consider it to be the best way	No	We need a local member of our area that we know as our rep	Yes	This has worked well in the past. Why change something that is working, and cutting out small townships	Hearing the problems it has caused in our neighbouring council I strongly believe it must stay as we are for all concerned.
308	MOUNT TORRENS	Yes	IT SEEMS LIKE COMMON SENSE	No	THE SMALLER TOWNSHIPS WOULD GET OVER RUN AND WOULD HAVE NO SAY. THE BIGGER AREAS LIKE STRALING HAVE ALWAYS RUN OVER US ALL AND THEY WOULD HAVE A BIGGER MONOPOLY NO NO NO	Yes	THIS SEEMS THE ONLY FAIR WAY FOR ALL AREAS	THERE MUST BE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DISCUSS
309	BRIDGEWATER	No	I would like to assume that the council elects the Mayor in mind and would elect a Mayor from the councillors already elected by the community.	No	I feel that if we abolish the wards, then there is less chance for the 'everyday rate payer' to be elected for council as they will not have the time or funds to be 'known' and therefore voted for by the majority of citizens in the council area.	No	I am assuming that 'area councillors' are simply councillors nominated and elected from the 'council area' in which case I disagree for the same reasons as given in the previous question. In addition, I do not feel that 12 councillors from a council area as a whole can adequately represent the thoughts, desires, and best interests of every individual community within that council area.	Nil

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Ward Structure Support No Wards	Reasons	Number of Councilors Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	Further Comments
310	GUMERACHA	Yes	The Mayor serves the community and should continue to be elected by the community.	No	The current system of wards works well and I believe is the fairest way to represent the interests across all regions of the council. Abolishing wards has the potential to create regions within the council which are over or under represented. There is also the potential for particular interest groups or political parties to gain a disproportionate number of representatives. Needing to choose 12 councillors from a pool of a larger number of candidates will mean the likelihood of many voting for candidates that are unknown to them.	No	Addressed in the previous section.	I believe that such a significant change in the mode of elector representation should require the majority of electors in the AHC to be in support of this. I do not believe that this is the case
311	GUMERACHA	Yes	A Mayor represents the people of the community and so the community themselves should vote on who is going to represent them. They should not just be chosen by their fellow councillors. I feel this is a more open and transparent process	No	I believe it is the general feeling of our local community to retain our current system of wards and that, because the council represent the people, they should listen to what the community wants. I feel that individuals can be better served and heard by their local councillors who represent their ward and understand the needs and services of that ward. I feel we know our local councillors and feel comfortable approaching them about matters and that they know our area well.	No	This sounds like a complicated voting process where you will have to number 12 councillors. I am concerned that this will be a confusing process for voters and that many people will either choose not to vote or their vote will end up being invalid because they won't understand the process.	Q2 continued I am concerned that we will lose our voice within the council if we lose our wards. If we lose our wards, I believe that more attention will be placed on areas that are more densely populated, like Strling, and our needs will be given a lower priority. I choose to live in a rural area but believe that we are still entitled to good services. Q3 continued The majority of people voting may end up being those who have particular political motivations or are friends/family of the candidates and not a true representation of the community. I would find it difficult voting for people that I know little about. I realise that each candidate will put out information about their interests etc prior to the election but sometimes people can make themselves sound good on paper but, if you know the person, you know what they are truly like and whether you find them trustworthy and approachable. I am also concerned that more members will end up being elected from the more densely populated areas and that their interests will be in those areas and not in the more rural areas. I am disappointed that the members of the Council have appeared to have made a decision on a major change to our Council without the electors having a chance to vote on that change. I do not feel that the Council has the support of the majority of its electors in this change and the council should represent the majority of the people. With such a significant change, I would have thought that the Council would have to convince its electors of the benefits of change rather than the electors having to convince the council members of the benefits of keeping our current system. I am also very disappointed that it appears the council get the final say in things and can choose to go ahead with their decision, even if the majority of electors are against it.

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council		Ward Structure		Number of Councilors		Further Comments
		Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Support No Wards	Reasons	Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	
312	CUDLEE CREEK	Yes	It is important for the community to elect its Mayor.	No	It is important to have local representation, people who know the area and its peculiarities. By having Wards, with elected members living and working in the area, we, the people are well represented by people who know the area and know what is required to keep the area pristine and who can be approached freely.	No	I support the elected body of A.H. Council comprising of twelve (12) from the current five (5) WARDS (in addition to the Mayor) who will be elected by the community at Council-Wide elections. Keep the Wards system as it is the only fair representation of our Adelaide Hills area.	The current system of five wards representing the population of the Adelaide Hills Council area is sufficient and doesn't need altering. I need to be able to contact a local elected member, who knows our area and its peculiarities.
313	FORREZTON	Yes	Nil	No	Would not end being a fair representation of the community.	No	Nil	Nil
314	MOUNT TORRENG	Yes	It is necessary to have a person to represent the Rate payers and Chair Council meetings.	No	As a long time resident and rate payer in the Mt Torrens area, I am concerned about the possibility that our Council may become focused on the highly populated areas and be controlled by politically oriented members out of touch with the needs and priorities of the "rural/quiet" rate payers. We must continue to be represented by Council Members who understand and have an affinity with the smaller rural rate payers.	No	See previous answer.	Nil
315	GUMERACHA	Yes	Nil	No	This decision goes against the overwhelming community position presented during this consultation process. I also believe it presents great risk to the representation of areas of the Council region where there are smaller populations.	No	I do not support the model, therefore I cannot support what is proposed in this question.	If this model is not supported, will Council present another option to the community? I understand the existing structure cannot remain.
316	TERINGIE	Yes	Nil	No	Nil	No	Nil	Nil
317	HORNELL GULLY	Yes	Nil	No	having wards gives better local representation.	No	this does not support local ward elections	We have had a very poorly handled planning application by the Oruse Community for a development which should never have progressed, and had to be fought at the local residents' level due to an incompetent planning process, costing individuals a lot of their time and money to fight through the court system. Having local wards removed will only exacerbate this type of problem by not having a local voice.

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council		Ward Structure		Number of Councilors		Further Comments
		Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Support No Wards	Reasons	Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	
318	WESTBOURNE PARK	Yes	Need a figurehead or spokesperson and someone to take responsibility for decisions made or not made.	No	Elected Ward Councilors should be more responsive to their area given the diversity of the region. While living in their Ward is not required it is an advantage for knowledge and empathy.	Yes	Nil	No further comments
319	TERINGIE	Yes	Nil	No	Ward representation allows for a broader grassroots representation.	No	Area reps will not provide a broad representation of how wards were developed to give regions within an area an equal voice irrespective of their population / housing ability.	Wards were conceived and implemented with a clear purpose... so a communities voice should be heard. I cannot see why a change is needed or beneficial to the community as a whole. I do not support a change from the current ward system to that now proposed by AHC.
320	WOODSIDE	Yes	there is NO reason for this not to happen	No	like the current situation	Yes	Nil	Nil
321	INGLEWOOD	No	Mayor should be elected by council members from all wards, to represent all areas of A.H. Avoiding politics or organized groups from more populous areas in the Hills from over representation.	No	Representations for smaller and more rural areas will not be represented equally. Commercial, residential and rural areas require fair representation. 94% of respondents in previous survey support wards.	No	Members may not have an affiliation or empathy with all areas of the community. Different areas of the hills require very different representation. Residential and township areas would be over represented and rural/less populous areas would be more neglected by council, despite paying significant rates for minimal services.	Why was the previous survey ignored?
322	INGLEWOOD	Yes	The Mayoral role is the unifying factor and should be retained and to actively promote the regional council and regional issues.	No	It is important that my local council does everything possible to prevent the entry of party politics or the mounting of a single issue takeover based on high population density favour. Multiple wards make it difficult for such manoeuvres to succeed. Keeping the rural wards separate from the more metropolitan type areas will ensure representation does not become skewed towards more densely populated areas.	Yes	Ward councilors effectively reflect local concerns and help guard against the potential indifference of single-issue groups. Important to have owners to have a representative that knows people and can give a voice. Best councilors that know something and reduce the number of consultants employed.	Provide more staff maintain roads, clean drains, pipes, roadside debris, overhanging tree branches, pot holes, food and bushfire mitigation works etc.

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council		Ward Structure		Number of Councillors		Further Comments
		Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Support No Wards	Reasons	Support 12 Area Councillors	Reasons	
323	STIRLING	Yes	is the most democratic method.	Yes	Will encourage Council Members to realise they represent the whole Council area. Removes parochial decisions. Enables Council Members to appreciate issues faced by all residents in the District.	Yes	No	I am very pleased that Council has supported the option of abolishing wards and I hope Council is brave enough to stick with this decision. I do not wish to appear at the Council meeting.
324	KERSBROOK	Yes	No	No	It would be like our Federal parliament as coming from Qld or the state parliament as coming from Unley, it increases the chances of poor, biased representation with a group of similar people with similar interests. It is a dangerous move away from more diverse representation.	No	Given my answer re Wards can't logically answer yes to this one, wards need to elect their reps, everyone elect the mayor	No
325	BALHANNAH	Yes	no reason to change	No	local government should be as local as possible. I want a representative who is representative of my area, who I can expect to know about issues in my area.	No	this question is badly worded and ambiguous. 12 councillors is a sufficient number, but they should be representing individual areas, so that there is not a real or perceived advantage to the richer, louder areas.	Local government should not be a place for the always deceptive and dirty tactics of political parties. Anybody with an affiliation with an organised political group should be banned from seeking or holding office.
326	BIRDWOOD	Yes	Councils who elect their Mayor from elected members tend to be somewhat political. I much prefer the Community to elect their leader and not Councillors	No	The abolition of Wards may lead to a decrease in service to smaller communities by elected members because the Councillors may concentrate on the heavily populated areas. The personal touch and approach by Ward Councillors would be lost. If there were no Wards I would not have the ability to approach my local Ward representatives	Yes	Once again this gives each community the ability to be represented by their own Ward Councillors. If Council are looking at saving the expense of so many Ward Councillors then perhaps the number of Wards could be reduced and Councillors would then be forced to travel further and this is not good time management	The only people getting anything beneficial out of an Elector Representation Review are the company running the review. No one else. The abolition of Wards would lead to less people putting their hands up to be Councillors because one of the best aspects of being a Ward Councillor lies in their desire to benefit their local area. If it isn't broken, leave it alone
327	LOWER HERMITAGE	Yes	it seems to be working well.	No	Less populous areas will have less or no representation. Special interest groups (including political parties) may get considerable representation on the council. The current Ward system is working well to represent all areas in the council.	No	The more populated areas will get more representation than other areas leaving other areas with no real representation.	The council MUST follow the wishes of the people. You are representatives of the community and as such must be bound by their wishes. Failing to follow the community wishes will leave the council open to expensive legal action. We must prevent special interest groups from obtaining unfair representation on the council which can lead to corrupt and inappropriate decisions.

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council		Ward Structure		Number of Councillors		Further Comments
		Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Support No Wards	Reasons	Support 12 Area Councillors	Reasons	
328	LOWER HERMITAGE	Yes	It is a fair system	No	Less populous areas will have less or no representation. Special interest groups (including political parties) may get considerable representation on the council. The current Ward system is working well to represent all areas in the council.	No	The higher populated areas will get an unfair advantage. The lesser areas will be left out	Less populous areas will have less or no representation. Special interest groups (including political parties) may get considerable representation on the council. The current Ward system is working well to represent all areas in the council.
329	TERINGIE	Yes	We need to be in control of our representatives, not Council	No	We need to ensure we have someone who knows and understands our problems. By having dedicated persons to each ward this will achieve this end. It also stops other "self interest" groups from seeking election to Council with a different agenda. If you can only achieve 20 to 30% voter turnout for the ward system to elect 2 or 3 people, no one will turn out to vote for 12 people they don't know.	No	12 people seeking election will not be able to cover off all residents in pre-election campaigning, ward only candidates can and do achieve this. If you can only get around 20% voter turnout how many will you get when asking to vote for 12 people, many of whom you have never heard of I believe the status quo should remain	No
330	TERINGIE	Yes	Best way to allow the public to have their say	No	prefer the current method to remain	No	each ward needs its own representatives in order to obtain the best service from Council	allow the status quo to remain
331	NORTON SUMMIT	Yes	Democratic process	Yes	Local area to have their own representative who understands local issues	No	Same reasoning as before. Different areas have unique concerns and need a local who lives there and is accountable to neighbors to be a legitimate representative.	No

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council		Ward Structure		Number of Councillors		Further Comments	
		Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Support No Wards	Reasons	Support 12 Area Councillors	Reasons		
332	MYLOR	No	The Mayor should be elected by the people they represent.	No	Local councillors are best at connecting with the people in their electorates and raising local concerns to council. With such a large electorate area to represent, local issues will disappear from council agendas and the council may become politicised and become yet another layer of political rhetoric acting in their own self-interests instead of the interests of the people who pay their wages. I vehemently oppose the abolishment of wards and I am disgusted by the bias shown by the current Mayor in using his casting vote to change the status quo.	No	Same question as before but clearly designed to confuse people as the question is deliberately ambiguous.	Please listen to your electorate and what they have to say.	
333	ALDGATE	Yes	It seems to be the most democratic option.	Yes	I think there are valid arguments both ways, but abolishing wards and moving to a single, 12-member electorate would give electors more choice and avoid the problem of under or over representation by densely populated wards. The need for ultra-local ward representation has diminished in a world of rapid transport and communications.	Yes	See previous answer.	I think this is an important, long-term issue for the Council, but I can understand that it is hard to engage the attention of the public with it. I can see the argument for local, ward-based representation and accountability, but I think on balance the greater democratic choice offered by a single, 12-member body is a better, more modern option than the existing ward-based system.	
334	LOBETHAL	Yes	democratic process	No	Ward system allows for representation of all voters in all wards. It allows local issues to be brought to Council's attention by a Councillor who knows his/her area and can give a general overview of how decisions will affect the local area, e.g. businesses, farmers, families.	Yes	This is a much fairer way to represent all community members. It would reduce the influence of councillors who have an affiliation with a Political party or lobby group.	Nil	

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council		Ward Structure		Number of Councillors		Further Comments	
		Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Support No Wards	Reasons	Support 12 Area Councillors	Reasons		
335	CUDLEE CREEK	Yes	This is democracy purely	No	Council area is too large and diverse, with too many variations in socio economic, land use, (rural) hobby farms Etc to be represented by councillors without local knowledge and accountability.	No	We need local councillors to be responsible and accessible to residents in their ward.	Nil	
336	STIRLING	Yes	The Mayor should be representing the Electorate and if effective should continue as long as the electorate dictates	Blank	Nil	Yes	All Councillors should represent the interest of the Council and not just the micro interest of the area they represent. Councillors should be all encompassing of the electorate as a representing every resident in the electorate.	It is important that all elected members of the council must have the interest and welfare of the council by managing it for the whole community as one council.	
337	WOODSIDE	Yes		No	believe the council will end up being run from Stirling and not having local representation	Yes	this way we get a greater diversity of councillors rather than just like minded	Nil	
338	HUMBURG SCRUB	Yes	The mayor plays a different role than an area councillor, and therefore should not be selected by the area councillors from the area councillors. The mayor should be democratically elected by the community.	No	The partitioning of the council area into regional areas: 1) enables the representation structure to reflect the different specific regions, social and economic communities of interest; 2) enables regional areas that may contain smaller communities and towns to be directly represented on Council; 3) reduces the economic cost and effort for campaigning and standing as a candidate in an election, because the candidate only needs to cater residents in their own ward;	Yes	There needs to be sufficient councillors to distribute the council and representational workload, and to prevent burnout.	<p>Q2 continued</p> <p>4) provides greatest choice of local candidates known to the local community, because more local candidates can afford the cost and time to stand for election;</p> <p>5) reduces the potential formation of candidate teams based on political affiliation, shared agendas or local affinity that are likely to arise with a single large electorate;</p> <p>6) increases transparency in council discussions because the councillors would be required to argue their case and resolve their inevitable sectional differences in public council meetings; and</p> <p>7) enables clearer more direct communication of ward related issues between the community and council</p> <p>The level of public consultation of the Representation Review process, and the notification aspect of the Engagement Strategy were totally inadequate. The vast majority of Adelaide Hills Council residents are probably not aware of this review, as they do not regularly access or read the SA Government Gazette, Courier or the Adelaide Hills Westcoast Herald. The Council only received two submissions concerning the Options Paper, released in 2019, and one of those was from an organization campaigning for proportional representation and was not a resident of Adelaide Hills Council, and only 46 submissions in the more recent public consultation period. The Council has a quarterly newsletter which could have been used to notify residents of the review, but even this is inadequate as the newsletter does not usually reach residents in remote regions of Council, such as Humburg Scrub.</p> <p>The Council could have notified residents of this significant review in the rates notices.</p>	

No.	Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Support No Wards	Reasons	Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	Further Comments
339	Yes	No	No	Terlingia is a long way from most council activities and we are often neglected for services etc. Having a councillor from the ward provides us with a voice	Yes	See previous comments	No
340	Yes	A basis of a democratic community	No	Local issues need a local representative, whereas candidates from distant areas of the council are unlikely to be known or know local issues	No	Distant representatives would not be known by local residents and would be unlikely to be motivated by local issues	Organised groups or political parties could obtain representation that may not be in the interest of all residents. Community resources and facilities will inevitably become concentrated in populous areas, to the detriment of less-developed outer-lying constituencies.
341	Yes	This is appropriate in a democratic society	No	would prefer to have my local area represented by a local person	No	I would not know the candidates from other wards and they would not be sufficiently aware of local issues	Distant representatives would lead to alienation of the council from residents
342	Yes	It is more democratic, and it's very important that residents feel they have some say in the process.	No	For a start, I think the present system works well, and I don't believe in changing something that works well, although I can see that adjustments might need to be made to boundaries because of the variance between the ward elector ratios and the elector ratio for the Council area. Also, I am not convinced that the arguments put forward in your Review report are all justified, and the disadvantages you say you have considered seem to me to outweigh the advantages.	Yes	Current performance would seem to indicate that 12 councillors are sufficient.	Q2 continued i.e. + the potential that, subject to voter turnout, elected members could come from the more heavily populated parts of the Council area rather than from across the whole of the Council area; + an organised single interest group could gain considerable representation on Council; + elected members may not have any empathy for, or affiliation with, all communities across the whole Council area; + Council has to conduct elections and supplementary elections across the whole of the Council area (at a significant expense); + the more popular or known councillors may receive more enquiries from the public (i.e. inequitable workload); and + potential candidates for election to Council may be deterred by the perceived difficulties and expense associated with contesting council-wide elections. Additionally, with a ward structure, residents can gain more of an idea of whether their (local) councillors have worked hard and earned their vote when/ if they stand again at the next Council election. The report comments on a low voter turnout. I think abolishing the wards would possibly result in people feeling disenfranchised, and therefore having even less inclination to vote.
343	Yes	More democratic	No	No	Blank	No	Have lived at this address for over 30 years and I cannot see why the current system has to change.
344	Yes	No	No	Keep it as it is, question is misleading	Yes	Keep it as it is	Keep it as it is or abolish local councils altogether. Huge savings to consumers could be made by dumping this third layer of governance. The questions are misleading as they assume you know what the current structure is, this structure is not made clear in the question

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Ward Structure Support No Wards	Reasons	Number of Councilors Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	Further Comments
345	CRAPERS	Yes	As ratepayers and contributors to the council's finances we should have the ability to select the mayor, who apparently has a major influence on council decisions and direction.	No	The population in the council area is widely dispersed in some areas and very concentrated in others. This could result in a majority of councillors coming from a few areas. The under-represented areas may be overlooked to their detriment. Local people understand the local issues, e.g. a farmer is losing an ox figure salary may not have an understanding of a rural land holder struggling to survive on much less and the factors which affect their livelihood.	No	See the above. Leave the current situation in place to distribute representation evenly so less populated regions have a voice in council	Q2 continued I don't want to see our councils politicised as is the current situation interstate. Abolishing wards could see a party stacking the vote. Party politics have no place in local government. Please do not change to be seen "as innovative". The state government has THAT down to a fine art. Let us not be duped into following their lead.
346	STIRLING	Yes	I think the current system is appropriate. I prefer the community not the elected members to elect the Mayor.	No	I think the current system generally works well. I do not think wards should be too big or too small. The number of Councillors of 12 is probably a little too many - I think it is more appropriate. I think a Councillor must live in a ward to represent that ward.	Yes	I think the current system generally works well. Councillors can provide local area knowledge to other Councillors, and still represent the whole of the Council area.	I think that the number of wards and their names should be reviewed. The number could be reduced by one and the names of practice to not reflect the antecedent Councils that were amalgamated to form Adelaide Hills Council.
347	CRAPERS WEST	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
348	ALDGATE	Yes	No	Yes	It is 20 years since Adelaide Hills Council was created by amalgamating 4 smaller councils. I believe one Council with no wards where every elected member represents the entire council is the best way to consider and make decisions that deliver the best options for the entire area for the future. The Mayor represents the entire area and there is no good reason to continue with the parochialism of wards. This Council is not so large that individual ratepayer's concerns cannot still be considered by individual Councillors as well as the over all Council.	Yes	It may be possible to reduce the number of area Councilors to 11 but initially stay with 12 and review again before the next election.	

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council		Ward Structure		Number of Councillors		Further Comments
		Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Support No Wards	Reasons	Support 12 Area Councillors	Reasons	
349	STIRLING	Yes	More democratic	No	It would be expensive for candidates to publicise themselves throughout the whole district thus discriminating against candidates of lesser means and time and possibly making it more difficult for younger candidates, especially those with young families.	Yes	A reasonable number of candidates is necessary for adequate community representation.	Three wards would blur the historic boundaries and loyalties which have led to unnecessary parochialism, but would make it possible for independent candidates to campaign.
350	BROWOOD	Yes	Gives the voting ratepayers a democratic vote	No	With 97% of respondents favouring the status quo, its puzzling why the leading vote was made to it was. Wards ensure that the balance in representation of an area is fair. With no ward structure, the more densely settled areas could (if would) vote for most council activity taking place in their area. Wards ensure that the elected councillors know and are known by the constituents, and know their area.	Yes	No reason yet to change. Any changes can be made as the population changes.	
351	LOBETHAL	Yes	It is important that the mayor is a true representative of the people rather than an official selected by the council members.	No	Abolishing the ward structure will result in a greater representation of the more populous areas especially those where the larger towns are located and those areas of the Adelaide Hills with smaller populations would be under-represented. The basis of local government should remain representation of all communities equally not based on population density.	No	This is effectively the same question as the previous question. If I am opposed to abolishing the wards I am obviously opposed to the electoral mechanism that results from that.	No
352	WOODSIDE	Yes	Nil	No	Fear this will lead to the higher population areas taking control of council and not caring about the smaller hills towns.	Yes	Local member care about local issues, this is how it should be.	I think the current system is fair and reasonable. I am curious why this issue has been raised and fear some political overtones. At the moment if something is wrong in my area I can talk to a local member who knows the area and can understand the problem. This may well be lost if the new system is implemented.
353	OAKBANK	Yes	Nil	No	Wards serve the geographically dispersed community well. How can every member of council have detailed knowledge of the whole 700 km area?	No	We want ward councillors who know our local issues.	This initiative is illogical for such a big council area. The idea would be fine for a metropolitan council, not in hills.

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council		Ward Structure		Number of Councillors		Further Comments
		Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Support No Wards	Reasons	Support 12 Area Councillors	Reasons	
354	UPPER HERMITAGE	Yes	I have had many years of experience with and in local government and always found that a Mayor was most likely to best represent a council (or CMA)	No	There is less chance of smaller wards with fewer ratepayers being given less attention.	No	I liken this option being similar to the difference between Senators and MPs and know that MPs are more likely to look after their electorates.	I value this opportunity to provide my comments and strongly support open government via this type of review. Despite my previous comments I strongly believe that all councillors should become involved in council wide issues as well as those in their own ward.
355	WOODSIDE	Yes	A fair and equitable outcome for the electors	No	Council have totally ignored community feedback showing in excess of 97% are against abolishing wards. This is a person projected from the mayors office.	Yes	Nil	Nil
356	GUMERACHA	Yes	he/she should have widespread support in the community	No	The fundamental of all our governance bodies is that our representatives represent all areas/groups of people. If not there is great opportunity for special interest groups to gain control of the council. Big money would do it, i.e. the wealthiest group could/would gain complete control.	Yes	don't know what this means!	The councillors are there to represent everyone. Not just political parties, real estate interest groups, the wealthy, the poor etc. But every individual.
357	ROSTREVOR	Yes	Nil	No	Prefer to have a "local" ward member who understands the local issues	No	Nil	Nil
358	ROSTREVOR	Yes	Nil	No	We represent only a small area of the Adelaide Hills Council and we are also situated quite a distance from the council chambers - and we feel that we may be forgotten if the wards are abolished. We need the wards to represent us and to take an interest in our area and to protect the rights of the residents. This system has worked well in the past and should not be changed - or the minority may be forgotten	No	No we feel that we need more than this to ensure that all areas (big or small) are fairly represented. Hence we support the continuation of the wards	Nil

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council		Ward Structure		Number of Councilors		Further Comments
		Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Support No Wards	Reasons	Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	
359	ALDGADE	Yes	An overall council representative is necessary.	Yes	1. More choice who we can vote for. 2. Councilors interests representing the entire AHC area not just sections where they might obtain more votes. No wards mean more focus on the entire AHC community. 3. Wards encourage "frakdism", need to be replaced by more democracy!	Yes	Less Councilors would cause a work over-load and unnecessary stress. No doubt 12 Councilors would save money, but would lead to inadequate representation.	The current Ward structure is divisive and essentially retains the boundaries of the antecedent Councils that were amalgamated to form AHC. We need to move on from this. Better representation possibilities, more democracy.
360	ALDGADE	Yes	We need a council representative, as we do for State or Country.	Yes	1. Having no Wards could mean a higher voter participation at Council elections in order to ensure that smaller communities are well represented. 2. No Wards means better democracy!	Yes	Less Councilors would mean more work and less representation.	With a relative small population in the Adelaide Hills, a Wards system is unnecessary.
361	BIRDWOOD	Yes	Best way for the people of the area to democratically elect the leader.	No	Council wards provides a smaller local area to ensure they have representation from that area. Removing the wards provides a risk that all (or majority) councilors could come from one high populated area eg Stirling and feel obliged to serve their "local" people more closely. I don't want to have a day in who represents other wards (or even other councilors), just like I would want other people to have a day in who represents my ward (or councilor). I'm actually staggered that half of the current councilors chose not to listen to the overwhelming vote against abolishing the wards.	No	I think 12 councilors is adequate, if not slightly excessive and could be reduced to 11 to provide extra value to residents.	No
362	MOUNT TORRENS	Yes	Nil	No	invites factions into local govt. I don't want to be the case. want a local rep who understands my ward.	No	Nil	Your survey is biased two questions that are aimed at getting rid of ward system. You should be ashamed of this.

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council		Ward Structure		Number of Councilors		Further Comments
		Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Support No Wards	Reasons	Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	
363	ROSTREVOR	Yes	I want the Mayor to be elected by the people.	No	I want someone to represent us in this area on council. I think it is important to have someone responsible for our area. If we don't have a ward representative (changing to Campbelltown Council) would be good alternative as our area is unique in the Hills Council. We support Campbelltown area and feel we have more connection there than where our council is located in hills.	No	I think our area would be overlooked in this scenario. I think we need a person to represent our area.	I think we should continue the way it is now with someone representing our area. Is someone from Jinning or Gumeracha going to care what happens in Rostrevor? I don't think so! I think some would be surprised to know that this part of Rostrevor is in The Hills Council.
364	ROSTREVOR	Yes	Because that person represents the community so should be chosen by the community	Yes	Nil	Yes	Nil	Nil
365	BRADBURY	No	Nil	No	Nil	Yes	Nil	Nil
366	KERSBROOK	Yes	Has worked well for many years and while there would be grounds for the elected council members to decide this there is a risk that the members would become biased and not necessarily represent all council areas - see further comments on wards	No	An open council without wards could soon become a council of members that can afford the cost of standing for election. Some areas of the AHC may have potential members with greater means to promote their election leading to a lopsided representation. Those areas with lower income will struggle to be represented. Ward protection means local representation. I do also appreciate that members of council should govern for all of the AHC and not just the ward. The loss of a local ward/voice will distance the council from the people it represents.	No	As per my previous answer - area Councilors should be elected if they live the area. The number 12 is not an issue for me although it seems reasonable. By default any member of the council through normal governance would represent the whole Council area but they should have a voice for the local area and be elected from that area. Why should local council be any different to State and National governance. Local members elected by the local people that represent their area yet govern for the whole (state or national)	Thank you for the opportunity to submit this opinion. I have always felt that a country the size of Australia only needs two levels of government - National and Local. However what is being proposed by doing away with wards/areas with locally elected people makes me reconsider my view. All the best with the review.
367	GUMERACHA	Yes	I feel that a person in this position who is elected by the ratepayers and live in the council area has more to contribute.	Yes	Smaller wards probably wouldn't have as much revenue to work with as a larger council area.	Yes	If it's working well why would you change it.	Nil

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Ward Structure Support No Wards	Reasons	Number of Councilors Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	Further Comments
368	WOODSIDE	Yes	Democracy	No	The Ward system is the most democratic system in comparison to no wards as it gives better individual representation to the whole of the electorate. Wards are especially viable in the attraction of a potential 30,00 electors in a bloc will potentially attract the Political Parties - What happens to the people in the smaller wards Manook and Marble Hill with regards for the people- By the People - it is not hard to see that no ward has great potential for the current Larger Wards becoming council dominant. The ward system has served us well and should continue - The document refers to a map but no link to the map is in the document.	No	Where is the Cost Benefit Analysis? To my mind this invalidates the whole proposal. It appears the Councilors have voted to go down this path without having benefited from a true CBA. The document is biased toward no wards- The above question is verbose and has no job in a survey 60. Do you support the abolition of wards with 12 Councilors plus a Mayor elected to represent the current Council area as a whole?	Unfortunately I have never supported Change for Change sake and as a retired Executive whose position included change management for approx 1,000 employees, I question the validity of the proposal.
369	ROSTREVOR	Yes	An elected Mayor provides stable, long-term leadership for the life of the Council. This view is reflected by all metropolitan and most regional Councils in SA. There is no reason for the ANC to alter this, particularly as a very clear majority of survey respondents in the initial survey favoured retention of an elected Mayor.	No	• What some in Council describe in their arguments as "parochial Ward interests" - most residents are so important LOCAL issues which need to be addressed by LOCAL government. • With 12 Councilors plus a Mayor the "parochial" issue of one Ward can, if unreasonable, be voted down by the majority. • With a direct line of representation, Ward Councilors can focus on local concerns as well as the bigger, Council-wide issues. That's why it's called Local Government.	No	A very poorly worded question - support retention of 12 Councilors but NOT Council-wide elections. My reasons have already been detailed in questions 1 and 2.	Q2 continued • With a geographically spread Council, highly populated central areas could easily dominate via single-interest group pressure - business lobbies, sporting organisations, political parties etc. • The Council's Review Report says that the 61 public submissions it received in the initial round is "not a significant response" from a community of more than 29,000 electors. But, in expounding its proposed rationale, Council prominently points to the 79% in favour of electing their own Mayor, while downplaying the overwhelming (94.7% majority of survey respondents who support retention of Wards. The fact that so few ratepayers responded is used as justification for Council's decision to ignore the respondents' views and to recommend abolition of Wards - in other words, the ratepayers don't care so let's just go ahead and push the change. However, the low response could just as easily indicate that ratepayers are happy with the way things are and want no change - hence they didn't bother making a submission. Or that public communication by e-mail-baiting of the survey's existence was inadequate. • Council's stance - 50:50 and a casting vote. Convention should surely dictate that the casting vote preserve the status quo, particularly when the only available community feedback is so strongly in favour of retaining Wards. The fact that Council's push to recommend scrapping Wards has effectively been decided by one person should not sit comfortably in a supposed democratic system. Comments are continued in Appendix 2.

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Ward Structure Support No Wards	Reasons	Number of Councilors Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	Further Comments
370	ROSTREVOR	Yes	Metropolitan and most other Councils support the system of having an elected Mayor. The Adelaide Hills Council has not shown any valid reasons for changing this. I understood that the majority of rate-payers had indicated through the recent survey that they wished to continue with an elected Mayor.	No	Local issues are best dealt with by local representatives who live within a ward area, who have close and ongoing interests there, and who are accessible to local residents voicing their specific needs and concerns. Ratepayers look to having this "direct connection" to Council through their elected Ward representatives. Councilors with no specific allegiance to a ward, but influenced by factors beyond local interests, could form a majority vote against a motion which ultimately might work against specific local interests. (Just a diverse Council with a great range of population, economic and other factors in its makeup. .	No	This question is very poorly constructed, or should be re-written in 2 parts. It would seem that either the writer is not skilled in survey writing, or alternatively, is deliberately attempting to gain a pre-determined response by confusing readers. By answering in two parts: my responses are: Part 1 Do you support the elected body of Council comprising of twelve (12) area Councilors? YES Part 2 Do you support Council-wide elections? NO By breaking it up into two parts I arrive at the answer NO NO NO.	Q2 continued Again, locally elected Ward councilors can speak for and support those interests that are specific to their wards. The majority of ratepayers who responded to the previous Review support the ongoing election of Ward-specific Councilors. The low numbers of returns to the Review can be read in several ways, but could imply suggest that the majority of ratepayers are quite happy with the "status quo". This result should determine the Council's vote, and more importantly and democratically, the Mayor's vote, on this issue. Question 2 Poorly worded question - asking for support of a negative proposal: Question 3 Council's Review Report states categorically that "a Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice." The majority of respondents to the previous Review, and also in Public consultation, support the retention of an elected Mayor, and favour no change in the current Ward Councilor system. Who is pushing for the change?
371	ROSTREVOR	Yes	This allows the residents to choose who should lead the Council's directions	No	The size of the ANC needs residents to be able to choose a person who better knows the vagaries of a local area. The "Morbide" part of Rostrevor, for example, is not as well known by a person, say, living in Döring.	No	Follows on from the area division need. We do not want the situation that any particular area can take over matters without due need to consider others.	Nil
372	ROSTREVOR	Yes	Residents want to decide who should lead, not the 'committee' formed of councilors.	No	ANC is too large in area to expect any councillor to have sufficient knowledge of all the areas. We need to have a person who is dedicated to an area.	No	See above reply	Nil

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Ward Structure Support No Wards	Reasons	Number of Councilors Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	Further Comments
373	GUMERACHA	Yes	To ensure that the Mayor's role is representative of the entire Council area	No	I believe that the ward system must remain, given the following - 1) The large size of the Council area and the impossibility for an Elected Member (who is not provided with a vehicle nor paid anywhere near to what the Mayor is remunerated with) to adequately cover and represent the entire AHC area as their jurisdiction. Wards are much more compact and easy for an Elected Member to manage and remain in touch with their community.	No	Refer to previous response under 'Ward Structure' heading	Q2. continued 2) The nature of 'Communities of Interest' within the AHC area. Not all 'Communities of Interest' have a similar population size, and thus would have reduced influence with the abolition of wards. This reduced influence would be problematic given the large geographical areas covered in the instance of the Northern Adelaide Hills 'Community of Interest' (i.e. Torrens Valley Ward), the lower socio-economic status of that ward and the need for Council to fill gaps left by other agencies/levels of Government in that area given the relative remoteness of that area from Regional Centres compared to the Stirling/Aldgate/Bridgewater area - examples include funding for community transport, library, community centre etc. in the area, that wouldn't normally be funded to the level they are with such a small population base. This has only been able to be achieved with vocal representation on the Council from the Torrens Valley Ward. 3) The need for the distinct geographical areas of AHC to maintain a sense of identity - the ward system allows this to be achieved. 4) The need for Elected Members to be accessible - e.g. with the ward system, there is a good chance that most towns will have an Elected Member living within that town, or at least involved with community groups in that town. Should wards be abolished, all Elected Members could come from the more populated southern areas of AHC, and therefore would be over 30 minutes drive to be 'in touch' with their constituents. This would make it harder for the community to visit their Elected Members, and likewise, would mean Elected Members are less likely to be involved in community groups in distant parts of the AHC area. 5) Potential increase in Council expenditure, with Elected Members not spread evenly across the Council area. Elected Members would still need to travel, and this may lead to an increase in vehicle mileage reimbursements by Elected Members.
374	INGLEWOOD	Yes	In a democratic society it should be the people who decide who will represent them. The Mayor of any district is usually of local heritage and would understand regional issues that affect the rate payers and therefore better serve them.	No	The danger is, if wards are abolished, the less populous areas of the council will not be served appropriately and will suffer accordingly. Small districts, such as Paracombe / Houghton / Inglewood need a voice to fight for the basic needs of the community.	No	An area Councilor may not have the same empathy for a district as a local representative will have, potentially leading to a biased interest in the local area needs. The 'lay' of the people of Paracombe / Houghton / Inglewood area would be swamped by the 'lay' of the Stirling / Aldgate area and effectively become meaningless.	I am all for change. But not for the sake of change. If changes are implemented then it must be without compromise and bias and be for the benefit of all rate payers including small populous areas who tend to be overlooked for basic-need issues.
375	BRIDGEWATER	Yes	This is a sound option (irrespective of wards or no wards, enabling voters to choose who heads up their Council and reducing the likelihood of factions within the Elected body determining the leadership of the Council.	No	Not with the current number of members proposed. I would prefer to see Wards and 12 Elected Members. No wards with a reduced number of members (10 being my preference). If there are no wards, I don't believe that such a high number of elected members is needed and that this will likely be a detriment at Council meetings.	No	If no wards is the base structure for the Council, I think only 10 Councilors are needed. Keeping 12 Councilors only seemed relevant with wards, where some wards would have a higher workload need than others.	I think the proposal by Council is brave given the results received. Unfortunately I can't support the structure proposed as having read in the background material in the Options Paper and Representation Review Report, I don't think the proposal is the best option for the future of the area. If proceeding with no wards, I think the Council should reduce to 10 Councilors to enable budget savings and reduce factionalism in a no ward structure. I don't wish to appear at the Council meeting to be heard on my submission.

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Ward Structure Support No Wards	Reasons	Number of Councilors Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	Further Comments
376	ROSTREVOR	Yes	It needs to be bipartisan, impartial and without any community members need representation through Wards.	No	The AHC is enormous and diverse and the needs of the various community members need representation through Wards.	No	I want Ward Councilors not Area Councilors.	Please see my previous responses: AHC is huge and diverse, with differing needs, requiring Ward Councilors.
377	ALDgate	Yes	The people must have a direct say. I've lived in a corrupt council in the past and took part in a campaign (successfully) to replace some of the councilors.	No	I want someone answerable to me not an anonymous bureaucracy.	No	Direct democracy with someone taking responsibility is needed. I'm not sure 12 isn't too many as studies of group dynamics suggest any group of more than 9 will break into factions.	Elected representatives need to be required to face those they represent.
378	TERINGIE	Yes	I like the loss of having a say in the most senior representative of my area especially when negotiations are so important to our future	No	I want to be able to contact a local person who knows the issues pertaining to this area and who is readily accessible to hear and discuss issues. If the Council staff were more accessible and friendly this would not be so necessary but they are not. I don't want to have to talk to a Councilor who lives kilometers away. This council area is very big. Things would also be different if the area to be covered were smaller.	No	This is a very biased question! It is written to confuse. I want ward representatives.	I'm as concerned as others at three things. It is hard enough now to get issues fixed and local Councilors are one way to get information to Council. At least we know who understands our area. The distances in the hills are too great and the challenges too big. Second, we don't want a bias of representatives from one area and third, we don't want a political party elected as a group to run the Council. Variety and diversity are good.
379	GUMERACHA	Yes	Nil	Yes	The division of council area into wards prevents those with minority or specific interests across the whole council area from being elected onto council. Issues facing the council area are complex and diverse. These issues transcend ward boundaries. A no ward structure is more likely to result in diverse representation and reflect the diverse values and interests of the community. A council with diverse representation is more likely to be able to understand and develop solutions to complex problems. A no ward structure would not prevent the community from electing councilors who can provide local representation.	Yes	The opportunity to elect Councilors across the whole Council area will enable residents to select representation that mirrors the communities diverse interest and values and would be more reflective of the Adelaide Hills community.	This review provides an opportunity for Council to pilot an adaptive approach to managing the complex issues facing the community. It is a model that is more likely to allow for diverse representation that captures the values and interests of the community and would result in better understanding of issues, improved community collaboration and consequently in more innovative problem-solving.

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Ward Structure Support No Wards	Reasons	Number of Councilors Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	Further Comments
380	INGLEWOOD	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democratic choice	Yes	The Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democratic choice	Yes	There is a possibility that community members will lose the appropriate attention afforded them in the past (e.g dirt road and bridge repairs , tree felling after bushfires etc) . This attention will be diverted to other areas of the community with a voice determined by socio-economic and councilor number factors.	No
381	ROSTREVOR	Yes	Mayor role and responsibility is to provide stable leadership and an advocate for the term of Council. This is the same situation as with all metropolitan and most regional Councils across South Australia. I cannot envisage a reason for A/C to change the status quo, especially a majority of survey respondents in the initial survey favour retention of an elected Mayor.	No	incredibly clumsily worded statement! What some in Council describe in their arguments as 'parochial Ward exclusion' must residents are as important LOCAL issues which need to be addressed by LOCAL government. With 12 Councilors plus a Mayor the "parochial" issue of one Ward can, if unreasonable, be voted down by the majority. With a direct line of representation, Ward Councilors can focus on local concerns as well as the bigger, Council-wide issues. That's why it's called Local Government.	Yes	Again another clumsily worded question... In any event I support retention of 12 Councilors but NOT Council-wide elections.	With a geographically spread Council, highly populated central areas could easily dominate via single-interest group pressure – business lobbies, sporting organisations, political parties etc. The Council's Review Report says that the 66 public submissions it received in the initial round is "not a significant response" from a community of more than 29,000 electors. But, in explaining it's proposed rationale, Council prominently points to the 79% in favour of electing their own Mayor, while downplaying the overwhelming (86.7% majority of survey respondents who support retention of Wards. The fact that so few ratepayers responded is used a part-justification for Council's decision to ignore the respondents' views and to recommend abolition of Wards – in other words, the ratepayers don't care so let's just go ahead and push the change. However, the low response could just as easily indicate that ratepayers are happy with the way things are and want no change – hence they didn't bother making a submission. Or that public communication by A/C advising of the survey's existence was inadequate. Council's stance – 50/50 and a casting vote. Convention should surely dictate that the casting vote preserve the status quo, particularly when the only available community feedback is so strongly in favour of retaining Wards. The fact that Council's push to recommend scrapping Wards has effectively been decided by one person should not sit comfortably in a supposed democratic system. Nothing further except to state that explicit views will be made at upcoming special Council Meeting on 21 February 2017.
382	BIRDWOOD	Yes	The retention of Mayor and Deputy position(s) remains important to provide both leadership within the council and also as key representatives of the elected members to communicate with and represent all elected members to the community.	No	Ward representation provides a more demographically diverse representation of the electorate and decreases the likelihood of elected members being part of a coalition or having little or no representation from some geographic areas of the electorate.	No	I support the ward based system of electing Councilors	No
383	CRAFERS	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Ward Structure Support No Wards	Reasons	Number of Councilors Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	Further Comments
384	OAKBANK	Yes	I believe a Mayor needs to be elected by the Community	No	I believe that we need to have Wards as all these areas have different needs and some areas will be missed if rolled into one. Our Community interest is very important.	Yes	Yes a Mayor can represent the whole council area	I want to continue with WARDS
385	MYLRA	Yes	I find this question ambiguous and difficult to ascertain exactly what you mean. Is a member of the community want to be able to vote for the mayor.	No	The ward system works well. We feel we are well represented by having specific councilors for each ward. The community has been asked before whether they wanted wards abolished. Then they said no, and once again they have said no, but it seems they are being ignored, particularly by the mayor giving his casting vote directly against their wishes. What was the point in asking if you are not going to take any notice? Once again this is a really ambiguous way of putting the question - very confusing.	Yes	Why don't you ask a simple question? I have no idea whether I have answered this the way I want to, or whether I have been tricked into saying the exact opposite. I want wards to remain, and I want to vote for the councilors representing MY ward. I trust I have made this quite clear.	When the republic referendum was held, the majority of people wanted a republic, but they couldn't vote for it because of the wording. This is almost up there with that.
386	ROSTREVOR	Yes	I would like to elect our own Mayor and Ward Councilors to represent us directly.	No	I believe in the retention of the current ward system	No	I believe we are better off with locally elected councilors who can focus on local matters as well as issues that affect the whole Council area.	No

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387	CUDLER CREEK	Yes	The mayor to be the figurehead and through whom council business is directed and conducted	No	This is an outrageous idea which will eventually see councillors elected through lobby groups and business interests with development, extreme conservation and vested agendas to push, also Party politics (eg The Greens), at the expense of district local people who will not be able to match the funding and campaigning strength of organised lobby group candidates. The vote strength of the Adelaide dormitory suburbs of Stirling, Crafers, Algate and Hestmefic, and potentially Beahmeh, will swamp the vote from the rural areas leading to a council of commercial and business interests which has no knowledge or affinity with the ratepayers or concerns of the rural areas.	Yes	Yes, but the area is not the area of the Adelaide Hills Council area. The area is the existing wards and the area councillors will live in that area and represent the interests of the ratepayers of that area as their main responsibility and all to combine in operating and administering the rural and urban areas of the council as one Local Government entity. The Mayor to be the figurehead but with no power.	Q2 continued This council's rural-based wards have little in common with the dormitory suburbs and should be represented by a councillor from their areas. As the rural area has no relevance to Stirling, so any councillor from Stirling and suburbs will have no interest or concern about rural issues which they will not understand, nor care about. This eventually will lead to minimal rural representation. This review should not change the way ratepayers are represented at council. The recent casting vote by the Mayor for the council to abolish wards and have all council positions voted for is wrong and should have been to preserve the status quo. This casting vote should be to ensure the competent operation of council responsibilities and for the financing matters and business responsibilities, as it is not his individual privilege to change the way the council is structured or how its ratepayers will be represented. His role is to oversee governance, not how governance is formed.
388	CRAFERS WEST	Yes	Prefer mayor to be elected by the community than the councillors	Yes	Reduces nepotism and cronyism and give me the chance to vote for all members of the Council irrespective of where they reside.	Yes	Councillors need to take a broader view of the key issues for the whole region not their 'local' electorate.	Not sure how many people have responded to this but it may have been higher if it was written in a more common parlance. I suggest the rest of a summary to the 30 page document may also have put off people's participation. This said well done for seeking input.
389	CRAFERS WEST	Yes	The people across the council should elect the mayor	Yes	get to vote on the whole range of councillors which is more democratic	Yes	No	Thank you for seeking my views :
390	MONTACUTE	Yes	Electing the Mayor from the community is more likely to provide stable leadership over the four year term of a Council. It is less likely to result in internal politicking and division over the Council leadership.	Yes	Wards create parochialism which then leads to localized lobbying and competition for resourcing without considering the needs of the broader Council area. No wards give voters the maximum choice and provides greatest opportunity for interest groups to elect representatives. No wards also reduces the risk of a no contest election, where voters get no say in who represents them.	Yes	I understand that the current number of councillors is based on population and so happy for this to continue. The geographic size of AHC is demanding for community leaders and it is important to keep this in mind in determining the number of elected representatives required.	Q2 continued The AHC still has a feeling of a large and separated region, the Adelaide Hills. And the continued existence of wards fosters separatism and local identity of villages such as Gunnamatta, Woodside, Stirling, Algate etc. The spread of values and beliefs found amongst councillors elected in a no wards context, will most likely align with the community as a whole and ensure growth of an Adelaide Hills identity as a region. I am very pleased that Council has voted to take the no wards option to Stage 2 review. I am excited to think that after 20 years Adelaide Hills Council might truly become a Council region where ownership and pride in the region as a whole stretches from Kersebrook to Mylar and out to Mt Torrens and Restonair on the other boundaries. Further comments in Appendix 2.

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Ward Structure Support No Wards	Reasons	Number of Councilors Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	Further Comments
391		Yes	The mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy choice	No		No		
392	Paracombe	Yes	I will always want the right to vote for the leader (Mayor of my council)	No	do not believe a councillor in another area would be sympathetic to needs and preferences of our area. I am also concerned about particular political parties taking over or a single interest group in on areas gaining too much say.	No	Councillors should be elected from each area so that appropriate representation is assured for different local regions and needs. It would be too difficult for any candidate to canvass the whole area during elections.	The needs of an area like Stirling are far different from an area like Paracombe. Members in outlying areas would also be unable to compete with nominees from more populated areas in elections.
393	Paracombe	Yes	The community should always be able to choose who they want as the leaders of their community	No	The ward system does provide small peace of mind that local interest are being represented by local Councillors. Abolishing the Wards system would just be another blow to the outer lying areas which feel somewhat forgotten at the best of times	No	Obviously the council body makes decisions as a whole but each area (ward) should have representation so local conditions are accounted for. Given our Council Area is geographically so large I do not expect a Councillor living in Scott Creek to be able to understand and adequately represent a Community Groups interest in Birdwood. I have not seen anything coming out of Council that would indicate this issue has been adequately addressed.	Q2 continued The Adelaide Hills is a diverse geographical, physical, rural and residential area. Attempting to lump it all together to manage as a whole does little to honour our diversity. It is very difficult and time consuming for Councillors to attend events within their Wards, meet with local groups and meet with concerned residents. This is a very necessary part of the role of a Councillor and one we would not like to miss out on in the future. Assuming there was no ward structure and elected members could reside in any part of the Council district who will take responsibility for attending local groups. How would this occur in practice, would there be an unfair split of Councillors efforts and responsibilities? I have not seen any correspondence come out of Council to explain how this would work in practice and quite frankly I don't believe it will do anything other than facilitate Councillors who are not pulling their weight and just turn up to meetings. Apologies if I have missed this information. Similarly it will become increasingly difficult for those willing to become elected members in the outlying areas to actually compete with nominees from the more populated areas. I personally would take a lot of convincing that a resident of Scott Creek could in anyway represent my interests in Paracombe. Therefore I will naturally vote for locals. Sadly we are one of the least populated areas. If anyone in Stirling and Onkaparinga wards think like I do then there will never be fair representation in the future.
394	Paracombe	Yes	Mayor needs to have their head around all elements of JMC business and confidence of staff and ratepayers they represent	No	Wards give a more appropriate method for ratepayers to have a say in their local electing could these decisions affected by outsiders	No	Refer answer directly above. Our councillor has represented us well and is approachable and we feel comfortable with that process	I'm surprised that this response form does not require a personal signature to ensure total credibility as I know some who have told me they won't vote and others might be tempted to 'vote on their behalf'.

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395	Upper Hermitage	Yes	Feel this is a fair way to elect a leader and avoids outside vested interests becoming involved.	No	Don't relish the prospect of multiple councilors elected from one area only, or risk single interest groups with an agenda to take control. Democratically, the present system is fair and equitable. Strong representation from elected Councilors from each Ward should be maintained.	No	For much the same reasons as stated above. The question is to be answered positively.	The present system appears to work very well, and if residents are unsatisfied they have only to make their voices heard at a Council meeting, or, failing that, stand for Council themselves. The Adelaide Hills Council area is a very diversified one. Country people often feel that they are neglected, if not forgotten, entities in some areas, particularly when it comes to vital utilities like Testra mobile (dialup reception), and power outages. The presence of a strong, involved Councilor, who will take on individual problems, not necessarily the above unsolvable ones, and lives relatively nearby (as the crow flies), can be very reassuring.
396	Birdwood	Yes	Important that the community has voice and choice in the person elected to this position	No	Critics that representatives are from the local ward to be our voice on issues that affect our area.	No	The potential for lack of voice due to greater populations and consequently lack of representation eg. outvoted by densely populated areas, standing candidates from outside of our area who know nothing of our local concerns.	
397	Uraidla	Yes	Council mayor should always be elected by the voters - not council members	No	How will local rep be achieved	Yes	Specialist in areas they are elected	If 58 of 61 responses indicated they wanted to retain wards in initial public consultation why did the mayor use casting vote to vote against these wishes.
398	Farreston	Yes	Each ward has a spokesperson	No	This may allow populated areas more say. It may allow single interest groups to dictate and gain an advantage.	No	How can someone in Algate know about what we need in Farreston. We really need wards to keep a fair balanced council.	Adelaide Hills Council needs to make sure that they remain fair & represent all pockets (wards) within the large area.

No.	Suburb	Principal Member of Council Support Elected Mayor	Reasons	Ward Structure Support No Wards	Reasons	Number of Councilors Support 12 Area Councilors	Reasons	Further Comments
399	Paracombe	Yes	No	No	Council was formulated from the amalgamation of 3 Council Areas. Many residents have not moved on from the old Gilling/Gumeracha Council mentality, the ward system does provide small pieces of mind that local interest are being represented by Local Councilors. Abolishing the Ward system would just be another blow to the outer lying areas which feel somewhat forgotten at the best of times.	No	Given our Council Area is geographically so large I do not expect a Councilor living in Scott Creek to be able to understand and adequately represent a Community Groups interest. In Birdwood, I have not seen anything coming out of Council that would indicate this issue has been adequately addressed. I do not believe we should take the local out of "Local Government". The Adelaide Hills is a diverse geographical, physical, rural and residential area. Attempting to lump it all together to manage as a whole does little to honour our diversity.	It is very difficult and time consuming for Councilors to attend events within their Wards, meet with local groups and meet with concerned residents. This is a very necessary part of the role of a Councilor and one we would not like to miss out on in the future. Assuming there was no ward structure and elected members could reside in any part of the Council district who will take responsibility for attending local groups. How would this occur in practice, would there be an unfair split of Councilors efforts and responsibilities? I have not seen any correspondence come out of Council to explain how this would work in practice and quite frankly I don't believe it will do anything other than facilitate Councilors who are not pulling their weight and just turn up to meetings. Apologies if I have missed this information. Similarly it will become increasingly difficult for those willing to become elected members in the outlying areas to actually compete with nominees from the more populated areas. I personally would take a lot of convincing that a resident of Scott Creek could in anyway represent my interests in Paracombe. Therefore I will naturally vote for locals. Sadly we are one of the least populated areas. If everyone in Gilling and Oakspanglers wards think like I do then there will never be fair representation in the future.
400	Rostrevor	Yes		No	See further comments, next page	No	See further comments, below	"He who controls the agenda controls the outcome ..." - Chomsky It is truly remarkable that only two submissions, from an electorate of some 19,000, can be seen as affirmation of council's narrow decision to recommend abolishing the ward system of elections. It is understood that the votes of the councilors were evenly divided, the mayor's vote determining the outcome. This clearly does not represent the wider sentiment of the community, who if they had been critical of the current form of electing our representatives, would have provoked an overwhelming adverse response. Council's proposal will undoubtedly eliminate local representation, by replacing it with an amorphous body unanswerable individually to former ward residents, and almost certainly, being susceptible to special interest or political cabals. It should be noted that no individual ward can determine council's business decisions.
401	Rostrevor	Yes	It is preferred that the mayor be elected by the whole of the electorate rather than a decision by councilors.	No	The current arrangements of ward councilors focusing on local issues, as well as council-wide matters, is more accessible and responsive to local needs.	No	See above	
402	Rostrevor	Yes	The current system is working satisfactorily - why change?	No	Retain the wards as they are, and the system of electing councilors is a more democratic representation of the various localities in the council area.	No	Councilors must be responsible for reflecting the views of their local areas - not just the entire council area	

Appendix 2

*Tabulated consultation responses (not received on
submission forms)*

No.	Suburb	Further Comments
403	BIRDWOOD	<p>PETITION SIGNED BY 76 SIGNATORIES</p> <p>We the undersigned electors of the Adelaide Hills Council, petition the Council to retain the ward structure for representation of electors in the council in lieu of the council promoted option of "no wards" for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is at odds with the community feedback where 96% favoured the retention of wards 2. The potential of members being elected from the more heavily populated part of the council area 3. An organised single interest group (including a political party) could gain considerable representation on council 4. Members may not have any empathy for, or affiliation with, all communities across the council
404	BIRDWOOD	<p>PETITION SIGNED BY 90 SIGNATORIES</p> <p>We the undersigned electors of the Adelaide Hills Council, petition the Council to retain the ward structure for representation of electors in the council in lieu of the council promoted option of "no wards" for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is at odds with the community feedback where 96% favoured the retention of wards 2. The potential of members being elected from the more heavily populated part of the council area 3. An organised single interest group (including a political party) could gain considerable representation on council 4. Members may not have any empathy for, or affiliation with, all communities across the council 5. There is the potential for the number of invalid votes to increase because electors will have to vote for at least 12 candidates for a valid vote (assuming there are more than 12 vacancies), many of whom will not be known to electors.
405	BIRDWOOD	<p>PETITION SIGNED BY 207 SIGNATORIES</p> <p>We the undersigned electors of the Adelaide Hills Council, petition the Council to retain the ward structure for representation of electors in the council in lieu of the council promoted option of "no wards" for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is at odds with the community feedback where 96% favoured the retention of wards 2. The potential of members being elected from the more heavily populated part of the council area 3. An organised single interest group (including a political party) could gain considerable representation on council 4. Members may not have any empathy for, or affiliation with, all communities across the council 5. There is the potential for the number of invalid votes to increase because electors will have to vote for at least 12 candidates for a valid vote (assuming there are more than 12 vacancies), many of whom will not be known to electors.
406	KERSBROOK	<p>PETITION SIGNED BY 16 SIGNATORIES</p> <p>We the undersigned electors of the Adelaide Hills Council, petition the Council to retain the ward structure for representation of electors in the council in lieu of the council promoted option of "no wards" for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is at odds with the community feedback where 96% favoured the retention of wards 2. The potential of members being elected from the more heavily populated part of the council area 3. An organised single interest group (including a political party) could gain considerable representation on council 4. Members may not have any empathy for, or affiliation with, all communities across the council

No.	Suburb	Further Comments
407	BIRDWOOD	<p>We attended the Public Meeting at Gumeracha on 30/1/2017 and after a show of hands, it was abundantly clear that the vast majority want to retain wards. There was also a man who appeared to have some legal knowledge of local government legislative practices, who pointed out that if the Mayor has to have a casting vote to break a dead-locked outcome, then his/her vote must maintain the status quo. Therefore, in our opinion, Mayor Spreng acted completely out of his jurisdiction to vote to abolish wards? His dismissal of the mentioned legal precedent espast history (if we can't learn from history, we are lost. I studied history to university level and learnt that humans have always been tribal in nature and natural community builders. Like-minded individuals with similar values, working together, always accomplish more. Therefore, the globalization/borderless world agenda will never succeed and we already see the strife being caused, especially in Europe and the USA. I believe that Councils have signed into some sort of U. N. agenda to undermine sovereignty, property rights and communities? So, is this agenda to abolish wards which are essentially our borders within the council area, part of that insidious attempt to break up cohesive communities? The smaller towns in the council area are currently well represented on council, thanks to the wards system. It is highly misleading to try and say that this won't change and towns like Birdwood and Gumeracha won't lose their representation; even one of our councillors thinks that this is inevitable. Even "Blind Freddie" can see that the higher populations in Stirling, Aldgate, Bridgewater, Bahannah and Woodside will have a far higher number of voters, voting for people they know from their areas, leaving the much smaller number of voters in places like the Torrens Valley, without the numbers to have a councillor. Anyone who thinks differently is either being naïve or has blinkers on! Ray and I have lived in Birdwood since 1988, and in that time we have noticed that it has become a "commuter town" where people buy houses because they are relatively cheap, and it is not too far from the suburbs. However, hardworking commuters to town often haven't got the time or the energy to become involved in community activities and projects. It is a great tragedy that only 61 submissions were sent to council and we personally are appalled by the level of apathy. It is a sign that people do not trust any level of government to take their views into account, so they just don't bother to express them. However, Birdwood still has a large number of descendants from pioneer families, who tend to do a lot for the town community. We value our two current councillors and we would not have them if the wards were abolished! The Council has no right at all to abolish wards because of the small number of submissions. If wards are abolished, whole areas will not have any representation. It would be impossible for the twelve elected councillors to represent the whole council area, and the best the Torrens Valley could hope for, would be someone from the more populated towns being told they have to represent us!! I find it insulting in the extreme to have the word "parochial" (which incidentally means "relating to a parish"-so what is wrong with that ?!) bandied about to try and make us in smaller towns, look narrowminded or something. Of course we care about what happens in the whole council area as it ultimately impacts on us too. I can only presume that the fact that 37 councils in SA have already capitulated and abolished wards, that pressure is being applied by the state, and possibly federal governments? I repeat, the globalisation agenda seeks to break down communities and local people who value their small communities, will not go down without a fight! This agenda goes against human nature. Why are so many people leaving the big cities and seeking out small communities where they feel safe, cared about, share core values and have a voice on issues of local importance? In my opinion, that's why the "ruling elites" want to destroy vocal small communities that stand up to them and their heinous controlling agendas. There is no doubt in our minds that if wards are abolished, the Council will be potentially hijacked by large numbers from vocal, interest groups or political parties that can influence large numbers of people to vote for their preferred candidates. There already seems to be a "Greens" block there now ??! No wards would not mean better democracy because at the moment, with non-compulsory voting, the numbers of people who bother to vote, even when sent a ballot paper, is abysmal. There are people who just don't seem to value their hard-fought for democratic right to have a say! That won't change whether there are wards or not! The Council is therefore obliged to listen to the views of the intelligent, community-engaged people who do have a say, however small those numbers might be. Councillors are elected by the people, to represent the people and what they want for their district and communities. They are not there to represent heinous national or international agendas which seek to break down sovereignty, borders and cohesive communities!</p>

No.	Suburb	Further Comments
408	GUMERACHA	<p>I am opposed to the removal of the Ward system. Some time ago Council were considering doing away with the Ward system. I provided a written submission against that proposal and in support of the Ward system. I am surprised and concerned that the decision made was not accepted so soon after the last attempt. If there had been a significant time period or some significant changes indicating that a review should occur, fine, but if it is simply that the decision reached last time was not the decision desired by some, then that is very poor and in my view an improper use of Council time. I am still against the removal of the Ward system. It removes the even representation across the whole of Council and removes the likelihood of local people representing local interests. The Ward system provides fairness in that each Ward area has equal representation on Council, thus ensuring that all areas are equally represented irrespective of population density. Ward areas can be adjusted to enable an even population spread as deemed necessary by Council to ensure fairness. Council is already seen by many as being Stirling centric, with the perception that little attention is paid outside of that area. To do away with Wards will further disenfranchise (or confirm that view to) those who believe the Council is not interested in areas outside of Stirling. The Ward system ensures a fair and balanced playing field for everyone to have an opportunity to be elected to Council should they wish to put themselves forward. Those within the Ward are putting themselves forward against others in the election with similar exposure/relationships to their local area. They compete fairly against each other. Without a Ward system someone from a lower population area are likely to have to compete against someone from a high population area for a seat on Council. Clearly on the balance of an even % of voter turnout, the person from the area with the high population area has an advantage against the person from a lower population area. A clear unfairness to those who live in areas with lower population density. Without a Ward system it is easier for councillors in a higher population area to gain votes. Generally service clubs have higher membership, football and sporting clubs as well as other groups such as Rural Watch's, School parent groups and RSLs also have higher membership generally. The impact of that is that a councillor can approach and have exposure to more people by visiting the same number of groups as a person from the lower density area, but with greater exposure. They can campaign outside a supermarket or shopping area with a greater number of passing pedestrian traffic and gain more votes due to that exposure than someone from the lower population density areas who has lower exposure in their area. It seems clear that the aim of doing away with the Ward system will benefit areas of high population and disadvantage those from the lower population areas. With the Ward system we have local people representing our interests. Without the Ward system it is highly likely that all councillors will come from higher populated areas and will not be familiar with or necessarily interested in the issues, or potential issues facing those at the outer extremes of the Council. At the least there will be a public impression of lack of council interest in local issues. In a Ward system, this imbalance is evened out as councillors are local and locally aware of issues. Current councillors may be interested in issues across whole of Council and have the appropriate attitude towards serving on council, but that attitude cannot be guaranteed for future councillors. Future councillors may simply be interested in their own issues locally to them and not fulfil their duties fairly across the whole of Council, prioritising their issues to the detriment of other areas. To assume otherwise is to rely on the good nature and honesty of people - something that often is in short supply. To do away with the Ward system provides avenues for that type of poor management, keeping the Wards protects against such potential corruption. I would like to make it clear that I am in no way suggesting any corruption exists in Adelaide Hills Council. However it is prudent to guard against that possibility by having protocols and practices that prevent or remove the potential for corruption. One of those protocols or preventive strategies should be the retention of Wards. The Wards makes councillors easily contactable and accountable both formally during meetings or appointments to discuss an issue. But also informally, whilst shopping, walking the dog, collecting the post from the post office, firefighting, attending church or sporting clubs etc... That ease of contact also makes the councillor accountable to the local people in their Ward as they are known and frequent the areas within that local area where they can be approached easily. Someone from Stirling is hardly likely to shop at Mt Torrens for the Sunday paper for example. They may visit, but they will not necessarily be known or have interaction with locals to the same extent a local does and will continue to do. I am available for contact to clarify any of my comments above. I am firmly of the view that the current Ward system within Adelaide Hills Council provides for a fair and balanced Council response to community needs across the whole of Council and wish it to be retained.</p>
409	OAKBANK	<p>Like the amalgamation of Councils, the amalgamation of wards will result in poorer services to ratepayers in more rural districts. I object strongly to any action promulgated by Council on our behalf to undertake such a course of action. I believe the matter should be rejected</p>
410	ALDGATE	<p>I initially responded to the community consultation survey by indicating my support for the abolition of the current Ward structure.</p> <p>However, it is clear to me that the majority of my neighbours and the wider community do not.</p> <p>Accordingly, I have had time to reflect and am now of the belief that the community can well be served by the retention of the current representative structure.</p> <p>I would therefore like to rescind my earlier support for Council's position and formally register my opposition to any change to the current Ward representative structure.</p>

No.	Suburb	Further Comments
411	WOODSIDE	<p>I write on behalf of the members of the Woodside Commerce Association ("WCA") which represents approximately 60 businesses located around Woodside. Most business owners are also residents around Woodside or at least within the Adelaide Hills Council ("AHC") district. Accordingly, the WCA gives voice to around 120 ratepayers within the AHC district. The key point the members wish to have known is their support for the existing ward system. Similarly, they wish to have known that they do not support the AHCs proposal for a "no ward" system. Many issues are identified in the Representation Review ("the Review") and the following matters are of particular concern to WCA members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Desirability of reflecting communities of interest of an economic, social, regional or other kind</i> In the Review clause 7.4, it states that the no wards arrangement will reflect the single community of interest in the Adelaide Hills and refers to the previous four council areas that were amalgamated. The fact that five wards exist, giving representation at a local level and with a local interest surely is "reflecting communities of interest of economic, social, regional or other kind" whilst combining these diverse communities of interest into one discards this principle. 2. <i>Feasibility of communication between electors affected by the proposal and their elected representative</i> - Whilst technological advances will certainly make "communication between the electors and elected representatives" easier into the future, for many decades to come the reliance on technology to provide channels of communication will marginalise many older electors within the AHC area. Given the relatively high weighting toward the older demographic within the AHC area, local representation at local levels will continue to provide easier communication for at least the next decade for these electors. Relying on technology for communication recognises the inability of representatives to keep in touch with their local electors by any other means. This represents another principle being ignored in the rush to embrace new technologies. 3. <i>The nature of substantial demographic changes that may occur in the foreseeable future</i> - The review shows a small increase in the population of the AHC area between the 2006 and 2011 census but makes no mention of the changes in population in each of the ward areas. New developments in outlying wards of the AHC area compared to limited options for infill within highly populated areas suggests that over time the most substantial demographic changes that may occur in the foreseeable future will be in those regions. This should assist in redressing the current imbalance indicated by the Review Options Paper release in April 2013. <p>In Clause 7.1 of the Review Rationale - Abolition of Wards a number of reasons are given in support of the abolition of the existing ward arrangement. Reasons given which the WCA members have concerns about are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Small community opportunities</i> - it affords opportunities for the smaller communities and towns to be directly represented on Council, if they are able to muster sufficient support for a candidate. Regardless of how much support a small community within the AHC area can muster, the requirement to gain a quota over the whole AHC area will be more difficult than achieving a quota within a smaller area. Within a ward-based system, electors can promote their candidate more effectively than over a whole of council system. A further concern this raises is that the candidates with greater financial resources will be more able to promote their agenda and themselves across the whole of council area. Those with lesser financial resources will be unable to promote themselves as effectively although within a ward-based system, the cost of promotion will be reduced, thus equalising the differential. 2. <i>Voting numbers</i> - the most supported candidates from across the council will likely rather than candidates who may be favoured by the ward based system. The best resourced candidates from across the council will likely be elected rather than candidates who may be poorly resourced but well known and respected within the ward based system. The centralisation of the AHC into a single amorphous ward represents a danger to the democratic process due to greater cost incurred by promotion of candidates across a larger region weighting the system in favour of those with greater financial backing. <p>For this reason alone, apart from the others mentioned above, the proposal to abolish the ward system altogether should be discarded by the Adelaide Hills Council.</p>

No.	Suburb	Further Comments
412	GUMERACHA	<p>Resident submission in relation to the removal of Wards proposal. I am opposed to the removal of the Ward system. Some time ago Council were considering doing away with the Ward system. I provided a written ' submission against that proposal and in support of the Ward system. I am surprised and concerned that the decision made was not accepted so soon after the last attempt. If there had been a significant time period or some significant changes indicating that a review should occur, fine, but if it is simply that the decision reached last time was not the decision desired by some, then that is very poor and in my view an improper use of Council time. I am still against the removal of the Ward system. It removes the even representation across the whole of Council and removes the likelihood of local people representing local interests. The Ward system provides fairness in that each Ward area has equal representation on Council, thus ensuring that all areas are equally represented irrespective of population density. Ward areas can be adjusted to enable an even population spread as deemed necessary by Council to ensure fairness. Council is already seen by many as being Stirling centric, with the perception that little attention is paid outside of that area. To do away with Wards will further disenfranchise (or confirm that view to) those who believe the Council is not interested in areas outside of Stirling.</p> <p>The Ward system ensures a fair and balanced playing field for everyone to have an opportunity to be elected to Council should they wish to put themselves forward. Those within the Ward are putting themselves forward against others in the election with similar exposure/relationships to their local area. They compete fairly against each other. Without a Ward system someone from a lower population area are likely to have to compete against someone from a high population area for a seat on Council. Clearly on the balance of an even % of voter turnout, the person from the area with the high population area has an advantage against the person from a lower population area. A clear unfairness to those who live in areas with lower population density.</p> <p>Without a Ward system it is easier for Councillors in a higher population area to gain votes. Generally service clubs have higher membership, football and sporting clubs as well as other groups such as Rural Watch's, School parent groups and RSL also have higher membership generally. The impact of that is that a councillor can approach and have exposure to more people by visiting the same number of groups as a person from the lower density area, but with greater exposure. They can campaign outside a supermarket or shopping area with a greater number of passing pedestrian traffic and gain more votes due to that exposure than someone from the lower population density areas who has lower exposure in their area.</p> <p>It seems clear that the aim of doing away with the Ward system will benefit areas of high population and disadvantage those from the lower population areas.</p> <p>With the Ward system we have local people representing our interests. Without the Ward system it is highly likely that all councillors will come from higher populated areas and will not be familiar with or necessarily interested in the issues, or potential issues facing those at the outer extremes of the Council. At the least there will be a public impression of lack of council interest in local issues.</p> <p>In a Ward system, this imbalance is evened out as councillors are local and locally aware of issues. Current councillors may be interested in issues across whole of Council and have the appropriate attitude towards serving on council, but that attitude cannot be guaranteed for future councillors.</p> <p>Future councillors may simply be interested in their own issues locally to them and not fulfil their duties fairly across the whole of Council, prioritizing their issues to the detriment of other areas. To assume otherwise is to rely on the good nature and honesty of people -something that often is in short supply. To do away with the Ward system provides avenues for that type of poor management, keeping the Wards protects against such potential corruption. I would like to make it clear that I am in no way suggesting any corruption exists in Adelaide Hills Council. However it is prudent to guard against that possibility by having protocols and practices that prevent or remove the potential for corruption. One of those protocols or preventive strategies should be the retention of Wards.</p> <p>The Wards makes councillors easily contactable and accountable both formally during meetings or appointments to discuss an issue. But also informally, whilst shopping, walking the dog, collecting the post from the post office, firefighting, attending church or sporting clubs etc. That ease of contact also makes the councillor accountable to the local people in their Ward as they are known and frequent the areas within that local area where they can be approached easily. Someone from Stirling is hardly likely to shop at Mt Torrens for the Sunday paper for example. They may visit, but they will not necessarily be known or have interaction with locals to the same extent a local does and will continue to do.</p> <p>I am available for contact to clarify any of my comments above.</p> <p>I am firmly of the view that the current Ward system within Adelaide Hills Council provides for a fair and balanced Council response to community needs across the whole of Council and wish it to be retained.</p>

No.	Suburb	Further Comments
413	WOODSIDE	<p>Extrapolation of your Document on Mayor/ Chairman Council believes that With Addendum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a Councillor elected by the Ward community system is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy – choice and true and responsible representation; • the election of a Ward Councillor affords all eligible members of the ward the opportunity to express faith in a candidate, should they choose to do so, and provides Council with an identifiable elected Councillor who is directly accountable to the Ward community; • the Ward system has served the Adelaide Hills Council well over the years; • little practical benefit will likely be achieved by changing from the Ward system, at this time; • an elected Ward Representative brings stability and continuity to the Council, given the four year term of office; and • the retention of an elected Ward Representative is consistent with the position supported by the majority of respondents during the initial public consultation. Indeed the support is overwhelming and an extrapolation of those and Stage 2 figures is essential to allow Council to make a decision based upon the view of their employers the Electorate; • the electorate to make values based comment with the aid of Extrapolated figures from a valid and ; • The community employers of Council to make representation to the Minister at a later date if required. While having factual evidence upon which to build a case.
414	CUDLEE CREEK	<p>When 4 councils amalgamated they formed the Adelaide Hills Council. If wards are abolished you might as well call it the Stirling District Council. I live in the Torrens Valley ward. I want to be represented by people from my local area who know about that local area. I do not relate to Stirling and I do not want to be ruled by unknown faceless people from that area.</p>
415	KENTON VALLEY	<p>Residents and ratepayers would believe AHC is not listening to them or is it the State Government calling the shots. 96% of respondents favour retention of Wards the AHC must retain Wards indicated by the ratepayers.</p>
416	MOUNT TORRENS	<p>I see that the AHC is seeking comment for the community about the proposed changes to the ward structure. Accordingly I make the following comments -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last year Council agreed to source a public consultation process on a discussion paper outlining several options with a stated aim of "informing Council" in advance of its future determination. This was conducted at considerable cost to Council • The outcome of this process was that there was an overwhelming rejection of the abolition of wards by those who did respond. It would appear, however, that many of the councillors (and the Mayor) who ultimately voted for a wardless system chose not to be "informed", begging the question of why, if their minds were made up, did they authorise the expenditure for the consultation in the first place. • Would a 99% unfavourable response to the abolition of wards as opposed to the 96% (by memory) reported have tipped the balance? I think not. • I thought, and have said so in previous feedback to Council, that the cases for and against each of the proposals in the discussion paper were quite lacking in substance. • Council is seeking comment on how it may "ensure fair and equitable representation for all voters". This raised some interesting points given that council elections are non-compulsory and consistently result in low voter turnout. Given that councillors are elected by a majority of a minority of eligible voters it seems that the voice of those committed enough to participate it should follow that the same principle be applied to those committed enough to participate in the consultation/ • I have said publicly at one of the AHC community forums that I have never felt so connected to a council. This is in no small part due to the fact that we in this ward are represented by two councillors who are always willing to listen and take up issues. On many occasions they already know of and are attending to the issue. Their immersion in the ward area and its communities is a vital aspect of this. I have a great fear that such a connection could be lost in the event of the abolition of wards. • A significant risk of a wardless structure is that well-resourced single issue blocs could find their way into council and dominate. • The same could be said with respect to political parties doing the same. We need to look no further than NSW local government to see the effect of this involvement! • Great store has been given to the mathematics of "fairness" or creating alternative ward structures to the exclusion of the practical when it comes to communities being represented. Representation goes beyond the value of the vote of an individual within a minority of those eligible to vote. It surely must go to the extent of local knowledge of elected members and their connection to their electors. In the event of a wardless system it is quite possible that the preponderance of those elected would live in highly populated areas of the AHC. Will these people be willing and able to travel from one side of the council area to the other in order to relate to electors? It certainly would result in a diminution of face to face contact and therefore effective representation. • I am yet to see a coherent and persuasive argument for a wardless system and am perplexed by the process that has led to the current choice of Council

No.	Suburb	Further Comments
417	STIRLING	<p>ELECTOR REPRESENTATION REVIEW</p> <p>In response to the three questions asked in Council's Response form;</p> <p>VOTING FOR MAYOR</p> <p>I support the election of a Mayor by community vote [as opposed to via a vote of councillors] as this is true democracy. A mayor elected by councillors could result in the election to that office of a person who is either not acceptable to the community or not the preferred candidate.</p> <p>A NO WARDS COUNCIL</p> <p>I support the concept of the Council area not being divided into wards for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of wards is more likely to lead to a more cohesive council and a reduction of parochial thinking amongst councillors. The community needs, as far as it is possible, a united council. • Observation of council debates and decisions over a period of 12 years has demonstrated a strong leaning towards voting blocs. This is unhealthy in any council and tends to remove objectivity to the detriment of the community. Removal of wards may reduce these impasses as well as bring some fresh blood to council. • Compromises in decision making, where appropriate, are more likely in a no ward council. • If ratepayers want to ensure that their area is represented by a councillor living in their area all they have to do is vote at council elections. Analysis of previous voting patterns in the current preferential system supports this logical conclusion. • Under the current system candidates can stand for election in a ward even if they do not live in that ward. In fact there have been situations where candidates changed their initially nominated ward at the last minute after viewing what other candidates are standing. The current system is supporting this inappropriate action. • Ratepayers are restricted by having to vote for a candidate standing in their ward even if they do not support them as councillors. This will clearly result in some ratepayers not voting in council elections. Such restrictions do not exist in a no wards council. • Statistical data shows that a higher percentage of ratepayers vote in councils without wards and also that voters get a higher percentage of first choice councillors. Both of these statistics demonstrate a win for democracy. • A ward based council lends itself to situations where there are only enough candidates to fill the vacancies, in other words no choice for voters. A situation can arise where there are not enough candidates to fill the vacancies. Both of these outcomes are undesirable and can only diminish the quality of councillors elected. A very poor outcome for ratepayers. • In a ward system uneven changes in population will distort the principle of proportional representation. • Removal of wards will provide greater opportunity, and probably certainty, of have better 'qualified' councillors elected. • I have no doubts that most people living in the AHC area understand and support the diverse nature of the area and consequently support the retention of a thriving rural community. We want to retain our farmland and avoid urban sprawl that is why most people live here. • There are several examples of councils successfully adopting the no wards structure including the Barossa Council which like the AHC is composed of several townships. <p>RETAINING 12 COUNCILLORS</p> <p>I support the retention of 12 councillors as it will enable all the communities in the council area to have reasonable representation from their local area even in the event of a no wards council.</p> <p>GENERAL COMMENT</p> <p>The few recent letters to the Courier on the subject all emanate from the northern area and the common assumption is that people living in this part of the council will not be able to have local representation in the event of a no wards council. This is not a valid assumption provided they support local candidates by voting.</p> <p>It appears that there is unwarranted fear of change. Hopefully their local councillor[s] are not engaged in promulgating information that is not factual.</p> <p>Some of the responses received to date indicate that there is concern in relation to political involvement on a no wards council. The only such activity I have observed was during the last AHC elections by the 'Back to Basics' campaign carried out by ten candidates (including three existing councillors) that had funding support by both the local Federal and State Members and was based on a serious misrepresentation of council rate increases. Fortunately the community saw through this misguided attempt to influence council elections.</p>
418	CRAFERS	<p>I write in response to the AHC Public Consultation process. My views are expressed below, as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the principal member of Council continues to be a mayor, elected by the community. I agree. 2. That the Council area not be divided into wards (i.e., wards be abolished) I whole-heartedly disagree, i.e., wards to be retained. 3. That the future elected body of Council comprise twelve (12) area Councillors who will be elected by the community at Council-wide elections to represent the whole Council area. I strongly disagree. <p>That Council should adopt the stance of ward abolition in the light of its initial consultation process giving "overwhelming support" to retention of the ward structure is culpable mismanagement of the democratic process.</p> <p>Some of the claimed benefits of disposing of wards are worthy of examination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Myth: Abolition of wards for an undivided and united Adelaide Hills Council: This outcome defeats the very purpose of having an election for Council. AHC is not elected to be united; it is

No.	Suburb	Further Comments
		<p>there to be representative of the views of the diversity of residents and businesses in the AHC catchment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Myth: Abolition of wards to vote for all Councillors: Under the present ward system one has the opportunity to vote for someone local whom one knows and trusts. There are two predictable outcomes from abolition of wards; first, it will promote the "donkey vote". It will also promote a "presidential" style campaign, where a candidate with superior resources can out-promote candidates who may be better suited to represent local interests. • Myth: Abolition of wards for improved representation of special interest groups: One of the reputed frustrations of current Council is the existence of Councillors who are elected on the basis of a very narrow platform. A ward system is a counter-balance against this, to represent broad local diversity. • Myth: Abolition of wards means more Councillors get more involved in other areas: Politics 101 would dispute this. Resources and effort chase the biggest, easiest barrel of votes for re-election, and this does not necessarily equate to pursuit of a strategic vision aligned with views of the community or representation of local interests. • Myth: Abolition of wards for improved democracy: The "Trump" phenomenon and the "Brexit" vote stand as contemporary reminders of paths that democracy can take in circumstances where an adequate number of voters feels disenfranchised. Removing wards is a first step to achieving this outcome locally. • Myth: Abolition of wards gives better representation of your interests: No-one can better represent my interests than a Councillor who lives day-to-day with the same local knowledge and who understands the basis and context for any concerns that I might express. <p>Proposals #2 and #3 are in flagrant disregard for the overwhelming result of the initial consultation process. In addition, the structure of the wording of proposal #3 is potentially misleading for those who do not read it carefully, since the mention of twelve (12) Councillors could easily be mis-interpreted as being the same twelve as under the current ward structure.</p> <p>What will Council do when or if, as a result of the ambiguity of this proposal #3, there is community support for retention of the current ward structure (rejection of proposal #2), but also support for proposal #3? The two are mutually exclusive! Will "alternative" facts prevail?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Alternative" democracy • Democratic representation of the AHC area at Federal government level requires THREE Federal electoral divisions (Mayo, Sturt, and Wakefield). • Democratic representation of the AHC area at State government level requires FOUR State Electoral seats (Heyzen, Morialta, Kavel and Schubert). • Democratic representation of the AHC area at local government level requires only ONE electoral division (according to Council). And AHC labels that as "adequate and fair representation". Go figure. <p>96.7% of residents in favour of Ward retention EQUALS Council decides to abolish wards AHC made two accurate statements in its "Representation Review Report" (December 2016). First, 96.7% of respondents to its initial consultation favoured retention of the ward system for election of Council representatives ("overwhelming support", to quote the report). Secondly, it did note that 61 submissions was not a significant response from an electorate of over 29,000 potential voters.</p> <p>AHC's claim that the result is not a "significant" response is ambiguous; from one statistical point of view AHC may be correct, with 61 respondents being less than 0.21% of the electoral community, i.e., not significant. On the other hand, the actual response is very significant statistically, with 39 out of 61 respondents wanting retention of wards.</p> <p>AHC needs to accept that either its communication and outreach to the community during the consultation process was abysmally poor (only 0.21% responses), or that the silent majority of the community (99.79%) is satisfied with the ward structure at present, and wants retention of the ward structure. Another way of looking at the situation is to ask "what if?" What would AHC have concluded if the same 0.21% of the community had responded to give the result that 96.7% wanted abolition of the ward structure? Would AHC have said "that's the answer we want, so let's proceed with abolition of wards"? Or would AHC have again concluded that a 0.21% reporting was an insignificant response (statistically), thereby instigating a further round of consultation? Go figure, again.</p> <p>Local Councils for local representation</p> <p>The purpose behind the establishment of local Councils is to provide representation to those people living in Council areas. The mechanism for ensuring appropriate representation must be commensurate with the scope and scale of Council areas. AHC was formed in 1997 by the amalgamation of four distinct district Councils, i.e., East Torrens, Gumeracha, Onkaparinga and Stirling. These four former district Councils encompass 36 recognised suburbs or localities through the Adelaide Hills (Source: Wikipedia). The area ranges from Humbug Scrub in the north to Bradbury in the south; from Houghton to Balhannah; from South Para Reserve to Mount Bold Reservoir. One might imagine that when the district Councils of East Torrens, Gumeracha, Onkaparinga and Stirling were amalgamated to create AHC, the idea behind the creation of the current five electoral wards was to retain representation of the obvious diversity within those four defunct districts.</p> <p>As I said at the outset, that Council should adopt this stance in the light of its initial consultation process resulting in "overwhelming support" for retention of the ward structure is culpable mismanagement of the democratic process.</p>

No.	Suburb	Further Comments
176	BASKET RANGE	<p><u>Not a separate submission, comments are linked to Respondent 176 in Appendix 1</u></p> <p>In putting forward its Proposal Item 4 page 16 of the Representation Review Report December 2016 the claim is made that Council duly considered all relevant provisions of the Local Government Act 1999, the information and alternatives contained within the Representation Options Paper (Aug 2016), and the matters raised in the written submissions provided by interested members of the community. What Council, in my opinion failed to do is take into consideration two significant issues. These are: 1. Historical Background 2. Demographics of residents and ratepayers. Historic Background The AHC was created by the amalgamation of four distinct local government areas. The people had little say in this and many still feel that they were better served before the amalgamation. By forming wards which approximated to a considerable degree the former council areas the ARC recognized the importance of people's traditions and feelings. Whilst a very rational argument could be put highlighting the benefits of the amalgamation this did not convince many people at the time. The fall-back position for these people now is the ward structure which at least is a semblance of what once existed. The ARC last completed an 'elector representation review in 2009. The result of this was to have a ward structure, clearly being a response to what the community wanted. A subsequent review was commenced in 2013 because elector ratios varied by more than 10%. This was not completed but feedback to the AHC at the time shows that the community still preferred a ward structure over no wards. The problem of elector ratios still exists and Council has concluded that it is best resolved by proposing a no ward structure. This appears to ignore the feedback provided by submissions as per page 13 of the December 2016 report as far as retention of wards is concerned. This disregard of people's response is most disturbing. It has been argued that the response was small and therefore lacks validity. The counter argument is that people in 2009 and 2013 clearly expressed their views and they expected that this carry some weight. Another argument put for rejecting the responses favouring the retention of wards was that the rationales provided for the retention of wards 'were not convincing enough'. This was mentioned at the meeting I attended in Stirling on January 23. It was also suggested that the majority of the responses came from a limited area within the AHC, and therefore their validity needs to be discounted. All submissions were submitted according to required procedure and must, to ensure proper democratic process, be accepted on merit and not discounted because the result did not suit Council's sought. Demographics. Residents/ratepayers fall into three broad categories. The first are those who were members of communities of pre-amalgamation times and who still feel their circumstances have not progressed with amalgamation. The second group involves those who have accepted amalgamation but clearly identify with the ward structure since it carries some semblance of former days. The third group comprises people who have become residents/ratepayers after the AHC was formed. Each group will be swayed by different desires and motives. It is my contention that Council should have surveyed people on the basis of which group they identify with and determined its position on the basis of submissions so received. I support the proposal for a Mayor to be elected by general plebiscite. It is a more democratic form of representation. I support the present ward structure, but with boundary adjustments, to reflect the need to get close to one vote one value representation. I support the total of 11 councillors although I would consider the idea of up to four non-ward based councillors elected by general plebiscite, in addition to ward-based councillors, elected by voters from that ward. I support the better allocation of councillors to wards, to be elected by those residing, or being ratepayers in that ward. I think Council erred in its preferred no wards position. It needs to educate and better inform the community not only by the power of rational argument but also by understanding and appreciating people's feelings about what is important to them. I have the feeling that the no wards "solution" is being imposed rather than a decision resulting from what the community really wants. What needs to be recognized and understood is that people have a close affinity to their local district. This is borne out by most children attending the local school, existence of local sports teams, use of local post offices and local shops, supporting local CFS, being involved in local land care groups, attending local churches and using local medical centres. The same social forces that are responsible for people identifying with their local district are those behind people wanting a ward-based local government. Most people develop close relationships with relatively few people. Humans are essentially "tribal creatures" and despite the fact that modern communication and information technology enables links and contacts with many, and with people far afield, fundamentally trusting, meaningful and valuing relationships are formed with smaller numbers of our fellow humans. The ward structure of local government is more enabling than the alternative of no wards.</p>
260	ALDIGATE	<p><u>Not a separate submission, comments are linked to Respondent 260 in Appendix 1</u></p> <p>I regret I am unable to attend the special meeting on February 21, but would have been happy to do so and would like to congratulate the council and staff for the way in which this extensive consultation has been organized, including the opportunity of making a presentation in person. First, I agree with all the advantages of wards listed in Section 6.1.1 of the options paper. More importantly, I disagree with every argument listed in that section in favour of abolition. 1. It is harder for people to get elected if they do not live in the ward because they will be less well known locally. If the council really has a problem with councillors not living locally (which I doubt), then introduce a rule that they must live within 5 or perhaps even 10km of the boundary of the ward they represent. 2. "Electors can only vote for candidates in their ward". Just as I can only vote for candidates in my state/federal constituencies -- what's the problem? 3. If a candidate is elected unopposed, he/she must be doing a good job. What's the problem? The strength of feeling on issues or personalities relating to one ward are the dominant factors in determining how many votes are cast in a non-compulsory system, so the fact that some councillor may be elected in one ward with fewer votes than someone defeated in another ward is perfectly acceptable, and no reason to abolish wards. 4 & 7. These points are contradictory. If four is valid, seven is false, and vice versa. My view is that point four is in fact one of the strongest reasons for maintaining the ward system, particularly in such a huge and diverse council area as the AHC. It is, after all, supposed to be about LOCAL government. It is an inevitable consequence of a democratic system. State and Federal MPs are no different. 5. What is the alternative to a number-based system? Are you suggesting that communities with radically different needs will suddenly agree with each other just because they are now all in the same ward? Highly unlikely. 6. If a perception of imbalance in voting power is correct, ward boundaries need to be adjusted. If it is merely a perception, then information and media relations need to be looked at. Abolition of wards in my opinion would cause a real imbalance in voting power in the council, shifting power to the Aldgate-Stirling-Crefters area and disadvantaging the more rural or remote areas. Section 6.1.2 lists some "advantages" of the no-ward system. I disagree with all of them, for the following reasons.</p>

No.	Suburb	Further Comments
303	KERSBROOK	<p><u>Not a separate submission, comments are linked to Respondent 303 in Appendix 1</u></p> <p>The second question should simply indicate what we have now transitioning to what will be, so: - Do you support the current Council wards to be abolished and another system being applied to take its place? If the community agrees to then not support the ""Ward"" system then the alternatives can then be clearly and comprehensively provided, discussed and then finally be decided on by the community and not by the elected councillors only with influence of the manipulator council employees and/or biased consultants. I would expect this version of the survey to be retracted, the question to be removed or corrected and then be republished. In a democratic society the ""current"" system is understood. This third question is another example of asking a question in as many different ways until the council gets the answer they want. The current system represents the view of each council region. If it required for a Councillor to live in the ward they come from then this should be applied to the nomination process. - Ward councillors effectively reflect local concerns and help guard against the potential indifference of single issue groups. - Rural areas must be adequately represented. - I do agree with this view: Local Government is best represented and respected by local connections. Unknown councillors too centralized become ""them"" against the local ""us"". Councillors should relish their ""local"" links and knowledge etc. and especially so in rural council such as the Adelaide Hills Council. - A council view that the combining of former council areas into the new ""Adelaide Hills Council"" is not yet complete is an indication that the former ""Stirling"" council is seeking to dominate the council region as is indicated by the inference of finalization of the amalgamation process. A new system has not thoroughly been presented and discussed at all levels of community or at elector level other than through survey and poorly promoted forum sessions. Low response levels do not give the council the right to make undemocratic changes. It is only the electors that have that right. The council has many employees who could engage on a one-to-one level with the electors to determine the correct views of the majority of the electorate. From a statistically valid sample analysis of the first survey response the outcome clearly indicates a ""No Change"" view by the community. Shrewdly altering and skewing the questions to tease out a council desirable ""Yes"" in each case is improper and contemptuous. It needs to be noted that the Councillors are representatives of the electors and must unequivocally represent their views of that micro community of which they have one view themselves, the Council employees are there to implement the initiatives, programs, policies and procedures and finally competently administer these agendas for the benefit of the electorate. A legal challenge is inevitable as the process the council is pursuing is undemocratic."</p>
369	ROSTREVOR	<p><u>Not a separate submission, comments are linked to Respondent 369 in Appendix 1</u></p> <p>The clumsy wording of questions 1 and 2 has confused numerous ratepayers and could potentially cast doubt on the veracity of survey results. Question 2. Do you support the Council area not being divided into wards (i.e. the current wards to be abolished)? Awkward logic - do you support a negative? This has had most people having to re-read it several times to ensure they are actually answering the way they intend. Question 3. Do you support the elected body of Council comprising of twelve (12) area Councillors (in addition to the Mayor) who will be elected by the community at Council-Wide elections to represent the whole of the Council area? A confused and misleading question which actually addresses two of the separate issues which were canvassed in the initial survey: - sticking with a total of 12 Councillors - scrapping the Ward system. "Yes" I want to stick with 12 Councillors or "No" I want Wards retained. Which question is Council trying to ask here? Council's Review Report says Council believes that "a Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy - choice." But half of the AHC argues it should have the right to "choose" to scrap Wards, despite the huge majority of respondents favouring no change and there otherwise being no public push for such a change. The Council's proposed rationale also points out that the retention of an elected Mayor is consistent with the position supported by the majority of respondents during the initial public consultation. However, when it comes to justifying its proposal to scrap Wards, despite more than 96% of respondents opposing the idea, Council (or half of it) dismisses this as an insignificant sample. Which is it? Is a majority of survey respondents relevant or not? Council's rationale also points out that it is "aware that any proposal to have a chairperson rather than an elected Mayor cannot proceed unless or until a poll of the community has been conducted in accordance with the requirements of Section 12 (11a-d) of the Local Government Act 1999 and the result of the poll clearly supports the proposed change." If a Poll is required for any Mayoral change why not for Wards? Buck passing and saying this is not a requirement of the Act as an excuse is not sufficient. AHC has had a "poll" through its survey and now appears intent on ignoring the results.</p>

No.	Suburb	Further Comments
390	MONTACUTE	<p><u>Not a separate submission, comments are linked to Respondent 390 in Appendix 4</u></p> <p>Dear Councillors,</p> <p>Tonight I attended a consultation meeting for the Representation Review at Gumeracha. I have previously provided a submission during Stage 1 and most recently completed the survey on line. As a past school principal I am very familiar with the difficulty in communicating information to communities and the reality of hearing a much louder dissenting voice than voices of people satisfied with the leadership being provided. Tonight's meeting was both an example of that and also the way in which Wards generate protective parochial representation which can at times become emotive, as demonstrated by some Councillors who could not resist refuting Council colleagues instead of making the supportive points for their position and speaking first and foremost as leaders in the Adelaide Hills Council. A number of the speakers from the meeting also demonstrated a complete lack of interest and empathy for anyone beyond their local boundary and for people with different points of view in their own community. This outcome from a ward structure is a selfish community quality that I do not like. I don't think the mantra of "if it's not broken why fix it" adds any value to considering a Wards or No Wards structure and after tonight's meeting it is clear to me the current system is certainly broken.</p> <p>Although you may not hear a large number of people speaking out to support the proposal put forward by Council, do NOT interpret this as no support. I have spoken with people at the community events I attend and while there are some people who have expressed a desire to stay with what is familiar in wards, many people have responded with surprise that there would be any concern, and that it will make very little difference to their communication with Council or the services provided to them. There is a silent group of voices for whom you must provide leadership.</p> <p>The following points reiterate my reasons for agreeing with the Council's proposal to move to a No Wards structure and I congratulate council on this proposal.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A united Council and region: Tonight's meeting affirmed for me the very negative impact that can result from a Ward structure and strengthened my resolve that a no ward structure should be given a go to see if this beautiful and highly valued area of South Australia can really unite as the Adelaide Hills and one Council community, rather than four remnant councils that were forced to come together. 2. Surety that members are elected for more than simply representing a geographical area on the map: When I am voting at any level of government I not only look for a match in the values of a person or party, but also their capacity to be a leader, understand governance and act with integrity in all their behaviour as a community leader. I am much more concerned about these qualities than whether they know about my backyard. With the previous mentioned qualities, any elected members will be able to learn about my local interests and needs from me and speak to other people with the expertise or local knowledge as needed. 3. Choice as a voter: At the last election with three people standing for two positions, I found myself in a position where in order to ensure my vote was formal, I was forced to vote for one person I did not want. No wards would be much more likely to provide me with an opportunity to preference my votes to every candidate who's views align with mine and putting the less appealing candidates to the end of preference list. 4. Fair representation opportunities: I understand the way in which proportional representation works. I am sure No wards will provide me with the very best opportunity to vote for representatives who have empathy for my views. However No wards does not exclude local representation and I am very confident that provided people respected by their community stand for election they will be elected by that community. 5. Elected Members workloads and function of the ANC: I believe that members elected in a no wards contest will still be equally able to represent the needs of residents across the Council area. It is common practice for Boards to be formed with representation from diverse experience sets that represent the communities of interest and knowledge relevant to the Board's function and that go beyond the particular organization or roles they fill outside the Board. It is common practice for advice and opinion to sought from the relevant Board members or a community expert to inform decisions. I would expect that a Council elected from a No Wards structure would operate in this way where elected members are not only elected by a geographical group of voters but also by those who support their views. <p>I understand the elected members will each hear different levels of support or dissent with the Representation Review proposal. I encourage you to be a leader who forms your opinion not simply from the loudest voice but on consideration of the facts and what provides greatest benefit to the broader community and gives electors confidence that people who will represent their point of view will be elected. The current ward system is NOT motivating inclusive good governance from all elected members.</p>

Appendix 3

Consultation response (in redacted form)

I am in favour of retaining the current arrangement of a mayor being an elected representative. I do not approve of the alternative of an appointed principal member.

I am in favour of retaining the current arrangement of dividing the Adelaide Hills Council (AHC) area into Wards. I do not favour abolishing the Wards.

I am in favour of maintaining five wards.

Maintaining the existing ward boundaries was not given as an alternative in the Options Paper. As I do not have access to all the population projects available to AHC, I have only been able to do a partial projection. The Review Report states that some unspecified population growth is expected in Onkaparinga Valley ward. Depending on that quantity, the existing ward boundaries may be better than Alternative 1. Alternative 1 tentatively has Marble Hill at +7.2% variance, but as the ABS indicates, this may be too low and +8.5% may be more accurate.

I am not in favour in having area councillors in addition to ward councillors.

Description of AHC area

The Adelaide Hills Council region is predominantly rural with a low population density. There is a substantial concentration of the population in the Crafers, Stirling, Algate and Bridgewater area in close proximity to the South Eastern Freeway. Also there are pockets of higher population density along the western edge of the AHC in areas that are more associated with the adjoining Adelaide metropolitan councils than with the other parts of AHC.

State of the District Report 2011, Section 2.5.3 on P58, Map 5.1 on P133, Map 5.5 on P153, also profile.id website on 19/01/2017

To travel from the north to the south of the AHC area takes approximately 60 minutes. There are very few traffic lights to affect the time taken.

The Adelaide Hills Council and Mt Barker Council areas have similarities yet are unlike most other Council areas within South Australia. They are predominantly rural but have a significant portion of their populations concentrated in a small area adjacent to the South Eastern Freeway.

A significant proportion of these populations use the Freeway to commute to the Adelaide metropolitan area. The Traffic Density surveys clearly show the significant traffic count on the South Eastern Freeway and within the AHC area identifies Mt Lofty Ward residents as being most of the source. This makes the Mt Lofty Ward distinct in that it is mainly comprised of dormitory towns. Adelaide Hills Council has already identified this as a particular area of concern.

ref: Dept of Transport Traffic Density data, State of the District Report 2011, P74

Also Page 74 reports that Manoah and Marble Hill wards have a figure of 84% of workers who commute to work locations outside the AHC boundary.

Comments

The Local Government Act creates real challenges for rural councils such as Adelaide Hills and Mt Barker. Mt Barker has found the Electoral Commissioner to be sympathetic to their issues.

The Act permits only the quota variance to be considered when determining if boundaries are properly located. For an urban metropolitan council where there is fairly consistent population density across the council this is an acceptable benchmark. However for both AHC and Mt Barker where most of the council area has a low population density but there is proportionally a high population density in one locality, this creates real problems.

For instance Mt Lofty Ward requires 3 councillors where it may take 15 or 20 minutes to traverse the ward while Torrens Valley Ward with 2 councillors may take 30 to 40 minutes to traverse the ward. With the Act only using a measure of population, it is impossible to make any allowance for contrasting ward sizes.

Even between AHC and Mt Barker, Mt Barker has the advantage of having its densely populated area centrally located instead of the almost 25% - 75% positioning within AHC.

The AHC area contains different groups that have distinct lives that often have minimal interaction. Close to the S.E. Freeway is a higher density area that predominantly has Adelaide commuters. The southern area is mostly rural living. There is a band close to, and at the western edge that is mostly rural living. The large portion of the central, eastern and northern area is primary production intermingled with rural living.

There is an often expressed view from councillors that the presence of wards has led to an unhelpful division of the AHC area and if the wards were abolished then the AHC area would become unified and life would be better for everyone. This runs counter to the requirement to be alert to the interests and aspirations of individuals and groups within the community.

My alternative view is that there are very distinct communities that will continue to exist largely unchanged whether or not wards exist. These communities are not dependent on the wards for a sense of who they are. However the placement of the ward boundaries within the AHC area has not been done haphazardly. Currently the boundaries do come close to marking the areas where these distinct groups are found. The groups have not somehow decided to locate within a ward because they wanted to be in that ward, but the ward boundaries have been appropriately drawn to encompass established groups.

Council should keep wards because council requires comprehensive knowledge of all relevant issues. Crucial local knowledge would more likely be lost from council decisions if councillors were to be elected on an area wide basis.

Without wards, it is possible that most councillors could be elected from one local area, causing some parts of the council to be without local representation. In a geographically large area with a substantial range of population densities this is particularly important.

Until recently the Ordinary Council Meetings were held in turn at the main council offices around the council area. With a large area this is important. There has been a change in the last few years and these meetings are now exclusively held in Stirling.

By changing the location of Ordinary Council Meetings consistently to a single place, council has already given clear evidence to the remoter local communities that they are not places that they desire to visit any longer.

These outlying groups maintain their representation because wards force the council to have local representation.

Appearances are important and as the council has already been seen to withdraw from some areas, promises it makes now that if wards are abolished council will still be interested in these outlying areas are less believable.

Community confidence and trust is easy to lose, but then once lost is much harder to re-establish.

For me, if I wish to go to a council meeting, that would require more than one hour travelling time.

Population

In the 'State of the District Report 2011', people per hectare figures were given that demonstrates the concentration of the population within the proportionally small area that is the Mt Lofty Ward:

Algate	3.70	Mt Lofty Ward
Bridgewater	4.91	Mt Lofty Ward
Stirling	3.79	Mt Lofty Ward

in comparison

Rural North	0.16	Torrens V. Ward	(incl Kersbrook, Gumeracha, Birdwood, Mt Torrens)
Rural Central	0.18	Onkaparinga V. Ward	
Rural South	0.55	Manoah Ward	

The 'profile.id' website (as on 19/01/2017) has data prepared on behalf of AHC and currently has Estimated Resident Populations for 2015. These report the following:

	Population	Hectares	Density
AHC area	40,050	79,498	0.50 (all of AHC)
Mt Lofty Ward	10,055	3,021	3.33
Manoah Ward	6,555	7,412	0.88
Marble Ward	5,831	11,489	0.51
Onkaparing V.	10,723	22,198	0.48
Torrens V.	6,886	35,378	0.19

(There is a slight discrepancy on the 'profile.id' website as the population is stated to be 40031, while the total of the wards is 40050.)

This identifies the Mt Lofty Ward population density as 661% of the entire AHC area and when compared ward to ward is 1,710% of the Torrens Valley Ward.

Mt Lofty Ward is, in size, 3.80% of the AHC area and because of its population appropriately requires 3 councillors while Torrens Valley Ward is 44.50% of the AHC area and with its population has 2 councillors representing it.

Population Projections

On P2 of the Representation Review Report in the Background section there is the statement “there is doubt that this situation [i.e. acceptable quota tolerance limit] can be maintained”.

On P22 of the same Report is the statement “there are expectations of continuing population growth in the foreseeable future across the Council area” and ‘6.5 Demographic Trends’ on P25 provides numbers. This is also in ‘7.2.1 Elector Numbers’ on P17 of the Options Paper. Specific examples are given:

Location(s)	Ward	Current Quota Variation
Woodforde additional 280-300 dwellings	Marble Hill	-8.4%
Mt Torrens & Birdwood additional 40 + 40 allotments	Torrens V.	+4.2%
Lobethal, Oakbank, Woodside, Balhannah numbers unspecified	Onkaparinga V.	-7.7%
Stirling, Algate, Bridgewater (specific circumstances) numbers unspecified	Mt Lofty	+9.6%

From this it can be seen that the greatest expected population increase is in Marble Hill Ward now with the most negative quota variation and the quota variation for Mt Lofty Ward is more likely to decrease than increase.

Mt Lofty Ward can also expect a population increase but this is stated to be in ‘specific circumstances’.

Onkaparinga Valley Ward contains the former Woodside Barracks at Inverbrackie, but no mention has been made of this in the Review documentation.

Combining the expectation of growth across the council area with specific growth in wards with negative quota, the result can be expected to be an improvement in the quota ratios. This conflicts with the earlier claim that “there is doubt ...”.

When these identified dwellings are added and an assumption is made that there are an average of 1.5 electors per dwelling the following values and tables are obtained. The ABS figures for the AHC region indicate that 1.5 electors per dwelling would be an under-estimate as AHC has lower than the Adelaide Statistical Division figures for both single person dwellings and single parent families.

Extra for Marble Hill: 300 dwellings at 1.5 per dwelling = extra 450 electors.

Extra for Torrens Valley: 40+40 dwellings at 1.5 per dwelling = extra 120 electors.

Because the Roll numbers used in the Review Report are different from those used previously in the Options Paper, the calculations have become somewhat more complicated.

Using the Options Paper it is possible to calculate that for Alternative 1 the boundary changes caused 421 people to be moved from Mt Lofty Ward to Marble Hill Ward and 380 people from Torrens Valley Ward to Onkaparinga Valley Ward.

The Review Report contains the updated Roll numbers. By adjusting these with the 421 people and 380 people the updated numbers can be obtained for Alternative 1.

Then the extra electors in the new dwellings (450 and 120) can be included to the Roll numbers for the existing boundaries and again to the Roll numbers for Alternative 1.

Existing Boundaries now

Ward	Crs	Electors	Ratio	%Variance
Manoah	2	4974	1:2487	+1.4
Mount Lofty	3	8068	1:2689	+9.6
Marble Hill	2	4494	1:2247	-8.4
Torrens V.	2	5113	1:2557	+4.2
Onkaparinga V.	3	6797	1:2266	-7.7
Total	12	29446		
Average			1:2454	

Existing Boundaries with added dwellings

Ward	Crs	Electors	Ratio	%Variance
Manoah	2	4974	1:2487	-0.6
Mount Lofty see note	3	8068	1:2689	+0.7
Marble Hill	2	4944	1:2472	-1.2
Torrens V.	2	5233	1:2616	+4.6
Onkaparinga V. see note	3	6797	1:2266	-9.4
Total	12	30016		
Average			1:2501	

Alternative 1 now

Ward	Crs	Electors	Ratio	%Variance
Manoah	2	4974	1:2487	+1.4
Mount Lofty	3	7647	1:2549	+3.9
Marble Hill	2	4915	1:2457	+0.1
Torrens V.	2	4733	1:2366	-3.6
Onkaparinga V.	3	7177	1:2392	-2.5
Total	12	29446		
Average			1:2454	

Alternative 1 with added dwellings

Ward	Crs	Electors	Ratio	%Variance
Manoah	2	4974	1:2487	-0.6
Mount Lofty see note	3	7647	1:2549	+1.9
Marble Hill	2	5365	1:2682	+7.2
Torrens V.	2	4853	1:2426	-3.0
Onkaparinga V. see note	3	7177	1:2392	-4.4
Total	12	30016		
Average			1:2501	

Note: Both Mt Lofty Ward and Onkaparinga Wards are also expected to have more people. As no indication was given of numbers they have not been added. Also the Woodside Barracks should improve both the Existing Boundaries case and Alternative 1.

Inappropriate Comparisons

The Representation Options Paper makes inappropriate comparisons with other Councils.

In the document published by the Electoral Commission SA (April 2016):

‘Undertaking an Elector Representation Review – Guidelines for Councils’,

on P11 the checklist for the Options paper, specifies that for ‘Composition of council’, the three separate sub-categories are to be addressed:

- elector representation
- elector numbers
- comparisons with other councils of a similar size and type
- councillor/elector ratios

It is clear from this that ‘size and type’ is a separate matter from ‘elector numbers’. This aligns with the Act which differentiates them when it states “the size, population and ...”.

Table 2 on Page 10 only compares AHC with Metropolitan Councils. AHC is a rural Council with mostly a low population density, although with a localised higher population density in the geographical ribbon close to the S. E. Freeway. Norwood Payneham St Peters, Holdfast, Unley and Burnside are all Metropolitan Councils with no rural component. Their population density does not exhibit the variation existing within the AHC. They do not have a Freeway passing through them. In comparison to AHC their size is small.

Burnside is the largest of these Metropolitan Councils and has size of 3.48% of AHC. The other three are all less than 2%.

The Local Government Act 1999 repeatedly states that comparisons are to be made with other councils of a similar size and type. None of the comparisons made in Table 2 meet this requirement of the Act.

The Representation Review Report adds a Table 3 that again predominantly includes Metropolitan Councils. Only Onkaparinga Council has a rural component, areas of differing population densities and a major motorway type road providing commuter access to Adelaide. However Onkaparinga Council’s size is 65.20% that of AHC. Its number of Electors is 411% that of AHC.

Mt Barker Council, which in many ways is similar to AHC, has been completely omitted from these comparisons.

The Report as Spin

Examples:

The Review Report on P17 contains the statement "... and all but sixteen regional councils'. This suggests that 16 regional councils is an insignificant amount. However as there are 67 councils [cf Report P19] in the state with 17 metropolitan and 50 regional, these sixteen regional councils are 32%.

Maps "South Australian Government Regions", SPAR ID: 2103

and "Local Government Areas and Aboriginal Local Government Bodies", SPAR ID: 2676 both Planning SA.

On P19 is the statement "In addition, Council is also mindful that thirty-five of sixty-seven councils in the state ... are presently not divided into wards". As 35/67 is 52%, without the 'spin' the reality is that there is no significant preference shown for either alternative.

Furthermore, according to the Electoral Commission SA website, which has a webpage on Council boundaries: "There are 68 Councils across South Australia".

As the likelihood is that the Electoral Commission knows the correct number of councils, 35/68 is 51.5%.

Omissions from the Options Paper

With reference to 'Undertaking an Elector Representation Review – Guidelines for Council'. 'Representation Options Paper Checklist' on P11:

Council background

- * historical information specific to the council
- outcomes of previous elector representation reviews

The extent of this historical information seems to be in 4.1 Mayor/Chairperson on P8 – "The principal member of Council has always been a mayor who is elected by the community".

The information given about previous elector representation reviews is that one was completed in Nov 2009 and then one was started in Apr 2013 and then abandoned in Oct 2013 because it was too complex and council would not finish it by the end of the year.

Omissions from the Report

In the 'Undertaking an Elector Representation Review' document on P16, the requirement for detailed maps is mentioned twice. In the Report there are references to maps that had been present in the Options Paper. However as the Options Paper had already been deleted from the AHC website, these references were rendered worthless.

At the Public Meeting at Gumeracha on Mon 30 Jan 2017, during the address by Mayor Bill Spragg to the meeting he explained that when standing for election he had been uncertain as to which ward he should choose as he had friends in more than one ward who would vote for him. So the 'No Wards' alternative can be an advantage to some councillors at election time.

This advantage of the No Wards alternative has been omitted from the Options Paper and the Review Report. This omission in the light of the Mayor's casting vote is problematic, as the desire of the Mayor to obtain votes may have played a part in the Mayor's casting vote to abolish wards.

At the AHC Ordinary Council Meeting on Tue 22 Nov 2016, item 14.3 was about the Elector Representation Review. Section 3 'Analysis', subsection 'Consultation Results' on P5 contained:

"Notwithstanding the result, 61 respondents is approximately 0.2% of the electors in the AHC area. So while Council should be considerate of the results (and strong messages) of the consultation, it is not bound by it in term of determining its 'in-principle' proposal for representation arrangements to be consulted on in phase two."

The Local Government Act section 12 states that the Report must contain the council's response. However, this response from council that 61 written submissions from interested persons was assessed to be insufficient, has been omitted.

For comparison:

Council	Electors	Submissions	%
AHC	29446	61	0.21%
Onkaparinga	119885	197	0.16%
Mt Barker	20838	6	0.03%

So Onkaparinga obtained a level of response that was about 75% of AHC and Mt Barker got about 15%. From this comparison 0.2% is better than has been achieved in neighbouring councils.

Problems with Consultation

The Notice in the Weekender Herald on 1 Sep 2016 for the Options Paper, and that in The Courier on 21 Dec 2016 and the Weekender Herald on 22 Dec 2016 for the Review Report matched the templates in the 'Undertaking an Elector Representation Review'. These all conform to the legal requirements of the Act.

The AHC website on 12 Jan 2017, The Courier on 18 Jan 2017, Weekender Herald on 19 Jan 2017 and the A4 sized Response Form supplied at the public meeting at Gumeracha on 30 Jan 2017 all had an added restriction that only eligible electors would be allowed to make a submission.

The Act clearly states that 'interested persons' may make written submissions, and the 'Undertaking an Elector Representation Review' expands it to be 'Councils must give their communities and other interested parties ...'. Any restriction contravenes the Act.

An unknown number of legally valid submissions may have been discarded by the AHC during the consultation period in the mistaken belief that they were unacceptable.

All these notices provided in Jan 2017 also wrote that submissions *may* be included in review reports. (*My italics*).

The Act states that 'The report must be accompanied by copies of any written submissions received under subsection (9) that relate to the subject-matter of the proposal'. The 'Undertaking an Elector Representation Review' also states 'attach copies of any submissions received'. The use of the word 'may' implies that AHC incorrectly believes it has an option not include some submissions with the Report.

Of course all these varied Notices will be included with the Report to the Electoral Commissioner.

At the Gumeracha meeting on 30 Jan 2017 there were multiple complaints that the online submission process on the AHC website was refusing to accept submissions. A member of the public suggested that only one submission per address was being permitted. The council were not aware of any problem and recommended that anyone so affected should supply a written submission using the available A4 Response Forms and prepaid envelopes.

An unknown number of people may have been discouraged by the refusal of the AHC website to accept their submissions.

The A4 Response Form has three questions:

- 1 Do you support a Principal Member of the Council to continue to be a Mayor elected by the community?
- 2 Do you support the Council area not being divided into wards (i.e. the current wards to be abolished)?
- 3 Do you support the elected body of Council comprising twelve (12) area Councillors (in addition to the Mayor) who will be elected by the community at Council-Wide elections to represent the whole of the Council area?

The wording of question 2 is extraordinarily convoluted and even ambiguous, particularly when compared with question 1.

Question 3 is just another way of asking "Do you want wards?" without mentioning the word Wards.

The Act and Council's actions

The Local Government Act contains:

3 The objects of this Act are (b) 'to encourage the participation of local communities in the affairs of local government'

The AHC has rejected the views of the community that are "a clear majority" and "overwhelming" in the submissions. Those views conflict with the views of half the councillors and the mayor. To discard the submissions in this manner is to discourage the participation of local communities.

Principal role of a council [is] 6 (a) 'to act as a representative, informed and responsible decision-maker in the interests of its community'.

Principles to be observed by a council

8 (a) 'provide open, responsive and accountable government'

8 (b) 'be responsive to the needs, interests and aspirations of individuals and groups within its community'

8 (g) manage its operations and affairs in a manner that emphasises the importance of service to the community

On P15 of the Review Report is the statement "there was overwhelming support (96.7%) for the retention of wards. Six councillors and the mayor voted to not accept this.

Composition and wards 12 (8a) 'The council must ... prepare a report that -' (a) 'provides information on ... the councils response'

In the Council Minutes, but omitted from the Review Report is the response from council to ignore the interests of a group within the community because the response is of inadequate size.

Reform proposals 26 Principles (1) The Minister should ... have regard to (c) the following principles (ix) the importance within the scheme of local government to ensure that local communities within large council areas can participate effectively in decisions about local matters

26 (1) (c) (xi) '... adequate and fair representation ... similar size and type'

76 (3) (c) 'the size, population ...'

Size means the area and is a separate concept to population

Conclusion

The Adelaide Hills Council has failed to meet the statutory requirements during the review process because it has failed to undertake the review in accordance with the requirements of Section 12 of the Local Government Act.

The Options Paper does not tick all the boxes in the Electoral Commissioners checklist.

The Review Report does not tick all the boxes in the Electoral Commissioners checklist.

The Second Public Consultation does not tick all the boxes in the Electoral Commissioners checklist.

The Review Report must include Council's responses. One of Council's responses is contained in Council Minutes but is omitted from the Review Report.

Adelaide Hills Council, for part of the time allocated for submissions, added extra conditions to the Public Notices that breached Section 12 (9) (b) (ii) of the Act. These Public Notices did not meet the prescribed legal requirements.

The implementation of the online submissions process put in place by Adelaide Hills Council resulted in submissions being rejected in contravention of the Act.

There are two competing groups that want their interests and aspirations taken into account. The first is six councillors and the residents and ratepayers of the district as evidenced by the overwhelming support (96.7%) for wards in the submissions. The second is a group of six councillors and the mayor who want to abolish wards.

By voting in this contentious way, and taking a course of action in direct opposition to the residents, the council has given all the people who believe that the council is hopeless and is always "out to make our lives more difficult" all the evidence they need.

When the council demonstrates so clearly, contempt for the submissions received, it is not surprising that some of that is mirrored back to them.

I expect that when the Local Government Act and the Electoral Commissioner clearly state what is required to achieve a certificate of compliance, that is the standard that council should expect to meet.

The AHC Code of Conduct requires council members to "Act in a way that generates community trust and confidence in the Council."

When Council has produced an Options Paper and a Review Report that do not tick the boxes in the Electoral Commissioners Guide, has failed to act properly during the Submissions Period and decides to override submissions that are proportionally at a higher level of public involvement than those obtained by neighbouring Councils, Council has failed to follow the requirements of its Code of Conduct.

Additionally the group of six Councillors and the Mayor are insistent in taking the Council vote at a time when they know that two of the Councillors who hold the alternative view will be absent.

By failing to discharge their responsibilities in the Act, by failing to meet the stated requirements of the Electoral Commissioner, by not meeting the standards of the Code of Conduct and by acting in opposition to the overwhelming and strongly stated view of the community, there is a real possibility that this is now a Defaulting Council.

ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2017
63 MT BARKER ROAD STIRLING

2.2. **Leave of Absence**
Nil

2.3. **Absent**
Nil

3. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**
Nil

4. **BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

4.1. **Elector Representation Review – Review Report Consultation**

The consultation period has now concluded and the next stage of the Representation Review process is for Council to provide the opportunity for persons who have made written submissions, or their representatives, to be heard in relation to the submissions in accordance with Section 12(10) of the Act.

Moved Cr Ian Bailey
S/- Cr Malcolm Herrmann

20/17

That Council allows speakers an opportunity to speak for 10 minutes including questions.

Carried Unanimously

The following people addressed Council:

- Steve Steggles
- Pauline Gill
- Erica Womersley
- Henry Carter
- Ross Leckie
- Ken Craig
- Daniel Kelly
- Joe Frank
- Sue Vardon
- Steve Swann
- Jeff Williams

8.00pm Cr Jan-Claire Wisdom attended the meeting.

ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2017
63 MT BARKER ROAD STIRLING

4.2. Elector Representation Review – Review Report Consultation Meeting Process

Moved Cr Lynton Vonow
S/- Cr Nathan Daniell

21/17

Council resolves that the report be received and noted.

Carried Unanimously

5. CLOSE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

The special meeting closed at 9.13pm.

APPENDIX Q

Agenda Item & Minutes
28 February, 2016

**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday 28 February 2017
AGENDA BUSINESS ITEM**

Item:	14.1
Originating Officer:	Lachlan Miller, Executive Manager Governance & Risk
Responsible Director:	Terry Crackett, Director Corporate Services
Subject:	Elector Representation Review – Determination of Proposal
For:	Decision

SUMMARY

An Elector Representation Review is held to examine fundamental aspects of a Council's composition and ward structure. It is a formal process that is closely regulated under the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Act) and is required to be conducted at least every eight years.

Council has progressed through the legislated process contained in s12 of the Act including producing and consulting on an Options Paper, in consideration of the feedback received developing a proposal for future representation arrangements, producing and consulting on a Representation Review Report. The Council's 'proposal' on the representation arrangements that it favours and desires to be put in place at the next Local Government election in November 2018, is an elected Mayor, 12 councillors and no wards.

At its 21 February 2017 Special Meeting, Council received a report on the submissions received from the Representation Review Report consultation.

The Special Council Meeting was also the opportunity for persons who had made written submissions, or their representatives, to be heard in relation to the submissions in accordance with Section 12(10) of the Act. Eleven (11) people took the opportunity to present to Council on their submissions.

The purpose of this report is twofold, firstly to provide an update on matters raised at the 21 February 2017 Special Council Meeting and secondly to, and more importantly, for Council to determine the next step in relation to its 'proposal'.

RECOMMENDATION

Council resolves:

- 1. That the report be received and noted.**
 - 2. (The next steps in relation to the representation composition and structure that it desires to be put in place).**
-

1. GOVERNANCE

➤ **Strategic Management Plan/Council Policy**

Goal Organisational Sustainability
Strategy Governance

The representation arrangements for the elected Council are an important element of Council's commitment to open and transparent decision making which facilitates public accountability.

➤ **Legal Implications**

Legislative requirements regarding an Elector Representation Review are laid out in Division 2 *Powers of councils and representation reviews*, section 12 of the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Act) and the *Local Government (General) Regulations 1999*.

➤ **Risk Management Implications**

Undertaking the Elector Representation Review in accordance with the requirements of legislation and engaging in genuine consultation will assist in mitigating the risk of:

Poor governance practices occur which lead to a loss of stakeholder (i.e. customer and regulator) confidence and/or legislative breaches.

Inherent Risk	Residual Risk	Target Risk
Extreme (5C)	Medium (3D)	Medium (3D)

Note that there are many other controls that assist in mitigating this risk.

➤ **Financial and Resource Implications**

Funding for the engagement of the consultant and other review costs are included in the current budget.

➤ **Customer Service and Community/Cultural Implications**

Through the Elector Representation Review process Council will consider whether the Adelaide Hills community may benefit from an alteration to its composition and or ward structure.

➤ **Environmental Implications**

There are no direct environmental implications considered as part of the Elector Representation Review.

➤ **Engagement/Consultation with Committee, Regional Subsidiary, Advisory Group and Community**

The provision of information to the community and community consultation are key components of an Elector Representation Review. Two distinct public consultation phases are legislated, with a minimum of one six (6) week period which allows interested persons to make written submissions to Council on the Representation Options Paper and, the current matter, a minimum three (3) week consultation period enabling interested persons to make written submissions on the Representation Review Report.

The Representation Options Paper consultation occurred from 1 September to 14 October 2016 inclusive (i.e. >6 weeks) and the Representation Review Report consultation from 21 December 2016 to 10 February 2017 inclusive (i.e. >7 weeks).

People who lodged submissions regarding the Representation Review Report were provided the opportunity to be heard by Council at the 21 February 2017 Special Council Meeting. Eleven (11) people took up this opportunity and presented to Council.

2. **BACKGROUND**

Representation Review Commencement

Section 12(4) of the Act requires each council to undertake a review of all aspects of its composition and the division of the council area into wards or the abolition of wards, as prescribed by the Minister from time to time by a notice published in the Government Gazette.

At its Ordinary meeting on 26 April 2016, Council formally resolved to commence an Elector Representation review:

Initiation of Elector Representation Review

Moved Cr John Kemp 81
S/- Cr Linda Green

Council resolves:

1. **That the report be received and noted**
2. **The Elector Representation Review process be commenced in accordance with section 12 of the *Local Government Act 1999***
3. **The Elector Representation Review: Draft Key Milestones document (Item No. 14.9, Council 26/04/2016, Appendix 2) be noted, recognising that the document is subject to change.**

Carried Unanimously

Representation Options Paper

The first key stage of the Representation Review process was the development of an Options Paper which examined the advantages and disadvantages of the various options that are available to Council in respect to its future composition and structure. It contained information pertaining to the review process; elector distribution and ratios; comparisons

with other councils; demographic trends; population projections; residential development opportunities which may impact upon future elector numbers; and alternative ward structure options.

In May 2016, in the course of preparing the Options Paper, the then current House of Assembly Roll and Council Roll figures were used to analyse the number of electors per ward, the resultant ratio and therefore variance from the average. This analysis confirmed that the elector ratios for three wards were either out of (Mount Lofty ward +11.8%), or close to being out of (Marble Hill -8.9%, Onkaparinga Valley -8.3%), the permitted tolerances (+/- 10%) prescribed under Section 33(2) of the Act. The implication of this situation is that the current representation arrangements could not be retained and that a change was required.

Council received a draft Options Paper at its 23 August 2016 Ordinary Council meeting and resolved as follows:

14.10 Elector Representation Review

**Moved Cr Nathan Daniell
S/- Cr Kirrilee Boyd**

167

Council resolves:

- 1. That the report be received and noted**
- 2. That the Representation Options Paper as attached to this report in Appendix 1 be approved for use in the first consultation phase commencing 1 September 2016 until 14 October 2016, subject to required editorial changes**
- 3. That editorial changes to the document in Appendix 3 of this report can be approved by the CEO**
- 4. That the consultation activities described in Appendix 3 of this report be endorsed.**

Carried Unanimously

Representation Options Paper Consultation Results

At the expiration of the public consultation period, Council had received 61 submissions (out of approximately 29,500 electors). The key themes from the consultation were:

- forty-six or 79.3% of the submissions favoured the retention of a mayor (elected by the community);
- there was overwhelming support (i.e. fifty-nine submissions or 96.7%) for the retention of wards, with only two submissions supporting a change to “no wards”;
- a clear majority of submissions (i.e. forty-two submissions or 73.7%) favoured the retention of twelve councillors, whilst ten submissions (17.5%) supported a reduction to ten councillors, three submissions (5.3%) preferred a reduction to nine councillors, one submission (1.8%) favoured a reduction to eight councillors and one submission (1.8%) supported a reduction to seven councillors; and
- a clear majority of submissions (i.e. forty-three submissions or 76.8%) favoured the retention of five wards, whilst six submissions (10.7%) supported three wards, five submissions (8.9%) favoured four wards, one submission (1.8%) favoured three or five wards and one (1.8%) favoured two wards. In respect to the issue of ward

names, it is noted that there was strong support for the retention of the current names, followed by geographical or locality names.

A full report of the first public consultation (the Submissions Report) was provided to Council at its 22 November 2016 meeting.

Elector Ratios

Following the Options Paper Consultation, the House of Assembly and Council Roll numbers were updated with the latest enrolment data from the Electoral Commission SA.

Interestingly, the electors number per ward had changed, anecdotally attributed to roll clean-up from the Federal Election and as of September 2016 the Mount Lofty (+9.4%) was no longer out of tolerance but like the Marble Hill (-8.5%) and Onkaparinga Valley (-7.3%) wards, it remained close to the tolerance limits. The implication of this adjustment is that Council is not required to make changes to its representation arrangements.

Given the slim margins however, Council's Elector Representation Review Consultant advised that it is prudent to consider changes to 'future-proof' the ratios for the medium term and to lessen the potential for the Electoral Commissioner to refuse to certify the final Review Report and refer the matter back to Council under s12(13)(b) of the Act.

Representation Review Proposal

At its 22 November 2016 meeting, Council determined its 'in-principle' proposal for its future representation arrangements as follows:

14.3.1 Elector Representation Review – Voting for an Elected Mayor or Chairperson

Moved Cr Malcolm Herrmann 236
S/- Cr John Kemp

Council resolves:

1. That the report be received and noted.
2. That a Representation Review Report be drafted for the Council's consideration at the 13 December 2016 Ordinary Council meeting with the following representation arrangement:

Presiding Member (*Elected Mayor*)

Carried Unanimously

14.3.2 Elector Representation Review – Voting for the number of Council Members

Moved Cr Kirrilee Boyd 237
S/- Cr Ron Nelson

Council resolves that a Representation Review Report be drafted for the Council's consideration at the 13 December 2016 Ordinary Council meeting with the following representation arrangement:

A total number of 12 Council Members.

Carried

14.3.3 Elector Representation Review – Voting for Wards or No Wards

Moved Cr John Kemp 238
S/- Cr Jan Loveday

Council resolves that a Representation Review Report be drafted for the Council's consideration at the 13 December 2016 Ordinary Council meeting with the following representation arrangement:

Council area not divided into wards.

Carried on the casting vote of the Mayor

DIVISION

A Division was requested by Cr Bailey

The Mayor declared the vote set aside.

In the affirmative (7)

Councillors Boyd, Vonow, Wisdom, Kemp, Daniell, Loveday, Mayor Spragg

In the negative (6)

Councillors Nelson, Bailey, Hall, Stratford, Green, Herrmann

On the basis of the results of the division, the Mayor declared the motion **CARRIED. 239**

Representation Review Report

At its 13 December 2016 meeting, Council received a draft Representation Review Report for the purposes of public consultation. The Representation Review Report contained Council's 'proposal' on the representation arrangements that it favours and desires to be put in place at the next Local Government election in November 2018, this being an elected Mayor, 12 councillors and no wards.

In consideration of the report and the consultation period, Council resolved as follows:

14.2. Elector Representation Review – Report

Moved Cr John Kemp 282
S/- Cr Lynton Vonow

Council resolves:

1. That the report be received and noted.
2. To approve the Representation Review Report at Appendix 2 for public consultation for the period 21 December 2016 – 10 February 2017 inclusive, in compliance with the provisions of Section 12(9) of the Local Government Act 1999.
3. To delegate to the Chief Executive Officer the discretion to make any non-significant grammatical and/or content changes to the Representation Review Report for consultation purposes.
4. To determine to conduct a Special Council meeting on Tuesday 21 February 2017 as the opportunity for persons who have made written submissions, or their representatives, to be heard in relation to the submissions in accordance with Section 12(10) of the Local Government Act 1999.

Carried

3. ANALYSIS

Representation Review Report Consultation Results

At a Special Council meeting on 21 February 2017, Council received a report of the results of the Representation Review Report Consultation. The Special Meeting was also the opportunity for persons who had made written submissions, or their representatives, to be heard in relation to the submissions in accordance with Section 12(10) of the Act. Eleven (11) people took the opportunity to present to Council on their submissions.

A number of matters were raised during the submission presentations (and subsequent questions to the Administration by the Council Members) as follows:

1. Perceived non-compliance with the legislative requirements and guidelines for the conduct of representation reviews.

Response: It is understood that the Electoral Commission is aware of the perceived issues and the matter of the 'elector' requirement (as reported in the 21 February Special Council report) is the only matter that they have requested further information from Council. None of the other matters raised are considered by the author to be detrimental to Council's compliance with the process.

2. Multiple names on submissions – treated as one submission or multiple submissions?

Response: Council's consultant has advised that the experience in other representation reviews is to count submissions with more than one name (including petitions) as one submission. Notwithstanding this, a calculation of the submissions with more than one name listed (excluding petitions) would add another 32 submissions. All of these do not support Council's proposal (Note: these have not be added to the overall response figures detailed below.)

3. Two submissions lodged not included in submission report (21 February 2017)

Response: It was clarified with the respondent, at the close of the meeting, that one of the 'missing' submissions was contained in the appendices to the report. The second submission (which was lodged before the closure) was not included due to an internal processing error. That submission is included (in redacted form) in **Appendix 1** and the response figures detailed below have been updated. (Note: three late submissions were received after the consultation closure and these have not been added to the overall response figures detailed below.)

4. Counting of submissions that indicated 'yes' to an element of the Council's proposal when the adjacent commentary suggested that the respondent did not agree with the element (i.e. the respondent may have misunderstood the survey question)

Response: In the course of analysing the submissions it was apparent that some responses on the online and hard copy submission forms did not align with the commentary for that element of the proposal. This occurred specifically in relation to the 'no wards' element and these submissions were 'discounted' (from 36 in favour to 27 in favour) in an attempt to recognise the real intent of the respondent.

5. Inclusion of representors' names who spoke to submissions in the Council minutes and the reports to the Electoral Commission

Response: The Electoral Commission guideline suggests that the names of persons who spoke to their submissions should be included in the final report to the Commission. Additionally Council's practice has been to include the names of people who speak in the Public Forum in the minutes of the meeting. On the basis of these factors, the names have been included in the minutes of the Special Council Meeting and will be included in the reports to the Electoral Commission.

In light of point 3 above, the overall result of support for the Council's proposal (being elected Mayor, no wards and 12 area councillors) is:

Support Council's 'proposal'	27 submissions (6.4% of respondents)
Do not support Council's 'proposal'	393 submissions (93.6% of respondents)

Determination of Proposal

Taking into consideration the requirements of s12 of the Act including, but not limited to, the consultation feedback received, the principles under s26(1)© and the matters referred to in s33 (see **Appendix 2**), the next step of the representation review process is for Council to determine the status of its proposal. There are two options:

Option 1: Affirm (endorse) the final position on the future structure and composition

To do so Council will need to resolve to endorse the future composition and structure including the identification of the key reasons why Council has adopted this position (these may have already been identified in part/whole in the Representation Review Report).

Additionally, Council will need to resolve for the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to develop the final report to the Electoral Commissioner on the representation review process in accordance with the requirements of the Act. In doing so Council may wish to delegate the power to the CEO to lodge the final report on Council's behalf or require it to be brought back to a future meeting (nominally 28 March 2017) for approval for lodgement.

Option 2: Resolve to adopt an alternate 'proposal' for the purposes of the development of a Representation Review Report and public consultation

To do so Council will need to resolve for the CEO to have structure and composition options developed (specifying the number of wards and the number of councillors per ward).

Additionally, Council will need to resolve to advise the Electoral Commissioner and the Minister for Local Government that the Adelaide Hills Council will not be able to complete the representation review by April 2017 and to seek an extension.

Should Council adopt this option, a meeting (either a Special or Ordinary meeting in March) will need to be conducted for Council to determine the exact details of its new 'proposal' (including mayor/chair, number of wards, number of councillors per ward, names of wards) prior to resolving for a new Representation Review Report being developed. Once this has occurred the process is as occurred with the current Representation Review Report.

4. APPENDICES

- (1) Omitted consultation response (in redacted form)
- (2) Local Government Act 1999 extracts – s26(1)(c) and s33

Appendix 1

Omitted consultation response (in redacted form)

To Adelaide Hills Council

13 FEB 2017

On behalf of the quorum of the [REDACTED] we are opposed to the proposed abolition of the council wards by Mayor Bill Spragg and deem this our submission for the Adelaide Hills Council Representation Review options process.

We believe that not only is this motion inappropriate for the council to be instigating or looking to implement, but also that it does not take into account the members of the rural communities who rely on the representation and assistance of their localised members to be heard in the chamber and acted upon. As the council has tried in the past to relinquish or downgrade services in the Torrens Valley area in regard to the library and facilities because of situational constraints or budgeting we do not see the benefits of not being guaranteed representation on the council at a localised level, and have no confidence that a no ward system would allow our operations to be assisted or recognised by our no ward representative.

We also are not impressed by the manner in which this representation has taken place whereby feedback and forms have not been duly assessed as part of the process, including the lack of information being provided to ratepayers, but shown at a recent council meeting held in Gumeracha.

ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2017
63 MT BARKER ROAD STIRLING

[Please Note: These minutes will be confirmed at the meeting on 28 March 2017]

9. PETITIONS / DEPUTATIONS / PUBLIC FORUM

9.1 Petitions

9.1.1 Petition 1 – Elector Representation Review, Retain Wards

Moved Cr Malcolm Herrmann 25/17
S/- Cr Linda Green

Council resolves that petition 1 from Merv Hancock and signed by 138 signatories, about the Elector Representation Review, be received and noted.

Carried Unanimously

9.1.2 Petition 2 – Elector Representation Review, Retain Wards

Moved Cr Malcolm Herrmann 26/17
S/- Cr Linda Green

Council resolves that petition 2 from Merv Hancock and signed by 76 signatories, about the Elector Representation Review, be received and noted.

Carried Unanimously

9.1.3 Petition 3 – Elector Representation Review, Retain Wards

Moved Cr Lynton Vonow 27/17
S/- Cr Nathan Daniell

Council resolves that the petition from Mal Maloney and signed by 210 signatories, about the Elector Representation Review be received and noted.

Carried Unanimously

9.1.4 Petition 4 – Elector Representation Review, Retain Wards

Moved Cr Malcolm Herrmann 28/17
S/- Cr Andrew Stratford

Council resolves that the petition from Joan Playford and signed by 16 signatories, about the Elector Representation Review, be received and noted.

Carried Unanimously

Mayor _____ 28 March 2017

**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2017
63 MT BARKER ROAD STIRLING**

[Please Note: These minutes will be confirmed at the meeting on 28 March 2017]

9.1.5 Road Safety Berry Hill Road, Kenton Valley

Moved Cr John Kemp
S/- Cr Ron Nelson

29/17

Council resolves that the petition from Hilary Lineage and signed by 30 signatories, about road safety at Berry Hill Road, Kenton Valley, be received and noted.

Carried Unanimously

9.2 Deputations

Barry Walker, Adelaide Hills Hawks Football Club

Paul Gibbons & Liz Webb (EMM Consulting for Boral Resources) re Schapel Road closure application and groundwater concerns.

9.3 Public Forum

Leave of the meeting was granted to allow the three speakers 5 minutes each.
Robert Green re Schapel Road & water resources
John Hill re Elector Representation Review
Daniel Kelly re community forums and engagement

10. PRESENTATIONS

Nil

11. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Nil

8.20pm Cr Lynton Vonow left the Chamber
8.22pm Cr Lynton Vonow returned to the Chamber

APPENDIX R

Agenda Item & Minutes
23 May, 2017

**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday 23 May 2017
AGENDA BUSINESS ITEM**

Item: 11.1 Question on Notice

Originating from: Cr Malcolm Herrmann

Subject: Cost of Elector Representation Review Stage 1

Strategic Plan Goal: Organisational Sustainability

Strategic Plan Key Theme: Governance

1. QUESTION

1. What has been the total cost of Stage 1 of the Representation Review – expenditure under the following classifications:
 - Consultants
 - Staff time (estimate)
 - Administration (ie printing, stationery, postage)
 - Legal expenses and other?
2. Has the Administration prepared an estimate of the cost of conducting Stage 2?

2. OFFICER'S RESPONSE – Lachlan Miller, Executive Manager Governance & Risk

Question 1

In the construction and the 2016/17 budget, \$30,000 was allocated for the consultancy fees and advertising being the two directly attributable expense categories associated with the conduct of the Elector Representation Review.

As a project of the Governance & Risk Department, there were no additional staffing resources to be utilised above the current establishment. Legal, printing and postage expenses were not specifically identified for the project due to their negligible nature and existing budgets in these expense categories were to be utilised.

An analysis of the expenditure to date in relation to the Representation Review across the key expenditure categories is as follows:

Consultancy fees	\$17,040
Printing and stationary (estimate)	\$131
Advertising	\$4,131
Legals (estimate)	\$500
Postage (estimate)	\$250
TOTAL	<u>\$22,052</u>

In relation to staffing costs, acknowledging that staff members from various levels across the organisation have been involved in elements of the Review project, the project to date has consumed the estimated equivalent of 0.2FTE at Executive Manager level for the project duration.

On the basis of the figures provided, even taking into account the other expense categories that were not budgeted for the Review project, Council will note that the project is currently under-expended.

Question 2

An estimate of the potential costs has been prepared on the basis that Council resolves to resume the Review and conduct Options Paper and Representation Review Report development and consultation in a manner similar to the previous process steps.

The largest variable is the level of revision required to key documents by the Consultant on the basis of decisions made by Council. A worst case (i.e. significant consultancy hours) scenario has been built into the following estimates for the completion of the Review project:

Consultancy fees	\$9,650
Printing and stationary	\$131
Advertising	\$1,800
Legals	\$0
Postage	\$500
TOTAL	<u>\$12,081</u>

The remaining budget for 2016/17 will be utilised and expenses incurred in 2017/18 will be sourced from the CEO contingency budget.

**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY 23 MAY 2017
63 MT BARKER ROAD STIRLING**

[Please Note: These minutes will be confirmed on 27 June 2017]

10. PRESENTATIONS
Nil

11. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

11.1. Cost of Elector Representation Review Stage 1 – Cr Malcolm Herrmann

1. What has been the total cost of Stage 1 of the Representation Review – expenditure under the following classifications:
 - Consultants
 - Staff time (estimate)
 - Administration (ie printing, stationery, postage)
 - Legal expenses and other?
2. Has the Administration prepared an estimate of the cost of conducting Stage 2?

Question 1

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**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY 23 MAY 2017
63 MT BARKER ROAD STIRLING**

[Please Note: These minutes will be confirmed on 27 June 2017]

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Legals	\$0
Postage	\$500
	\$12,081
TOTAL	\$12,081

The remaining budget for 2016/17 will be utilised and expenses incurred in 2017/18 will be sourced from the CEO contingency budget.

12. MOTIONS ON NOTICE
Nil

Leave of the Meeting was granted to bring Item 18 Motions Without Notice forward to this part of the agenda to discuss the Hills Hawks Football Club.

APPENDIX S

Public Notice
SA Government Gazette
30 May, 2017

Pursuant to Section 12 (13) (a) of the said Act, the Electoral Commissioner has certified that the review undertaken by Council satisfies the requirements of Section 12 and may therefore now be put into effect as from the day of the first periodic election held after the publication of this notice.

The revised representation arrangements are as follows:

- The Principal Member of Council continues to be a Mayor, elected by the community.
- The Council area not be divided into wards (the existing 'no wards' structure retained).
- The Elected Council will comprise the Mayor and nine Area Councillors who represent the Council area as a whole.

R. DONALDSON, Chief Executive Officer

CITY OF PROSPECT

Urban Corridor Zone and Interface Areas Policy Review— Development Plan Amendment—Draft for Public Consultation

NOTICE is hereby given that City of Prospect has prepared a Development Plan Amendment (DPA) following investigations of existing and proposed development design outcomes within the Urban Corridor Zone.

The DPA is subject to interim authorisation to allow the new policy to take immediate effect to restrict the compounding of design related negative outcomes contrary to the intent of the new policy, in an area that is undergoing a rapid rate of change from high levels of development. The proposed policy will be immediately operational while consultation and review is being undertaken.

The proposed changes recommend targeted design related policy changes to relevant Council Wide and Urban Corridor Zone sections of the Development Plan, including:

- introducing widely accepted principles of good design;
- strengthening and clarifying the desired intent for development within the zone and policy areas;
- encouraging diversity of building types and housing sizes;
- promoting ground level street activation and overall appeal from the street;
- strengthening landscape and introducing deep root zones;
- removing disincentives to site amalgamation;
- amending setbacks to re-orientate buildings to the street and towards the front of the property and away from other areas;
- strengthening policy for development on or near a boundary;
- inserting additional zone interface provisions to minimise negative impacts to development in adjoining zones; and
- other issues, such as visual privacy, storage and waste removal.

The consultation period is from 30 May to 25 July 2017. To comment on the DPA within the consultation period you should:

- complete the Feedback Sheet included with the Information Sheet (also available at the Council office and online);
- provide a written submission marked 'Submission—Urban Corridor Zone and Interface Areas Policy Review DPA' and send to City of Prospect, P.O. Box 171, Prospect, S.A. 5082 (marked Attention: Rick Chenoweth) or E-mail: admin@prospect.sa.gov.au; and
- indicate if you wish to speak at a Public Meeting to be held on 9 August 2017.

The Public Meeting may not be held if no submission indicates that they wish to be heard at a public hearing.

For further information:

- view the DPA and relevant documents on Council's website at www.prospect.sa.gov.au;
- view the DPA (or purchase a copy for \$15) at the Council office or libraries;

- contact Council staff to make an appointment to discuss the changes; and
- attend an Information Session at the Civic Centre (128 Prospect Road, Prospect) or Library (1 Thomas Street, Nailsworth).

Dated 24 May 2017.

C. HART, Chief Executive Officer

ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL

Review of Elector Representation

NOTICE is hereby given that the Adelaide Hills Council is undertaking a review to determine whether a change of arrangements is required in respect to elector representation so as to ensure that the electors of the area are being adequately and fairly represented. Please note that due to a technical failure, Council is required to restart the review process.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 12 (7) of the Local Government Act 1999, notice is hereby given that Council has prepared a Representation Options Paper which examines the advantages and disadvantages of the various options available in regards to the composition and structure of Council, and the division of the Council area into wards.

A copy of the Representation Options Paper is available on Council's website, ahc.sa.gov.au or a copy can be inspected and obtained at the Council offices, 26 Onkaparinga Valley Road, Woodside, 63 Mount Barker Road, Stirling and 45 Albert Street, Gumeracha or at The Summit Community Centre, 1 The Crescent Drive, Norton Summit or the Mobile Library (schedule on ahc.sa.gov.au).

Written submissions are invited from interested persons from Thursday, 1 June 2017 and should be directed to the Chief Executive Officer, P.O. Box 44, Woodside, S.A. 5244, or mail@ahc.sa.gov.au by close of business on Friday, 14 July 2017.

Please note that all submissions previously received from the community in respect to the previous Representation Options Paper (dated August 2016) remain valid and will be reconsidered by Council during any further deliberations (i.e. previous respondents are not required to submit another submission unless they wish to do so, in which case the latest submission will supersede the initial submission).

A. AITKEN, Chief Executive Officer

COORONG DISTRICT COUNCIL

ROAD (OPENING AND CLOSING) ACT 1991

Portion of a Public Road and Betts Court, Wellington East

NOTICE is hereby given, pursuant to Section 10 of the Roads (Opening and Closing) Act 1991, that the Coorong District Council hereby gives notice of its intent to implement a Road Process Order to close and retain the portions of the Public Road between adjoining Allotments 715, 716, 717, 718 and 811, 812, 813 and 814 in T170201, more particularly delineated and lettered as 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' in Preliminary Plan No. 16/0042, and close and retain the portions of Betts Court between adjoining Allotments 843, 844, 845 and 846 in T170201, more particularly delineated and lettered as 'E' and 'F' in Preliminary Plan No. 16/0042.

A copy of the plan and a statement of persons affected are available for public inspection at the office of the Council, 95-101 Railway Terrace, Tailem Bend and the Adelaide office of the Surveyor-General during normal office hours or can be viewed on Council's website: www.coorong.sa.gov.au.

Any application for easement or objection must set out the full name, address and details of the submission and must be fully supported by reasons. The application for easement or objection must be made in writing to the Council, P.O. Box 399, Tailem Bend, S.A. 5260, within 28 days of this notice and a copy must be forwarded to the Surveyor-General, G.P.O. Box 1354, Adelaide, S.A. 5001. Where a submission is made, the Council will give notification of a meeting at which the matter will be considered.

Dated 30 May 2017.

V. CAMMELL, Chief Executive Officer

APPENDIX T

Public Notice
"Mount Barker Courier"
31 May, 2017

KANMANTOO-CALLINGTON COMMUNITY
CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (KCCCC)

The next meeting of the KCCCC will be held on

Thursday 1st June 2017
from 7.30pm – 9.30pm
at the Callington Memorial Hall

The meeting will feature short presentations and discussion of ways to optimise long term community benefit through the mine closure and completion process.
All members of the community are invited to participate.

The full agenda and notes from previous meetings are available on the KCCCC webpage of the Hillgrove Resources website: <http://kcccc.hillgroveresources.com.au/> or call Susan Wilson on 8538 6800 for copies to be sent out.

Bob Goreing
Independent Chairperson



Turn your unwanted items into CASH!

There is no better time than the present to empty out your garage and turn all your unwanted goods into cash. On placing a garage sale advertisement in "The Courier" you may call into our Mt Barker office and obtain a special garage sale sign and price cards at no extra cost. Garage sales are becoming very popular, and with our special garage sale signs your success is sure to be even better.

THE Courier
The newspaper of the Adelaide Hills since 1880
8391-1388 or ads@courier.net.au

Adelaide Hills Council
Review of Elector Representation

Notice is hereby given that the Adelaide Hills Council is undertaking a review to determine whether a change of arrangements is required in respect to elector representation so as to ensure that the electors of the area are adequately and fairly represented. Please note that due to a technical failure, Council is required to restart the review process.

Pursuant to the provisions of section 22.17) of the Local Government Act 1999, notice is hereby given that Council has prepared a Representation Options Paper which examines the advantages and disadvantages of the various options available in regards to the composition and structure of Council, and the division of the Council area into wards.

A copy of the Representation Options Paper is available on Council's website, ahc.sa.gov.au, or a copy can be inspected and obtained at the Council office at 26 Dropa Springs Valley Road, Woodside, 63 Mt Barker Road, Spring, and 45 Albert Street, Gaweracha, or at The Summit Community Centre, 1 The Crescent Drive, Norton Summit or the Mobile Library (schedule on ahc.sa.gov.au).

Written submissions are invited from interested persons from Thursday 1 July, 2017 and should be directed to the Chief Executive Officer, at PO Box 44, Woodside 5244, or mail@ahc.sa.gov.au by close of business on Friday 14 July, 2017.

Please note that all submissions previously received from the community in respect to the previous Representation Options Paper (dated August 2014) remain valid and will be reconsidered by Council during any further deliberations (i.e. previous respondents are not required to submit another submission unless they wish to do so, in which case the latest submission will supersede the initial submission).

A. Alden
Chief Executive Officer

Information regarding the elector representation review can be obtained by contacting Lachlan Miller, Executive Manager Governance and Risk 8408-0400 or mail@ahc.sa.gov.au

Form 1
LIQUOR LICENSING ACT 1997
NOTICE OF APPLICATION

Landhaus Estate Wines Pty Ltd has applied to the Licensing Authority for a Removal of a Producers Licence and variation to conditions in respect of the premises situated at 4 Berwick St Henley Beach, 5022 and to be situated at 182 Male Street Hahndorf, 5245 and to be known as Landhaus Estate Wines.

The following is sought in the application:

- Variation to conditions to include sampling and consumption on the licensed premises as per plans lodged with this office.

The application has been set down for hearing on 28/06/2017. Any person may object to the application by lodging a 'Notice of Objection' in the prescribed form with the Liquor and Gambling Commissioner, (and serving a copy of the notice on the applicant) at least 7 days before the hearing date (via 22496/2017).

The applicant's address for service is:
C/- J Janszki, 4 Berwick Street Henley Beach, 5022.

The application, certain documents and material (including Plans) relevant to the application may be inspected by persons with a genuine interest, without fee at the Customer Service Centre, 91 Grenfell Street, Adelaide SA 5000, during a period specified by the Liquor and Gambling Commissioner
Phone: 8226-8655
Email: liquorandgaming@sa.gov.au

Dated: 26/05/2017
Applicant: Landhaus Estate Wines Pty Ltd

FOOTY TIPPING COMPETITION
TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- The Promoter:** The promoter of the competition is The Courier - Mt Barker SA, PO Box 27, Mt Barker, SA, 5231. The administrator of the promotion is Footy Tipping Software Pty Ltd of 104 Orong Road, Elsternwick, Victoria, 3105, ABN 13 076 990 314.
- Who Can Enter:** Entry into the promotion is open to residents of South Australia only. Directors, management, employees or immediate family of the promoter or administrator may enter the competition but are not eligible to win any of the prizes.
- Entry Fee:** There are no entry fees to register or play.
- Privacy Policy:** All personal information collected by entering this competition will not be given to any third party under any circumstances unless required by law.
- Competition Start and Finish:** The competition commences prior to the first round of the Australian Football League home and away season and concludes upon the completion of the final game of the home and away season.
- Entering After the Official Start Date:** No tips will be admitted to the competition after the cut-off time which is 30 minutes before the first game of Round 1.
- Registration for Competition:** (a) **Online:** Tips must be registered before the cut-off time which is 30 minutes before the first game of Round 1. No tips will be admitted to the competition after this cut-off time. (b) **Paper Entry:** Tips must be submitted in their entry form by 4pm before the first game of Round 1. This entry form doubles as their registration for the competition.
- Points Allocation:** Points awarded for a correctly tipped win: 1. Participants cannot select a draw as a possible outcome. A draw is treated as a loss for all participants regardless of which team they selected or were allocated by the competition's default tips.
- Weekly Cut Off Times:** Tipping is closed on a round by round basis 30 minutes before the first game of the round. Tips entered before the deadline may be amended provided the changes are completed prior to cut-off.
- Default Tips:** Participants who fail to enter tips will be awarded the 'Lowest' Team on the ladder for each game in the 1st Round with a default predicted winning margin of 90.
- Weekly Prizes:** Weekly cash jackpot: \$100. For rounds with 3 games, the weekly prize is awarded to the competitor(s) with all 3 correct whose predicted score is most accurate. If no-one tips them all correctly, the prize jackpot is rolled over to the next round.
- End of Season Prize:** Major prize - Travel voucher valued at \$499. Prize is to be used within 12 months of winning competition. Flight Centre Mt Barker reserves the right to change and amend terms and conditions of the prize.
- Date, Place and Time of Determining the Winner(s):** Prize winners will be notified by The Courier.
- Dispute Resolution:** In the event of a dispute, the decision of the promoter is final. No responsibility is taken for loss or misdirected registrations and/or weekly tips.
- Amendment of Rules:** The promoter reserves the right to amend the rules of the competition from time to time as it considers necessary. Individual notice of such changes shall not be given but such changes will be recorded on the competition website.
- Enter Only Once:** Participants may not enter more than one registration. The promoter reserves the right to determine that a person has made more than one registration, and to disqualify any such person from the competition, or to delete entries so that only one entry remains.
- Disclaimer:** The promoter takes no responsibility for unauthorised access to any participant's tipping by any means, including where passwords have been revealed to third parties. The promoter will not be liable for any delays or failure to perform its obligations, if such a failure or delay is due to force majeure.
- Promoter's Decision is Final:** The promoter's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into in relation to the competition. Completion and submission of your registration is deemed acceptance of the Terms and Conditions of this competition.
- Discretion of the Promoter:** The promoter reserves the right to accept or reject any registrations, at its discretion.

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APPENDIX U

Public Notice
"The Weekender Herald"
1 June, 2017

Adani gets value for money from political donations



Diaw Aikwe

Federal Liberal and Queensland state Labor government support for a huge coal mine shows signs of corruption, or at the very least, of political donations buying influence. This refers to the potential mine that the Adani company wants to open up in the Galilee basin. It is true that we had a federal independent commission against corruption, but both Labor and Liberal are opposed to that. Seems like they have

something to hide. First Adani were offered free water for the project. They have been given the right to take up to 9,500 million litres of ground water and river water each year for the next 60 years. Just think how important that water is for agriculture and the environment, and yet farmers won't be able to appeal against this, since Queensland Labor has created legal exemptions for the Adani company. They will also release waste water from coal washing into local creeks.

Then we heard that the Northern Australia Infrastructure Fund is considering funding a railway to transport the coal to port, with a \$1 billion low interest, taxpayer funded loan. Projects like this can't get private funding, because they are considered too risky. That is because the use of coal has plummeted and is projected to decrease, as countries including China and India reduce their reliance on coal, and shift to renewable energy, which is becoming cheaper by the day.

Government subsidies for a project like this could make it more economical, thereby destabilising efforts to control and limit global warming. Scientists predict that falling to first

emissions could have catastrophic results for heat waves, for the Great Barrier Reef, for bush fires, agriculture and even the future livability of our planet, yet our government is promoting this. The Wangan and Jagalingou indigenous people have mounted legal challenges to stop this proposed mine since they fear it will destroy their lands and culture, but the Federal Attorney General wants to push a bill through parliament that will remove their native title rights.

New the latest free kick for the Indian company Adani is a royalty holiday being offered to them by the Queensland government. Royalties are the money that companies pay for resources that they extract. Queensland would lose \$320 million if that deal goes ahead.

Adani companies have a history of environmental destruction, and they are being investigated for corruption, fraud and tax evasion in India. However Adani has paid a lot of money in donations to both the Labor and Liberal parties, and that is just the money that we currently know about. It seems like the Adani company are getting good value for their money. It's a pity that Australian taxpayers aren't.

Diaw Aikwe, Newcastle

Cats - high approval for registration and confinement

By Thomas Lake
Despite strong support for cat registration and confinement to properties, Alexandria Council will not include these measures in its new Draft Animal Management Plan, citing a lack of resources.

Almost 90 percent of respondents to the initial consultation process said they supported mandatory registration, while 88 percent said they supported cats being confined to their owners' property.

However, a council spokesperson said that due to the significant resources which would need to be dedicated to these controls, it would not be implementing them in the new plan.

Instead, the suggested controls will be reviewed throughout the life of the plan and implemented

if there is council support. The new plan will include mandatory microchipping and desexing of cats and dogs, bringing the council's plan in line with state legislation which will come into effect next year. These new additions are expected to reduce the number of cats euthanased by reducing the number of feral cats in the long term. Populations of feral cats have proven an ongoing problem for Alexandria Council, which in 2015 trapped and euthanased 99 cats.

Over the four years the current plan has been in effect, 202 cats were trapped, of which 230 were euthanased.

Many of the cats trapped were caught under the existing feral and unidentified cat programs, which allows residents to use traps

leased from the council to capture felines and bring them in for identification.

Once captured, the council spokesperson said the cats were checked for identification or if possible, rehomed.

"As our feral cat program is generally for feral cats these are not many domestic cats that are trapped and therefore most cats are aggressive, unowned and are not suitable for rehoming," they said.

"The decision to euthanase or release is totally dependent on the provider undertaking the assessment."

While the existing cat trapping policy remains the same in the Draft Animal Management Plan, the council hopes that other changes such as microchipping will increase the number of cats which

are returned with owners.

"With the introduction of compulsory microchipping of cats in the legislation, we anticipate that, over time, it will reduce the number of feral cats in our region," the spokesperson said.

"Dogs are required to be registered, therefore the likelihood of returning dogs with their owners is much higher."

Over the life of the existing plan, more than 45 percent of 138 impounded dogs were returned to owners compared to less than 5 percent of cats.

The draft plan has been released for public consultation until June 5 and is available at www.alexandriacouncil.nsw.gov.au. Following consultation, the new four year plan will come into effect on December 17 this year.

Council looking at sealing dusty road

Following a petition to have two roads sealed in Stirling, Adelaide Hills Council will undertake a traffic count over the next few weeks to determine if changes are necessary.

The petition requested that Scott Street and High Street be sealed following an increase in traffic along both roads over the last five

years, which it argues has eroded the roads and reduced driving conditions.

Increased dust levels from the traffic on the roads have also been highlighted in the petition as a cause for concern, due to potential health effects as well as general nuisance.

An Adelaide Hills Council spokesperson

said it will make a decision about the two roads following the results of the traffic count, and if necessary, will include an upgrade in the 2017-18 budget. However, the spokesperson also said that the current roads use a material with high clay content, limestone based material which is aimed at reducing dust impact.

News in brief

Heyson watercolour painting breaks record

After being discovered at a deceased estate in Germany earlier this year a rare Hans Heyson watercolour painting has sold for record \$110,000 at an auction in Adelaide this week. Eight people bid on the work titled 'The Camp on Wokoska Creek' at the auction after an international art dealer picked it up from a private collection in Düsseldorf in Germany's west. The painting broke the previous record of a Heyson watercolour sold in South Australia by more than \$50,000. Bought by Jason Duffield, the painting will go on show in his Hahnstein restaurant The Hans.

Yandals steal alcohol
Thieves have stolen alcohol and vandalised property during a smash-and-grab at Oropa @ Waterfall Gully this past week. Having already inflicted severe landscape damage during the storms that ravaged the Hills in late 2016, the incident comes as yet another setback for the event and dining venue. It's alleged thieves attempted to break in through the main old chandelier before taking advantage of the landscape damaged section in order to gain access to the building.

Adelaide Hills Council Review of Elector Representation

NOTICE is hereby given that the Adelaide Hills Council is undertaking a review to determine whether a change of arrangements is required in respect to elector representation so as to ensure that the electors of the area are adequately and fairly represented. Please note that due to a technical failure, Council is required to restart the review process.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 12 (7) of the Local Government Act 1999, notice is hereby given that Council has prepared a Representation Options Paper which examines the advantages and disadvantages of the various options available in regards to the composition and structure of Council, and the division of the Council area into wards.

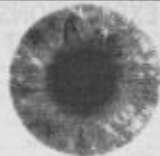
A copy of the Representation Options Paper is available on Council's website, ahc.sa.gov.au, or a copy can be inspected and obtained at the Council offices, 26 Onkaparinga Valley Road, Woodside, 63 Mount Barker Road, Stirling and 43 Albert Street, Gumeracha or at The Summit Community Centre, 1 The Crescent Drive, Norton Summit or the Mobile Library (Schedule 0) at ahc.sa.gov.au.

Written submissions are invited from interested persons from Thursday, 1 June 2017 and should be directed to the Chief Executive Officer, P.O. Box 44, Woodside, S.A. 5244, or mail@ahc.sa.gov.au by close of business on Friday, 14 July 2017.

Please note that all submissions previously received from the community in respect to the previous Representation Options Paper (dated August 2016) remain valid and will be reconsidered by Council during any further deliberations (i.e. previous respondents are not required to submit another submission unless they wish to do so, in which case the latest submission will supersede the initial submission).

A. AITKEN
Chief Executive Officer

Information regarding the elector representation review can be obtained by contacting Lachlan Miles, Executive Manager Governance and Risk (6409 0400) or mail@ahc.sa.gov.au



How's your Macular?

According to Australian research, one in seven people over the age of 50 are at risk of developing Macular Degeneration, Australia's leading cause of blindness.

"Macular Degeneration can lead to blindness, but early detection does increase the treatment options available," Andrew Thomas from Thomas & Mackay Optometrists said.

"Many people link deteriorating vision with ageing but for the greater majority of people, poor vision in older age is unnecessary."

Some of the common symptoms

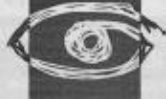
of Macular Degeneration are dark patches or empty aspects in your vision, difficulty in reading or doing activities which require fine vision, the distortion of straight lines and difficulty in distinguishing anything in your central vision.

To reduce the chances of developing Macular Degeneration quit smoking, exercise regularly, eat a well balanced diet with fish, dark green leafy vegetables and nuts and protect your eyes from UV damage.

Regular eye examinations are the key to keeping treatment options open.

For more information contact

OPTOMETRISTS
THOMAS & MACKAY



Shop 3B, Aldgate Village, 232 Mount Barker Rd, Aldgate. Ph: 8339 4477
194 The Parade, Norwood. Ph: 8384 1022 1/24 Hutchinson St, Goolwa. Ph: 8555 2200

TELL US

what we are doing well, what we could improve or what else you would like to see in the weekender Herald



Email your feedback to the Herald at weekender@ahc.com.au

The Adelaide Hills Weekender Herald

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PO Box 111, Craters SA 5152 | www.weekenderherald.com.au

APPENDIX V

Public Notice
"Mount Barker Courier"
7 June, 2017

WHAT'S ON

MEADOWS COUNTRY MARKET

Sunday June 11
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Meadows Memorial Hall

Stalls inside and outside including food, produce, craft, bric-a-brac, plants and more.

Free admission and free parking.

Phone Tyson
0400 287 582

12th SEDAN AUTO SWAP MEET

Sunday, June 18
Buyers and Sellers
\$5 per person
Covering, barbie and light meal Saturday evening
Fully catered Sunday
Lucky robot draws
Sellers, 6 a.m.
Buyers, 8 a.m. Sunday
Dennis McCarthy
Phone 0427 120 840

AVALON OF WOODSIDE CAFE

Upstairs shaveroom now open.
June sale special.
20% off all Pipeduck Boots, many sizes and colours.
Open 6 days.
Closed Tuesdays.
Main Street Woodside

OPEN DAY

And Dedication
Adelaide Hills Funerals
Kleemann Family
For our new chapel at 53 Woodside Road, Lobethal
Sunday June 18
1 - 4 p.m.

HAVING A PARTY?

Great deals on hire of Shudio Machines, Jukebox and Karaoke Machines.

Hills PartyJuke
Phone 8391-0400
To book please go to:
www.hillspartyjuke.com.au

HILLS SOLO SOCIAL GROUP

Sunday June 11
Lunch, Williamstown
Phone 0488 363 797

WHAT'S ON

STRATHALBYN HARNESS RACING CLUB

RACE MEET
June 12
1 p.m. start
Family Fun Day
Free entry at the gate.

BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY

Norma DAYMAN (previously Brown, nee Kjaer)



Happy 90th Birthday for June 4, 2017.

In a wonderful mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother. Birthday wishes sent with love from your family.

Paul and Robyn, Vicki and Tony, grandchildren, Carly, Mark, Lisa, Matthew, partners and families with hugs and kisses from 5 great grandchildren and extended family.

PERSONAL

PERSONAL NOTICE GUIDELINES

Death notices will be accepted provided the main notices have appeared or can be verified with the funeral director managing the funeral arrangements. Engagement and Approaching Marriage notices require the signatures of both parties.

For further information please call 8391-1388

ANNIVERSARY

60th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

NENKE - HINCKS
Don and Marjorie
Married June 8, 1957.
Stone Hut Methodist Church.
60 wonderful years filled with love between best friends.

DEATH

DAY, Valde Joyce (nee Eisenmann)

Formerly of Mount Barker. Passed away peacefully at the OVRC Woodside on June 2, 2017. Aged 90 years.

Beloved wife of the late Angus.

Much loved mother and mother-in-law of Barry, Heather and Trevor, Leon, Ian and Amanda.

Loving grandma of Scott and Amanda, Adam and Ruth, Amanda and Mark.

Great grandma of Avo, and Scarlett.

Loved sister of Bob, also Keith, Edna, Murray (all deceased) and families.

At Peace.

Sincere thanks to doctors and staff at OVRC Woodside.

A Celebration of Valde's life will be held in the Carr and Kleemann Funeral Chapel, 1 Morphett Street, Mount Barker on Friday, June 9, 2017 at 10 a.m., followed by a Committal Service in the Mount Barker Cemetery.

If desired, Memorial Donations to the Alzheimer Assoc. SA, 27 Conyngham Street, Glenside SA 5065, would be appreciated, envelopes available at the service.

Valde's family wish to thank you most sincerely for your prayers and expressions of sympathy and love.



Adelaide Hills Funerals
Kleemann Family
Mount Barker 8398-2244
Accredited Member A.F.D.A.

DEATH

DURIE, Fay Mary

Born on March 25, 1928. Passed away peacefully on May 10, 2017.

Loving wife of Bob (deceased).

Will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend Fay's Funeral Service to be held in the Carr and Kleemann Funeral Chapel, 1 Morphett Street, Mount Barker on Wednesday (TODAY), June 7, 2017 commencing at 1.30 p.m.



Adelaide Hills Funerals
Kleemann Family
Mount Barker 8398-2244
Accredited Member A.F.D.A.

DEATH

ROLY, Maria Emily

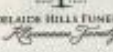
Passed away peacefully on May 30, 2017. Aged 89 years.

Dear loved wife of Leslie.

Loved mother of Alan. Very much loved nan of Samantha, Christian, and Maude.

Loved sister to Dorothy.

Privately cremated.



Adelaide Hills Funerals
Kleemann Family
Mount Barker 8398-2244
Accredited Member A.F.D.A.

DEATH

SACHSE, Trevor Douglas

Of Littlehampton, formerly of Robertson. Passed away peacefully at the Mount Barker Hospital on May 30, 2017. Aged 74 years.

Dear loved husband of Betty for 54 years.

Much loved and devoted father and father-in-law of Deb and Marty, Tim, Brian and Kerry, Sandra and Simon, Carol and Geoff.

Loving pa of Darren, Belinda, Tyler, Tash, Jack, Emily and Jesse.

Loved poppa of Aidan and Sophia.

Loved brother of all his family.

An inspiration to us all. At Peace.

Special thanks to Dr Bonniester and all at the Mount Barker Hospital.

Trevor's Funeral Service will be conducted entirely on Monday, June 5, 2017 at the Carr and Kleemann Funeral Chapel Mount Barker, followed by cremation.

Trevor's family wish to thank you most sincerely for your expressions of sympathy.



Adelaide Hills Funerals
Kleemann Family
Mount Barker 8398-2244
Accredited Member A.F.D.A.

DEATH

SCHUBERT, Michael

Deep sympathy to Trevor, Verity and Jason on the sudden passing of Michael.

From Kym, Margaret, Nikki and Jodie and his work mates at Woodside.

A special person who will be greatly missed by all.

DEATH

SCHUBERT, Michael Dean

Of Mount Torrens. Passed away suddenly at the RAH on June 4, 2017. Aged 35 years.

Dear loved husband of Torrens.

Much loved and devoted father of Verity and Jason.

Beloved son of Merlie and Merv (dec.).

Loved brother of Kym, Chris, Neil and families.

In God's care.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend Michael's Funeral Service to be conducted in the Trinity Lutheran Church, Springhead on Tuesday, June 13, 2017 at 10 a.m., followed by a Committal Service in the Springhead Lutheran Cemetery.



Adelaide Hills Funerals
Kleemann Family
Lobethal 8399-6095
Accredited Member A.F.D.A.

FUNERAL NOTICES

FUNERAL NOTICE

CLARKEN, Michael

Michael's Funeral Service to be conducted entirely at the Murray Bridge Racecourse, 2 Maurice Road, Murray Bridge on Friday, June 9, 2017 at 2 p.m.

In lieu of floral tributes, donations to the Heart Foundation would be appreciated, envelopes will be available at the service.



Adelaide Hills Funerals
Kleemann Family
Mount Barker 8398-2244
Accredited Member A.F.D.A.

IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORY OF Deborah-Ann FUCHS (nee Woollard)

7/9/1966 - 8/6/2015
Two years since we lost you, I miss you so beautifully.
There is not a day that doesn't go by that I don't think about you. You are forever in my heart and soul.
I love you - your little son Joey.

PUBLIC NOTICES

ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
Review of Elector Representation

NOTICE is hereby given that the Adelaide Hills Council is undertaking a review to determine whether a change of arrangements is required in respect to elector representation so as to ensure that the electors of the area being adequately and fairly represented. Please note that due to a technical failure, Council is required to restart the review process.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 12 (1) of the Local Government Act 1996, notice is hereby given that Council has prepared a Representation Options Paper which examines the advantages and disadvantages of the various options available in relation to the composition and structure of Council, and the division of the Council area into wards.

A copy of the Representation Options Paper is available on Council's website, 3PC to go.gov.au, or a copy can be inspected and obtained at the Council offices, 25 Onkaparinga Valley Road, Woodside, 65 Mount Barker Road, Strling and 43 Albert Street, Gumeracha or at the Summit Community Centre, 1 The Crescent Drive, Norton Summit or the Mobile Library (schedule on 3PC to go.gov.au).

Written submissions are invited from interested persons from Thursday, 1 June 2017 and should be directed to the Chief Executive Officer, PO Box 44, Woodside, S.A. 5244, or mail@ahc.sa.gov.au by close of business on Friday, July 14 2017.

Please note that the public notice in last week's edition incorrectly identified the consultation period, the correct dates are as above.

Please note that all submissions previously received from the community in respect to the previous Representation Options Paper (dated August 2016) remain valid and will be reconsidered by Council during any further deliberations (i.e. previous respondents are not required to submit another submission unless they wish to do so, in which case the latest submission will supersede the initial submission).

A. ATREN,
Chief Executive Officer



Mount Barker District Council

Development Act 1999

Notice of application for Category 3 Development pursuant to Section 285 of the Development Act, 1993. Notice is hereby given that an application for Category 3 Development has been lodged with the Council for a development assessment.

Application Details:
Development No. 585/2017/16
Applicant Address: E.K. Mornington, C/- Post Office, WILTON SA 5251
Nature of Development: Horse Keeping (Maximum 20 horses & associated infrastructure)
Subject Land: (L1) 4DP-46648 CT: 5530/734 115 Burnett Road, EGGLE RANGES
Zone: The land is located within the Primary Production (Mount Lolly Pangee) Zone.
Contact Officer: Derek Henderson 8393 6417

The application may be inspected at the Local Civic Centre, 6 Outback Road, Mount Barker during normal business hours. Any person or body affected may make relevant representations in writing or a verbal concerning this application to the Chief Executive Officer at PO Box 54, Mount Barker SA 5231 or appon@adelaidehills.gov.au

No later than Thursday 22 June 2017
If a person or persons making a submission desire to appear personally or be represented by another party before the Council, this must be indicated to the submission. Please note that, pursuant to Section 286 of the Development Act, a copy of each representation received will be forwarded to the applicant for a written response. The notice can also be viewed at Council's website: www.mountbarker.sa.gov.au

Adelaide Hills Council
Adelaide Hills Council - Chief Executive Officer

CHURCH SERVICES

Lutheran Church

SUNDAY, June 11

Mt Barker - 10.30am H.C., 4.30am H.C.
Hahndorf - (Mills Rd) - 10.30am H.C.
Hahndorf - (Balfour Rd) - Sat 9am H.C.,
8.30am H.C., 10.30am H.C.
Nairne - 8.30am H.C.
Bridgewater - 9.30am H.C.
Lobethal - 8.45am, 10.30am H.C.
Woodside - 10.30am H.C.
Springhead - 8.45am H.C.

NEED TO SELL SOMETHING? AND NEED TO SELL IT NOW!?

Put it in the Classifieds!
Call 8391-1388 before 10am Tuesdays

PUBLIC NOTICES

MOUNTAIN PONY CLUB

Annual General Meeting

Sunday July 2 at 1.30 p.m. to be held in the clubrooms at Mountain Pony Club Grounds, Williams Road, Mount Barker. All Welcome.

Check out our Website at www.courier.net.au



Phone: 8391-1388

APPENDIX W

Submissions

14 July, 2017

(Refer electronic file provided)

APPENDIX X

Petitions
25 July, 2017

05 JUL 2017

Perm 09
15/11/14062
SCANNED
05 JUL 2017

PETITION TO THE ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL-ELECTOR REPRESENTATION REVIEW

We, the undersigned interested persons, petition the Council to retain a minimum of three (3), preferably five (5) wards for representation of electors in the council for the following reasons:

1. Wards guarantee direct representation of all parts of the council area.
2. Enables ward councillors to focus on local as well as council-wide issues.
3. Lessens the ability of a single interest group from gaining considerable representation on council.
4. Enables and attracts candidates to contest ward elections.
5. Reduces the cost and effort required to campaign at an election
6. Potentially, provides cost savings to Council in regards to the conduct of elections and supplementary elections (extracted from page 41 of the Elector Representation Review May 2017)

The contact person for this petition is:

NAME: M Hancock

ADDRESS: 8 Pool Street Birdwood ✓

POSTCODE: PHONE: 85685390

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
Hugh Foletta	21 Pool St Birdwood	[Signature]
WAYNE RICHARDSON	68 LUCKY HIT Rd	[Signature]
Rebecca Reid	12 Springwood Rd Mt Torrens	[Signature]
Louise Zivog	Birdwood	[Signature]
Phil Greenwood	Birdwood	[Signature]
James Finlay	BIRDWOOD	[Signature]
Peter Wells	Mt Pleasant	[Signature]
Cecilia Clark	Cromer	[Signature]
Max McLean	BIRDWOOD	[Signature]
TERRY KEENE	Birdwood	[Signature]
Mark Watkins	Cromer	[Signature]
Brett Thomas	6 Stuckey Rd	[Signature]
IAN ELLIOTT	TUNGKILL	[Signature]
Reagan Stanbury	MT TORRENS	[Signature]
WAYNE HEGARTY	MT TORRENS	[Signature]
ROBYN LINDOAY	CROMER RD, CROMER	[Signature]
DEB JAMES	WILLIAM ST BIRDWOOD	[Signature]
PETER JOLLY	77 TALLINGA RD MT TORRENS	[Signature]
Nadene Megan	30 ALTMANN RD CROMER	[Signature]
Pamela Diotti	63 Shannon St Birdwood	[Signature]
ALYNN PFEIFFER	5 WILLIAM ST BIRDWOOD	[Signature]

MARK Wilhelm
~~Alan Kuehlich~~
~~Jenny Brown~~
~~Boyle~~

CAROLYN MARSHALL
Henry Carter
ERICA GASTON
PAUL STOKES
Lisa Ashley
Lynn Kolman
RANIE ATKINSON
CAROL MENADUK
Leah Randell
GARFTH HUDSON
~~Mark Wilson~~

Mt Torrents
Birdwood

Birdwood
Gumeracha
Birdwood
Birdwood
Coburn
~~BIRDWOOD~~
SPRINGTON
BIRDWOOD
Gumeracha
Birdwood
Birdwood

Mark Wilson
of Mergloch

~~Mark Wilson~~
~~Mark Wilson~~
~~Mark Wilson~~
~~Mark Wilson~~
Catherine
~~Mark Wilson~~
Kathleen
Mark Wilson

05 JUL 2017

PETITION TO THE ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL-ELECTOR REPRESENTATION REVIEW

We, the undersigned interested persons, petition the Council to retain a minimum of three (3), preferably five (5) wards for representation of electors in the council for the following reasons:

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The contact person for this petition is:

NAME: M Hancock

ADDRESS: 8 Pool Street Birdwood

POSTCODE: PHONE: 85685390

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
<u>P. SUTTON</u>	<u>2857 ANKENY RD BIRDWOOD</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
<u>P. BULLOCK</u>	<u>107 BLUES RD BIRDWOOD</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
<u>L. THORLEY</u>	<u>PO BOX 511 BIRDWOOD</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
<u>I. THORLEY</u>	<u>PO BOX 511 BIRDWOOD</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
<u>P. PURNELL</u>	<u>8 CRAMER RD BIRDWOOD</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
<u>E. GASTON</u>	<u>16 TALLINGA ST BIRDWOOD</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
<u>L. MEIER</u>	<u>2 LARGE CRES BIRDWOOD</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
<u>Jim Ruhlman</u>	<u>143 Peake Rd Birdwood</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
<u>G. ROBERTS</u>	<u>36 Ruhlman Rd Birdwood</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
<u>B. BRYDEN</u>	<u>P.O. BOX 608 BIRDWOOD</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
<u>P. MURPHY</u>	<u>PO Box 136, GUMERACHA</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
<u>J. Southwell</u>	<u>20 TALLINGA ST BIRDWOOD</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
<u>M. Gray</u>	<u>244 Angus Creek Rd BIRDWOOD</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
<u>R. KIRKALD</u>	<u>246 Forrester Rd Gumeracha</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
<u>D. OPLER</u>	<u>24 Hume Ave Birdwood</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
<u>J. SMITH</u>	<u>Box 219 Gumeracha</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
<u>C. EVANS</u>	<u>PO BOX 52 BIRDWOOD</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
	<u>P.O. Box 503 Birdwood</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>

06 JUL 2017 PETITION TO THE ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL-ELECTOR REPRESENTATION REVIEW

We, the undersigned interested persons, petition the Council to retain a minimum of three (3), preferably five (5) wards for representation of electors in the council for the following reasons:

1. Wards guarantee direct representation of all parts of the council area.
2. Enables ward councillors to focus on local as well as council-wide issues.
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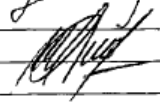
The contact person for this petition is:

NAME: MR DONALD LOECHEL
ADDRESS: 11 OLIVEDALE ST BIRDWOOD SA
POSTCODE: PHONE: 5234

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
RHONDA LOECHEL	11 OLIVEDALE ST BOW.	R.M. Loechel.
Tammy Perry	PO BOX 451 Birdwood	[Signature]
Kenneth White	P.O. BOX 466 BIRDWOOD	[Signature]
[Signature]	PO BOX 318 Birdwood	[Signature]
PAUL LAISTER	5 TORMAN LAKE, BIRDWOOD	[Signature]
MICHAEL PASTOR	748A TORRENSVALE RD, BIRDWOOD	[Signature]
Matthew Leonard	30 Shimmer St Birdwood	[Signature]
IAN WALL	56 CRAWES RD BIRDWOOD	[Signature]
DANNY AMFORD	" OLIVEDALE ST BIRDWOOD	[Signature]
Pouli Perry	PO BOX 451 Birdwood	[Signature]
Betty Kowald	RD. BOX 345 Birdwood	[Signature]
Alex Hodges	BOX 228 Birdwood	[Signature]
LAY LINKREICS	BOX 228 Birdwood	[Signature]
Jocelyn Porter	Box 457 Birdwood	[Signature]
Rod Marshall	Box 158 Birdwood	[Signature]
Wanda Myers	P.O. BOX 250, BIRDWOOD.	[Signature]
Sandra Simpson	P.O. BOX 343 BIRDWOOD	[Signature]
Christine Morris	PO BOX 405 Birdwood	[Signature]
Kait Pickett	PO BOX 638 birdwood	[Signature]
Brian Boerth	11 GLEBE ST	[Signature]
Linda McCap.	P.O. BOX 309 Birdwood	[Signature]

Jess Colantoni
116 E 30th St House
Musselwhite

Stephen
14 Topham Lane
Birdwood
Robert 362 Birchwood

136 McLean Rd
Browwood STS 234
Inglborg House


APPENDIX Y

Council Agenda & Minutes
25 July, 2017

**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday 25 July 2017
AGENDA BUSINESS ITEM**

Item:	9.1.1
Originating Officer:	Lachlan Miller, Executive Manager Governance & Performance
Responsible Director:	Terry Crackett, Director Corporate Services
Subject:	Petition – Elector Representation Review
For:	Decision

SUMMARY

A petition has been received from Mr Donald Loechel of Birdwood with 24 signatories concerning the Elector Representation Review.

RECOMMENDATION

Council resolves:

- 1. That the petition signed by Mr Donald Loechel and 24 signatories, about the Elector Representation Review, be received and noted.**
- 2. That the CEO advises Mr Loechel of the Council's noting of the petition and that it will be included as a submission in the Representation Options Paper consultation**

Council has received a petition organised by Mr Donald Loechel of Birdwood and signed by 24 signatories.

Following Council's consideration, the head petitioner will be advised of Council's noting of the petition and of any other resolutions arising from the matter.

The petition states:

We, the undersigned interested persons, petition the Council to retain a minimum of three, preferably five wards for representation of electors in the council for the following reasons:

1. Wards guarantee direct representation of all parts of the council area
2. Enables ward councillors to focus on local as well as council-wide issues
3. Lessens the ability of a single interest group from getting considerable representation on council
4. Enables and attracts candidates to contest ward elections
5. Reduces the cost of effort required to campaign at an election
6. Potentially, provides cost savings to Council in regards to the conduct of elections and supplementary elections (extracted from page 41 of the Elector Representation Review May 2017)

Background / Context – Lachlan Miller, Executive Manager Governance & Performance

The subject of the petition relates to the Elector Representation Review which is currently in progress.

The petition was received during the Representation Options Paper consultation period which was open from 1 June – 14 July 2017. Consistent with the previous practice in relation to petitions received during Elector Representation Review consultation periods, this petition will be included as one submission.

**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday 25 July 2017
AGENDA BUSINESS ITEM**

Item: 9.1.2

Originating Officer: Lachlan Miller, Executive Manager Governance & Performance

Responsible Director: Terry Crackett, Director Corporate Services

Subject: Petition – Elector Representation Review

For: Decision

SUMMARY

A petition has been received from Mr Mervyn Hancock of Birdwood with 54 signatories concerning the Elector Representation Review.

RECOMMENDATION

Council resolves:

- 1. That the petition signed by Mr Mervyn Hancock and 54 signatories, about the Elector Representation Review, be received and noted.**
- 2. That the CEO advises Mr Hancock of the Council's noting of the petition and that it will be included as a submission in the Representation Options Paper consultation**

Council has received a petition organised by Mr Mervyn Hancock of Birdwood and signed by 54 signatories.

Following Council's consideration, the head petitioner will be advised of Council's noting of the petition and of any other resolutions arising from the matter.

The petition states:

We, the undersigned interested persons, petition the Council to retain a minimum of three, preferably five wards for representation of electors in the council for the following reasons:

1. Wards guarantee direct representation of all parts of the council area
2. Enables ward councillors to focus on local as well as council-wide issues
3. Lessens the ability of a single interest group from getting considerable representation on council
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5. Reduces the cost of effort required to campaign at an election
6. Potentially, provides cost savings to Council in regards to the conduct of elections and supplementary elections (extracted from page 41 of the Elector Representation Review May 2017)

Background / Context – Lachlan Miller, Executive Manager Governance & Performance

The subject of the petition relates to the Elector Representation Review which is currently in progress.

The petition was received during the Representation Options Paper consultation period which was open from 1 June – 14 July 2017. Consistent with the previous practice in relation to petitions received during Elector Representation Review consultation periods, this petition will be included as one submission.

**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY 25 JULY 2017
63 MT BARKER ROAD STIRLING**

[Please Note: These minutes will be confirmed on 22 August 2017]

7.3. CEO Report

Andrew Aitken, CEO, provided Council with a verbal Corporate Update.

- Lobethal Recreation Grounds Public Toilets
- Mill Road Lobethal footpath
- Milbrook Road upgrade to fords
- Pirralilla Place Stirling upgrade to stormwater
- Lange Crescent Birdwood upgrade
- Woodforde Estate property development site remediation
- Funding bid Amy Gillett Bikeway extension unsuccessful
- National Heritage Bid unsuccessful
- Local Government Chief Officers' Group conference held in Adelaide Hills jointly with Mt Barker District Council

8. QUESTIONS ADJOURNED/LYING ON THE TABLE

8.1. Questions Adjourned

Nil

8.2. Questions Lying on the Table

Nil

9. PETITIONS / DEPUTATIONS / PUBLIC FORUM

9.1. Petitions

9.1.1. Elector Representation Review 1

Moved Cr Ron Nelson
S/- Cr Linda Green

149/17

Council resolves:

1. That the petition signed by Mr Donald Loechel and 24 signatories, about the Elector Representation Review, be received and noted.
2. That the CEO advises Mr Loechel of the Council's noting of the petition and that it will be included as a submission in the Representation Options Paper consultation.

Carried Unanimously

**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY 25 JULY 2017
63 MT BARKER ROAD STIRLING**

[Please Note: These minutes will be confirmed on 22 August 2017]

9.1.2. Elector Representation Review 2

Moved Cr Ian Bailey 150/17
S/- Cr Val Hall

Council resolves:

1. That the petition signed by Mr Mervyn Hancock and 54 signatories, about the Elector Representation Review, be received and noted.
2. That the CEO advises Mr Hancock of the Council's noting of the petition and that it will be included as a submission in the Representation Options Paper consultation.

Carried Unanimously

9.1.3. Gifting of Reserve, Dunnfield Estate, Mt Torrens

Moved Cr Malcolm Herrmann 151/17
S/- Cr Andrew Stratford

Council resolves:

1. That the petition signed by Ms Sue Scott and 187 signatories, about Gifting of Reserve, Dunnfield Estate, be received and noted.
2. That the CEO advises Ms Scott of the Council's noting of the petition.

Carried Unanimously

9.2. Deputations

9.2.1. Paul Edwards & Ross Leckie re Reserve Gifting Proposal, Dunnfield Estate, Mt Torrens

9.3. Public Forum

Leave of meeting granted to extend PF for 30 minutes

- Daniel Kelly re Onkaparinga Woollen Mill Museum
- Andrew Frazer & Paul Frazer re Bridgewater Football Club Changerooms
- Greg Mildren re Torrens Valley Scout Group & Dunnfield Estate Mt Torrens
- Wayne Brown re Dunnfield Estate Mt Torrens
- Sue Scott re flooding problems and Dunnfield Estate Mt Torrens

APPENDIX Z

Submissions Report
9 August, 2017

ELECTOR REPRESENTATION REVIEW

First Public Consultation Submissions Report

A Report to the
Adelaide Hills Council

August 2017



C L Rowe & Associates Pty Ltd

Disclaimer

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Prepared for the Adelaide Hills Council by C L Rowe and Associates Pty Ltd, August 2017 (Version 1)

Contents

1.	Introduction	1
2.	Public Consultation	2
3.	Future Composition and Structure	6
3.1	Composition	6
	3.1.1 Mayor/Chairperson	
	3.1.2 Number of Councillors	
	3.1.3 Area Councillors (In addition to ward councillors)	
3.2	Structure	9
	3.2.1 Wards/No Wards	
	3.2.2 Ward Structures	
	3.2.3 Ward Identification	
4.	Review Process	12
5.	Conclusion	13

1. Introduction

Section 12(4) of the Local Government Act 1999 (the Act) requires Council to undertake a review of all aspects of its composition and the division (or potential division) of the Council area into wards, at least once in every period prescribed by the Minister for Local Government (generally eight years).

The Adelaide Hills Council undertook an elector representation review during the period June 2016 - April 2017, however, the Electoral Commissioner ultimately determined that the requirements of Section 12 of the Act had not been satisfied, specifically in relation to Council's interpretation of the parties that were eligible to make submission during the public consultation stages. On the basis of this determination, the Commissioner did not certify Council's final review report. The Commissioner did not identify any other concerns with the conduct of the review process. Accordingly, to ensure that no interested person has been denied the opportunity to provide a submission, Council agreed to resume the review and initiate further consultation with the community, commencing with the presentation of this updated Representation Options Paper.

The review resumed in May 2017 and has progressed to the point where the first of the two prescribed public consultation stages has been completed. Council must now give consideration to the submissions which have been received and determine ("in principle") what changes, if any, it proposes to bring into effect in respect to its future size, composition and structure.

2. Public Consultation

Public consultation commenced on day Tuesday 30th May 2017 with the publishing of a public notice in the Government Gazette, and this was followed by the publishing of notices in "The Courier" newspaper on Wednesday 31st May 2017, the "Adelaide Hills Weekend Herald" newspaper on Thursday 1st June 2017; and "The Courier" newspaper on Wednesday 7th June 2017.

In addition, the public consultation process included:

- promotion of the review on the Council website (with a link to the documents and on-line survey);
- the display of roadside banners at various locations throughout the Council area;
- the provision of the Representation Options Paper and associated documents at the council offices at Woodside, Stirling and Gumeracha, as well as at The Summit Community Centre at Norton Summit and in Council's mobile library; and
- promotion of the review on social media (i.e. Facebook).

At the expiration of the public consultation period (i.e. close of business on Friday 14th July 2017) Council had received five hundred and thirty seven (537) submissions. In addition, Council already had sixty-one (61) submissions which were received during the initial round of public consultation undertaken from 31st August – 14th October 2016. In respect to these submissions, it is noted that the public notices published during the latest round of public consultation specifically advised that "*all submissions previously received from the community in respect to the previous Representation Options Paper (dated August 2016) remain valid and will be reconsidered by Council during any further deliberations (i.e. previous respondents are not required to submit another submission unless they wish to do so, in which case the latest submission will supersede the initial submission)*".

Council also received two petitions (five pages in total) which supported a ward structure comprising three or five wards (with a preference for five wards). These petitions comprised seventy-eight (78) co-signatories and have been accepted as two submissions, as reported to Council on the 25th July 2017. By way of information members are advised that at least ten (10) of the petition co-signatories also made individual submissions.

Given the above, Council effectively received six hundred valid submissions. However, of these submissions;

- twelve (12) of the latest five hundred and thirty seven submissions were duplicates made by persons who had already made a submission and, as such, have been rejected;
- twenty three (23) of the latest five hundred and thirty seven submissions were received from persons who had made a submissions during the initial public consultation round in September/October 2016 and, as such, their latest submission has superseded their initial submission (as per the advice provided in the public notice); and
- three (3) were anonymous and these have not be accepted because there is no way of determining whether the respondents have made more than one submission.

Based on the above adjustments, it has been determined that Council has five hundred and sixty two (562) valid submissions to consider.

A summary of the submissions has been provided in Attachment 1 and copies of the more detailed written submissions have been provided in Attachment 2 for member's consideration.

The receipt of five hundred and sixty two valid submissions is a significant response from the community, including a number of interested persons who reside outside of the Council area.

The following tables provide details of the support demonstrated by the community (during the recent public consultation) for the various composition and ward structure issues.

Table 1: Preferred principal member

Preferred Principal Member	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Mayor (selected by the community)	436	77.58
Chairperson (selected by councillors)	97	17.26
Both	1	0.18
No response	28	4.98
Total	562	100

Table 2: Wards/No Wards

Wards/No Wards	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Retain wards	526	93.59
Abolish wards	24	4.27
No response	12	2.14
Total	562	100

Table 3: Preferred number of wards

Preferred No. of Wards	No. of Respondents	Percentage
0	1	0.18
2	2	0.36
3	26	4.63
4	37	6.58
5	435	77.4
6	1	0.18
3 or 5	9	1.60
4 or as is	1	0.18
5 or more	1	0.18
Blank or no stated preference	49	8.71
Total	562	100

Table 4: Preferred number of councillors

Preferred No. of Members	No. of Respondents	Percentage
5	2	0.36
7	1	0.18
8	12	2.14
9	8	1.42
10	90	16.01
11	22	3.91
12	387	68.86
13	3	0.53
14	1	0.18
11 or 10	1	0.18
12 or 9	3	0.53
12 or more	1	0.18
Blank or no stated preference	31	5.52
Total	562	100

In brief, it is noted that:

- a clear majority of the respondents (77.6%) favoured the retention of a mayor (elected by the community);
- an overwhelming majority of the respondents (93.6%) supported the retention of wards;
- there was strong support (77.4%) for the retention of a five ward structure, with the four and three ward options receiving moderate levels of support (i.e. 6.6% and 4.6% respectively); and
- there was also strong support (68.9%) for the retention of twelve councillors, whilst there was 16% support for a reduction to ten councillors and 3.9% support for a reduction to eleven councillors.

As for the issue of ward names, there was a significant response in favour of retaining the current ward names. It is recommended that the elected members review the individual submissions and/or the list of proposed names (Attachment 3) for further information.

It should also be noted that:

- the provisions of Section 12 of the Act do not require Council to provide the individuals who made written submissions with the opportunity to address Council at this stage of the review process; and
- for privacy reasons the names of all respondents have been withheld.

It is recommended that members review the individual submissions for further information.

3. Future Composition and Structure

Council has now reached the stage of the revised review process where it must identify what changes (if any) it proposes to make to its current composition and/or ward structure. More specifically, Council is required to make "in principle" decisions in respect to all of the following issues and present details of its preferred future structure and composition to the community for consideration and comment by the community during the second of the prescribed consultation periods.

3.1 Composition

3.1.1 Mayor/Chairperson

The principal member of Council has always been an elected mayor.

Of the submissions received, (77.6%) favoured the retention of a mayor (elected by the community); 17.3% supported a change to a chairperson; and the remaining 5.1% provided no response or were illogical.

The following information relating to the two alternatives is provided to assist members in their deliberations.

3.1.1.1 Mayor

- A mayor is elected by the community.
- The election of the mayor affords all eligible members of the community the opportunity to express faith in a candidate and the result of the vote provides the elected Council with an identifiable principal member who is accountable to the community.
- A mayor is elected for a four year term and therefore provides stability and continuity to Council.
- An elected mayor cannot be removed from office unless where legislative breaches are proven.
- An elected mayor does not have a deliberative vote on a matter before council, but has, in the event of a tied vote, a casting vote.
- The office of mayor (elected) is additional to the number of councillors and, as such, comes at an additional cost to Council (i.e. members allowances, administrative costs and alike).
- As an election (or supplementary election) for the office of mayor must be conducted across the whole of the Council area, a significant cost can be incurred by Council on every occasion the office is contested.
- At present all of the metropolitan councils have an elected mayor, as do all bar sixteen regional Councils.
- Candidates for the office of mayor cannot also stand for election as a councillor and, as such, the experience and expertise of unsuccessful mayoral candidates will be lost to council.

3.1.1.2 Chairperson

- A chairperson is selected by and from amongst the elected members.
- The office of chairperson provides flexibility and opportunity for a number of elected members to gain experience as the principal member during the four year term of the Council; and to bring their particular skill set and opinions to the position, albeit for what could be a limited period of time.
- The term of a chairperson is decided by Council (1 - 4 years).
- Council decides the title of a chairperson (e.g. mayor), pursuant to Section 51(1)(b) of the Act.
- Sixteen regional councils currently have a chairperson, fourteen of which bear the title of mayor.

- A chairperson has a deliberative vote at a council meeting, but does not have a casting vote.
- The selection of a chairperson is not reliant upon an election. Should a chairperson not be able to complete a full term of office a replacement can be selected from the existing elected members and costs will only be incurred by Council when it seeks to fill the vacant position of councillor (which is limited to the specific ward if a ward structure is in place).

It should be noted that any proposal to have a selected chairperson rather than an elected mayor cannot proceed unless or until a poll has been conducted in accordance with the requirements of Section 12 (11a-d) of the Local Government Act.

3.1.2 Number of Councillors

As previously indicated, three hundred and eighty seven (68.9%) of the submissions received favoured the retention of twelve councillors, whilst ninety (16.0%) supported a reduction to ten councillors and twenty two (3.9%) favoured a reduction to eleven councillors.

It is also noted that only a total of one hundred and thirty five (24.0%) of the submissions received specifically favoured a reduction in the number of elected members.

Sections 26 and 33 of the Local Government Act 1999 espouse the need to ensure adequate and fair representation while at the same time avoiding over-representation in comparison to other councils of a similar size and type (at least in the longer term). In addition, Section 12(6)(a) of the Act requires that where a council is constituted of more than twelve (12) members, the question of whether the number of members should be reduced must be examined.

Table 5 provides the elector representation arrangement and elector data of those councils which exhibit similar elector numbers to the Adelaide Hills Council. The data indicates that the composition and elector ratio of Council is generally consistent with the elector representation arrangements of the other cited councils.

Table 5: Elector data, representation and areas (Councils with similar elector numbers)

Council	Councillors	Electors	Ratio
Alexandrina (1,827 km ²)	11	19,735	1:1,794
Norwood Payneham St Peters (15.1 km ²)	13	25,267	1:1,944
Holdfast (13.7 km ²)	12	27,610	1:2,301
Unley (14.3 km ²)	12	27,664	1:2,305
Mt Barker (595 km ²)	11	23,429	1:2,343
Adelaide Hills (795.1km²)	12	28,866	1:2,406
Burnside (27.5 km ²)	12	31,841	1:2,653

Source: Electoral Commission SA (April & May 2017)

The difference in the composition and elector ratios of councils becomes more evident when the Adelaide Hills Council is compared to the larger of the metropolitan councils. These councils currently comprise 12 - 20 elected members; have elector numbers ranging from 63,598 - 121,336; and exhibit elector ratios of 1:4,811 - 1:6,066. However, it should be noted that all of these metropolitan councils cover smaller areas than the Adelaide Hills Council (i.e. 52.14km² to 518.4km²) and exhibit consolidated areas of residential development.

In addition to examining the elector representation arrangements of other councils, Section 12(6)(a) of the Act requires that where a council is constituted of more than twelve (12) members, the question of whether the number of members should be reduced must be examined. The review affords the opportunity to at least consider an alternative number of elected members and/or elector ratio.

The conundrum facing Council is that there is clear support from the community for the retention of twelve councillors, but the intent of the Act appears to be in favour of a reduction in the number of elected members to twelve or below.

To complicate matters two of the largest metropolitan Councils are currently proposing significant changes to their elector representation arrangements which will likely serve to set new benchmarks in regards to elector representation arrangements and elector ratios, and will undoubtedly broaden the gap (in regards to elector representation) between the larger and smaller metropolitan councils.

For example, the City of Onkaparinga is proposing to reduce its composition from twenty to fifteen elected members (potential elector ratio of approximately 1:8,090) and the City of Salisbury is proposing a reduction from sixteen to fourteen elected members (potential elector ratio of approximately 1:5,450). In addition, proposals to reduce the number of elected members in the City of Port Lincoln, the City of Mount Gambier and the Southern Mallee District Council were recently certified by the Electoral Commissioner; and the Copper Coast Council currently has a proposal before the Electoral Commissioner which seeks a reduction in the number of elected members.

If considering a reduction in the number of councillors, care must be taken to ensure that:

- sufficient elected members are available to manage the affairs of Council;
- the elected member's workloads do not become excessive;
- there is an appropriate level of elector representation;
- a diversity in member's skill sets, experience and backgrounds is maintained; and
- adequate lines of communication will exist between a growing community and Council.

In addition, members should take into account the fact that:

- all indicators suggest that the population (and therefore elector numbers) within the Council area will likely continue to increase in the foreseeable future;
- a reduction in the number of elected members will result in some cost savings to Council (e.g. elected member's allowances alone are \$15,900 per annum per councillor) which could be available for redirection to community projects and/or programs;
- fewer members may expedite debate and the decision making process in Council; and
- enhanced communication and information technology should have served to reduce any difficulties previously experienced by elected members in respect to their day to day tasks and communication with both Council and the community.

A reduction in the number of elected members will serve to increase the elector ratio from the current 1:2,406 to the following.

Eleven councillors: 1:2,624 Ten councillors: 1:2,887 Nine councillors: 1:3,207

The aforementioned elector ratios are still considerably lower than those of say, the Campbelltown City Council which has 34,929 electors and comprises ten councillors (elector ratio of 1:3,493), and definitely the larger metropolitan councils (currently 1:4,811 - 1:6,066).

On the other hand, any thought of increasing the number of elected members will be difficult to justify, both from a cost point of view and compliance with the requirements of Sections 12, 26 and 33 of the Act (in terms of avoiding over-representation in comparison with other councils of a similar size and type and reviewing elected member numbers over twelve).

3.1.3 Area Councillors (in addition to ward councillors)

Section 52 of the Act indicates that councillors can be elected as a representative of a ward, or alternatively, to represent the Council area as a whole (whether or not the council area is divided into wards).

As indicated in the Representation Options Paper, ward councillors generally consider themselves to represent not only their ward, but the Council area as a whole. This being the case, the need for area councillors in addition to ward councillors is questionable, an assertion which is seemingly supported by the fact that only the City of Adelaide has a ward structure which incorporates two levels of representation. Further, it is noted that under such an arrangement area councillors hold no greater status than a ward councillor; have no greater responsibilities than a ward councillor; and need not comply with any extraordinary or additional eligibility requirements.

In addition, any contested election (and/or supplementary election) for area councillors must be conducted across the whole of the Council area, at a significant cost to Council.

For these and the other reasons previously presented to Council, it is considered that area councillors (in addition to ward councillors) are an unwarranted, unnecessary and potentially costly additional tier of representation.

3.2 Ward Structure

3.2.1 Wards/No Wards

The Adelaide Hills Council has always been divided into wards and, of the five hundred and sixty two valid submissions received, five hundred and twenty six (93.6%) supported the retention of wards, as opposed to twenty four submissions (4.3%) which favoured the abolition of wards.

The main arguments supporting a ward structure include:

- wards guarantee some form and level of direct representation to existing communities of interest and/or parts of the Council area;
- ward councillors can focus on local issues;
- under the "no wards" structure Council has to conduct elections and supplementary elections across the whole of the Council area (at a significant expense); and
- under the "no wards" structure the more popular or known councillors may receive more enquiries from the public (i.e. inequitable workloads).

The key arguments supporting the abolition of wards include:

- the electors have the opportunity to vote for all of the vacant positions on Council;
- the most supported candidates from across the Council area will likely be elected;
- the elected members should be free of parochial local/ward attitudes;

- the lines of communication between Council and the community should be enhanced, given that members of the community will be able to consult with any and/or all members of Council, rather than be obliged to consult with their specific ward councillors;
- under the current proportional representation method of voting the “no ward” structure still affords opportunities for the smaller “communities of interest” within the Council area to be directly represented on Council (subject to voter turnout); and
- the “no ward” structure automatically absorbs fluctuations in elector numbers (i.e. the quota tolerance limits do not apply).

At present thirty-three regional councils and two metropolitan councils (i.e. the Towns of Walkerville and Gawler) have no wards; and the Southern Mallee District Council has recently resolved to abolish wards.

Should it be the preference of the elected members to retain a ward structure, Council will not only have to identify an appropriate ward structure but will also have to determine the need for area councillors in addition to ward councillors; the level of representation within the wards; and appropriate ward names.

3.2.2 Ward Structures

The following table, which was presented in the Representation Options Paper, indicates that the current structure cannot be retained because the elector ratio in the existing Mount Lofty ward exceeds the specified 10% quota tolerance limit prescribed under Section 33(2) of the Act. In addition, the elector ratio exhibited in the existing Marble Hill ward provides further reason for concern and there are doubts that this ward can remain within the specified quota tolerance limit in the short term. The onset of residential development on the former Magill Youth Training Centre site at Woodforde, which could realise an additional 400 additional dwellings, may overcome the concerns pertaining to the Marble Hill ward in the long term.

Table 5: Elector data per ward and variance to quota

Ward	Councillors	HOA Roll	Council Roll	Total Electors	Ratio	% Variance
Manoah	2	4,859	4	4,863	1:2,432	+ 1.1
Mt Lofty	3	7,926	25	7,951	1:2,650	+10.2
Marble Hill	2	4,363	13	4,376	1:2,188	- 9.0
Torrens Valley	2	4,985	5	4,990	1:2,495	+ 3.7
Onkaparinga Valley	3	6,660	26	6,686	1:2,229	- 7.3
Total	12	28,793	73	28,866		
Average					1:2,406	

Source: Electoral Commission SA (May 2017)

Of the submissions received, four hundred and thirty five (77.4%) specifically supported the retention of five wards, whilst there was some support for four and three ward structures (i.e. 6.6% and 4.6% respectively).

Council has previously considered a number of potential future ward structure options, and the latest Representation Options Paper contained seven ward structure options (including a slightly modified version of the current ward structure) to demonstrate how the Council area could be divided into wards based on the composition of Council being nine to twelve councillors. Council now has to decide whether it wants to retain wards, and if it does, identify its preferred ward structure. This could be current ward structure (or an amended version thereof); one of the ward structure options previously presented to Council; or a newly developed structure based on the specific needs of Council in respect to councillor numbers and/or levels of ward representation.

Any ward structure option under consideration should:

- provide an equitable balance of electors (which can be maintained, within tolerance, over the extended period between reviews);
- allow for likely fluctuations in elector numbers, primarily as a consequence of future population growth/decline and/or residential development; and
- exhibit an elector ratio which is similar to those exhibited by other councils of a comparable size and type (i.e. avoids over-representation).

In addition, Council should take into account:

- the submissions received from the community;
- the character and topography of the area;
- the likely impacts upon existing "communities of interest";
- the preferred level of ward representation and the total number of elected members;
- future anticipated population/elector growth;
- the need for an equitable distribution of electors between wards; and
- the requirement that the elector ratios within all of the proposed wards will have to lay with the specified quota tolerance limits.

3.2.3 Ward Identification

As indicated in the Representation Options Paper, wards can be identified using numbers, alphabetical letters, direction or geographical references (e.g. north, south, east, west, central); place names; and/or names of European and/or Aboriginal heritage/cultural significance.

Of the submissions received, there was considerable support for the retention of the current names and/or geographical or locality names of relevance to the proposed future wards. A list of suggested ward names has been provided in Attachment 3; and members are encouraged to consider this list and perhaps peruse the submissions to identify the level of support for the various suggested names.

It is suggested that the retention of the existing ward names or the allocation of geographical/place names may be the most appropriate and acceptable means of ward identification at this time.

4. Review Process

The next stage of the review process, as specified under Section 12(8a) of the Act, involves Council preparing a "Representation Review Report" which will:

- provide information regarding the initial public consultation undertaken and Council's response to the issues arising from the submissions received;
- set out the proposal that Council considers should be carried into effect; and
- present evidence of how the proposal relates to the provisions of Sections 26 and 33 of the Act.

Once completed, the report has to be presented to the community for consideration and comment, in accordance with the provisions of Section 12(9) and (10) of the Act. This second public consultation stage must:

- extend for a minimum period of three (3) weeks;
- provide copies of the report for public inspection; and
- afford all interested persons the opportunity to make a written submission to Council.

Any person who makes a written submission must be given the opportunity to address Council, either in person or by way of a representative, in support of his/her submission.

Upon completion of the second public consultation, and after due consideration of all submissions received in response thereto, Council will be in a position to make final decisions regarding its future composition and structure. The final stage of the review process is the presentation of a formal report to the Electoral Commissioner, for consideration and certification.

5. Conclusion

The Adelaide Hills Council has initiated further consultation with the local community in respect to the elector representation review in order to ensure that no interested person has been denied the opportunity to participate in the review and/or make a submission to Council regarding the review.

Council has now completed the replication of the first of the prescribed public consultation stages of the elector representation review process, attracting five hundred and sixty two valid submissions. These submissions strongly favoured the retention of an elected mayor; the retention of a ward structure; the division of the Council area into five wards; and the retention of twelve councillors.

Council must now make some "in principle" decisions regarding its future composition and structure, taking into account the information previously provided throughout the course of the review to date; and the submissions made by the community.

The **principal member** of Council has always been a mayor, elected by the community so as to provide Council with an identifiable leader who is accountable to the community. It is considered that a change to the alternative (i.e. a chairperson chosen by the elected members of Council), offers few tangible benefits and would be at odds with all of the other metropolitan Councils. Further, given that 77.6% of the respondents favoured the retention of an elected mayor, it is considered unlikely that a proposal for change to a chairperson would receive strong support from the community if a formal poll was conducted (as required under Section 12(11) of the Act).

As for the issue of **wards or "no wards"**, the Council area has always been divided into wards and this issue has been contentious throughout the course of the review. It is noted that five hundred and twenty six (93.6%) of the latest submissions received favoured the retention of wards. This is considered to be a clear and significant response by the community.

A ward structure guarantees direct representation of areas and/or communities within the Council area; affords the ward councillors the opportunity to be more familiar with their constituents and the issues affecting the local community; ensures local interests and/or issues are not overlooked in favour of the bigger "area-wide" picture; and provides recognisable lines of communication with Council through the ward councillors. In addition, the retention of wards could be perceived (by the community) as a sign of stability within Council and acknowledgment of the strong community support for a ward structure.

Alternatively, the abolition of wards affords the electors the opportunity to vote for all of the vacant positions on Council; will likely result in the most supported candidates from across the Council area being elected; enables the elected members to be free of ward centric attitudes; can enhance the lines of communication between Council and the community; affords opportunities for the smaller "communities of interest" within the Council area to be directly represented on Council (subject to voter turnout); and automatically absorbs fluctuations in elector numbers (i.e. the quota tolerance limits do not apply).

As for the issue of a preferred **ward structure**, the majority of respondents (77.4%) favoured five wards. The existing ward structure cannot be retained because the elector ratio within the Mount Lofty ward currently breaches the specified quota tolerance limit, and the elector ratio in the existing Marble Hill ward is also nearing the specified limit of -10%, although the latter may only be a concern in the short term. This being the case, Council must consider alternative ward structure options which achieve a more equitable distribution of elector numbers between the wards and suit the future composition of Council (to be determined).

In respect to the composition of Council, there are two issues which need to be addressed, these being the number of elected members required to provide fair and adequate representation; and whether there is a need for area councillors in addition to ward councillors (should Council retain a ward structure).

As for the issue of the **number of councillors**, there is no formula to calculate an appropriate level of representation, however some guidance can be taken from the provisions of Sections 26 and 33 of the Act which speak against over-representation when compared to Councils of a similar size and type. The comparison undertaken between Adelaide Hills Council and councils of a similar size revealed that the elector representation arrangements are not dissimilar, although the elector ratio applicable to Council could be considered to be a little low, especially when compared to the elector arrangement of the "mid-sized" metropolitan councils (e.g. City of Burnside and Campbelltown City Council).

Whilst 68.9% of the submissions received favoured the retention of twelve councillors, 16.0% of the submissions supported a reduction to ten councillors; and overall one hundred and thirty five submissions (24.0%) favoured a reduction in the number of elected members from the current twelve ward councillors.

Any reduction in the number of elected members will result in some cost savings to Council. However, care must be taken to ensure that there are sufficient elected members to manage the affairs of Council; the workloads of the elected members do not become excessive; a diversity in skill sets, opinions and experience is maintained amongst the elected members; an appropriate level of elector representation is provided; and adequate lines of communication between the community and Council will exist, taking into account the anticipated future growth in the population (and therefore elector numbers).

On the other hand, it is considered that any proposal to increase the number of elected members at this time will be extremely difficult to justify and, as such, will likely not receive favourable consideration by the Electoral Commissioner.

For reasons previously provided, **area councillors (in addition to ward councillors)** are considered to be unwarranted and an expensive form of additional representation.

Finally, the issue of **ward names** will need to be further addressed once a decision has been made regarding the issue of wards/no wards. The existing ward names are acceptable and could be retained, if required.

APPENDIX AA

Council Agenda & Minutes
9 August, 2017

**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday 9 August 2017
AGENDA BUSINESS ITEM**

Item:	4.1
Originating Officer:	Lachlan Miller, Executive Manager Governance & Performance
Responsible Director:	Terry Crackett, Director Corporate Services
Subject:	Elector Representation Review – Options Paper Submissions Report and Proposal Development
For:	Decision

SUMMARY

An Elector Representation Review is held to examine fundamental aspects of a Council's composition and ward structure. It is a formal process that is closely regulated under the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Act) and is required to be conducted at least every eight years.

At its 23 May 2017 Ordinary Meeting, Council resolved to resume the Elector Representation Review following the Electoral Commissioner advising that he would not be certifying Council's Final Representation Review Report issued in March 2017.

In making the resolution to resume the Review in May, Council also resolved to approve a draft Options Paper for public consultation for the period of 30 May – 14 July 2017.

The public consultation has now been completed and the submissions received have been sorted and analysed.

To progress the Review process, Council needs to determine its 'in-principal proposal' on the representation arrangements that it favours and desires to be put in place at the next Local Government election in November 2018. This proposal will form part of a Representation Review Report which will be considered at a later Council meeting with a view to it being approved for public consultation.

The purpose of this report is twofold, firstly for Council to receive and consider the Options Paper Consultation Report and, secondly, to consider determining the 'proposal' for the representation arrangements to take to the next public consultation.

RECOMMENDATION

Council resolves:

- 1. That the report be received and noted**

2. **That a Representation Review Report be drafted as soon as practicable for the Council's consideration at a future Council meeting with the following representation arrangements:**
- a. **Presiding member to be (*Elected Mayor or Chairperson*);**
 - b. **A total number of X councillors (*Note: this number does NOT include the Presiding Member if it is a Mayor but does if it is a Chairperson*)**
 - c. **Retain or abolish wards**
 - d. **(*if wards are retained*)**
 - i. **The Council area is divided into X wards**
 - ii. **(*if an option in the Options Paper is applicable*) The ward boundaries and councillors per ward are consistent with Option X in the Adelaide Hills Council Representation Options Paper - May 2017**
 - iii. **(*if an option in the Options Paper is not applicable*)**
 - 1. **The ward boundaries to be (*describe by alignment*)**
 - 2. **The councillors per ward to be calculated based on the ward boundaries identified**
 - iv. **The wards names to be X, Y, Z, etc**
-

1. **GOVERNANCE**

➤ **Strategic Management Plan/Council Policy**

Goal	Organisational Sustainability
Strategy	Governance

The representation arrangements for the elected Council are an important element of Council's commitment to open and transparent decision making which facilitates public accountability.

➤ **Legal Implications**

Legislative requirements regarding an Elector Representation Review are laid out in Division 2 *Powers of councils and representation reviews*, section 12 of the Act and the *Local Government (General) Regulations 1999* (the Regulations).

➤ **Risk Management Implications**

Undertaking the Elector Representation Review in accordance with the requirements of legislation and engaging in genuine consultation will assist in mitigating the risk of:

**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 9 AUGUST 2017
63 MT BARKER ROAD STIRLING**

2.3. Absent
Nil

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE
Nil

6.41pm Cr Vonow returned to the chamber

4. BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

4.1. Elector Representation Review – Options Paper Submissions Report & Proposal Development

6.49pm A short-term suspension of proceedings was granted with leave of two-thirds of Members for a free flowing discussion on the matters associated with the Elector Representation Review, for up to 30 minutes

7.20pm The period of suspension came to an end.

Moved Cr Linda Green
S/- Cr Malcolm Herrmann

Council resolves :

That a Representation Review Report be drafted as soon as practicable for the Council's consideration at a future Council meeting with the following representation arrangements:

1. Presiding Member to be Elected Mayor
2. A total number of 12 councillors
3. Wards be retained as follows
 - a. The Council area is divided into 4 wards
 - b. The ward boundaries be as in Option 2 in the Adelaide Hills Council Representation Options Paper - May 2017 except for the following
 - i. Castambul and Montacute be in Ward 2
 - ii Upper Sturt be in Ward 4
 - c. The councillors per ward be 3 as in Option 2 Adelaide Hills Council Representation Options Paper - May 2017
 - d. Ward names to be North, South, East and West

LOST on the casting of the Mayor

**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 9 AUGUST 2017
63 MT BARKER ROAD STIRLING**

DIVISION

Cr Ian Bailey called for a division.

The Mayor set aside his ruling.

In the affirmative (6)

Councillors Val Hall, Andrew Stratford, Malcolm Herrmann, Linda Green, Ron Nelson, Ian Bailey

In the negative (6)

Councillors Jan-Claire Wisdom, Jan Loveday, Kirrilee Boyd, Nathan Daniell, Lynton Vonow, John Kemp and Mayor Bill Spragg

On the basis of the results of the division, the Mayor declared the motion LOST.

Moved Cr John Kemp
S/- Cr Lynton Vonow

168/17

Council resolves

1. That the report be received and noted
2. That a Representation Review Report be drafted as soon as practicable for the Council's consideration at a future Council meeting with the following representation arrangements:
 - a. Presiding member to be an Elected Mayor
 - b. A total number of 12 councillors Note: this number does NOT include the Mayor
 - c. Council is not divided into wards

Carried on casting vote of Mayor

**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 9 AUGUST 2017
63 MT BARKER ROAD STIRLING**

DIVISION

Cr Ian Bailey called for a division.

The Mayor set aside his ruling.

In the affirmative (7)

Councillors Jan-Claire Wisdom, Jan Loveday, Kirrilee Boyd, Nathan Daniell, Lynton Vonow, John Kemp and Mayor Bill Spragg

In the negative (6)

Councillors Val Hall, Andrew Stratford, Malcolm Herrmann, Linda Green, Ron Nelson, Ian Bailey

On the basis of the results of the division, the Mayor declared the motion CARRIED.

8.50pm Cr Hall left the Chamber

8.54pm The Council meeting adjourned for a short break

9.06pm The Council meeting resumed with Cr John Kemp and Jan-Claire Wisdom not in attendance.

5. CONFIDENTIAL ITEM**5.1. Heathfield Resource Recovery Centre Management – Exclusion of the Public**

Moved Cr Malcolm Herrmann

169/17

S/- Cr Ron Nelson

Pursuant to section 90(2) of the *Local Government Act 1999* the Council orders that all members of the public, except:

- CEO, Andrew Aitken
- Director Engineering & Assets, Peter Bice
- Director Strategy & Development, Marc Salver
- Director Corporate Services, Terry Crackett
- Director Community & Customer Service, David Waters
- Executive Manager Governance & Performance, Lachlan Miller
- Manager Waste, Health & Regulatory Services, John McArthur
- Minute Secretary, Pam Williams

be excluded from attendance at the meeting for Agenda Item 5.1: Heathfield Resource Recovery Centre Management in confidence.

APPENDIX AC

Council Agenda & Minutes
22 August, 2017

**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday 22 August 2017
AGENDA BUSINESS ITEM**

Item: 14.2

Originating Officer: Jess Charlton, Coordinator Service Strategy & Innovation

Responsible Director: Terry Crackett, Director Corporate Services

Subject: Internal Review of Council Decision – Elector Representation Review

For: Decision

SUMMARY

Council received two applications in March and April 2017 for an internal review of a Council decision, being the 28 February meeting's decision (38/17) regarding the Elector Representation Review.

One of the applicants withdrew his request after being appraised of the Council's need to undertake fresh consultation on both a Representation Options Paper and Representation Review Report. The other applicant confirmed in May that they wanted the application for review to proceed.

An external consultant was engaged to review the matter and an investigation report has been developed. The investigator has recommended that Council's decision to determine the proposal for the Elector Representation Review was reasonable and should stand.

As the elected Council was the decision maker, under the provisions of the Internal Review of Council Decisions Policy, Council must also be the reviewer and determine whether the decision should be upheld or if other actions or remedies are appropriate.

RECOMMENDATION

Council resolves:

1. That the report be received and noted
 2. To accept the findings and recommendation of the external investigator that the decision (38/17) to determine the proposal for the Elector Representation Review was reasonable and should stand.
-

1. GOVERNANCE

➤ Strategic Management Plan/Council Policy

Goal: Organisational Sustainability
Strategy: Governance

A key element of the Governance Strategy within Council's Strategic Plan is to ensure that transparent and responsible decision making occurs within the elected Council and Administration.

➤ Legal Implications

Section 270(1) of the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Act) requires that Council must establish procedures for the review of decisions by council; employees of council; and other persons acting on behalf of council. In this regard Council has adopted the Internal Review of Council Decisions Policy (the Policy).

In accordance with clause 8.1.1 of the Policy, the elected Council is the reviewer when the decision being reviewed was made by the elected Council, a Committee of the Council or the CEO.

➤ Risk Management Implications

Dealing with internal review applications effectively and in accordance with the provisions of Section 270 and the Policy will assist in mitigating the risk of:

Poor governance practices occur which lead to a loss of stakeholder (i.e. customer and regulator) confidence and/or legislative breaches.

Inherent Risk	Residual Risk	Target Risk
Extreme (5C)	Medium (3D)	Medium (3D)

Note that there are many other controls that assist in mitigating this risk.

➤ Financial and Resource Implications

The costs associated with managing and investigating Section 270 applications are accommodated in existing budgets and, where required, adjusted via budget reviews.

The cost of the external consultant engaged to investigate this matter will be approximately \$4500.

➤ Customer Service and Community/Cultural Implications

There is a high expectation that complaints and requests for decision reviews are managed in an appropriate manner. These can often be the source of valuable improvement opportunities in the way in which Council delivers services to the community.

➤ **Environmental Implications**

Not applicable

➤ **Engagement/Consultation with Committee, Regional Subsidiary, Advisory Group and Community**

Not applicable

2. **BACKGROUND**

On 28 February 2017, the Council, in resolving to carry into effect its proposal on the Elector Representation Review for submission to the Electoral Commission, determined (38/17) that the Adelaide Hills Council area not be divided into wards.

On 21 March 2017, Council received an application for an internal review from the first applicant (the Applicant) regarding the Representation Review decision (38/17) concerning wards. On 26 April 2017, Council received an application for an internal review from the second applicant (Applicant 2) regarding the same decision.

On 5 May 2017, the Electoral Commissioner advised the Council that, in his opinion, it did not satisfy the requirements of Section 12 of the Act in undertaking the Review. Accordingly, the Council resumed the review process to undertake fresh consultation on both a Representation Options Paper and Representation Review Report. Given that the decision that the applicants had requested be reviewed would not be implemented and that another decision on the matter would be made by Council at a future date, the Internal Review Contact Officer wrote to both applicants on 10 May 2017 to confirm whether they still wished Council to deal with their applications.

On 10 May 2017, the Applicant confirmed that he wanted Council to proceed with the review. On 23 May 2017, Applicant 2 withdrew his application for an internal review and the matter was considered closed.

As the decision to be reviewed was made by the elected Council, the Mayor determined in accordance with clause 8.1.2 of the Policy that the investigation would be conducted by an external party.

In May, Mr Ray Pincombe, an external consultant with extensive experience in local government legislation, operations and review, was engaged to conduct the investigation and write the report in relation to the application.

Mr Pincombe completed his investigation and report on 13 August 2017. The report provides detail regarding the processes leading up to the Council decision, the processes undertaken in investigating the matter and the investigator's findings and recommendations. The report is at **Appendix 1**.

In accordance with the provisions of clause 8.4 of the Policy, the Applicant has been afforded procedural fairness in regards to having the opportunity to put forward his case via both documentary and verbal evidence. Further, the Applicant was provided the opportunity to provide comment in relation to the draft investigation report.

3. ANALYSIS

The report recommends three actions which have been repeated below.

1. *Based on the information provided and gathered in this review, the decision (38/17) to determine the proposal for the Elector Representation Review was reasonable and should stand. This was supported by the following:*
 - *The process followed was thorough and covered all necessary elements of the legislation.*
 - *The options paper and representation review report were both comprehensive and covered a wide range of important factors including those required by Section 12 of the Act.*
 - *An extensive consultation process was undertaken for both the Options Paper and the Representation Report and many submissions were made during the consultation period. This consultation process was comprehensive and exceeded the mandatory requirements in the Act.*
 - *The views made in the public submissions were presented to the Council following each of the two consultation periods and the opportunity was provided after the second consultation for people who had made submissions to speak at a Council meeting in support of their views.*
 - *The Council met at a Special Meeting on 21 February 2017 to consider the results of the second consultation and to hear speakers on their submissions and then met the following week to make their determination on the proposal to be submitted. This allowed sufficient time for Council Members to better understand the views of some members of the public regarding the proposal.*
 - *When making the determination of the proposal to be submitted to the Electoral Commissioner, the Council included supporting reasons for each of the three elements of the proposal.*
2. *That the Council review the process to consider whether any change is needed for future reviews.*
3. *That Council advise [redacted] as the Applicant of the decision*

As the reviewer for the decision, Council is now required to make a determination in relation to the decision.

Next Steps

Following Council's determination of this matter, correspondence will be sent to the applicant setting out Council's determination on the review and providing information regarding further avenues of appeal/complaint.

4. OPTIONS

Council has the following options:

- I. To accept the findings and recommendation of the external investigator that the decision (38/17) to determine the proposal for the Elector Representation Review was reasonable and should stand.
- II. To determine an alternate course of action. (Not Recommended)

5. APPENDICES

- (1) Section 270 Review – Elector Representation Review – Report
- (2) Internal review of Council Decision Policy

Appendix 1

*Section 270 Review – Elector Representation Review –
Report*

Section 270 Review
Adelaide Hills
Council
Elector
Representation
Review

Background

In April 2016, the Adelaide Hills Council commenced an Elector Representation Review as required by the *Local Government Act 1999*. In accordance with this Act the Council, along with several other Councils in South Australia, were due to undertake the review as determined by the Minister of Local Government. Council had received advice from the Electoral Commissioner in November 2015 advising the Council that the review was due to commence in April 2016 with the report on the review to be completed and forwarded to the Commissioner by April 2017.

The Council set a process to achieve these requirements in the allotted time which included the following steps:

- Preparation of a Representations Options Paper (Options Paper) for presentation to Council. This paper included information on the review process, elector distribution and ratios, comparisons with other councils, demographic trends, population projections and alternative ward structure options. It examined the advantages and disadvantages of the options available to council in respect to its future composition and structure
- Endorsement of the Options Paper to go to consultation
- The first prescribed consultation period of 6 weeks which included public notification and the request for public submissions in response to the Options Paper
- A review of the public submissions received at a Council workshop
- A report to a Council meeting held on 22 November 2016 advising Council of the outcome of the public consultation and outlining the next steps which included the need for Council to make an in-principle decision regarding the elector representation arrangements it supported and proposed to be effected at the next election. The Council did make in-principle decisions regarding the retention of an elected mayor, retention of the same number of councillors and the abolition of the current ward structure, which was passed on the casting vote of the Mayor. A representation review report was to be developed on this basis
- A Representations Review Report (RRR) was developed including the above representation arrangements and adopted at the Council meeting on 13 December 2016 for the second stage of public consultation.
- Public consultation on the RRR was undertaken over a period of six weeks using a range of media and other options to give a wide coverage of the members of the public to enable them to read and review the decisions made by Council following the first stage. Members of the public could make submissions to the Council on their views of the review and the decisions made by Council.
- The results of the second public consultation were reported to the Council at a special meeting held on 21 February 2017 and included a table on the responses to the Council proposal set out in the review. Council reported there were four hundred and nineteen (419) submissions (this was amended to four hundred and twenty (420) at the meeting held on 28 February 2017), made by the public and while most responses were supportive regarding the elements of the proposal supporting the retention of the election of a Mayor and the retention of 12 councillors, a majority opposed the abolition of wards and the election of area wide councillors. It is to be noted that the Council proposal included all three elements and the fact that the abolition of wards was not supported meant the overall proposal was not supported by a majority of respondents. Members of the public who had made submissions were invited to speak to their submissions at the special meeting of council and eleven (11) people did so.
- The outcomes of this meeting were reported to the Council at their meeting on 28 February 2017 to enable Council to consider its position on the proposal considering the public response to the RRR and the Council proposal. The Council could either confirm its original proposal or go back to public consultation with a different proposal for the ward structure.
- The Council resolved to support the original proposal which included:
 - a) The principal member of the Adelaide Hills Council continues to be a Mayor, elected by the electors for the area.

- b) The Adelaide Hills Council area not be divided into wards.
- c) The Adelaide Hills Council comprise twelve (12) area councillors who will be elected by electors at council-wide elections to represent the whole Council area.
- Following this decision, the Council provided a report to the Electoral Commissioner on the outcome of the Electoral Representation Review and the proposal Council wished to be implemented.
- On 21 March 2017, an application was made for a review of the decision of council on 28 February 2017 regarding the Elector Representation Review and in particular the part of the resolution which states 'the Council area will not be divided into wards, and will comprise twelve councillors who will be elected at Council-wide elections and who will represent the whole Council area' (Applicant's words). The application also sought to link this review with a review of the decision made by Council at its meeting on 22 November 2016 whereby it resolved "By majority on the casting vote of the Mayor to agree, in principle, to abolish wards" (Applicant's words)

Issues Raised in the S270 Complaint

The applicant made a formal request received by the Council on 21 March 2017 for a review of two parts of the decision made by the Council on 28 February 2017 related to the Elector Representation Review the Council was undertaking. The decision was about the proposal for the future composition and structure of the Adelaide Hills Council and includes the following:

1. **The report be received and noted**
2. **The following proposal for the future composition and structure of the Adelaide Hills Council be carried into effect as follows:**
 - a) **The principal member of the Adelaide Hills Council continues to be a Mayor, elected by the electors for the area.**
 - b) **The Adelaide Hills Council area not be divided into wards**
 - c) **The Adelaide Hills Council comprise twelve (12) area councillors who will be elected by electors at council-wide elections to represent the whole Council area.**

The Council also provided reasons for the adoption of the three parts as part of its resolution.

The resolution made by the Council on 22 November 2016 was in three parts and it is part three of this resolution that the applicant has asked to be linked to the application for review. Part three of the resolution states, in part:

Council resolves that a Representation Review Report be drafted for the Council's consideration at the 13 December 2016 Ordinary Council meeting with the following representation arrangement:

Council area not be divided into wards.

The motion was carried on a division called by an elected member with seven members voting in the affirmative and six in the negative.

The applicant has requested that Parts (b) and (c) (in 2 above) are reviewed in accordance with Section 270 of the *Local Government Act 1999* and the Adelaide Hills Council's (AHC) Internal Review of Council Decisions Policy (Gov-01). The applicant also requested the review also consider a decision made by Council on 22 November 2016 that the Council area not be divided into wards.

In making the application the applicant provided a document outlining his concerns regarding the decision in more detail to support the application for review.

An outline of these concerns is provided below:

1. The Representation Options Paper (Options Paper) issued by the Council as part of the public consultation included an option (option 8) on the potential for the Council to abolish its current ward structure and have no wards. The applicant's view is that as there has been no community

- led request or demand for a no wards option then its inclusion is questionable. The applicant also questions its placement as the last option near the end of a significant Options Paper (38 pages).
2. The expectation of the Council that most ratepayers would read the Options Paper given its size and complexity. The applicant suggested the Council should have provided more assistance to the public to help them to better understand the elements in the review.
 3. The next concern is the apparent undervaluing of the responses to the Options Paper. The applicant notes that sixty-one (61) submissions were made yet the Council report noted in part that 61 responses is not a significant response. It further stated that..." however the submissions did enable the Council to gain some insight into the views of the community". The applicant was concerned that Council did not provide any expectation of what constituted a significant response nor what the insights were and how they played a role in the council decision.
 4. The fourth concern was that neither the Mayor or any other Councillor provided any information on whether any valid random surveys on the issue of wards/no wards had been undertaken in the community. The applicant stated that the councillors who did not support the abolition of wards must have been able to gain sufficient information to form their position and therefore expected those who supported it should have indicated what information they had to support their position.
 5. The fifth concern raised regards the closeness of the vote (22 November 2016) where the Mayor used his casting vote to support the decision to have no wards. The concern is that given the feedback from the public submissions the fact that neither the six councillors nor the Mayor seem to have given the community feedback sufficient weight when making their decision. In addition, the applicant was concerned about the lack of a detailed response from those elected members for their decision to ignore or minimise the demonstration of democracy in the public submissions.
 6. The applicant raises a concern regarding what appears to be a conflict of interest in making the decision. This relates to the decision-making process including both practical knowledge and experience of elected members and submissions by the community as outlined in the Options Paper. The applicant believes that "Council erred in putting councillor expertise ahead of what the community really wanted". The applicant's view is that only the Mayor and the six councillors wanted the no wards option and the decision requires review and change.
 7. The applicant is concerned that "it appears some councillors hold the view that the community is not competent to express its desires or state meaningfully what is the best arrangement for its representation and made their decision on that basis". This is based on a quote attributed to a councillor in the local Courier newspaper reporting on a Council meeting held in November 2016. Further comments are made regarding statements attributed to another councillor in the same article and their views regarding the benefits of the no wards option.
 8. The concern raised here relates to the wording in the Representation Review Report (RRR) presented to Council in December 2016. The quote provided from P2 of the RRR states (in part) "following considerable deliberation of all matters relevant to the review including public submissions received," and it goes on to set out the decision of 22 November 2016 outlined above. The applicant is concerned that the words "all matters relevant to the review" precede the words "including public submissions" therefore in his view placing more emphasis on the former. The applicant also notes that the matters relevant are not outlined in more detail in the RRR. The applicant then provides a view that following the second round of consultation more emphasis should have been put on the public submissions. There were four hundred and twenty (420) submissions recorded being made with a significant number supporting the retention of wards. It is the applicant's view that the Council did not place enough emphasis on the public submissions when confirming their previous decision.
 9. The final concern is that the Council made the final decision on the composition and structure on 28 February 2017 despite knowing that two councillors would be absent. The applicant believes that a meeting to decide such an important decision should have been held with all members present.

The applicant also provided further material received by the Council on 12 April 2017 to be considered as part of the review. This material included his view on the rights of the electorate and the way Council should have responded to the comments made in the public submission. It also included many references to statements included in the Council's Representation Options Paper (Options Paper) and the subsequent Representation Review Report(RRR) and copies of statements made regarding a previous Elector Representation Review in 2013, which was not completed. In addition, copies of many letters to the editor published in local newspapers in 2013 and 2016/2017 were provided.

The focus in the extra material was on the applicant providing his view on why the Council erred in their decision to abolish wards and on certain extracts from the Options Paper and the RRR as well as providing copies of letters to the editor mainly expressing opposition to the Council decision on wards.

A copy of the application with the attachments provided by the applicant is provided as an attachment to this report to ensure further detail is available if needed.

Plan and Process for Investigation

The investigation considered all evidence available relating to the process undertaken by the Council leading to the decision to develop a proposal for the Elector Representation Review April 2016-2017. This included the process to set up the review, the Representation Options Paper and the process and outcomes of the public consultation on this document, the process to review the consultation and the subsequent development of the Representation Review Report. In addition, the results of the second public consultation and the reports to Council on the process and outcome of this consultation. Consideration was also given to the development of the final proposal and the submission to the Electoral Commission.

The relevant legislation and the Council policy on the review of decisions were also considered as part of the investigation

Evidence to which the Investigation has had regard.

In conducting the review, a wide range of documentation has been assessed. This includes, reports to Council and copies of minutes outlining Council decisions, ancillary documents including consultation survey results, Representation Options Paper, Representation Review Report, the application and attached supporting information from the applicant, relevant legislation and the Council Internal Review of Council Decisions Policy.

In addition to the documentation set out above, a phone interview was held with the Applicant to ensure his expectations of this process were clear and to provide the opportunity for any additional comments relating to the application. The letter from the Electoral Commission responding to the Council submission on the Elector Representation Review proposal was also read to gain a better understanding of the Commission's decision that the requirements of Section 12 of the Act had not been satisfied.

The aim of reviewing this evidence was to attempt to gain a better understanding of all elements of a complex matter and to then reach a decision on whether the process was fair and reasonable for all parties concerned.

Facts and Timeline

The Adelaide Hills Council (AHC) at its ordinary meeting held on 26 April 2016 resolved to commence an Elector Representation Review. This review included the following:

- July- August 2016. Development of a Representation Options Paper (Options Paper). This paper was developed for the Council by C L Rowe & Associates who have 26 years' experience in undertaking Elector Representation Reviews for many councils in South Australia.
- 23 August 2016. Options paper endorsed for consultation at a meeting of Council
- 1 September – 14 October 2016. Public consultation on the Options Paper.
- 15-31 October 2016. Review of submissions
- 22 November 2016. Presentation of a report to Council on the results of the public consultation on the Options Paper. The results of the consultation were provided with sixty-one (61) public submissions being made. Of these the majority supported the retention of the office of Mayor, the retention of twelve (12) councillors and the retention of the current ward system. At the same meeting, the Council resolved to develop a Representation Review Report (RRR) for consideration at the Council meeting on 13 December 2016. The Council also resolved the representation arrangements to be included in the review report and they were:
 - Presiding Member (Elected Mayor) – carried unanimously
 - A total number of 12 councillors- carried
 - Council area not be divided into Wards- a division was called in this vote and it was carried 7 votes to 6 with all elected members voting, including the Mayor.
- 13 December 2016. Council approved the RRR for public consultation for the period 21 December 2016 to 10 February 2017. They also resolved to hold a Special Council meeting on 21 February 2017 to provide the opportunity for people who had made submissions or their representatives to speak in relation to their submissions.
- 21 February 2017. Special Council meeting held to enable Council to receive and note a report on the results of the RRR consultation. At this meeting eleven (11) people took the opportunity to speak to their submissions. No decisions were made regarding the report at this meeting. It was noted that there were four hundred and nineteen (419) submissions with over 90% of the submissions opposing the overall Council proposal which included the no wards option.
- 28 February 2017. The Council received a report on the Elector Representation Review in order to determine a proposal for submission to the Electoral Commission on the review. It was also noted that there were four hundred and twenty (420) submissions as one had not been included at the previous meeting. The meeting agenda also included the presentation of petitions by members of the public, opposing the proposal to abolish wards. The report to Council included, the background to the review which outlined the steps taken in undertaking the review from the beginning of the process to the presentation of the RRR at the meeting on 21 February 2017. It provided information on the results of the consultations undertaken and the decisions made by Council at different points in the process, as outlined above. At this meeting, the Council was provided with two options regarding the review. The first was to affirm the decisions made regarding the proposal prior to receiving the results of the RRR consultation and the second to develop an alternate proposal for further consultation. The Council resolved to carry into effect its original proposal as follows:
 - a. The principal member of the Adelaide Hills Council continues to be a Mayor, elected by the electors for the area.
 - b. The Adelaide Hills Council area not be divided into wards.
 - c. The Adelaide Hills Council comprise twelve (12) area councillors who will be elected by electors at council-wide elections to represent the whole Council area.
- This decision also included the key reasons supporting the three elements of the proposal, i.e. the continued election of a Mayor, no wards and area wide election of

councillors. This affirmed the previous decisions made by Council during the Elector Representation Review process. It also authorised the development of the proposal for submission to the Electoral Commissioner as set out in Section 12 of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

- The report was referred to the Electoral Commissioner on 24 March 2017.

It is noted that the Electoral Commissioner advised the Adelaide Hills Council in a letter dated 5 May 2017 that the Council did not satisfy the requirements of Section 12 of the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Act) in undertaking the Elector Representation Review. This was based on not satisfying the requirements of section 12 of the Act in inviting interested persons to make written submissions during the two consultation periods of the review. It was based on the definition of interested persons used by the Council and the view of the Commission that this definition had incorrectly restricted the potential for some interested persons to make submissions.

There was no mention in the letter of any other concern with the process undertaken and the proposal put forward by the Council.

The Council resolved at its meeting on 23 May 2017 to recommence the process in order to complete it by December 2017.

Interviews

An interview was conducted by telephone with the applicant, who reiterated the view that the decision should be reviewed. The applicant feels justified in asking for the review as in his opinion the Council did not give enough weight to the public submissions when making its decision to abolish wards. The applicant further stated, in his view, that the decisions of the Council should be based on evidence and this would include evidence that the community feedback, during the consultation processes, was strongly against any change to the current wards system.

Findings

In reviewing the application for review of this decision it is important to ensure the Council process to develop the proposal has met the requirements of the legislation and the elected body, as a decision maker, acted in accordance with the policy in the Internal Review of Council Decisions. These findings will be based on a review of Council actions from that perspective and will also address the applicant's concerns as outlined above. In addition, it is important to assess whether Council has followed the process required and given due consideration to each element.

The Council resolved to undertake the process in April 2016 and set a timetable to allow the requirements of the Act to be fulfilled by April 2017. The process was undertaken as set out above under facts and timeline and was completed in February 2017 and submitted to the Electoral Commissioner in March 2017.

The review, as required, was comprehensive and addressed the issues that needed to be addressed to comply with the requirements of the Act. The first part of the review, as set out above, was the development of the Representations Options Paper which looked at the current structure and composition of the Council and examined the options with specific reference to the following:

- the principal member of Council, more specifically whether it should be a mayor elected by the community or a chairperson selected by (and from amongst) the elected members;
- the composition of Council, including the number of elected members required to provide fair and adequate representation to the community and the need for area

councillors in addition to ward councillors (where the council area is to be divided into wards);

- the division of the council area into wards or the abolition of wards; and
- the level of ward representation within, and the name of, any future proposed wards.

The Paper identified 8 different options for Council to consider under the above issues and provided a wide range of relevant information regarding the elements of each issue.

Following the endorsement of the paper on 23 August 2016 it was put out to public consultation for a period of six weeks from 1 September to 14 October 2016. In addition to the mandatory public notices the Council used its own social media sites to publicise the consultation and the use of digital means to provide submissions, roadside banners were erected, a community forum was held at Mylor, listening posts were provided at five locations across the Council area and two public meetings were held, one at Gumeracha and the other at Stirling. This was aimed at providing the public with enough opportunity to review the Options Paper and make submissions to the Council. While there may be arguments about the range of avenues for consultation what was undertaken was very reasonable and significantly more than the mandatory requirements.

The results of the consultation were provided to the Council at the ordinary meeting on 22 November 2016 and provided details of the methods used to consult and the results of the submissions on the various options provided to the public to consider. This meeting also resolved to develop a representation review report for further consultation. As stated above the proposal in this report was to retain the office of Mayor, retain twelve councillors and have no wards.

The Representation Review Report was developed and endorsed by Council on 13 December 2016 to go to public consultation for a period of over seven weeks (four weeks longer than mandatory) from 21 December 2016 – 10 February 2017. Similar methods of consultation to the first consultation were used this time. The engagement process was sound and elicited a reasonable response from the public with four hundred and twenty (420) submissions received and good use being made of Council's digital engagement tools. Most of the submissions opposed the proposal based on the no wards element.

On 21 February 2017, the Council met to consider the report on the results of the consultation. This meeting also allowed the public who had made submissions to speak to their submissions. The following week at the Ordinary Council meeting on 28 February 2017 the council further considered the results of the consultation and addressed the issue of the final proposal for submission to the Electoral Commission. The Council resolved to affirm its previous proposal included in the Representation Review Report and to provide this proposal to the Electoral Commission.

The Council has followed the process required under the Act , except for the definition used for "interested persons" as outlined above. They also exceeded the mandatory requirements in the public consultation. A Representation Options paper was developed which was comprehensive and covered all issues the Council wished to review. The community through the consultation was provided with the opportunity to comment through a range of avenues and the results of the consultation were provided to the Council for their review.

In addition, the members of the public who had made submissions on the Representation Review Report were given the opportunity to speak to their submissions at the Special Meeting of Council on 21 February 2017. At the meeting held the next week, 28 February 2017 another person spoke to the said review and four (4) petitions were received by Council.

The next issue is to review the concerns raised in the application. The applicant has provided nine concerns in some detail to support the application and it is proposed to review these concerns in

order. It is noted that the full detail is not provided against each concern. The full text of the application is provided as an attachment.

It is worth noting that the applicant has spent some time in developing his views on why the decision should be reviewed. The main emphases are on the inclusion of the no wards option in the first place, the consultation process and the perceived undervaluing of the public submissions

An outline of these concerns and the reviewer's response is provided below:

1. The Representation Options Paper (Options Paper) issued by the Council as part of the public consultation included an option (option 8) on the potential for the Council to abolish its current ward structure and have no wards. The applicant's view is that as there has been no community led request or demand for a no wards option then its inclusion is questionable. The applicant also questions its placement as the last option near the end of a significant Options Paper (38 pages).
 - **The finding is that Section 12 (6) (b) of the Act requires the Council if it has wards to examine the question of whether the wards should be abolished. In addition, the value of both the wards or no wards options are considered early in the Options Paper and in more detail later.**
2. The expectation of the Council that most ratepayers would read the Options Paper given its size and complexity. The applicant suggested the Council should have provided more assistance to the public to help them to better understand the elements in the review.
 - **While the paper was comprehensive, the information provided and the assistance provided in the consultation process was reasonable and provided good opportunities for people to gain further information. It also exceeded the mandatory requirements, as required in Section 12 of the Act, with use of social media, online engagement, meetings and listening posts some of the additional methods used to assist the public.**
3. The next concern is the apparent undervaluing of the responses to the Options Paper. The applicant notes that sixty-One (61) submissions were made yet the Council report noted in part that 61 responses is not a significant response. It further stated that..." however the submissions did enable the Council to gain some insight into the views of the community". The applicant was concerned that Council did not provide any expectation of what constituted a significant response nor what the insights were and how they played a role in the council decision.
 - **The process of the review is for Council to consider all issues in the review when forming their view. The public submissions are one element of the process and this was considered in the council reporting. On the evidence provided, there is no support for the view that Council undervalued the information, rather that after due consideration, some members supported an alternative view.**
4. The fourth concern was that neither the Mayor or any other Councillor provided any information on whether any valid random surveys on the issue of wards/no wards had been undertaken in the community. The applicant stated that the councillors who did not support the abolition of wards must have been able to gain sufficient information to form their position and therefore expected those who supported it should have indicated what information they had to support their position.
 - **There is no evidence of any random surveys, however the seven members who voted for the no wards option would have had the same opportunity as the six who voted against it to develop their views. A decision of this nature would need consideration of all the elements outlined in the paper with public submissions being one of them.**
5. The fifth concern raised regards the closeness of the vote (22 November 2016) where the Mayor used his casting vote to support the decision to have no wards. The concern is that given the feedback from the public submissions, neither the six councillors nor the Mayor seem to have given the community feedback sufficient weight when making their decision.

- **While the public submissions are a very important element of the review process, it is up to the members of council to form a view on all the evidence provided when making their decision. As stated above the advantages and disadvantages of having either wards and no wards was considered in the report and this is an important element of the decision-making process as is the community feedback. The seven elected members who voted for the no wards option were not convinced by the submissions opposing the no wards option, however as they did review the submissions there is no evidence to prove that they had not given the feedback sufficient weight.**
6. The applicant raises a concern regarding what appears, in the view of the applicant, to be a conflict of interest in making the decision. This relates to the decision-making process including both practical knowledge and experience of elected members and submissions by the community as outlined in the Options Paper. The applicant believes that "Council erred in putting councillor expertise ahead of what the community really wanted". The applicant's view is that only the Mayor and the six councillors wanted the no wards option and the decision requires review and change.
 - **This is the opinion of the applicant. It is impossible to prove that the seven members voting for the decision were the only people who would have supported the no wards option. It is also important to note that the elected council is the decision maker and the elected members are elected to make decisions and take responsibility for them. There is no evidence of any breach of the conflict of interest provisions in Section 73-75 of the Act. The Council did have sufficient evidence on which to base their decision.**
 7. The applicant is concerned that "it appears some councillors hold the view that the community is not competent to express its desires or state meaningfully what is the best arrangement for its representation and made their decision on that basis". This is based on a quote attributed to a councillor in the local Courier newspaper reporting on a Council meeting held in November 2016. Further comments are made regarding statements attributed to another councillor in the same article and their views regarding the benefits of the no wards option.
 - **The applicant has formed an opinion based on a newspaper article. It would be difficult to prove the assertion based on comments attributed to them in a newspaper article as this may not provide all comments made by the councillors regarding the issue.**
 8. The concern raised here relates to the wording in the Representation Review Report (RRR) presented to Council in December 2016. The quote provided from P2 of the RRR states (in part) "following considerable deliberation of all matters relevant to the review including public submissions received," It goes on to set out the decision of 22 November 2016 outlined above. The applicant is concerned that the words "all matters relevant to the review" precede the words "including public submissions" therefore in his view placing more emphasis on the former. The applicant also notes that the matters relevant are not outlined in more detail in the RRR. The applicant then provides a view that following the second round of consultation more emphasis should have been put on the public submissions. There were four hundred and nineteen (419) submissions recorded by the Council as being made with a significant number supporting the retention of wards. It is the applicant's view that the Council did not place enough emphasis on the public submissions when confirming their previous decision and is concerned that the democratic principle and good governance were being ignored.
 - **The comment made by the Council emphasises the inclusion of public submissions as part of the matters relevant to review rather than implying it is secondary to other matters. It appears the intention of the statement is to stress that public submissions were considered. As stated previously, this review has considered many elements of the Council composition and structure and it is up to each elected member to weigh up the evidence and decide what they think is in the best interests of the Council and its community. While there were many public views it is one of many elements in this review and has no legal precedence over the other elements being considered.**
 9. The final concern is that the Council made the final decision on the composition and structure on 28 February 2017 despite knowing that two councillors would be absent. The applicant believes

that a meeting to decide such an important decision should have been held with all members present.

The Council had previously agreed to hold a special meeting on 21 February 2017 to consider the results of the representation review consultation. A report was then prepared with the final proposal to be considered at the ordinary meeting of Council to be held the following week on 28 February 2017. A change to the date of the meeting was considered by Council as a motion on notice at the Ordinary Council meeting on 24 January 2017 however the motion on notice was lost. It is noted that the final decision was consistent with the previous decisions on the proposal which were made with all Council Members present.

In reviewing the additional information provided by the applicant on 12 April 2017 it was clear that the applicant did not believe the Council provided sufficient consideration to the submissions made by the public supporting the retention of wards. In the first instance, the applicant stated that it was his contention that the AHC has committed an act of injustice towards its electorate by giving insufficient consideration to the wide range of evidence put before it in many ways by the members of the public. The applicant also stated that the Council, by giving greater weight to other considerations, with no little or no evidence to support the decision to have no wards, has overridden the fundamental right of the people to be governed by consent and not by imposed fiat. While these are strong comments it is the view of the Investigator that the Council, as a duly elected body, has considered a wide range of evidence provided in the representation review, including the public submissions and after due consideration of all important factors has formed what it believes is the best proposal for the Council and its community. This is its right and responsibility.

Several extracts were provided from the Options Paper and the RRR and the applicant has made comments regarding his views on what the Council did or should have done in that regard. In many instances, it would have been important to read the extracts as part of the full section of the paper to get the proper context for the comments. Many of the comments were based on the applicant's view of the meaning of the words and how they should be interpreted. The Council has undertaken a thorough process and has considered two significant papers on the representation review and public feedback on both papers prior to finalising the proposal to the Electoral Commission. It is difficult to see how this additional information adds any new evidence to support the applicant's original submission.

The applicant has put a great deal of effort into raising what he believes are significant concerns relating to the decision. There is an emphasis on the importance of the public submissions which in the view of the applicant should override any other factor considered by the Council when coming to a decision on the element of wards. It is important to ensure that Council in making its decision has considered all the evidence necessary to ensure its decision is the best decision possible. The Council resolved to change a system which has existed since the Adelaide Hills Council was formed in 1997. In doing so the Council has considered a wide range of evidence and has consulted twice with the community.

While it is extremely important that the Council considers the input from the community it is also important that they take note of all evidence available to them and use their own experience as elected members to decide what proposal is in the best interests of their Council and community over, at least, the next eight years. This is the task they were set when they commenced a review that was required to be undertaken by the State. They have taken the view to change based on the evidence in the review and potentially their experience in the local government environment generally and as a Council Member for the Adelaide Hills Council specifically.

Conclusion

It is the finding of the reviewer that the Council as the decision-maker complied with the procedural requirements of the Internal Review of Council Decisions as set out in 8.2.1 of the policy in that:

- The decision maker had the power to make the decision
- The decision maker did consider all matters relevant to the making of the decision
- The decision was not made in bad faith or for an improper purpose
- The findings of fact were based on evidence
- The decision is reasonable taking all circumstances into consideration
- The public, as people affected by the decision were accorded procedural fairness
- There is no evidence of a direction of another person in this matter

While it would have been a difficult task for Council to make this decision in the face of opposition from some members of the public to their proposal to have no wards and have all councillors elected on an area wide basis, the Council is expected to decide what it believes is in the best interests of the community. It is also noted that the community has an important role in the Elector Representation Review. They are the providers of feedback and the Council is expected to give serious consideration to this feedback as part of the total process as set out in Section 12(8a) (a) of the Act.

To come to a final proposal is not always the easy decision however the Council is made up of elected members who are elected to govern the area and make such decisions on behalf of their community. In this case the Council made the decision based on evidence provided during a comprehensive and thorough process of electoral review. While the public feedback from the community was an important factor, it is not the only factor, as it is part of an important mix of factors. The Council is expected to consider all evidence before making what is a very important decision for the future composition of the Council and its area.

In making its decision the Council provided reasons for each issue in the proposal as part of its resolution therefore providing a clear indication of their view of the benefits of the proposal.

The review was comprehensive and the consultation was reasonable in the circumstances. Sufficient time and effort was put into ensuring that the elected body and the public each had an opportunity for input into a very important process.

Recommended Action:

1. Based on the information provided and gathered in this review, the decision (38/17) to determine the proposal for the Elector Representation Review was reasonable and should stand. This was supported by the following:
 - The process followed was thorough and covered all necessary elements of the legislation.
 - The options paper and representation review report were both comprehensive and covered a wide range of important factors including those required by Section 12 of the Act.
 - An extensive consultation process was undertaken for both the Options Paper and the Representation Report and many submissions were made during the consultation period. This consultation process was comprehensive and exceeded the mandatory requirements in the Act.
 - The views made in the public submissions were presented to the Council following each of the two consultation periods and the opportunity was provided after the second consultation for people who had made submissions to speak at a Council meeting in support of their views.
 - The Council met at a Special Meeting on 21 February 2017 to consider the results of the second consultation and to hear speakers on their submissions and then met the following week to make their determination on the proposal to be submitted. This allowed sufficient time for Council Members to better understand the views of some members of the public regarding the proposal.
 - When making the determination of the proposal to be submitted to the Electoral Commissioner, the Council included supporting reasons for each of the three elements of the proposal.
2. That the Council review the process to consider whether any change is needed for future reviews.
3. That Council advise [REDACTED] as the Applicant of the decision

**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday 22 August 2017
AGENDA BUSINESS ITEM**

Item:	9.1.1
Originating Officer:	Lachlan Miller, Executive Manager Governance & Performance
Responsible Director:	Terry Crackett, Director Corporate Services
Subject:	Petition – Elector Representation Review
For:	Decision

SUMMARY

A petition has been received from Joan Playford of Kersbrook with 83 signatories stating:

We the undersigned interested persons, petition the Council to retain a minimum of three (3) preferably five (5) wards for representation of electors in the council for the following reasons:

- 1. Wards guarantee direct representation of all parts of the council area*
- 2. Enables ward councillors to focus on local as well as council-wide issues*
- 3. Lessens the ability of a single interest group from gaining considerable representation on council*
- 4. Enables and attracts candidates to contest ward elections*
- 5. Reduces the cost and effort required to campaign at an election*
- 6. Potentially, provides cost savings to council in regard to the conduct of elections and supplementary elections (extracted from page 41 of the Elector Representation Review May 2017)*

RECOMMENDATION

Council resolves:

- 1) That the petition signed by 83 signatories, about the Elector Representation Review (ERR), be received and noted**
- 2) To note that the petition was received outside of an ERR consultation period and will not be accepted as a submission.**

Council has received a petition organised by Joan Playford and signed by 83 signatories.

Following Council's consideration, the head petitioner (organiser) will be advised of Council's noting of the petition and of any other resolutions arising from the matter.

The petition states:

We the undersigned interested persons, petition the Council to retain a minimum of three (3) preferably five (5) wards for representation of electors in the council for the following reasons:

- 1. Wards guarantee direct representation of all parts of the council area*
- 2. Enables ward councillors to focus on local as well as council-wide issues*
- 3. Lessens the ability of a single interest group from gaining considerable representation on council*
- 4. Enables and attracts candidates to contest ward elections*
- 5. Reduces the cost and effort required to campaign at an election*
- 6. Potentially, provides cost savings to council in regard to the conduct of elections and supplementary elections (extracted from page 41 of the Elector Representation Review May 2017)*

Background / Context – Lachlan Miller, Executive Manager Governance & Performance

The subject of the petition relates to the Elector Representation Review.

As this petition was received on 10 August 2017 (after the Representation Options Paper consultation period concluded on 14 July 2017) it cannot be included as a submission for that consultation.

The organiser will be advised that, if she so wishes, she could lodge the petition as a submission in the upcoming Representation Review Report consultation, tentatively scheduled for September 2017.

**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY 22 AUGUST 2017
63 MT BARKER ROAD STIRLING**

7.2. Reports of Members as Council/Committee Representatives on External Organisations
Nil

7.3. CEO Report

Andrew Aitken, CEO, provided Council with a verbal Corporate Update:

- Rates
- Business Survey
- Townships & Urban Areas and Local Heritage DPA
- Waste Truck advertising
- Dogs & Cats online
- Member for Mayo – Regional Swimming Facility
- Woodhouse Scout Facility
- Zone Emergency Management Committee
- Delicious Food Awards

8. QUESTIONS ADJOURNED/LYING ON THE TABLE

8.1. Questions Adjourned

Nil

8.2. Questions Lying on the Table

Nil

9. PETITIONS / DEPUTATIONS / PUBLIC FORUM

9.1. Petitions

Elector Representation Review

Moved Cr Malcolm Herrmann
S/- Cr Linda Green

174/17

1. That the petition signed by 83 signatories, about the Elector Representation Review (ERR), be received and noted
2. To note that the petition was received outside of an ERR consultation period and will not be accepted as a submission.
3. That the organiser be advised to lodge the petition as a submission in the upcoming Representation Review Report consultation.

Carried Unanimously

**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY 22 AUGUST 2017
63 MT BARKER ROAD STIRLING**

9.2. Deputations

Joe Frank, Elector Representation Review

7.13pm Cr Val Hall left chamber

7.16pm Cr Val Hall returned to chamber

Tim Possingham, Adelaide Rally

9.3. Public Forum

Leave of meeting was granted to allow each speaker in the Public Forum 5 minutes to address Council.

- Joe Frank re Racing Cars & Rallies
- Steve Steggles re Code of Conduct Complaint & Elector Representation Review
- John Hill re Elector Representation Review
- Daniel Kelly re Elector Representation Review

10. PRESENTATIONS

Nil

11. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Nil

12. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

Nil

13. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

13.1. Development Assessment Panel – 1 August 2017

Moved Cr Linda Green
S/- Cr Malcolm Herrmann

175/17

That the minutes of the Development Assessment Panel meeting of 1 August 2017 as distributed, be received and noted.

Carried Unanimously

APPENDIX AC

Council Agenda & Minutes
4 September, 2017



AGENDA FOR SPECIAL MEETING

Monday 4 September 2017
6.30pm
63 Mt Barker Road Stirling

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. **COMMENCEMENT**
2. **APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE**
 - 2.1. Apology
 - 2.2. Leave of Absence
3. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**
4. **BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

Motion 1: Rescission of Resolution 184/17 of 22nd August 2017

Council resolves:

To rescind the following elements of resolution 184/17

That a Representation Review Report be drafted as soon as practicable for the Council's consideration at a future Council meeting with the following representation arrangements:

Presiding Member to be Elected Mayor
A total number of 12 councillors

Wards be retained as follows:



- a. The Council area is divided into 4 wards
- b. The ward boundaries be as in Option 2 in the Adelaide Hills Council Representation Options Paper - May 2017 except for the following
 - i. Castambul and Montacute be in Ward 2
 - ii Upper Sturt be in Ward 4
- c. The councillors per ward be 3 as in Option 2 Adelaide Hills Council Representation Options Paper - May 2017
- d. Ward names to be North, South, East and West

Motion 2: Elector Representation Review – Representation Review Report Preparation

Council resolves:

That a Representation Review Report be drafted as soon as practicable for the Council's consideration at a future Council meeting with the following representation arrangements:

- Presiding Member to be Elected Mayor
- A total number of 12 councillors
- Wards be retained as follows

The Council area is divided into 2 wards.

The wards be created by merging the existing Torrens Valley and Onkaparinga Valley wards into one ward and the existing Manoah, Mt Lofty and Marble Hill wards into a second ward. The new ward created by the merger of Torrens Valley and Onkaparinga Valley wards have 5 Councillors and the new ward created by the merger of Manoah, Mt Lofty and Marble Hill wards have 7 Councillors.

The name of the new ward created by the merger of Torrens Valley and Onkaparinga wards be Valleys ward and the name of the new ward created by the merger of Manoah, Mt Lofty and Marble Hill wards be Ranges ward.

Motion 3: Elector Representation Review – Representation Review Report Public Consultation

Council resolves:

1. To approve the draft Representation Review Report at Appendix 2 of Agenda Item 14.5 of the Ordinary Council meeting of 22nd August 2017 for public consultation for a period of three (3) weeks, in compliance with the provisions of Section 12(9) of the Local Government Act 1999.
2. To delegate to the Chief Executive Office the discretion to make any minor non-significant grammatical and/or content changes to the Representation Review Report for consultation purposes
3. To delegate to the Chief Executive Office the discretion to determine the final consultation dates subject to media and Government Gazette publication dates, indicatively 14th September 2017 – 6th October 2017.



4. To determine to hold a Special Council meeting on 10th October 2017 to be the opportunity for persons who made written submissions, or their representative, to be heard in relation to the submission in accordance with Section 12(10) of the Local Government Act 1999.

5. CLOSE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
Monday 4 September 2017
AGENDA BUSINESS ITEM**

Item: 4.1 Motion on Notice

Originating from: Cr Jan-Claire Wisdom

Subject: Elector Representation Review

Strategic Plan Goal: Organisational Sustainability

Strategic Plan Strategy: Governance

1. MOTION

I move...

Motion 1: Rescission of Resolution 184/17 of 22nd August 2017

Council resolves:

To rescind the following elements of resolution 184/17

That a Representation Review Report be drafted as soon as practicable for the Council's consideration at a future Council meeting with the following representation arrangements:

**Presiding Member to be Elected Mayor
A total number of 12 councillors
Wards be retained as follows**

- a. **The Council area is divided into 4 wards**
- b. **The ward boundaries be as in Option 2 in the Adelaide Hills Council Representation Options Paper - May 2017 except for the following**
 - i. **Castambul and Montacute be in Ward 2**
 - ii **Upper Sturt be in Ward 4**
- c. **The councillors per ward be 3 as in Option 2 Adelaide Hills Council Representation Options Paper - May 2017**
- d. **Ward names to be North, South, East and West**

Motion 2: Elector Representation Review – Representation Review Report Preparation

Council resolves:

That a Representation Review Report be drafted as soon as practicable for the Council's consideration at a future Council meeting with the following representation arrangements:

Presiding Member to be Elected Mayor

A total number of 12 councillors

Wards be retained as follows

The Council area is divided into 2 wards

The wards be created by merging the existing Torrens Valley and Onkaparinga Valley wards into one ward and the existing Manoah, Mt Lofty and Marble Hill wards into a second ward.

The new ward created by the merger of Torrens Valley and Onkaparinga Valley wards have 5 Councillors and the new ward created by the merger of Manoah, Mt Lofty and Marble Hill wards have 7 Councillors

The name of the new ward created by the merger of Torrens Valley and Onkaparinga wards be Valleys ward and the name of the new ward created by the merger of Manoah, Mt Lofty and Marble Hill wards be Ranges ward.

Motion 3: Elector Representation Review – Representation Review Report Public Consultation.

Council resolves:

- 1. To approve the draft Representation Review Report at Appendix 2 of Agenda Item 14.5 of the Ordinary Council meeting of 22nd August 2017 for public consultation for a period of three (3) weeks, in compliance with the provisions of Section 12(9) of the Local Government Act 1999.**
- 2. To delegate to the Chief Executive Office the discretion to make any minor non-significant grammatical and/or content changes to the Representation Review Report for consultation purposes**
- 3. To delegate to the Chief Executive Office the discretion to determine the final consultation dates subject to media and Government Gazette publication dates, indicatively 14th September 2017 – 6th October 2017.**
- 4. To determine to hold a Special Council meeting on 10th October 2017 to be the opportunity for persons who made written submissions, or their representative, to be heard in relation to the submission in accordance with Section 12(10) of the Local Government Act 1999.**

2. BACKGROUND

Nil provided.

3. OFFICER'S RESPONSE – Lachlan Miller, Executive Manager Governance & Performance

Background

A fulsome summary of the history of the Council's current Representation Review process up to May 2017 can be found in Item 14.4 Elector Representation Review – Status and Options Paper in the 23 May 2017 Ordinary Council Meeting agenda (note: this is available on Council's website).

Since May 2017 Council has considered two reports regarding the Elector Representation Review, these are the 9 August 2017 report on the outcomes of the Options Paper consultation and 22 August 2017 report (see **Attachment 1**) in which a draft Representation Review Report ('no wards' Report) was provided for approval for public consultation.

In considering Item 14.5 at the 22 August 2017 meeting, Council Members identified a number of revisions to the draft 'no wards' Report. Further, additional commentary on revisions has been received from Council Members since the meeting. These are the types of changes that could be made under the recommended delegation to the CEO to make any non-significant grammatical and/or content changes for consultation purposes. These revisions included:

- Page 2 - third paragraph - amend wording to clarify that the ward structure with the current ward boundaries cannot be retained.
- Page 4 – fourth paragraph – provide analysis on the geographic distribution of the responses.
- Pages 8 and 17 – replace 2014 Marble Hill Ward election result example with the 2006 Manoah Ward example in which an unsuccessful candidate received more first preference votes than most of the other ward quotas and a number of the candidates elected in other wards.
- Throughout the report - change numerical references to response numbers from words to numbers (i.e. five hundred and sixty-two to 562) where the numbers are greater than single figures.
- Page 11 – last paragraph – clarify that all members participating in the deliberations had been provided with and considered the information presented.

In consideration of Item 14.5, Council resolved as follows:

Moved Cr Andrew Stratford 184/17
S/- Cr Malcolm Herrmann

Council resolves:

1. That the report be received and noted.
2. That a Representation Review Report be drafted as soon as practicable for the Council's consideration at a future Council meeting with the following representation arrangements:
 1. Presiding Member to be Elected Mayor
 2. A total number of 12 councillors
 3. Wards be retained as follows
 - a. The Council area is divided into 4 wards
 - b. The ward boundaries be as in Option 2 in the Adelaide Hills Council Representation Options Paper - May 2017 except for the following
 - i. Castambul and Montacute be in Ward 2
 - ii Upper Sturt be in Ward 4
 - c. The councillors per ward be 3 as in Option 2 Adelaide Hills Council Representation Options Paper - May 2017
 - d. Ward names to be North, South, East and West

Procedural Motion

Moved Cr Jan-Claire Wisdom 183/17
S/- Cr John Kemp

That the Motion be put.

Carried

The Motion was put.

Carried

On the basis of resolution 184/17, Council's consultant, Craig Rowe, was commissioned to prepare the new Representation Review Report (the 'four wards' Report).

Analysis

Motion on Notice (MON) - Motion 1 seeks to rescind Council's resolution to prepare the 'four wards' Report. It should be noted that a body of work has already been undertaken in relation to the preparation of the 'four-wards' Report and, if the motion is resolved, this work will cease immediately.

If the motion is lost (and therefore resolution 184/17 is not rescinded), work will continue on the preparation of the 'four-wards' Report with a view to it being considered at a Special Council meeting (nominally 8 September) for approval for public consultation (nominally commencing 14 September). As such MON-Motions 2 and 3 cannot be considered.

MON – Motion 2 seeks the preparation of a Representation Review Report comprising representation arrangements including two (2) wards (the 'two wards' Report). If this motion is resolved:

- Council's consultant, Craig Rowe, will be commissioned to prepare the 'two wards' Report. Given the body of work undertaken to prepare the 'four-wards' Report, the drafting of the 'two-wards' Report will be expedited due to the commonality of proposed content (although the elector number analysis will need to be recalculated on the proposed two ward scenario).

- The resultant report will be considered at a Special Council meeting (nominally 8 or 11 September) for approval for public consultation (nominally commencing 14 September).

If MON-Motion 2 is resolved, MON-Motion 3 cannot be considered, as doing so would effectively be rescinding the effect of MON-Motion 2.

MON – Motion 3 seeks to approve the ‘no wards’ Report for public consultation. If this motion is resolved (noting that Motion 2 and Motion 3 are mutually exclusive):

- With the draft Report already completed and only requiring minor amendments such as (but not limited to) those identified in the background section, endeavours will be made to place the required public notices as soon as practicable.
- Consultation could indicatively be conducted from 7 September – 29 September 2017, noting that MON – Motion 3 does provide for delegation to be provided to the CEO to determine the final dates subject to print media publication dates.

Irrespective of which proposal is taken to the Representation Review Report consultation, two matters that were not discussed at the 22 August 2017 Ordinary Council meeting but have since been clarified with the Electoral Commissioner are:

1. When AHC prepared the notices for the (second) Options Paper consultation, the Commissioner requested that the wording *‘Please note that due to a technical failure, Council is required to restart the review process’* go into the notice text.

Advice from the Electoral Commission is that the Electoral Commissioner does not require this wording to be included in the public notices advertising the Representation Review Report. Nevertheless for the purposes of completeness (and for any interested persons who did not see the corresponding notice for the Options Paper consultation) the wording will be retained.

2. When the Representation Options Paper consultation was undertaken as part of the resumed Review process (1 June – 14 July 2017), the public notices advised that *‘All submissions previously received from the community in respect to the previous Representation Options Paper (dated August 2016) remain valid and will be reconsidered by Council during any further deliberations (i.e. previous respondents are not required to submit another submission unless they wish to do so, in which case the latest submission will supersede the initial submission)’*.

Advice from the Electoral Commission is that it is Council’s decision which submissions to include after the second round of public consultation.

If MON-Motion 3 is resolved, given that both Representation Review Reports (December 2016 and current) contain a ‘no wards’ proposal, it is proposed that the previous submissions will be considered valid and reconsidered by Council and therefore equivalent wording regarding the validity of previous submissions will be used in the public notices.

If however MON – Motion 2 is resolved (or Council progresses with the ‘four wards’ Report), as the respective Representation Review Report contains a different proposal and content to the previous Representation Review Report (dated December 2016), it is

proposed that the previous submissions will not be brought forward into the forthcoming Representation Review Report consultation (i.e. for a submission to be valid it must be received during the consultation period) and therefore the public notices will not contain a similar reference to previous submissions as the above Options Paper public notice.

Next Steps

Depending on the outcome of Council's consideration in relation to the MONs, indicative timelines have been prepared for the balance of the Elector Representation Review process and are at **Attachment 2**.

Following the public consultation period, Council must provide the opportunity for any person who made a written submission in response, during the consultation period, an opportunity to appear personally or by representative before the council or a council committee and to be heard on those submissions (s12(10)).

The meeting date and the representation opportunity will be included in the public consultation pack to the community.

Upon considering both the submissions received and representations made, Council will need to proceed with the finalisation of a report to the Electoral Commissioner. This report sets out the details of the process including copies of submissions received and evidence of process compliance.

On receipt of a report, the Electoral Commissioner must determine whether the requirements of this section have been satisfied and then (s12(13)):

- a) if of the opinion that the requirements have been satisfied—give an appropriate certificate, or
- b) if of the opinion that the requirements have not been satisfied—refer the matter back to the council together with a written explanation of the reasons for not giving a certificate under this subsection.

4. ATTACHMENTS

- (1) Elector Representation Review – Representation Review Report, Item 14.5, 22 August 2017 Ordinary Council Meeting
- (2) Elector Representation Review – Indicative Timeframes – September 2017

**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2017
63 MT BARKER ROAD STIRLING**

In Attendance:

Presiding Member: Mayor Bill Spragg

Members:

Councillor	Ward
Councillor Ron Nelson Councillor Jan-Claire Wisdom	Manoah
Councillor Ian Bailey Councillor Jan Loveday	Marble Hill
Councillor Kirrilee Boyd Councillor Nathan Daniell Councillor John Kemp	Mt Lofty
Councillor Val Hall Councillor Lynton Vonow Councillor Andrew Stratford	Onkaparinga Valley
Councillor Linda Green Councillor Malcolm Herrmann	Torrens Valley

In Attendance:

Andrew Aitken	Chief Executive Officer
Lachlan Miller	Executive Manager Governance & Performance

1. COMMENCEMENT

The special council meeting commenced at 6.35pm.

2. APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

2.1. Apology

Nil

ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2017
63 MT BARKER ROAD STIRLING

2.2. Leave of Absence
Nil

2.3. Absent
Nil

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE
Nil

4. BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Rescission of Resolution 184/17 of 22 August 2017 – Motion 1

Moved Cr Jan-Claire Wisdom
S/- Cr John Kemp

197/17

Council resolves:

To rescind the following elements of resolution 184/17:

That a Representation Review Report be drafted as soon as practicable for the Council's consideration at a future Council meeting with the following representation arrangements:

Presiding Member to be Elected Mayor

A total number of 12 councillors

Wards be retained as follows

- a. *The Council area is divided into 4 wards*
- b. *The ward boundaries be as in Option 2 in the Adelaide Hills Council Representation Options Paper - May 2017 except for the following*
 - i. *Castambul and Montacute be in Ward 2*
 - ii *Upper Sturt be in Ward 4*
- c. *The councillors per ward be 3 as in Option 2 Adelaide Hills Council Representation Options Paper - May 2017*
- d. *Ward names to be North, South, East and West*

CARRIED ON CASTING VOTE OF THE MAYOR

**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2017
63 MT BARKER ROAD STIRLING**

DIVISION

Cr Ian Bailey called for a division.

The Mayor set aside his ruling.

In the affirmative (7)

Councillors Boyd, Kemp, Vonow, Loveday, Daniell, Wisdom, Mayor Spragg

In the negative (6)

Councillors Stratford, Hall, Herrmann, Green, Nelson, Bailey

On the basis of the results of the division, the Mayor declared the motion **CARRIED**.

7.31pm Cr Val Hall left the Chamber

Elector Representation Review – Representation Review Report Preparation – Motion 2

Moved Cr Jan-Claire Wisdom

S/- Cr Linda Green

Council resolves:

That a Representation Review Report be drafted as soon as practicable for the Council's consideration at a future Council meeting with the following representation arrangements:

- Presiding Member to be Elected Mayor
- A total number of 12 councillors
- Wards be retained as follows

The Council area is divided into 2 wards.

The wards be created by merging the existing Torrens Valley and Onkaparinga Valley wards into one ward and the existing Manoah, Mt Lofty and Marble Hill wards into a second ward.

The new ward created by the merger of Torrens Valley and Onkaparinga Valley wards have 5 Councillors and the new ward created by the merger of Manoah, Mt Lofty and Marble Hill wards have 7 Councillors.

The name of the new ward created by the merger of Torrens Valley and Onkaparinga wards be Valleys ward and the name of the new ward created by the merger of Manoah, Mt Lofty and Marble Hill wards be Ranges ward.

7.40pm Cr Val Hall returned to the Chamber

LOST

**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2017
63 MT BARKER ROAD STIRLING**

DIVISION

Cr Linda Green called for a division.

The Mayor set aside his ruling.

In the affirmative (5)

Councillors Boyd, Hall, Herrmann, Green, Wisdom.

In the negative (7)

Councillors Kemp, Daniell, Vonow, Stratford, Loveday, Nelson, Bailey

On the basis of the results of the division, the Mayor declared the motion LOST.

Elector Representation Review – Representation Review Report Public Consultation - Motion 3

Moved Cr Jan-Claire Wisdom

S/- Cr Lynton Vonow

Council resolves:

1. To approve the draft Representation Review Report at Appendix 2 of Agenda Item 14.5 of the Ordinary Council meeting of 22nd August 2017 for public consultation for a period of three (3) weeks, in compliance with the provisions of Section 12(9) of the Local Government Act 1999.
2. To delegate to the Chief Executive Office the discretion to make any minor non-significant grammatical and/or content changes to the Representation Review Report for consultation purposes
3. To delegate to the Chief Executive Office the discretion to determine the final consultation dates subject to media and Government Gazette publication dates, indicatively 14th September 2017 – 6th October 2017.
4. To determine to hold a Special Council meeting on 10th October 2017 to be the opportunity for persons who made written submissions, or their representative, to be heard in relation to the submission in accordance with Section 12(10) of the Local Government Act 1999.

LOST

ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2017
63 MT BARKER ROAD STIRLING

Moved Cr Jan-Claire Wisdom
S/- Cr Kirrilee Boyd

198/17

Council resolves:

That a Representation Review Report be drafted as soon as practicable for the Council's consideration at a future Council meeting with the following representation arrangements:

- Presiding Member to be Elected Mayor
- A total number of 12 councillors
- Wards be retained as follows

The Council area is divided into 2 wards.

The wards be created by merging the existing Torrens Valley and Onkaparinga Valley wards into one ward and the existing Manoah, Mt Lofty and Marble Hill wards into a second ward.

The new ward created by the merger of Torrens Valley and Onkaparinga Valley wards to have 5 Councillors and the new ward created by the merger of Manoah, Mt Lofty and Marble Hill wards to have 7 Councillors.

The name of the new ward created by the merger of Torrens Valley and Onkaparinga wards be Valleys ward and the name of the new ward created by the merger of Manoah, Mt Lofty and Marble Hill wards be Ranges ward.

CARRIED

DIVISION

Cr Jan-Claire Wisdom called for a division.

The Mayor set aside his ruling.

In the affirmative (9)
Councillors Boyd, Kemp, Daniell, Hall, Herrmann, Green, Loveday, Nelson, Wisdom

In the negative (3)
Councillors Stratford, Bailey, Vonow

On the basis of the results of the division, the Mayor declared the motion **CARRIED**.

5. CLOSE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

The meeting closed at 8.33pm.

APPENDIX AD

Representation Review Report
11 September, 2017



Adelaide Hills
COUNCIL

Representation Review Report

Prepared in accordance with
Section 12(8a) of the Local Government Act 1999

September 2017

Prepared for the Adelaide Hills Council by C L Rowe and Associates Pty Ltd, September 2017 (Version 1)

Disclaimer

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Contents

1.	Introduction	2
2.	Background	3
3.	Public Consultation	5
3.1	Community Response	5
3.2	Key Community Issues	9
3.2.1	Wards provide direct/local representation	
3.2.2	Ward provide fair representation	
3.2.3	More populous areas could dominate Council under no wards	
3.2.4	Wards provide a voice for smaller communities/towns	
3.2.5	Diversity in communities requires wards	
3.2.6	Ward councillors have empathy with local constituents and local issues	
3.2.7	Wards discourage/prevent party politics	
3.2.8	"No wards" can allow single interest groups to gain control of Council	
3.2.9	Wards reduce election/supplementary election costs	
3.2.10	Existing ward structure is not broken (works well)	
3.2.11	Cost of campaigning	
3.2.12	Greater choice of candidates	
4.	Proposal	16
5.	Proposal Rationale	18
5.1	Composition	18
5.1.1	Principal Member	
5.1.2	Number of Councillors	
5.1.3	Area Councillors (in addition to ward councillors)	
5.2	Structure	22
5.2.1	Wards/No wards	
5.2.2	Preferred Ward Structure	
5.2.3	Ward Identification	
6.	Legislative Requirements	25
6.1	Quota	25
6.2	Communities of Interest	25
6.3	Topography	26
6.4	Feasibility of Communication	26
6.5	Demographic Trends	26
6.6	Adequate and Fair Representation	27
6.7	Section 26, Local Government Act 1999	27
7.	Current Public Consultation	29
	Attachments	

1. Introduction

Section 12(3) of the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Act) indicates that the purpose of an "elector representation review" is to determine whether its community would benefit from an alteration to Council's composition or ward structure. In addition, Section 12(4) of the Act requires Council to ensure that all aspects of its composition, and the issue of the division, or potential division, of the area of the council into wards, are comprehensively reviewed under this section at least once in each relevant period that is prescribed by the regulations.

The Adelaide Hills Council undertook an elector representation review during the period June 2016 - April 2017; however, the Electoral Commissioner ultimately determined that the requirements of Section 12 of the Act had not been satisfied, specifically in relation to Council's interpretation of the parties that were eligible to make submissions during the public consultation stages. On the basis of this determination, the Commissioner did not certify Council's final review report. The Commissioner did not identify any other concerns with the conduct of the review process. Accordingly, to ensure that no interested person has been denied the opportunity to provide a submission, Council agreed to resume the review and initiate further consultation with the community.

The review resumed in May 2017 and has progressed to the point where the first of the two prescribed public consultation stages has been completed. Council has given due consideration to all matters relevant to the review and the submissions which were received during the latest public consultation period; and has determined ("in principle") the changes it proposes in respect to its future size, composition and structure.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 12 (8a) of the Act. It:

- provides information on the most recent public consultation undertaken by Council and Council's response to the issues raised within the submissions received;
- sets out the proposal that Council considers should be carried into effect; and
- presents an analysis of how Council's proposal relates to the relevant provisions and principles of the Act.

The key issues that need to be addressed during the review include:

- the principal member of Council, more specifically whether it should be a mayor elected by the community or a chairperson selected by (and from amongst) the elected members;
- the composition of Council, including the number of elected members required to provide fair and adequate representation to the community and the need for area councillors in addition to ward councillors (where the Council area is to be divided into wards);
- the division of the Council area into wards or the abolition of wards; and
- if wards are to be retained, the level of ward representation within, and the names of, any future proposed wards.

2. Background

Council currently comprises an elected mayor and twelve ward councillors; and the Council area is divided into five wards (refer Map 1), with two wards each being represented by three councillors and the remaining three wards each being represented by two councillors. This structure, which was adopted by Council during the elector representation review that was undertaken in 2008/2009, came into effect at the 2010 Local Government elections.

Table 1 provides data pertaining to the number of electors within each of the current wards and demonstrates the variance between the ward elector ratios and the elector ratio for the Council area.

Table 1: Elector data per ward and variance to quota

Ward	Councillors	HOA Roll	Council Roll	Total Electors	Ratio	% Variance
Manoah	2	4,852	4	4,856	1:2,428	+ 1.36
Mt Lofty	3	7,910	25	7,935	1:2,645	+10.42
Marble Hill	2	4,309	13	4,322	1:2,161	- 9.79
Torrens Valley	2	4,966	5	4,971	1:2,486	+ 3.76
Onkaparinga Valley	3	6,636	26	6,662	1:2,221	- 7.30
Total	12	28,673	73	28,746		
Average					1:2,396	

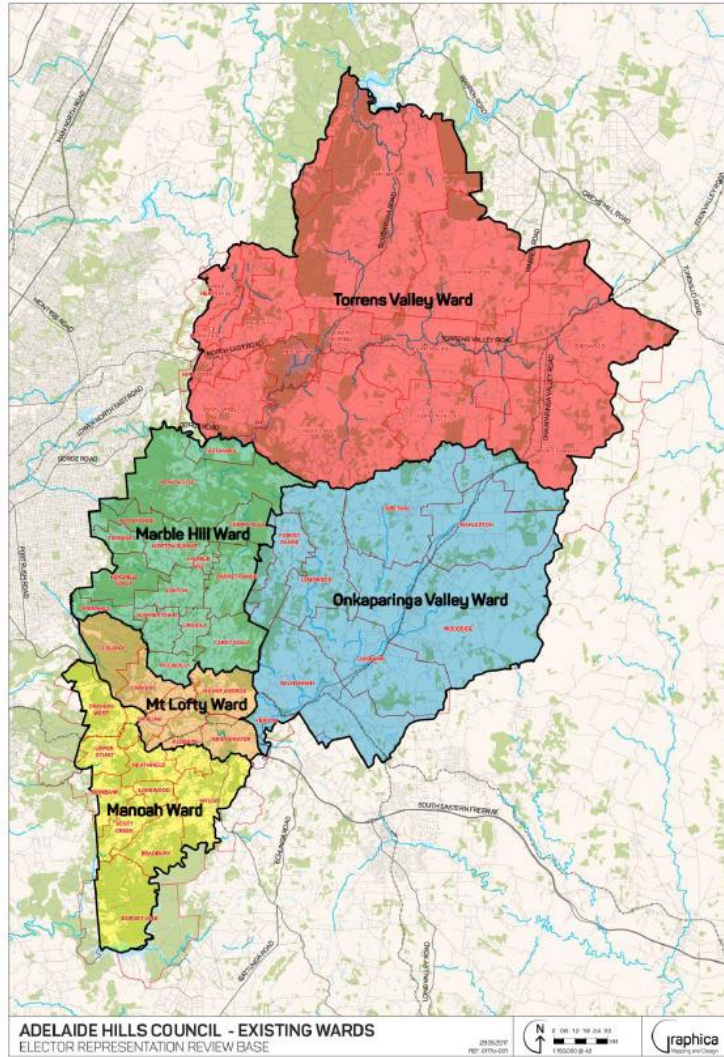
Source: Electoral Commission SA (July 2017)

The current ward structure cannot be retained with its current boundaries because the elector ratio (i.e. the average number of electors represented by a councillor) in the existing Mount Lofty Ward currently exceeds the specified +10% quota tolerance limit prescribed under Section 33(2) of the Act (refer 6.1 Quota). In addition, there is doubt that the existing Marble Hill Ward can remain "in tolerance" over an extended period of time, given that the elector ratio therein is currently very close to breaching the specified quota variance limit (-10%).

Council recommenced its elector representation review in late May 2017 and completed the first of the prescribed consultation periods on Friday 14th July 2017. 537 submissions were received during the latest consultation period, as well as two petitions. In addition, as advised by Council in its public notices, the 61 submissions which were received during the initial round of public consultation undertaken from 31st August – 14th October 2016 were considered to be valid. Of these submissions, 23 had made submissions during the initial consultation stage and, as such, were superseded by subsequent (more recent) submissions.

At a special meeting of Council held on Monday 4th September 2017, and following considerable deliberation of all matters relevant to the review, Council resolved to retain its current composition but amend the ward structure.

Map 1: Current ward structure



3. Public Consultation

3.1 Community Response

The latest public consultation commenced on Tuesday 30th May 2017 with the publishing of a public notice in the Government Gazette, and this was followed by the publishing of notices in "The Courier" newspaper on Wednesday 31st May 2017, the "Adelaide Hills Weekender Herald" newspaper on Thursday 1st June 2017; and "The Courier" newspaper on Wednesday 7th June 2017.

In addition, the public consultation process included:

- promotion of the review on the Council website (with a link to the documents and on-line survey);
- the display of roadside banners at various locations throughout the Council area;
- the provision of the Representation Options Paper and associated documents at the Council offices at Woodside, Stirling and Gumeracha, as well as at The Summit Community Centre at Norton Summit and in Council's mobile library; and
- promotion of the review on social media (i.e. Facebook and Twitter).

At the expiration of the public consultation period (i.e. close of business on Friday 14th July 2017) Council had received 537 submissions. In addition, Council already had 61 submissions which were received during the initial round of public consultation undertaken from 31st August – 14th October 2016. In respect to these submissions, it is noted that the public notices published during the latest round of public consultation specifically advised that:

"all submissions previously received from the community in respect to the previous Representation Options Paper (dated August 2016) remain valid and will be reconsidered by Council during any further deliberations (i.e. previous respondents are not required to submit another submission unless they wish to do so, in which case the latest submission will supersede the initial submission)".

Council also received two petitions (five pages in total) which supported a ward structure comprising 3 or 5 wards (with a preference for five wards). These petitions comprised 78 co-signatories and have been accepted as 2 submissions, as reported to Council on the 25th July 2017. At least 10 of the petition co-signatories also made individual submissions.

Given the above, Council effectively received 600 submissions. Of these submissions:

- 12 of the latest 537 submissions were duplicates made by persons who had already made a submission and, as such, were rejected;
- 23 of the latest 537 submissions were received from persons who had made submissions during the initial public consultation round in September/October 2016 and, as such, their latest submission superseded their initial submission (as per the advice provided in the public notice); and
- 3 were anonymous and these were not accepted because there was no way of determining whether the respondents had made more than one submission.

Based on the aforementioned adjustments, it was determined that Council had received 562 valid submissions, the majority of which were received from respondents residing in the Torrens Valley Ward (60.3%), followed by Onkaparinga Valley Ward (13.2%), Marble Hill Ward (8.4%), Manoah Ward (6.0%) and Mount Lofty Ward (4.8%).

A summary of the submissions has been provided in Attachment 1. Please note, for privacy reasons the names of all respondents have been withheld.

The receipt of 562 valid submissions is a significant response from the community, including a number of interested persons who reside outside of the Council area. Council values the submissions made by the community and has taken the opinions expressed therein into account when making its "in principle" decisions regarding the proposed future composition and structure of Council. However, it should be noted that the public consultation undertaken by Council was not a formal ballot or a poll. As such, the responses received were taken into account by Council but there is no legislative requirement that binds Council to act in accord with the opinions expressed therein.

Council recognises that 562 valid submissions is a very good response from a community, however, it also is aware that these responses only came from a very small proportion of the community (approximately 1.4%) which comprises a total population of approximately 40,000 residents. Notwithstanding this, the submissions received did provide Council with reasonable insight into the views and opinions of a significant number of community members in regards to the key issues of the principal member; wards/no wards; and elected member numbers.

The following tables provide details of the support demonstrated by the community (during the recent public consultation) for the various composition and ward structure issues.

Table 2: Preferred principal member

Preferred Principal Member	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Mayor (selected by the community)	436	77.58
Chairperson (selected by councillors)	98	17.44
Both	1	0.18
No response	27	4.80
Total	562	100

Table 3: Wards/No Wards

Wards/No Wards	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Retain wards	533	94.84
Abolish wards	24	4.27
No response	5	0.89
Total	562	100

Table 4: Preferred number of wards

Preferred No. of Wards	No. of Respondents	Percentage
0*	1	0.18
2	2	0.36
3	26	4.63
4	37	6.58
5	437	77.76
6	1	0.18
3 or 5	9	1.60
4 or as is	1	0.18
5 or more	1	0.18
Blank or no stated preference	47	8.36
Total	562	100

* Denotes not included in the number of submissions supporting no wards, even though it has a similar effect.

Table 5: Preferred number of councillors

Preferred No. of Members	No. of Respondents	Percentage
5	2	0.36
7	1	0.18
8	12	2.14
9	8	1.42
10	90	16.01
11	22	3.91
12	390	69.39
13	3	0.53
14	1	0.18
11 or 10	1	0.18
12 or 9	3	0.53
12 or more	1	0.18
Blank/no stated preference	22	3.92
Other	6	1.07
Total	562	100

In brief, it is noted that:

- a clear majority of the respondents (77.58%) favoured the retention of a mayor (elected by the community);
- a clear majority of the respondents (94.84%) supported the retention of wards;
- there was strong support (77.76%) for the retention of a five ward structure, whilst the four and three ward options receiving moderate levels of support (i.e. 6.58% and 4.63% respectively); and
- there was also strong support (69.39%) for the retention of twelve councillors, whilst there was 16.01% support for a reduction to ten councillors and 3.91% support for a reduction to eleven councillors.

As for the issue of ward names, there was a significant response in favour of retaining the current ward names. A list of alternative ward names, as proposed by the respondents, is provided in Attachment 2.

3.2 Key Community Issues

The individual submissions received contained many comments. The following issues are considered to be the most prevalent raised by the respondents.

3.2.1 Wards provide direct/local representation

The Council area comprises 55 or more long-established township, settlement and district communities; as well as significant (but in some areas sparsely populated) rural sector. This aspect of the community within the Adelaide Hills Council makes the achievement of local or direct representation of all existing or perceived communities of interest to be a difficult exercise, given the legislative prerequisite to provide fair, reasonable and equitable representation.

The objective of the division of a Council area into wards is primarily to obtain an equitable distribution of electors between the wards, in keeping with the democratic principle of *"one person, one vote, one value"*. Ideally, wards also contain areas of like character and/or topography, and are represented (where possible) by persons/candidates who are aware of, and share, the interests, concerns and aspirations of the local community. Unfortunately, as the Act does not require candidates in ward elections to reside within the ward that they aspire to represent, the objective of a community to achieve "local" representation is not guaranteed under a ward structure.

Wards provide the eligible electors within the ward a choice of candidates from whom they can select their "preferred candidates". Not all "preferred candidates" are elected, but those who are successful are directly accountable to the people who elected them. This creates an undeniable link between the ward councillors and the eligible electors within the local community/ward. However, this link does not ensure the strength and/or quality of representation to be delivered by a councillor to each and every "community of interest" and/or individual community member within the ward. The same link between elected members and individual electors is achieved under the "no wards" structure; and the same frailties in elector representation can also occur under a "no wards" structure.

Indeed, direct representation of "communities of interest" within a ward structure can only be guaranteed under circumstances when the relevant "community of interest" is numerically large enough (in terms of electors) to nominate a candidate and to provide sufficient support thereto (i.e. votes) to ensure the candidate is elected. Under the proportional representation system of voting in Local Government, the "no wards" structure can provide small "communities of interest" with a reasonable chance of having a direct representative (depending on voter turnout), given that the "community of Interest" can call upon support from across the whole of the Council area (and therefore a larger elector base). This can be more difficult for a small community of interest under a ward structure, simply because wards contain fewer electors from whom support (at the ballot box) must be gained.

3.2.2 Wards provide fair representation

There is a perception that wards provide fair representation because the Act demands similarity in elector ratios between wards; and a ward is guaranteed of representation by a specific number of councillors who are elected by, and are accountable to, the electors within the ward.

The opposing view is that wards are unfair because smaller interest groups within a ward generally are unable to attract sufficient support from the small number of electors within an individual ward, yet overall may attract sufficient support from the community as a whole (through a "no ward" structure) to achieve at least one like-minded representative on Council.

Further, the "no ward" structure affords each and every eligible elector within the Council area the opportunity to vote for all of the future members of Council. This provides a degree of fairness across the board, given that:

- the individual members of the community are able to vote for any candidate, rather than being restricted in choice to the specific ward candidates;
- the most supported candidates across the Council area are generally elected; and
- the peculiarities of a ward-based election are avoided.

In respect to the latter point, a review of the 2006 election results for the then Manoah Ward revealed that the losing candidate (of three ward councillor candidates) attracted more first preference votes than what was required to achieve the prescribed "quota" in three of the other four wards, yet was defeated. Further, the same candidate (after the distribution of preferences) achieved the prescribed "quota" in all of the other four wards. Effectively, the candidate lost the election in the Manoah ward but polled more votes than four councillors who were elected in the other wards. This result does not appear to be fair for the candidate and/or the significant number of electors who expressed their support for the candidate.

3.2.3 More populous areas could dominate Council under "no wards"

The elector ratio (i.e. the average number of electors represented by a councillor) is the same for the Council area, regardless of whether the Council area is divided into wards or not.

Under a ward structure, the equitable distribution of electors between wards is maintained by the provisions of Section 33(2) of the Act which requires that, under a ward structure, the number of electors represented by a councillor within a ward must not vary from the "quota" (i.e. the elector ratio for the whole of the Council area) by more than 10%. This provision of the Act essentially establishes the primary criteria for the development of a ward structure as being the need to divide the Council area into wards which exhibit either an equitable number of electors between wards or similar elector ratios in each ward.

Under the aforementioned legislative arrangement, a ward structure will always exhibit more wards and/or greater elected member representation within and around the more populous areas. The proposed ward structure is an example of this.

The more populated areas are to be contained within the proposed Ranges Ward, which is to be represented by 7 ward councillors, whereas the less populated rural areas of the Council are to be included in the proposed Valleys Ward, which is to be represented by 5 ward councillors. This arrangement could be perceived as favouring a portion of the community through the provision of greater voting power on Council. However, in effect the arrangement provides an equitable level of ward representation based simply on elector distribution and the requirement for comparable ward elector ratios.

In respect to the latter, it should be noted that, under the proposed ward structure, the elector ratios within the two proposed wards are similar (i.e. 1:2,445 in the proposed Ranges Ward, as opposed to 1:2,327 in the proposed Valleys Ward).

Under the "no ward" scenario, the voting patterns and votes cast would likely be very similar (in terms of numbers and preferences), but the overall result would not be influenced or restricted by arbitrary ward boundaries. Notwithstanding this, individual communities would have no greater or less "voting capacity" under a ward structure than a "no ward" structure, and vice versa.

For example, under the Proportional Representation Voting System, the "quota" for election is calculated by the total number of formal votes divided by the (number of candidates to be elected + 1) + 1 (disregarding any remainder or fraction). Based on the 2014 election voter turnout (35%) for the Adelaide Hills Council, it can be suggested with some confidence that the voting power within the existing wards would have no greater influence under a "no ward" structure. Essentially, the voting power within each of the existing wards could not have returned any greater number of councillors under a "no ward" structure (refer Table 6).

Table 6: Potential election outcome, Adelaide Hills Council (no wards –v- wards)

Ward	Councillors	Current Electors	Electors (35% turnout)	Electoral Quota (Disregard fraction)
Manoah	2	4,856	1,700	2.2
Mount Lofty	3	7,935	2,777	3.6
Marble Hill	2	4,319	1,513	2.0
Torrens Valley	2	4,971	1,740	2.3
Onkaparinga Valley	3	6,662	2,332	3.0
Total	12			12
Estimated electoral quota *				766

Source: Electoral Commission SA (July 2017)

* Denotes estimated electoral quota based on current elector data and 35% voter turnout

3.2.4 Wards provide a voice for smaller communities/towns

The information provided under "3.2.1 Wards provide direct/local representation" is relevant to this issue.

In addition it is noted that Section 59 of the Act outlines the roles of the elected members of Council. These include representing the interests of residents and ratepayers; providing community leadership and guidance; and facilitating communication between the community and the Council. The Act does not differentiate between ward councillors or area councillors. This being the case, all elected members, whether they be the principal member, a ward councillor or an area councillor, provide a communication conduit between Council and the local community and represent all communities of interest across the Council area.

3.2.5 Diversity in community requires wards

Council acknowledges that the diversity within the community of the Adelaide Hills Council occurs across the whole of the Council area and within each of the smaller communities; and accepts that the everyday needs and demands of the various communities may differ significantly. For example, the issues affecting the large rural area/sector may differ from those of the residents within the long established townships and the urban development in the western part of the Council area.

The election of councillors under both a ward structure and a "no ward" structure afford electors the opportunity to vote for candidates who exhibit the diversity in experience, interest and skill set which they are seeking, and/or may best suit their locality and/or the local issues of concern. In fact, a "no ward" structure may provide a greater pool of candidates than would a ward structure.

For example, at the 2014 election, a total of 26 candidates stood for the 12 vacant ward councillor positions. Under a "no ward" scenario, each and every elector within the Council area would have been afforded the opportunity to examine the credentials of each candidate and vote for those 12 candidates who best suited the prerequisites of the elector. This may have been beneficial, or alternatively it could have been an onerous chore given the situation whereby many of the candidates are unknown to the electors.

By contrast, under the proposed ward structure, the "pool" of candidates within the two proposed wards may still be considerable (i.e. greater than the 5 and 7 ward vacancies), but will likely be less than what would be the case under a council-wide election (i.e. under a "no ward" structure). Obviously, the greater the number of candidates; the greater the diversity in qualifications, experience, knowledge and skill sets of the candidates, the greater the likelihood that electors will be able to find a candidate (or candidates) with whom they have a degree of commonality.

3.2.6 Ward councillors have empathy with local constituents and local issues

Section 59 of the Act identifies the role of a councillor. In part it states *"to represent the interests of residents and ratepayers, to provide community leadership and guidance, and to facilitate communication between the community and the council."* This is a requirement of all councillors, whether they represent a ward or the Council area as a whole.

In theory, "local" ward councillors should have empathy with the local community and the demands, concerns and needs thereof, however, this cannot be guaranteed. The Act does not require a ward councillor to reside in the ward that he/she represents. Indeed, at the date of the 2014 election within the Adelaide Hills Council there were 4 ward councillors who do not reside within the ward which they were elected to represent. This does not mean that the residents within the wards are not being provided with appropriate/quality representation because one or more of the ward councillors reside elsewhere within the Council area.

Given the above, there can be no certainty that a ward councillor (or councillors) will have greater understanding of local issues and/or a greater relationship with the local community than would a councillor (or councillors) elected under a "no ward" structure. However, under the proposed ward structure which proposes two larger wards represented by 5 or 7 ward councillors, there is a greater likelihood that the ward councillors will be "local" to the ward.

3.2.7 Wards discourage/prevent party politics

This assertion cannot be substantiated, nor can the affects (if any) upon the quality of representation provided by a councillor (ward or area) due to personal affiliation to a particular political party.

There are clearly examples of councils within South Australia which comprise elected members who have obvious affiliations with political parties. The City of Charles Sturt, which is divided into eight wards, is an example of this situation.

It is interesting to note that persons elected to councils in New South Wales have long had to declare political affiliations. A review of Electoral Commission data for New South Wales indicates that councillors with declared affiliations to political parties were elected in many councils, whether the council was located within the metropolitan area or a region, and despite the fact that the council was divided into wards, or not.

Of further interest is the fact that the City of Brisbane, which is divided into 26 wards, is heavily influenced by party politics, given that the three major political parties in the nation endorsed candidates in all of 26 wards at the 2016 Local Government election.

3.2.8 "No wards" can allow single interest groups to gain control of Council

A "single-interest" group can only gain control of a council under circumstances where the community has duly elected a number of candidates representing the "single interest" group. Potentially, this could occur under a ward structure and/or a "no ward" structure.

3.2.9 Wards reduce election/supplementary election costs

The cost of conducting Council elections can vary, depending upon the structure of Council and the number of candidates.

Under a ward structure there is the potential to save the cost of conducting periodic (general) ward elections under circumstances whereby the number of candidates in a ward is equal to the number of vacant councillor positions (i.e. the ward election is "uncontested"). Notwithstanding this, council-wide elections may still have to be conducted in those Councils which have an elected mayor as its principal member, and the mayoral position is being contested. Under these circumstances there can be no cost saving to Council.

Under the "no wards" scenario, periodic elections will be conducted on a council-wide basis at full cost to Council, unless the number of candidates is equal to the number of vacant positions.

In regards to "supplementary elections" (or by-elections as they are known) due to the loss of a councillor, under a ward structure a supplementary election has to be conducted in the relevant ward (if the vacant position is contested). If the vacancy relates to the position of mayor (elected by the community), a full council-wide election has to be conducted if the vacancy is being contested.

However, if a vacancy occurs for an area councillor under a "no ward" structure, the Council may be able to "carry" the vacancy until the next periodic election, should Council have an appropriate policy in place which allows for this course of action. Otherwise, any contested election to replace a councillor or elected mayor has to be conducted on a council-wide basis.

3.2.10 Existing ward structure is not broken (works well).

Section 12(4) of the Act states: *"A review may relate to a specific aspect of the composition of the council, or of the wards of the council, or may relate to those matters generally—but a council must ensure that all aspects of the composition of the council, and the issue of the division, or potential division, of the area of the council into wards, are comprehensively reviewed under this section at least once in each relevant period that is prescribed by the regulations."*

As such, Council is obliged to consider possible changes to its composition and structure; and to determine whether changes thereto will (in Council's opinion) be of benefit to the community.

As previously stated, the current ward cannot be retained with its current boundaries because the elector ratio in the existing Mount Lofty Ward exceeds the specified quota tolerance limit prescribed under Section 33(2) of the Act; and the elector ratio in the existing Marble Hill Ward is also close to breaching the specified quota variance limit. Notwithstanding this, an option considered by Council was to realign the existing ward boundaries with the aim of achieving a more equitable distribution of electors between wards which, in turn, would rectify the aforementioned problems with the quota tolerance limits.

Whilst the "in principle" decision to support a new two ward structure was not a unanimous decision of Council, it was the position held by an absolute majority of the elected members, all of whom actively participated in the deliberations and had been provided with (and considered) all of the relevant information presented over the course of the review. Primarily the proposed ward structure was supported because it:

- was a reasonable compromise between the wards/no wards alternatives;
- provides a logical division of the Council area based on land use and topography;
- maintains a level of direct representation to all parts of the Council area;
- may serve to overcome ward centric attitudes; and
- affords electors a greater choice of potential ward councillors.

3.2.11 Cost of campaigning

Under a ward structure a ward councillor candidate need only focus his/her campaign on the relevant ward, whereas under a "no ward" structure area councillor candidates (like mayoral candidates) may have to campaign across a larger portion of the Council area (requiring a greater commitment of time and resources), although such candidates can determine the extent of campaigning that is required to attract a sufficient number of votes to be elected.

In addition, candidates in Local Government elections are afforded the opportunity to disseminate limited (maximum of 150 words) campaign statements/profiles with the formal ballot documents which are posted to all electors by the Electoral Commission.

3.2.12 Greater choice of candidates

Given that the proposed wards are to be represented by 5 and 7 ward councillors, electors will be afforded a greater choice of candidates. Put simply, the greater the pool of candidates, the greater the likelihood of diversity in the candidate's skill sets, opinions and experience. Further, the greater the number of vacant ward councillor positions and candidates, the greater the chance of an elector being represented by a person or persons of their choice.

The above may not occur under a ward structure which exhibits numerous smaller wards, each of which are represented by only a small number of ward councillors. Under these circumstances the choice of candidates within a ward can be limited; and electors can find themselves in a situation whereby they may prefer the candidates in other wards but are unable to vote for those individuals to represent them.

On the other hand, the no ward structure affords all electors the opportunity to vote for all of the vacant area councillor positions. For example, at the 2014 election, under a "no ward" structure, all of the electors within the Council area would have had the opportunity to vote for 12 of 26 candidates.

Further, under the "no wards" structure, all of the electors get to choice from the same substantial pool of candidates; the most supported candidates from across the Council area generally elected; and the electors will more likely be represented by someone, or a number of persons, that they voted for. The same benefits can be achieved, to a certain degree, under the proposed ward structure due to the increased levels of representation in the two wards.

4. Proposal

Having duly considered all relevant provisions of the Local Government Act 1999, the information and alternatives contained within the Representation Options Paper and the matters raised in the written submissions provided by interested members of the community, Council proposes the following in respect to its future composition and structure.

- The principal member of Council be a Mayor, elected by the community.
- The Council area be divided into two wards, as described hereinafter and depicted on Map 2.
- The proposed wards be identified as Ranges Ward and Valleys Ward.
- The future elected body of Council comprise twelve (12) ward councillors, with the proposed Ranges Ward be represented by seven (7) ward councillors and the proposed Valleys Ward be represented by five (5) ward councillors.

The proposed wards are described as follows.

Ranges Ward: Created by merging the existing Manoah, Mount Lofty and Marble Hill Wards into one ward comprising the districts/localities of Dorset Vale, Bradbury, Scott Creek, Ironbank, Longwood, Mylor, Bridgewater, Aldgate, Heathfield, Stirling, Upper Sturt, Belair, Crafers, Crafers West, Cleland, Piccadilly, Mount George, Carey Gully (part only), Uraidla, Summertown, Greenhill, Horsnell Gully, Ashton, Basket Range (part only), Marble Hill, Norton Summit, Teringie, Woodforde, Rostrevor, Montacute, Cherryville (part only) and Castambul.

Valleys Ward: Created by merging the existing Torrens Valley and Onkaparinga Valley Wards into one ward comprising the districts/localities of Verdun, Hahndorf, Balhannah, Hay Valley, Oakbank, Woodside, Lenswood, Carey Gully (part only), Basket Range (part only), Cherryville (part only), Forest Range, Lobethal, Charleston, Mount Torrens, Gumeracha, Cudlee Creek, Paracombe, Houghton, Lower Hermitage, Upper Hermitage, Inglewood, Millbrook, Chain of Ponds, Birdwood, Forrester, Kersbrook, Mount Crawford, Humbug Scrub and Cromer.

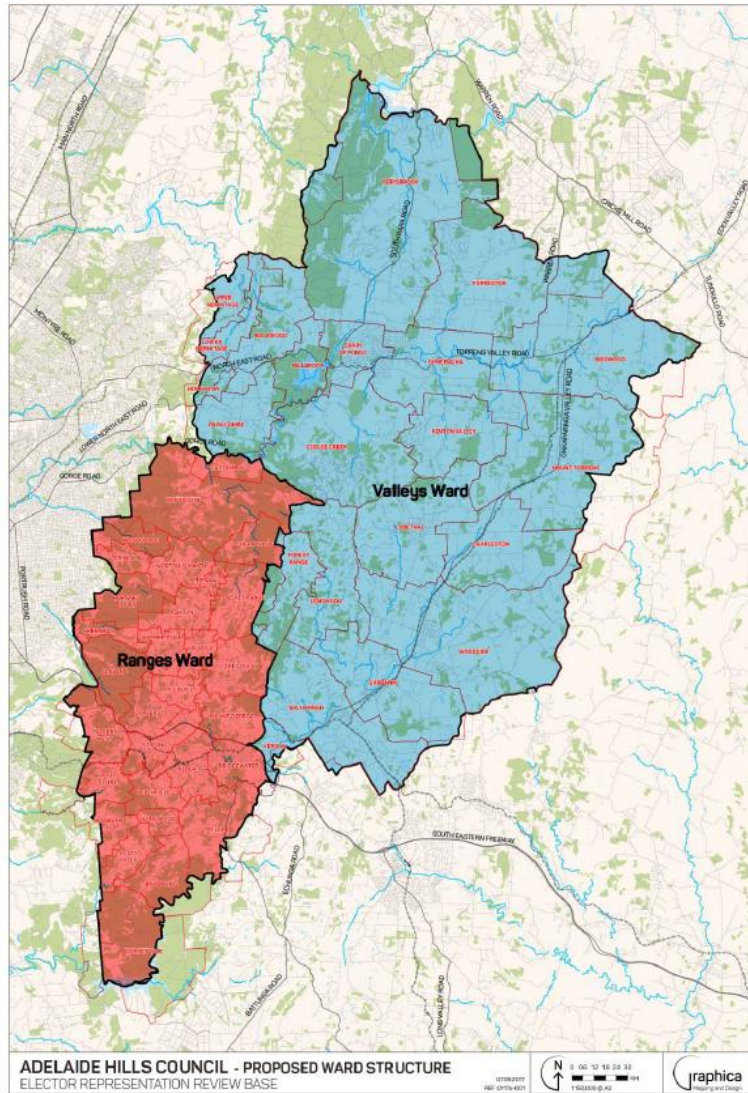
Table 7 provides the number of electors within each of the proposed wards; and demonstrates the variance between the elector ratios within the proposed wards and the current elector ratio for the Council area.

Table 7: Elector data per ward and variance to quota (Proposed ward structure)

Ward	Councillors	HOA Roll	Council Roll	Total Electors	Ratio	% Variance
Ranges	7	17,071	42	17,113	1:2,445	+ 2.05
Valleys	5	11,602	31	11,633	1:2,327	- 2.88
Total	12	28,673	73	28,746		
Average					1:2,396	

Source: Electoral Commission SA (July 2017)

Map 2: Proposed ward structure



5. Proposal Rationale

5.1 Composition

5.1.1 Principal Member

The principal member of Council has always been an elected Mayor.

Of the recent submissions, 436 (77.58%) favoured the retention of an elected mayor; 98 (17.44%) preferred a change to a chairperson; and 1 (0.18%) indicated support for both.

Council believes that:

- a mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy – choice;
- the election of a mayor affords all eligible members of the community the opportunity to express faith in a candidate, should they choose to do so, and provides Council with an identifiable principal member who is directly accountable to the community;
- the office of mayor has served the Adelaide Hills Council well over the years;
- little practical benefit will likely be achieved by changing to a chairperson at this time;
- the retention of an elected mayor as the principal member is consistent with the structure of all metropolitan Adelaide councils and all but sixteen regional councils;
- an elected mayor brings stability and continuity to the Council, given the four year term of office; and
- the retention of an elected mayor is consistent with the position supported by the majority of respondents during the initial public consultation.

Despite the fact that there has been some sentiment expressed by the community for change, it is considered that, on balance, the introduction of a chairperson will provide only a few benefits, including a likely reduction in the number of elected members (with associated cost savings); flexibility in the tenure of the principal member; the opportunity for a number of elected members to gain experience as the principal member during the four year term of the Council (and to bring their particular skill set and opinions to the position); and avoidance of the potential loss of high calibre candidates through the mayoral election process. On the downside, a chairperson is chosen by the elected members, thereby depriving all of the electors the opportunity to vote for the principal member of Council.

Finally, Council is aware that any proposal to have a chairperson rather than an elected mayor cannot proceed unless or until a poll of the community has been conducted in accordance with the requirements of Section 12 (11a-d) of the Local Government Act 1999 and the result of the poll clearly supports the proposed change.

Given that the Adelaide Hills Council has traditionally had an elected mayor as its principal member; nothing extraordinary has occurred within Council or the Council area to warrant a change to the way that the principal member is determined; and a mayor is democratically elected by the community as its principal representative (and is therefore accountable to the community), it is considered that there is no need for change at this time.

5.1.2 Number of Councillors

Of the 562 valid submissions, 390 (69.39%) favoured the retention of twelve councillors, whilst 90 (16.1%) supported a reduction to ten councillors and 22 (3.91%) supported a reduction to eleven councillors.

Council is aware that:

- the provisions of Sections 26 and 33 of the Local Government Act stipulate the need to ensure adequate and fair representation while at the same time avoiding over-representation in comparison to other councils of a similar size and type (at least in the longer term); and
- the provisions of Section 12(6) of the Local Government Act require a Council that is constituted of more than twelve members to examine the question of whether the number of elected members should be reduced; and

Table 8 provides the elector representation arrangement and elector data of a number of metropolitan councils which exhibit similar elector numbers to the Adelaide Hills Council, as well as the neighbouring Barossa Council and the Mount Barker District Council. No other outer metropolitan or regional councils have similar elector numbers. The data indicates that the composition and elector ratio of Council is generally consistent with the elector representation arrangements of the other cited councils; however, the Adelaide Hills Council covers a significantly greater area than most of the other councils.

Table 8: Elector data, representation and areas (Councils with similar elector numbers)

Council	Councillors	Electors	Ratio
Barossa Council (912km ²) *	11	17,428	1:1,584
Norwood Payneham St Peters (15.1 km ²)	13	25,267	1:1,944
Holdfast Bay (13.7 km ²)	12	27,610	1:2,301
Unley (14.3 km ²)	12	27,664	1:2,305
Mt Barker (595km ²)	10	23,429	1:2,343
Adelaide Hills (795.1km²)	12	28,746	1:2,396
Burnside (27.5 km ²)	12	31,841	1:2,653
Campbelltown (24.35 km ²)	10	34,929	1:3,493

Source: Electoral Commission SA (April and July 2017)

* Denotes no wards

The significant difference in the composition and elector ratios of councils becomes evident when the elector representation arrangements of the Adelaide Hills Council are compared to those of the larger of the metropolitan councils (refer Table 9).

Table 9: Elector data, representation and areas (Largest metropolitan councils)

Council	Councillors	Electors	Ratio
Adelaide Hills (795.1km²)	12	28,746	1:2,396
Mitcham (75.55 km ²)	13	48,043	1:3,696
Playford (344.9 km ²)	15	58,415	1:3,894
Port Adelaide/Enfield (97.0 km ²)	17	81,801	1:4,812
Charles Sturt (52.14 km ²)	16	82,203	1:5,138
Marion (55.5km ²)	12	63,598	1:5,300
Salisbury (158.1 km ²)	16	92,635	1:5,790
Tea Tree Gully (95.2 km ²)	12	72,676	1:6,056
Onkaparinga (518.4 km ²)	20	121,336	1:6,067

Source: Electoral Commission SA (April and July 2017)

It should also be noted that the Cities of Salisbury and Onkaparinga have recently completed elector representation reviews and have opted to reduce the levels of representation to 14 and 15 respectively, which will equate to elector ratios of 1:6,617 and 1:8,089.

When determining the appropriate number of councillors to provide fair and adequate representation, Council was mindful that:

- sufficient elected members must be available to manage the affairs of Council;
- the elected member's workloads should not become excessive;
- there is an appropriate level of elector representation;
- a diversity in member's skill sets, experience, expertise, opinions and backgrounds is maintained to ensure robust discussion amongst the elected members; and
- adequate lines of communication must exist between a growing community and Council.

Council is aware that a reduction in the number of elected members will result in some cost savings to Council (e.g. elected member's allowances alone are \$15,900 per annum per councillor) with any resulting savings being available for redirection to community projects and/or programs; and may serve to expedite the decision making process in Council. Further, it is acknowledged that enhanced communication and information technology also serves to reduce many difficulties previously experienced by elected members in respect to their day to day tasks and communication with both Council and the community. On the downside, whilst email communications can make the elected members more accessible to the community, they can increase the workloads of the elected members.

On the other hand, Council is mindful that:

- The Adelaide Hills Council covers a larger (approximately 795.1 km²), more diverse area than many of the metropolitan and outer-metropolitan councils;

- there are expectations of continuing population growth in the foreseeable future across the Council area, primarily as a result of the future redevelopment of the Magill reform school/training centre site at Woodforde for residential purposes, approved land divisions at Mount Torrens and Birdwood, enhanced residential development/redevelopment opportunities within the major townships of Lobethal, Oakbank, Woodside, Birdwood and Balhannah, and land division opportunities for smaller sized allotments (under specific circumstances) within the Country Living Zones in Stirling, Aldgate and Bridgewater;
- the diversity in the economy, land use and social demographics may require more attention from elected members and a broader skill set than other less diverse councils;
- the extent and timing of any of the anticipated future residential development (and resultant increase in elector numbers) is difficult to determine at this time; and
- the anticipated increase in the future population will likely result in greater elector numbers, higher elector ratios and potentially greater workloads for the elected members.

Council believes that it is important to maintain the quality and level of representation that has long been experienced and expected by the local community. As such, a reduction in the number of councillors at this time would be untenable, given that it will likely result in excessive workloads for the councillors which, in turn, may impact upon the quality of representation provided.

Given the aforementioned, Council has formed the opinion that a change in the number of councillors is not warranted at this time.

5.1.3 Area Councillors (in addition to ward councillors)

Section 52 of the Act indicates a councillor can be elected to represent the whole of the council area (i.e. an area councillor) or, if the council area is divided into wards, will be elected by the electors of a particular ward, as a representative of that ward (i.e. a ward councillor).

As a person elected to the council, a councillor is required to represent the interests of residents and ratepayers, to provide community leadership and guidance, and to facilitate communication between the community and the council.

Ward councillors generally consider themselves to represent not only their ward, but the Council area as a whole. This ostensibly negates the need for area councillors in addition to ward councillors, an assertion which is seemingly supported by the fact that only the City of Adelaide has a ward structure which incorporates two levels of representation. Further, it is noted that under such an arrangement area councillors hold no greater status than a ward councillor, have no greater responsibilities than a ward councillor, and need not comply with any extraordinary or additional eligibility requirements.

In addition, any contested election (and/or supplementary election) for area councillors must be conducted across the whole of the Council area, at a significant cost to Council.

Given the aforementioned, Council maintains the belief that area councillors (in addition to ward councillors) are an unwarranted, unnecessary and potentially costly additional tier of representation.

5.2 Structure

5.2.1 Wards/No Wards

The Adelaide Hills Council has always been divided into wards; and 533 (94.8%) of the submissions received by Council supported the retention of a ward structure, albeit in varying configurations.

Whilst support amongst the elected members of Council has been split between the retention/abolition of wards, it has been generally accepted that wards:

- guarantee direct representation of all areas and communities within the Council area;
- provide recognizable lines of communication with Council through the ward councillors; and
- ensure local interests and/or issues are not overlooked in favour of the bigger "council-wide" picture.

It is also considered that ward councillors generally have an affiliation with the community within their ward; ward councillors have an understanding of the issues and/or concerns of their constituents; and the existing ward councillors deliberate and make decisions on the basis of achieving the best outcomes for both their ward and the Council area as a whole.

Council acknowledges that the "no wards" alternative affords electors the opportunity to vote for all of the vacant positions on Council; allows for the most supported candidates from across the Council area to be elected; and enables the elected members to be free of ward centric attitudes. Notwithstanding this, Council is concerned that the "no wards" alternative:

- does not guarantee direct representation of all communities across the Council area;
- may make it easier for single interest candidates and/or groups to gain support (than does the existing ward based system);
- has the potential to make the task and expense of contesting council-wide elections difficult and excessive; and
- has the potential to increase the cost of conducting elections and supplementary elections, given that all contested elections must be conducted on a council-wide basis.

Having duly considered the aforementioned, Council has resolved "in principle" to retain a ward structure. Council believes that there are sound arguments to support this position; and is confident that, in the main, the community supports the division of the Council area into wards, and expects the level and quality of direct representation afforded by ward councillors.

5.2.2 Proposed Ward Structure

As previously stated, the existing ward structure cannot be retained with its current boundaries because the elector ratio in the existing Mount Lofty Ward exceeds the specified +10% quota tolerance limit prescribed under Section 33(2) of the Act. In addition, there is doubt that the existing Marble Hill Ward can remain "in tolerance", given that the elector ratio therein is also close to breaching the specified quota variance limit (-10%).

Of the submissions received, 437 (77.76%) favoured the retention of a five ward structure, with the remaining submissions favouring structures ranging from 2 to 6 wards.

Given the above, Council has had to identify an alternative ward structure, taking into account a number of factors including the character and topography of the area; the likely impacts upon existing "communities of interest"; the preferred level of ward representation and the total number of elected members; the anticipated significant future population/elector growth; the need for an equitable distribution of electors between wards; and the requirement that the elector ratios within all of the proposed wards will have to lay with the specified quota tolerance limits. In addition, the elected members have had to be mindful that there has been majority support amongst Council members throughout the review process for the abolition of wards.

The proposed two ward structure, as depicted in Map 1 (refer page 14), is favoured because it:

- is relatively simple in configuration;
- provides direct representation to the whole of the Council area, albeit in two parts/wards;
- is well balanced in regards to the distribution of electors between the proposed wards and the ward elector ratios (refer Table 7, page 14);
- has been developed to specifically reflect the urban/metropolitan orientation of the western parts of the Council area, as opposed to the rural character of the north and eastern parts of the Council area;
- is considered to be a reasonable compromise between the wards/no wards alternatives which have divided Council and the community during the course of the review;
- introduces a new ward structure which should breakdown old council and ward allegiances;
- allows for anticipated future growth in population and elector numbers in the western part of the Council area;
- exhibits ward elector ratios which all lay comfortably within the specified quota tolerance limits;
- creates two large wards (in terms of area and levels of representation) which are capable of sustaining large fluctuations in elector numbers (in comparison to the existing five wards which are presently represented by two or three councillors);
- proposes larger wards (in area) which incorporate areas of perceived common character and, as such, serve to consolidate existing "communities of interest"; and
- has increased levels of ward representation (i.e. five and seven councillors per ward) in comparison to the current ward structure, so as to:
 - ensure adequate and fair representation of the communities within the wards;
 - provide electors with a greater choice of ward councillor candidates;
 - provide sufficient opportunities for aspiring candidates for Council;

- provide an appropriate number of ward councillors to ensure continued representation within the ward (i.e. to cover absence by a ward councillor or councillors from time to time);
- maintain a reasonable and manageable workload for the ward councillors; and
- provide a more cohesive arrangement whereby the deliberations of a greater number of ward representatives should serve to provide balanced viewpoints and agreed local perspectives on issues before Council.

Further, Council considers the proposed ward boundary to be appropriate and acceptable, given that it aligns with existing ward boundaries which should be known and readily recognised by the community.

5.2.3 Ward Identification

Council received and noted a number of different suggestions regarding ward identification, including numbers, compass points, topographical and geographical references, names with Indigenous and European heritage significance and fauna references.

Council has opted to identify the proposed wards as Ranges Ward and Valleys Ward (as depicted on Map 2, page 15). This means of ward identification is considered to be simple, and reflects the topographical location and features of the areas incorporated within the two proposed wards.

Council welcomes alternative suggestions for the identification of the proposed wards.

6. Legislative Requirements

The provisions of Sections 26(1)(c) and 33(1) of the Local Government Act 1999 require Council take into account, as far as practicable, the following when developing a proposal that relates to its composition and structure.

6.1 Quota

Section 33(2) of the Local Government Act 1999 states:

"A proposal that relates to the formation or alteration of wards of a council must also observe the principle that the number of electors represented by a councillor must not, as at the relevant date (assuming that the proposal were in operation), vary from the ward quota by more than 10 per cent..."

According to the provisions of Section 33(2a)(b), ward quota is determined to be:

"the number of electors for the area (as at the relevant date) divided by the number of councillors for the area who represent wards (assuming that the proposal were in operation and ignoring any fractions resulting from the division)."

The breakdown of elector data provided in Table 7 (page 14) indicates that the elector ratios in all of the proposed wards lay comfortably within the specified quota tolerance limits.

6.2 Communities of Interest

The Act speaks of the desirability of reflecting communities of interest of an economic, social, regional or other kind.

"Communities of interest" have previously been defined as "aspects of the physical, economic and social systems which are central to the interactions of communities in their living environment", and are generally identified by considering factors relevant thereto, including neighbourhood communities; history and heritage communities; sporting facilities; community support services; recreation and leisure communities; retail and shopping centres; work communities; primary production communities; retirees; industrial and economic development clusters; and environmental and geographic interests.

As indicated earlier, the perceived communities of interest vary across the Council area as a whole, and within the smaller existing wards. For example, Table 10 indicates the difference in the makeup or "communities of interest" within the existing wards, based on the primary land uses therein.

Table 10: Variation in land uses/"communities of interest" (Current ward structure)

Ward	Residential land use (%)	Primary production land use (%)
Manoah	79	9
Marble Hill	72	17
Mount Lofty	86	2
Torrens Valley	48	40
Onkaparinga Valley	64	22

Source: Adelaide Hills Council

Quite simply, people living within a particular area and/or district may not have similar interests, needs or concerns as the other residents within close proximity, let alone elsewhere within the Council area. As such, the task of finding candidates/councillors who have comparable interests, needs and/or concerns can prove to be extremely difficult. This being the case, the true interests of a community of interest may not be reflected in the person(s) elected by that community to represent their best interests on Council.

Further, Council considers that there are numerous communities of interest within the Council area, including but not limited to the fifty-five or more long-established township, settlement and district communities. The current distribution pattern of electors throughout the Council area, and in particular the concentration of elector numbers within the major townships, makes it particularly difficult to divide the Council area into wards on a rational and equitable basis without dissecting some of these existing communities.

The proposed two ward structure minimises potential impact upon, and the division of, existing communities of interest, by aligning the proposed boundary with long existing ward boundaries which should be known and accepted by the community, and may (in part) serve to foster community spirit and create a greater sense of unification between the various sectors within the community.

6.3 Topography

The Council area is 795.1 km² in area; extends from Mount Bold Reservoir in the south to the South Para Reservoir in the north and from the Hills Face escarpment in the west to the eastern escarpment of the Mount Lofty Ranges; and primarily comprises rural landscape, undulating hills' farming land uses and 55 or more township, settlement and/or district communities. Council acknowledges that the topography and travel distances can at times have some effect upon an elected member's ability to attend to the requirements and/or demands of the community, and has consequently given due consideration to the impacts of the topography during the review process.

Council's proposes to reduce the number of wards to two, the boundary between which will serve to delineate an equitable distribution of elector numbers and take into account the general topography and the physical features within the Council area. Effectively, the proposed ward structure will establish the Ranges Ward, which will incorporate the communities within the western or more urban part of the Council area; and the Valleys Ward which will comprise the less populated rural land to the east and north of the Council area.

6.4 Feasibility of Communication

Council believes that the retention of the existing level of representation will continue to provide adequate and proven lines of communication between the elected members of Council and the community, taking into account the anticipated future growth in elector numbers.

6.5 Demographic Trends

Council is aware that there is the potential for an increase in elector numbers throughout the Council area in the foreseeable future, primarily as a consequence of new and/or on-going residential development. However, the extent and timing of such is difficult to determine with any certainty.

During the process of identifying its preferred future composition and structure, Council took into account the following information.

- The future redevelopment of the Magill reform school/training centre site at Woodforde for residential purposes could realise an additional 280 - 400 dwellings.
- An approved land division at Mount Torrens will create an additional 40 residential allotments.
- An approved land division at Birdwood will also create up to 40 additional residential allotments.
- Council's Township and Urban Areas Development Plan Amendment will afford more residential development opportunities (through the introduction of smaller allotments) within the major townships of Lobethal, Oakbank, Woodside, Birdwood and Balhannah; as well as allow land division opportunities for smaller sized allotments (under specific circumstances) within the Country Living Zones (Stirling, Aldgate and Bridgewater).
- Population projections provided by the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI), as at February 2016, indicate that the population of the Adelaide Hills Council is expected to increase by 748 (i.e. 40,436 to 41,184) or 1.85% during the period 2016 - 2021; and increase by a further 817 (i.e. 41,184 to 42,001) or 1.98% during the period 2021 - 2026.
- Enrolments on the House of Assembly Roll within the Adelaide Hills Council increased by 1,533 (5.78%) during February 2001 to February 2008; increased by a further 600 (2.14%) during February 2008 to February 2011; but increased by one elector during February 2011 to July 2017.
- Australian Bureau of Statistics data (3218.0 Regional Population Growth, estimates as at 27th July 2017) for the Adelaide Hills (DC) Local Government Area indicates that the estimated total population of the Council area increased by 1,229 (3.36%) during 2001 to 2006; increased by a further 534 (1.36%) during 2006 to 2011; then decreased by 174 (0.44%) during the 2011 to 2016.

6.6 Adequate and Fair Representation

For the reasons espoused earlier, Council is confident that its proposed future composition will continue to provide an adequate number of elected members to manage the affairs of Council; provide an appropriate level of elector representation; maintain an appropriate diversity in the skill set, experience and expertise of the elected members; and present adequate lines of communication between the community and Council.

6.7 Section 26, Local Government Act 1999

Section 26(1) of the Act requires that a number of broader Principles also be taken into account during the review process. These are similar in nature to those presented under Section 33, and include:

- the desirability of avoiding significant divisions within the community;
- proposed changes should, wherever practicable, benefit ratepayers;
- a Council having a sufficient resource base to fulfil its functions fairly, effectively and efficiently;
- a Council should reflect communities of interest of an economic, recreational, social, regional or other kind, and be consistent with community structures, values, expectations and aspirations; and

- residents should receive adequate and fair representation within the local government system, while over-representation in comparison with Councils of a similar size and type should be avoided (at least in the longer term).

The structure being proposed by Council is considered to comply with the cited legislative provisions, in that it will:

- incorporate sufficient elected members to undertake the various roles and responsibilities of Council;
- avoids divisions within the community by retaining a ward structure (as was the desire of the majority of community respondents) and through the introduction of a new ward structure which proposes 2 wards as a replacement for the current 5 ward structure;
- have little if any detrimental impact upon the ratepayers and/or existing communities of interest;
- continue to provide adequate and fair representation to all electors; and
- compare favourably with the composition and elector ratios of other Councils (both within South Australia and interstate) which are of a similar size (in terms of elector numbers) and type.

7. Current Public Consultation

In accordance with Section 12(9) of the Local Government Act 1999, interested persons are invited to make a written submission to Council in respect to this report, and more specifically the composition and structure that Council proposes to introduce on the day of the Local Government elections in 2018. Any person who makes a written submission at this time will be afforded the opportunity to address Council or a committee thereof, either in person or by a representative, in support of their submission.

Interested persons are invited to make a written submission expressing their views on the proposed future Council composition and structure. Council's website (ahc.sa.gov.au) contains additional information and options for making submissions. Submissions are to be received by 5.00pm on the Friday 6th October 2017 and should be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, PO Box 44, Woodside 5244 or emailed to mail@ahc.sa.gov.au.

Further information regarding the elector representation review can be obtained by contacting Lachlan Miller, Executive Manager Governance and Performance, on telephone 8408 0400 or email mail@ahc.sa.gov.au.

APPENDIX AE

Council Agenda & Minutes
11 September, 2017

**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
Monday 11 September 2017
AGENDA BUSINESS ITEM**

Item:	4.2
Originating Officer:	Lachlan Miller, Executive Manager Governance & Performance
Responsible Director:	Terry Crackett, Director Corporate Services
Subject:	Elector Representation Review – Draft Representation Review Report for Public Consultation
For:	Decision

SUMMARY

An Elector Representation Review is held to examine fundamental aspects of a Council's composition and ward structure. It is a formal process that is closely regulated under the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Act) and is required to be conducted at least every eight years.

At its 23 May 2017 Ordinary Meeting, Council resolved to resume the Elector Representation Review following the Electoral Commissioner advising that he would not be certifying Council's Final Representation Review Report issued in March 2017.

At the 4 September 2017 Special Meeting, Council resolved to develop a draft Representation Review Report with the following representation arrangements: an elected Mayor, 12 councillors and the Council area to be divided into 2 wards, the first ward comprising of an amalgamation of the Torrens Valley and Onkaparinga Valley wards to be named the Valleys Ward and having 5 councillors and the second ward comprising of an amalgamation of the Marble Hill, Mount Lofty and Manoah wards to be named Ranges Ward and having 7 councillors.

The purpose of this agenda item is twofold, firstly for Council to receive and consider the draft Representation Review Report at **Appendix 1** and, secondly, to resolve to approve the Report for public consultation.

RECOMMENDATION

Council resolves:

- 1. That the report be received and noted.**
- 2. To approve the draft Representation Review Report at Appendix 1 (including the ancillary appendices) for public consultation for a period not less than three (3) weeks, in compliance with the provisions of Section 12(9) of the *Local Government Act 1999*.**

3. **To delegate to the Chief Executive Officer the discretion to make any non-significant grammatical and/or content changes to the draft Representation Review Report for consultation purposes.**
 4. **To delegate to the Chief Executive Officer the discretion to determine the final consultation dates subject to media publication dates, indicatively 14 September 2017 – 6 October 2017.**
-

1. GOVERNANCE

➤ Strategic Management Plan/Council Policy

Goal	Organisational Sustainability
Strategy	Governance

The representation arrangements for the elected Council are an important element of Council's commitment to open and transparent decision making which facilitates public accountability.

➤ Legal Implications

Legislative requirements regarding an Elector Representation Review are laid out in Division 2 *Powers of councils and representation reviews*, section 12 of the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Act) and the *Local Government (General) Regulations 1999* (the Regulations).

Of specific relevance to this stage of the Representation Review process are ss12(8a) & (9):

- (8a) The council must, at the conclusion of the public consultation undertaken under subsection (7)(a), prepare a report that—
- (a) provides information on the public consultation and the council's response to the issues arising from the submissions made as part of that process; and
 - (b) sets out—
 - (i) any proposal that the council considers should be carried into effect under this section; and
 - (ii) in respect of any such proposal—an analysis of how the proposal relates to the principles under section 26(1)(c) and the matters referred to in section 33 (to the extent that may be relevant); and
 - (c) insofar as a decision of the council is not to adopt any change under consideration as part of the representation options paper or the public consultation process—sets out the reasons for the council's decision.
- (9) The council must—
- (a) make copies of its report available for public inspection at the principal office of the council; and
 - (b) by public notice—
 - (i) inform the public of the preparation of the report and its availability; and
 - (ii) invite interested persons to make written submissions to the council on the report within a period specified by the council (being a period of at least 3 weeks); and
 - (c) publish a copy of the notice in a newspaper circulating within its area.

Section 63 of the Act sets out the provisions regarding the Code of Conduct for Council Members, these provisions and the Adelaide Hills Council Behavioural Standards are contained in the Council Member Conduct Policy.

Section 73 of the Act sets out the provisions regarding Material Conflicts of Interest and Regulation 8AAA sets out the definitions of Ordinary Business Matters as they relate to s73.

➤ **Risk Management Implications**

Undertaking the Elector Representation Review in accordance with the requirements of legislation and engaging in genuine consultation will assist in mitigating the risk of:

Poor governance practices occur which lead to a loss of stakeholder (i.e. customer and regulator) confidence and/or legislative breaches.

Inherent Risk	Residual Risk	Target Risk
Extreme (5C)	Medium (3D)	Medium (3D)

Note that there are many other controls that assist in mitigating this risk.

➤ **Financial and Resource Implications**

Funding for the engagement of the consultant and other review costs for the 2017/18 year are covered by the Chief Executive Officer's provision. Costs associated with the 2016/17 year were specifically budgeted within the Governance & Risk portfolio.

In relation to staffing resources, acknowledging that staff members from various levels across the organisation have been involved in elements of the Review project, the project to date has consumed the estimated equivalent of 0.2FTE at Executive Manager level for the project duration.

➤ **Customer Service and Community/Cultural Implications**

Through the Elector Representation Review process Council will consider whether the Adelaide Hills community may benefit from an alteration to its composition and or ward structure.

➤ **Environmental Implications**

There are no direct environmental implications considered as part of the Elector Representation Review.

➤ **Engagement/Consultation with Committee, Regional Subsidiary, Advisory Group and Community**

The provision of information to the community and community consultation are key components of an Elector Representation Review.

Two distinct public consultation phases are legislated, with a minimum of one six (6) week period which allowed interested persons to make written submissions to Council on the Representation Options Paper under s12(7) of the Act and, the current matter, a minimum three (3) week consultation period enabling interested persons to make written submissions on the Representation Review Report under s12(9) of the Act.

The Representation Options Paper consultation occurred from 1 September to 14 October 2016 inclusive.

2. BACKGROUND

A fulsome summary of the history of the Council's current Representation Review process up to May 2017 can be found in Item 14.4 Elector Representation Review – Status and Options Paper in the 23 May 2017 Ordinary Council Meeting agenda (note: this is available on Council's website).

Since May 2017 Council has considered and resolved as follows in relation to the Elector Representation Review:

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 9 August 2017 | Special Meeting at which Council received the Options Paper Consultation Report and resolved for a Representation Review Report to be drafted with a 'no wards' proposal. |
| 22 August 2017 | Ordinary Meeting at which Council received the draft no wards Representation Review Report (the 'no wards report'). Council resolved for a new Representation Review report to be drafted with a '4 wards' proposal (the '4 wards report'). |
| 4 September 2017 | Special Meeting to consider three Motions on Notice. Council resolved to rescind the 22 August resolution to prepare the '4 wards report'. Council also resolved for a new Representation Review report to be drafted with a '2 wards' proposal (the '2 wards report'). |

The full minute of the resolution (198/17) to prepare the '2 wards report' is as follows:

Moved Cr Jan-Claire Wisdom
S/- Cr Kirrilee Boyd

198/17

Council resolves:

That a Representation Review Report be drafted as soon as practicable for the Council's consideration at a future Council meeting with the following representation arrangements:

- Presiding Member to be Elected Mayor
- A total number of 12 councillors
- Wards be retained as follows

The Council area is divided into 2 wards.

The wards be created by merging the existing Torrens Valley and Onkaparinga Valley wards into one ward and the existing Manoah, Mt Lofty and Marble Hill wards into a second ward.

The new ward created by the merger of Torrens Valley and Onkaparinga Valley wards to have 5 Councillors and the new ward created by the merger of Manoah, Mt Lofty and Marble Hill wards to have 7 Councillors.

The name of the new ward created by the merger of Torrens Valley and Onkaparinga wards be Valleys ward and the name of the new ward created by the merger of Manoah, Mt Lofty and Marble Hill wards be Ranges ward.

CARRIED

DIVISION

Cr Jan-Claire Wisdom called for a division.

The Mayor set aside his ruling.

In the affirmative (9)
Councillors Boyd, Kemp, Daniell, Hall, Herrmann, Green, Loveday, Nelson, Wisdom

In the negative (3)
Councillors Stratford, Bailey, Vonow

On the basis of the results of the division, the Mayor declared the motion CARRIED.

3. ANALYSIS

Representation Review Report

The next stage in the legislated process is the preparation and adoption of a Representation Review Report. The Report is required, under s12(8a) of the Act, to include:

- a) information on the (Representation Options) public consultation and the council's response to the issues arising from the submissions made; and
- b) any proposal that the council considers should be carried into effect including an analysis of how the proposal relates to the principles under s26(1)(c) and the matters referred to in s33.

The draft Representation Review Report, which incorporates Council's 4 September 2017 resolution (198/17) regarding the "in-principle" proposal is at **Appendix 1**. Note that the Report does not currently contain the summary of submissions or proposed ward names (as presented in Appendices in the Options Paper Consultation Report) and these will be attached to the draft Report upon finalisation for consultation.

To the extent still relevant given the different content of the report, comments received on the content of the previous draft 'no wards report' have been addressed in the attached draft Report.

Subject to Council's adoption of the Report for public consultation purposes, a minimum consultation period of 3 weeks is required under s12(9)9b)(ii) during which interested persons will be invited to make submissions to the Council in relation to the Report.

Proposed Public Consultation Campaign

The following campaign is proposed in relation to the Representation Review Report:

Duration (mandatory minimum 3 weeks):

Indicatively 14 September 2017 – 6 October 2017 inclusive (>3 weeks)

(Note: the consultation period may commence earlier subject to SA Gazette publication dates.)

Media:

- Government Gazette
- Courier and Weekender Herald
- Council website
- Council social media (Facebook, Twitter, Hills Voice, email lists)
- Roadside banners
- Material at libraries and service centres
- Public meetings (Gumeracha and Stirling)
- On-line digital engagement (including enabling electronic submissions)
- Council Members speaking with their constituents

As with the Representation Options Paper consultation, submissions will need to be in written form in either free form or a quick response sheet will be available to assist with ease of making a submission. The notices will be encouraging submissions from any interested persons in accordance with s12(9)(b)(ii).

Literature associated with the request for submissions will encourage the provision of the reasons **why** they support or not support the proposal. This will assist Council in its analysis of the submissions although it is entirely at the respondent's discretion as to the nature and content of their written submission.

In relation to the public notices the following matters have been clarified with the Electoral Commission:

1. When AHC prepared the notices for the (second) Options Paper consultation, the Commissioner requested that the wording *'Please note that due to a technical failure, Council is required to restart the review process'* go into the notice text.

Advice from the Electoral Commission is that the Commissioner does not require this wording to be included in the public notices advertising the Representation Review Report. Nevertheless for the purposes of completeness (and for any interested persons who did not see the corresponding notice for the Options Paper consultation) the wording will be slightly modified to *'Please note that due to a technical failure, Council resolved to restart the review process in May 2017'*.

2. When the Representation Options Paper consultation was undertaken as part of the resumed Review process (1 June – 14 July 2017), the public notices advised that *'All submissions previously received from the community in respect to the previous Representation Options Paper (dated August 2016) remain valid and will be reconsidered by Council during any further deliberations (i.e. previous respondents are not required to submit another submission unless they wish to do so, in which case the latest submission will supersede the initial submission)'*.

Advice from the Electoral Commission is that it is Council's decision which submissions to include after the second round of public consultation.

If Council resolves as per this report's recommendations, as the '2 wards' Representation Review Report contains a different proposal and different content to the previous 'no wards' Representation Review Report (dated December 2016), it is proposed that the previous submissions will not be brought forward into the forthcoming Representation Review Report consultation (i.e. for a submission to be valid it must be received during the consultation period) and therefore to provide clarity the public notices with contain the following wording *'Please note that previous submissions received in relation to the Elector Representation Review will not be considered in this consultation period. Persons seeking to have their views considered must lodge a written submission during this consultation period.'*

Council Member Conduct

A Representation Review is an important governance process in which Council Members have a Material Conflict of Interest in that they are deciding on representation arrangements that have the potential to result in direct benefits or detriment for Council Members. Notwithstanding this conflict, Representation Reviews are prescribed as ordinary business under the General Regulations and therefore the requirements of s74 (i.e. declaration of the interest and leaving the Chamber) do not apply. In short, all Council Members have a Material Conflict of Interest but they are not required to make a declaration and leave the Chamber.

Representation Reviews have proven to be contentious across the sector and, anecdotally, have resulted in some Council Members acting in a manner which breaches the requirements of the Act and Code of Conduct. The following provisions are provided as a reminder of the conduct required in relation to these Reviews:

- Council Members must at all times act honestly in the performance and discharge of official functions and duties (s62(1))
- Council Members must act in a way that generates community trust and confidence in the Council (Council Member Conduct Policy 2.2)
- Council Members must ensure that personal comments to the media or other public comments, on Council decisions and other matters, clearly indicate that it is a private view, and not that of the Council (Council Member Conduct Policy 2.5)
- Council Members must accept the responsibility associated with Council decisions and the collective decision making process (Council Member Conduct Policy AH3)
- Council Members must endeavour to provide accurate information to the Council and to the public at all times (Council Member Conduct Policy 2.8)

Next Steps

Following the public consultation period, Council must provide the opportunity for any person who made a written submission during the consultation period, an opportunity to appear personally or by representative before the council or a council committee and to be heard on those submissions (s12(10)).

It is proposed to convene a Special Council Meeting on 10 October 2017 to provide that opportunity. To this end, the meeting date and the representation opportunity will be included in the public consultation information to the community.

Council will need to proceed with the finalisation of a report to the Electoral Commissioner. This report sets out the details of the process including copies of submissions received and evidence of process compliance.

On receipt of a report, the Electoral Commissioner must determine whether the requirements of this section have been satisfied and then (s12(13)):

- a) if of the opinion that the requirements have been satisfied—give an appropriate certificate, or
- b) if of the opinion that the requirements have not been satisfied—refer the matter back to the council together with a written explanation of the reasons for not giving a certificate under this subsection.

A revised timeline has been prepared for the balance of the Elector Representation Review process and is at **Attachment 2**.

4. OPTIONS

The Council has the following options in relation the Elector Representation Review Report:

1. To resolve to approve the draft Representation Review Report in **Appendix 1** for public consultation (**Recommended**). Doing so would enable the Review process to continue in a timely manner. If minor changes to the report content are required, it is proposed that the Chief Executive Officer be delegated to make these changes in the finalisation of the document for consultation purposes; or
2. To determine not to approve the draft Representation Review Report in **Appendix 1** for public consultation at this time. Doing so would not enable the Review process to progress as planned as the release of the Report for public consultation is the next critical step. Such a delay would impact on the timelines of the Review.

5. APPENDICES

- (1) Draft Representation Review Report – September 2017
- (2) Elector Representation Review – Indicative Timeframes – v 1.3, 8 September 2017

**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2017
63 MT BARKER ROAD STIRLING**

In Attendance:

Presiding Member: Mayor Bill Spragg

Members:

Councillor	Ward
Councillor Ron Nelson Councillor Jan-Claire Wisdom	Manoah
Councillor Ian Bailey	Marble Hill
Councillor Kirrilee Boyd Councillor Nathan Daniell Councillor John Kemp	Mt Lofty
Councillor Val Hall Councillor Lynton Vonow Councillor Andrew Stratford	Onkaparinga Valley
Councillor Linda Green Councillor Malcolm Herrmann	Torrens Valley

In Attendance:

Andrew Aitken	Chief Executive Officer
Peter Bice	Director Engineering & Assets
Lachlan Miller	Executive Manager Governance & Performance
Pam Williams	Minute Secretary

1. COMMENCEMENT

The special council meeting commenced at 6.30pm.

2. APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

2.1. Apology

Cr Jan Loveday

**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2017
63 MT BARKER ROAD STIRLING**

2.2. **Leave of Absence**
Nil

2.3. **Absent**
Nil

3. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

4. **BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

4.1. **Public Forum**

Restricted to public addressing only the draft Elector Representation Review Report

Mr Joe Frank

The Mayor advised the Chamber that Ms Womersley is his Wife.

Ms Erica Womersley

4.2. **Elector Representation Review – Period of Public Consultation**

The Mayor considered that the motion related to the business of the special meeting and should not be considered as a Motion without Notice, and as such accepted the motion.

Moved Cr Malcolm Herrmann
S/- Cr Linda Green

199/17

That the advice from the Electoral Commission SA as read out by the Executive Manager Governance & Performance be included in the minutes:

“With regard to the new two ward proposal a Review Report and three week public consultation period will be sufficient.”

Carried Unanimously

ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2017
63 MT BARKER ROAD STIRLING

4.3. Elector Representation Review – Draft Representation Review Report for Public Consultation

Moved Cr John Kemp 200/17
S/- Cr Jan-Claire Wisdom

Council resolves:

1. That the report be received and noted.
2. To approve the draft Representation Review Report at Appendix 1 (including the ancillary appendices) for public consultation for a period not less than three (3) weeks, in compliance with the provisions of Section 12(9) of the Local Government Act 1999.
3. To delegate to the Chief Executive Officer the discretion to make any non-significant grammatical and/or content changes to the draft Representation Review Report for consultation purposes.
4. To delegate to the Chief Executive Officer the discretion to determine the final consultation dates subject to media publication dates, indicatively 14 September 2017 – 6 October 2017.

Carried

DIVISION

Cr Jan-Claire Wisdom called for a division.

The Mayor set aside his ruling.

In the affirmative (9)
Councillors Boyd, Kemp, Daniell, Vonow, Hall, Herrmann, Green, Nelson, Wisdom

In the negative (2)
Councillors Stratford, Bailey

On the basis of the results of the division, the Mayor declared the motion **CARRIED**.

5. **CLOSE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

The meeting closed at 7.33pm.

APPENDIX AF

Public Notice
SA Government Gazette
12 September, 2017

ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Review of Elector Representation

NOTICE is hereby given that the Council has undertaken a review to determine whether alterations are required in respect to elector representation, including ward boundaries and the composition of Council. Please note that due to a technical failure, Council resolved to restart the review process in May 2017.

Report

Council has prepared a Representation Review Report (dated September 2017) which details the review process, the public consultation undertaken and the proposal Council considers should be carried into effect. A copy of this report is available from the Council offices at 26 Onkaparinga Valley Road, Woodside, 63 Mount Barker Road, Stirling, and 45 Albert Street, Gumeracha, or at the Summit Community Centre, 4 The Crescent Drive, Norton Summit, or the Mobile Library (schedule on ahc.sa.gov.au) during office hours or on ahc.sa.gov.au.

Public Drop-In Meeting

Council will conduct drop-in meetings to allow members of the public to come and hear about Council's proposal, speak with Council Members about the proposal, obtain copies of the Representation Review Report and submission forms, and lodge submissions.

Details of these meetings will be available on ahc.sa.gov.au.

Written Submissions

Written submissions are invited from interested persons and should be directed to the Chief Executive Officer, PO Box 44, Woodside 5244, or mail@ahc.sa.gov.au to be received by close of business on Friday 6 October 2017.

Please note that previous submissions received in relation to the Elector Representation Review will not be considered in this consultation period. Persons seeking to have their views considered must lodge a written submission during this consultation period.

Any person(s) making a written submission is invited to appear before a Special Council meeting on 10 October 2017 to be heard in respect of their submission. Details of this meeting will be available on ahc.sa.gov.au.

Information regarding the elector representation review can be obtained by contacting Lachlan Miller, Executive Manager Governance and Performance, on (08) 8408 0400 or mail@ahc.sa.gov.au.

ANDREW AITKEN, Chief Executive Officer

ADELAIDE PLAINS COUNCIL

CLOSE OF NOMINATIONS

*Supplementary Election of Councillor for Lewiston Ward***Nominations Received**

AT the close of nominations at 12 noon on Thursday 7 September 2017 the following people were accepted as candidates and are listed in the order in which they will appear on the ballot paper.

Councillor for Lewiston Ward - 1 Vacancy

PARSONS, David
WASLEY, Mark N
PANELLA, Margherita
PARKER, Brian

Postal Voting

The election will be conducted by post. Ballot papers and pre-paid envelopes for each voting entitlement will be posted between Tuesday 19 September 2017 and Monday 25 September 2017 to every person, or designated person of a body corporate or group listed on the voters roll at roll close on Monday 31 July 2017. Voting is voluntary.

A person who has not received voting material by Monday 25 September 2017 and believes they are entitled to vote should contact the Deputy Returning Officer on 08 7424 7453.

Completed voting material must be returned to reach the Returning Officer no later than 12 noon on Monday 9 October 2017.

Ballot boxes will be provided at the Council's Principal Office, 2a Wasleys Road, Mallala, and the Two Wells Service Centre, Old Port Wakefield Road, Two Wells for electors wishing to hand deliver their completed voting material during office hours.

Vote Counting Location

The scrutiny and counting of votes will take place at the Mallala Council Chambers, Redbanks Road, Mallala as soon as practicable after 12 noon on Monday 9 October 2017. A provisional declaration will be made at the conclusion of the election count.

Campaign Donations Return

All candidates must forward a Campaign Donations Return to the Council Chief Executive Officer within 30 days after the conclusion of the election.

MICK SHERRY, Returning Officer

APPENDIX AG

Public Notice
"Mount Barker Courier"
13 September, 2017

BIRTHS**BIRTH****MASON**
(nee Fuller)

Tracey and Todd are thrilled to announce the arrival of Lucas Zac on September 8, 2017, 3.94kg. A little brother for Heath and Declan.

PERSONAL**PERSONAL NOTICE GUIDELINES**

Death notices will be accepted provided the main notices have appeared or can be verified with the funeral director managing the funeral arrangements. Engagement and Approaching Marriage notices require the signatures of both parties.

For further information please call 8391-1388.

THANKS**RETURN THANKS****Low FENDLER**

Joyce and family members wish to sincerely thank you for expressions of sympathy, flowers, cards, love and support given to us on the loss of our loved one.

Please accept this as our personal thanks.

DEATHS**DEATH****JACOB, Trevor Bartlett**

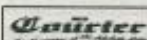
Loving husband of Margaret for 55 years. Loving father of Craig and partner Sibban.

Devoted Pa of Scott and Emily and friend of Carol.

Brother of Len (deceased) and Joy, Arthur, Gerry and Senya (deceased), Gordon and Barbara, Howard and Janet.

Privately cremated.

An informal gathering to celebrate Trevor's life will be held at the Hahndorf Football Club, Pine Avenue, Hahndorf on Friday, September 15, 2017 at 2 p.m.

Minge Funeral Pty Ltd
Murray Bridge 8531-1111

Messages for your loved one in The Courier can mean so much.

Ph: 8391 1388

DEATHS**DEATH****JACOB, Trevor**

Hahndorf Bowling Club members were saddened to learn of the death of Trevor Jacob, a Foundation Member, Life Member and former President of the club. As a bowler he was a determined competitor and the club's first Open Singles Champion. Off the green he was the driving force behind the installation of the artificial playing surface. A valued servant of the bowling and wider communities, he will be sadly missed.

DEATH**MAGOR, Raelene Joy**

Born on March 25, 1944. Died suddenly on September 4, 2017. Aged 73 years.

Beloved daughter of Joyce and Syd (dec.), sister and sister-in-law of Shirley and Trevor, Betty and Richard, Kerry and Geoff, Diane and Paul and families.

Forever in our hearts.

ADELAIDE HILLS FUNERALS
Rheims Family
Mount Barker 8398-2244
Accredited Member A.F.D.A.**DEATH****MAGOR, Raelene Joy**

Passed away suddenly on September 4, 2017.

Dearly loved daughter of Joyce and Syd (dec.). Raelene - you were more than a daughter to me, you were my friend and companion. I will love and miss you more than you will ever know. Forget you wasn't.

Mum and Scruff x x

DEATH**MAGOR, Raelene Joy**

Auntie Rita, more than just an auntie. Always loved and sadly missed.

Shazz and Ronnie

DEATH**MAGOR, Raelene**

Loving sister and sister-in-law of Kerry and Geoff.

Much loved auntie of Sharon and Ron, Michelle, Craig, Ryan and Emma; Peter, Amanda, Hannah, Sophia and Taylor; and Joanne.

Always in our hearts, never to be forgotten.

DEATH**SCHULTZ, Ian Harold**

Passed away peacefully of Aneurysm on September 9, 2017. Aged 78 years.

Husband of the late Peggy. Father of Andrew and Gavin.

Father-in-law of Junka.

Grandfather of Mia and Ellie.

Brother of Glen, Max, Mary, Neil and their families.

A determined spirit of wit. Ian's Funeral Service to be conducted at the Carr and Kleemann Funeral Chapel, 1 Morphett Street, Mount Barker, on Monday, September 18, 2017 at 10.30 a.m., followed by a Committal Service in the Summerdown Cemetery.

ADELAIDE HILLS FUNERALS
Rheims Family
Mount Barker 8398-2244
Accredited Member A.F.D.A.**DEATH****SCHULTZ, Ian Harold**

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PUBLIC NOTICES**ECHUNGA NETBALL CLUB**

Is actively seeking to field an A Grade in Mid Hills 2018 Competition.

Expressions of interest for Coaches - All Grades by September 24, 2017 to PO Box 106 Echunga 5153 or call 7101@netball.com

Interested Players - all grades and ages welcome

Contact: Carolyn 0404 898 471 or Raelene 0400 251 644

KANMANTOO-CALLINGTON COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (KCCCC)The next meeting of the KCCCC will be held on **Thursday 21 September 2017** from 7.30pm - 9.30pm at the Kanmantoo HallThis meeting will feature presentations and discussion on proposed projects as part of the Community Benefit Plan associated with the Kanmantoo Copper Mine's Mine Closure and Completion Plan. All members of the community are invited to participate. The full agenda, background paper and notes from previous meetings are available on the KCCCC webpage of the Hillgrove Resources website: <http://kcccc.hillgroveresources.com.au/> or call Susan Wilson on 8538 8800 for copies to be sent out.Bob Goreing
Independent Chairperson**DEATHS****DEATH****SIEMER, Robert Neil (Rob)**

Dearly loved husband of Signosine.

Loved father of Alexandra (Tootie), a z d Georgina (Georgie).

Loving papa of all his grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

Relatives and friends of Rob are invited to attend his Funeral Service to be held entirely in the Carlton Club, 145 Ballannah Road, Hahndorf, this Wednesday, September 13, 2017 at 2 p.m., followed by a private cremation.

ADELAIDE HILLS FUNERALS
Rheims Family
Mount Barker 8398-2244
Accredited Member A.F.D.A.**PUBLIC NOTICES****Ashton Community Memorial Hall****PUBLIC MEETING**

To be held on the premises to decide new committee members.

September 19
7.30 p.m.

Phone Betty 0480 212 911 for any other enquiries.

Been snapped by a Courier photographer? ... and it didn't appear in the paper! You can still get a copy of the photograph. Come in and select from our proof sheets. **PHONE 8391-1388 BE QUICK****PUBLIC NOTICES****ECHUNGA NETBALL CLUB**

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Contact: Carolyn 0404 898 471 or Raelene 0400 251 644

PUBLIC NOTICES**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL PUBLIC CONSULTATION**
Review of Elector Representation

NOTICE is hereby given that the Council has undertaken a review to determine whether alterations are required in respect to elector representation, including ward boundaries and the composition of Council. Please note that due to a technical failure, Council resolved to restart the review process in May 2017.

Report

Council has prepared a Representation Review Report (dated September 2017) which details the review process, the public consultation undertaken and the proposal Council considers should be carried into effect. A copy of this report is available from the Council offices, 26 Onkaparinga Valley Road, Woodside, 63 Mount Barker Road, Strling and 45 Albert Street, Gumeracha, or at the Summit Community Centre, 4 The Crescent Drive, Norton Summit or the Mobile Library (schedule on ahc.sa.gov.au) during office hours or on ahc.sa.gov.au.

Public Drop-in Meeting

Council will conduct drop-in meetings to allow members of the public to come and hear about Council's proposal, speak with Council Members about the proposal, obtain copies of the Representation Review Report and submission forms, and lodge submissions.

Details of these meetings will be available on ahc.sa.gov.au

Written Submissions

Written submissions are invited from interested persons and should be directed to the Chief Executive Officer, PO Box 44, Woodside 5244, or mail@ahc.sa.gov.au, to be received by close of business on Friday 6 October 2017.

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Information regarding the elector representation review can be obtained by contacting Lachlan Miller, Executive Manager Governance and Performance, on 8408-0400 or mail@ahc.sa.gov.au

Andrew Atkin
Chief Executive Officer
ahc.sa.gov.au**PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

Revocation of Community Land - Closed Road in RP 2016 being Allotment 1 in Filed Plan No. 252674 comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 6193 Folio 572 located in Mt Torrens running between Onkaparinga Valley Road and an unnamed Public Road.

Notice is hereby given pursuant to section 194 (2) of the Local Government Act 1995 that the Adelaide Hills Council proposes to revoke the community land classification of the closed road contained in Certificate of Title Volume 6193 Folio 572 to enable a portion of the land to be declared as public road and the balance of the land to re-vest in the Adelaide Hills Council as reserve.

Council has prepared a report regarding the proposed revocation that addresses the requirements under section 194 (2) of the Local Government Act 1995 and is available for inspection at the:

- Coventry Library, 63 Mount Barker Road, Strling
 - Woodside Service Centre, 26 Onkaparinga Valley Road, Woodside
 - Gumeracha Civic Centre, 45 Albert Street, Gumeracha
- Or on the Council's website ahc.sa.gov.au

Any person is entitled to object to the proposed revocation via a written submission. An objection must state whether the objector wishes to make a deputation to the Council in relation to the revocation process. The Council will give notification of a meeting at which the matter will be considered so the person making the deputation or a representative may attend, if so desired.

Interested persons are invited to review the Report and make written submissions regarding the proposal to revoke the community land classification of the subject land by 5.00pm on Thursday 12 October 2017.

Natalie Westover
Phone 8408-0546
ahc.sa.gov.au**NEED TO SELL SOMETHING?**
Put it in the Classifieds!
Call 8391-1388 before 10am Tuesdays.
AND NEED TO SELL IT NOW!?

APPENDIX AH

Public Notice
"The Weekender Herald"
14 September, 2017

BIRTHS

BIRTH
MASON
(nee Fuller)

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PERSONAL

PERSONAL NOTICE GUIDELINES

Death notices will be accepted provided the main notices have appeared or can be verified with the funeral director managing the funeral arrangements. Engagements and Approaching Marriage notices require the signatures of both parties.

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THANKS

RETURN THANKS
Lois FENDLER

Joyce and family members wish to sincerely thank you for expressions of sympathy. Flowers, cards, love and support given to us on the loss of our loved one. Please accept this as our personal thanks.

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JACOB, Trevor Bartlett

Loved husband of Margaret for 55 years. Loving father of Craig and partner Sibbhan. Devoted Pa of Scott and Emily and friend of Carol.

Brother of Len (deceased) and Joy, Arthur, Garry and Sonya (deceased), Gordon and Barbara, Howard and Janet.

Privately cremated. An informal gathering to celebrate Trevor's life will be held at the Hahndorf Football Club, Pine Avenue, Hahndorf on Friday, September 15, 2017 at 2 p.m.

Minge Funeral Pty Ltd. Murray Bridge 8531-1111



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Ph: 8391 1388

DEATHS

DEATH
JACOB, Trevor

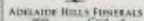
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MAGOR, Raelene Joy

Born on March 22, 1944. Died suddenly on September 4, 2017. Aged 73 years.

Beloved daughter of Joyce and Syd (dec.), sister and sister-in-law of Shirley and Trevor, Betty and Richard, Kerry and Geoff, Diane and Paul and families.

Forever in our hearts.



ADELAIDE HILLS FUNERALS
Raelene Family
Mount Barker 8398-2244
Accredited Member A.F.D.A.

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Dearly loved daughter of Joyce and Syd (dec.).

Believe - you were more than a daughter to me, you were my friend and companion. I will love and miss you more than you will ever know, for you meant so much.

Mum and Scruff xx

DEATH
MAGOR, Rae

Auntie Rae, more than just an auntie. Always loved and sadly missed.

Shazz and Ronnie

DEATHS

DEATH
MAGOR, Raelene

Loving sister and sister-in-law of Kerry and Geoff.

Much loved auntie of Sharon and Ron, Michelle, Craig, Ryan and Emma; Peter, Amanda, Hannah, Sophie and Taylor; and Joanne.

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A determined spirit of wit.

Jan's Funeral Service to be conducted at the Carr and Kleemann Funeral Chapel, 1 Morpeth Street, Mount Barker, on Monday, September 18, 2017 at 10.30 a.m., followed by a Committal Service in the Stummarinen Cemetery.



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Raelene Family
Mount Barker 8398-2244
Accredited Member A.F.D.A.

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DEATHS



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Interested Players - all grades and ages welcome

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This meeting will feature presentations and discussion on proposed projects as part of the Community Benefit Plan associated with the Kanmantoo Copper Mine's 'Mine Closure and Completion Plan'.

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Bob Gareing
Independent Chairperson

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Loved father of Alexandra (Tottie), and Georgina (Georgie).

Loving papa of all his grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

Relatives and friends of Rob are invited to attend his Funeral Service to be held entirely in the Carlon Club, 145 Balhannah Road, Hahndorf, this Wednesday, September 23, 2017 at 2 p.m., followed by a private cremation.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

Ashton Community Memorial Hall

PUBLIC MEETING

To be held on the premises to decide new committee members. **September 19 7.30 p.m.**

Phone Betty 0400 212 911 for any other enquiries.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL PUBLIC CONSULTATION Review of Director Appointments

NOTICE is hereby given that the Council has undertaken a review to determine whether alterations are required in respect to director representation, including ward boundaries and the composition of Council. Please note that due to a technical failure, Council resolved to restart the review process in May 2017.

Report

Council has prepared a Representation Review Report (dated September 2017) which details the review process, the public consultation undertaken and the proposal Council considers should be carried into effect. A copy of this report is available from the Council offices, 26 Onkaparinga Valley Road, Woodside, 63 Mount Barker Road, Stirling and 45 Albert Street, Gumeracha, or at the Summit Community Centre, 4 The Crescent Drive, Norton Summit or the Mobile Library (schedule on ahc.sa.gov.au) during office hours or on ahc.sa.gov.au.

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Written Submissions

Written submissions are invited from interested persons and should be directed to the Chief Executive Officer, PO Box 64, Woodside 5284, or mail@ahc.sa.gov.au, to be received by close of business on Friday 8 October 2017.

Please note that previous submissions received in relation to the Director Representation Review will not be considered in this consultation period. Persons seeking to have their views considered must lodge a written submission during this consultation period.

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Andrew Allken
Chief Executive Officer
ahc.sa.gov.au



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Interested persons are invited to review the Report and make written submissions regarding the proposal to revoke the community land classification of the subject land by 5.00pm on Thursday 12 October 2017.

Natalie Westover
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AND NEED TO SELL IT NOW!?

APPENDIX AI

Submissions Report
10 October, 2017

ELECTOR REPRESENTATION REVIEW

Second Public Consultation Submissions Report

A Report to the
Adelaide Hills Council

October 2017



C L Rowe & Associates Pty Ltd

Disclaimer

The information, opinions and estimates presented herein or otherwise in relation hereto are made by C L Rowe and Associates Pty Ltd in their best judgement, in good faith and as far as possible based on data or sources which are believed to be reliable. With the exception of the party to whom this document is specifically addressed, C L Rowe and Associates Pty Ltd, its directors, employees and agents expressly disclaim any liability and responsibility to any person whether a reader of this document or not in respect of anything and of the consequences of anything done or omitted to be done by any such person in reliance whether wholly or partially upon the whole or any part of the contents of this document. All information contained within this document is confidential.

Prepared for the Adelaide Hills Council by C L Rowe and Associates Pty Ltd, October 2017 (Version 1)

Contents

1.	Introduction	1
2.	Public Consultation	2
2.1	Notification	2
2.2	Community Response	2
2.3	Key Community Issues	3
	2.3.1 Council does not take any notice to the opinions of the community	
	2.3.2 Inequitable levels of representation between wards	
	2.3.3 The proposed wards will promote a “them and us” attitude	
	2.3.4 Retain an five ward structure	
	2.3.5 The proposed wards are too large in area	
	2.3.6 Inadequate representation	
	2.3.7 Communities of Interest	
3.	Review Process	8
4.	Future Composition and Structure	9
4.1	Composition	9
	4.1.1 Mayor/Chairperson	
	4.1.2 Councillors	
	4.1.3 Area Councillors (In addition to ward councillors)	
4.2	Structure	11
	4.2.1 Wards/No Wards	
	4.2.2 Ward Identification	
5.	Recommendations	12

1. Introduction

Section 12(4) of the Local Government Act 1999 (the Act) requires Council to undertake a review of all aspects of its composition and the division (or potential division) of the Council area into wards, at least once in every period prescribed by the Minister for Local Government (generally eight years).

The Adelaide Hills Council undertook an elector representation review during the period June 2016 - April 2017, however, the Electoral Commissioner ultimately determined that the requirements of Section 12 of the Act had not been satisfied, specifically in relation to Council's interpretation of the parties that were eligible to make submission during the public consultation stages. On the basis of this determination, the Commissioner did not certify Council's final review report. The Commissioner did not identify any other concerns with the conduct of the review process. Accordingly, to ensure that no interested person has been denied the opportunity to provide a submission, Council agreed to resume the review and initiate further consultation with the community, commencing with the presentation of this updated Representation Options Paper.

The review resumed in May 2017 and has progressed to the point where the second of the prescribed public consultation stages has been completed. This consultation was conducted over a twenty-four day period, as opposed to the minimum period of three weeks prescribed by the Act, and primarily sought comment from the community regarding the "in principle" decisions made by Council on the 4 September 2017, these being to:

- retain a mayor (elected by the community) as the principal member of Council;
- retain the current composition of Council, that being the Mayor and twelve (12) ward councillors;
- divide the Council area into two wards (i.e. Ranges Ward and Valleys Ward); and
- have the proposed Ranges Ward represented by seven (7) ward councillors and the proposed Valleys Ward represented by five (5) ward councillors.

Council must now give consideration to the submissions which have been received and formally determine what changes, if any, it proposes to bring into effect in respect to its future size, composition and structure.

2. Public Consultation

2.1 Notification

Public consultation commenced on Tuesday 12 September 2017 with the publishing of a public notice in the Government Gazette, and this was followed by the publishing of notices in the "Mount Barker Courier" newspaper on Wednesday 13 September 2017; and "The Weekender Herald" newspaper on Thursday 14 September 2017.

In addition, the public consultation process included:

- promotion of the review on the Council website (i.e. a copy of the Representation Review Report and notice; a copy of the relevant response form; and associated news items);
- the display of roadside banners at various locations throughout the Council area;
- the provision of the Representation Review Report and associated documents at the council offices and libraries;
- promotion of the review on social media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, Hills Voice and email lists);
- the conduct of public meetings at Stirling and Gumeracha on 25 and 28 September 2017 respectively;
- on-line digital engagement (enabling electronic submissions); and
- Council Members consulting with their constituents

2.2 Community Response

At the expiration of the public consultation period (i.e. close of business on Friday 6th October 2017) Council had received 48 submissions.

In addition, a further 3 submissions were received on Saturday 7th October 2017. Whilst these respondents had made the effort to participate, the submissions were a day late and, as such, they have been deemed to be invalid (unless determined otherwise by Council). For Member's information, all three late submissions came from persons who reside in Kersbrook; and all three favoured the Council proposal.

In addition, one respondent from Lobethal made two submissions and, as such, the first submission is taken to be superseded by the second submission.

Given the aforementioned, the number of valid submissions has been determined to be 47.

A summary of the submissions has been provided in Attachment 1 and copies of the more detailed written submissions have been provided (for Member's consideration) in Attachment 2.

The receipt of 47 valid submissions is a reasonable but not necessarily a significant response from the community, given that:

- the estimated population of the Council area was 39,525 (as at 30 June 2016);
- the number of enrolled electors within the Council area was determined to be 29,425 (as at October 2017); and
- previous consultation stages of the review attracted 61 (initial Representation Options Paper - August – October 2016), 430 (initial Representation Review Report - December 2016 – February 2017) and 525 (second Representation Options Paper - May – July 2017) valid submissions.

Of the 47 valid submissions received, **36 (76.6%) opposed** Council's two ward proposal, whilst **11 (23.4%) supported** the proposed ward structure.

Of the 11 supportive submissions, 6 seemingly only favoured the proposal because it is considered to be a reasonable "compromise" and is preferred over the "no wards" structure. In addition, 4 of the 11 submissions indicated a level of support for the proposed two ward structure but preference for 5 or more wards.

In terms of responses received from each of the proposed wards, it is noted that 21 submissions were received from the proposed Ranges Ward (3 in favour of the proposal and 18 opposed), whilst 26 submissions were received from the proposed Valleys Ward (8 in favour of the proposal and 18 opposed).

2.3 Key Community Issues

The following issues were raised by respondents.

2.3.1 Council does not take any notice to the opinions/comments of the community.

This particular comment was prevalent amongst the submissions received which opposed Council's current proposal.

Section 12 of the Local Government Act 1999 implies that Council is the decision-maker in respect to its elector representation review.

Throughout the course of the review the Council Members have been provided with a substantial amount of information pertaining to the issues being addressed during the review. This information has been provided in the Information Paper (June 2016); the initial Representation Options Paper (August 2016); the "Submissions Report" (October 2016); the initial Representation Review Report (December 2016); the second Representation Options Paper (May 2017); the "Submission Report" relating to the second Representation Options Paper (August 2017); and the second Representation Review Report (September 2017). In addition, summaries of all submissions received have been provided in documentation presented to Council during of the review, and copies of all submissions received have been available to the Council Members.

Given the aforementioned, we are confident that each individual member of Council has been provided with sufficient information to enable informed decisions to be made in respect to each of the issues relevant to the review.

2.3.2 Inequitable levels of representation between wards (favouring the proposed Ranges Ward).

Section 33(2) of the Act which requires that, under a ward structure, the number of electors represented by a councillor within a ward must not vary from the "quota" (i.e. the elector ratio for the whole of the Council area) by more than 10%. This provision of the Act essentially establishes the primary criteria for the development of a ward structure, that being the need to divide the Council area into wards which exhibit either an equitable number of electors between the proposed wards or similar elector ratios within the proposed wards.

Under the aforementioned legislative arrangement, a ward structure will always exhibit more wards and/or a greater level of representation within and around the more populous areas. The proposed 2 ward structure is an example of this.

The more populated areas are to be contained within the proposed Ranges Ward, which is to be represented by 7 ward councillors, whereas the less populated rural areas of the Council are to be included in the proposed Valleys Ward, which is to be represented by 5 ward councillors. This arrangement has been perceived as favouring the "urban" or outer metropolitan sector of the community contained within the proposed Ranges Ward, through the provision of greater voting power on Council. However, in effect the arrangement provides an equitable level of ward representation (based on elector ratio).

In addition, it is noted that the existing Mt Torrens and Onkaparinga Valley Wards, which primarily incorporate the main portion of the rural sector within the Council area, are collectively represented by five councillors. Under the proposed 2 ward structure, the existing Mount Torrens and Onkaparinga Valley Wards will be combined to form the proposed Valleys Ward, which is to be represented by five councillors. This being the case, neither of the proposed wards will be less represented than under the current ward structure.

Concern has been also been expressed that the seven councillors representing the proposed Ranges Ward could vote on issues before Council as a "collusive" block, thereby disadvantaging the residents within the proposed Valleys Ward. This situation could conceivably occur in respect to some matters before Council, but is considered to be unlikely in the main.

Each and every councillor has a moral obligation to act and make decisions in the best interest of the entire community; and is required to act in accordance with the provisions of Sections 6, 7, 8 and 52 of the Local Government Act 1999 which require (in part) Council/individual Council Members to act as a representative, informed and responsible decision-maker in the interests of the community; to represent the interests of its community to the wider community; to uphold and promote the provision of open, responsive and accountable government, and be responsive to the needs, interests and aspirations of all individuals and groups within the Council area.

Further, whilst the concerns expressed may be real to the minds of the respondents, their accusations unfairly challenge the ethics, accountability and/or principles of current (and possibly future) Council Members, essentially because of a difference of opinion over the matter of the future level of ward representation.

It is understood that the vast majority of resolutions made by Council in recent terms have been carried unanimously, which does not support any suggestion of systematic past practices of "block voting" or ward centric attitudes.

2.3.3 The proposed ward structure will promote a "them and us" attitude.

The proposed ward structure seeks to create 2 wards which generally reflect the urban or outer metropolitan orientation of the western parts of the Council area, and the rural character of the north and eastern parts of the Council area. As such, there is the possibility that the communities therein will have a perception of division and may develop parochial ward attitudes. However, on the other hand, the proposed new ward structure is different to any past structure and, as such, may serve to breakdown any existing allegiances to old councils and/or the existing wards. Regardless, the task of preventing or overcoming a "them and us" attitude will fall on the shoulders of the Council Members who will be required to maintain effective and efficient lines of communication, representation and service throughout the Council area, and in particular across the ward division.

2.3.4 Retain a 5 ward structure.

Throughout the course of the review there has been strong support expressed for a 5 ward structure.

During the initial first round of consultation (i.e. initial Representation Options Paper - August – October 2016), being the consultation stage which specifically sought interested persons to nominate their preferred elector representation arrangement), 43 (76.8%) of the 56 relevant submissions favoured a 5 ward option, whilst only one submission (1.8%) supported a 2 ward structure. More recently, during the repeat of the first round of consultation (i.e. second Representation Options Paper - May 2017), 435 (77.4%) of 562 submissions favoured a 5 ward structure, whereas only 2 submissions (0.36%) favoured a 2 ward structure.

Based on our interpretation of the submissions received during the latest public consultation (September – October 2017), a total of 21 (44.7%) of the respondents indicated a preference for the retention of a 5 ward structure. Four of these respondents supported Council's proposal for 2 wards, but only as a "compromise" to the previous "no wards" option. It was also noted that there was some level of support for a 4 ward structure (3 councillors per ward).

Given that the Adelaide Hills Council has a resident population of nearly 40,000 people, including over 28,600 eligible electors, the submissions received at the various stages of the extended review process have only truly represented a very small portion of the community at that specific time. Nevertheless, the level of response has generally been good (based on what occurs with the councils across the state); and the respondents have taken the time and made the effort to express their opinions, as requested by Council.

What weight is placed upon the submissions received by Council is determined by each individual Council Member during their deliberations.

To date Council has formally considered a range of ward structure options (based on 2 – 5 wards and 9 – 12 councillors), as well as the option of abolishing wards; and has resolved (by a majority vote in chamber) to firstly present the "no wards" structure to the community for consideration and comment; and subsequently to present the current 2 ward proposal. These decisions of Council were made by the Council Members who had been well informed about the key issues; the various ward structure options (including the five ward structure); and the opinions of the community.

At this stage of the review process, Council's options (in terms of its future structure) are effectively limited to the proposed two ward structure and/or another structure which has yet to be identified by Council. The previously supported "no wards" structure is not an option at this time as the public consultation process relating to the proposal was deemed to be at odds with the process specified under Section 12 of the Local Government Act 1999. Council could give further consideration to the "no wards" structure or any other ward structure, however, such a course of action would have to include further public consultation. Essentially the deadline imposed by the Electoral Commissioner (i.e. the 13th November 2017) prohibits this.

2.3.5 Proposed wards are too large in area.

It is acknowledged that both of the proposed wards are considerably larger in area than the existing five wards, and generally most of the metropolitan councils. As such, the sizes of the proposed wards may appear to be excessive to members of the community who are accustomed to smaller wards (and the perception of more direct or accessible representation provided thereby).

In reality, the proposed wards are neither excessive in size nor under-represented when compared to arrangements of many other regional Councils throughout the state. For example, the neighbouring Mid Murray Council comprises only nine councillors; covers approximately 7,957km² in area; and incorporates a ward (i.e. Murray Ward) which is approximately 1,700km² in area which is represented by only two councillors. Further, the Eyre Ward (which is several times larger than the Murray Ward) is represented by only four councillors.

There are many other Councils throughout the state which either exhibit larger wards (in area) than being those being proposed under Council's current two ward proposal, or cover larger areas (overall) but do not have wards.

Representation of the communities and electors residing within the proposed wards may be more challenging and demanding, however, the task will be known to aspiring members and they will have to adjust and adapt in order to meet the demands of their constituents. Many regional Councils have similar circumstances and are able provide fair and adequate representation.

In addition, the task of representing each of the proposed wards will be shared by a good number of ward councillors (depending on the proposed ward); and on-going advances in telecommunications and information technology should serve to enhance communication between the Council Members, their constituents, their fellow Council Members and Council staff. Further, the long-established local road network should also provide safe and efficient access to most parts of the Council area, although time required may become a factor on occasions.

2.3.6 Inadequate representation.

It has been suggested that a reduction in the number of wards may serve to diminish the level and standard of representation likely to be afforded to members of the smaller communities within the wards, given that the majority of future ward councillors may be drawn from only several specific locations or towns and not necessarily from a wider spread of locations across the ward.

This issue is difficult to address, given that Council Members and ward candidates change on a regular basis; and candidates do not have to reside within the ward that they represent.

Overall, there is no evidence to suggest that a structure containing five and/or seven councillors per ward, as proposed, will not be able to provide fair and adequate representation to all communities within the ward. On the other hand, there can be no guarantee in respect to the calibre, dedication or residential location of any future ward councillors, either under the existing or proposed structure.

To a large extent the community must simply rely on the individual members of Council, both present and future, to act in accordance with the aforementioned principles and roles specified under the Local Government Act (and in the best interest of the local community as a whole).

2.3.7 Communities of Interest

It has been suggested that the issue of "communities of interest" should be addressed in more detail, including the identification of the various "communities of interest" which may be affected by the proposal; and the provision of information indicating how the "communities of interest" will benefit under the proposed ward structure.

"Communities of interest" have previously been defined as "aspects of the physical, economic and social systems which are central to the interactions of communities in their living environment", and are generally identified by considering factors relevant thereto, including neighbourhood communities; history and heritage communities; sporting facilities; community support services; recreation and leisure communities; retail and shopping centres; work communities; primary production communities; industrial and economic development clusters; and environmental and geographic interests.

Whilst further "communities of interest" could undoubtedly be identified (i.e. pet owners and/or retirees, as suggested) and analysed, the benefit of doing so is considered to be questionable; and will have little relevance to (and/or bearing upon) the focus or outcome of the review.

Council is reminded that the primary objectives of the review are to determine whether its community will benefit from an alteration to Council's composition or ward structure; and to ensure the provision of fair and adequate elector representation based on the democratic principle of "one person, one vote, one value".

To suggest that all or most existing "communities of interest" within the proposed wards could benefit (to some degree) under the proposed ward structure would be speculation, as there is no accurate way of pre-determining the impacts of the proposed ward structure. Notwithstanding this, it is considered reasonable to suggest that no existing community should be adversely affected (in terms of "elector representation"), given that the proposed wards are simply the result of combining existing wards and maintaining (collectively) the existing levels of representations therein.

Given the above, the need to "bore down" into the intricacies of the various "communities of interest" is not considered to be necessary, and is certainly secondary to the primary requirement of ensuring an equitable distribution of electors between the proposed wards, whether this simply be based on the number of electors within the proposed wards or compliance with the "quota tolerance limits" (which is based on elector ratio).

3. Review Process

It is understood that Council held a Special Meeting on the 10th October 2017 so as to provide the opportunity for persons who had made written submissions, or their representatives, to be heard in relation to the submissions in accordance with Section 12(10) of the Act. It is also understood that 5 people addressed Council.

Council must now give due consideration to all of the submissions received in response to the latest public consultation and either:

- finalise its report (including in its report recommendations with respect to such related or ancillary matters as it thinks fit)", pursuant to the provisions of Section 12(11) of the Local Government Act; or alternatively; or
- amend its proposal and possibly initiate another public consultation.

The first course of action referred to above simply requires Council to formally re-affirm its support for the 2 ward proposal presented in the latest "Representation Review Report" (September 2017) and to prepare another detailed final report to the Electoral Commissioner outlining its proposal, the rationale behind its decisions, and the review process undertaken. The Electoral Commissioner will then be required to determine whether the requirements of the Act have been satisfied and whether certification is warranted (refer Sections 12 (12) and 12(13) of the Act).

Upon receipt of the formal certification from Electoral Commission SA, Council will be required to publish an appropriate notice in the Government Gazette (on a date specified by the Electoral Commissioner but before the 1st January 2018) which will effectively provide for the implementation of the proposed (certified) future composition and structure of Council at the November 2018 Local Government elections.

Should Council opt to change its current or past proposals to an arrangement which has not yet been presented to the community, another amended Representation Review Report will have to be prepared and another public consultation (over a minimum period of three weeks) will have to be initiated at the earliest opportunity. Given that the Electoral Commission has previously advised Council that a final report must be submitted on or before the 13th November 2017, **there may be insufficient time available** to conduct another round of consultation; hear submissions; determine the fate of the proposal; and prepare and submit a final report to the Electoral Commissioner.

4. Future Composition and Structure

Council is now at the stage in the review process where it must either confirm (by formal resolution) its proposed future composition, as presented in the latest Representation Review Reports (i.e. retain an elected mayor and twelve ward councillors; and divide the Council area into 2 wards) or identify another ward structure option. However, as indicated earlier, such a course of action will require the conduct of another public consultation for a minimum period of three (3) weeks). Without another extension of time from the Electoral Commissioner, there is simply insufficient time to conduct another consultation period and give due consideration to an submissions received.

In reaching the final decisions, the Council Members must be mindful that the purpose of the review is to determine whether the electors/community will benefit from an alteration to the current composition and/or structure of Council.

In order to finalise its review and initiate the preparation of a comprehensive report to the Electoral Commissioner, Council must now make final decisions in regards to the following.

- Whether the principal member of Council should continue to be a mayor elected by the community or be a chairperson chosen by the Council Members.
- Whether the Council area should be divided into wards, or alternatively whether the wards should be abolished.
- If the Council area is to be divided into wards, which ward structure is to be established; whether there is a need for area councillors (and the required number thereof) in addition to ward councillors; the level of representation in each of the proposed wards; and the name of each of the proposed wards.
- The number of councillors (ward, area and/or both) that are required to provide fair and adequate representation of the electors within the Council area.

Information and advice pertaining to the aforementioned matters has previously been presented to Council in the Information Paper (June 2016); the initial Representation Options Paper (August 2016); the "Submissions Report" (October 2016); the initial Representation Review Report (December 2016); the second Representation Options Paper (May 2017); the "Submission Report" relating to the second Representation Options Paper (August 2017); and the second Representation Review Report (September 2017).

The following brief information is provided to assist the Council Members with their final deliberations in respect to the key issues. Members are advised to refer to the aforementioned previous documents for more detailed information.

4.1 Composition

4.1.1 Mayor/Chairperson

The Adelaide Hills Council has always had a mayor (elected by the community) as its principal member; and there was little comment regarding this arrangement in the recent submissions. Notwithstanding this, it is noted that the responses received from the community over the course of the review clearly supported the retention of an elected mayor.

4.1.2 Councillors

Council has long comprised twelve councillors and, the latest submissions provided little comment regarding this matter, members are reminded that the retention of twelve councillors has long been the position of Council and this proposition has been solidly supported by the community throughout the review process.

Members are reminded that Sections 26 and 33 of the Local Government Act 1999 specify: *“the need to ensure adequate and fair representation while at the same time avoiding over-representation in comparison to other councils of a similar size and type (at least in the longer term)”*.

In respect to the issue of over-representation, Council has previously been advised that its elector representation arrangements (i.e. the number of councillors and the elector ratio) are generally consistent with those of the councils which are considered to be of a similar size (elector numbers) and/or type to the Adelaide Hills Council. The updated data presented in Table 1 seemingly suggests that this is still the case.

Table 1: Elector data, representation and areas (Councils with similar elector numbers)

Council	Councillors	Electors	Ratio
Barossa Council (912km ²) *	11	17,416	1:1,583
Norwood Payneham St Peters (15.1 km ²)	13	25,237	1:1,941
Holdfast Bay (13.7 km ²)	12	27,731	1:2,311
Unley (14.3 km ²)	12	27,561	1:2,297
Mt Barker (595km ²)	10	23,943	1:2,394
Adelaide Hills (795.1km²)	12	29,425	1:2,452
Burnside (27.5 km ²)	12	31,908	1:2,659
Campbelltown (24.35 km ²)	10	35,008	1:3,501

Source: Electoral Commission SA (October 2017)

* Denotes no wards

Throughout the review Council has consistently supported the retention of twelve councillors, primarily because it is considered important to maintain the quality and level of representation that has long been experienced and expected by the local community; and a reduction may result in increased workloads for the councillors which in turn, could impact upon the quality of representation provided.

Regardless, in reaching its final decision relating to the future composition of Council, the Council Members must be mindful of the need to ensure that:

- sufficient elected members are available to manage the roles and responsibilities of Council;
- the Council Member’s workloads should not become excessive;
- there is an appropriate level of elector representation;
- the potential for diversity in the skill sets, experience, expertise and backgrounds of the Council Members is maintained; and
- adequate lines of communication will exist between a growing community and Council.

4.1.3 Area Councillors (in addition to Ward Councillors)

For the reasons espoused during the review process, area councillors (in addition to ward councillors) are considered to be an unwarranted, unnecessary, outdated and potentially costly additional tier of representation.

4.2 Structure

4.2.1 Wards/No Wards

Based on a review of the 47 valid submissions, it has been determined (our interpretation of the comments provided) that only a small number (perhaps 3) favoured the abolition of wards over a ward structure.

In addition, at least 21 of the submissions received specifically favoured the retention of 5 wards. This number included 4 submissions which actually supported the proposed 2 ward structure, but only as a "compromise". It was also noted that 3 submissions favoured the introduction of a 4 ward structure.

The retention/abolition of wards has been a contentious issue throughout the review process; and has been the subject of considerable debate (to date). Further, the arguments for and against have been detailed in a number of previous documents which have been presented to both Council and the community; and public support has continuously weighed heavily in favour of the retention of wards (with the 5 ward structure being the most favoured option).

To date Council has formally presented two proposals to the community (in accordance with the provisions of Sections 12 (8) and (9) of the Local Government Act), these being the "no wards" option and a 2 wards option. The public consultation process undertaken by Council in regards to the initial "no wards" structure was deemed to be flawed by the Electoral Commission. This situation is being rectified by the extended review process which is currently being undertaken by Council. Accordingly, Council essentially now has only 2 options, these being to formally reaffirm its support for the 2 ward structure or pursue another new alternative, whether it is another ward structure or the "no wards" option again. As previously indicated, the pursuit of alternative structures at this time appears to be a futile given the 13 November 2017 deadline imposed by the Electoral Commissioner.

4.2.2 Ward Identification

Council has already identified its preferred "names" for the wards under the latest 2 ward proposal, and obviously the alternative "no wards" option does not require any action in this regard.

It is also noted that the issue of the identification of the proposed wards received little (if any) constructive comment in the submissions received during the latest round of consultation.

5. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Adelaide Hills Council resolve as follows.

1. To note the 47 valid submissions received from the community during the latest consultation stage of the review process.
2. In respect to the issues of the future composition and structure of the Adelaide Hills Council, Council re-affirm its support for the following.
 - a) The principal member of Council be a Mayor elected by the community.
 - b) The future elected body of Council comprise the Mayor and twelve councillors.
 - c) The Council area be divided into 2 wards (as per the structure presented in the Representation Review Report dated September 2017.
 - d) The proposed wards be identified as Ranges Ward and Valleys Ward, with the Ranges Ward being represented by seven councillors and the Valleys Ward being represented by five councillors.
3. Council administration be authorised to prepare and forward the necessary report and documents to the Electoral Commissioner, pursuant to the provisions of Sections 12(11) and 12(12) of the Local Government Act 1999.

Attachment 1

Summary of Submissions

Colour schedule:

Pink – Received after closing date – not accepted

Yellow – Duplicates – only the latter submission accepted

Respondent	Suburb	Do you support Council's proposal for the future composition and structure of the representation arrangements?	Please provide reasons for your response.
Respondent #1	MOUNT GEORGE, SA	No	No no
Respondent #2	MOUNT TORRENS, SA	No	I support keeping the current ward system.
Respondent #3	CUDLEE CREEK, SA	No	It seems to me that Council does not take any notice of a majority decision of rate payers. I wonder why we are asked to participate. It seems that Council will do what it wants without our input.
Respondent #4	WOODSIDE, SA	No	Only 0.36% of 1.4% of the community were in favour of 2 wards. Or 0.005% of the 40,000 strong community. 2 people! Councils figures. As such it is hardly a compromise - it is a farce. The report states that "council recognises that 562 valid submissions is a very good result from a community" but the council has chosen to completely ignore the overwhelming responses from those submissions. There may be "no legislative requirement that binds council to act in accord with the opinions expressed" in public consultation but surely there is a moral requirement that those opinions, when both sought and given, should be given heed. Rather than ignored and trashed as this council has chosen to do.
Respondent #5	URAILDA, SA	No	I feel there is no community representation in this model and would like to see a randomly selected committee/ decision making body made up of community members from the council. If this is not possible then I'm community engagement/ democracy best practice there needs to be a community representative from each ward. See models adopted in globally.
Respondent #6	ALDGATE, SA	Yes	I'd rather not have wards, and see a reduction in the number of elected members, but moving to two wards is at least a small step in the right direction.
Respondent #7	PARACOMBE, SA	No	Electorates have twice given council their opinion and this has been ignored
Respondent #8	LOWER HERMITAGE, SA	No	I have always felt like we are the forgotten part of the Adelaide Hills, tucked away in the North Western council electorate, not causing any problems, miles away from the rush and excitement of the Adelaide Freeway area of the council electorate. I am scared that we will be even worse off with no one taking any notice of us. We pay rates and having a voice through our local ward Councillors is a blessing and one we feel gives us a voice. The two ward system is wrong and discriminates people in all but the major Adelaide Hills communities.
Respondent #9	BRIDGEWATER, SA	No	I was extremely disappointed to hear that council had decided to abandon the wishes of the last community consultation on ward change. I certainly don't wish to see no wards or only 2 wards as this means that we will have an unbalanced representation. I see this as if the state was to abolish electorates and bring in 1or2 electorates to govern. The only alternative way, if council must have only two wards, is to see councillors drawn from all across the council and not have them drawn from a densely populated area such as stirling. Please don't disregard this time of consultation. Yours faithfully

Respondent	Suburb	Do you support Council's proposal for the future composition and structure of the representation arrangements?	Please provide reasons for your response.
Respondent #10	LOBETHAL, SA	No	Your website doesn't recognise Mt Torrens and my dealings with Council have convinced me I need all the representation possibly available to me and you need to be made much more transparent in how you treat ratepayers Therefore, I absolutely oppose your increase in power by limiting my representation
Respondent #11	LOBETHAL, SA	No	This is my second attempt as you already don't recognise Mt Torrens on your website. I am opposed to losing any further representation with Council as my experience has shown Council already has too much power and if anything I am already unrepresented and Council is not transparent in how they deal with ratepayers and take advantage of the power they now have.
Respondent #12	CRAFERS WEST, SA	Yes	Too much time is spent by individual 'communities' fighting for funds and this results in factional Councillors that do not seem to see the bigger picture. Hopefully this will create a more cohesive strategic approach to resource management. The names seem fairly sensible and reflective of their topography.
Respondent #13	MYLOR, SA	No	This is ridiculous - the community has rejected the abolition of council wards twice now and this "compromise" neither placates ratepayers who want dedicated local representatives or achieves the purported benefits of Spragg's no-ward goals. Talk about making things up as you go along! I'm a ratepayer and I'll say it for the third time: I want to retain the current system of five wards and strong, local, representation.
Respondent #14	WOODSIDE, SA	No	2 ward system won't provide local enough representation. Adelaide Hills is very diverse from area to area. Why fix what isn't broken? Waste of time and money. Council needs to represent those that elected them, not dictate over us, as this proposed structure would be at greater risk of, due to the size of the wards.
Respondent #15	BIRDWOOD, SA	No	The ward structure should be kept the way it currently is. The current structure provides ALL areas with FAIR representation and this is what your residents want. If the 6 councillors that still want to abolish wards don't understand what the residents want, they should not be there!
Respondent #16	SUMMERTOWN, SA	No	The current wards barely provide limited representation. The Council already does little for our ward area and it is amalgamated into Ranges Ward we will have further limited representation.
Respondent #17	CAREY GULLY, SA	No	Community feel is very important, and few things reinforce community feel more than knowing your elected representatives. This proposal will simply reduce the feeling of community that still lingers at the Adelaide Hills Council, and as such it would be a move in completely the wrong direction. I am 100% against the proposal.
Respondent #18	BRIDGEWATER, SA	No	Reason for voting no is because council have not listened to rate payers who voted overwhelmingly to retain 5 wards. I no longer have faith in the council to listen to the people's voices.
Respondent #19	PARACOMBE, SA	No	
Respondent #20	PARACOMBE, SA	No	Having read the report I see no need for change other than it is easy to comply with legislative requirements of the number of electors per ward. Compliance can easily be done by shifting ward boundaries by a street or two. The 5 ward system must be retained to ensure local representation - just as with state and federal representation. A two ward system will only create an "us and them" environment - or rural Vs urban.

Respondent	Suburb	Do you support Council's proposal for the future composition and structure of the representation arrangements?	Please provide reasons for your response.
Respondent #21	CUDLEE CREEK, SA	No	<p>The election of a mayor rather than a council appointment is satisfactory. But the two ward system rather than the present five is ridiculous. That is even more so with one ward having five councillors and the second ward having seven councillors which means that with collusive block-voting by Ranges councillors the Valleys ward will always be outvoted. Combining all of the rural areas and their townships (called Valleys) into one cover-all ward with five councillors and grouping the remaining rural areas (called Ranges) along with the Hills dormitory suburbs of Adelaide into a second with seven councillors is a recipe for inefficient governance. This is because of the vast differences in the needs, problems and social issues of the communities over the complete council area. This proposed division into two disparate sections of a mass of ratepayers into two groups will not work because of the massive different issues that each ward will face. Also, it is not clear if the councillors for each of the wards will be ratepayers of that ward or can be resident in the second ward. The idea of seven and five councillors coming from anywhere - as has been the council's wish in the previous drive for council reconstruction - is not local representation.</p>
Respondent #22	MONTAGUTE, SA	Yes	<p>My view is still that no wards model provides the best representation opportunity however in the interest of moving forward I can support a two wards model as I anticipate it will improve representation. However in order to be confident of this I ask that the final report for the two wards model describes the way in which community interests can be addressed within the two wards. While I accept that there may be very many different communities of interest across the Council area I feel strongly that it is reasonable to identify the following as interest areas that are most commonly evident in the Adelaide Hills community and every attempt should be made to show how these community interests will not be disadvantaged by the two wards model: Environment, Arts, Retirees, Pet owners, Bushfire management, Agricultural land use and Sporting Recreation. See Additional information attached</p>
Respondent #23	IRONBANK, SA	No	<p>I am not sure why I bother as you have ignored two previous consultations on this matter. Anyway for the record I do not approve this unfortunate compromise, and prefer the level of local representation provided by a 4 ward system. Unfortunately it would appear that the only opportunity we have to influence the decisions made by the current elected council will be at the next election, when we will make every endeavour to elect a council that actually listens to its constituents.</p>
Respondent #24	MOUNT TORRENS, SA	No	<p>Who knows, I may even stand myself. See Attached</p>
Respondent #25	MOUNT TORRENS, SA	No	<p>The whole issue has become ridiculous, wasting money and time for more important things. A council gets elected to represent the community, not to please their personal ego or political power. In short, leave the current 5 ward structure with 12 councillors. This has served us well over decades.</p>

Respondent	Suburb	Do you support Council's proposal for the future composition and structure of the representation arrangements?	Please provide reasons for your response.
Respondent #26	GUMERACHA, SA	Yes	Because Council has listened to the responses of people and negotiated a reasonable response. The two rural former wards, Torrens Valley and Onkaparinga are to retain the same number of representatives (5). Therefore no lost representation. The former wards (now Urban) elect 7 giving them the same number but more choice which was their hope and claim a reasonable outcome. This response by the Councillors has respected the responses of both sides of the issue. One being area representation and the other preferential choice. People must now positively support the Council – for good outcomes and Councillors work to ensure the same which I trust they would.
Respondent #27	BRIDGEWATER, SA	No	See Attached
Respondent #28	CUDLEE CREEK, SA	Yes	Reasonable compromise.
Respondent #29	HUMBUG SCRUB, SA	No	I tried to send a submission without ticking either the Yes or No responses because I have mixed feelings about the question, however the electronic submission entry system would not allow a blank entry. I do not like the 2 ward structure as it is less democratic than, say, a twelve ward structure, but on the other hand, I do not want council to revert to the no ward structure, which is even less democratic. I realize that Council is in a bind, as it has to consider the submissions, determine the final proposal and lodge a Representation Review Report by 13th November to the South Australian Electoral Commission, and that there is no time to consider a more democratic solution. There appears to be a misunderstanding of the meaning of democracy. The options paper stated that "no wards" is "the optimum form of democracy as the electors vote for all of the vacant positions on Council". This option is not democratic as it does not ensure that all districts within council are represented, and enables special interest groups to gain representation on council. The etymology for democracy is derived from two Greek words: demos, meaning "districts within Attica, the region that constituted the city-state of Athens", and kratos, meaning "rule". So Athenian democracy was originally envisioned as a government representing all of the districts. Similarly Australian democracy is realised at state and federal level as a government representing all of the electorates.
Respondent #30	BASKET RANGE, SA	No	See Attached
Respondent #31	UPPER STURT, SA	No	There is no valid reason to change the existing ward structure and I am disgusted that the majority of council elected members are not listening to the 90% plus majority of its rate payers who have indicated more than once that they do not wish to change the ward system. Please council listen to your members and represent them fairly and vote against the changes and leave the ward system stay as it is.
Respondent #32	MT PLEASANT, SA	No	Change is not necessary. The current system is working for the ratepayers.
Respondent #33	ASHTON, SA	No	The two ward system as proposed sets up a divide between the urban and rural/primary production parts of the region. The reasons for this proposal are not sufficiently meritorious to counter the reasons for retaining the current ward system. The possibility of poor outcomes for the area as a whole, and for individuals and companies conducting their businesses is consolidated by there being uneven representation between the two wards. If you seriously want to propose a two ward system find a boundary that will enable even representation across the region and consult on that.

Respondent	Suburb	Do you support Council's proposal for the future composition and structure of the representation arrangements?	Please provide reasons for your response.
Respondent #34	ALDGATE, SA	No	I do not feel that the large demographic variations within the AHC area will be adequately represented by only two wards. The AHC area has vast differences in population density, land use and demographics. The existing ward structure provides adequate representation of this. Only two wards will not provide such representation for stakeholders within two wards, which look to be largely arbitrary.
Respondent #35	CRAFERS, SA	No	The proposal to reduce the number of Wards from 5 to 2 is blatant gerrymandering. The consequence of only 2 Wards will be to effectively disenfranchise selected voters; it will have the consequence of favouring the election of Council candidates from more densely populated Hills regions (where candidates are likely to be well recognised figures) at the expense of those from less populated regions (with quite local candidates). My location in the Piccadilly Valley is a case in point. The designation of Piccadilly Valley as a water catchment zone imposes restrictions on the urbanisation of this region. Consequently the number of voters now and in the future in this immediate region will be fewer than in many of the regions in the proposed "Ranges Ward". Accordingly the loss of our present Ward representatives will make it much less likely that a candidate familiar with our priorities will be elected and that our "voice" will be heard through Adelaide Hills Council representation. Hence the gerrymander outcome that concerns me.
Respondent #36	KERSBROOK, SA	Yes	
Respondent #37	GUMERACHA, SA	Yes	But only as a 'last ditch' compromise. It would be best 'all round' if the whole process of abolishing wards was rescinded. Those areas/towns that did not object to the abolition of wards will soon find out that wards serve them better than AHC looking after 'other communities of interest' rather than caring for rates, roads and rubbish as AHC's top priority. Ward Councillors do R, R & R the best. In summary, 5 wards are much better than 2. Gum council should never have amalgamated with Onka; AHC is 'Dickensian' as a 'tale of 2 cities' of Gum & Strling - an unhappy marriage.
Respondent #38	GUMERACHA, SA	No	There seems no justification for reduction from 5 wards to 2 as at the meeting on 28/9/17 we were told that it does not increase council costs to have more wards. If we have more wards we can relate more easily to our local councillor as we will have smaller wards in the rural areas.
Respondent #39	LOBETHAL, SA	Yes	It's better than having none. More would be better, in a perfect world.
Respondent #40	MT PLEASANT, SA	Yes	I would prefer five (5) - better option but I would compromise with two (2) as this is much better than having none at all.
Respondent #41	BIRDWOOD, SA	Yes	Five is the preferred option, so two is a compromise. Councillors should be interested and helpful in any problem - a not just show interest in a portfolio like State & Commonwealth Govt. So Councillors who represent a local area are more helpful than one who prefers 'Arts' or 'Sports' or 'Health' issues - that's not what Local Govt is about. Residents who have an issue with pot holes or flooding and wash ways say in Humbug Scrub or Cromer are more likely to contact a local Councillor rather than one who lives 30km away. So having two wards does give this option.

Respondent	Suburb	Do you support Council's proposal for the future composition and structure of the representation arrangements?	Please provide reasons for your response.
Respondent #42	ALDGATE, SA	No	Councillors have continuously undermined the wishes of its ratepayers by advocating for undemocratic representation of its constituents by a non ward structure. The Mayor acted irresponsibly by not maintaining the status quo of ratepayer wishes by voting against the majority vote to retain council wards. They Mayor must explain his stance on change because he is clearly not supporting the ratepayers. Reduction of the number of wards to two does not stop the chance of council at a later stage of 'jerry rigging' a change of ward numbers to one as originally advocated, ie. no wards. It is clear that the current councillors are evenly divided by change, half for, half against, and one must question why? when there is no real or actual economic benefit to council to alter the ward structure. It is becoming clear that those for a no ward structure may have an ulterior motive to undermine council procedure. Retain 5 wards, 12 councillors, redistribute ward boundaries and stop this nonsense. You have already wasted resources and cost to ratepayers with this constant bickering for no apparent gain.
Respondent #43	GUMERACHA, SA	Yes	I'm voting yes because this is the best option on the table at the moment. I still believe we should have left the system as it is and it has been VERY frustrating dealing with the previous options and submissions and especially when Council hasn't listened to the people. The fact that not many of the whole council area voted I feel is irrelevant as those of us who did, did it in good faith. At least now we have a better option where those of us in the valleys region can still keep our identity and not feel as though we are being controlled by those on the other side of the freeway. I hope now that this is the end of it all and we can now move on!
Respondent #44	CHERRYVILLE, SA	No	Having attended the meeting at Stirling on 25/9/17 and then read the correspondence in letters to the Editor in the Courier. I have yet to be convinced that the reduction in wards is a more democratic process. To have two or three Councillors representing a particular smaller area allows them and the community to engage in a more effective manner and therefore represent the interests of their ward more directly. In the light of 98-95% of the respondents from the previous 2 consultations I am bewildered why the council is not prepared to either Realign the Boundaries or create another ward as is required under the Local Government Act. This would appear to me to be the WILL OFF THE PEOPLE..
Respondent #45	CHERRYVILLE, SA	No	I believe that local council is our last true place for a local voice for our community. I know both our ward members and they have both served our community. Politics are largely kept out of local government but this is not always the case. I would like to see our council stay as close as possible small and personal.
Respondent #46	LOBETHAL, SA	No	See Attached
Respondent #47	HEATHFIELD, SA	No	Mayor or Chairperson it does not matter. There has been no evidence put into the public domain, by those favouring change, that 2 wards would be better than the existing 5 wards. How would 2 wards better serve the AHC area in respect of its differing geographical and residential areas. In the last surveys 78% of respondents were in favour of retaining 5 wards. The Mayor and the proponents of any proposal change would do well to recognise the wishes of the rate paying residents and get on with the job of administering the area. The manner in which this whole exercise has been administered brings absolutely no credit to the Mayor or the proponents of change.
Respondent #48	BASKET RANGE, SA	No	See Attached

Respondent	Suburb	Do you support Council's proposal for the future composition and structure of the representation arrangements?	Please provide reasons for your response.
Respondent #49	KERSBROOK, SA	Yes	As a compromise - we still support the retention of wards to get better representation from our councillors.
Respondent #50	KERSBROOK, SA	Yes	As a compromise - we still support the retention of wards to get better representation from our councillors.
Respondent #51	KERSBROOK, SA	Yes	While the proposal is not really the best outcome wanted by the majority of people I think it is a reasonable compromise and covers the concerns raised through the elector representative reviews public consultations undertaken to date. Thank you for providing a compromise between the two extremes.

Pink – Received after closing date – not accepted

Attachment 2
Detailed submissions

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – Submission No. 22

Submission regarding Council's Representation Review Proposal

Council proposes the following in respect to its future composition and structure.

SUPPORTED

- The principal member of Council continue to be a Mayor, elected by the community.

SUPPORTED with qualification and request for further information in the final report

- The Council area be divided into two wards.

SUPPORTED

- The proposed wards be identified as Ranges Ward and Valleys Ward.

SUPPORTED

- The future elected body of Council comprise twelve (12) ward councillors, with the proposed Ranges Ward be represented by seven (7) ward councillors and the proposed Valleys Ward be represented by five (5) ward councillors. The proposed wards are described as follows:

My view is still that a no wards model provides the best representation opportunity however in the interest of moving forward I can support a two wards model as I anticipate it will improve representation. However there are two particular issues I wish raised in regard to this report.

Firstly some of the language of the report prepared for 'two wards' is misleading.

- In Section 3 there is an over emphasis on the number of responses that were received from people requesting the maintenance of rewards during the previous consultation stage. At no stage was it made clear that the number of people who responded would be considered. As I understand the legislation requires that Council consider the issue raised during consultation. The number of times an issue is raised is irrelevant and therefore language such as 'strong support' (page 8) is misleading and furthers the misleading and divisive position that was espoused with some community members during this process.

- On Page 22 the report states that Council accepts wards "guarantee direct representation of all areas and communities within the Council area". This is not truly correct as the current ward structure is aligned to a geographical area which may include a number of different communities and diverse communities of interest. The elected representative is elected on the basis of meeting a quota from the geographical area not electors in a community of interest. This wording should be amended to read "guarantee direct representation of geographically defined communities within the Council area"

Secondly in order to be confident that two wards will not disadvantage communities of interest, I ask that the final report for the two wards model describes the way in which community interests can be addressed within the two wards. While communities of interest are mentioned on page 23, 25 and 26 of the report this does not adequately show how the following communities of interest have an improved likelihood of gaining representation. I accept that there may be very many different communities of interest across the Council area however I feel strongly that it is reasonable to identify the following as interest areas that are most commonly evident in the Adelaide Hills community and every attempt should be made to show how these community interests will not be disadvantaged by the two wards model: Environment, Arts, Retirees, Pet owners, Bushfire management, Agricultural land use and Sporting Recreation. The attempt that has been made to show how the community interest of primary production may be represented in a two wards model should replicated with some of the other groups as well.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – Submission No. 24

Chief Executive Officer
Adelaide Hills Council
PO Box 44
WOODSIDE SA 5244

SCANNED

27 SEP 2017

25th September 2017
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27 SEP 2017

Re: Elector Representation Review (latest proposal re two wards)- *Submission Response*

Dear Sir,

In response to the latest proposal of having two wards, I maintain my original position as stated in the first round of submissions that no changes to the current ward system and number of councillors should be made, and therefore continue to hold the view that 5 wards with the 12 councillors should be retained. The Elector Representation Review report provides clear support to this view and that this is the view of the majority of the community.

Table 4 on Page 7 clearly states that the majority supports the retention of the 5 wards (77% in favour), and only literally 2 people (0.36%) supported having 2 wards. Table 5 also demonstrates a clear majority of retaining 12 councillors (69% in favour), and Table 2 also provides support for retaining a mayor. Page 8 of the report also provides a summary stating the above results, with the clear conclusion that the current council structure should be retained.

The increase in population growth foreseen for the council area should support the view that we need local councillors and therefore the 5 five wards; having only 2 or no wards as the ward areas would be so great, would severely compromise the ability for councillors to fairly and adequately represent all the towns and the people in the community of those wards, and the concerns are rightly outlined on Page 22 of the report. The 2 ward structure therefore can also not be seen as a compromise. The fact that the Mount Lofty and Marble Hill wards may be in breach of the current quota, does not justify the need to reduce from 5 wards to only 2. If then, the boundaries of these wards may need to change, or in line with population growth, the wards be increased to 6 wards. On Page 23 of the report, it is stated that elected members have to be mindful of the fact that there has been support amongst the council members for the abolition of the wards. However, council are there to represent the majority of the views of the community and members who live in the council ward areas, and the majority view is clearly for 5 wards and 12 councillors as expressed in the report from the previous submissions. Residents living in the wards have the expectation that all councillors and the mayor who they elected represent their views, and not their own personal views.

Therefore, my view and in line with the view of the majority of the community as represented by the previous submissions made, I can see no justification for changing the current ward system, number of councillors, changing the ward names, or changing from a mayor. The council must be there to represent the views of those who live in the council area. Thank you for the chance to place a submission and I hope that the final judgement is one that is impartial and fairly represents the majority view of all residents in the council area.

Yours sincerely,



Adelaide Hills Council

Elector Representation Review

Response



30 September 2017

I oppose the 2 wards model proposed in the Representation Review Proposal paper.

My objections relate to the division of the Council area into two wards, the Ranges Ward formed by a merger of the existing Manoah, Mt Lofty and Marble Hill wards (7 councillors) and the Valleys Ward formed by merger of the existing Torrens Valley and Onkaparinga Valley wards (5 councillors).

While I understand that the council has been divided on this issue with division focused on a group supporting a "No Wards" model and a group supporting a model with 4 or 5 wards - this 2 wards model simultaneously negates many of the benefits of both the no wards and the wards models and has the potential to cement a dangerous division between the more metropolitan/urban parts of the council area and the more rural/primary production focused regions.

The allocation of seven (7) councillors to the Ranges Ward (representing the more metropolitan/urban region) and five (5) councillors to the Valleys Ward (representing the more rural/primary production focused region) will entrench a permanent majority of the Ranges Ward councillors over those in the Valley Ward when issues arise that reflect a division between urban and rural interests. While councillors have argued that these sorts of divisions have not occurred in recent memory this does not preclude such division occurring in the future. The division in council over this Elector Representation Review, the dogs on or off leash in Woorabinda Reserve debate and divisions that culminated in the sacking of the former Stirling Council by the State Government in the early 90's indicate that there is always potential for an issue to become highly divisive within council.

It doesn't take too much imagination to think of a scenario that could split the council between competing interests that would align with the new ward boundaries. For example, after a major flood affecting residents of the Torrens and Onkaparinga Valleys it may become apparent that major remediation and flood mitigation works are required. This might require a substantial increase in council rates to fund them. With the proposed ward structure Ranges Ward councillors could easily and consistently out-vote Valleys Ward councillors and block the works - leaving residents in the affected area in a difficult situation.

A more homogenous ward structure comprising of at least 4 wards (while not being perfect) would reduce the likelihood of this.

The proposed new ward structure effectively presents a Gerrymander in the sense that it manipulates ward boundaries so as to favour the metropolitan/more urban population over the more rural/primary production focused population.

My second concern relates to geographical communities of interest. While section 26 of the Local Government Act indicates that "...a council should reflect communities of interest of an economic, recreational, social, regional or other kind, and be consistent with community structures, values, expectations and aspirations;" it is a clear overriding principle of representative democracy that where electorates have clear geographical boundaries, the community of interest that is most important is a geographical one. It is puzzling that the council has chosen to ignore this and focus on topography and land use e.g. residential vs primary production instead.

It is clear that residents in Humbug Scrub have little in common geographically with the residents of Balhannah - it is unlikely that they use the same service centres, shop at the same retail centres etc. Neither residents are likely to visit the others area from month to month or even year to year. Yet they will be in the same Valleys Ward in the new structure. Likewise the residents of Castambul have little geographically in common with the residents of Dorset Vale. This is what comes from having very long (and in the case of the Ranges Ward, narrow) wards that when you look at on a map show clearly a manipulation to achieve a particular electoral outcome.

I therefore urge the council to reconsider and adopt a more practical and balance ward structure by increasing the number of wards to a least four (4) and making them more geographically confined to reflect geographical communities of interest. The best solution is a ward structure of four (4) wards with three (3) councillors each, centred around more central geographical interest points. This also makes the geographical area versus quota required (expressed as a percentage) more balanced and fair. Option 2 of the original May 2017 options paper with wards named North, South, East and West would be the best in this respect of all the options considered by the council so far.

I would like to speak in person to this response at the Special Council meeting on 10 October 2017 if possible.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – Submission No. 30



Date: Monday, 2 October 2017 3:26 PM
To: <mail@ahc.sa.gov.au>
Cc: <Fran.Hurley@sa.gov.au>; <pirsa.MinisterBrock@sa.gov.au>
Subject: The ERR process

ATTENTION: Mr Lachlan Miller, Executive Manager of Governance and Performance AHC

Dear Mr Miller

I am addressing these issues to you because the ERR documents, apart from the one dated August 2016, name you as the person to contact, to gain further information, or to clarify any issues about the content of the documents, (ROP's and RRR's), and the ERR process itself.

I begin by referring you to page 9 of the AHC ERR, RRR dated September 2017. The third paragraph suggests to me that the AHC accepts that the ERR process is essentially an exercise which is part of the wider democratic process whereby the people can participate, and in so doing, inform their elected representatives, (by way of submission) of their preferences about the many items contained in the ROP. The people are provided this opportunity to share what they deem to be in their best interests, and want their representatives to seriously consider when it comes to decisions about the key issues and other issues presented in the ROP. One of the key issues they are invited to engage with is the structure of the system of governance. That the LGA ensures this opportunity is provided, attests to the democratic principles by which we are meant to be governed. These principles are to be found in the LGA 1999, the Elections Act, the Constitution Act 1934, Federal laws and the Common law.

In the same paragraph, sentence three, makes an assertion for which not a single shred of evidence has been provided. If a councillor is democratically elected to represent a ward by a proper and fair process then that person has the confidence of the majority of the electors, to properly represent them. If the elected candidate could not demonstrate the capacity of adequate or sufficient knowledge of the local area then voters would not have provided support. There are too many statements, which are assertions without supportive or qualifying evidence, in the ERR documents. It is quite misleading, in fact it is a falsehood, for the following to be contained in the ROP: *"Unfortunately, as the Act does not require candidates in ward elections to reside within the ward they aspire to represent, the objective of a community to achieve 'local' representation is not guaranteed under a ward structure."* There would be a problem (from a democracy point of view) if the representative were imposed, rather than freely elected.

Paragraph four is equally contestable, regarding the veracity of its contents, as is paragraph three. Ward representatives, who are elected, are always accountable to the entire ward electorate, including those who voted for them, those who voted for other candidates and those who did not vote at all. They are even accountable to people in other wards, by the mere fact that they are a councillor. To talk about "strength" or "quality" of representation is nonsensical unless one analyses the spectrum of personal qualities demonstrated by the elected person. The issue has nothing to do with wards or the absence of wards. The purpose of this paragraph obfuscates rather than clarifies. It does nothing to help the readers understand what is required of them.

Paragraph five deals with that 'nebulous' improperly defined and therefore difficult to comprehend term "*communities of interest*". Council has never provided any evidence of any kind that it is regularly, or not so regularly, approached by these "*communities of interests*" with deputations or

2/10/2017

representations or delegations informing it that they are being sorely neglected, that they are receiving inadequate services and that their voice is not heard. If these "communities of interest" exist, either within wards, across neighbouring wards, or right across the entire Council area, there is absolutely nothing to prevent the people, that constitute them, from acting together within the existing ward representation structure. It is up to the C's of I's to inform their elected representatives of their concerns or specific problems encountered, so that Council is able to address them. C's of I's do not need their own elected representative in Council to ensure that their particular or unique matters receive attention. The case for the abolishment of wards does not hold up on the basis of the 'argument put' in this paragraph.

My other concern with the RRR document (there are many more but I limit myself to these) of September 2017 are paragraphs three and four on page 6. Paragraph three is "gobbledegook". How anyone can get any sort of useful meaning from it is beyond my comprehension. Yet people are expected to provide lucid submissions after reading such "stuff". In paragraph four, what has been determined as "significant" (para 3), is now reassessed as "very good" (is this a better or worse rating?), but then we get the 'however' to negate the value of what the people provide, and we get the statistics to enable Council to justify its rejection of what the people say they want and what they deem is in their best interests.


It is obvious to any one, that the "owners" of this document, the Council, (who commissioned it, had input, received it, reviewed it, agreed to accept it and then agreed to issue it to its community) really do not know what's in it or it would not be of such a poor quality. It is further obvious that there is no understanding of the concept of "territoriality" and the psychology of it as far as humans are concerned. I suggest a brief familiarity of the book " The Territorial Imperative" is a useful place to start. There are other sources of information regarding this however. It is still more obvious that the Council is unfamiliar with the research work of Kahneman and Tversky, or have used Kahneman's book "Thinking Fast and Slow". If they had they would not have worded paragraph four in that way, or even include it.

My great concern is with the inadequate time that has been provided, in which people are to respond to the September 2017 ERR RRR document. It is a mere twenty three (23) days. No doubt Council will claim it only has to provide twenty one (21) days. I will set out why there is an extremely strong case against such a short time:

- The document, even though it is promoted as "stage two" of the ERR (and is called an RRR) is essentially a new document as far as the people are concerned. The council has come up with a '*proposal*', not an '*in principle*' decision, which is the way of a regular ERR process from stage one, the ROP, to stage two, the RRR.
- All previous ERR's conducted by the AHC, 2008/2009, 2012/13, 2016/2017 have consistently followed the procedure of the issuing of an ROP with all the information the people are required to have, including a range of options for ward structure from two wards to five wards or no wards. There has been this *precedent* which was even followed with the May 2017 ERR ROP.
- Since the RRR contains a totally new proposal, that of a two ward structure, as Council's preferred option, the one expressed in the ROP, and in response to which people submitted their views, no longer holds. (that was the no ward option) Nor do the views, contained in the ROP and RRR of 2016, carry any significance any more. We have something totally new.
- The RRR of September 2017 is now really a combination of the ROP of May 2017 and the RRR of September 2017. Being such, and in keeping with *precedent*, and because of the sheer complexity of the multitude of changes with which they have been confronted, the people need a **minimum** of 42 days in which to respond with their submissions. All previous ROP's have provided that minimum. There is now greater justification for this length of time in which to respond.

- Democratic principle demands that the people are accorded every opportunity to inform their representatives of their preferred position with respect to ward structure.
- The two ward structure has in the past ERR's, and in the current one, attracted only minor consideration or interest from the people and from the Council. Only from September this year, has Council pursued it as an option. The people have never preferred it to any degree.
- The council has a poorly developed sense of "democratic principles and democratic rights". This is demonstrated by the written responses I have received from the Mayor, the CEO and the Executive Manager of Governance and Performance and lack of responses from some Councillors, whenever I raised these as significant issues that need to be addressed. I have provided appropriate documents and written letters about these. I can provide this evidence should it be required.
- The Council does not seem to appreciate the important role that the media performs in a democratic society to ensure that the people are being kept fully informed of all that matters, all of the time. This must occur at all stages of any ERR to ensure we have a robust democracy. Apart from required public notices, there appears to be little encouragement for the media to be involved in providing information and opinion. It is pleasing that in 202/2013, in the ROP we can read: "Editorial content regarding the process was also published in the *Courier* on at least two occasions".
- By 'forcing' the two ward proposal (without an "in principle" position) Council has demonstrated a degree of dysfunction (and I have not referred to the dally with 'four wards' as an alternative) and an inability to arrive at decisions which best serve the interests of the people as they state them. The two ward proposal is the **worst of all possible outcomes**, since it extinguishes the parity, that has existed since the creation of the AHC, of six elected representatives coming from the sector that is mainly "rural" and six coming from the sector that is mainly "urban". If this two ward proposal succeeds, we will entrench, for at least eight years (the next ERR) a representation disparity between "rural" and "urban", which should have been avoided at all cost.

I now call on those with the required authority to act, to enable an extension of time to be implemented so that the people have forty two (42) days in which to become fully acquainted with all the new material put to them, to engage with it and analyse it thoroughly and then provide thoughtful submissions to Council stating **their** preferred option.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – Submission No. 46

SCANNED

I do not support the council's decision for a two ward division of the AHC that merges the existing Torrens Valley and Onkaparinga Valley Wards into one ward and the existing Manoah, Mt Lofty and Marble Hill wards into a second ward.

The behaviour of the council members during this Elector Representation Review process has been appalling. It should be used as a case study to show how not to undertake the process.

The overwhelming issues that have consistently arisen from the submissions made by the public during this consultation process are:

90% to 95% of the submissions want to retain wards

77% of the submissions want to retain the existing 5 ward structure

The only reason to refuse to deal with this issue arising from the submissions is because the answer is that the mayor and the councillors have decided that the public are not important enough to have their representations taken into proper consideration.

The mayor,* deputy mayor and some of the councillors keep saying "the numbers don't matter". Where did the idea that when considering how to represent the public in the future, there should never be any attempt to represent the public now? It is the conjuror's trick of diverting attention.

Examples of some of the more contentious arguments put for why the existing 5 ward structure is worse than either a no ward option or this new two ward option are:

In the Torrens Valley Ward, someone who lives in Humbug Scrub cannot be properly represented by the councillors who live in Birdwood (Cr Herrmann) or Mt Torrens (Cr Green) because they live too far away, but having a new option where ward councillors could live in Balhannah or Verdun would be much better. This is one of Mayor Bill Spragg's favourites.

Deputy Mayor Jan-Claire Wisdom has been one of the chief advocates for "we must avoid parochialism" and "the number of responses don't matter" arguments. This did not deflect her from spending time 'number crunching' so she could produce a map for the other councillors showing 'The Red Menace From The North' (Torrens Valley Ward).

"People agree with me because they haven't told me that they don't". One of Cr Jan-Claire Wisdom's certainties, although other councillors have strayed into this territory on occasions.

"Barossa Council has had much higher voter turnout since they changed from Wards to No Wards". Cr Lynton Vonow and Cr Nathan Daniell particularly like this one even though Barossa Council has never had Wards.

Other Councils have better voting patterns to AHC and this is because they do not have Wards and AHC has Wards. Cr Nathan Daniell likes this along with wanting to increase his First Preference Votes (which is the best measure of a councillor's performance).

This new option that puts forward the idea that in a two ward structure, one ward should have 7 councillors and the other have 5 councillors will solidify the 'Us against Them'

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approach to government. It epitomises a total failure to consider fairness and the importance of making decisions on an equitable basis. More than any other option put forward by council, this option entrenches a voting imbalance within council.

This two ward option is worse than the abolish wards option. It protects the 7 councillors in the combined Marble Hill, Mt Lofty and Manoah wards from the electors in the combined Torrens Valley and Onkaparinga Valley wards, while at the same time gives them voting dominance in council.

The idea for this two ward option was first introduced to a council meeting after 11pm after the meeting had been going for 4½ hours and it was immediately rejected. It only got accepted after further weeks of in-fighting by the divided councillors after they could not put aside their personal ambitions and egos and respect the community.

Councillors who do not demonstrate 'right thinking' may find themselves the target of adverse criticism in the press from the mayor's wife. This is already evidence of how antagonistic the attitudes are and supports the genuine concerns that have been voiced widely by the AHC community about the council's determination to change an existing ward structure that is not broken.

In the end the council realised that the decision was about to be taken out of their hands. Defending their territory (that of making decisions) then became the overriding imperative and the councillors determined that the idea that had been first introduced after 11pm and already twice thrown out as unacceptable was the best option to pick.

It is with considerable amusement and some delight that I realise I live in the suburb that AHC has frequently omitted from the review documents including this latest Review Report. So I have been saved the need to secede! Perhaps 'Passport to Pimlico' could also apply here?

The Elector Representation Review gives the council and the community the opportunity to cooperate to produce an outcome that will better reflect the future requirements of their community.

This after all is what the Electoral Commissioner states is the 'Purpose of the Review'.

This is a council where if the community is not saying what those in power want to hear, you will not get a hearing. This was typified when a lady at one of the community meetings first struggled to be allowed to speak and was then subjected to facetious statements by the mayor.

The community is saying "Please listen to us".

The Councillors and the Mayor are saying "Nah. Shalln't".



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – Submission No. 48

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Elector Representation Review

Representation Review Report Submission Form

HAVE YOUR SAY ON COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATION REVIEW PROPOSAL

Council has prepared a Representation Review Report which details the review process, the public consultation undertaken and the proposal Council considers should be carried into effect.

This Submission Form is provided to assist interested persons to make a submission to Council regarding the key issues being addressed under the current elector representation review.

Interested persons are encouraged to read the Representation Review Report (available from Council's website and at libraries/service centres) prior to making a submission and are encouraged to provide any additional relevant comments.

Submissions can be made in written form using this Form, online via the Council website ('Have Your Say') or via email or letter.

HOW DID WE GET TO THIS POINT?

The Adelaide Hills Council undertook an elector representation review during the period June 2016 - April 2017, however, the Electoral Commissioner ultimately determined that the requirements of Section 12 of the *Local Government Act 1999* had not been satisfied, specifically in relation to Council's interpretation of the parties that were eligible to make a submission during the public consultation stages. On the basis of this determination, the Commissioner did not certify Council's final review report. Accordingly, to ensure that no interested person has been denied the opportunity to provide a submission, Council agreed to resume the review and initiate further consultation with the community.

The review resumed in May 2017 and has progressed to the point where the first of the two prescribed public consultation stages has been completed. Council has given due consideration to all matters relevant to the review and the submissions which were received during the latest public consultation period; and has determined ("in principle") the changes it proposes in respect to its future size, composition and structure.

Please note:

- Previous submissions received in relation to the Elector Representation Review will not be considered in this consultation period. Persons seeking to have their views considered must lodge a written submission during this consultation period.
- This Form is issued by Council without any boxes and comments spaces pre-filled. If your form has these, please obtain a new form from Council's website or libraries/service centres. Please ✓ where appropriate and provide comments. This information will help Council Members to better understand your indicated preference.

THE REPRESENTATION REVIEW PROPOSAL

Council proposes the following in respect to its future composition and structure.

- The principal member of Council continue to be a Mayor, elected by the community.
- The Council area be divided into two wards.
- The proposed wards be identified as Ranges Ward and Valleys Ward.
- The future elected body of Council comprise twelve (12) ward councillors, with the proposed Ranges Ward be represented by seven (7) ward councillors and the proposed Valleys Ward be represented by five (5) ward councillors.

The proposed wards are described as follows:

Ranges Ward: Created by merging the existing Manoah, Mt Lofty and Marble Hill wards into one ward comprising the districts/localities of Dorset Vale, Bradbury, Scott Creek, Ironbank, Longwood, Mylor, Bridgewater, Aldgate, Heathfield, Stirling, Upper Sturt, Belair, Crafers, Crafers West, Cleland, Piccadilly, Mount George, Carey Gully (part only), Uraidla, Summertown, Greenhill, Horsnell Gully, Ashton, Basket Range (part only), Marble Hill, Norton Summit, Teringie, Woodforde, Rostrevor, Montacute, Cherryville (part only) and Castambul.

Valleys Ward: Created by merging the existing Torrens Valley and Onkaparinga Valley wards into one ward comprising the districts/localities of Verdun, Hahndorf, Balhannah, Hay Valley, Oakbank, Woodside, Lenswood, Carey Gully (part only), Basket Range (part only), Cherryville (part only), Forest Range, Lobethal, Charleston, Mount Torrens, Gumeracha, Cudlee Creek, Paracombe, Houghton, Lower Hermitage, Upper Hermitage, Ingleswood, Millbrook, Chain of Ponds, Birdwood, Forreton, Kersbrook, Mount Crawford, Humbug Scrub and Cromer.

Do you support Council's proposal for the future composition and structure of the representation arrangements (as detailed above)

YES

NO

This layout limits and restricts and does not promote the collection of the best available evidence

Comments/Reasons

Please see attached comments.

To be better informed, Council should have provided this layout.

Options as listed in ROP pages 21 to 38 (May 2017)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
My recorded preferences 1 (first) 8 (last)	2	1	3	4	5	6	7	8
(most preferred) ward	5	4	3	3	3	2	1	0

*NOTE: The four ward preferred option is the one proposed at Aug 20, 2017 meeting

Comments/Reasons (continued)

Please attach a separate sheet(s) if you wish to submit a longer response.

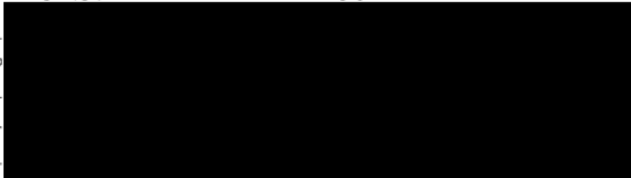
YOUR DETAILS

Please provide your full name, email address and postal address (as Council wishes to keep respondents advised on the progress of the review).

Full Name _____

Email (if applicable) _____

Postal Address _____



Please return your completed form to be received by close of business on Friday 6 October 2017 to:

Chief Executive Officer
Adelaide Hills Council
PO Box 44
WOODSIDE SA 5244

Email: mail@ahc.sa.gov.au

Any person making a written submission is invited to appear before a Special Council meeting on 10 October 2017 to be heard in respect of their submission.

For further information regarding the Elector Representation Review including details of public and Council meetings, please see Council's website (www.ahc.sa.gov.au) or contact:

Lachlan Miller, Executive Manager Governance and Performance
8408 0400 | mail@ahc.sa.gov.au.

AHC ERR RRR SUBMISSION ATTACHMENT

1. The LGA 1999, cannot and does not require me to provide reasons when I submit my democratic preference regarding the ward structure I favour in the current ERR process. Neither can the AHC require this for my submission to be valid and receive full consideration.
2. The AHC, as I have followed the events, has mismanaged the ERR process from February 28, 2016 onwards, in what I can only describe as an abysmal manner. It has failed to "partner" with the community from that date till now, October 6, over the matter of the ERR.
3. The AHC, as are all local governments, is required to serve the people in such a way as to "inspire trust and confidence". The ERR process has had the opposite effect on me. It has depressed me.
4. The time AHC has made available for me to become fully informed and conversant with the RRR document, and then provide a meaningful response has been totally inadequate. The RRR is in effect a new document and as such six weeks should have been allocated.
5. Other residents and I will have wasted our time in reading the ERR ROP and the ERR RRR documents, trying to understand the contents and the implications, and then formulating a response, because all previous responses have no bearing on any outcome. I gave up responding when Council persisted with the 'no wards' option despite strong opposition from the community to this proposal. I was wasting my time.
6. Council makes much of the fact that a large proportion of the submissions/petitions come from one 'area' (the unnamed Torrens Valley Ward). Because of this, Council, it seems to me, places less credence on them. It seems to me also, that Council 'estimates' what submissions from the remaining wards might have favoured, had they been forwarded in the same proportions. If this occurred, then it is wrong. Everyone in the community had the same opportunity to exercise their democratic rights and respond with their opinions. It is obvious, that those who conclude that a proposal of 'no wards' places them at some disadvantage, will be strongly motivated to respond. Those who do not respond are seemingly unconcerned about any outcome. The same interpretation applies to the number and content of submissions received from any area with respect to any of the proposals.
7. A comparison of the options provided in the ROP of 2016 and those in the ROP 2017 shows that they are not in the same order or sequence which is confusing to anyone who checks this. Apart from this the options and their detail and the applicable maps should be so laid out that they can be seen at a glance.
8. I draw attention to the top of page 14 of the September 2017 RRR. The paper quotes the Act beginning "A reviewgenerally --- but a council must ensure wards, are comprehensively reviewed under this section at least once in each relevant period that is prescribed by the regulations". If all that was required to be

comprehensively reviewed, did actually undergo such a comprehensive process, Council needs to explain why it chose to move from an existing **five ward** arrangement, to a **no ward**, then to a **four ward** and finally to a **two ward** preferred position. As I understand the word '*comprehensive*', it means, look closely and thoroughly at all of the workable options, and having done that, settle for the one that best meets all the requirements. What Council has done fails to meet what is prescribed by the regulations. It has "chopped and changed around".

9. I now refer to page 27 of the September 2017 ERR RRR, 6.7 SECTION 26.

"requires that a number of broader Principles also be taken into account"

- The desirability of avoiding significant divisions within the community (The 'two ward' proposal has created the *worst* possible division by opposing the rural and non-rural communities against each other. Had the 'two ward' option with five councillors per ward, or six councillors per ward been selected and proposed this could have been, perhaps an acceptable outcome. The Council has failed this test.
- Proposed changes should, whenever practicable, benefit ratepayers. (Council has failed dismally to demonstrate how ratepayers benefit. No 'two ward' option in previous ERR's has ever gained much consideration from Council or the people.
- Council should reflect communities of interest" I have seen no evidence that there has been a demand from the community, or how any of the past ERR ROP's and RRR's have defined these in an understandable manner, so that anyone can adequately respond.
- "Residents should receive adequate and fair representation" The section of the population that is 'rural' might have the level of representation that the Act stipulates, but as mentioned above they do not have the same level of representation as the existing arrangement provides, namely six councillors. The new proposal only provides five councillors to represent the people identifying as rural, whilst providing seven councillors to represent those identifying as non-rural. **This is the problem.**
- A four ward structure as proposed, and agreed to by majority, at the August 22 meeting meets all the requirements that need to be satisfied.

My preferences are: A mayor elected from across the entire council area

Four wards. Each ward having three councillors. The ward boundaries to be so drawn up to meet all requirements of the Act and to ensure rural and non-rural populations have the same level of representation. (six each)

There be twelve councillors in total

My preferences for ward names are: Reptile Ward, Avian Ward, Mammal Ward and Amphibian Ward (RAMA)

RESPONSE TO AHC ELECTOR REPRESENTATION REVIEW 2017
REPRESENTATION REVIEW REPORT SEPTEMBER 2017

Submission forwarded by [REDACTED]

Preliminary Comments:

- Councils exist to serve the needs of the people, not vice versa.

As an organisation, Council must show some level of commitment to its 'customers/clients' namely the people.

- The commitment of a high performing organisation (HPO) is much greater, more structured and thoughtful, than a low performance organisation.
- A HPO is characterised by:
 - Taking a longer term view
 - Being more likely to 'partner' with clients
 - Getting to know clients better
 - Seeking to find out how they can serve clients better
 - Demonstrating they truly understand their client's needs
 - Making decisions and delivering services and that better meet client's needs
 - Building mutual trust, respect and therefore loyalty. The 'clients' will become vocal supporters not disaffected opponents

The obligations of our elected representatives on Council are to *represent us*, as well as meeting other statutory obligations. They are, of course, also entitled to represent themselves. They are charged with making the best decisions, based on the best available information as evidence, to serve our best interests, at all times.

- It would be contemptuous, even arrogant of our elected representatives, to claim to know better what is in our best interests than we ourselves claim to know
- It would be contemptuous, even arrogant of our elected representatives to make the claim that their cumulative(combined) and accumulated knowledge in matters how we should be governed/administered is greater than the total of cumulative (combined) and accumulated knowledge of the people they are charged to represent
- It would be contemptuous, even arrogant of our elected representatives to claim they have more experience, greater expertise and better decision-making skills than the community at large with respect to these. Within the community there may well be many people with local government and other relevant skills, expertise and experience to bring to bear on the ERR process with their submissions
- The number of the submissions and their contents must, together with statutory requirements, be the primary and dominant factors on which Council must base its decisions. Statements like: "It should be noted that the public consultation undertaken by Council was not a ballot or poll. As such, the responses received were taken into account by Council but there is no legislative requirement that binds Council to act in accord with the opinions expressed in therein." Such statements, whilst true are quite unhelpful and contemptuous of the democratic principles that are embedded in the ERR, the LG Act, the views of the LG Association and the people of the AHC area and how they regard

their democracy. This view seems to be taken to ensure that an alternative agenda to that desired by the people, can be prioritized, promoted and voted in.

- It is a pity that Council does not follow the guidance of its own Internal Review of Council Decisions Policy more often. On page 8, Item 8.3.2 "..... will do more than simply consider whether *the decision* is legally and procedurally correct. The will also consider whether a *different decision* would be better, based on the evidence". Obviously we do not want decisions to be made that are not lawful!
- The entire ERR process has been an *exercise of POWER*. It has been my consistent contention that in the ERR exercise in 2012/2013, 2016/1017 and now in 2017 commencing with the May ROP and progressing to the September RRR, the Council has misused the power that is invested in it. It has done this by negating the democratic power and force of the people's submissions.

I shall now proceed to the document, entitled "AHC, RRR September 2017" and draw attention to issues which are highly problematic for at least one, if not more reasons. To begin, I make the challenging remark that I have serious concerns if the RRR would pass Immigration Minister Dutton's test of a high enough standard of English expression.

A second remark relates to the validity of the document. In my view it is not a valid RRR following on from what was a valid ROP. Page 2, paragraph three of RRR is highly questionable, since Council might have 'determined' ("in principle") the changes it proposes in respect to its future size, composition and structure', but it never made a decision about these matters as set out in the ROP that it would so do. There is no "in principle" decision in this document, whereas the precedent exists for all previous AHC ERR RRR's to have such a decision, and to go to the people with it.

The ROP of May 2017 was quite clear what the Council's position was with respect to principal member, the composition of Council, the division of the Council area, and the level of wards representation, should wards be retained.

The RRR has a totally different content to the ROP when it comes to:

- No wards being the preferred option
- The two ward option as presented in each document
- The rationale behind much of Council's decision-making

The public were provided 42 days to provide submissions to all the detail contained in the ROP, this time period being consistent with all previous ERR's. The submissions would have reflected and addressed what was in the ROP; particularly the only 'two ward' option, and the 'no ward' preferred position of Council.

The RRR presented a completely new scenario with respect to 'wards' or 'no wards' and the detail surrounding the 'two ward' proposal. These changes also impacted on all the other factors that needed to be addressed by the people in their second set of submissions. They cannot rely on the detail presented in submissions following the ROP because of the significant changes. They are facing a new set of details and options.

The RRR in effect becomes a combined ROP/RRR document, and there for merits the extended time of 42 days in which to provide a submission and not the Act provided 21 days. Anything less, is not consistent with past proper procedure.

If there is no legislative power that *binds* Council to accord with the opinions expressed in the submissions, there is also no legislative power that *prevents* Council from making maximum use of these opinions rather than minimum use which appears to be the case.

The Council has never made it overtly clear to the people, in any of the ERR documents from 2012/2013 onwards, the relative importance or significance it places on the various bits of information it must contend with in arriving at a decision about the key areas that need to be dealt with in the ERR. I contend that it is an intentional act, so that it can always justify the position it has taken. It limits the ability of the people to hold it to account.

My research has identified that only one of the thirteen elected representatives, presenting as candidates at the last Council election, has publicly stated a position with respect to 'wards' or 'no wards', in the documents required to be lodged. The other twelve "hedged their bets". They were not as open or transparent with their voting public as robust democracy demands. Had they been, they may not have gained the same level of support.

Council does not seem to have a "position" where it stands on the matter of *democracy*, strengthening our *democracy* or including ideas or priorities relating to *human rights* and *democratic rights* in Council policies and documents.

The 'no wards' structure has been a consideration from the ERR of 2008/2009 onwards. It did not get a clear majority support on Council, nor from the people at any time to enable it to be implemented. It required repeated casting votes from the Mayor, and the absence of two Councillors at a crucial meeting to be adopted. It then failed to be implemented for 2018, because the Electoral Commissioner would not certify AHC's ERR forwarded to him.

Council has been singularly unsuccessful in educating the public to accept its espoused benefits that would ensue from the abolishing of the wards structure. It has always resorted to imposition as its preferred strategy rather than winning 'hearts and minds' through conviction.

Since 2012/2013, Council has been divided by the 'wards', 'no wards' issue. It is apparent to any person attending meetings that deal with that matter, that there is 'conflict'. It is apparent that conflict resolution skills are not well-developed, group interaction and management skills need to be improved and that the Mayor fails to use his position and influence to enhance team-building. To end 'deadlocks' he resorts to his casting vote, rather than guiding the group to reach a unanimous, or at least a majority outcome.

A situation now exists where the council will not be "dictated to" by the people, the people have lost trust and confidence in the Council, and the Council is not capable of making

decisions that are reasonable, just, evidence-based and which address the stated preferences of the people.

Council has deluded itself that it has achieved a 'reputable' *compromise* with its 'two wards' proposal. It has intentionally, or unwittingly, created an AHC community that is no longer based on the principle of equality in the manner of its representation. Yes, all the conditions specified by the LGA have been met but the sector that can be described as *rural* is now represented by five councillors, whilst the *urban* sector has the advantage of having seven.

At no stage in any of the ERR documents of 2016/2017 and those of 2017 has Council discussed the importance of maintaining representation parity between its rural and urban sectors. Is this an oversight, or is it a deliberate omission to ensure its preferred option is not challenged on that fundamental democratic basis?

There is no doubt that a *four ward* proposal can meet all the legal requirements, and can overcome other 'concerns' that Council included in the documents. It would have the further benefit of parity in representation between rural and urban, parity of councillors per ward and be accepted as a true compromise by the people.

A *three ward* structure is still a better option than 'two wards' but it is getting away too much from a traditional arrangement that has existed since 1997. Tradition is an important factor in matters such as these.

Turning to page three we have a statement, oft occurring in these ERR documents. "Following considerable deliberation of all matters relevant to the review Council resolved..." Statements such as this are designed to shut down debate, neutralize any opposition, and make it totally clear how much genuine effort has gone into a decision. It is a 'nothing' statement that just does not meet the test of close scrutiny.

Paragraph 4 page 6 is a 'squirring' 'wriggling' attempt to negate the people's input in words (*provide Council with reasonable insight*) (*only came from a very small proportion*) and in statistics (1.4%) (40,000 members). Nowhere does Council provide comparison with votes recorded at election time nor the degree of time and effort that goes into preparing and presenting a quality submission, compared with listing preference numerals against names on a simple ballot paper and posting it off.

Paragraph 3 page 9 has already received some comment. While it is commendable that "democratic principle" is mentioned, and "equitable distribution" appears no reference is made to equity between the rural and the urban sectors within the Council area. Why?

The top of page 10 comment is highly questionable and has been addressed under 'communities of interest'. It appears to me to be "a solution looking for a problem".

I choose not to bother to comment on other matters page 10, matters page 11, 12, 13.

APPENDIX AJ

Council Agenda & Minutes
10 October, 2017



NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

To: Mayor Bill Spragg

Councillors	Ward
Councillor Ron Nelson Councillor Jan-Claire Wisdom	Manoah
Councillor Ian Bailey Councillor Jan Loveday	Marble Hill
Councillor Kirrilee Boyd Councillor John Kemp Councillor Nathan Daniell	Mt Lofty
Councillor Val Hall Councillor Andrew Stratford Councillor Lynton Vonow	Onkaparinga Valley
Councillor Linda Green Councillor Malcolm Herrmann	Torrens Valley

Notice is hereby given pursuant to the provisions under Section 82 of the Local Government Act 1999 that a Special meeting of the Council will be held on:

Tuesday 10 October 2017
6.00pm
63 Mt Barker Road Stirling

Business of the meeting:

1. To provide the opportunity for persons who have made written submissions regarding the Representation Review Report (dated September 2017), or their representatives, to be heard in relation to their submissions in accordance with Section 12(10) of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

A copy of the Agenda for this meeting is supplied under Section 83 of the Act.

Meetings of the Council are open to the public and members of the community are welcome to attend. Public notice of the Agenda for this meeting is supplied under Section 84 of the Act.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Bice', is written over a horizontal line.

Peter Bice
Acting Chief Executive Officer



AGENDA FOR SPECIAL MEETING

Tuesday 10 October 2017
6.00pm
63 Mt Barker Road Stirling

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Council Vision

Nurturing our unique place and people

Council Mission

Delivering activities and services which build a resilient community, sustain our built and natural environment and promote a vibrant economy

1. **COMMENCEMENT**
2. **OPENING STATEMENT**
"Council acknowledges that we meet on the traditional lands of the Peramangk and Kurna people and we recognise their connection with the land.

We understand that we do not inherit the land from our ancestors but borrow it from our children and in this context the decisions we make should be guided by the principle that nothing we do should decrease our children's ability to live on this land."
3. **APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE**
 - 3.1. Apology
 - 3.2. Leave of Absence
4. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**
5. **BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**
 - 5.1. Elector Representation Review – Hearing of Representation Review Report Submissions
6. **CLOSE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday 10 October 2017
AGENDA BUSINESS ITEM

Item: 5.1

Originating Officer: Lachlan Miller, Executive Manager Governance & Performance

Responsible Director: Terry Crackett, Director Corporate Services

Subject: Elector Representation Review – Hearing of Representation Review Report Submissions

For: Decision

SUMMARY

An Elector Representation Review is held to examine fundamental aspects of a Council's composition and ward structure. It is a formal process that is closely regulated under the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Act) and is required to be conducted at least every eight years or as required by regulation.

At its 11 September 2017 meeting, Council resolved to approve the draft Representation Review Report (an Appendix to that agenda item 14.2) for public consultation for a period not less than three (3) weeks and delegated to the CEO to determine the final consultation dates, indicatively 14 September to 6 October 2017.

The Representation Review Report contained Council's 'proposal' on the representation arrangements that it favours and desires to be put in place at the next Local Government election in November 2018, this being an elected Mayor, 12 councillors and two wards.

The consultation period has now concluded and the next stage of the Representation Review process is for Council to provide the opportunity for persons who have made written submissions, or their representatives, to be heard in relation to the submissions in accordance with Section 12(10) of the Act.

Due to the recent close of the consultation period, a submissions report is not yet available for Council's review but will be provided at Council's 24 October 2017 Ordinary meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

Council resolves:

1. That the report be received and noted.
 2. To determine the meeting process that will be put in place to hear the submissions from the Representation Review Report consultation.
-

1. GOVERNANCE

➤ Strategic Management Plan/Council Policy

Goal Organisational Sustainability
Strategy Governance

The representation arrangements for the elected Council are an important element of Council's commitment to open and transparent decision making which facilitates public accountability.

➤ Legal Implications

Legislative requirements regarding an Elector Representation Review are laid out in Division 2 *Powers of councils and representation reviews*, section 12 of the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Act) and the *Local Government (General) Regulations 1999*.

Section 12(10) of the Act requires Council to provide for any person who made a written submission in response, during the consultation period, an opportunity to appear personally or by representative before the council or a council committee and to be heard on those submissions.

The Act and the *Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013* (the Regulations) set out the procedural requirements of Council meetings and are supplemented, where permitted, by Council's *Code of Practice for Council Meeting Procedures*.

➤ Risk Management Implications

Undertaking the Elector Representation Review in accordance with the requirements of legislation and engaging in genuine consultation will assist in mitigating the risk of:

Poor governance practices occur which lead to a loss of stakeholder (i.e. customer and regulator) confidence and/or legislative breaches.

Inherent Risk	Residual Risk	Target Risk
Extreme (5C)	Medium (3D)	Medium (3D)

Note that there are many other controls that assist in mitigating this risk.

➤ Financial and Resource Implications

Funding for the engagement of the consultant and other review costs for the 2017/18 year are covered by the Chief Executive Officer's provision. Costs associated with the 2016/17 year were specifically budgeted within the Governance & Risk portfolio.

In relation to staffing resources, acknowledging that staff members from various levels across the organisation have been involved in elements of the Review project, the project to date has consumed the estimated equivalent of 0.2FTE at Executive Manager level for the project duration.

➤ **Customer Service and Community/Cultural Implications**

Through the Elector Representation Review process Council will consider whether the Adelaide Hills community may benefit from an alteration to its composition and or ward structure.

➤ **Environmental Implications**

There are no direct environmental implications considered as part of the Elector Representation Review.

➤ **Engagement/Consultation with Committee, Regional Subsidiary, Advisory Group and Community**

The provision of information to the community and community consultation are key components of an Elector Representation Review. Two distinct public consultation phases are legislated, with a minimum of one six (6) week period which allows interested persons to make written submissions to Council on the Representation Options Paper and, the current matter, a minimum three (3) week consultation period enabling interested persons to make written submissions on the Representation Review Report

The Representation Options Paper consultation occurred from 30 May to 14 July 2017 inclusive (i.e. >6 weeks) and the Representation Review Report consultation from 12 September to 6 October 2017 inclusive (i.e. >3 weeks).

2. BACKGROUND

A fulsome summary of the history of the Council's current Representation Review process up to May 2017 can be found in Item 14.4 Elector Representation Review – Status and Options Paper in the 23 May 2017 Ordinary Council Meeting agenda (note: this is available on Council's website).

Since May 2017 Council has considered and resolved as follows in relation to the Elector Representation Review:

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 9 August 2017 | Special Meeting at which Council received the Options Paper Consultation Report and resolved for a Representation Review Report to be drafted with a 'no wards' proposal. |
| 22 August 2017 | Ordinary Meeting at which Council received the draft no wards Representation Review Report (the 'no wards report'). Council resolved for a new Representation Review report to be drafted with a '4 wards' proposal (the '4 wards report'). |
| 4 September 2017 | Special Meeting to consider three Motions on Notice. Council resolved to rescind the 22 August resolution to prepare the '4 wards report'. Council also resolved for a new Representation Review report to be drafted with a '2 wards' proposal (the '2 wards report'). |

11 September 2017 Special Meeting at which Council resolved to approve the draft '2 wards report' for public consultation and delegated to the CEO to determine the final consultation dates.

The full minute of the resolution (200/17) to approve the '2 wards report' for public consultation is as follows:

Moved Cr John Kemp 200/17
S/- Cr Jan-Claire Wisdom

Council resolves:

1. That the report be received and noted.
2. To approve the draft Representation Review Report at Appendix 1 (including the ancillary appendices) for public consultation for a period not less than three (3) weeks, in compliance with the provisions of Section 12(9) of the Local Government Act 1999.
3. To delegate to the Chief Executive Officer the discretion to make any non-significant grammatical and/or content changes to the draft Representation Review Report for consultation purposes.
4. To delegate to the Chief Executive Officer the discretion to determine the final consultation dates subject to media publication dates, indicatively 14 September 2017 – 6 October 2017.

Carried

DIVISION

Cr Jan-Claire Wisdom called for a division.

The Mayor set aside his ruling.

In the affirmative (9)

Councillors Boyd, Kemp, Daniell, Vonow, Hall, Herrmann, Green, Nelson, Wisdom

In the negative (2)

Councillors Stratford, Bailey

On the basis of the results of the division, the Mayor declared the motion **CARRIED**.

Public Consultation Campaign

The following public consultation campaign was undertaken in relation to the Representation Review Report:

Duration (mandatory minimum 3 weeks):

12 September – 6 October 2017 inclusive (>3 weeks)

Media:

- Government Gazette (12 September 2017)
- Courier and Weekender Herald (initial advertisements on 13 & 14 September 2017)
- Council website
- Council social media (Facebook, Twitter, Hills Voice, email lists)
- Roadside banners
- Material at libraries and service centres
- Public meetings (Stirling and Gumeracha on 25 & 28 September 2017)
- On-line digital engagement (including enabling electronic submissions)
- Council Members speaking with their constituents

3. ANALYSIS

Representation Review Report Consultation

As the consultation concluded at 5pm on Friday 6 October, the submissions received during the consultation are still to be analysed and a *Representation Review Report Submissions Report* produced.

This report will be considered by Council at its 24 October 2017 Ordinary meeting.

Hearing of Submissions

Section 12(10) of the Act requires Council to provide for any person who made a written submission in response, during the consultation period, an opportunity to appear personally or by representative before the council or a council committee and to be heard on those submissions.

This Special Council Meeting (and any other meetings if the Council so resolves) is the opportunity required under s12(10).

While the hearing of submissions may appear to be similar to the Deputation and Public Forum elements of an Ordinary Council meeting, it is a different exercise that is not specifically provided for under Regulation or Council's *Code of Practice for Council Meeting Procedures*. In this type of situation s86(8)(b) of the Act provides that meeting procedure will be as determined by the council.

Once Council has resolved how it will hear the submissions (i.e. format and time allocated to each speaker), Council may wish to consider a suspension of meeting procedures under Regulation 20.

Next Steps

Upon considering both the submissions received and representations made, Council will need to determine (nominally at the 24 October 2017 Ordinary meeting) their next step with the key options being:

- I. To proceed with the finalisation of a report to the Electoral Commissioner. This report sets out the details of the process including copies of submissions received and evidence of process compliance, or
- II. To determine an alternate course of action.

On receipt of a report, the Electoral Commissioner must determine whether the requirements of this section have been satisfied and then under s12(13):

- a) if of the opinion that the requirements have been satisfied—give an appropriate certificate, or
- b) if of the opinion that the requirements have not been satisfied—refer the matter back to the council together with a written explanation of the reasons for not giving a certificate under this subsection.

A revised timeline has been prepared for the balance of the Elector Representation Review process and is at *Appendix 1*.

4. OPTIONS

The Council has the following options in relation to the report:

1. To resolve how the hearing of submissions will occur (*Recommended*). Doing so will give clarity and certainty to both Council Members and the representors wishing to speak to their submissions; or
2. To determine any additional actions or requirements in relation to next steps of the Elector Representation Review process.

5. APPENDIX

- (1) Elector Representation Review – Indicative Timeframes – v 1.4, 6 October 2017

**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY 10 OCTOBER 2017
36 NAIRNE ROAD WOODSIDE**

In Attendance:

Presiding Member: Mayor Bill Spragg

Members:

Councillor	Ward
Councillor Ron Nelson Councillor Jan-Claire Wisdom	Manoah
Councillor Ian Bailey Councillor Jan Loveday	Marble Hill
Councillor Kirrilee Boyd Councillor Nathan Daniell Councillor John Kemp	Mt Lofty
Councillor Val Hall Councillor Lynton Vonow Councillor Andrew Stratford	Onkaparinga Valley
Councillor Linda Green Councillor Malcolm Herrmann	Torrens Valley

In Attendance:

Andrew Aitken	Chief Executive Officer
Terry Crackett	Director Corporate Services
Marc Salver	Director Strategy & Development
Lachlan Miller	Executive Manager Governance & Performance

1. COMMENCEMENT

The special council meeting commenced at 6.06pm

2. OPENING STATEMENT

“Council acknowledges that we meet on the traditional lands of the Peramangk and Kurna people and we recognise their connection with the land.

We understand that we do not inherit the land from our ancestors but borrow it from our children and in this context the decisions we make should be guided by the principle that nothing we do should decrease our children’s ability to live on this land.”

3. APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3.1. Apologies
Nil

Mayor _____

24 October 2017

**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY 10 OCTOBER 2017
36 NAIRNE ROAD WOODSIDE**

3.2. Leave of Absence
Nil

3.3. Absent
Nil

4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE
Nil

5. BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

5.1. Elector Representation Review – Hearing of Representation Review Report Submissions

Moved Cr Andrew Stratford
S/- Cr Ron Nelson

239/17

Council resolves:

1. That the report is received and noted.
2. That the meeting procedure for the hearing of submissions is:
 - a. Each person who made a written submission received during the Representation Review Report consultation period, which concluded on 6 October 2017, will have the opportunity to appear personally, or by representative, to be heard for up to ten (10) minutes in relation to their submission.
 - b. At the conclusion of the hearing, up to five (5) minutes will be allocated for Council Members to ask questions of the person and these questions must be directly relevant to the content of the verbal submission provided under 2(a).

Carried Unanimously

The following people addressed Council:

- Joe Frank
- Geoff Williams
- Leith Mudge
- Ross Herrmann
- Bob Brooksby

**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY 10 OCTOBER 2017
36 NAIRNE ROAD WOODSIDE**

**Moved Cr Herrmann
S/- Cr Bailey**

Council resolves that the residential location of the speakers be included in the minutes.

Lost on casting vote of Mayor

Cr Herrmann called for a Division.

The Mayor set aside his ruling.

In the affirmative (6)
Councillors Stratford, Hall, Herrmann, Green, Bailey, Nelson

In the negative (7)
Councillors Boyd, Kemp, Daniell, Wisdom, Loveday, Vonow and Mayor Spragg

On the basis of the results of the division, the Mayor declared the motion LOST

6. CLOSE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

The meeting closed at 7.24pm.

APPENDIX AK

Council Agenda & Minutes
24 October, 2017

12. OFFICER REPORTS – DECISION ITEMS

- 12.1. Draft Animal Management Plan 2018 – 2022
That the Draft Dog and Cat Animal Management Plan 2018-2022 contained within Appendix 1 of this report be adopted
That the Dog and Cat Animal Management Plan 2018-2022 be forwarded to the Dog and Cat Management Board for approval
That the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to make any formatting or non-significant grammatical and/or content changes to the Draft Dog and Cat Animal Management Plan 2018-2022 for publication purposes during the period of its currency.
- 12.2. Mobile Food Vending Businesses
That the Mobile Food Vending Businesses report be received and noted
That community and stakeholder engagement in relation to Council's location rules commence once the Local Government (General) (Mobile Food Vendors) Variation Regulations 2017 are confirmed as final
The community and stakeholder engagement include:
- a) *Seeking input from those residents and businesses located near the preliminary locations proposed in the Mobile Food Vending Businesses report for the operation of Mobile Food Vending Businesses*
 - b) *Seeking input and feedback from business associations and local markets and community events identified by the CEO to inform development of Council's location rules*
 - c) *Undertaking community wide engagement to obtain input and feedback to inform development of Council's location rules*
- Refer to agenda for full details*
- 12.3. 2016/17 General Purpose Financial Statements
That, in accordance with Section 127 of the Local Government Act 1999 and the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1999, Council adopts the General Purpose Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2017.
To authorise the Mayor and CEO to sign the General Purpose Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2017.
- 12.4. Elector Representation Review – Submissions Report and Determination
That the Representation Review Report Submissions Report at Appendix 1 containing 47 valid submissions is received and noted.
(The next steps in relation to the representation composition and structure that it desires to be put in place).

**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday 24 October 2017
AGENDA BUSINESS ITEM**

Item:	12.4
Originating Officer:	Lachlan Miller, Executive Manager Governance & Performance
Responsible Director:	Terry Crackett, Director Corporate Services
Subject:	Elector Representation Review – Submissions Report and Determination
For:	Decision

SUMMARY

An Elector Representation Review is held to examine fundamental aspects of a Council's composition and ward structure. It is a formal process that is closely regulated under the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Act) and is required to be conducted at least every eight years or as required by regulation.

At its 11 September 2017 meeting, Council resolved to approve the draft Representation Review Report (an Appendix to that agenda item 14.2) for public consultation for a period not less than three (3) weeks and delegated to the CEO to determine the final consultation dates, indicatively 14 September to 6 October 2017.

The Representation Review Report contained Council's 'proposal' on the representation arrangements that it favours and desires to be put in place at the next Local Government election in November 2018, this being an elected Mayor, 12 councillors and two wards.

On 10 October 2017 Council held a Special Meeting to provide the opportunity for persons who had made written submissions, or their representatives, to be heard in relation to the submissions in accordance with Section 12(10) of the Act. Five (5) people were heard in relation to their written submissions.

The purpose of this report is twofold, firstly to provide Council with the Representation Review Report Submissions Report for consideration and secondly for Council to determine the next step in relation to its 'proposal'.

RECOMMENDATION

Council resolves:

1. That the report be received and noted.
 2. That the Representation Review Report Submissions Report at Appendix 1 containing 47 valid submissions is received and noted.
 3. (The next steps in relation to the representation composition and structure that it desires to be put in place).
-

1. GOVERNANCE

➤ Strategic Management Plan/Council Policy

Goal Organisations Sustainability
Strategy Governance

The representation arrangements for the elected Council are an important element of Council's commitment to open and transparent decision making which facilitates public accountability.

➤ Legal Implications

Legislative requirements regarding an Elector Representation Review are laid out in Division 2 *Powers of councils and representation reviews*, section 12 of the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Act) and the *Local Government (General) Regulations 1999*.

Specifically relevant to this meeting:

- After Council has prepared its Representation Review Report, conducted public consultation and heard from people who lodged submissions, Section 12(11) provides that Council 'must then finalise its report (including in its report recommendations with respect to such related or ancillary matters as it thinks fit)'
- Section 12(12) then requires the report to be referred to the Electoral Commissioner, including any written submissions received in the Representation Review Report consultation.

➤ Risk Management Implications

Undertaking the Elector Representation Review in accordance with the requirements of legislation and engaging in genuine consultation will assist in mitigating the risk of:

Poor governance practices occur which lead to a loss of stakeholder (i.e. customer and regulator) confidence and/or legislative breaches.

Inherent Risk	Residual Risk	Target Risk
Extreme (5C)	Medium (3D)	Medium (3D)

Note that there are many other controls that assist in mitigating this risk.

➤ Financial and Resource Implications

Funding for the engagement of the consultant and other review costs for the 2017/18 year are covered by the Chief Executive Officer's provision. Costs associated with the 2016/17 year were specifically budgeted within the Governance & Risk portfolio.

In relation to staffing resources, acknowledging that staff members from various levels across the organisation have been involved in elements of the Review project, the project to date has consumed the estimated equivalent of 0.2FTE at Executive Manager level for the project duration.

➤ **Customer Service and Community/Cultural Implications**

Through the Elector Representation Review process Council will consider whether the Adelaide Hills community may benefit from an alteration to its composition and or ward structure.

➤ **Environmental Implications**

There are no direct environmental implications considered as part of the Elector Representation Review.

➤ **Engagement/Consultation with Committee, Regional Subsidiary, Advisory Group and Community**

The provision of information to the community and community consultation are key components of an Elector Representation Review. Two distinct public consultation phases are legislated, with a minimum of one six (6) week period which allows interested persons to make written submissions to Council on the Representation Options Paper and, the current matter, a minimum three (3) week consultation period enabling interested persons to make written submissions on the Representation Review Report.

The Representation Options Paper consultation occurred from 30 May to 14 July 2017 inclusive (i.e. >6 weeks) and the Representation Review Report consultation from 12 September to 6 October 2017 inclusive (i.e. >3 weeks).

2. BACKGROUND

Chronology Overview

A fulsome summary of the history of the Council's current Representation Review process up to May 2017 can be found in Item 14.4 Elector Representation Review – Status and Options Paper in the 23 May 2017 Ordinary Council Meeting agenda (note: this is available on Council's website).

Since May 2017 Council has considered and resolved as follows in relation to the Elector Representation Review:

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 9 August 2017 | Special Meeting at which Council received the Options Paper Consultation Report and resolved for a Representation Review Report to be drafted with a 'no wards' proposal. |
| 22 August 2017 | Ordinary Meeting at which Council received the draft no wards Representation Review Report (the 'no wards report'). Council resolved for a new Representation Review report to be drafted with a '4 wards' proposal (the '4 wards report'). |
| 4 September 2017 | Special Meeting to consider three Motions on Notice. Council resolved to rescind the 22 August resolution to prepare the '4 wards report'. Council also resolved for a new Representation Review report to be drafted with a '2 wards' proposal (the '2 wards report'). |

- 11 September 2017 Special Meeting at which Council resolved to approve the draft '2 wards report' for public consultation and delegated to the CEO to determine the final consultation dates.
- 10 October 2017 Special Meeting at which Council provided the opportunity for persons who had made written submissions, or their representatives, to be heard in relation to the submissions in accordance with Section 12(10) of the Act. Five (5) people were heard in relation to their written submissions.

Representation Review Report Consultation

The full minute of the resolution (200/17) from the 11 September 2017 Special Meeting to approve the '2 wards report' for public consultation is as follows:

Moved Cr John Kemp 200/17
S/- Cr Jan-Claire Wisdom

Council resolves:

1. That the report be received and noted.
2. To approve the draft Representation Review Report at Appendix 1 (including the ancillary appendices) for public consultation for a period not less than three (3) weeks, in compliance with the provisions of Section 12(9) of the Local Government Act 1999.
3. To delegate to the Chief Executive Officer the discretion to make any non-significant grammatical and/or content changes to the draft Representation Review Report for consultation purposes.
4. To delegate to the Chief Executive Officer the discretion to determine the final consultation dates subject to media publication dates, indicatively 14 September 2017 – 6 October 2017.

Carried

DIVISION

Cr Jan-Claire Wisdom called for a division.

The Mayor set aside his ruling.

In the affirmative (9)

Councillors Boyd, Kemp, Daniell, Vonow, Hall, Herrmann, Green, Nelson, Wisdom

In the negative (2)

Councillors Stratford, Bailey

On the basis of the results of the division, the Mayor declared the motion **CARRIED**.

Public Consultation Campaign

The following public consultation campaign was undertaken in relation to the Representation Review Report:

Duration (mandatory minimum 3 weeks):

12 September – 6 October 2017 inclusive (>3 weeks)

Media:

- Government Gazette Public Notice (12 September 2017)
- Courier Herald Public Notice (13 September 2017)
- Weekender Herald Public Notice (14 September 2017)
- Council website (Representation Review Report & Response Forms, News Items)
- Council social media (Facebook, Twitter, Hills Voice, email lists)
- Roadside banners
- Material (Representation Review Report & Response Forms) at libraries and service centres
- Public meetings (Stirling and Gumeracha on 25 & 28 September 2017)
- On-line digital engagement (including enabling electronic submissions)
- Council Members speaking with their constituents

As a learning from the previous Representation Review Report consultation, and to assist with determining (at the highest level), the degree of support for the Council's proposal, the on-line and hard copy response forms asked the respondent to indicate whether they supported 'Council's proposal for the future composition and structure of the representation arrangements.'

3. ANALYSIS

Representation Review Report Consultation Results

At the conclusion of the consultation (5pm on Friday 6 October), Council had received 48 submissions in the following formats: email, on-line survey, hard copy response form and hard copy freeform submissions. Unfortunately three (3) submissions were received after the consultation close and these have not been further considered in the analysis of the submissions.

Of these 48 submissions, one respondent lodged two submissions and as such, the first submission is taken to be superseded by the second submission.

The *Elector Representation Review Second Public Consultation Submissions Report (Appendix 1)* contains analysis of the submissions received. This analysis includes:

- the high level indication of support for the proposal
- commentary on the issues raised by respondents
- the future composition and structure
- recommendations

At the highest level, the analysis of whether respondents supported the Council's proposal resulted in the following:

Support Council's 'proposal'	11 submissions (23.4% of respondents)
Do not support Council's 'proposal'	36 submissions (76.6% of respondents)

For all submissions received, care has been taken to try and de-identify the respondent and refer to them by a Respondent Number.

Submissions have been included in Attachments in the Submissions Report as they were lodged, for this reason spelling and grammatical errors have not been corrected. Some text has been relocated from the proposal question responses to the 'Further Comments' section and referenced accordingly for formatting purposes.

Rescission of 28 February 2017 resolution

On 28 February 2017, in consideration of Item 14.1 Elector Representation Review – Determination of Proposal, Council determined its final proposal for the purposes of finalising a report to the Electoral Commissioner as follows:

Moved Cr Jan-Claire Wisdom 38/17
S/- Cr Lynton Vonow

Council resolves:

1. That the report be received and noted.
2. The following proposal for the future composition and structure of the Adelaide Hills Council be carried into effect as follows:
 - a. The principal member of the Adelaide Hills Council continues to be a Mayor, elected by the electors for the area.
 - b. The Adelaide Hills Council area not be divided into wards.
 - c. The Adelaide Hills Council comprise twelve (12) area councillors who will be elected by electors at council-wide elections to represent the whole Council area.

Given that a 'no ward' proposal is not a valid option before Council at this point in time, legal advice has been sought regarding the appropriate treatment of the 28 February 2017 resolution (i.e. whether a rescission is required). The advice received is that 'the Council is not required to do anything in relation its resolution of 28 February 2017, as its subsequent consideration of and resolutions pertaining to, the Representation Review have already operated to the effect that they have revoked, or otherwise amended, the original "no ward" proposal.'

Determination of Proposal

Taking into consideration the requirements of s12 of the Act including, but not limited to, the consultation feedback received, the principles under s26(1)(c) and the matters referred to in s33 (see *Appendix 2*), the next step of the representation review process is for Council to determine the status of its proposal. There are two options:

Option 1: Affirm (endorse) the final position on the future structure and composition and final the Representation Review Report in a timely manner

To do so Council will need to resolve to endorse the future composition and structure. Further Council may determine to identify the key reasons why Council has adopted this position (these may have already been identified in part/whole in the Representation Review Report).

In accordance with s12(11) Council may include in its report any recommendations with respect to such related or ancillary matters as it thinks fit.

Additionally, Council will need to resolve for the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to develop the final report to the Electoral Commissioner on the representation review process in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

In doing so Council may wish to delegate the power to the CEO to lodge the final report on Council's behalf or alternatively require it to be brought back to a future special meeting (nominally 8 November 2017) for approval for lodgement.

Option 2: Resolve to adopt an alternate course of action

Should Council determine not to proceed with the current '2 wards' proposal or not do so in a timely manner to meet the timeframe set by the Electoral Commission (i.e. submission of the Final report on or before 13 November 2017), there are no other valid options open to Council (without likely breaching the provisions of s12).

A failure to submit the Final Report on or before 13 November, would likely be a trigger for the Electoral Commissioner to exercise his powers under s12(20) to 'take such action as, in the circumstances of the particular case, appears appropriate to the Electoral Commissioner and may then, by notice in the Gazette, give effect to a proposal that could have been carried into effect by the council under this section.'

Next Steps

On the reasonable assumption that Council resolves to affirm the '2 wards' proposal and lodge the Final Report, the structure of the report will indicatively be as follows:

1. Introduction
2. Background
3. Proposal
4. Review Process
5. Public Consultations
6. Proposal Rationale (in the form of the Representation Review Report including how it addresses the provisions of ss26 & 33)
7. Conclusion
8. Appendices (containing copies of the public notices, Options Paper and Representation Review Reports, Submissions Reports and Council Agenda Reports and Minutes)

In considering the lodged Final Representation Review Report, the Electoral Commissioner must determine whether the requirements of Section 12 have been satisfied and then under s12(13):

- a) if of the opinion that the requirements have been satisfied—give an appropriate certificate, or
- b) if of the opinion that the requirements have not been satisfied—refer the matter back to the council together with a written explanation of the reasons for not giving a certificate under this subsection.

Once a certificate is provided, Council must, under s12(15)(b) by notice (or notices) in the Gazette, provide for the operation of the proposal that it has recommended in its report.

A revised timeline has been prepared for the balance of the Elector Representation Review process and is at **Appendix 3**.

4. APPENDICES

- (1) Elector Representation Review Second Public Consultation Submissions Report – October 2017
- (2) Local Government Act 1999 extracts – s26(1)(c) and s33
- (3) Elector Representation Review – Indicative Timeframes – v 1.4, 6 October 2017

ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY 24 OCTOBER 2017
63 MT BARKER ROAD STIRLING

12.3. 2016/17 General Purpose Financial Statement

Moved Cr Jan Loveday 243/17
S/- Cr John Kemp

Council resolves:

1. That the report be received and noted.
2. That, in accordance with Section 127 of the *Local Government Act 1999* and the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1999*, Council adopts the General Purpose Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2017.
3. To authorise the Mayor and CEO to sign the General Purpose Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2017.

Carried Unanimously

12.4. Elector Representation Review – Submissions Report and Determination

Moved Cr Kirrilee Boyd 244/17
S/- Cr John Kemp

That the meeting be adjourned for 5 minutes to enable the wording of a motion to be formed for consideration.

Carried Unanimously

6.55pm The meeting adjourned

7.13pm The meeting resumed

Moved Cr Wisdom 245/17
S/- Cr Kemp

Council resolves:

1. That the report be received and noted.
2. That the Representation Review Report Submissions Report at Appendix 1 containing 47 valid submissions is received and noted.
3. The following proposal for the future composition and structure of the Adelaide Hills Council be carried into effect as follows:
 - a) The principal member of Council continues to be a Mayor, elected by the electors for the area.
 - b) The Council elected body comprise a Mayor and twelve councillors
 - c) The Council area be divided into two wards (as per the structure presented in the Representation Review Report dated September 2017), except all of Carey Gully, Cherryville and all of Basket Range to be incorporated into the Ranges Ward.

ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
 MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
 TUESDAY 24 OCTOBER 2017
 63 MT BARKER ROAD STIRLING

- d) The proposed wards be identified as the Ranges Ward and the Valleys Ward, with the Ranges Ward being represented by seven councillors and the Valleys Ward being represented by five councillors.
4. The key reasons for the Adelaide Hills Council determining its proposal for the future composition and structure of the Adelaide Hills Council are as follows:
- a) Elected Mayor:
- i. A Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy – choice; and
 - ii. The election of a Mayor affords all eligible members of the community the opportunity to express faith in a candidate, should they choose to do so,
 - iii. The office of the Mayor has served the Adelaide Hills Council well over the years and
 - iv. An elected Mayor brings stability and continuity to the council given the four year term of office
- b) Two Wards:
- i. Gives a greater number of Councillors per ward which is better suited to the desired outcome of the Local Government (Elections) Act 1999 for proportional representation
 - ii. Provides electors with greater choice of candidates
 - iii. Merges areas of perceived common character and, as such, serves to consolidate existing “communities of interest”
 - iv. Indicates that the boundary between the wards recognises a portion of the Council district is defined as metropolitan area in the *Development Act 1993*
 - v. Is capable of sustaining large fluctuations in elector numbers
 - vi. Exhibits ward elector ratios which all lie comfortably within the specified quota tolerance limits
 - vii. The nomenclature for the two wards, being the Ranges Ward and Valleys Ward, is descriptive of the main topographical feature of each area.
- c) Twelve councillors ensures:
- i. Sufficient councillors are available to manage the affairs of Council
 - ii. The workloads of individual councillors should not become excessive and there is an appropriate level of elector representation
 - iii. A diversity in members’ skill sets, experience, expertise, opinions and backgrounds is maintained to ensure robust discussion amongst the elected members
 - iv. There are adequate lines of communication between the community and council
5. The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to prepare and forward the necessary report and documents to the Electoral Commissioner, pursuant to the provisions of Section 12 of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY 24 OCTOBER 2017
63 MT BARKER ROAD STIRLING**

Moved Cr Jan Loveday
S/- Cr John Kemp

That the motion be put.

Lost

Debate on the motion continued.

The motion was put.

Carried

Cr Jan-Claire Wisdom called for a division.

The Mayor set aside his ruling.

In the affirmative (6)

Councillors Kirrilee Boyd, John Kemp, Lynton Vonow, Linda Green, Jan Loveday, Jan-Claire Wisdom

In the negative (3)

Councillors Andrew Stratford, Val Hall, Ian Bailey.

On the basis of the results of the division, the Mayor declared the motion Carried.

Cr Vall Hall left the chamber 8.04pm

12.5. Road Closure and Disposal – Schapel Road Lobethal

Cr Linda Green declared a Perceived Conflict of Interest at Agenda Item 5 'Declaration of Conflict of Interest by Members of Council' in relation to Item 12.5. Cr Green remained in the Chamber and voted.

8.08pm Cr Val Hall returned to the Chamber

Moved Cr John Kemp
S/- Cr Lynton Vonow

246/17

Council resolves:

1. That the report be received and noted
2. To make a Road Process Order pursuant to the *Roads (Opening & Closing) Act 1991* to:
 - a. close and merge the land identified as "A" in Preliminary Plan No 16/0020 (*Appendix 3*) with Allotment 28 in Filed Plan No 155743 comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 5502 Folio 372