



Incorporating the districts of Cunderdin and Meckering

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Shire of Cunderdin – Representation Review

Introduction

The Shire of Cunderdin is legislated to have up to eight (8) Councillors. At the 2021 ordinary election three councillor nominations were received for four vacancies. Approval was sought from the Western Australian Electoral Commission to defer filling the vacancy until the October 2023 ordinary elections. Approval for this request was granted and the council has therefore been operating with seven councillors since the October 2021 election.

The last review of representation in the Shire of Cunderdin was undertaken in 2002 when Wards were removed.

The Review Process

In December 2021 Council at its ordinary meeting resolved to undertake a review of its councillor representation. In addition to this resolution the Minister for Local Government wrote to the Shire of Cunderdin announcing the election transition arrangements that would be implemented as a part of the Local Government Reform. A timeline of required steps was enclosed in this correspondence, these steps were needed to be met in order to complete the representation changes for the prior to the October 2023 local government election.

In alignment with the required review process, a discussion paper was developed to inform the community of the proposed changes and stimulate discussion on the council representation.

The discussion paper was made available to the community for their consideration, on the Shire's website and on application at the administration office, on the 9th December 2022. Advertising to inform the community of the current review and an invitation for submissions of comment from the public also commenced on the 9th December 2022.

The public consultation period was open for the prescribed 6 weeks from 9th December 2022 concluding on 20th January 2023. During this time no public submission were received.

Summary of Public Submissions

No submissions of approval or rejection were from the public.

Recommendations

For Council to adopt and submit this report to the Advisory Board outlining Council's decision to reduce the number of councillors from eight (8) to seven (7).

The commencement of changes to the Shire of Cunderdin's council representation structure will be initiated for the October 2023 ordinary elections.

At the October 2023 ordinary election four councillors complete their terms, (Cr B Daly, Cr T Harris, Cr W Stewart and Cr A Smith), leaving three councillors who still have two years in office, (A Harris, Cr N Jenzen and Cr N Snooke). Elections will be held for the for the four vacant positions.

CEO Mr Stuart Hobley

Signature: _____

Date: 23 January 2023

