



Shire of EAST
Pilbara
AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST SHIRE

Review of Wards and Representation Discussion Paper

November 2018

Contents

1.0	Background	3
2.0	Introduction	5
3.0	Factors to Consider.....	8
4.0	Options.....	11
	Other Matters	27
	Appendix A – Shire of East Pilbara SA1 Boundaries.....	28
	Appendix B – Operational Guidelines – Local Government Advisory Board	29
	Bibliography	33

1.0 Background

1.1 Review Requirements

Schedule 2.2 of the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act) requires a local government, with ward representation, to carry out a review of its ward boundaries, and the number of Councillors representing each ward, from time to time so that no more than eight years elapse between successive reviews. The last review in relation to the Shire of East Pilbara was undertaken in 2015.

The Council has resolved to undertake a review of the current ward representation to comply with the Act. Following completion of the review, the Shire is required to propose changes, if any, to the Local Government Advisory Board (The Board) for their consideration.

The Shire has developed a discussion paper to support a six week public submission period as advertised by local public notice.

Following the advertising period, a report will be prepared incorporating a record of any public submissions and submitted to the Council for consideration.

1.2 Review Process

The review process involves a number of steps:

- The Council resolves to undertake the review;
- Public submission period opens;
- A call for public submissions is made accompanied by a discussion paper;
- The public submission period closes;
- The Council considers all submissions and relevant factors and makes a decision on a proposal;
- The Council submits a report and proposal to the Board for consideration; and
- The Board submits a recommendation to the Minister for Local Government and Communities (Minister) as appropriate.

A recommendation from the Board approved by the Minister, where possible, will be put in place prior to the next ordinary election.

1.3 Ward Boundaries and Elector Numbers

The information relating to Elector numbers for the current ward boundaries has been sourced from the Western Australian Electoral Commission (WAEC).

The geospatial information used to generate the maps and the proposed boundaries for each option in this discussion paper, has also been sourced from the WAEC and is based on Statistical Areas Level 1 (SA1) boundaries. Elector numbers for each of the alternate ward options presented in this discussion paper has also been based on SA1 boundaries.

Any adjustment to ward boundaries in variation of the SA1 geospatial data will require specific information to describe the boundary in geographical terms and also information with regard to the number of Electors impacted by the variation.

There have been a number of changes since the 2015 ward review to SA1 boundaries. A map of the current SA1 Boundaries within the Shire of East Pilbara is provided at Appendix A.

1.0 Background (Continued)

1.4 Factors to be considered as part of the Review

When considering changes to wards boundaries and representation, Schedule 2.2 of the Act requires a Council to have regard to the following factors as part of the review process:

- Community of interest;
- Physical and topographic features;
- Demographic trends;
- Economic factors; and
- The Ratio of Councillors to Electors in the various wards.

The Board offers the following interpretation of these factors:

Community of Interest

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

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

Physical and Topographic Features

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

Demographic Trends

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

Economic Factors

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

Ratio of Councillors to Electors in the various Wards

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

In accordance with the Board's published guide¹, it considers this ratio to be particularly significant and will be reluctant to recommend changes to the Minister where the % Ratio Deviation is greater than $\pm 10\%$, unless exceptional circumstances apply. An extract of the relevant content of the Board's Operational Guidelines have been reproduced at Appendix B.

¹ Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, October 2017

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Current Situation

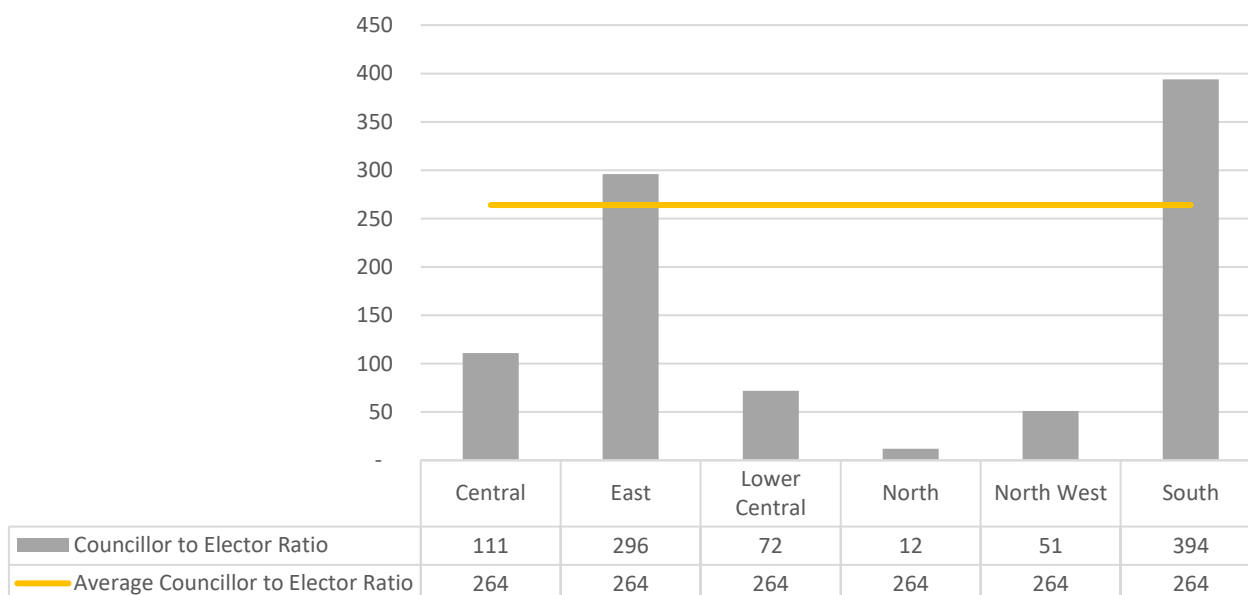
The Shire of East Pilbara has eleven (11) councillors elected from six (6) wards as follows:

2.1.1 Table 1: Shire of East Pilbara councillor to elector ratios - current situation²

Ward	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors	Councillor to Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
Central	1	111	1:111	57.95%
East	1	296	1:296	-12.12%
Lower Central	1	72	1:72	72.72%
North	1	12	1:12	95.45%
North West	1	51	1:51	80.68%
South	6	2362	1:394	-49.24%
Total	11	2,904	1:264	N/A

The Councillor to Elector ratio for the district is 1:264. The % ratio deviation (shown in Table 1 above) highlights the extent of the deviation from the district ratio in each ward. The current deviation in each ward is substantially different to the $\pm 10\%$ level identified by the Board.

2.1.2 Chart 1: Shire of East Pilbara Councillor to Elector ratios - current situation



The East and South wards have representation ratios above the district ratio and the Central, Lower Central North and North West wards have levels of representation below the district ratio.

² Western Australian Electoral Commission, 2018

2.0 Introduction (Continued)

2.2 Options to Consider

The Shire has identified the following options for changes to ward representation levels. Members of the public are invited to suggest others:

- Option 1 - Maintain the current ward boundaries and representation ratios;
- Option 2 - Create two wards using the Newman town site as a boundary and one ward representing the remainder of the district;
- Option 3 - Create three wards (East, Newman, West) using the Newman town site as the boundary and the De Grey River Basin as the boundary between East and West Wards; and
- Option 4 – Create four wards (East, Newman, Townsite, West) using the using the Newman town site as the boundary, the Marble Bar and Nullagine townsites as a boundary and the existing western boundary of the East ward as the boundary between East and West Wards;
- Option 5 - Create four wards (Marble Bar, Newman, Nullagine, Rural) using the using the Marble Bar, Newman and Nullagine townsites as boundaries with the remaining area forming a rural ward; and
- Option 6 - No wards.

Maps are included in the discussion paper to illustrate the options.

Also under consideration, is the number of Councillors representing each ward and the district. The minimum number of Councillor permitted under the Act is 6 and the maximum is 15.

Matters to consider in establishing the number of Councillors in each ward and the district are issues surrounding effective representation, effective and efficient decision making and also financial consequences. There is currently 11 Councillors to represent an estimated population of just over 10,500, or 1 Councillor per 264 electors.

Within each Option to be considered, representation levels have been calculated based on 11, 9 and 7 Councillors, as an even number of Councillors is not considered administratively effective with the Shire President potentially holding the deciding vote. Given the existing high level of the Councillor to Elector ratio no consideration has been given to having more than eleven elected members.

The names allocated to the wards in options 2, 3 and 4 are for descriptive purposes only and may vary if locality names or other features better describe the ward for identification purposes.

2.0 Introduction (Continued)

2.3 Public Submissions

Members of the community are invited to make a written submission about any aspect of ward boundaries and representation and lodge it at:

Shire of East Pilbara
Kalgan Drive (PMB 22)
NEWMAN WA 6753
Email: cg@eastpilbara.wa.gov.au

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

All submissions must be received by 4pm on 14 January 2019.

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

Councillor Lynne Craigie
PRESIDENT

Jeremy Edwards
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

3.0 Factors to Consider

3.1 Communities of Interest

Two thirds of electors are located in the town of Newman which serves as the commercial and service hub of the district and may be considered one community of interest. Given the distances between the towns of Marble Bar and Nullagine each town may be considered a community of interest. The remote rural communities in the remainder of the Shire may be considered as one community of interest or divided between those in the western De Grey River basin representing one community of interest and the remote communities of the eastern desert region making up a separate community of interest.

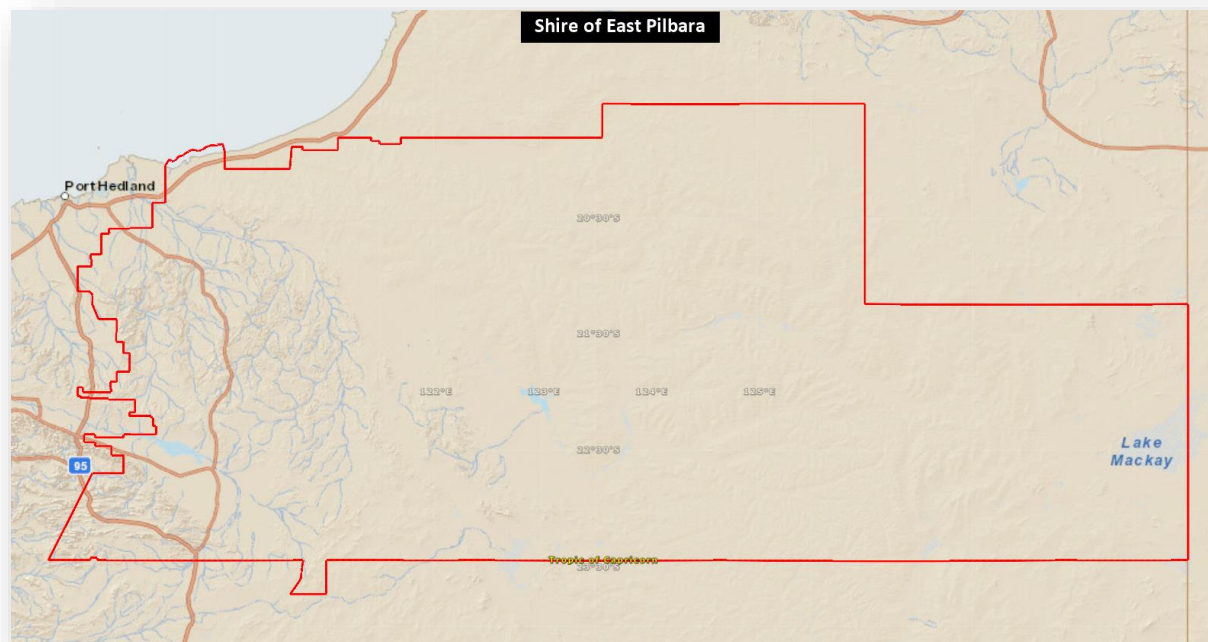
The estimated resident population on the night of the 2016 Census was 10,591³ Of this number, 2,904 people were registered to vote in the district as at 2 October 2018⁴.

3.2 Physical and Topographic Features

The Shire boundary stretches from the coast at Cape Keraudren just north east of Port Hedland, to the Border with the Northern Territory, and covers a vast 371,244 km². Two dominate features are the Great Sandy Desert in the east and the De Grey river basin in the west. The remote Karlamilyi National Park (Formerly known as Rudall River National Park) is located near the centre of the Shire surrounding Lake Dora.

The district is dissected by three main roads all located in the western portion of the Shire as shown on the Map below.

3.3 Shire Boundary and Topographic Features⁵



³ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2018

⁴ Western Australian Electoral Commission, 2018

⁵ Environmental Systems Research Institute Inc, 2014
Western Australian Land Information Authority, 2014

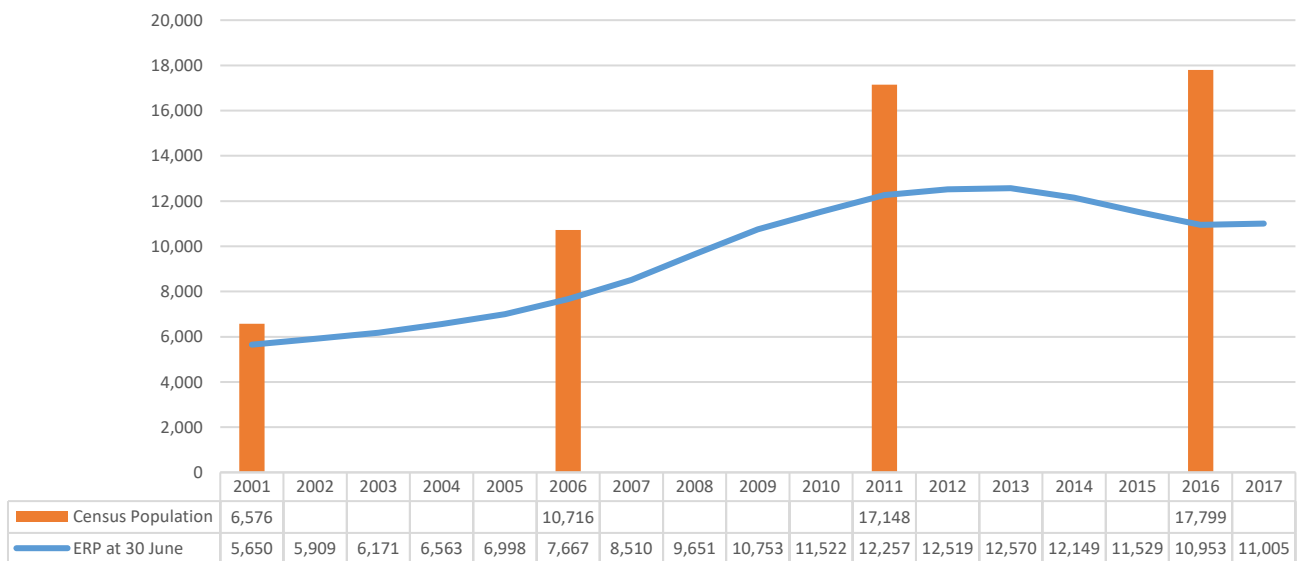
3.0 Factors to Consider (Continued)

3.4 Demographic Trends

Increases in mining activity within the Pilbara region resulted in significant population growth in the Shire some years ago. The growth occurred predominately within the western De Grey River basin portion of the Shire with minimal growth in the Eastern Desert Region. Fluctuation within the resource sector since the last ward review has seen a small decline in population growth at the last census.

The columns in the chart below represent the population on census night (2016) and, to the extent they are above the blue line of the Estimated Resident Population (ERP), reflects the level of FIFO workers.

3.4.1 Chart 2: Census Populations for the Shire of East Pilbara⁶:



Population levels are highly dependent on mining activity in the Western Region with the Eastern Desert Region being impacted by mining to a much lesser degree.

3.5 Economic Factors

Mining is central to the economy of the Shire of East Pilbara with minimal other economic activity present within the Shire. Mining activity is concentrated in the western De Grey River basin, Newman is the most significant economic centre and operates as a service hub for mining operations in the district.

⁶ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2018

3.0 Factors to Consider (Continued)

3.6 Ratio of Councillors to Electors

A ratio has been calculated to reflect the number of Councillors representing Electors in each ward. To achieve equitable representation, any ward boundaries would need to be applied to result in the same ratio of Councillors per Electors in each ward.

The district (target) ratio is determined by dividing the total number of Electors in the Shire (currently 2,904) by the number of councillors (11) to arrive at a target ratio of 1:264 or 1 Councillor per 264 Electors. Deviations from this target ratio are referred to as a % ratio deviation.

As outlined previously, the Board is reluctant to recommend changes to the Minister where the % ratio deviation is more than $\pm 10\%$, unless exceptional circumstances apply. Where the % ratio deviation is positive, the ward is considered to be over represented, a negative deviation indicates under representation.

If a local government considers there to be exceptional circumstances to justify a variation of more than $\pm 10\%$, for example, where significant forecast growth in a ward would rectify any initial imbalance, it may present an argument in a proposal to the Board.

For reference, the current situation in the Shire of East Pilbara is as follows:

3.6.1 Table 2: Shire of East Pilbara councillor to elector ratios - current situation

Ward	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors	Councillor to Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
Central	1	111	1:111	57.95%
East	1	296	1:296	-12.12%
Lower Central	1	72	1:72	72.72%
North	1	12	1:12	95.45%
North West	1	51	1:51	80.68%
South	6	2362	1:394	-49.24%
Total	11	2,904	1:264	N/A

** Positive reflects over representation and negative the extent of under representation.*

Base on the guidance published by the Board, it would appear as though the Board would be reluctant to retain the status quo in relation to 6 wards due to the significant variation in the Councillor to Elector ratios when compared to the target ratio, unless the Council was able to identify exceptional circumstances.

On the following pages, the five options previously identified for analysis, are examined with reference to the five factors required by the Act being:

- Option 1 - Maintain the current ward boundaries and representation ratios;
- Option 2 - Two wards (Newman and Other);
- Option 3 - Three wards (East, Newman, West);
- Option 4 – Four wards (East, Newman, Townsite, West);
- Option 5 – Four wards (Marble Bar, Newman, Nullagine, Rural); and
- Option 6 - No wards.

4.0 Options

4.1 Comparison of Options

The following is a summary of the assessment of the options against the Councillor to elector ratio to assist in comparison. This should be considered alongside the other factors reflected on the following page.

Assessments were undertaken of 7,9 and 11 Councillors for each of the options. The highest and lowest Councillor elector ratios for each option are presented in the table.

		11 Councillors	9 Councillors	7 Councillors
Option 1	Current Situation	-49.24% to 95.45%	N/A	N/A
Option 2	Two Wards	-31.82% to 38.26%	-29.41% to 36.84%	-26.02% to 34.70%
Option 3	Three Wards	-31.82% to 43.94%	-29.41% to 54.18%	-24.82% to 28.67%
Option 4	Four Wards	-31.82% to 50.38%	-29.55% to 59.40%	-26.07% to 68.42%
Option 5	Four Wards	-31.82% to 77.27%	-29.41% to 81.42%	85.54% to -67.95%
Option 6	No Wards	N/A	N/A	N/A

The variances in the Councillor elector ratio are presented in the table below with the lowest variance highlighted in Green and the colour progressively scaling up to red with the highest variance

		11 Councillors	9 Councillors	7 Councillors
Option 1	Current Situation	144.70%	N/A	N/A
Option 2	Two Wards	70.08%	66.25%	60.72%
Option 3	Three Wards	75.76%	83.59%	53.49%
Option 4	Four Wards	82.20%	88.95%	94.49%
Option 5	Four Wards	109.09%	110.84%	153.49%
Option 6	No Wards	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

The variances in the Councillor elector ratio are above the guideline of 10%, however the options presented in green have significantly reduced the variation that presently exists in the current Option 1.

4.0 Options (Continued)

The following is a summary of the assessment of the options against factors other than Councillor to elector ratio to assist in comparison.

		Community of interest	Physical and topographic features	Demographic trends	Economic factors
Option 1	Current Situation	None apparent	None apparent	None apparent	None apparent
Option 2	Two Wards	Represented	Represented	Represented	Represented
Option 3	Three Wards	Represented	Represented	Represented	Represented
Option 4	Four Wards	Represented	Represented	Represented	Represented
Option 5	Four Wards	Represented	Represented	Represented	Represented
Option 6	No Wards	None	None	None	None

Detailed assessment of each option and associated maps of boundary lines are set out on the following pages.

4.0 Options (Continued)

4.2 Option 1 – Maintain Current Ward Boundaries

The following is an assessment of the current situation against the factors.

Community of interest

The influence of Communities of Interest relevant to each ward is not evident.

The situation as at 2 October 2018 is as follows:

Table 3: Shire of East Pilbara councillor to elector ratios – Option 1 – maintain the status Quo

Ward	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors	Councillor to Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
Central	1	111	1:111	57.95%
East	1	296	1:296	-12.12%
Lower Central	1	72	1:72	72.73%
North	1	12	1:12	95.45%
North West	1	51	1:51	80.68%
South	6	2362	1:394	-49.24%
Total	11	2,904	1:264	N/A

Physical and topographic features

No topographical features appear evident to distinguish each existing ward.

Demographic trends

Ward boundaries do not appear to be influenced by demographic trends. Movement in demographics since 2006 are inconsistent across ward boundaries

There is variation in representation across the Shire with the Central, Lower Central, North and North West being over the target representation ratio of 1:264 and the East and South Wards being under the target ratio.

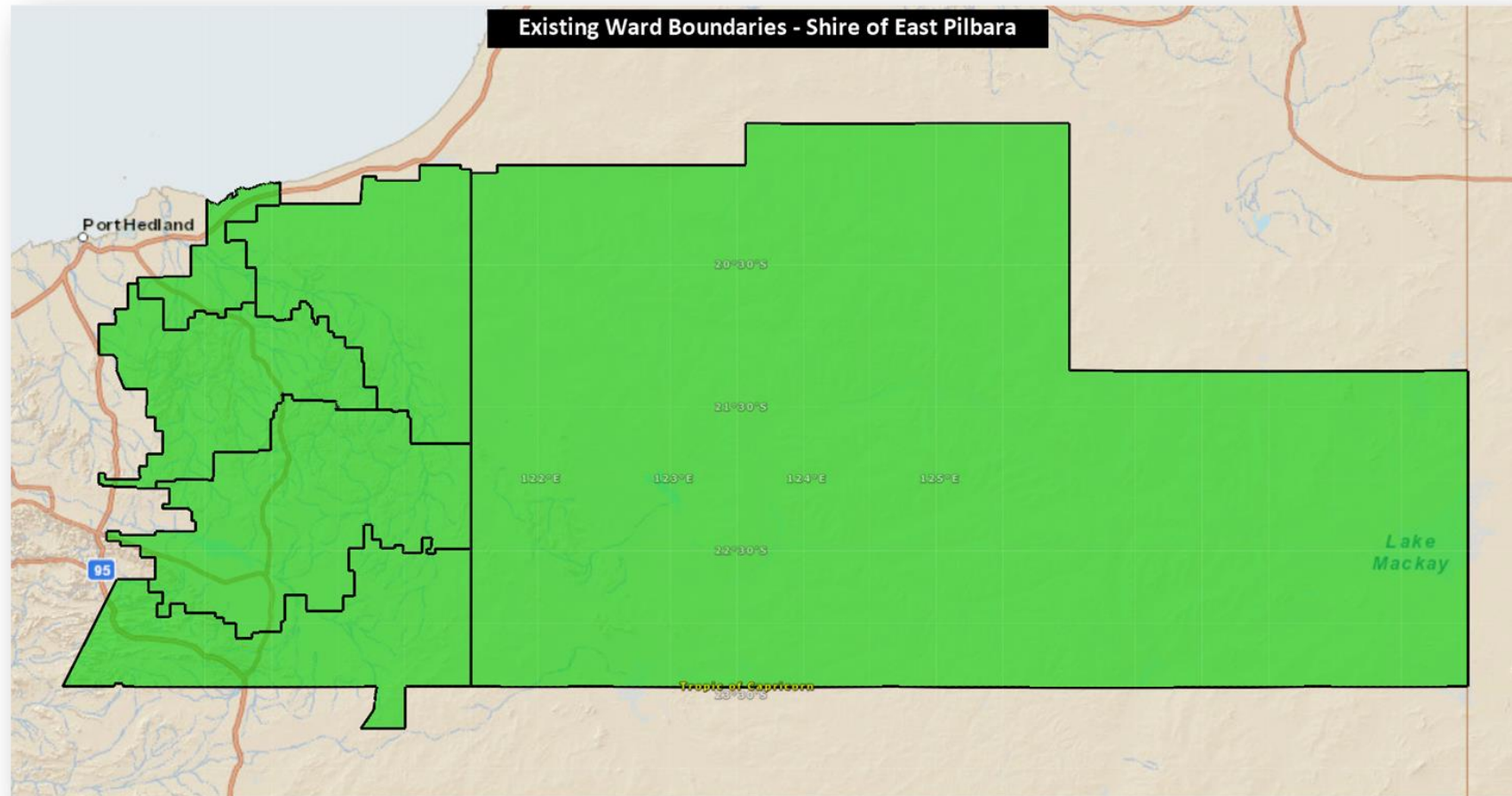
Economic factors

Economic factors do not appear to be evident in the current ward boundaries.

Without changing the current ward structure, amending the number of Councillors will not result in an improved ratio outcome due to the low number of Electors in the North Ward.

4.0 Options (Continued)

4.2 Option 1 – Maintain Current Ward Boundaries (Continued)⁷



⁷ Environmental Systems Research Institute Inc, 2014
Western Australian Land Information Authority, 2014

4.0 Options (Continued)

4.3 Option 2 – Create Two Wards

Two wards are proposed using the Newman town site as a common boundary.

Community of interest

In the establishment of two wards, community of interest would be separated as those who reside within the Newman town site and those outside Newman.

Physical and topographic features

The two wards are distinguishable by the Newman town site boundary (refer maps on following pages).

Demographic trends

Demographic trends are expected to be uniform in the two wards.

Economic factors

The boundaries reflect the economic activities of Newman as a mining and service centre.

This option results in the following:

Table 4: Shire of East Pilbara– Option 2 – Create two wards with 11 Councillors

Ward	Number of electors	Number of Councillors	Councillor - Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
Newman	2,090	6	1:348	-31.82%
Other	814	5	1:163	38.26%
Total	2,904	11	1:264	N/A

Table 5: Shire of East Pilbara– Option 2 – Create two wards with 9 Councillors

Ward	Number of electors	Number of Councillors	Councillor - Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
Newman	2,090	5	1:418	-29.41 %
Other	814	4	1:204	36.84%
Total	2,904	9	1:323	N/A

Table 6: Shire of East Pilbara– Option 2 – Create two wards with 7 Councillors

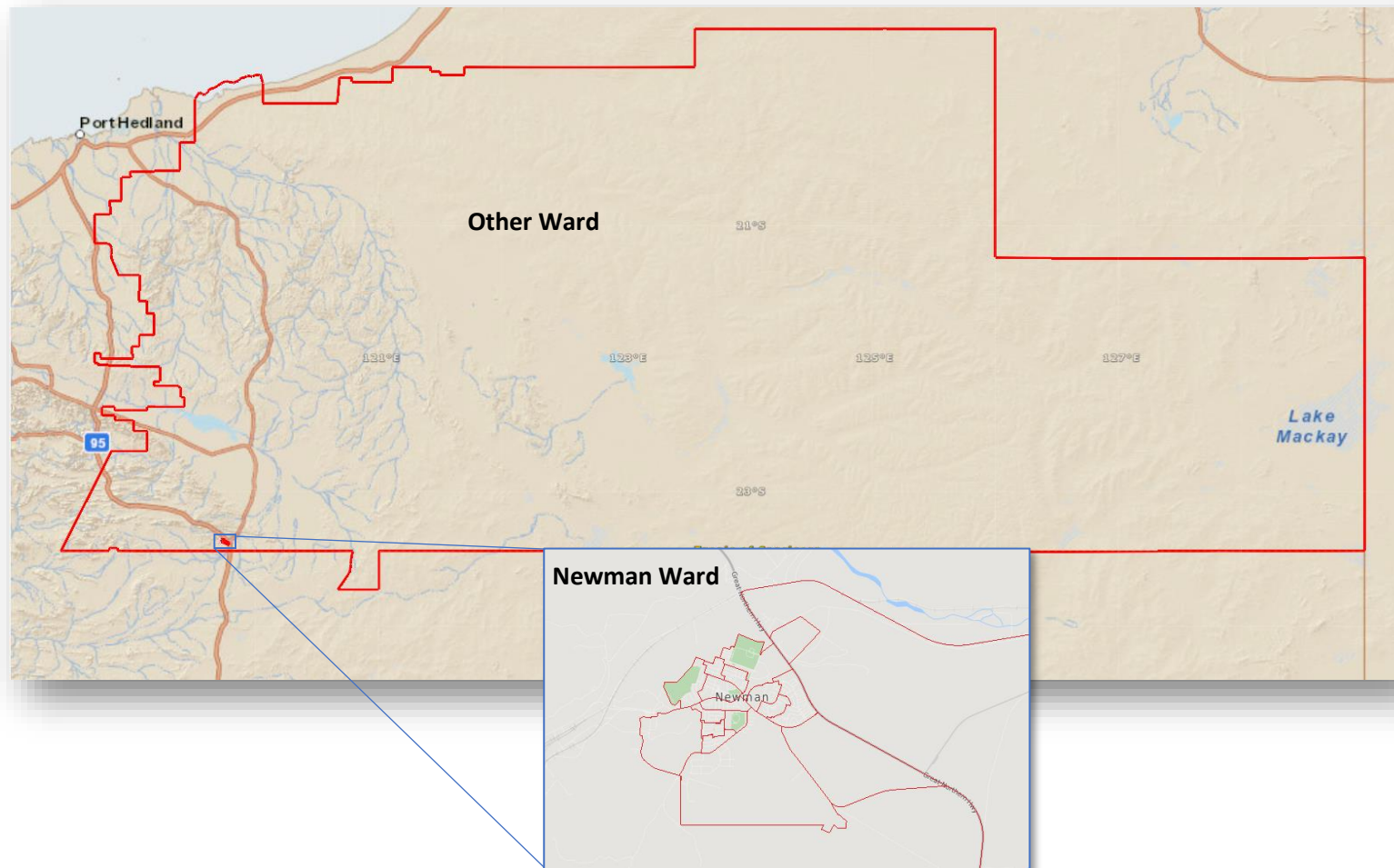
Ward	Number of electors	Number of Councillors	Councillor - Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
Newman	2,090	4	1:523	-26.02%
Other	814	3	1:271	34.70%
Total	2,904	7	1:415	N/A

The 9 and 7 Councillor options have the lowest target % ratio deviations.

4.0 Options (Continued)

4.3 Option 2 – Create Two Wards (Continued)

4.3.1 Newman and Other⁸



⁸ Western Australian Land Information Authority, 2014
Environmental Systems Research Institute Inc, 2014
Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2017 Local Government Area (LGA), map.

4.0 Options (Continued)

4.4 Option 3 – Three Wards

Three wards are proposed in Option 3, using the Newman town site as a boundary for a Newman ward, the De Grey River basin as a West Ward and the East Ward being the Eastern desert regions.

Community of interest

Each of the three major communities of interest, as previously identified, are reflected in Option 3.

Physical and topographic features

The boundaries are distinguishable by the Newman town site boundaries and the eastern edge of the De Grey River basin (refer to map to follow).

Demographic trends

Demographic trends are expected to be uniform in the Newman and West Wards and closely aligned to mining activity. Demographics in the east desert region are independent of mining activity and may not vary to the same degree as the other two wards.

Economic factors

The proposed boundaries reflect the economic activities of Newman as a service centre and the De Grey River basin.

This option results in the following:

Table 7: Shire of East Pilbara– Option 3 – Create three wards with 11 Councillors.

Ward	Number of electors	Number of Councillors	Councillor - Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
East	296	2	1:148	43.94%
Newman	2,090	6	1:348	-31.82%
West	518	3	1:173	34.47%
Total	2,904	11	1:264	N/A

Table 8: Shire of East Pilbara– Option 3 – Create three wards with 9 Councillors

Ward	Number of electors	Number of Councillors	Councillor - Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
East	296	2	1:148	54.18%
Newman	2,090	5	1:418	-29.41%
West	518	2	1:259	19.81%
Total	2,904	9	1:323	N/A

Table 9: Shire of East Pilbara– Option 3 – Create three wards with 7 Councillors

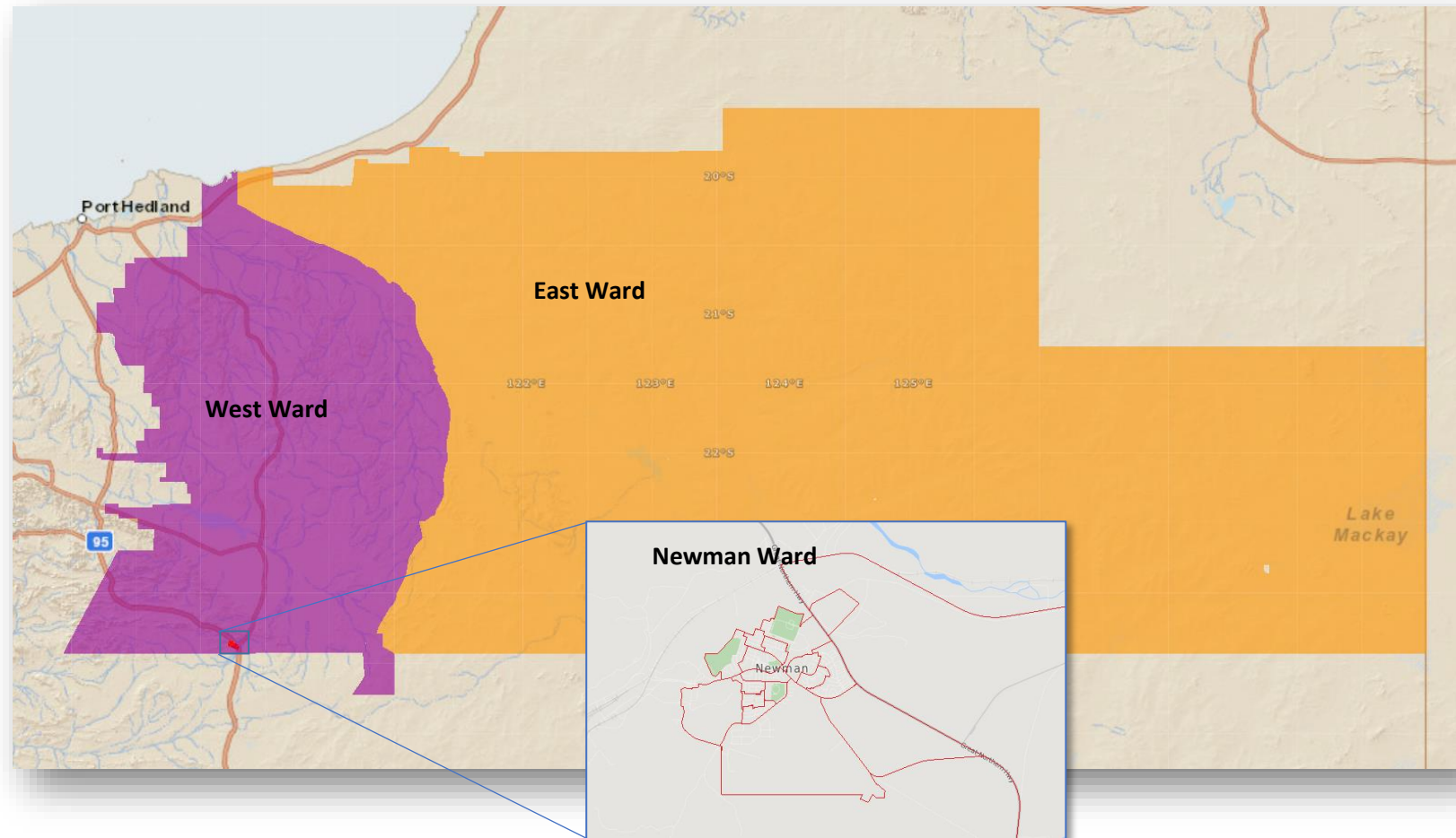
Ward	Number of electors	Number of Councillors	Councillor - Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
East	296	1	1:296	28.67%
Newman	2,090	5	1:418	-0.72%
West	518	1	1:518	-24.82%
Total	2,904	7	1:415	N/A

The 7 Councillor option has the lowest target % ratio deviations.

4.0 Options (Continued)

4.4 Option 3 –Three Wards (Continued)

4.4.1 Newman Ward as per the Option 2 Town site Map⁹



⁹ Environmental Systems Research Institute Inc, 2014
Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2017 Local Government Area (LGA), map.

4.0 Options (Continued)

4.5 Option 4 – Four Wards

Four wards are proposed in Option 4, using the Newman town site as a boundary for a Newman ward, The Marble Bar and Nullagine town site boundaries as the Townsite Ward. The existing Boundary of East Ward being the Eastern desert regions with the remaining western section forming a west ward.

Community of interest

Each of the major communities of interest, as previously identified, are reflected in Option 4 with the Newman community, Townsite community and the East and West rural communities represented.

Physical and topographic features

The boundaries are distinguishable by the Newman, Marble Bar and Nullagine town site boundaries and the eastern edge of the existing East Ward (refer to the map to follow).

Demographic trends

Demographic trends are expected to be uniform in the Newman and Townsite Wards and closely aligned to mining activity. Demographics in the West and East regions are independent of mining activity and may not vary to the same degree as the other two wards.

This option results in the following:

Table 10: Shire of East Pilbara– Option 4 – Create four wards with 11 Councillors.

Ward	Number of electors	Number of Councillors	Councillor - Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
Townsite	131	1	1:131	50.38%
East	296	2	1:148	43.94%
Newman	2,090	6	1:348	-31.82%
West	387	2	1:194	26.52%
Total	2,904	11	1:264	N/A

Table 10: Shire of East Pilbara– Option 4 – Create four wards with 9 Councillors

Ward	Number of electors	Number of Councillors	Councillor - Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
Townsite	131	1	1:131	59.40%
East	296	1	1:296	8.26%
Newman	2,090	5	1:418	-29.55%
West	387	2	1:194	39.88%
Total	2,904	9	1:323	N/A

4.0 Options (Continued)

4.5 Option 4 – Four Wards (Continued)

Economic factors

The proposed boundaries reflect the economic activities of Newman as a service centre, the townsites of Nullagine and Marble Bar and the Western rural area.

Table 10: Shire of East Pilbara– Option 4 – Create four wards with 7 Councillors

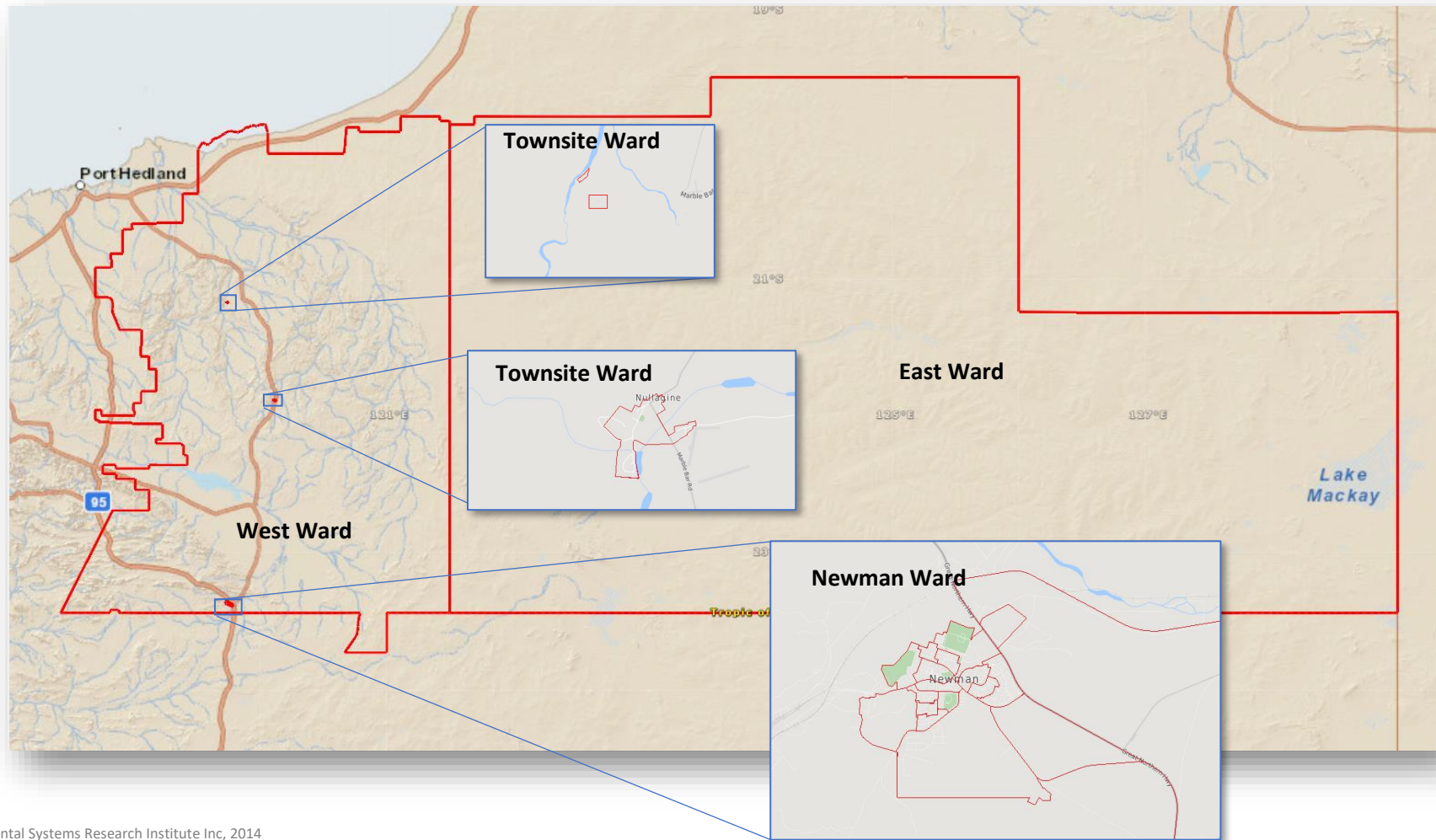
Ward	Number of electors	Number of Councillors	Councillor - Elector	
			Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
Townsite	131	1	1:131	68.42%
East	296	1	1:296	28.65%
Newman	2,090	4	1:523	-26.07%
West	387	1	1:387	6.71%
Total	2,904	7	1:415	N/A

The 11 Councillor option has the lowest target % ratio deviations.

4.0 Options (Continued)

4.5 Option 4 – Four Wards (Continued)

4.5.1 Four Wards Map¹⁰



¹⁰ Environmental Systems Research Institute Inc, 2014
Western Australian Land Information Authority, 2014
Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2017 Local Government Area (LGA), map.

4.0 Options (Continued)

4.6 Option 5 – Four Wards

Four wards are proposed in Option 5, using the town site boundaries of Marble Bar, Newman and Nullagine as separate wards, with the remaining land area forming a rural ward.

Community of interest

Each of the major communities of interest, as previously identified, are reflected in Option 5 with each of the Townsite communities represented and the rural communities represented.

Physical and topographic features

The boundaries are distinguishable by the Marble Bar, Newman and Nullagine town site boundaries and the remaining area forming a rural ward (refer to the map to follow).

Demographic trends

Demographic trends are expected to be uniform in the Newman, Marble Bar and Nullagine Wards and closely aligned to mining activity. Demographics in the Rural region is independent of mining activity and may not vary to the same degree as the other three wards.

This option results in the following:

Table 10: Shire of East Pilbara– Option 5 – Create four wards with 11 Councillors.

Ward	Number of electors	Number of Councillors	Councillor - Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
Marble Bar	71	1	1:71	73.11%
Newman	2090	6	1:348	-31.82%
Nullagine	60	1	1:60	77.27%
Rural	683	3	1:228	13.64%
Total	2,904	11	1:264	N/A

Table 10: Shire of East Pilbara– Option 5– Create four wards with 9 Councillors

Ward	Number of electors	Number of Councillors	Councillor - Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
Marble Bar	71	1	1:71	78.02%
Newman	2090	5	1:418	-29.41%
Nullagine	60	1	1:60	81.42%
Rural	683	2	1:342	-5.88%
Total	2,904	9	1:323	N/A

4.0 Options (Continued)

4.6 Option 5 – Four Wards (Continued)

Economic factors

The proposed boundaries reflect the economic activities of Newman as a service centre, each of the townsites of Marble Bar and Nullagine and the remaining rural area.

Table 10: Shire of East Pilbara– Option 5 – Create four wards with 7 Councillors

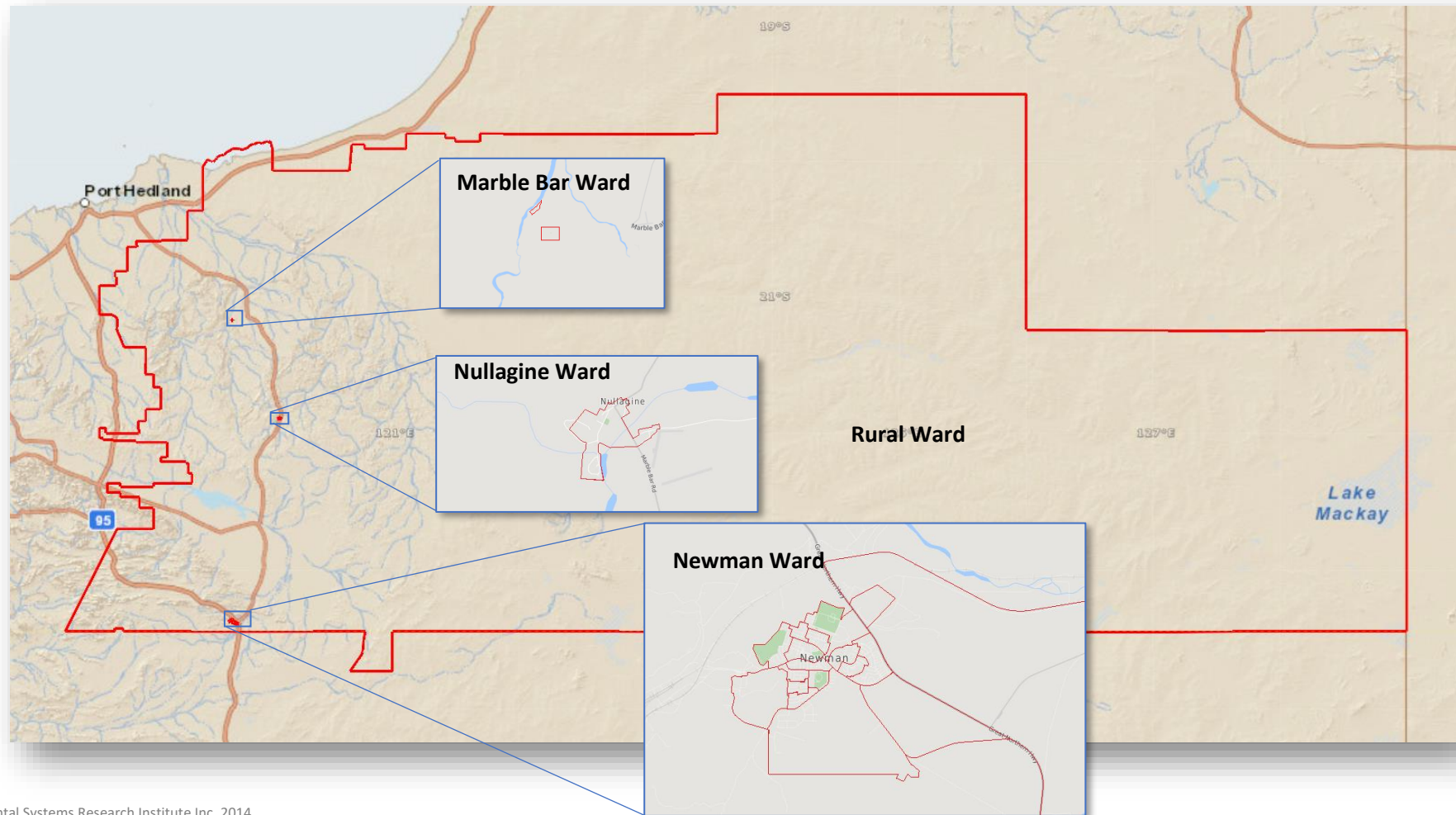
Ward	Number of electors	Number of Councillors	Councillor - Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
Marble Bar	71	1	1:71	82.89%
Newman	2090	3	1:697	-67.95%
Nullagine	60	1	1:60	85.54%
Rural	683	2	1:342	17.59%
Total	2,904	7	1:415	N/A

The 11 Councillor option has the lowest target % ratio deviations.

4.0 Options (Continued)

4.6 Option 5 – Four Wards (Continued)

4.6.1 Four Wards Boundary Map¹¹



¹¹ Environmental Systems Research Institute Inc, 2014
Western Australian Land Information Authority, 2014
Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2017 Local Government Area (LGA), map.

4.0 Options (Continued)

4.7 Option 6 – No Wards

The following is an assessment of the Shire without wards.

Community of interest

The three communities of interest previously identified do not appear to be individually represented. All Councillors would represent all three communities of interest.

Physical and topographic features

No physical or topographic feature is individually represented.

Demographic trends

Demographic trends are not individually represented.

Economic factors

Economic Factors are not individually represented.

This option results in the following:

Table 10: Shire of East Pilbara– Option 4 – No wards with 11 Councillors

Ward	Number of electors	Number of Councillors	Councillor - Elector Ratio:	% Ratio Deviation
Total	2,904	11	1:264	N/A

Table 11: Shire of East Pilbara– Option 4 – No wards with 9 Councillors

Ward	Number of electors	Number of Councillors	Councillor - Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
Total	2,904	9	1:323	N/A

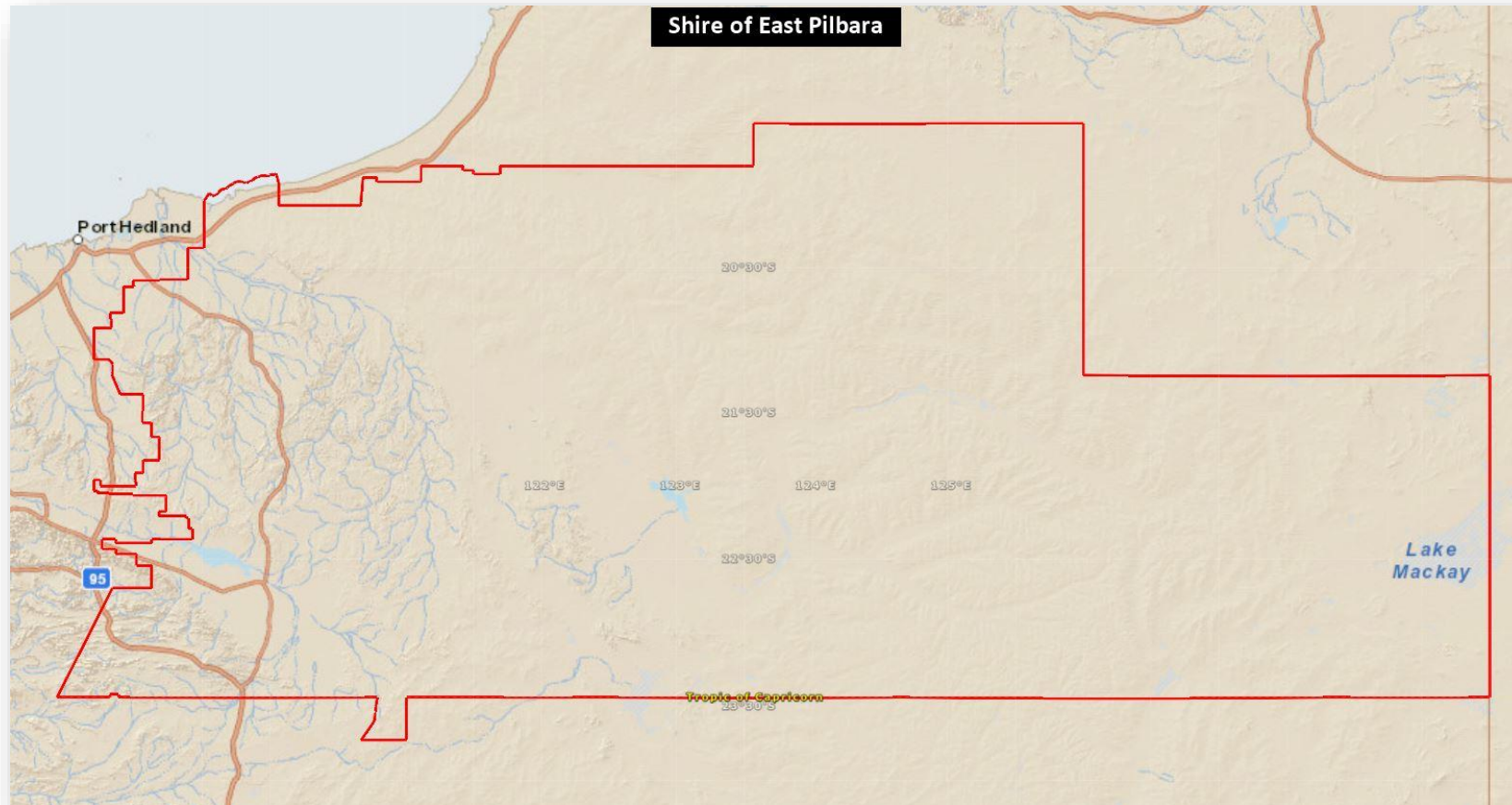
Table 12: Shire of East Pilbara– Option 4 – No wards with 7 Councillors

Ward	Number of electors	Number of Councillors	Councillor - Elector Ratio:	% Ratio Deviation
Total	2,904	7	1:415	N/A

Under option 4 results target ratio is not relevant to the assessment.

4.0 Options (Continued)

4.7 Option 6 – No Wards (Continued)¹²



¹² Western Australian Land Information Authority, 2014
Environmental Systems Research Institute Inc, 2014

Other Matters

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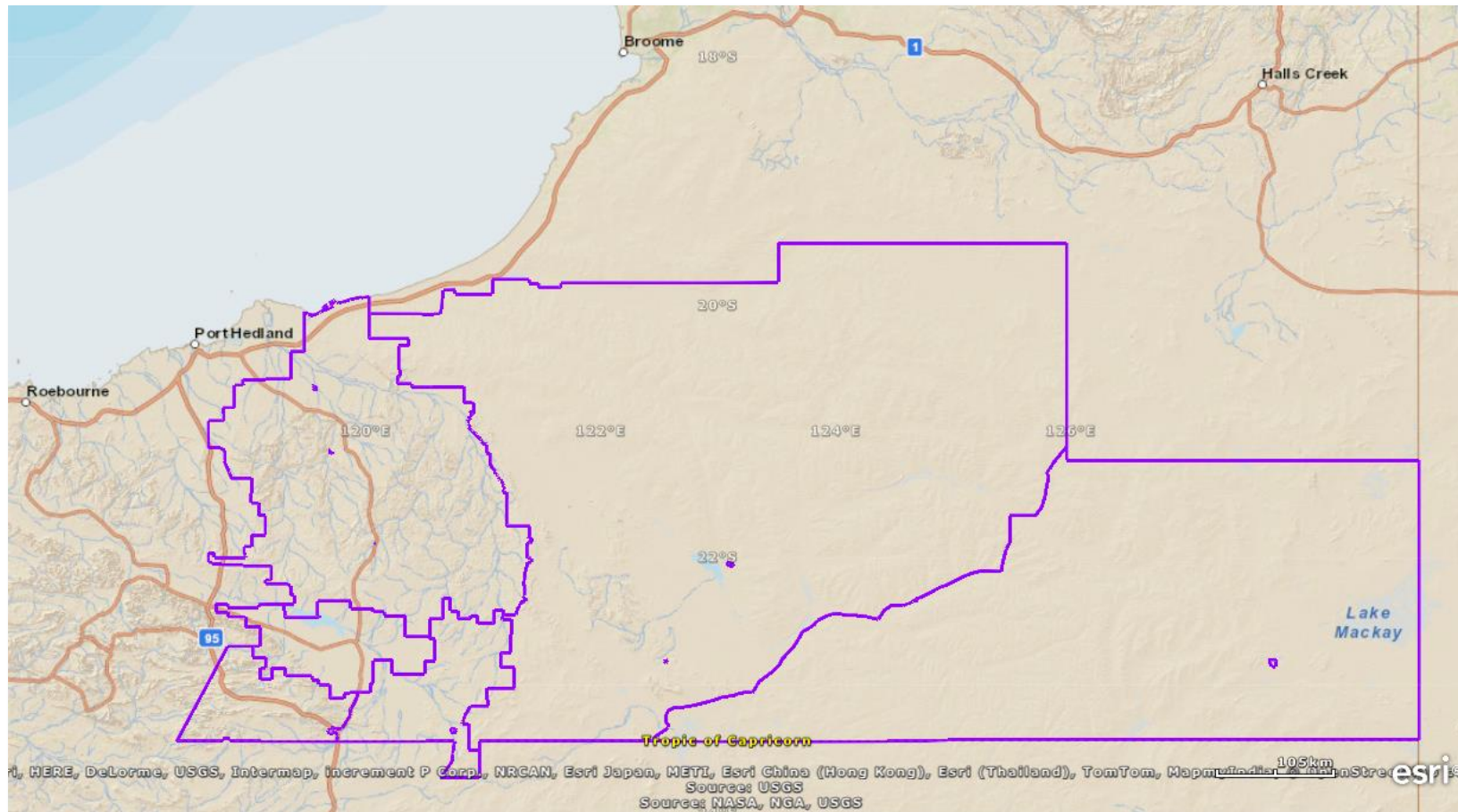
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Appendix A – Shire of East Pilbara SA1 Boundaries¹³



¹³ Environmental Systems Research Institute Inc, 2014
Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2014

Appendix B – Operational Guidelines – Local Government Advisory Board¹⁴

How to Conduct a Review:

Local Governments with a Ward System

1. What you have to do

A local government with a ward system is required to carry out a review of:

- a) its ward boundaries; and
- b) the number of offices of councillor for each ward

every so often to ensure that not more than eight years elapse between successive reviews.

The purpose of a review is to assess the current arrangements and to evaluate a range of options to find a system of representation that best suits the characteristics of the district and its people. Any of the following may be considered:

- Creating new wards in a district already divided into wards
- Changing the boundaries of a ward
- Abolishing any or all of the wards into which a district is divided
- Changing the name of a district or a ward
- Changing the number of offices of councillor on a council
- Specifying or changing the number of offices of councillor for a ward.

A local government may also elect to carry out a review when it has received a valid submission from 250 or 10% (whichever is the lesser) of the total number of affected electors who petition for changes to a ward system.

The Board expects local governments to complete their reviews to allow any changes to be implemented within the eight year period. Local governments may undertake reviews on a more frequent basis if they are experiencing significant changes to their population.

2. How to start

The Council must resolve to undertake a review of its ward system.

Once resolved by Council and before conducting the review, a local government is to give local public notice that a review is to be carried out.

The purpose of the public notice is to inform the community that the Council intends to conduct a review – it should not try to “sell” a particular option.

The notice must advise that submissions may be made to the local government six weeks from the date of the first notice (not including the day of the notice). The closing date for submissions should not be a weekend or public holiday.

¹⁴ Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries: A Guide for Local Governments – October 2017

Appendix B – Operational Guidelines – Local Government Advisory Board¹⁴

2. How to start (continued)

Attachment 1 is an example of a newspaper advertisement for a public notice.

It is essential to develop a diverse range of alternatives additional to the current ward system so that all options can be considered. The public notice should also encourage responses and suggestions from the community.

In addition to giving public notice, local governments may undertake other initiatives to promote community discussion including public and/or ward meetings, website and media articles and interviews, sending information to non-resident electors, ratepayers or progress associations and distributing information to all households. High quality maps (which can be sourced from Landgate) clearly showing the current situation and possible options are essential.

A discussion or information paper should be developed to explain the various options and the five factors (noted in the section “What to consider” below) against which they will be assessed. Instructions on how to access the discussion paper should be included in the public notice.

Attachment 2 is an example of a discussion paper.

3. What to consider

The local government must consider all submissions it receives and record this in the minutes of its meeting along with any other information considered relevant to the decision making process.

All options must be assessed against the following five factors:

- Community of interest
- Physical and topographical features
- Demographic trends
- Economic factors
- The ratio of councillors to electors in the various wards.

These factors should be considered in terms of the whole district prior to assessing the options.

The Board considers that the ratio of councillors to electors is particularly significant. It is expected that each local government will have similar ratios of electors to councillors across its wards, generally falling within a deviation of plus or minus 10%.

The most accurate way to calculate the current number of electors for a district is to combine the ‘Local Government Enrolment Statistics’ or ‘Enrolment by Census Collection District (CCD)’ reports, which are published periodically on the Western Australian Electoral Commission’s (WAEC) website, and the Owners and Occupiers Roll, which is maintained by the local government.

This method ensures that elector figures from the State Electoral Roll and the Owners and Occupiers Rolls, which are maintained by different authorities, are taken into consideration and, while some duplication may occur, this gives the most reliable elector figures for a district.

During the review, it may become apparent that some of the factors are either less or more relevant than others. It may emerge that in some cases, factors are in conflict with each other. It is for the local government to decide which of the factors have the most relevance to the assessment of options and why.

Appendix B – Operational Guidelines – Local Government Advisory Board¹⁴

3. What to consider (continued)

The Board may be reluctant to recommend (to the Minister) changes to ward boundaries and representation that result in ward councillor/elector ratios that are greater than plus or minus 10% unless exceptional circumstances apply.

The examples in this package include figures for the % ratio deviation for each ward. This gives a clear indication of the % difference between the average councillor/ elector ratio for the whole local government and the councillor/elector ratio for a particular ward.

The % ratio deviation is calculated by subtracting the councillor/elector ratio for a ward from the average councillor/elector ratio. The result is then divided by the average councillor/elector ratio and multiplied by 100 to give a percentage. A negative result indicates that the ward is under represented and a positive result indicates that the ward is over represented.

If local governments consider that they have exceptional circumstances that justify ward councillor/elector ratio deviations greater than plus or minus 10%, they can present their argument to the Board for consideration.

Councils experiencing high population growth should give consideration to the ratio deviations for wards at the time of the next ordinary election, especially if the review is conducted a year or more prior to implementation. Current and forecasted figures can be provided to the Board to justify ratio deviations greater than plus or minus 10% in areas with high population growth.

Attachment 3 is an example of an assessment of options.

An officer's report (including consideration of submissions and assessment of options against the factors) forms the basis of the Council's deliberation on these matters.

Attachment 4 is an example of an officer's report.

4. Reaching a decision

A conclusive argument needs to be developed which demonstrates why a particular option has been chosen following consideration of submissions and the assessment of options against the factors.

If the Council proposes to maintain the status quo then reasons for this must be included in the resolution.

If the Council decides to make a change, then an absolute majority is required. The resolution of the Council must propose the making of an order under s2.2 (1), s2.3 (3) and/or s2.18 (3) of the Act.

In some cases a local government may determine that no change is required at the current time and identifies other factors as impacting on the future balance of representation (for example, housing development, declining populations, new industries, closure of mining operations, or extension of freeways and railway networks). The expected impact of these factors may motivate a local government to resolve to undertake another review of wards and representation before the eight year period required by the Act.

The timing of this next review may be specified at the completion of the current review, or at a later time.

Appendix B – Operational Guidelines – Local Government Advisory Board¹⁴

5. The impact of change

Once a decision is made, the local government may consider the impact of implementing any change at the next ordinary election. In some circumstances elected members may be unable to complete their term of office due to circumstances surrounding implementation.

The Board has developed a policy that outlines how various changes can impact on the offices of councillor and how these changes can be implemented. A copy of this policy is included in this package (see page 53).

6. Reporting to the Local Government Advisory Board

The Local Government must provide the Board with a written report of the review once it has been completed. If a local government expects changes to be in place in time for an ordinary election, it must submit its report to the Board by 30 January in the year of an ordinary election. This will allow sufficient time for any changes to be considered and for all statutory requirements to be processed for the beginning of the election cycle.

The report must outline the process used, and the outcome of the review and should include the Council's resolutions. The officer's report to the Council forms the basis of this submission to the Board.

Attachment 5 is a checklist of what to provide to the Board.

High quality maps must be included with the report clearly showing current ward boundaries and any proposed changes to boundaries. These are required by Landgate to assist in the preparation of deposited plans for the proposed new ward boundaries and Governor's Orders.

On receipt of a proposal, the Board will consider the reports submitted by local governments and assess them against the requirements in the Act.

If the Board determines that some part of a review does not meet the requirements of the Act, then the local government may be requested to undertake another review (or part of a review) in order to meet the requirements.

The Board will consider all recommendations for change submitted as part of the review and then make recommendations to the Minister who has the final decision and who may accept or reject the Board's recommendations.

7. Implementing changes

If the Minister accepts the Board's recommendations, then several statutory processes follow. Changes to wards and representation are subject to a Governor's order which is published in the Government Gazette. The order will include the date the changes will apply which may be the date of Gazettal (representation changes only) or the next ordinary election day, or any resulting extraordinary elections arising from the changes.

Where there are changes to ward boundaries, the order will include a new deposited plan showing the new boundaries, prepared by Landgate at the local government's cost. If a boundary change affects electors, then the WA Electoral Commission prepares new rolls for those affected wards.

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