

NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA

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PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the next **SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING** will be held in the Council Chambers, Orchard Avenue, Armadale at **7:45 pm**

MONDAY, 5 MAY 2014



R S TAME
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

1 May 2014

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES / LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Leave of Absence previously granted to Cr D M Shaw and Cr J A Stewart

3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Minimum time to be provided – 15 minutes (unless not required)

A procedure has been adopted by Council to ensure the orderly conduct of Public Question time and a copy of this procedure is attached to the Council Agendas made available in the public gallery.

The public's cooperation in this regard will be appreciated.

4 BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

**4.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM – WARDS &
REPRESENTATION**

5 CLOSURE

1.1 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM - WARDS & REPRESENTATION

WARD : ALL
FILE No. : M/369/14
DATE : 29 April 2014
REF : IM/TM
RESPONSIBLE MANAGER : Executive Directors
Development Services and Corporate Services

In Brief:

- The LGAB is due to present a report on the proposals presented on Local Government Reform in mid-2014. Part of the considerations being given relate to representation arrangements regarding which the LGAB will recommend to the Minister.
- This report proposes a ward and representation structure for a new expanded local government that would meet the necessary criteria.

It is recommended that:

1. the LGAB be advised of the City's proposal for the new wards and representation structure in the event of the Board's support of the boundary change previously submitted by the City, be implemented as follows:
 - the abolition of all current wards in the district of Armadale and the northern portion of the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale.
 - the division of the City's expanded district into seven (7) wards in accordance with Map 2 in this report.
 - 14 councillors for the new district with two councillors for each ward.
 - Any minor boundary corrections as a result of the final Local Government Advisory Board recommendation to be incorporated into the new ward structure
 - The method of filling the office of Mayor is to be election by the council from amongst the councillors.
2. Note that the selection of ward names will be subject to further advice.
3. Advise the Shires of Serpentine-Jarrahdale and Murray of the City's proposal

Tabled Items

Nil

Officer Interest Declaration

Nil

Strategic Implications

Good Governance and leadership – to ensure governance policies, procedures and activities align with legislative requirements and best practice.

Legislation Implications

Local Government Act 1995, ie

- Section 2.2 – districts may be divided into wards
- Section 2.3 – names of districts and wards
- Section 2.18 – fixing and changing the numbers of councillors
- Schedule 2.2 – Provisions about names, wards and representation.

Council Policy/Local Law Implications

Nil

Budget/Financial Implications

Direct costs to undertake the review has been in staff resource time which has been accommodated within the adopted budget. Some unforeseen costs could be incurred arising from printing and advertising in view of this initiative being in addition to the 2013 ward boundary review.

Consultation

1. Local Implementation Committee April 8th 2014.
2. Councillor workshop held on 28th April 2014

BACKGROUND

The State Government announced its proposal for new local government boundaries for metropolitan Perth in July 2013. The State Government's Local Government Reform initiative anticipated the reduction of metropolitan local governments from 30 to 14 and envisioned the City amalgamating with the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale.

In October 2013 the City submitted a proposal to the Local Government Advisory Board (LGAB) to extend the southern boundary of the City to Mundijong Road and thereby incorporate the northern portion of the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale.

Council reviewed its ward boundaries in 2013 in accordance with Schedule 2.2 of the Local Government Act 1995 and resolved to divide the City into seven wards, allocate ward names and designate that there be two councillors for each ward. Council also resolved to undertake another review in 2 to 3 years' time. Accordingly, there is no necessity to review ward boundaries at this time to accord with the Act's requirements. However, a ward review has been prompted by the State Government's Local Government Reform initiative and the Local Government Advisory Board has requested each Local Implementation Committee to submit a preferred ward structure and representation model for the newly expanded local governments.

The LGAB is due to present a report on the proposals presented on Local Government Reform in mid-2014. Part of the considerations being given relate to representation arrangements regarding which the LGAB will recommend to the Minister. If the Minister responds to the LGAB by the implementation of changes to local government structures it will be by the issuing of Governor's Orders. Within such an Order there will be clauses detailing the ward structure, the total number of councillors and the number of councillors per ward.

The City's proposal was for a boundary change, not an amalgamation. A boundary change would not result in a new local government being formed but would require a changed ward structure.

At the meeting of the Local Implementation Committee on April 8th 2014 it was resolved that the Ward Structure Model for the new expanded City of Armadale and Shire of Murray be referred to the next meeting of LIC for consideration (6th May). Accordingly, a review of ward boundaries has been undertaken to establish the manner in which wards can be so designed to reflect existing communities of interest and anticipated population changes. Firstly, the current ward structure needs to be understood.

Currently the City of Armadale has 14 councillors representing seven wards. As shown on Map-1 (**Attachment 1**) and the supporting Table 1 which is derived from a report prepared and adopted by Council in March 2013.

Table 1 - Ward system adopted for City of Armadale March 2013

Ward No.	Ward name	Number of Councillors	Number of electors	Councillor to elector ratio	% Ratio deviation
1	Jarrah	2	5,776	2,888	7.7%
2	Neerigen	2	5,364	2,682	0.1%
3	River	2	5,789	2,895	8.0%
4	Heron	2	5,296	2,648	-1.2%
5	Minnawarra	2	5,314	2,657	-0.9%
6	Palomino	2	5,166	2,583	-3.6%
7	Lake	2	4,823	2,412	-10.0%
Totals		14	37,528		
		<i>per Councillor</i>	2,680.6		
		<i>per ward</i>	5,361		

Similarly the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale undertook a ward review in 2011 and the associated table was adopted as the basis for the current ward system. The ward boundaries currently applied for the Shire are shown on Map-1 (**Attachment 1**) for the area north of Mundijong Road. The basis for the current ward structure was established by the Shire in 2011 and is summarized on Table 2.

Table 2 – Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale Ward Review 2011

WARDS –forecast growth	No of councillors	Population per councillor	Population	% ratio deviation	% of the total Shire population
North-west Ward	2	1:2494	4988	-3.07%	21.6
Byford Ward (North)	4	1:2636	10544	-2.54%	45.6
Southern Ward	3	1:2539	7589	+1.58%	32.8
TOTAL	9	9:2569	23121	-	100

Note: This table shows population and not number of electors.

It should be noted that all of the North-west and North wards fall within the area subject to the City's boundary change proposal – as does a portion of the Southern ward (including the Mundijong townsite).

DETAILS OF PROPOSAL

The City has obtained data on the current electors within the City of Armadale and the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale from the Western Australian Electoral Commission. This data is derived from the March 2014 Federal Senate Election. In addition, the City has utilized

population forecasts from its consultant “.id” to ensure that ward boundaries include sufficient capacity to accommodate growth, where such growth can be predicted to occur.

A ward and representation structure for an amended local government district needs to be developed according to the factors prescribed in the Act. While all factors are to be considered, the fundamental democratic principle of one vote, one value is considered essential. Adhering to the factors will ensure that the City of Armadale will be well positioned to represent and govern its expanded community.

The following assumptions were made in considering options and providing a recommended structure. These assumptions are in accordance with the City’s earlier submission to the Robson Report, the Minister and the LGAB, i.e. .

1. The new local government will be divided into wards.
2. 14 councillors will serve on the new local government.
3. The wards will be designed to be of a similar size in terms of electors and be represented by two councillors each.
4. The method of election for the Mayor of the new local government will be an election amongst the councillors. Each of the City of Armadale and the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale have adopted such a process.

It should be noted that should this proposal be adopted the 3 wards of the current Shire of SJ, each represented by 3 councillors, will now become 3 wards of 2 councillors each, albeit 2 wards in the City of Armadale and 1 ward in the Shire of Murray.

Clause 8 of Schedule 2.2 of the Act prescribes the matters to be considered in respect of wards, notably that the Council is to have regard, where applicable, to:

- community of interests; and
- physical and topographic features; and
- demographic trends; and
- economic factors; and
- the ratio of councillors to electors in the various wards.

The City has developed a ward boundary modelling tool which calibrates the elector data, enabling rapid estimation of potential ward boundaries and constituent electors. The operation of this tool has taken account of current ward boundaries (for the City of Armadale and the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale) and has provided a proposal that provides some capacity for growth in the rapid growth areas and compensates in the slower growing areas. Applying the modelling tool in the context of the prescribed criteria listed above resulted in the following proposed ward structure.

The proposed ward structure is illustrated on Map-2 (**Attachment 2**).

ANALYSIS

Community of interests

Recognition had been given to the existing communities in the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale in particular by ensuring that all of these electors are located within the two southern wards. In addition the centres of Armadale, Kelmscott and Byford are completely contained in their

own wards. Hills communities fall within a single ward and the current Lake ward with its rapidly growing new community is retained largely without change.

Existing ward boundaries have been taken into account noting that these historically reflect community of interests.

Physical and topographic features

The main topographical feature of the district is the Darling Scarp and the hills beyond. The hills areas of the City of Armadale are included in a single ward partly in recognition of the Darling Scarp and the Hills areas with their common interests and concerns.

Demographic trends

There are currently 41,834 electors in the City of Armadale and 9,935 in the northern portion of the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale. In total there would be 51,769 electors in the combined area. In the event of the City's expanded district being divided into seven wards each ward would contain an average of 7395 electors, although this number would obviously grow in view of the City of Armadale currently growing by 3,466 persons pa and the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale growing by 1,617 persons pa.

Both the City of Armadale and the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale are experiencing rapid population growth. In future years the former is predicted to grow at an average rate of 3.83% pa and the latter at 5.05% pa. The population growth is particularly occurring, and likely to occur, in those localities identified in Table 3.

Table 3 - High Growth Localities

	2011	2016	2021	Av. Annual % change
Brookdale-Wungong	2983	3395	4072	4.02
Champion Lakes	715	1452	1961	5.96
Harrisdale	3950	6552	9034	5.73
Haynes	134	531	2944	22.95
Hilbert	589	2563	8005	20.29
Piara Waters	2693	8286	13066	9.55
Byford (NW)	3358	6137	8017	5.38
Byford (SW)	889	3277	6361	13.96
Mundijong (E)	375	779	1264	10.14
Mundijong (W)	959	1141	1554	5.80

Source: ABS 2011 Census and .id Forecasts

The proposed ward structure recognises the demographic changes taking place by proposing those most rapidly growing to have a lesser number of electors in the knowledge that the initial over-representation will soon be rectified.

Economic factors

Industrial areas have been retained within single wards as have the main city and town centres - providing an economic focus of the particular wards.

The ratio of councillors to electors in the various wards.

Table 4 provides an analysis on the number of electors in each of the proposed wards and the deviation from the average in terms of councillor representation.

Table 4 - Ward representation under proposed ward structure

Ward Location	Number of Councillors	Number of electors	Councillor to elector ratio	% Ratio deviation
A – Forrestdale/Haynes	2	6,705	3352	-9.1%
B – SJ Rural/Hilbert	2	6,362	3180	-14.0%
C – Byford/Mundijong	2	6,414	3207	-13.3%
D – Roleystone/Bedfordale	2	8,186	4,093	+10.7%
E – Kelmscott/Mt Nasura	2	8,013	4,006	+8.4%
F – Armadale	2	8,090	4045	+9.4%
G – Champion Lakes/Seville Grove	2	7,996	3,998	+8.1%
Totals	14	51,769	3,697	-

Source: City of Armadale from WA Electoral data 2014.

The Minister for Local Government has previously indicated that he will not consider changes to ward boundaries and representation that result in ward councillor/elector ratios that are greater than plus or minus 10% of the average councillor/elector ratio for that local government. As the growth in this particular local government is not occurring uniformly across the district it is likely that a 10% margin would be exceeded quite rapidly in the few wards subject to rapid growth. For instance the current Lake ward is growing at an average of 1629 persons pa and given the City's 2014 population of 75,004 such a rate of growth would result in the Lake ward exceeding the 10% margin in less than one year. Accordingly it is proposed that it be submitted to the LGAB that the difference between the more rapidly growing wards and those with a more static population be permitted to exceed 10% noting that as the analysis is based on 2014 data, and that by the time of their introduction in 2015 the ratio deviation would be reduced.

OPTIONS

Council could:

1. Agree to the proposed future ward structure and forward it to the LGAB.
2. Undertake further discussion with affected parties prior to making a recommendation on future ward structures.
3. Note the analysis but take no further action.

CONCLUSION

The local government reform process initiated by the State Government is likely to result in changes to the ward structure. It is desirable to anticipate the likely requirements and prepare for the changes. Accordingly an analysis has been undertaken based on 2014 electoral information resulting in a new ward structure incorporating the northern portion of the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale. The recommended proposed structure (illustrated on Map 2) would meet the criteria set out in the Local Government Act.

ATTACHMENTS

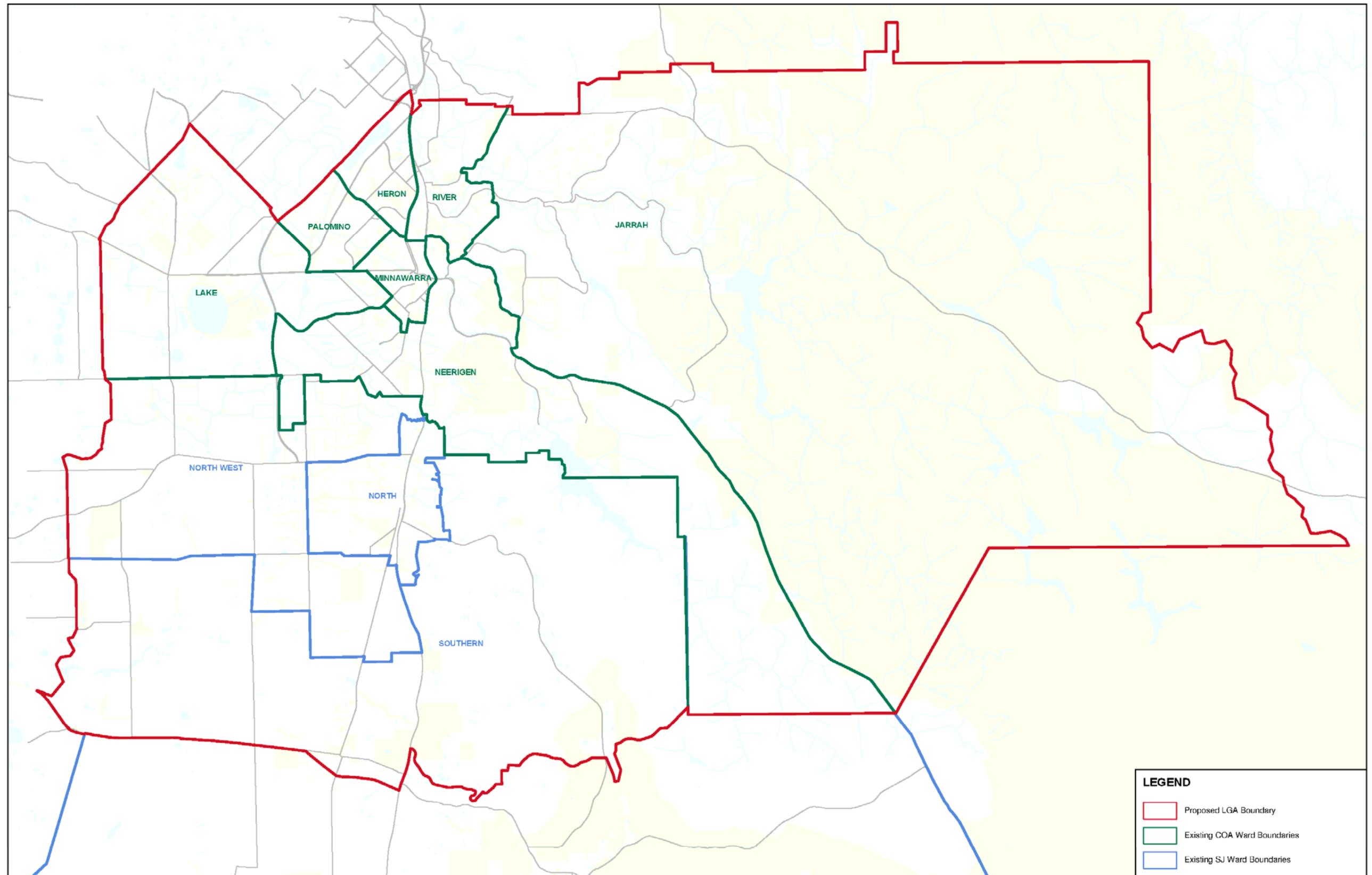
1. Map 1 - Existing Ward Boundaries
2. Map 2 - Proposed Ward Boundaries

RECOMMEND

That Council:

1. **Advise the Local Government Advisory Board that the City's proposal for the new wards and representation structure in the event of the Board's support of the boundary change previously submitted by the City, be implemented as follows:**
 - a. **Abolish all current wards in the district of Armadale and the northern portion of the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale.**
 - b. **Divide the City of Armadale's expanded district into seven (7) wards in accordance with Map 2 in this report.**
 - c. **The number of offices on the council is to be 14 and the number of councillors for each ward is to be two (2).**
 - d. **Any minor boundary corrections as a result of the final Local Government Advisory Board recommendation to be incorporated into the new ward structure.**
 - e. **The method of filling the office of Mayor is to be election by the council from amongst the councillors.**
2. **Note that the selection of ward names will be subject to further advice.**
3. **Advise the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale and the Shire of Murray of the City's proposal.**

SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL		
ATTACHMENTS		
5 MAY 2014		
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1.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM - WARDS & REPRESENTATION		
1.1.1	Map 1 - Existing Ward Boundaries	11
1.1.2	Map 2 - Proposed Ward Boundaries	12



MAP 1
EXISTING CITY OF ARMADALE & SERPENTINE-JARRAHDAL WARDS

