

# Discussion Paper

## Review of Ward Boundaries and Representation

September 2018

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## 1 Background

The City of South Perth (the City) has resolved to undertake a review of its ward system to comply with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act).

Schedule 2.2 of the Act requires local governments to carry out reviews of the ward boundaries and number of councillors for each ward so that no more than eight years elapse between successive reviews.

The last review of wards in the City of South Perth was initiated in 2011, with changes coming into effect in 2014. These changes saw a decrease in both wards and Councillor numbers. Increased population growth within the Mill Point Ward and anticipated growth forecast for the Como Ward (owing to the Canning Bridge Precinct opportunities), suggest it is appropriate to carry out another review to reduce the councillor/elector ratio deviation in order to create a balanced representation.

## 2 Current situation

The City currently has 26,548\* electors. These are located across four wards, each represented by two elected members, with one member from each ward required to nominate every two years. The Mayor is popularly elected by the electors. The existing ward structure represents a reduced number of wards from the previous review, which reduced the number of elected members from 13 to 9. This change was part of a number of initiatives under the City's September 2009 Local Government Reform Submission.

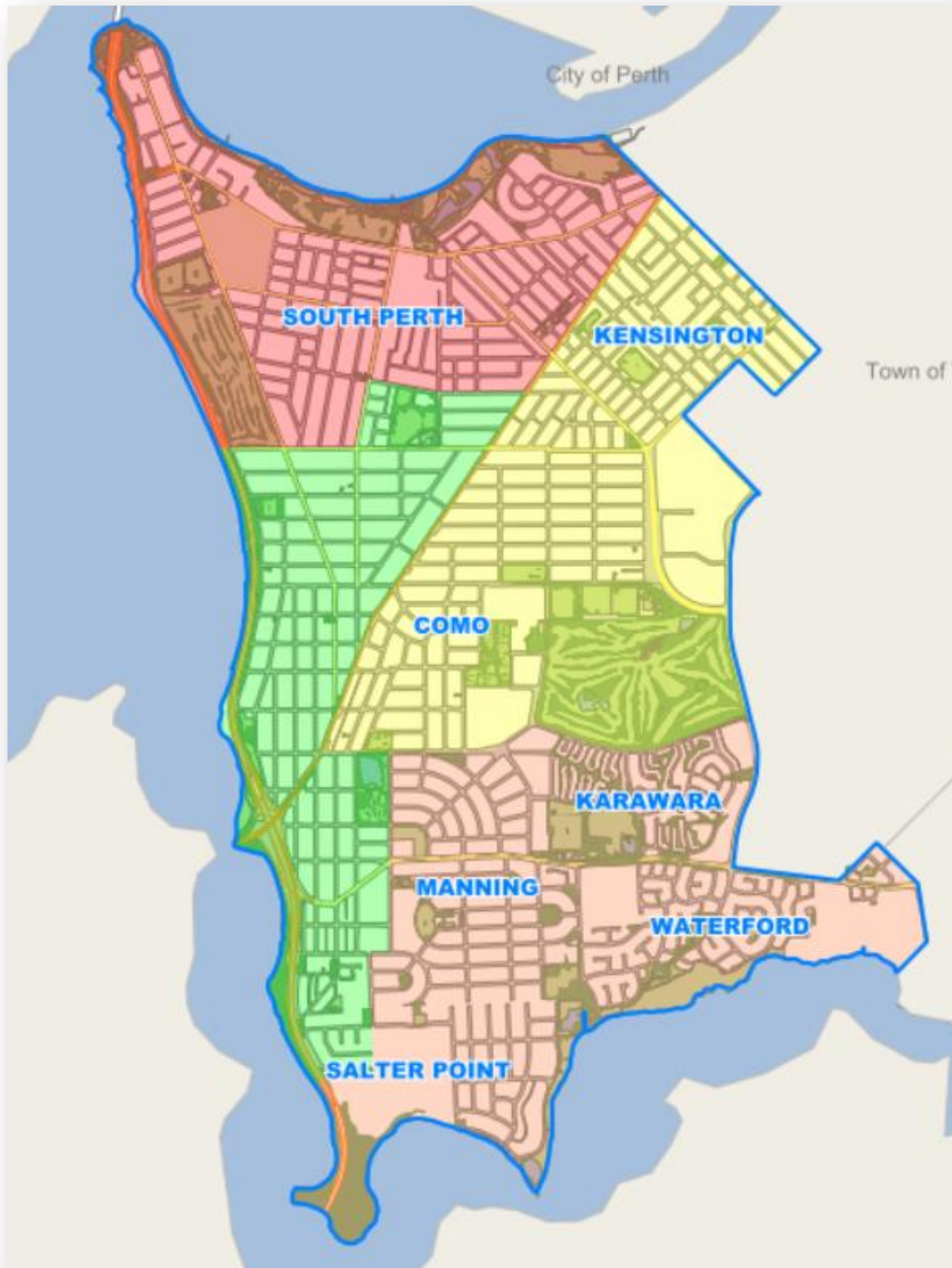
Current representation of councilors amongst electors:

Ward	Number of Electors*	Number of Councillors	Councillor/Elector Ratio	Percentage Ratio Deviation
Mill Point	7,350	2	1:3,675	-10.73 %
Como	6,683	2	1:3,342	-0.69%
Manning	5,986	2	1:2,993	9.82%
Moresby	6,529	2	1:3,265	1.63%
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,548</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1:3,319</b>	<b>N/A</b>

\* Numbers extracted from October 2017 electoral roll. Although additional electors have since joined the roll, these figures are used as address details of voter numbers can be mapped to particular wards, unlike more recent electoral roll numbers.

The percentage ratio deviation indicates the percentage difference between the average councillor/elector ratio for the whole local government and the councillor/elector ratio for each ward. The guide developed by the Local Government Advisory Board to assist in undertaking a review, suggests a balanced ratio representation would be reflected in the percentage ratio deviation being within plus or minus 10%. Based on this definition, it can be seen that there is an imbalance in representation within the City in the Mill Point Ward by 0.73%. Also noteworthy is Manning Ward, which is close to 10%.

Current ward boundaries:



### 3 Review process

The review process involves a number of steps:

- Council resolves to undertake the review;
- Public submission period opens;
- Information provided to the community for discussion;
- Public submission period closes;
- Council considers all submissions and relevant factors and makes a decision;
- Council submits a report to the Local Government Advisory Board (the Board) for its consideration; and
- If a change is proposed, the Board submits a recommendation to the Minister for Local Government; Heritage; Culture and the Arts (the Minister).

Any changes approved by the Minister will be in place where possible for the next ordinary election.

### 4 Factors to be considered

When considering changes to wards and representation, Schedule 2.2 of the Act specifies factors that must be taken into account by a local government as part of the review process:

1. Community of interest;
2. Physical and topographic features;
3. Demographic trends;
4. Economic factors; and
5. Ratio of councillors to electors in the various wards.

The Board offers an interpretation of these factors, as outlined in sections 4.1-4.5 of this Discussion Paper.

#### 4.1 Community of interest

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

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

#### 4.1 Physical and topographical features

These may be natural or human made features that will vary from area to area. Water features such as rivers and catchment boundaries may be relevant considerations. Parks and reserves may be relevant as may other human made features such as freeways and roads.

### 4.3 Demographic trends

Several measurements of the characteristics of human population, 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.

### 4.4 Economic factors

Economic factors can be broadly interpreted to include any factor that reflects the character of economic activities and resources in the area.

### 4.5 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 its wards.

## 5 Options

As mentioned, 5 factors are to be considered when reviewing ward boundaries and Elected Member representation. On reviewing these factors, the first four remain relatively unchanged since the City's last ward boundary review.

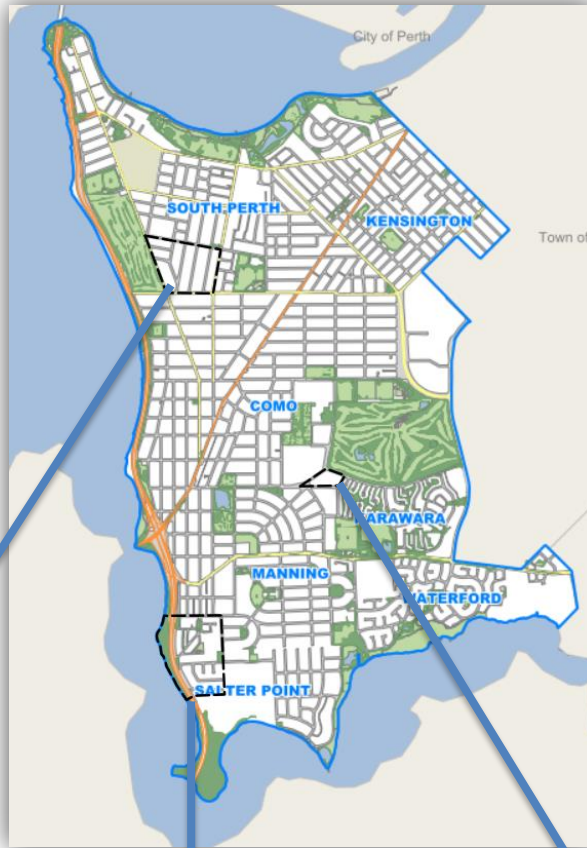
There have, however, been changes in electoral numbers and there is potential for population growth and distribution within the City in future years.

Taking these matters into consideration, and the current ratio of Councillors to electors falling outside the acceptable percentage ratio deviation, minimal changes to ward boundaries are proposed.

Suggested changes to ward boundaries to accommodate current and future imbalances have been mapped to allow the following councillor to elector ratios as follows:

Ward	Number of Electors*	Number of Councillors	Councillor/Elector Ratio**	Percentage Ratio Deviation
Mill Point	6,739	2	1:3,370	-0.02 %
Como	6,620	2	1:3,310	0.00%
Manning	6,589	2	1:3,295	0.01%
Moresby	6,600	2	1:3,300	0.01%
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,548</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1:3,319</b>	<b>N/A</b>

The following illustrations highlight impacted areas should these be the preferred street alignment options.



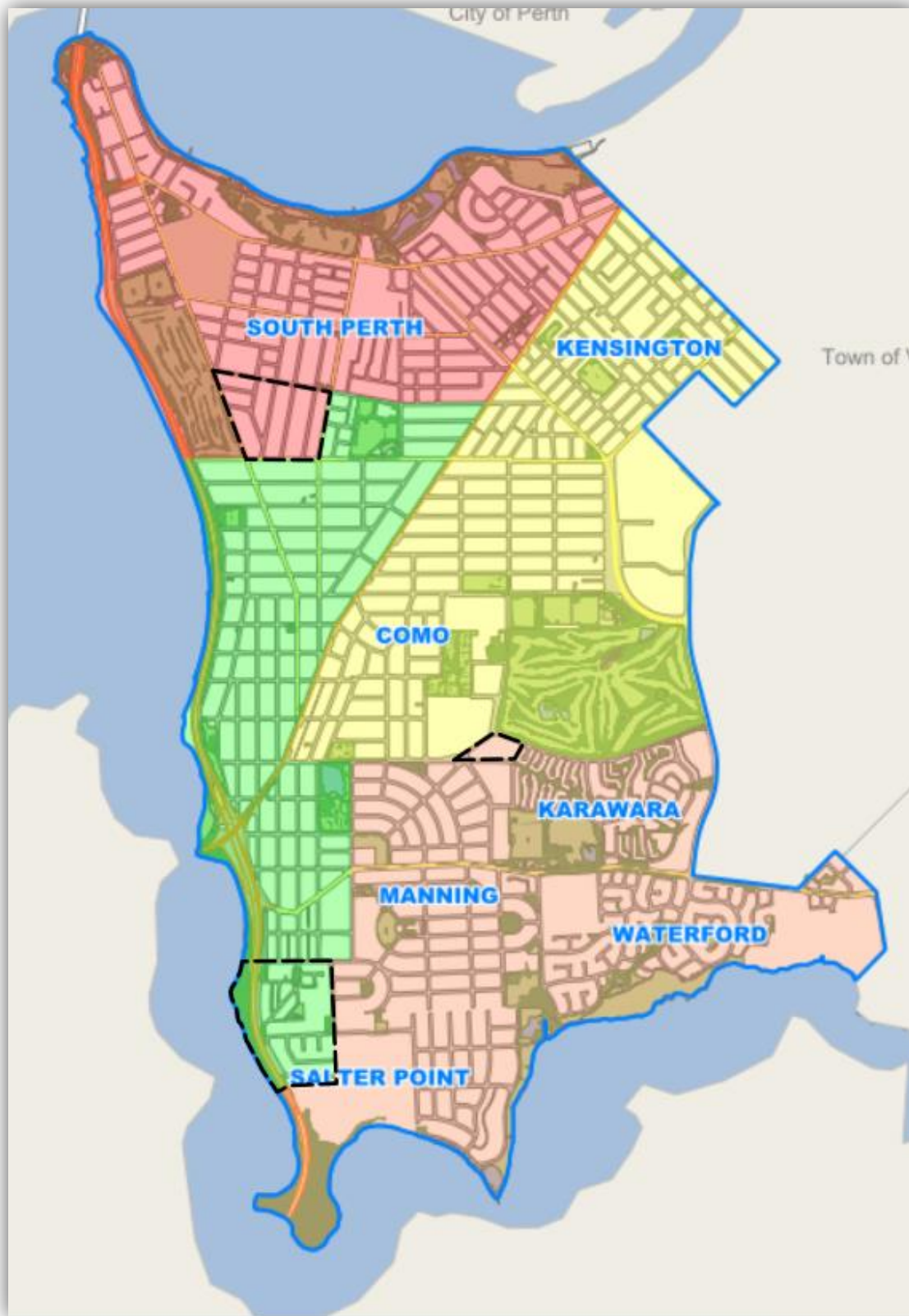
**AREA 1:** Bounded by Labouchere Road, South Terrace and Hensman and Coode Streets.

**AREA 2:** Bounded by foreshore, Gentilli Way and Mt Henry and Edgewater Roads.

**AREA 3:** Bounded by Jackson Road and Henley Street.

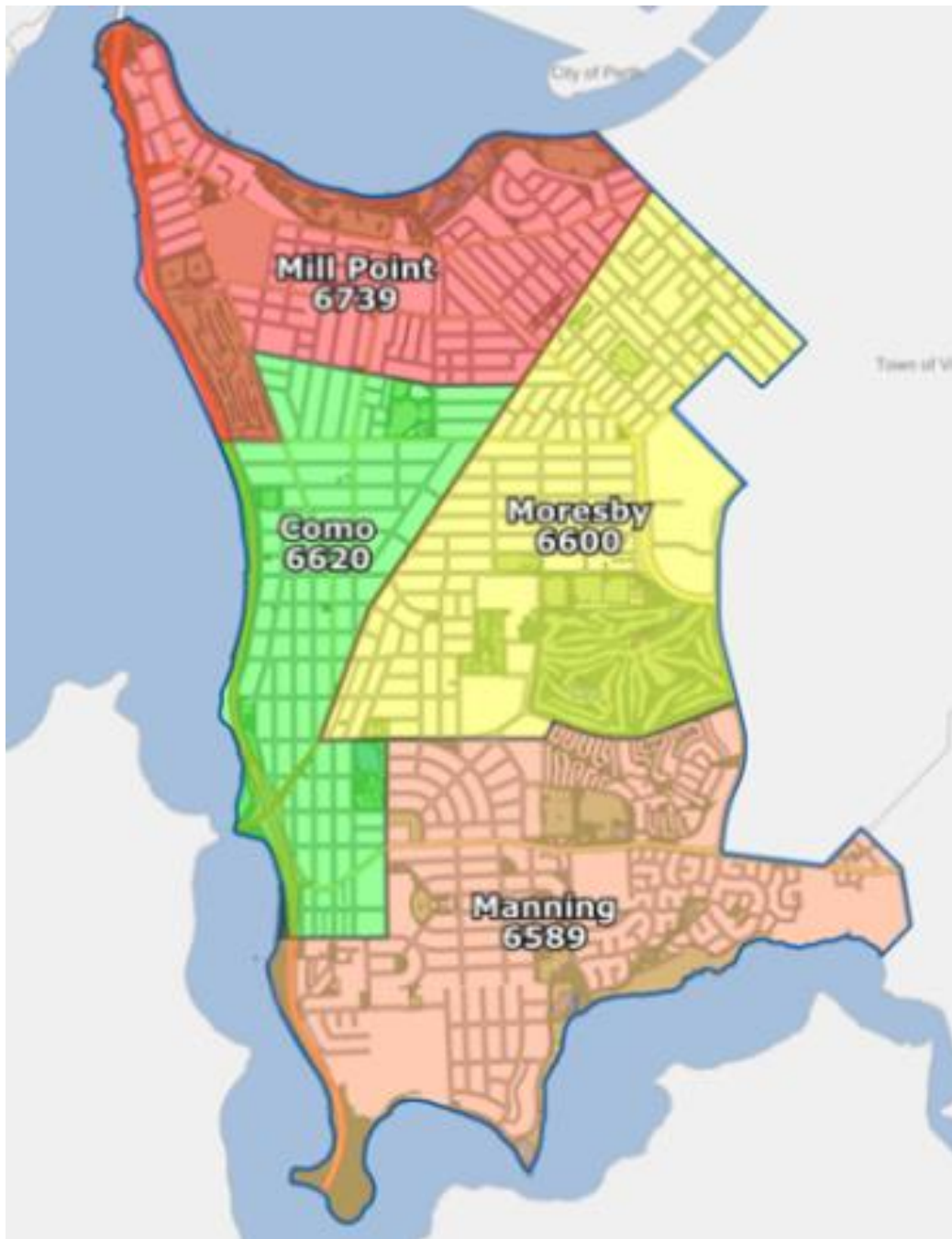


The following image illustrates the proposed changes to the current ward boundary structure.





The following image illustrates the proposed new ward boundary structure.



## 6 Public Submissions

Members of the community are invited to make a written submission about any aspect of ward boundaries and representation. This includes the following considerations:

- 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

Feedback can be provided online at [yoursay.southperth.wa.gov.au](https://yoursay.southperth.wa.gov.au) , or by lodgment with the City at:

The City of South Perth

Civic Centre

Cnr Sandgate Street and South Terrace

South Perth WA 6151

Submissions will also be accepted by email: [enquiries@southperth.wa.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@southperth.wa.gov.au)

**All submissions must be received by 5pm, Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2018.**

Thank you for your interest and involvement in this review. Council welcomes your comments on any matters that may assist make informed and responsible decisions for the benefit of the people of the City of South Perth.

The City welcomes your feedback.

Sue Doherty  
MAYOR

Geoff Glass  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER