

**Processes associated with reviewing ward  
boundaries and representation  
Local Government Advisory Board**

**An explanation of the processes for  
reviewing ward boundaries and  
representation.**

Every attempt has been made to ensure that the information contained in this document is correct. However it is recommended that proponents check the requirements in Schedule 2.2 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

**August 2003**

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## Background Local Government Advisory Board

### Periodic reviews

Local governments are required to review their ward boundaries and representation at least every eight years. The first of these reviews must take place within eight years of 1 July 1996. Where local governments do not complete reviews as prescribed, the Local Government Advisory Board may conduct the review and recommend the making of any order in implement changes. The Board may recover the costs of any inquiries conducted for this purpose from the local government.

### Ward boundaries and representation

The Board has the responsibility for ensuring that recommendations from local governments for changes to ward boundaries and representation conform to the requirements of Schedule 2.2 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

Electors or local government can initiate changes to boundaries or representation.

### Boundaries for new districts

The Board also has a role in assessing ward boundaries and representation for newly created districts. This may be a primary role at the direction of the Minister or it may be in the form of assessing a report submitted by commissioners.

### Advice and assistance

Councils considering changing ward boundaries or representation are advised to check Schedule 2.2 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

The Board has produced an 'Information Package' for reviews of wards and representation. This provides a detailed explanation of the review process and templates for each stage of the process. The package is applicable to local governments with wards and local governments without wards.

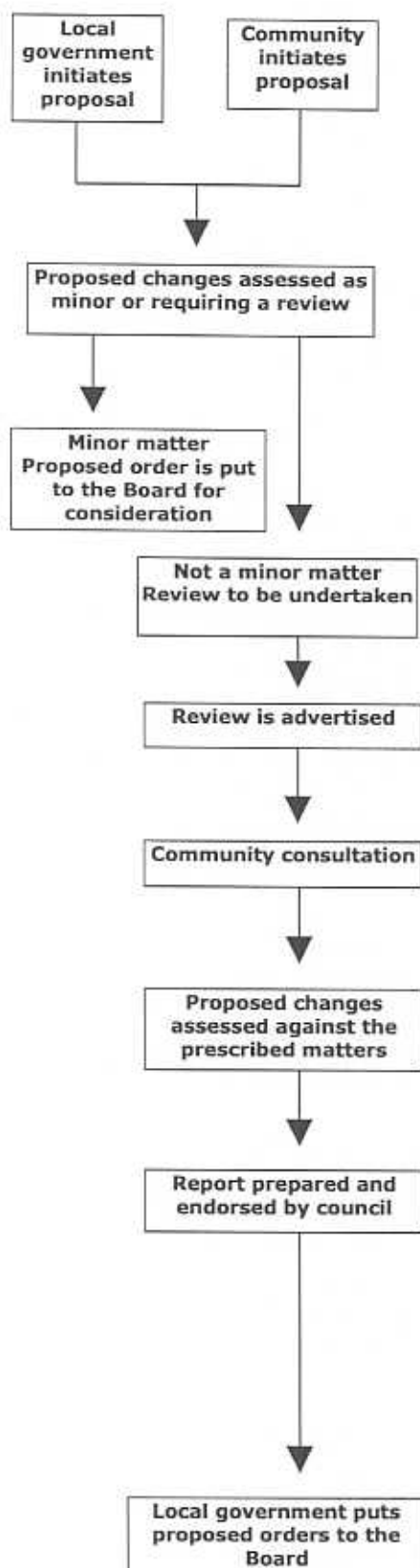
The Board can provide further advice and assistance if there are issues or processes that need to be clarified. Representatives of the Board are available to meet with local governments or participate in a video conference. The people to contact for an information package or other advice are:

Duncan Watson (08) 9217 1427  
Adrienne Inch (08) 9217 1497  
Email: [advisory.board@dlgrd.wa.gov.au](mailto:advisory.board@dlgrd.wa.gov.au)

There is also a toll free number for country callers - 1800 620 511.

## Reviewing ward boundaries and representation

### Local Government Advisory Board



Affected electors may make a submission to a local government with regard to representation or ward boundaries. They must be

- at least 250 in number, or
- at least 10% of the total number of affected electors.

To determine whether a proposal is minor or does not require public submissions a local government should consider the impact of the proposal on

- affected electors (ie level of representation and access to representatives)
- other electors of the district (ie a comparison of the ratio of electors to councillors)
- local government finance and decision making capacity.

The Board's information package on reviews of wards and representation provides detailed advice on the review process.

The local government must give local public notice advising that

- a review is to be carried out
- that submissions may be made to the local government. The submission period is to be not less than 6 weeks
- the availability of an information/discussion paper outlining the process and options to be considered.

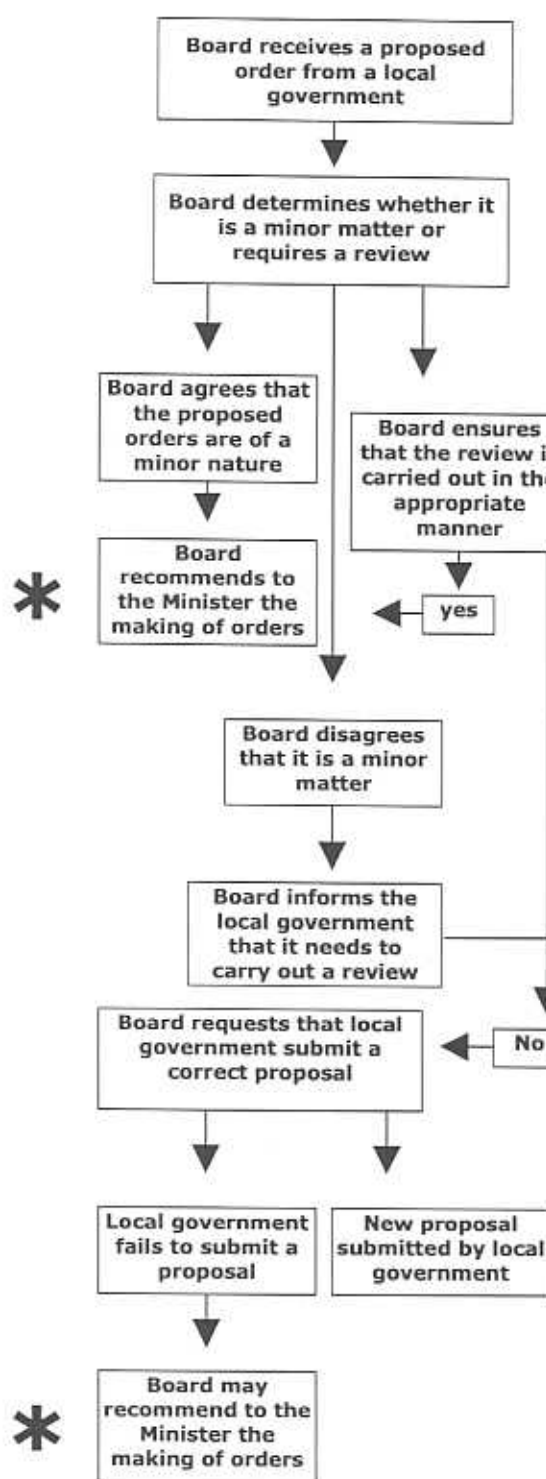
The local government is to invite submissions from the public. Consultation may also include public meetings, forums, questionnaires and interviews with key stakeholders, etc. An information or discussion paper provides details of the review process, describes the current situation and provides options for consideration. An example discussion paper is included in the Board's information package.

Changes are to be assessed against

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

Local government is required to submit a report on the proposed changes to the Local Government Advisory Board. A checklist of what to include in this report is included in the Board's information package.

## Board assessment process Local Government Advisory Board



The Local Government Advisory Board's role in the assessment of ward boundaries and representation is twofold.

1. It is responsible for assessing the process that local government has used in proposing orders for changes to ward boundaries or representation.
2. It can be directed by the Minister for Local Government to make recommendations on ward boundaries and representation for a newly created district.

The Board may decide that the proposal is minor or requires a review. Where the Board determines that the matter is minor and this determination corresponds with the determination of the local government then the Board recommends to the Minister that an order be made.

Where the Board agrees with the local government that a review is required or where the Board assesses that the matter is a minor matter but the local government has chosen to complete a review, the Board assesses whether the review was carried out in a manner which met the requirements of the Act. For example,

- the review was advertised
- the community had at least 6 weeks to make submissions
- submissions were considered
- the review has appropriately considered the prescribed matters.

If the Board believes that the matter is one which requires a review but the local government has considered it a minor matter, then the Board will inform the local government that it needs to carry out a review in accordance with Schedule 2.2.

Where the Board does not believe that a review has correctly taken into account the matters to be considered (Clause 8, Schedule 2.2), it may inform the local government and request that a proposal that does correctly take those matters into account, be made within a specified time.

Where a local government fails to comply with a request to submit a new proposal, the Board may recommend the making of any order it thinks will correctly take into account the prescribed matters.



Where the Board recommends the making of an order to the Minister, the Minister may accept or reject its recommendation.

The following table details the current ward and elected member representation and the current ratio of Councillors to Electors across the wards.

**TABLE ONE – CURRENT RESIDENT AND ELECTOR POPULATION WITH REPRESENTATION RATIOS.**

WARD	SUBURBS	No. of Councillors	Resident Population by suburb 2001*	No. of Electors – ward total**	Ratio of Councillors to Electors***	Percentage variation from average ratio
Lakeside	Joondalup Edgewater Woodvale	2	6420 5785 10572 <b>22777</b>	<b>14539</b> (63.8% of Ward Pop.)	1:7269	-0.29%
Marina	Ocean Reef Connolly Heathridge	2	8789 3872 8080 <b>20741</b>	<b>12109</b> (58.4% of Ward Pop.)	1:6054	-16.95%
North Coastal	Burns Beach Iluka Kinross Currambine	2	1517 3272 5405 5715 <b>15909</b>	<b>9722</b> (61.1% of Ward Pop.)	1:4861	-33.32%
Pinnaroo	Beldon Craigie Padbury	2	4824 6516 9624 <b>20964</b>	<b>12668</b> (60.4% of Ward Pop.)	1:6334	-13.11%
South	Kingsley Greenwood Warwick	2	15122 11276 4208 <b>30606</b>	<b>19926</b> (65.1% of Ward Pop.)	1:9963	36.67%
South Coastal	Sorrento Marmion Duncraig	2	8058 2367 17337 <b>27762</b>	<b>18547</b> (66.8% of Ward Pop.)	1:9273	27.20%
Whitfords	Mullaloo Kallaroo Hillarys	2	6654 5757 9646 <b>22057</b>	<b>14556</b> (66.0% of Ward Pop.)	1:7278	-0.17%
<b>Seven Wards</b>	<b>22 Suburbs</b>	<b>14^</b>	<b>160,888</b>	<b>102,067</b> <b>(63.4%)</b>	<b>1:7290</b>	

Notes to table:

\* Figures provided by Ministry for Planning, 2000.

\*\* Figures provided by Western Australian Electoral Commission, as at 31 January 2005.

\*\*\* The Local Government Advisory Board requires Ratios of Councillors to Electors to be compared and not Ratios of Councillors to Population.

^ This figure of total Elected Representatives does not include the Mayor, as the Mayor is popularly elected by the whole district.